

# HIGHSCHOOL CBS (Clonmel)

Ard scoil na mBraithre  
Cluain Meala, Co. Thiobraid Arann



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## Newsletter

May 2002

This newsletter gives us the opportunity to celebrate and record some of the achievements and work of the school. These achievements and work are many and varied and while all are not covered here, I think it is fair to say that this newsletter gives us a good insight into work that has gone on in the school this year.

There were many achievements this year in all areas of school life, sporting, cultural, business, scientific, charitable and social. The contained activities cover many of

these.

Our congratulations and appreciation is offered to all the pupils and teachers who organised and participated in so many extra curricular activities. The time and effort of staff and pupils enriches the whole school community.

Nora Forrestal retired this year after 26 distinguished years service to the school. We wish Nora a long and fulfilling retirement.

My thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter and in particular to Ms. Tina Kennedy who

has done trojan work in putting it together.

We also congratulate Shay Bannon on his secondment to work with D.E.S. on the Leadership Development Programme.

Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas agus mo chomhgairdeas a chur in iúl do phobal na scoile i gcoitínne ach go mór mór do na múinteoirí a d'oibrigh chomh díograiseach sin.

Go n-éirí go geal le daltaí, muinteoirí agus tuismitheoirí Ardscoil amach anseo.

*Pat Power*

## *European Champions return home European Young Consumers Award Winners*



Last year's European Young Consumers Award winners (1st in Ireland and 1st in Europe) the Clonmel High School recently travelled to Strasbourg to represent Ireland at the opening of the European Parliament and to receive for their winning project entitled "A



### SOCCER — A ROARING SUCCESS

The running of two teams this year proved to be a roaring success with the U-15 and U-17 providing many delightful memories for the year.

Firstly the U-15's. The team was drawn in what was possibly the toughest up in Munster and with only two teams emerge from five it seemed that the odds were stacked against us. Our first match was away to Cashel, a 2-0 defeat. It was an unfortunate result in that the match could have gone either way. (Cashel were to win all their games so it left two teams fighting for the runner-up spot). Our next match, away to Waterpark, resulted in a 1-0 victory. This was swiftly followed by two more victories at home against Tramore and Tipp Town. With three straight victories it was clear that the team was growing in confidence and stature. We were rewarded with a last 16 match against Carrick V.E.C., again one of the favourites. Two down on the day after twenty minutes, a somewhat fortunate goal scored by Kevin O'Donnell gave us hope. The second half resulted in an unbelievable turnaround with the High School scoring three times. Carrick were awarded a penalty, which was converted with ten minutes to go. A nail biting finish ensued with the High School holding on to go through to meet De La Salle, Waterford in the quarter-finals.

On the day despite taking the lead, De La Salle proved too strong and we were on the wrong end of the 3-1 scoreline.

However, the U-15's have given great hope for the future and with promising players coming through it is hoped to go a stage or two further next year.

**U-17:** This competition is different from the U-15's in that it's a knock-out format. The majority of the U-17's had played for the U-15's the previous year, so were giving at least a year to most other teams. Undeterred, the boys set off on what was to be a remarkable journey.

Our first match away to Colaiste Dun Iascaigh, Cahir resulted in a 5-0 win, a comprehensive victory and ensured our safe passage into the first round proper.

Drawn away to Salesian College, (Pollakerry) was tough and so it proved. A battling, rather than spectacular performance resulted in a 2-1 victory and it was a relieved High School team that made it into the next round.

Awarded a home match against St. Aidan's, Cork City, it seemed that the Gods were against us, having again drawn one of the favourites. What resulted had to be seen to be believed — a 7 -1 victory. An amazing match and unbelievably the outcome could have gone either way, the High School took their chances on the day while St. Aidan's missing theirs.

A quarter-final home draw to Casher C.C. was our reward. A tense match followed with a 1-0 victory and joyous scenes followed as this was the first High School team to make the semi-finals in Munster. Drawn away to Nagle, Blackrock, this proved to be a difficult experience for the team. The match resulted in a 3-2 defeat and the end of the road. Needless to say, some tears were shed, and there was unhappiness in the manner of our exit from the competition. However, congratulations are extended to Nagle who proceeded to win the final and indeed the All-Ireland.

**Conclusion:** It is hoped that next year a coach will be appointed to help in the training and preparations of the teams. Any parents interested in helping out are most welcome. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the players who put in a wonderful effort this year. In what is only our second year of soccer in the High School, to reach a quarter-final and semi-final is fantastic.

We must continue this good work and next year, if luck is on our side, we must aim to go further.

We will certainly attempt to better these achievements and with hard work and dedication from everyone who knows what causes for celebration we may have this time next year.

• Darius Delahunty

## GAVIN PYKE – RACING HIS WAY TO VICTORY

Where to begin is the difficult question in relation to Gavin Pykes sporting achievements. Over the past year, as one of the High School's younger sporting heroes Gavin has won numerous cycling races, time trials and G.P.'s at county, provincial, national and international level.

As well as these, Gavin has been selected as the team leader for Ireland and Munster teams, an exceptional achievement indeed reflecting a responsibility and honour which Gavin has upheld consistently leading by amazing example. One of his many 2002 highlights include helping the Irish team to victory in the Home International Youth Tour when he not only won the event, but did so compre-

hensively by racing to victory in four demanding stages. This was a race which featured stiff opposition not only from Great Britain but from Greece, Spain and a number of other countries.

Gavin's many other victories include:- Rás Luimní, Kingdom Bar, Kelly Pharmacy, Bill Hyland, Rás Duhallow (three stages), Ken O'Keeffe, Mullingar G.P., Munster Time-trial, Tom Sheehan, Meath G.P., All-Ireland League, John Drumm, Irish Championships – 500m timetrial, sprint, scratch race, Munster Youth tour (four stages), and the Manchester Tour (four stages).

Throughout the year Gavin was sponsored by Tom Hogan Car Sales and by 'South Tipp Today'.



As well as attaining awards

on the track this year Gavin was awarded a Mayoral Reception in the Clonmel Town Hall and also won a Cidona Tipperary Sports Star Award for Cycling.

## ESB – Checkmate Chess Competition

On Thursday, 21st March, the High School Chess Team travelled to play against Community School, Castlecomer. They lost the overall match by 3-2 although the games were quite close. The games were all very competitive and took most of the 50 minutes to provide a clear cut result. The High School players were: Ken Hogan, Simon Murray, Mike Heverin, Mark Noonan and Brian Carey. All players were reasonably pleased with their performances.

On Friday, 22nd March, the High

School Chess Team 2 played at home to St. Mary's Newport. St. Mary's, Newport, had already beaten the High School in February. On this occasion, the Clonmel boys came out on top. They had 3 wins out of 5. The High School was ably represented by: Brendan Walsh, Niall Condon, Philip Bannon, Peter Heverin and Philip O'Reilly.

Well done, boys.

Team 2 have already beaten Rockwell College away.



Check Mates at the High School. Back row (left to right): Simon Murray, Aaron Noonan, Brian Lanigan, Mike Heverin and Tom Drohan. Front row (left to right): Philip O'Reilly, Brendan Walsh, Peter Heverin and Ken Hogan.



# How wrong your perceptions can be!

• By Andrew Matthews

To be honest, when I first heard about the Friendship Club I said "no way is that for me". Going up to St. Lukes's to play games with and to talk to psychiatric patients was never something I thought I would do. I just had visions of padded rooms and straight jackets when I thought about a mental hospital.

Even after we were told about everything that goes on I had no intention of putting my name down to go, that is until a friend said he was thinking of putting his name down. It was only then I started to think about it and decided to participate.

I guess, thinking back, part of the reason I wanted to go was to see what it was like and if there really were padded rooms and straight jackets.

On our first night we didn't meet any patients but we did meet some of the students who were involved in the visits the previous year. They told us what to expect and things that we shouldn't do.

On the first night we were due to meet the patients I was very close to staying at home and making up some excuse as to why I wouldn't be able to go. But, I didn't. I said I would go for the first couple of nights at least and then I would decide if I would quit or not.

The first night was really nothing like I expected. I had visions of old people being wheeled in and sitting for an hour without saying anything. In fact I couldn't have been more wrong. There were people there that were not much older than me, for some reason I expected all the patients to be old, so this shocked me a little.

Also, some of the people were very easy to have a conversation with and you could really have a lot of fun playing games with them. There were a couple of nights that the patients spent most of the hour singing, which was a surprise as I thought they would be more quiet and withdrawn.

Over the weeks and months I have really stopped thinking of them as psychiatric patients that I am doing a favour for by going to the hospital one night a week to visit and play games with.

There are nights when I think the students get more from the hour than the patients. I think I see them more as friends, I go to have a good laugh with rather than patients I am going to help. Some nights I laugh more in the hour in the hospital than I do in the rest of the week.

Most of the patients are easy to get on with and are a lot of fun to be with. I was not expecting any of these things.

Also, my time in the hospital made me think and realise just how lucky I am. No matter how hard things are or how hard you think things are there is always someone worse off than you. My time in the hospital with the patients has shown me how lucky I am and how much I have to be thankful for. Seeing some patients really puts things in perspective for you.

On saying that, I really enjoyed going to the hospital every week. It has opened my eyes and changed the way I look at psychiatric hospitals and the patients in them. The visions I had of the hospital and patients before this couldn't have been further from reality. It just goes to show how easily people can form a view of something without knowing anything about it.

## Health Education Programme

During this past school year our Health Education Programme has been supported by many organisations and individuals on many different levels, from in-class talks to year group workshops.

One of these speakers was P.J. Fitzpatrick, a member of the Order of Malta Ambulance Corps who gave a very informative talk on first aid to all 2nd Year students.

The South Eastern Health Board provided resources and representatives who spoke with individual classes throughout the year. Through a locally based initiative

ting drama was very effective.

We were also especially grateful to Dr. Richard Barr and his "Love for Life" team who travelled down from Lurgan to introduce us to their work-shop on relationships (and sexuality). This was their first visit down South and proved to be a great success. We look forward to inviting them and many more of these speakers back to the school during the next academic year.

## Transition Year 2000/2001 – European Young Consumers Award and Trip to European Parliament

While we were in Transition Year we entered a competition called The European Young Consumers Award. The competition is given a new topic each year and when we entered it, it was called "*How to Promote a Balanced Diet*". For the competition we compiled a magazine on the topic with various articles on healthy eating. We also made two plaster cast models, one representing healthy, the other being the opposite. We were sent news that we had finished in the top 10 and that we would have to go to Dublin to find out where in that 10 we had come. We couldn't believe it when we were called out in first place, firstly in Ireland and then remarkably we heard that we had come first in Europe as well (the first Irish school ever to do so).

Our prize for winning the competition involved a trip to Strasbourg to participate in a mock European Parliament. On the 29th January 2002, we embarked on our trip. When we got to the European Parliament we simply had a wonderful time. We saw exactly how the Parliament operates at first hand and got to meet so many other young people from various countries across Europe.

In the Parliament we were split into groups and each given a topic to discuss. The group would then draw up a proposed legislation, when everyone then returned into the main Parliament Building, these legislations were voted on. It was a great experience and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

## Careers opportunities

Career outing. Our first career outing was to UCC, one of Ireland's most beautiful universities. Forty students travelled for a very comprehensive open day during which lectures were given on the various courses. Stalls representing each degree in the university were set up and the pupils were given the opportunity to talk with students who were doing the course and the people who could be their potential lecturers. In doing this the pupil makes an actual connection on the Leaving Cert.

The Tipperary Institute in Clonmel was our next port of call. Again the interest was large with about 45 pupils taking part. On arrival we were given a talk on the range of courses offered and the advantages of a campus as small as TI. We were then given a tour and shown the array of impressive computer equipment available to the prospective student.

The Cork Institute of Technology had the privilege of hosting a full bus-load of the high School's finest. The facilities here again were excellent with a great running track, gym and library. Presentations were given on the individual courses being offered.

This was followed by a combined trip to Limerick taking in the three institutions there: University of Limerick (U.L.), Mary Immaculate College (M.I.C.) and Limerick Institute of Technology (L.I.T.)

We arrived at U.L. at 10.00 a.m. to go on the college tour. This was impressive for a number of reasons including the new 50m pool, the actual size of the campus and the choice of restaurants, shops and general services offered to students.

## Student Investment Chal-

like to enter the Student Investment Challenge which was being organised by the 'Irish Independent' and Setanta Asset Management. The competition gave each competitor C100,000 to invest in various stocks and shares.

I invested most of my money in a company called Parthus who gained 71% over the course of the competition.

The final results were printed in the Business section of the Irish Independent on Monday 15th April, 2002.

The results showed that I had finished seventh with my investment gaining 48%.

## Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Collection

Once again our St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Collection took place. A lot of organisation and effort goes into the running of this event and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and pupils who helped ensure yet another successful collection this year.

This has proved to be a particularly beneficial experience for the student body as it helps them realise that there are less fortunate families in our locality and that if everyone helps in a little way, then it can make what may have been a difficult Christmas somewhat easier.

Students were invited to bring in non-perishable food along with any games, toys etc, they may no longer use at home. Each and every year that I am involved in this I have been overwhelmed by the response from the students and staff. A special thanks also to parents who help out by giving food to the pupils to bring in.

On behalf of Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Clonmel and myself, thanks yet again for your continued support and long may it continue.

• Darius Delahunty

## Young Scientists

Two 2nd Year students, Kevin Fitzsimons and Craig Mullins were chosen to represent the High School in the Young Scientists Exhibition. They presented a project entitled Seawater for Transport Fuel. It was a great experience for the boys and they got a good insight into science and its applications in our world today.

The High School has had an acute interest and involvement in the Exhibition over the years and we expect



**Credit Union Website Competition Winners — Left to right: John Geoghegan (teacher), Simon Murray, Mark Noonan and David Conde.**

## Credit Union Euro Website Competition

The Credit Union Euro website competition was first brought to our attention by Mr. Geoghegan early in 6th Year. It required us to create a website which would introduce the Euro changeover in a simple and interesting way. We were required also to include a simple countdown to the launch date of the Euro and a currency converter which would convert IR£ to €. This was achieved very simply using a small bit of javascript from within a HTML document.

One small but effective development team consisted of myself, David Conde, as scriptwriter, Simon Murray as HTML developer and Mark Noonan our editor/ content provider. We spent several weeks working on the project which consisted of about six HTML documents of simple and well presented information. This included launch information and dates, graphical representation of the euro notes and coins, a realtime countdown to the launch date and an easy-to-use calculator. All this work eventually paid off. We received €100 each from the Clonmel Credit Union and funds were also presented to the school for our achievement. Overall we thought it was an enjoyable and valuable experience which we would recommend to future classes. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Geoghegan for bringing it to our attention, overall help in the matter and for making the whole thing possible.

## Young Entrepreneur Scheme

The Young Entrepreneur Scheme is a business competition run locally by the Tipperary South Riding Enterprise Board. Students are required to make a product, sell it with a view to making a profit and produce a business report.

This year the High School won all the stages right up to the county final.

Robert Dower (2A2) produced fire logs from recycled materials and he won the Intermediate county final.

Rory Hanrahan and Morgan Walsh (1A2) won the Junior category with their nail and thread pictures.

The three students will now represent their school and their county at the All-Ireland finals which take place in Dublin on the 14th/15th May. We wish Robert, Rory and Morgan the very best of luck and we know that they will make us very proud.



## Welcome windfall for High School from 'My Clonmel Scrapbook'

**BELOW: Siobhan Ryan, co-ordinator Y.E.S. County Final; Rory Hanrahan, Morgan Walsh and Thos Hayes, manager, South Tipperary Enterprise Board.**



PHIL ROBERTS lived in Clonmel for 16 years from 1980, where he helped to establish what is now known as Clonmel Baptist Church.

Setting up a publishing company in 1993 called Tentmaker Publications, he decided to reprint 'My Clonmel Scrapbook, out of appreciation of the town and its residents.

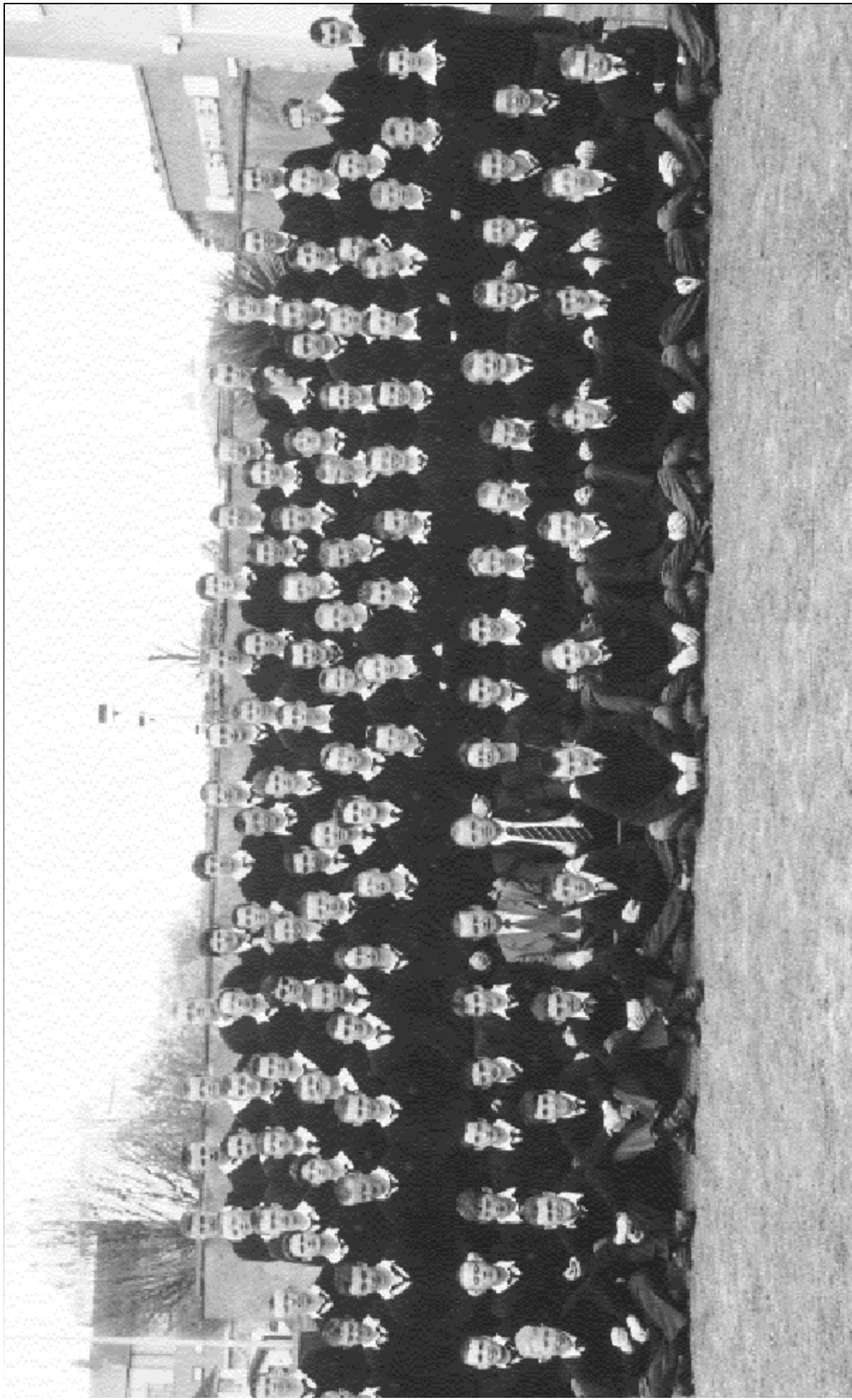
Returning to England in 1996, he continues to pastor a church and publish books.

The name Tentmaker is taken from the Apostle Paul's practice of making tents to support himself

Clonmel Scrapbook', the promise was made to donate IR£2 per copy to the High School and Loreto Convent. That promise has now been fulfilled.

'My Clonmel Scrapbook' will continue to be available, as a new print run is underway.

Our photo above shows Phil Roberts presents a cheque from the proceeds of 'My Clonmel Scrapbook' to Pat Power, principal of Clonmel High School. Also included are students Lee Morrissey, Michael O'Sullivan and Gus Slattery.



# Sixth Year Class of 2001/2002

High School Sixth Year Class of 2001/2002 with Year Head Eamon Barry, Principal Pat Power and Deputy Principal Annette Hickey.

# BON VOYAGE 2002

For the annual school show 2002, the 5th Year students took a trip aboard HMS American – and what a roller-coaster ride it turned out to be! Any trans-Atlantic journey on an ocean-going liner is going to have its ‘ups and downs’ – but when the passenger list contains socialites, social climbers, gangsters, flappers, clergy of dubious spirituality, a night club star, four angels whose demeanour is anything but angelic, a gangsters’s moll, star-crossed lovers and a cross-dresser.

To say that the present crop of thespians in 5th Year were up to the task in hand would be a gross understatement. They positively revelled in the high shenanigans much to the delight of the audiences.

Hope Harcourt was given a spirited performance by Aisling Healy whose beautiful voice was especially captivating in the poignant “I’ve got you under my skin”. Keith Greene was a Jack-of-all-Trades as the lover of Hope in the many disguises he had to adopt as a stowaway aboard the ship. His singing, dancing and comic timing (not to mention an assortment of accents) were a joy to behold.

Reno Sweeney, The Caberet Star, was given the full treatment by Tara Ryan – a singing and dancing Tour De Force. Her duet with James Kelly (Sir Evelyn Oakleigh) was one of the shows highlights – “Let’s Misbehave”. Indeed, James made the part of Sir Evelyn his very own and every nuance of the character was expertly projected.

Laura Nugent as the Snobbish Mrs. Harcourt was so deliciously over the top – just what the part demanded. Speaking of OTT. Where does one put the performances of Moonface Martin and Bonnie as depicted by Conor Hogan and Dervla Anderson. Here we had two characters well realised – Conor as the hapless Public Enemy No. 13 and Dervla as the man-devouring you-hum-it-I’ll-dance-it-bimbo.

The Tycoon Elisha J. Whitney (Kevin Walshe), Bishop (John David Duggan), two Chinese (Thomas O’ Mahoney and James Hogan) Captain (Alan Fogarty), Purser (Barry Sheehan), Steward (Pieter Vos) all performed admirably, highlighting the old maxim ‘there is no such thing as a small part’.

I must not forget the four angles (Ciara O’Keeffe, Marian Ryan, Marguerite Flynn, Jenny Arrigan) whose every sinuous appearance on stage was a highlight. They can take me “Back to Manhattan” anytime!

The chorus sang and danced their hearts out especially impactive was “Blow Gabriel, Blow”. The sets were admirably realised by Dolores Burke, Maureen Purcell and team.

A special word of praise for the dancers and their team of choreographers led by Roslyn Rochard.

Finally it was a great privilege for me to work with such a fine group of young people and to work in tandem with two very talented musical directors in Olga Gannon and Tammy Hocman.

• *Michael O’Donoghue*



**Pieter Vos, Alan Fogarty and Barry Sheehan.**



**Keith Greene, Tara Ryan and Conor Hogan**

**Shane Dolan, Alan Pollard, Kevin Dempsey, Danny Madigan, Ian Browne, John Ryan, Richard Carroll, David Conway and Cathal Flynn.**





Back row (l-r): John O'Reilly, Willie O'Meara, John David Duggan, John O'Donnell, Daryl Makem, Oisín Ó Cuinneagáin, Cathal Flynn, David Prendergast.

Middle row (l-r): Mr. Bannon, Tom Conway (coach), Aidan Foley, Robert Ryan, Stephen McGrath, Sean Phelan, Alan Marshall, Thomas O'Mahony, Kevin Cronin, Paul Lonergan.

Front row (l-r): Anthony Keane, Andrew Matthews, James Quigley, David Conway, Gus Slattery, P.J. Mulcahy, Brendan Leo, Thomas Kiely and Michael Scully.

## First for Rugby

This was the first year the High School entered schools competition and the team acquitted itself very well. We entered the U-18 developmental league and the O'Brien Cup. The boys finished top of their division in the league and were beaten by Templemore. In the quarter-final of the cup. Well done all.



## School Sports on Friday, May 17

The School Sports will be held on Friday, 17th May 8.50 - 3.30. Three music groups from the school will provide entertainment during lunchtime 12.50 - 1.40. All parents are welcome.

Athletics — Back row (left to right): Andrew Mullins, Kieran Fox, David Ryan, David Harte, Michael Mulvihill, Tim Ryan, Brian English, Jonathan Burke. Centre row (left to right): Ms. O'Connor, Jeff O'Hanrahan, Sean Martin, Richard Fenton, Richard Power, Zack Guidera, Christopher Daniels, Mr. O'Sullivan. Front row: David Lorrigan, Donal Lynch, David Foley, Kevin Dahill, John Lyne, Liam



U-16 High School CBS Badminton Team — Back row (left to right): Declan Rix, Conor Morrissey, Mark Tobin, Shane Barry, Cillian Rouse. Front row (left to right): Brian O'Sullivan, William May, Conor Walsh, Eoin Cass. (Absent from photo: Michael Feeney).

## 'Jump for Joy' Basketball Challenge raises €1,000 for charity

A special thanks to the students in 2nd Year who took part in the Kellogg's Jump for Joy Basketball Challenge. This year the students raised C1000 for Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, Dublin. The funds are used to purchase vital equipment for the hospital as well as funding research projects.



## 1st and 2nd South Tipperary League Winners

Back row (left to right):  
T. Cahill, J. Corbett, D. Moore, D. Bolger, D. Harte, J. Cagney, S. Ward.

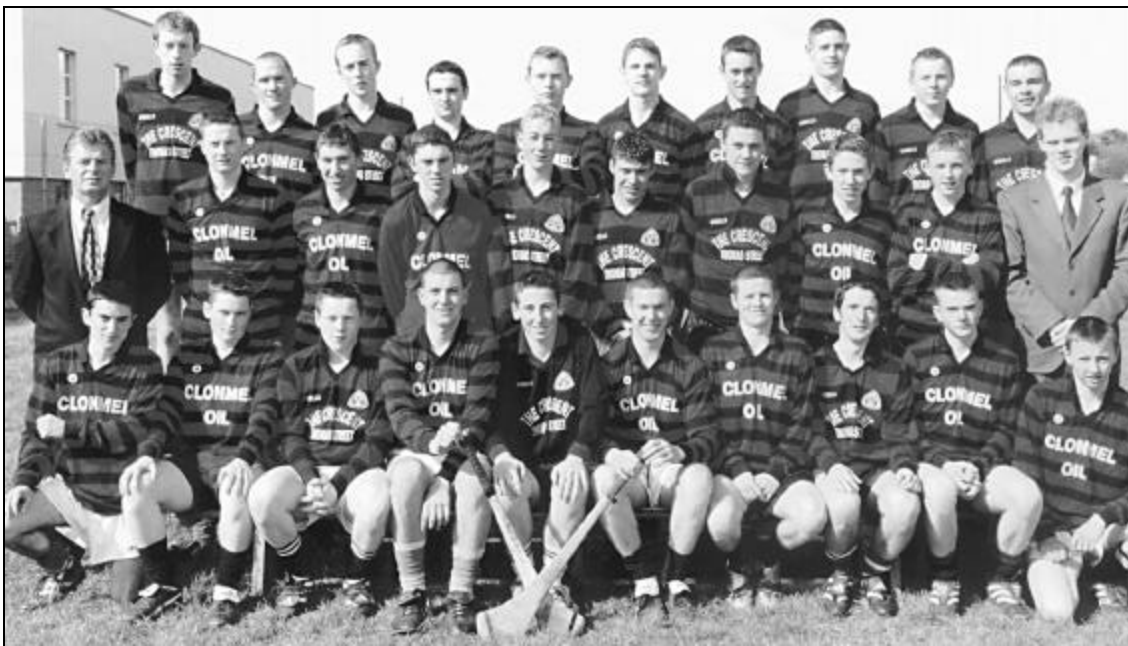
Middle row (left to right): J. Shanahan, S. Kennedy, B. McDonnell, R. Fenton, B. Dillon, S. Browne, C. Keher.

Front row (left to right):  
D. Lorrigan, A. O'Reilly, J. Lyne, T. Ryan, C. Aylward, S. Gleeson, S. Keating.



## U-18 Hurling —

Back row (left to right):  
Michael Dillon, Paul Ryan, Liam Lawlor, Michael McHugh, Oisín Ó Cuinneagáin, Shane Kearney, Seamus Lawlor, Barry Hanley, Maurice O'Gorman, Tom O'Mahony. Middle row:  
Jerry Shanahan, Oliver O'Gorman, Derek McGrath, Paul Shanahan, Paul Johnson, Tony Ryan, Pdraig Kelly, Brian Mulvihill, Thomas O'Gorman, Colm Keher. Front:  
Simon Wall, Anthony Keane, Brendan Flynn, Aidan Barry, Ian Browne, Peter Hally, Patrick O'Donnell, Sean Phelan, Eoin Ryan, Brian Carroll.



## Basketball

(2001-2002) —

Back row: Barry Hanley, Mark Tobin. Front row:  
Miss O'Connor, William Darmody, George Barrett, Tim Ryan, David O'Meara, Mr. Ryan.



## Our Transition Year exploits by Stephen Casey

We've certainly done a lot this year and I think that everything that has been done has been very worthwhile.

The first thing I have mention is, of course our trip to Delphi. It was a fun and enjoyable experience as everybody got to know everybody else. The activities were great and were based a lot on team effort. It was a great couple of days and it helped the class to bond – a bond that has held throughout the year.

Early in the year we also had a driving and safety course. This was run by Hynes Driving School and we all learned something of the basics. We learned how to drive, about the 999 services and the importance of road safety.

For our Home Economics class we took a trip to Ballymaloo Cookery School and met Darina Allen. We had the chance to see her fruit and vegetable gardens and we also had a sample of herbs from the herb garden. It was a very interesting day out.

Safety is very important, as we all know, and for this our class was given a First Aid Course. This involved a C.P.R. exam, and exam on the functions of the human body and how to treat some common infections and life threatening situations. From this we got a certificate of completion and more importantly a learning ability which can be used for life.

Ability to communicate is a very vital asset to have after leaving school and for this the class did Public Speaking and Communications Exams. It was a great experience for all involved and everybody received first class honours, which was a great achievement.

Some of the class also took part in the Concern Debates, which also helped us with our public speaking. We did well to beat Rockwell in the first round and you could really see that the debating and communication skills for each person improved in every round.

In Art we have been learning about the Impressionism and this year the class was taken to the Impressionist Art Exhibition in Dublin. This was very good and I felt that after the day everybody had a better appreciation for art. To sell art you need to be a good businessman and this is exactly what one of the students (Matthew) did for the Y.E.S. Everyone participated and six in particular (Stephen, David, Aidan, Des, Matthew and P.J.) were successful enough to reach the county final. This was a good achievement because it required a good business mind.

This year we have taken part in the Toastmasters speaking course to improve our self-confidence on the podium and speaking techniques. I believe that the whole class benefited from this experience and did very well when speaking in front of the parents. After this no one in the class will have any trouble speaking in front of an audience,

We have also seen two plays put on by the Galloglass group and had a workshop on each. In the workshop we

year the class also gave something back. The class put on the play 'Juno and the Paycock' as part of a competition in Macroom. It was a great acting experience and some of the students were congratulated on their performances.

We were also taken to Mountjoy Prison early this year to learn about the prisoners and to realise that they have feelings just like us and that they are God's children as well.

We also had a retreat to Mount Sion, which was very interesting and it was a very different experience.

This year the class was also asked to do some voluntary work. One of these was the Early Reading Intervention Programme. This involved going to Ss. Peter & Paul's Primary School and doing reading with the first class pupils. It was an enjoyable experience for both First Class and the Transition Year because we got to know each pupil and their individual skills.

We were also offered the chance this year to do voluntary work for the Noonan Centre for Disabled Children. Every week, half the class would go swimming for a half an hour or so and I believe the centre was very grateful for our enthusiasm and contribution.

We also did Faith Friends Programme with the Sisters of Charity and Presentation Convent Primary Schools. We had to learn how to communicate with the children and keep them active for the whole duration. It was interesting to see the reactions and answers that some of the kids had for us and I think that both groups enjoyed it.

In P.E. class we did a lot. At the start of the year we went horse riding with Daverns School of Horse Riding. It was an unusual thing to do and it was more pleasing than I thought it would be. I probably would never have had the opportunity to partake in this sport without Transition Year.

We have also participated in a Soccer Coaching Course with Darren Murray (a coach from the FAI). It's great because we all like soccer and at the end we got the opportunity to coach for ourselves with the involvement for the First Years.

Transition Year, above all things has given me the chance to learn about a future career and I am now able to focus myself on different paths after Leaving Cert, which makes it invaluable in this regard. The one thing that has helped me the most in this regard is the two terms of work experience that we have had during the year. This gave each pupil a chance to view at least two possible careers for after school life and was very beneficial. For the end of the year we have planned to go to the Gaeltacht and some of us are also doing an interview exam for public speaking. I am very pleased with the way things

## Religious education — Another busy year

This past academic year has been another busy one for the Religious Education Department. Existing programmes like our Peer Ministry and Faith Friends initiatives have continued successfully in 5th Year and TYO respectively. Both involve preparing the participants to work with groups of younger people in faith formation days.

Liturgically, our start of year was overshadowed by the terrorist attack in New York. Two days later, the whole school joined in a prayerful response to the violence. We are currently planning an end of year celebration of the Bicentenary of Edmund Ignatius Rice on the 9th May next and our 6th Year Graduation Mass will be held two weeks later, on the 23rd May.

The lack of appropriate retreat programmes meant that we had difficulty providing annual retreat opportunities for our 6th and 3rd years. However, the first years received their retreat from last years Peer Ministers. Our second year classes recently spend a day away in both Mt. Sion (the first Christian Brothers School) and in Callan (Edmund Rice's birthplace).

In a new departure, our 5th year students had an opportunity to travel to both Mountjoy and Croagh Patrick as part of class courses on Social Justice and Celtic Spirituality.

We are looking forward to next year, when we hope to have our new prayer room finally up and running.

## The Croagh Patrick Experience

This years 5th Year students studied a module on Celtic Spirituality which looked at all the particularly Irish ways of expressing a faith in God: God is nature, God is close by us every minute of the day, God is our strength and our protector.

What better way to experience Celtic Spirituality than to undergo one of Ireland's Age Old Pilgrimages and follow in the footsteps of St. Patrick himself?

It was 7.30 am on 25th May when we congregated outside the walls of a still sleeping High School, to begin the journey to Westport. Four and a half hours later we caught our first glimpses of the task that lay ahead of us — the ripple of nervous laughter at the sight of Croagh Patrick reflected the hopeful disbelief that the teachers were joking! Surely it was some other mountain from some other window in the bus that we were aiming to reach?

Stocked with water and food for our picnic at the summit, we began our journey as a determined and enthusiastic group. The weather was in our favour and we were blessed with clear views. Even when the going got really tough, it was reported that a certain student could be heard singing "Ain't no mountain high enough..."

Two hours later we basked in a sense of achievement and soaked up the view of Clew Bay. After a ceremonious creation of a pile of stones — representing each High School Student who made the pilgrimage, we paused in prayer for special intentions. So close to the heavens, we were well placed to experience our God through the beauty and the power of nature. Not even the rain that came for our journey down the mountain could quell our spirits! A day never to be forgotten!

## Budding Masterminds???

Congratulations to Diarmuid Bolger, Paddy Kelly, Padriac Burke and Gearoid O'Donnell who won the South Tinnery

# PEER MINISTRY GROUP — A tremendous learning experience

"From my membership of The Peer Ministry Group I gained both leadership experience and a huge infection in self confidence. I learned how to work as a member of a team and how to use the strength, and cope with the weaknesses of each member, so that we could carry out the tasks of Peer Ministry".

David Conde, 6th Year Student — The High School, Clonmel.

Over the past ten years Peer Ministry had become an integral part of bringing the ethos of Edmund Rice to life in the context of The High School in Clonmel. It started as a small group of 12 5th Year students being facilitated in discussions centering on faith development. The potential for leadership within such a group was soon realised and with training which extended into early 6th Year, these Peer Ministers became facilitators for the retreats of incoming 1st Year students.

The concept, the work and the popularity of The Peer Ministry Team has gone from strength to strength over the years. On average 50 students apply for a maximum of 13 places. They are given rigorous interviews and the selection process is not an easy one — the aim of the facilitators has always been to stratify the final group with members varying in backgrounds, ability, confidence levels and maturity. The only common denominator between members at final selection is their willingness to commit to the time demands of membership of the Peer Ministry.

Throughout 5th Year the group meet once a week for one class period. Discussions and exercises have a double focus: the formation of a team from the various personalities in the group and the exploration of issues of faith. The high point of 5th Year is a weekend retreat where the Peer Ministers pair off, prepare and facilitate seminars for the rest of the team on pre-set top-

as a group and learned to work as a unit.

Liam Clancy 6th Year Student Peer Ministry 1999 - 2002.

In the first term of 6th Year the team undergo an intensive training and preparation for retreat facilitation, which culminates in their leading two days of retreats for the 1st Year students. The theme of the retreat was peace and involved an experiential exploration of the creation of peace in our lives through case study, pictorial, art work, role play and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In recent years the Peer Ministry has been further extended to include orientation and induction of 1st Year students. The Peer Ministers prepare for and run a number of lunch-time workshops in the weeks leading up to the October Mid-term. The workshops are entitled School Orientation (going through rules, signing in and signing out procedures, access to school resources... etc); Special Problems (e.g. dealing with bullying); Making Homework Painless (largely one to one help on organisational skills) and Study Skills.

This year the Peer Ministers linked with the Parenting Programme being run for the parents of junior school students. They facilitated a two hour reflection on dealing with conflict on the domestic front. Lively discussion was prompted by role plays designed and performed by the Peer Ministers. Not only did the 6th Years present their own insights as adolescents but parents were also intrigued by the links which the Peer Ministers could make between the suggestions made by parents for the creation of Peace in the home and those suggestions which the first year students had made (and tabulated) during their own retreats.

The high profile and the work of The Peer Ministry Team within the communi-

cation. The Peer Ministry Team give selflessly of their talents to help ease the introduction of the newest members to the school community. Their work is rooted in, and informed by, reflection on their faith. This year's

group look forward to facilitating work shops on Peer Ministry for students from other schools at The Edmund Rice Awards in Tallaght in May.



The Music Department hosted a visiting ensemble for the Cork School of Music on 18th October, 2001. Jessy Creedon and his students entertained us with lively classical guitar music. Then this term we also hosted a workshop in Celtic Rhythm and Body Percussion, facilitated by Artscope. Klabbs and Sarah had the 5th or 2nd Years up doing Samba (Rio! style) to finish.

The Brass Band is in full flight every Thursday. Newcomers are welcome.

## Stephen and David make an impact

Examinations were held by the Leinster School of Music and Drama, Dublin for our Transition Year students. The majority of the students sat for both Grade 5 exams, and all attained honours or first class honours.

Stephen Casey was awarded two silver medals, having achieved 95 marks in both exams and David Lyons was awarded a silver medal for his high marks in his Public Speaking Exam.

## DRUGS/SUBSTANCE MIS-USE POLICY

The Board of Management of the High School is in the process of developing a Drugs/ Substance

Mis-use Policy based on consultation with all the partners of the school community. The policy will include practical guidelines and procedures on how to deal with drug related incidents arising in the school.

A Steering Committee was set up to look at how best to formulate such a policy. It was decided that all partners of the school community, students, parents and staff be surveyed on the issue. The information collated from these surveys has proved invaluable in the policy formulation.

As part of the Steering Committee we are indeed fortunate to have the assistance of Mr. Johnny Casey (Substance Mis-use Co-ordinator for the South Tipperary Community Care Area) and Ms. Sinead O' Mahony-Carey (Drug Education Officer with the South Eastern Health Board).

Johnny and Sinead gave talks for parents and for the staff of the school.

These talks included the following:

- \* Understanding the young person in today's world.
- \* Drugs awareness.
- \* Recognising the signs.
- \* Drug education.
- \* Managing alcohol, tobacco and drug related incidents.

Arising from these talks, parents, teachers and students were invited to make submissions and inputs.

At present a draft document is being discussed.

It is envisaged that the policy will be in place for August/September 2002. The policy is one whereby review will take place on a regular basis due to the ever-changing nature of the drug culture.

It is a policy that has been designed for the benefit of the school and with this in mind we would like to thank all those

## Adult Education — Academic Year 2001/02

This was the third year that the High School has been involved in adult education. Classes ran from September — December and February — April in Computers, French, Sign Language, Woodwork, Irish, Reflexology, Adlerian and Parenting. Over 300 people attended night classes this year. The success of the night school has largely been due to the excellence of the tutors and to Phyllis Dempsey.

Many thanks also to Tina Kennedy who organised the Parenting Course.

## Science Events 2001/02

### October 2001:

A group of sixth year students visited U.L. on a science open day where they had a chance to view the facilities available and carry out practical work in the labs.

### November 2001:

I.S.T.A. Senior Science Quiz. Two teams of 6th Years represented the school and were third and fifth in the regional final of the competition. The third placed team qualified for the national final in Trinity College Dublin on 24/11/01.

The teams were: Peter Harrigan, John O' Reilly, Vincent Thompson, Jason Connery, John Kennedy, Niall O' Gorman.

### 5th Year Science quiz:

A group of 5th Year students sacrificed the chance to watch Ireland play Iran in the World Cup play-offs to represent the school at a science quiz in Waterford, which was organised as part of national Science week. The teams were: Ahad Ali, Niall Condon, Edward Hickey, Matthew Whelan, Michael Bourke, Steven Byrne, Derek Newport, Pieter Vos.

### January 2002:

Two second year students were chosen to participate in the ESAT Young Scientists competition. The project, presented by Kevin Fitzsimons and Craig Mullins was entitled "Hydrogen

# The Parents' Advisory Council 2000-2001

As our name suggests the Parents Advisory Council provides an advisory and consultative role, to the High School, it organises and assists with numerous school activities during the school year.

The Parents Advisory Council is open to all parents and guardians of students attending the High School. Our committee is elected at the AGM held in September every year. New members would be very welcome. The Council is comprised of 42 members representing all the years in the school and organised into many sub committees so that everyone gets to use their individual talents. The school principal and deputy principal are ex-officio members of the Council and the teaching staff have a representative at each meeting.

Our chairperson is Sandra Corcoran, our Secretary is Gabrielle Egan, our Treasurer is Liam Bolger, and our PRO is Anne Heverin.

## Sub Committees

v Regional C.B.S.F.: We are affiliated to the National Federation of Christian Brothers' Schools and our regional representatives are Anne Morrissey and Eddie Lanigan. They are our voice on the National Council.

v Social Issues Committee: This committee comprised of Mary Stafford, Alice Foley, Margaret O'Keeffe and Paula Madigan strive to bring to the parents for discussion, topics which incorporate many social issues. They organised a wonderful talk in the school on dyslexia earlier in the year given by Martin Murphy and Orla Callen Terry, which proved a popular topic with over 100 people attending.

v Mock Interviews Committee: Anne Heverin, Judy Morrissey, Fionnuala Roche, Michael Hogan, James Cass, Marjorie Walsh, this committee assisted the guidance counselor in arranging mock interviews for the Leaving Certificate students held on 4th December 2001.

The Edmund Ignatius Rice Bursary Fund Committee: This committee organises the funding for the bursaries which are given out by the school every year providing funding for pupils going on to third level education. It is comprised of Kathleen Shaw, Mary Connolly, Mary Stafford, Caroline Maher, Sandra Corcoran, and Crena Connolly.

This year a table quiz was organised by the committee, it was in Allen's, Irishtown, on Holy Thursday night. We had a massive turnout on the night, and the total amount raised was €1,122. Our thanks to John Kane for setting the questions, to Crena Connolly for your role as M.C, to Liam Bolger and team for correcting and tabulating the answers, to all the people who donated spot prizes (there were over 50 spot prizes!), to all the parents and the friends of the school

who attended and to the extended committee for all support given. Thanks also to Eileen May whose idea of a Supporters Draw proved a great success, and congratulations to our winners who were Mary Fenton and Patricia Power, both parents of pupils in the school.

v Tom Flaherty Memorial Fund: Joan Guidera and Joan Connolly. The proceeds of the raffle at the bursary night is being used to organise a memorial to Tom Flaherty, a former maths teacher in the school who inspired many pupils over his long teaching career. This year €465 was raised towards this fund, and again thanks to all who contributed.

v Centenary Committee: Mick Mullane, Eileen May. This committee is involved in the organising of the celebrations for the Centenary of Edmund Ignatius Rice.

## Other events supported by the Parent's Advisory Council:

v The School Show: This year "Bon Voyage" was wonderfully performed by the pupils of the High School and the Presentation Convent and on the five nights of the show the council provided supervision of the pupils and support to the teaching staff. This involved the supervision of the dressing rooms and the front of house, and help ensuring the smooth running of the nights.

v The Schools Policy on Drug and Substance abuse: We supported and attended the meeting held in the school to promote parental involvement in this policy. The speakers on the night were John Casey and Sinead O'Meara from the South Eastern Health Board, who helped outline the need for a policy in every school.

v **The Centenary Celebrations 2002:** Three representatives of the Parent's Advisory Council, Sandra Corcoran, Crena Connolly and Gabrielle Egan, attended the Eucharistic Celebrations held on Sunday, 7th April, 2002. in Dublin. The Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Connell and was attended by many bishops including our own Bishop William Lee, Waterford & Lismore, priests and lay people from around the world attended the with 31 countries represented. The main theme of the day was "Remembering the Past, Living the Present, Seeking the Future." It was a very moving tribute to Edmund Ignatius Rice.

Finally this as you might imagine is a summary of the work carried out and supported by the Parent's Advisory Council this year so far. I would like to thank all the members of the Council for their time, enthusiasm and support over the year. Not all the names of the members are mentioned but all contributed to the running of the Council. I hope to see you

## A TRIBUTE TO NORA FORRISTAL

The year 2002 marks the end of a very fruitful and fulfilling career for Nora Forrystal in the High School and the beginning of a long and happy retirement.

Nora moved from Scotland to Clonmel in the early seventies where she soon joined the High School Staff and became the 'Prof Par Excellence' in the French Department. Her sense of humour, positive and dedicated approach to her career and her in-depth knowl-

approach and an ability to organise the French Department that was equal to none. She always made joining the Department a pleasure for new members, who were welcomed by her "a bras ouverts".

While we all envy Nora in her decision to take early retirement, nonetheless she will be genuinely missed by staff and students of the High School. Luckily, we in the French Department still have our regular coffee morning and chat to



*Retirement from the High School after 26 years has its pros and cons. How nice it is to watch television on a Sunday night without having to think of corrections or preparation for French classes for the following week. Like the Lotto winners, it's grand to turn over in bed in the morning when everyone else is rushing to make the 8.50 deadline. On the other hand, I really miss the chat in the staffroom and getting all the latest news. In spite of the constant classroom struggles to impart some French, I*