

## **John Lonergan, the Governor of Mountjoy visits the Parent's Association of MCS**

The parent's association of Moate Community School invited John Lonergan as the guest speaker on the night of their AGM on Monday November 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr Lonergan is a familiar face to many across the country and is highly regarded for his compassionate approach to those under his care. Born in Bansha in Co. Tipperary, Mr. Lonergan has been Governor of Mountjoy Jail since 1984. As a parent of two adult daughters, he has much experience and advice for parents today.

He spoke on the role of parents in guiding our young people safely through these crucial years of their education. With great humour and compassion he advocated how change cannot be enforced upon people, but only through consent and agreement. While acknowledging he himself is far from the perfect parent and has, in the past, made many mistakes in this essential role, he emphasised to the eager audience that our priority should simply be to have a happy healthy child. He encouraged having a two way chat with our children, not a one sided questions and answers session. By simply talking to our children we are more likely to be in a position to help them, rather than engaging in, what is for many parents of teenagers, a regular reality of argument upon argument upon argument.

Mr. Lonergan's wisdom and humanity was effortlessly transferred to the audience. He is extremely witty and fair in his observations and comments. The parent's association are very grateful that he gave of his time and his words so generously. The huge turn out on the night is clear evidence of the high regard with which the nation holds him. As the Chairperson of the Parent's Association, Mr. Tommy Walsh said, 'You can never hear enough of John Lonergan'.