

Presentation Secondary School Newsletter 2011



THE HOUSE SYSTEM

Presentation Secondary School goes Harry Potter mad!

The Presentation Secondary School has introduced an exciting concept this year called 'The Inter House System'. The House System is designed to encourage greater participation by pupils in the extracurricular life of the school, as well as creating a positive learning environment with an emphasis on cooperation, participation and achievement. Every student is part of a group, which is called a 'House', made up of a mixture of students from First Year right up to Sixth Year. Each of the four Houses is led by a Captain taken from Fifth Year and a Vice Captain taken from Transition Year. Captains organise various activities and events throughout the school year, most of which are competitive and contribute to an overall House Championship – Sports Day! Points are gained for competing in events and for Merit Cards, which are awarded to students by members of staff. The House that has accumulated the highest number of points throughout the year, as well as points accumulated at the end of the year House Championship, are awarded the Inter House Cup and of course...the glory!!

The end of year House Championship for this year was SPORTS DAY which took place on Friday 20th May at Dangan Track. The victorious House was the "Blues"! They take home the cup this year. Congratulations to the members of each House; it was a great day.

The Presentation School is the only secondary school in Galway to run this system. We hope that it will be a huge success and will become a major part of school life for many years to come.



House Name	Colour
DEANE	Yellow
KIRWAN	Green
BLAKE	Red
D'ARCY	Blue

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Leaving Cert Class of 2011

We wish all our Leaving Cert and Junior Cert students the very best of luck in the State Examinations which begin on

Wednesday 8th June 2011.

To the **Leaving Cert Class of 2011** we say a fond farewell. We wish you every success both in your exams and in your future careers

Congratulations! Leaving Cert Class 2011

Presentation Secondary School Galway



FETAC Level 5



Post Leaving Certificate Courses

**Business/IT Skills
Computerised Payroll and Accounts
&
European Computer Driving Licence**

Open to male and female applicants and mature students who wish to build up their skills for employment

Full-time Course Monday to Friday 9.00am-3.10pm

Part-time
3 Mornings per week

Registration and Open Day

**Thursday 1 September 2011
9.30 am to 2.00pm**

Telephone: 091 563495

E-mail: presgalpdp@eircom.net

www.presgalway.ie

Let us remember.....

Last November our dear friend, workmate and teacher, Ciara Grehan, passed away. Our school community was in a state of sadness, shock and disbelief. Ciara had a wonderful presence that shone brightly wherever she was and her positive mental attitude was outstanding in taking on any obstacles she encountered.

Ciara loved and put her total being into her family and work. Her wonderful teaching methods got students to absorb and enjoy learning. She was fair, fun and had great empathy with her students in the classroom. Ciara was teaching 'Lámh' to Form 15 last year and Form 1 dedicated their 'Make a Book' to her this year. All the students respected Ciara and enjoyed her classes. Her 'Grease' production and elegant 'Snow White' performance showed some of her talents and participation in school shows.

Ciara was very loving, caring, kind, understanding and supportive to staff and students. She was down to earth and had a great sense of humour...a bar of chocolate, a glass of wine and an episode of 'Desperate Housewives' was a weekly treat.

Ciara loved to read, she kept up with fashion and loved animals, especially dogs. She was like a strong, vibrant, colourful beautiful butterfly, yet fragile soft and sensitive to all.

Her memory will live on in her children, and in her family. We treasure our memories of Ciara and we keep them safely in our hearts. We have been so privileged to have known and worked with this wonderful, loving and beautiful young woman. May she rest in peace.

Dear Ms Grehan,

We all thank you for the time you spent with us. We learned a lot about how to care for children from you. We will never forget your smile; it is in our memory forever. Your love and care for everyone was amazing, you remain in our hearts for ever and ever. One love, one heart Ms Grehan.

From all the girls in Form 15.



Ciara Grehan
Teacher and friend.

Gael Linn Radio Competition



An éacht ar fad!

Well done to the group of TY students who successfully presented, recorded, produced and edited a 20-minute programme "as Gaeilge". They were awarded third place in a national competition sponsored by Gael Linn. 200 schools participated nationwide.

Mártan Ó Ciardha from RTÉ was the official judge who commended the students on their presentation, content and fluency. A cheque for €200 was presented to them by Niamh de Búrca from Gael Linn.

Strasbourg bound!



Congratulations to Lyndsey Flaherty and Lauren Kilkelly, both students in Transition Year, who won a trip each to visit the European Parliament in Strasbourg in May. Their prize was awarded on the basis of their success in the GradU8 online competition in which all Transition Year students participate. Both girls travelled to Strasbourg in May and had a wonderful trip.

Every year students in the Pres are successful in this competition and it is a great opportunity for them to see how the European Parliament functions and to see some of the sights!

LCVP and IBM



5th year LCVP students and staff at IBM were involved in a very successful Skills @ Work Programme during the year. Enormous effort, by both IBM staff and students, ensured that all the activities were very enjoyable as well as worthwhile.

Photo (left to right): Fania Ellison, BITC (Business in the Community) Co-ordinator; Mark Leonard, IBM; Shona Craig, IBM; Rebecca Burke, 5th year; Orla Prendergast, IBM and Siobhan Dervan, IBM

Tour to Paris October 2010

Last October a group from the Pres made up of Leaving Cert, 5th Year and TY students travelled to Paris on a school tour. They were accompanied by Ms. Stokes, Ms. Joyce and Ms. Fogarty. It was a marvellous trip and the girls got to see all the most famous sights of Paris. They visited the Louvre, La Défense, Notre Dame and went on a boat trip on the Seine. They even got to the top of the Eiffel Tower by night! This was a wonderful experience for the girls and one that they will give them lots of happy memories.



First Year Tour to Dublin

On Tuesday 17 May the First Year students went on a trip to Dublin, accompanied by Ms. Stokes and Mr. Ward. They visited a marvellous exhibition of the work of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera which is on loan to the Irish Museum of Modern Art. They also went to the National Museum at Collins Barracks where they saw a great collection of oriental artefacts and high crosses. They also managed to fit in a little time for shopping. Their teachers had great praise for the First Years and their behaviour was excellent.

IBM and the Presentation School

IBM has joined with Presentation Secondary School for a new Skills @ Work Programme designed to teach senior cycle students about the world of work. With this initiative IBM employees will give talks to senior cycle students on subjects ranging from a day in the life of employees, a company overview, CV Preparation and interview skills. This programme involves IBM visiting and working with students in class and in return our students visit the IBM employees in their workplace.

During this visit students heard about opportunities that exist in the technology industry and excellent advice on career research and job preparation. We look forward to this initiative with IBM and it is a wonderful opportunity for our students. This initiative is organized through **The Schools' Business Partnership** and we thank them for their support in this programme.



Above (left to right):

Mary Rose Heneghan, Andrea Hegarty, Emma Gunning, Sara Boland IBM, Colette Finneran IBM, Doyin Adelekun.

GMIT Language and Culture Day

On the 12 April 2011 the Transition Year and Fifth Year French classes attended, for the first time, the GMIT Language and Culture Day. The students participated in a number of events which included a cookery competition, an art competition, a European multimedia quiz, a film competition, and individual and group performance.

The day was very successful and the students won joint First Prize for the French and Spanish film, and Second Prize in the cookery competition.



Retirements

This year two members of the teaching staff of the Pres have retired. Pictured on the left are Ms. Patricia Joyce, receiving a presentation from Ms. Cliona Ni Neill (Principal), and Ms. Mary Foley, receiving a presentation from two of her students.

Both Ms. Joyce and Ms Foley have been wonderfully dedicated teachers over the years and their wealth of experience will be missed. We wish them both health and happiness in retirement.



Wellness Workshops for Parents

'Lift Off Let's Go' Wellness workshops for parents took place in Ballybane Resource Centre on March 15th and Westside Resource Centre/Westside Library on Wednesday 8th March.



The various workshops ranged from a talk by a dietician to raise awareness about healthy dietary habits, to a demonstration by Niall Diviney (above) on some healthy food options which can be easily prepared.

Other workshops available included hand massage and yoga.



JCSP Fun Activities

As part of the Junior Cert Schools Programme a "Celebrity-Chef" cookery demonstration took place on Wednesday, May 11th. The second year Home-Economics class were shown how to make a healthy and nutritious Spelt Bread, Fruit Smoothies and a Spelt-Rhubarb Crumble.



On Friday, May 13th, another JCSP fun activity was a trip to the Rusheen Bay Windsurfing School where the second year group, accompanied by Miss Madden and Mr. Campbell, were shown how to windsurf. They were also taken on a canoeing expedition out into the bay. The girls really enjoyed it!

The Form 1 class took part in the JCSP "Make a Book" Exhibition which was held in the Civic Offices in Dublin. Their book titled "The Animals Party in Las Vegas" was on display along with the wonderful artistic illustrations created by the students themselves. This book was written in memory of Ms. Ciara Grehan RIP.

The Form 2/3/4/5 groups also created books such as "Forever Together", "Collection of Short Stories" and "Short Stories". These were launched in the Westside Library and were also part of the JCSP exhibition.

Ireland's Young Film Maker Awards in Limerick

On Wednesday 30th March the students of the Presentation Secondary School qualified for the Ireland's Young Film Maker Awards for 2011.

Their film "The Adventures of Sheila Sherlock" fought off tough competition in the Regional Finals in Galway. Their feature film was judged by ten independent film makers before qualifying for this prestigious award.

Well done to the girls, the JCSP film crew, the teachers and Nuala Broderick for all her assistance throughout.



UPDATE YOUR SKILLS & STAY AHEAD ENROLL NOW FOR 2011/12

Presentation Galway has been providing Post Leaving Certificate courses for the past 20 years. The school has a very high achievement record and continues to update and develop to meet the needs of students.



The course in office management computerised office skills provides students with the skills to develop a career in the business world. A wide range of modules is provided to cater for students who wish to use this qualification to enter third level education. This course will also give them hands on experience in a variety of computer packages including MS Word, Excel, Access, Publisher, Tas Books and Payroll, leading to a FETAC Level 5 Award, in Business.



We are introducing Microsoft Office Specialist Qualification for next year.

Big Sisters Mentoring Project

New First Years and their 'Big Sisters':

Each year Senior Students volunteer to act as 'Big Sister' Mentors for new First Year students. Each volunteer has charge of a small group of First Years. The Senior Students spend the Induction Days with the new students to help them to get to know each other and also to help them become familiar with the school building and the new routine of secondary school life. The 'Big Sisters' work in conjunction with each First Year Class Tutor.

The overall aim of the programme is to make the initial transition to secondary school as positive as possible. Each new First Year student develops a connection with a senior friendly face.

Transition Year Events

Congratulations to the students of the TY programme who took part in the Junior Achievement Company Programme Competition. Their mini-company, *Buttons & Bows*, reached



the regional final in Sligo and the management team performed brilliantly on the day. Throughout the year the students were mentored by a Business Volunteer from APC by Schneider Electric, Lubos Vaclavek (pictured left with the TY team).

Other highlights in the TY programme this year were the Living Scenes module, which sees adults from various Active Retirement Associations in the city come to the school every Friday morning to take part in activities with the TY students. These include Drama, Art, Music, Dance, Film etc. The students and adults together put on two performances each year.



The students also take part every year in the Gaisce President's Award Scheme. This involves them taking up a new challenge, doing voluntary work and developing a new skill. At the end of the year they are then awarded a Gaisce medal.