

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:

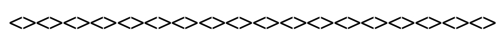
Well done to Kevin Moloney (5th Year) who was selected and played at wing back with the Galway U16 Hurling team in the Tipperary Supporters Tournament. The team played 3 matches and the first was against Laois where Galway had a very convincing win. The next match was against a very strong Wexford team but unfortunately Galway lost in what was a closely contested match by 3 points. Wexford eventually won out the tournament beating Kilkenny well in the final. Kevin proved himself an exceptional hurler and we will in no doubt see more of him in the Maroon & White in the future! Well done Kevin.

Well done also to Paul Killeen (3rd yr) who captained the Galway U-14 team to the final of the Tony Forrester Cup recently. Getting off to a disappointing start on the Saturday, Galway lost to Limerick by 2 points. However, two strong victories over Kilkenny and Offaly secured a place for this promising team in the final the following day. Unfortunately they lost out to Cork in a hard fought game at Walsh Park. This team is the future for Galway hurling and its looking good. Congratulations to Paul who showed great leadership and skill both on and off the field.

LOURDES

On the 24th August the group of helpers from Clonfert diocese set off from Knock Airport to Lourdes. The sun was shining when we arrived and it continued to do so for the next five days. We helped the pilgrims which involved bringing them shopping, wheeling wheel chairs, helping at meal times and just sitting down for a chat. Clonfert diocese also had the privilage of leading the procession which was an extra honour as this year was the 150th anniversary of Lourdes. It was such an incredible and amazing experience. I would like to thank Fr. Abe for presenting me with this opportunity.

Paula Conroy, 5th yr.



SHORELINES

Portumna's Arts Festival takes place with a weekend of activities from 12th to 14th Sept. You are invited to attend

- A Writing Workshop for young writers on Sat., 13th Sept from 2pm-5pm in the Portumna Library. Facilitator: Martin Dyar.
- A Youth Theatre Workshop for P.C.S. students in Portumna Town Hall on Sunday September 14th from 2.30 to 5pm. Facilitator is Fergal Darcy (DJ on i102-104FM radio). Cost for each workshop is €10. Places are limited.

Booking is essential and must include the full fee (non-refundable) to secure a place

FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE ON FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

NEW SELECTION CRITERIA FOR UNDERGRADUATE ENTRY TO MEDICINE 2009

(NUI Galway, RCSI, TCD, UCC and UCD).

In 2009 undergraduate entry to medicine for school leavers will be based on both * Achieving a min. of 480 points and meeting the min. entry requirements for the programme in the same sitting of the Irish Leaving Cert Exams; and * Completing the required admissions test (HPAT – Ireland) within the 2 year period immediately preceding admission to the medicine programme. Allocation of places will be based on the combination of LC results and the H PAT Ireland score.

H PAT Ireland is a 2½ hour paper based test to be held on 14th Feb. 2009. Cost €95 → apply on-line to register for test at www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au

Test centres will include Cork, Dublin, Galway, Northwest and Southeast. Places in these venues will be allocated on a first come basis so early application is advisable. NB : Register for the H PAT test from Mid November until 20th Jan. 2009. Further info can be obtained from the admissions officers of the above named colleges. Alternatively please contact Ms. Lyons.

PRELIMINARY TRIAL TEST FOR HPAT

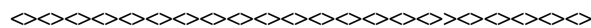
Hewitt College, Patrick's Hill, Cork, will be running a preliminary test for the HPAT on Saturday, 20th September, 2008 and the cost is €30. If interested contact (021) 4550430 to book a place.

The FLYER Professional Flight Training Show

Saturday, 20th September 2008 in the Regency Hotel Dublin Conference and Leisure Centre, Whitehall. 9.30 am – 5.00 pm. This event is aimed specifically at students who are considering a career as an airline pilot and want to know more. See Career Guidance Notice board for details.

SAFE PASS COURSE

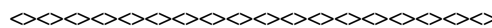
Any student considering working in the Construction Industry (work experience or part-time work) must, by law, have completed a Safe Pass Course. This also applies for students to be covered by the School's Work Experience Insurance. In order to complete this course you must be aged 16 years. Any student interested in completing a Safe Pass Course through the school must give your name to Ms. Lyons or Mr. Kilkenny on or before Friday, 19th September.



ENABLE IRELAND



The Enable Ireland Action Week on Disability is taking place from 15th - 20th September. Action Week is their annual disability awareness raising campaign. As part of this week the Transition Year students will be selling gold badges in the Social Area on Wed. 17th, Thurs. 18th and Fri. 19th September. The badges are being sold to raise funds for Enable Ireland's Gold Badge Appeal and your support would be greatly appreciated.



More Dates for your Diary: (15th – 19th Sept.)

- Tues. 16th : Senior Camogie Vs Athenry. Bus leaving at 10.45 am.



A WORD OF WELCOME

I want to welcome everyone to the first edition of Eolas for the school year 2008-2009. We have made a busy and purposeful start to the work that lies ahead of us: the staff have already had CPR training and several have had AED (defibrillator) training. We should have our new AED device in place in November. In addition school planning has advanced further in the areas of revising our code of conduct, special educational needs and health and safety. The

Junior Certificate results arrived on Wednesday and were excellent; across the whole range of the class group achievement of a high order was typical. Especially note worthy were the eleven 'A' grades scored at higher level (and a single Common level paper) by one student which placed him in the top 82 achievers in the country. To all the students who received their results I say well done and now, we move on to exceed those accomplishments be it in

TY or Fifth Year. Parents will shortly be receiving the school calendar for the year and news of meetings for First Year Parents and TY parents. First Years are enjoying their new large style lockers and any remaining problems with locks should be resolved next week. I hope that the year ahead will be one where all our creative energies will be directed to making the school an even more successful, safe and engaging environment for all of us.

Derry Long, Principal



This is our first edition of Eolas for the new academic year. If you are new to the school then we offer you a particular welcome. Eolas is our school newsletter which will be published every Friday throughout the school year and is distributed to all students to bring home. The simple aim is to keep everyone informed of the goings on within our school. If you have any relevant material for our newsletter please send it to Anne in the school office by lunchtime on Thursday each week. We are particularly interested in hearing of our student's achievements outside of school.

BUDDY SYSTEM

This system will be up and running by the end of next week. Many thanks to all the Leaving Cert students who have volunteered. It will be the responsibility of the Leaving Certs to find their 1st year 'Buddies'.

LADIES SOCCER '08-'09

The Connacht Junior and Senior Ladies Soccer will get underway next month. Portumna C.S. is drawn against Bellmullet in the Senior opening match which must be played by 3rd Oct. The Junior Ladies match will be played against Oranmore before 24th Oct.

PORTUMNA LADIES SOCCER CLUB

If there are any ladies under 17 wishing to be part of setting up a Club team in Portumna please give your name to me immediately.

Fr. Abe,

PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE FOR STUDENTS

Last Call!! The final list of students taking part in the scheme will be posted to Brennan Insurance on Monday with payment. If any student forgot to hand in their form & €5 please give it to Anne first thing Monday morning to be included.

CAMOGIE

Staff and students at Portumna Community School offer our sincere best wishes to the Galway Senior Camogie team who play Cork in the All Ireland Final in Croke Park on Sunday. Good luck to our past students, Susan Keane, Ailbhe Kelly and Lourda Kavanagh. Good luck to Damian Coleman and Veronica Curtin from Portumna and a special good luck to the Galway Captain, Sinead Cahalan, who is the daughter of one of our teachers, Mrs. Cahalan.

VOTE FOR PORTUMNA!

Portumna GAA was recently nominated in the Best Club Under the Sun competition run by Etihad Airlines. The prize is a 4 day training camp in Abu Dhabi. The club has been selected as one of the final four clubs in the competition and the prize is now awarded on a vote through the Etihad website. Portumna GAA would very much appreciate you taking the time to vote for their Club in this competition – it will only take a couple of seconds by using the following link: <http://www.etihadgaa.ie/vote>

To vote. Click on Portumna, and enter your name and email address.