

MCS welcomes new Staff Members

The new school year began in MCS with the arrival of five new staff members.

David Duffy of Ballinea, Mullingar joined the staff as a Maths and Geography teacher. He is a member of the Westmeath county football team.

Ailbhe Hickey from Dun Laoghaire in Co. Dublin completed her post graduate studies in Trinity before joining the staff of MCS to teach Spanish.

Patrice Keogh is a past pupil of MCS and a native of Castledaly. She has joined the staff of MCS to teach Business and Maths having studied in AIT and UCD.

Wesley Conboy from Kildare joined MCS to



David Duffy



Ailbhe Hickey



Patrice Keogh



Wesley Conboy



Marie Walsh

teach Spanish and Geography. In the past he has taught in Spain and Wexford.

Marie Walsh is a native of Galway. She has joined MCS to teach Irish and Geography, having previously taught in St. Joseph's of

Lucan, Co. Dublin.

All of the new staff members are very welcome to MCS and students and staff members alike look forward to working with them.

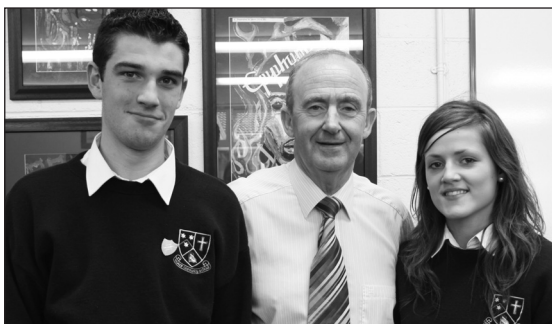
LARGE INCREASE IN NUMBERS AS NEW YEAR BEGINS...

This year has seen a huge increase in student numbers attending our school. The First Year intake is 133 students with significant numbers also joining the other year groups. The following is the breakdown – First to Sixth Year 704 and PLC students 455 with a Total of 1159.

Our school was established in 1996 with a total student intake at that time of 735. The increased numbers are yet another sign of the schools reputation as a high quality secondary school.

MCS students honour Mr. Duffy as Principal for 25 years

MCS is used to acknowledging the achievements of its students but on Wednesday 22nd September the tables were turned as the Student Council, Prefects, Mentors and Games Committee surprised Mr. Duffy with a presentation to acknowledge the 25 years he has spent as Principal in the town of Moate. Richard Dooner (6th Year) and Jill Shortall (5th Year) spoke on behalf of the student body. The two students acknowledged the many sacrifices that Mr. Duffy has made over the years as Principal of firstly the Vocational School then Mercy College and finally Moate Community School.



Richard Dooner and Jill Shortall with Mr. Kevin Duffy

Moate Community School Link with Moi Sorget Secondary School, Londiani, Kenya

An application was made in late 2009 for MCS to be linked with a Secondary School in Londiani, Kenya. We were delighted to be accepted and linked with Moi Sorget Secondary School, Londiani, Kenya. Moi Sorget is a co-ed secondary school.

An essential element of the link with Moi Sorget is teachers from MCS visiting the School in Kenya over the October break 2010. The teachers who will have the privilege of making that first personal contact with the staff and students of Moi Sorget are Mr. Kevin Duffy, Mr. Iain Hatton, Ms. Nessa Lawlor, Ms. Aoife Halligan and Ms. Blaithin Seoighe.

Our school is supported by the Friends of Londiani Network who will organise events such as:

- Joint school display: Sept – Dec
- Webpage
- Reception for Kenyan teachers visiting Ireland in December 2010
- Network Newsletter: January 2011
- Student Forum & Millennium Development Goals event which will be held in March 2011

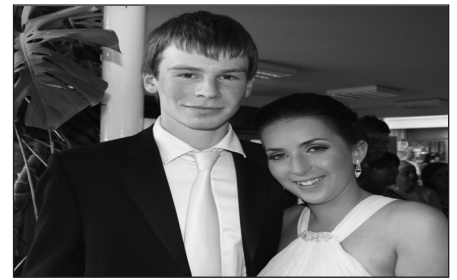
The teachers who are making the trip in October were given an introduction to Friends of Londiani and the work that they do in Kenya; Kenyan culture; local environment; education systems; health conditions; development education; Millennium Development Goals; what the partnership involves, etc.

We wish all our teachers the best of luck on their journey. For more information check out the school website www.moatecs.com

Graduation Night

On Wednesday the 1st of September the class of 2010 celebrated their Graduation. This accomplished group of young people looked stunning in their gowns and suits. After a delightful reception in MCS the students and some of their former teachers travelled to the

Shearwater Hotel in Ballinasloe, where they enjoyed a wonderful evening. The staff and management of MCS would like to wish each and every member of the class every success in their futures.



Liam Fitzpatrick & Louise Buckley at the Graduation.



Here come the girls!!!

European Languages Day 2010



All language students united this year at MCS to provide what was truly a wonderful celebration of cultures in honour of international languages day.

Spanish, French, German and Irish students worked hard to provide a rich tapestry of culture in the form of posters, banners, flags and music. Language, art, history, geography and festivals, were just a few of the many cultural aspects promoted in this celebration. Students prepared traditional cuisine for all to sample and enjoy.

HISTORY STUDENTS STEP BACK IN TIME WITH A VISIT TO LOCAL MUSEUM



First Year students embraced the role of historian during their visit to Moate Museum. Students enjoyed a very special privilege, being the first to view the museum's latest acquisitions, a coracle and

straw boat donated by Kilcormac Community School. Both the coracle and straw boat were used up to the early 20th century as a means of transport on the river Shannon and river Suck.

Subject Departments working well in Moate Community School

Each subject area in our school is part of a very active and hard working subject department. Teachers of each subject meet on a regular basis to plan for each term, discuss problems, new initiatives and developments in their subject areas and to evaluate and discuss progress with courses and classes. As part of this process teaching resources are shared with colleagues and vital support is given to each other.

Parents Association

Our Parent Association held its monthly meeting on October 6th last. High on the agenda was the information evening for Parents on Junior Cycle Curriculum Review. The committee also extended its congratulations to Tommy Walsh on his recent election as the President of the National Parents Council.

The following are members of the Parents Association: Elizabeth Palfreyman, Peter Cunningham, Tommy Walsh, Caroline McManus, Angela Higgins, Louis Cunningham, Caroline Bracken, Stephen Heffernan, Terese Malynn, Margaret Maloney, Ray McSharry, Breda O'Brien, Mary O'Neill and Jimmy Redmond.

TY LONDON TOUR

Following cancellation in April due to the volcanic ash, the much awaited TY tour finally departed ash free on June 1st. Sixty students re-packed their bags arriving in London for 4 days. The first day, the group visited the many sites of London including Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Piccadilly Circus and a tour of the famous Madame Tussauds Wax Museum.

The second day the group enjoyed a tour of the London Dungeon following by some much needed retail therapy on Oxford Street and that night enjoyed the Westend show, *Grease*. Thorpe Park was on the agenda Thursday morning with the fun-filled park providing an abundance of adrenaline and adventure for our thrillseekers. The final day was spent in Westfield shopping centre. We made our way to the airport and left behind a warm, bustling and great city where we thoroughly enjoyed four great days. Many thanks to the exemplary behaved pupils who travelled and to their teachers Ms Nolan, Ms Buggy, Ms Neilan, Ms Peredo, Mr Tormey and Mr. Hatton.

Successful Careers Evening

A *Careers Evening* was held on Wednesday 6th October last and provided students with the opportunity to focus on their career choices and obtain relevant and valuable information.

Over 30 stands with representatives of Universities, IT's, PLC's and specific career areas along with local businesses were present on the night. There were also a number of past pupils in attendance.

Universities were represented from as far as Edgehill in Liverpool, Thames Valley University London and Queens in Belfast and of course there were representatives from AIT and MBC. Past pupils brought with them a range of knowledge, skills and qualifications. There was a great turnout of students from each of the senior years. The evening was extremely informative and useful for everyone who attended.

MENTOR TRAINING PROGRAMME AT MOATE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The Mentors of 2010/2011 enjoyed very informative training programme with facilitator Carmel Daly, education co-ordinator with Foróige. The purpose of this programme was to help students enhance their effectiveness as Mentors.

Since September 1st the Mentors in MCS have supported and assisted first year students as they settle in to school. On the first day of term Mentors worked with First Years. They prepared a range of activities for First Years to encourage and facilitate the making of new friendships. Students participated in a series of events centred around arts, sports and class games.



Mentors in training.

NEW BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

A new Board of Management has recently been appointed and held their first meeting on Tuesday, October 5th last. The following are members:

Joe Whelan (Chairman)	<i>VEC Representative</i>
Denise Kennedy	<i>VEC Representative</i>
Jim Henson	<i>VEC Representative</i>
John Galvin	<i>Convent of Mercy Representative</i>
Fr. Eanna Ó hÓbain	<i>Carmelite Representative</i>
Fr. Dermot Kelly	<i>Carmelite Representative</i>
David Wynne	<i>Teacher Representative</i>
Myra McLoughlin	<i>Teacher Representative</i>
Peter Cunningham	<i>Parent Representative</i>
Elizabeth Palfreyman	<i>Parent Representative</i>

The following were elected to the Boards' Financial Sub Committee: Jim Henson; Myra McLoughlin; Elizabeth Palfreyman.

Moate U16 Hurlers off to a winning start

Moate's U16 hurlers got off to a great start to the championship with a hard fought victory over Athlone Community College. A great victory and a great effort from the team was exactly what mentors Mr. Hatton and Mr. Devaney were looking for and will hope to build on this result and progress in the competition.

New President of National Parents Council post primary

Tommy Walshe is President of the National Parents Council post primary (NPCpp). His is one of 20 volunteers from all around Ireland who give freely of their time, to actively support parents and guardians in their parenting role, and show them how best to interact effectively with their children's schools on the issues that impact on the education, development and general well-being of their children within the post-primary school. NPCpp are also at the end of the telephone line Monday to Friday, to offer help, advice and assist parents who find themselves in difficult situations in relation to their children and the relationship they have within the school. We run training and development of Parents Associations in all our schools and this is a priority. We are looking to develop a strong working relationship with our partners in education, in particular PPEF, and develop activities which will strengthen our parent's organisation. "Let the education of all our children be at the centre of our debates."

Westmeath Athletics Competition

On Wednesday 29th September ten athletes from MCS participated in the Westmeath Athletics Competition in Belvedere in Mullingar.

The first race of the day was First Year girls with Caoimhe Kelly finishing in 3rd position. Another newcomer to MCS's athletic club was Cathal Daly who finished an impressive 4th position in the boy's First Year race.

Moate's very dedicated Second Year boy's team ran the 1,500 metres course incredibly well. Moate finished the day on a high with Thomas Fagan scooping 2nd position for the school in the 5th and 6th Year boy's race. Team mates Adrian Rabbitte and Sean Sheridan also ran the 3,000 metre race and can be very proud of their performances as this was largest and most difficult race of the day.



Cathal Daly of MCS celebrates his Athletics success.

U16 Leinster Ladies Football Post-Primary Schools Competition

*MCS 7-9 V Ballymahon 2-8
7th October*

Moate U16's first competitive match of the year was away to their rivals Ballymahon. The game had a positive start as Kalene McCormack (Captain) won the toss to play with a very strong wind. The girls started off well with a goal from Grace Coughlan. The Ballymahon girls reacted with a goal. After this Moate continued to add to the scoreboard with corner-forward Zoe Nugent scoring two goals in the second half. During the first half Christine made an excellent save diverting the ball from the back of the net to over the crossbar. Although being one of the youngest players on the team our midfielder Mairead Fox scored an impressive 1-1 in the first half. At half time a few changes were made. Christine Warburton was replaced with Una Costello; Isobel O'Neill and Mairead Fox switched positions. In the second half

the scoring was not as frequent as the first half due to the huge wind that they were fighting. Overall, players on the team played brilliantly and to their best. Emer McManus had a very strong game as full back and read the ball very well. If the girls play with this conviction throughout the year, we will be hopeful that this team will take home some silverware.

Team: 1. Christine Warburton (Una Costello); 2. Aoife Costello; 3. Emer McManus; 4. Niamh Glynn (Sorcha Galvin); 5. Aisling O'Neill (Sara Claffey); 6. Lorna Henson; 7. Brenda O'Brien; 8. Mairead Fox (1-1); 9. Kalene McCormack (0-1); 10. Isobel O'Neill; 11. Nicky Feery; 12. Clodagh Flanagan; 13. Zoe Nugent (2-0); 14. Grace Coughlan (5-7); 15. Aine Smyth; 16. Brid Harrington; 17. Sara Claffey; 18. Sorcha Galvin; 19. Amy Fagan; 20. Emma McCormack; 21. Una Costello; 22. Sorcha Egan.

SPHE in Moate Community School

Social and Personal Health Education is a intrinsic part of the educational programme in MCS with each class allocated one class period a week with their tutor to cover the programme. The programme differs for each year but the core aims of each year are the same:

1. To enable the students to develop personal and social skills.

2. To promote self esteem and self confidence.

3. To enable the students to develop a framework for responsible decision making.

4. To provide opportunities for reflection and discussion.

5. To promote physical, mental, emotional health and well-being.