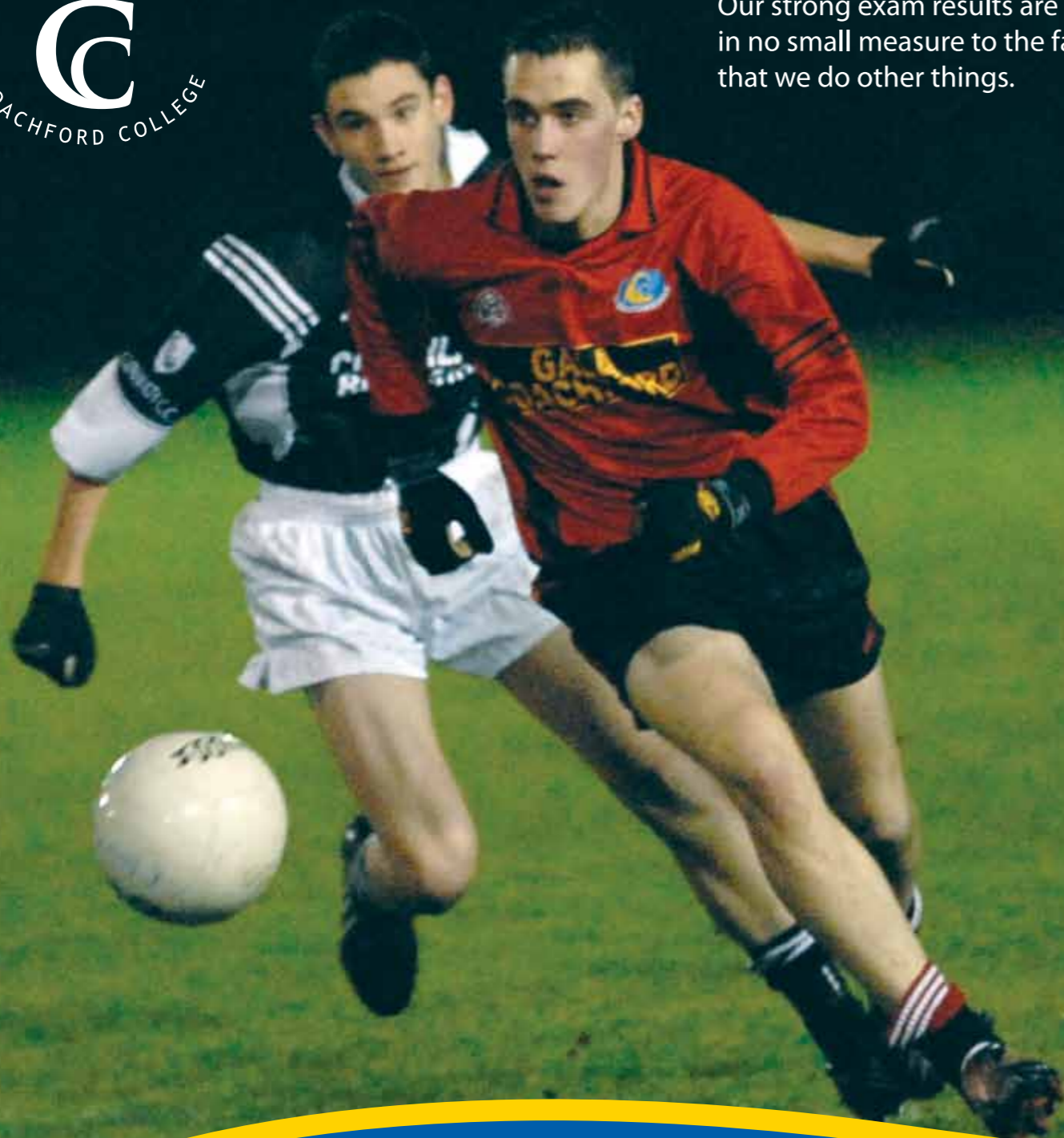




Our strong exam results are due in no small measure to the fact that we do other things.



Exceptional quality of teaching

Caring and friendly, with excellent student supports

Rural Location

Extensive extracurricular programmes, including international partnership

Good links with third level colleges

Co-educational and inclusive

Wide range of subjects



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web: www.coachfordcollege.ie
principal: Mr. Patrick O'Connor
deputy principal: Mr. Edward Williamson

Coachford College 2010
expect to achieve





10th November, 2008: Distinguished visitors Mr. Batt O'Keeffe, TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, Deputy Michael Moynihan, Chair of the Oireachtas Joint Committee for Education and Science and Mr. Michael Creed, TD, shadow spokesperson for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food joined a CSPE class and debated the impact of the credit crunch. The meeting with the three busy public representatives, who gave so generously of their time, was much appreciated by the young audience.



Eli Lilly Junior Certificate Quiz

14th May, 2008: At Boole 4 at UCC, the Junior Certificate Science Quiz was won by the Coachford College team. The team members were Cian Moran, Graham Robinson, Sean Wallace and Adrian Maguire. Organised by the Irish Science Teachers' Association and with 25 different teams participating, the quiz consists of six rounds. The first five check the student's knowledge of the Junior Certificate Science Syllabus while the final round is general knowledge with a scientific twist. This year's competition was very exciting with Christian Brothers College and Coachford College tied at the end of six rounds. Coachford emerged victorious after five tie-break rounds. This was Coachford's second success in the competition in recent years; a team consisting of Martha O'Connor, Sean O'Connell, James O'Donovan and Jonathan O'Connell were also victorious in 2003.



8th November 2008: At the Boole Library in UCC, Mr. Batt O'Keeffe, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, presented a Gold Medal and a €500 bursary to Antoinette O'Connor on behalf of the Irish Applied Maths Teachers' Association in recognition of Antoinette's achievement at being placed first in the country in the LC Applied Maths exam. Included is Mr. Edward Williamson, Antoinette's Applied Mathematics teacher.



John Cal Kelleher was placed Joint First in the Junior Maths Competition finals held on Saturday, 10th May, 2008. The competition is organised by the Irish Maths Teachers' Association and John Cal obtained a rarely achieved score of full marks.



Ms Olive Loughnane, Coachford resident and Beijing Olympian, was the guest of honour at the Awards Night on Friday, 17th October, 2008. Organised by Ms Joanne O'Keeffe, the event was a celebration of the success of students in exams, sports and other competitions and was also an opportunity for the school choir to demonstrate their talent. Based on the results of the 2008 LC exam., the Trustees of the Glebe property presented two awards: one to Evelyn Robinson, from Donoughmore, who is a student of Chemical Engineering at CIT and a second to Eileen Lynch from Aghabullogue, who is a student of Law with Irish at U.C.C.

SUBJECTS

Junior Cycle (Duration - 3 years)

Core subjects

Irish
English
Mathematics
History
Geography
Science
Civic, Social and Political Education
Social, Personal and Health Education
Religious Education
Physical Education

Optional Subjects

Business Studies
French
Home Economics
Technical Graphics
Materials Technology (Metal)
Materials Technology (Wood)
Music
Art, Craft, Design

Senior Cycle (Duration - 2 years)

Core Subjects

Religious Education (Non-Examination)
Irish
English
Mathematics
Physical Education (Non-Examination)

Optional Subjects

Accounting
Agricultural Science
Applied Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Construction Studies
Design and Communications Graphics
Engineering
French
Geography
History
Home Economics (Social and Scientific)



Music
Physics
L.C.V.P. Modules - Enterprise Education, Preparation for the World of Work.

All examination subjects are taught to Leaving Certificate Higher Level.

The Transition Year Programme is optional.



Musically and academically talented sisters Marguerite and Aisling Vaughan with their Music teacher Ms. Colette Kidney.



The school enjoys a southerly aspect on extensive grounds at the heart of the Lee Valley.



January, 2009: Based on their performance in the 2008 Junior Certificate Mathematics exam., Deirdre Murphy from Aherla, Seamus Murphy from Donoughmore and Phoebe Watson from Rusheen were invited to attend enrichment classes in UCC for mathematically gifted students. All three students were taught by Mr. Des O'Grady.

Open Day

The annual Open Day allows the school to showcase all that it has to offer and gives prospective students an opportunity to meet staff and pupils of the school. Parents are also most welcome. The school operates an open door policy so that parents of fifth or sixth class pupils are welcome at any time.

Building Relationships

We invest much time and energy in pastoral care. This major emphasis permeates all school activities and is guided by the input of the guidance counsellor, chaplain, special needs coordinator, year heads and tutors. Our rural location and determination to provide for pupils of all abilities are defining characteristics of the school.

"The Chaplain, because he stands apart, so to speak, from the teaching and day to day running of the school can interact and enhance the working milieu in many and even unseen ways. His non-disciplinary role enables the building of relationships of trust and fraternity."

Fr. Eamonn McCarthy, full time chaplain.

Online Learning Platform

Following the successful implementation of ePortal, a web based viewing tool that allows parents to see up-to-the-minute data on attendance, test results and timetables online, the school is now engaged in developing an online learning platform using Moodle.

"I am delighted at the extent to which my students are using Moodle and I am surprised at how straightforward it is to use"

Ms. Elaine Hourihan, History teacher.

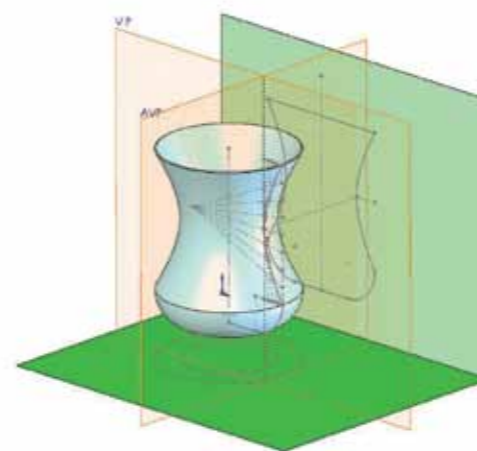
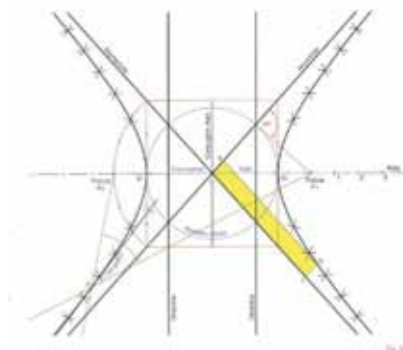
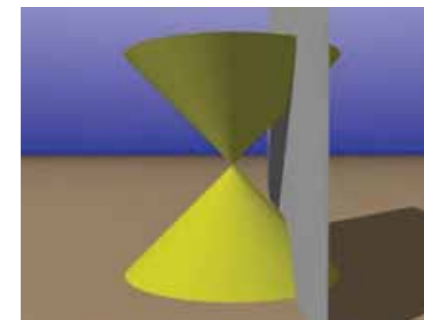


expect to achieve



First Year Technical Graphics with Mr. David Drummond.

Exciting Developments in Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)



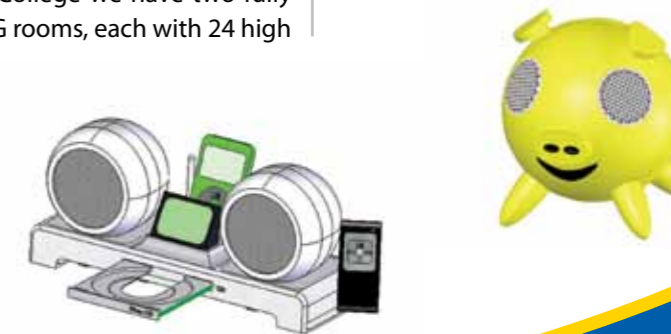
Students study plane and descriptive geometries and such optional topics as geologic geometry and surface geometry. Computer Aided Design is a significant element of the course and the coursework component, worth 40% of the final mark, is a computer based module. The course is a tremendous opportunity to study design and to learn how to use modern graphics software.

specification, fully networked computers for CAD use and a data projector to help teaching and learning.

Teachers Mr. Kevin Coakley and Mr. Dermot Carew report that students are hugely enthusiastic about the new subject and that they particularly enjoy the "learning by doing" experience on the computer network.

In Coachford College we have two fully equipped DCG rooms, each with 24 high

DCG is a ground breaking new Leaving Certificate subject, first examined in summer 2009, and already proving to be very popular at Coachford College.



February, 2009: MP3 docking stations designed by Leaving Certificate Design and Communications Graphics students Marie Gleeson and Kevin Beirne.



22nd January, 2009: Fifth year student Laura Corkery submitted a winning essay in the UCC Faculty of Law Essay Competition 2009 and was presented with a prize at a lecture evening in UCC's Brookfield Complex.



Fostering the growth and development of pupils

During their time in secondary school, pupils mature and grow academically, emotionally, socially, physically and spiritually. Encouraging the growth and development of pupils during this important stage of their lives is extremely important.

Coachford College nurtures the growth and development of our pupils in a number of ways. Pupils grow in confidence and maturity as they experience success and enjoyment in their curricular subjects. Many of these subjects will be new to pupils and may involve elements of practical 'hands on' work where pupils 'learn by doing', for example Materials Technology Wood and Metal, Technical Graphics, Home Economics, Music and Art. In subjects like Science, pupils complete experiments as part of a team and have a valuable opportunity to interact with other pupils and practice interpersonal & social skills. This social dimension to learning helps pupils to mature and grow in confidence as they interact and work together on a shared task.

Subjects like SPHE (Social, Personal & Health Education) and Religion are designed to help pupils to grow socially, spiritually and emotionally by giving them the opportunity to reflect on how they relate with other people. These subjects also help pupils to make important life choices in relation to issues like nutrition, physical and emotional well-being and their relationship with God.

Each class group has a tutor assigned to it. A tutor is a teacher who takes a special interest in the progress and welfare of the pupils in their class group. Subject teachers and tutors work closely with Year Heads to monitor the wellbeing and progress of each pupil. A Year Head is a teacher who undertakes the role of caring for a Year group in order to promote learning at every level of the person.

The Guidance Counsellor, Chaplain and Special Needs coordinator also play important support roles, as necessary, in fostering the growth and development of each pupil.

Mr. Kevin Coakley
Year Head

"I hate school! I don't want to go!" this is a familiar enough moan in most homes, especially on grey winter mornings when the icy rain cuts like tiny needles. Post- Weetabix the mood generally improves a little, which suggests that the problem lies more with being dragged from the comfort of a warm bed than actually going to school.

Do our children really hate school? As a teacher, but more especially as a parent, I would hate to think that, day after day, we are sending our sons, daughters, and heirs to a place of unhappiness. Luckily, I have the privilege of being able to view life in school and I think that, in general, our children are happy in Coachford College.

While education is naturally the main objective for a school, ask any teenager what the most important thing for them in school is and 99% of the time the resounding answer will be their friends. Wander around the school at breaktime and you will come across groups of boys and girls chatting, laughing and playing together. With around 600 students coming from a wide area most pupils are lucky enough to find others with similar interests. Groups tend to be a mixture of boys and girls and often a mixture of age groups too. You get the feeling that the friendships that are formed during these years are relationships that will be with them

for many years, as they embark on the various exciting adventures that await after the safety of life at Coachford College. These friendships are vital in making school a friendly, welcoming place for our students.

Relationships with the staff in school are also of huge importance to a favourable experience in school. The students need to feel comfortable and cared for by the adults they come into contact with every day. In general, the pupils in Coachford find the staff supportive and understanding, with a few even making it to the heady heights of being described as "sound"! The atmosphere is by and large encouraging and friendly, and Coachford College is a good place to be.

As essential as having the craic with their friends is, teenagers need to be coping with their work in the classroom to make their participation in school positive all round. In terms of education the accomplishments of the top students are shining there for all to see. These achievements are a source of great pride and satisfaction for the pupils, their parents and for the school. They are testament to the hard work and high standards that both students and staff strive for.



Year Heads have general responsibility for the educational, emotional and social development of students in their Year Group. Included in the group is the guidance counsellor, Mrs. Sheila O'Leary, the special needs coordinator, Mrs. Marie McAuliffe, and the Transition Year coordinator Mr. Rob Lotty.



forging international friendships



Ms. Anne-Laure Poirette, from Lille in Brittany, worked as a French Assistant at Coachford College for the 2007/2008 school year. These are her observations.

Since I arrived in October, I have noticed differences between the Irish and French systems of education. I was surprised that students learn home economics, work on projects and are informed about health and societal issues thanks to SPHE and CSPE. Pupils also study careers, whereas there are no "career classes" in France.

I also noted that Irish people are very close to their culture, especially with hurling, camogie, Gaelic football and Irish language. I was impressed on seeing that most students can dance the ceili. Over in France, traditional dancing is quite unknown. Lastly, French people play less sport and music. Our teachers don't encourage us as much as the Irish ones in practicing those disciplines although sport is an obligatory subject in our Leaving Cert. Even girls are so sporty! I never saw girls wearing football boots before coming to Ireland! As a result, staying in Ireland helped me a lot as a teacher and I want to thank the school staff for welcoming me and for helping me so much.

Anne-Laure Poirette.

Exchange Franco-Irlandais - The view of a group of French students on the exchange programme

After the Irish visit from the 9th to the 21st of March, it was our turn to join them in their faraway country, Ireland. The families joyously welcomed us on Saturday in Cork port. We spent the week end in the company of our Irish "correspondant" and his/her family.

A lot of us went to Funderland and Blarney castle, while others went to the cinema and some even went horseriding. On Monday we discovered Coachford College, a school of about 600 pupils where everyone wears a uniform. For a lot of us the daily life of the Irish was surprising (mealtimes, school). The first days at school went well thanks to the warm welcome of the teachers and pupils.

Also the visits with the French exchange pupils attending Christ King Secondary School were times of reunion and together we visited Killarney, Cobh, Midleton and Fota. The activities (sports, drama and musical events) organised at

school were equally very interesting. These two weeks are coming to an end; the departure is coming near, but our memories will remain forever engraved in our minds. A huge thanks to all, students, parents and teachers.

Celine et Adelaïde



Studying French at Coachford College: Exchange students from Lycée Saint-Sauveur, Redon, France, with their Irish friends. Annually Transition Year students attend classes in Redon for a period of two weeks and their exchange partners attend Coachford College.

Redon - Coachford

By Mr Yves Bocquet, teacher from Redon, Brittany.

Small town, big reputation. This is Redon's motto. Now it could also be Coachford's. In fact for ten years, our pupils, who at the beginning are worried at the idea of doing an exchange with an "rural" school in the country, return delighted by the warm welcome, the kindness and dynamism of the families at Coachford College. Thanks to this exchange, they not only make progress in English but they also learn to adapt to a new environment and another pace of life.

To see them so delighted, to see the benefits they derive, as well as the pleasure from meeting all the friends that we have made in Coachford College, make us want to continue with this exchange year after year despite all the extra work.

However, not everyone has the potential to achieve to these levels and it is important to give each student the opportunity to maximise their own ability. An emphasis on smaller classes can make things easier for less academic students to reach their goals. In these smaller groups the pace and content can be adjusted to suit the ability of the students in the classroom. The atmosphere can often be more relaxed which makes asking questions less daunting for a student who may be shy or self-conscious in front of a large group. This allows each student to participate in class to a level that suits their own capability and makes a positive learning experience available for all.

The variety of subjects on offer means that practically all students have an academic area that they enjoy and can succeed at. Facilities such as computers, data projectors, science labs, home economics, music, art, woodwork and metalwork rooms all provide opportunity for interactive education, which greatly enhance the learning experience for everyone.

In assessing how happy students in Coachford College are the most important people to ask are the students themselves. I asked a variety of boys and girls from a range of classes and age groups how they feel about coming to school here. Thankfully the answers were overwhelmingly enthusiastic. Most of the students are happy to come here and proud to be associated with the school. The few who had a negative view of school feel that they would not like any school and just can not wait to get out. Even these students find elements of school that they enjoy – mostly break time with their friends! But at least they are not coming in every day to an experience that holds no positives for them.

So the next time you hear the old familiar "I don't want to go to school!" remember that the sleepy eyed child looking at you at 7.30 in the morning is likely to be transformed into an animated, smiling young adult by break time!

By Mrs. Leonie Merrick, teacher and parent



LCVP - An Enhanced Leaving Certificate.

Under the direction of coordinator Ms. Joanne O'Keeffe, LCVP is a well established component of the Leaving Certificate programme at Coachford College. The programme combines the virtues of academic study with a new and dynamic focus on self-directed learning, enterprise, work and the community.

As well as traditional subjects, LCVP students study Link Modules. These are activity-based units of study which are designed to help students make connections between school and community, study and future career, enterprise and the business of making a living.

The Link Modules are recognised for "CAO points" by Institutes of Technology and by Universities.

Grade	Mark	Points
Distinction	80-100%	70
Merit	65-79%	50
Pass	50-64%	30

Throughout the programme students are encouraged to;

- be innovative and enterprising
- take responsibility for their own learning
- adapt to changing circumstances
- evaluate data and devise solutions to problems
- communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively
- work with others as part of a team
- investigate and plan career options
- use information and communications technologies
- investigate local business and community enterprises
- learn from their experiences.

These skills and qualities are equally relevant to the needs of those preparing for further education, seeking employment or planning to start their own business.

expect to achieve

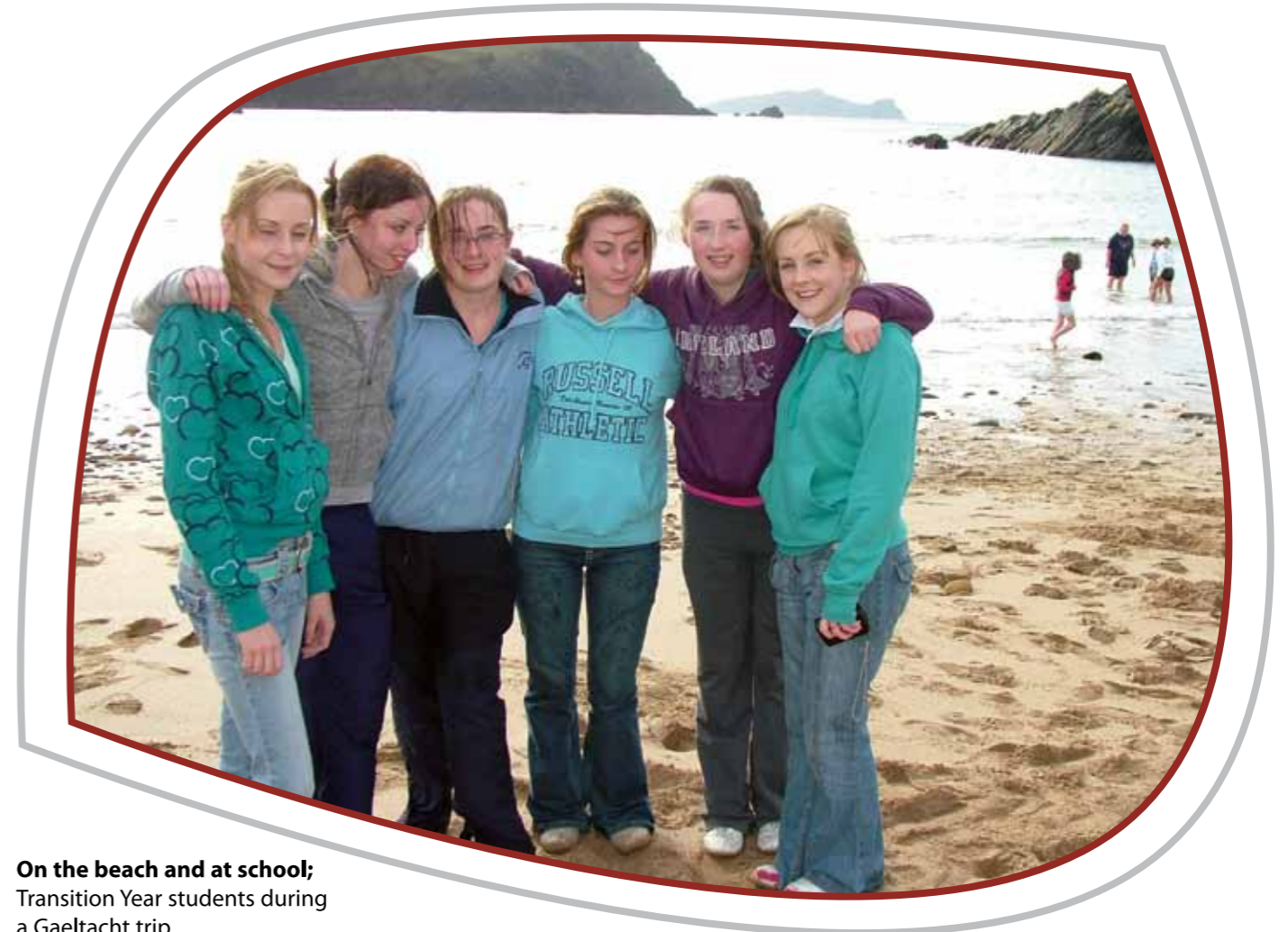
AN GHAELTACHT

Ar an seachtú lá déag de mhí Dheireadh Fómhair thugamar aghaidh ar an bhFeothanach I gCo. Chiarraí. Bhíomar chun trí lá a thabhairt sa Ghaeltacht ag cur feabhas ar ár gcuid Gaeilge agus chun foghlaim faoi na Blascaodaí agus faoi shaol na Blascaodaí agus chun tionscnamh na hIdirbhliana a dhéanamh. Tar éis trí uair a chloig ar an mbus ag caint (as Gaeilge) gan stad gan staonadh, shroicheamar an teach ina mbeinn féin agus mo chairde ag cur fúinn ar feadh dhá oíche. Bungaló a bhí i gceist i mo chás féin, suite i measc na sléibhte agus na gcaorach, in áit aobhinn le radharcanna den scoth ar gach aon taobh. Chuir bean an tí agus a haintín Caitlín, a bhí breis agus nocha bliain d'aois, fáilte mhór romhainn ag an doras. Bhí a fhios agam ag an nóiméad sin go mbeadh an turas thar barr. Ar an gcéad oíche chuamar go dtí halla beag deas ar a dtugtar Teach Siamsa. Bhí céilí den scoth againn ann, ceann de bhuaicphointí an turais gan aon cheist. Thugamar an oíche ag damhsa ar an úrlar stroighin. Rinne gach duine sár-iarracht agus bhí sé ar fheabhas. An mhaidín dár

gcionn, ar aghaidh linn go dtí séipéilín Ghallarus, sean-aragal a tógadh tuairim is míle bliain ó shin, agus atá fós ina sheasamh, mar a bhí an chéad lá. De réir an traidisiúin, pósfar éinne a rachaidh tríd an fhuinneog ann roimh dheireadh na bliana, ach táimid ag fanacht fós le scéal mór is baolach!! B'áit shuaimhneach álainn í Gallarus. Thugamar aghaidh ina dhiaidh sin ar Dhún Chaoin. Chuaigh sé sin i bhfeidhm go mór ar gach uile duine againn. Thugamar tamall ar an gcé ag féachaint ar na naomhóga ar stáitse, ar na potaí gliomaigh, agus ar na báid a théann isteach ar an mBlascaod Mór. Tar éis staidéar a dhéanamh ar thréigean an Bhlascaoid agus ar thraidisiún na hiascaireachta i gCorca Dhuibhne, ba dheas na rudaí seo a fheiscint dúinn féin. Thógamar roinnt pictiúirí agus bhaineamar sár-thaitneamh as na radharcanna sula mbuaileamar ar aghaidh go dtí uaigh Pheig Sayers agus uaigh Thomáis Uí Chríomthain. Scríobh an bheirt acu leabhair faoin saol ar an mBlascaod Mór. Shiúileamar chuig Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir ansin, a tógadh i 1993 in ónór don oileán agus a mhuintir.

D'fhoghlaimíomar a lán faoi na Blascaodaí agus bhailíomar méid mór eolais d'ár dtionscnaimh. B'áit fíor-shuimiúil í. Ina dhiaidh sin bhí an-chraic ag gach duine ag súgradh agus ag tógaint griangrafanna ar an trá. An oíche sin bhí léacht againn le Maidhc Dainín Ó Sé, údar théacs na hArdteiste, A Thig Ná Tit Orm. Fear is ea é a chaith cuid mhaith dá shaol i Londain agus i Meiriceá, agus a bhí lán de scéalta ón dá áit. Cheapas go raibh sé fíorghreannmhar agus suimiúil, agus ní raibh sé ro-dheacair é a thuiscint ach an oiread. Bhí céilí againn arís an oíche sin, sheinn Maidhc Dainín a bhosca ceoil dúinn. Ar an iomlán caithfidh mé a rá go raibh an turas Gaeltachta go hiontach ar fad. D'fhoghlaimíomar a lán faoi shaol na Gaeltachta agus go háirithe faoi na Blascaodaí. Tháinig feabhas ar ár gcuid Gaeilge agus níos tábhachtaí fós bhaineamar sár-thaitneamh as. Is fíor le rá go mbeidh cuimhní iontacha againn go deo ar an tréimhse a chaitheamar i Corca Dhuibhne mar chuid den Idirbhliain.

Laura Corkery



On the beach and at school;
Transition Year students during
a Gaeltacht trip.



19th January, 2009:
Drama in the classroom.



Ms Mary Jo Bowler, PE teacher,
directs class in the school's PE Hall.

Transition Year Outdoor Pursuits Trip Ros A Mhil, Skibbereen ... by Meig Collins

Despite our somewhat sleepy states, coupled with the bite of the early morning chill, we packed up the two buses with gusto, cramming in the sea of brightly coloured sleeping bags and overflowing rucksacks. After one hour of traveling along the winding, western road, during which we demonstrated our profound love of chant and chatter, the silhouette of the old and seemingly deserted building came into view. Indeed, for those who hadn't been there before it may have seemed a little odd but for others, who had previously been, they simply grinned with anticipation. Upon arrival, we crowded the foyer with our pillows, bags and wellies in tow and instantly, the building was awoken from its restful slumber.

Having met our guides, we then proceeded on three days of adventure. Abseiling, archery, hill walking, raft building - these are just an assortment of the various activities we took part in. Not to mention the nightly mountain walk, the frequent card games and the infamous fashion show. My most vivid memory is that of raft building - ah yes, the name itself didn't instill great excitement in me but on that cold Friday morning, I found myself proven wrong. The lake was enclosed, surrounded by the heavily forested hills that we had amazingly succeeded in climbing the day previous. After squeezing into our wetsuits and cramming on the hard hats, we were equipped with our 'impressive' materials. Ropes, two surfboards, a dinghy boat, paddles and a very short fifteen minutes to construct our masterpiece. Undoubtedly, the biting cold of the water was absolutely forgotten as we all busily engaged ourselves in the construction and ensuing relay.

Upon the dawn of Friday evening, despite the impending midterm, it was admittedly with somewhat tired bodies and saddened hearts that we bid adieu to dear old Skibbereen. Being suspended from a harness on a steep cliff face, the frantic, yet hilarious scrubbing of the kitchen after meals, the singsong on the eerie mountain walk or the bursting of the balloons with the archers bow - these are just some of the memories that will remain with us of our time in Ros A Mhil. In fact, I think it is safe to generalise and say that though short, our trip was exhilarating and enjoyed by all, even the three exhausted accompanying teachers!



Senior panel, coached by Mr Des O'Grady and Mr. David Drummond,
about to contest the Munster Final under lights at Cork Institute of Technology on 16th January, 2009.