

Student Awards 2016



Ciara Scanlon and Judith Smolenski

The annual student awards ceremony at Rockford Manor took place on May 19th. This is a very significant and special event where we get the opportunity to thank our students for their invaluable contribution to school life, acknowledge their talents and abilities and honour the students in so many areas such as academic excellence and achievement, effort, leadership, sport, music, art and community spirit. Ms Caffrey, the Principal, in her opening address, acknowledged not only the achievements of the award recipients but also of all the students. She thanked both students and staff for their hard work over the past year which made the award ceremony possible. The ceremony was enhanced by the choir's excellent rendition of Kodaly's Ave Maria which was followed by the presentation of gifts to the many students who contributed greatly to school life over the past academic year. Certificates of Commendation for achievement in curricular subjects were then presented to 140 students approximately. Students placed first, second or third in their respective class were awarded medals. The recipients of the category awards were as follows:

6th Year Awards

Overall Academic Award: Ciara Scanlon:
 Best Overall 6th Yr Student: Judith Smolenski:
 Personal Achievement Award: Sarah O'Farrell & Nikita Doyle:
 LCA Endeavour Award: Normajean O'Brien & Laura Walsh
 Art Award: Adrienne Bordonada & Judith Smolenski
 Music Award: Sarah O'Farrell
 English Essay Award: Judith Smolenski



Sarah O'Farrell and Adrienne Bordonada



Laura Walsh and Normajean O'Brien

Presentation Ethos Award

Orla Kinsella, Leah Kelly, Rachel Dunster, Frances Pana, Denisa Turcanu



Chloe Lapraku and Anna Coyne

Sports Awards

Lauren Hayes: Junior Sportsperson 2016
 Ava-Rose Judge: First Year Volleyball
 Chloe Lapraku: Second Year Volleyball
 Klaudia Krasowska: Cadette Volleyball
 Ellie Di Felice: First Year Basketball
 Ellie Cowzer: Second Year Basketball
 Faye O'Connell Bell: Cadette Basketball
 Chloe Rigley: Senior Basketball
 Anna Coyne: Junior Soccer
 Uransanaa Altannaraa: Badminton
 Shiona Daly: Boxing

The ceremony concluded with speeches and the presentation of beautiful gifts to staff from the Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied students. We would like to thank them once again for their generosity and kind words and wish them every success in the future.

Ms Mc Ardle



5th Years in Trinity College

Sports News

Klaudia Krasowska will be our Sports Captain in the next academic year. Faye O'Connell Bell and Emma Hughes will be our Deputy Sports Captains.

Congratulations, girls!

Ms Mc Ardle



Klaudia, Faye and Emma

Dates for the Diary

Thurs 25 Aug: 1st Yr Orientation Day. 9.30am - 12pm
 TY meeting (staff only) 1pm - 2pm
 Staff meeting 2pm - 3.40pm

Fri 26 Aug: 2nd,3rd,5th & 6th yrs return to school 9.30am - 11.00am
 1st & 2nd yr information meeting 11.15am-12.15pm (staff only)
 CPD/Planning meeting 1pm - 3pm (staff only)
 No school for 1st and 4th Yrs

Mon 29th Aug: Normal timetable 8.55am -12.30pm for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th & 6th Years.
 Information Evening for TY parents and host parents @ 7.30pm.
NB No school for 4th years.

5th Year Art Trip

5th year art students recently went on a trip to visit the Book of Kells in Trinity College Dublin. They are studying medieval manuscripts as part of their Leaving Certificate art history course.

Ms Russell



Rockford News

Newsletter

May 2016

ROCKFORD MANOR, Secondary School, Stradbroad Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin A94 H294
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"A Christian environment where teaching and learning nurture the personal development of every student"

Retirement of Ms O'Hagan

Ms. Niamh O'Hagan announced her retirement from Rockford Manor School in May. This is a very significant occasion in the life of the school as Ms. O'Hagan has been associated with Rockford Manor since 1964 when she began her education in the Junior School. She continued in the secondary school and was in the first group of students to move into the new school building in 1972. After her studies in UCD, Niamh taught in a number of schools in the Dublin area before returning to Rockford Manor where we have been most fortunate to have her on the staff for the past 26 years. Niamh is a very kind, generous person and dedicated teacher who cared enormously about her students. We will all miss her. We wish her good health and happiness in her retirement and look forward to welcoming her back whenever she wishes to visit us.

Ms Caffrey



Ms Caffrey (Principal) with Ms O'Hagan

Erica back from Hungary

Congratulations to Erica Turner who was a member of the Republic of Ireland Women's U16 side which won the UEFA WU16 Development Tournament in Bük, Hungary. We, at Rockford Manor, are very proud of Erica's achievement and we wish her and her team mates continued success.

Ms Mc Ardle



Erica Turner

Graduation Mass

6th year students of Rockford Manor along with their families, friends and teachers celebrated their graduation on Friday the 20th of May. Fr Bill Fortune presided over the mass, Ms Hennigan, the 6th year Dean, took the final roll call, while Ms Caffrey, the Principal, presented students with their certificates. Refreshments were provided by the parents council. The main theme of the night was "closing one chapter and opening a new chapter". Students were reminded that although closing this chapter of their lives may be sad, it is an opportunity to open up a new chapter and a bright new beginning. We wish all the students graduating the very best in the future. We pray that their future will be as promising, as their past is proud. Thank you to all involved in making it a great night.

Mr Hand



Orlaith O'Sullivan

Orlaith heads to Zambia

Bon Voyage to Orlaith O'Sullivan as she heads to Zambia with other members from her GAA club, Cuala. They will be working with the organisation Habitat for Humanity.

Ms O'Toole

Thank you

Thank you from the school community to Mr. Darren Gregg who spent the past school year with us as part of the Tus programme. He made an enormous contribution to the school during his time here, transforming the overall look of the school both inside and out. Darren's meticulous painting & decorating lifted the spirits of all who work in Rockford Manor.

Summer Message

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter 2016. Despite the fact that the early Easter break this year meant the summer term was longer than usual, it has flown past.

First on the agenda were the oral and practical exams for Junior and Leaving Cert students. As well as continuing with their studies, the students participated in a variety of other activities including fundraisers, choral competitions, basketball matches and school trips to various locations for several class groups. The photographs and articles reflect the many wonderful events which took place this term.

The end of the school year was marked as usual by the Annual Awards Ceremony and the Graduation Mass. We bid farewell to the Leaving Certificate Class of 2016 and wished them success in their exams and every blessing as they continue on their journey to 3rd level.

We said goodbye also, to the International students who spent this academic year in Rockford Manor. We hope that they enjoyed their stay in Ireland as much as we enjoyed having them in the school.

The Art, Science and Music departments will all start the 2016/17 school year with new equipment which includes a kiln, a visualiser, microscopes and other scientific equipment. Three classrooms will be furnished with new desks and chairs. All of these improvements are part of our ongoing school development plan.

The Senior Cycle curriculum is offering all three Science subjects next year (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) as well as Accounting and Business due to high student demand. This is a most welcome development and we look forward to building on it in years to come.

2015/16 has been a very successful year in the school. In spite of the many challenges being faced by all schools at present, Rockford Manor continues to thrive. Huge thanks are due to the staff members who give so generously of their time and energy to provide support, encouragement and inspiration in a wide variety of areas. The many successes achieved this year are testament to their dedication.

Finally, best wishes to all for an enjoyable summer break. Hopefully, the sunshine of recent weeks will continue. We look forward to the students returning in late August with energy and enthusiasm to meet the challenges of the next academic year.

Liz Caffrey Tony Collison
 Principal Deputy Principal

First Years visit Tayto Park



Tayto Park

The First Years went to Tayto Park on Friday 13th May 2016 for their school outing. The sun shone and much fun was had by all. We bid farewell to Bakhtawar Channa and Inez Azanza Martinez who are returning home.

Ms O' Boyle

Ecology Trip

The fifth year Biology classes carried out an Ecology fieldwork study on Wednesday 13th April at Dublin Zoo.

Ms O'Toole / Ms O'Boyle



Ecology fieldwork study

Parents Executive Committee

The Parents' Executive Committee (PEC) gives support to the Board of Management and hosts refreshments for approximately 5 events during the year that at some stage each pupil will be involved in. We held a bake sale in May to raise funds so that we can continue to host refreshments for the girls and their families at key events during their school years in Rockford Manor. The bake sale raised approximately €140. The PEC meets 6 times within the school year. Not a lot of time is required to be part of the PEC, however the support given to the school management, staff and pupils is very important. We have lost a lot of members over the last two years as their daughters have finished in Rockford Manor. Our next meeting is being held on Wednesday 7th September at 8pm in Room 29. If anyone is willing to join the committee, please contact either of the below:

Carol Thornton (Chairperson): 087 6409523
Riona Norton (Secretary): 086 8370560

5th Year Outing

The two fifth year classes after much deliberation made a decision to go to the cinema on our school trip. To take advantage of the beautiful weather we walked into Dun Laoghaire and after our viewing of 'The Jungle Book' we had a picnic in the People's Park. The movie, which had some students jumping out of their seats with fright, was a success with the entire year group. We all had a lovely relaxing afternoon in the park before we made our way home. A huge thank you to the teachers who accompanied us on this trip. A great day was had by all.

Niamh Cassidy (5th Yr)



5th Year outing

Leaving Certificate Applied

The LCA class has had a busy term since Easter. The students sat their Mock Exams in early April. On April 22nd the students met Ms Joyce and Ms Bruncker at St Stephens Green for their Tourism trip which covers 2 key assignments. They embarked on the Viking Splash Tour of Dublin wearing their viking helmets and shouting their viking roar to all the 'local Celts'. When the Viking DUKW (Amphibious World War 2 Vehicle) splashed into the water at Grand Canal Dock there were many shouts of fear and glee!



Viking Splash Tour

The group went for lunch in Mc Donalds and afterwards we went to the National Wax Museum. In the music room they made a karaoke cd with drums, piano etc. It will soon be available on YouTube!!!



Jamie at the Wax Museum

On Monday May 9th the girls did their Hotel, Catering and Tourism Cookery examination worth 50% of their total Leaving Certificate marks. The exam was two hours long and the girls cooked for different occasions including a Graduation Buffet, Birthday Party and Table d'Hote meal. On Tuesday May 17th the girls had their Spanish and English oral exams and on Wednesday May 18th they did their Information Technology Exam.

For the Graduation Mass on May 20th the girls produced a lovely slide show with the other 6th years of their years in Rockford Manor. A lot of tears were shed even from those who "can't wait to leave school"!

I wish the LCA group the very best of luck in the state exams in June and every success in the future. You will be missed in the school next year.
Ms Joyce (LCA Co-ordinator)

Transition Year Exhibition Night

The students' choice of theme to review their year's work at Exhibition Night on 25th May was the 'UKELELE' because the instrument has 4 strings. Each string for them embodied a special meaning: C - confidence, E - experience, A - achievement. G - growth. Indeed all students accomplished so much throughout the year with 57 finishing their ECDL and 55 receiving the Bronze An Gaisce Presidents' Award. Stephanie Kerr received the Silver Award and 12 students were awarded Gold Certificates from the Build a Bank competition. Also 4 students (Aoibh Hall, Chloe Bowden Wilson, Aoife Farrell and Chloe Breen) won 1st Prize at the PE EXPO 2016. 81% of candidates who sat the Safe Food for Life exam gained a distinction. Many students were acknowledged and commended for their efforts and success throughout the year in a range of activities. The invaluable work done by the prefects, vice prefects and student council members was also recognised. Ainaah Balili was awarded the Senior Sports Person of the Year Award.



Noelia with Cathy Donovan

Noelia Garcia Gomez-Cardoso was presented with the trophy for 'outstanding foreign language student' by Cathy Donovan from Shandon Language Solutions. 10 students (Stephanie Kerr, Sinead Larkin, Ainaah Balili, Jennifer Byrne, Vanessa Ndlovu, Aoibh Hall, Nicole Duffin, Lauren Cleary, Hannah O' Sullivan) were recognised for their excellent contribution to the year. The recipients of the Overall TY Students of the Year Awards were Caitlin Farrelly (TY1), Carol Lewis (TY2) and Chelsea Thompson (TY3).

Tribute was paid to Erica Turner, who was goalkeeper for Ireland U16 Women's team in Hungary. Tribute was also paid to Jennifer Byrne who along with her team mates from her camogie club won divisions 5 and 7 in the County Final. It was great to work with this year's TY students who even wrote their own proclamation to be left as a legacy for future TY students.
Ms O'Toole (TY Co-ordinator)



Caitlin, Carol and Chelsea



Senior Leadership Team 2016/2017

Senior Leadership Team

I would like to begin by commending all the 5th year students who participated in the interviews for the positions of Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl and Senior Prefects.

The students outlined the personal attributes which they could bring to the position. They also spoke with great positivity about the school. All students acquitted themselves admirably at the interview process. This left Ms Caffrey, Mr Collison and me with the very difficult task of choosing a team of eight.

I would like to avail of this opportunity to thank all of the students who attended interviews and to extend my congratulations to the eight successful students who will be members of the Senior Leadership Team in the next academic year. I look forward to working with these students and benefitting from their many valuable opinions, ideas and contributions.

Head Girl - Sinead Lang, **Deputy Head Girl** - Cara Cleary,
Senior Prefects - Rebecca Mc Cann Cryan, Robin Flynn, Holly Naylor, Dionne Baker
Amy Livingstone and Nancy O' Neill
Congratulations, girls!
Ms Barry

Trocaire Collection

Congratulations to the students of Rockford Manor who raised €230 for Trocaire. Students of Rockford Manor were visited by Jennifer Brennan who is the school fundraising officer with Trocaire. Jennifer thanked the students for their support and explained how the money raised will be invested in education, health and communities.
Mr Hand



Temple Street Fundraiser

On Wednesday, 20th April, Ms Daly's 5th year form class, L1R hosted their 'Bake for Temple Street.' After much effort and home baking, lots of tasty treats were quickly snapped up by pupils and staff. Huge congratulations to L1R who raised an impressive €210 which will go towards the completion of the new neurology unit in Temple Street Children's Hospital. Thanks again to everyone for your support. *Well done, L1R!*
Ms Daly



Cakes for sale!