

MCS play in Badminton Leinsters

Last Tuesday, January 26th, Moate Community School took part in the Badminton Leinsters, which took place in Beldoyle Co. Dublin. This was the first time ever for a Westmeath school to get to this stage. Moate had one team each for the girls and boys games. On the boys team they had John Walsh, Shane Byrne, Donal Glynn and Paddy Rabbitte. First up were the lads matches who were to play Dublins De La Salle College. First up was Shane Byrne of MCS against Conor Smyth. Shane hit hard but lost narrowly 29-30. Next John Walsh played Conner Curran winning 30-25 for Moate. Donal Glynn played James Costello missing out 18-30. Next Paddy Rabbitte played Thomas Olayae but just missed out losing 29-30. In the doubles Moate turned it round with Shane and John winning 30-13 and Donal and Paddy winning 30-27.

Next the boys had got through to the semi finals of the Leinsters. They were to play St.Peters of Wexford. First up was Shane Byrne against Kevin Terence with Terence gaining the upper hand winning 30-13. John was up next against Thomas Fudley with John missing out 17-30. Donal tried to turn things round when he played Daniel Dempsey but unfortunately he lost 22-30. Finally Paddy was up against John White but missing out again 20-30. In the doubles Shane and John gave MCS some hope as they won 30-27. However Donal and Paddy could not manage a win and the final score was 17-30. When the scores of the boys' matches were added up, the result was that unfortunately they would not be going any further. This was a tremendous effort from the team and they will just have to try their luck again next year.

Next up were the girls' teams. On the girls team they had Nicole Guinan, Anna Dalton, Caroline Kelly and Ruth O' Brian. In their first match they were playing Wilsons Hospital of Mullingar. Nicole was up first against Kirsten Lowe with Nicole with an outstanding win of 30-5. Next Caroline was against Leanne Barpark and she won 30-29. MCS's Anna Dalton continued Moates winning streak, winning 30-20 against Julia Selea. Ruth O' Brian finished off their matches against Wilson's

winning 30-23 against Sharlene Cunningham. In the doubles Nicole and Anna won 30-25 while Ruth and Caroline won 30-25. This meant the Moate girls now progressed on to play more games.

Next they were up against Loreto College Kilkenny. The Moate girls found these girls tougher than their last opponents. First Nicole played Leah Butler and lost 14-30. Next Caroline played Louise Whitley and lost to 13-30. Anna played Niamh Rice giving a good effort but losing out 16-30. Finally Ruth played Fiona Whitley and also lost 16-30. In their doubles the girls could not manage to boost their scores as Nicole and Anna lost 15-30 and Caroline and Ruth lost 19-30. They were now finished playing Loreto's and had one more match to play against St. Colmcilles of Dublin. First up Moates Nicole played Mairead Fanning but lost 17-30. Anna played Leona Dunne with Leona hitting some hard smashes resulting in Anna losing 15-30. Next Caroline played Kate Fitzharris and had the upper hand until Kate came back to win 30-15. Ruth now played Sarah Fitzharris where she could not turn it round for Moate losing 14-30. In the doubles Nicole and Anna could not get the stamina to beat St. Colmcilles and they lost 17-30. Caroline and Ruth hit their best but unfortunately lost 15-30. When their scores were totted up it meant that Moate would not be going any further in the competition. This was a tremendous effort from the girls' team and they will just have to try their luck again next year. Both teams should be very proud for getting their school, MCS this far in the competition for the first time ever. The teachers involved with the badminton from MCS were Mr Hatton and Ms Doyle and must also be acknowledged for the training they did with the students for the tournament.