



# Scoil Aireagail

## September Newsletter 2018



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Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
Chill Chainnigh agus Cheatharlaigh  
Kilkenny and Carlow  
Education and Training Board

### Welcome



On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August Scoil Aireagail welcomed our new 1<sup>st</sup> Years. They were met by Principal Mr. O' Brien, Deputy Principal Mr. Fallon, and also Class Tutors Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Leahy. Class Tutors gave students a tour of the school and supplied them with diaries and timetables. Their teachers also took time to meet with the groups where they gave a brief overview of their subjects. We wish our newest students an enjoyable and productive year, where it is hoped they will work to the very best of their ability. Thanks to parents of our 1<sup>st</sup> Years who have entrusted our school in providing a quality and holistic education for their children.

Welcome back also to all our students. There is a strong expectation in Scoil Aireagail that all students strive to reach their potential by engaging fully in all subjects. A structured homework and study regime is important to fully reinforce classroom learning.



### Congratulations

Congratulations to our Leaving Certificate Class of 2018, who each received their examination results in mid-August. We were delighted to see such excellent results across all subjects, where students' hard work over the two-year programme certainly paid off. Their commitment, determination and positivity, together with a solid work ethic, earned them the superb results they deserved. We wish them all the very best for the future – whatever path they choose. We ask them also to keep in touch with our school, and let us know how they are getting on. Even though they have graduated and moved on, they will always be part of Scoil Aireagail.



### Extra Curricular



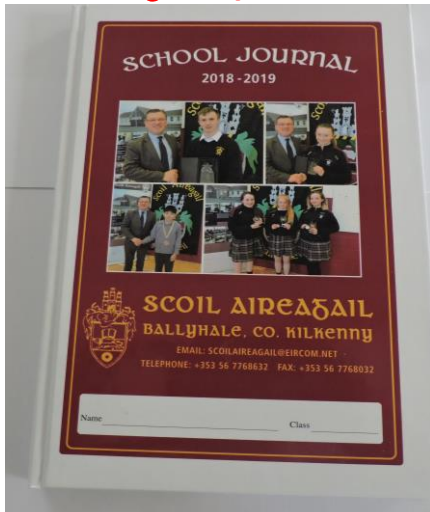
Scoil Aireagail prides itself in providing a wide range of extra-curricular activities for its students. We encourage all our students to participate in at least one activity. It remains an important aspect of school life – to engage in something other than classroom-based activities. Hurling, camogie, soccer, gaelic football, handball, chess, computer club, athletics, green schools, gardening, badminton and public speaking are organised for students during the year. Additionally, many charity events take place where much-needed funds are raised for local, national and international charities. Thanks to those staff involved for their time in making all of this possible.

## Iverk Show 2018



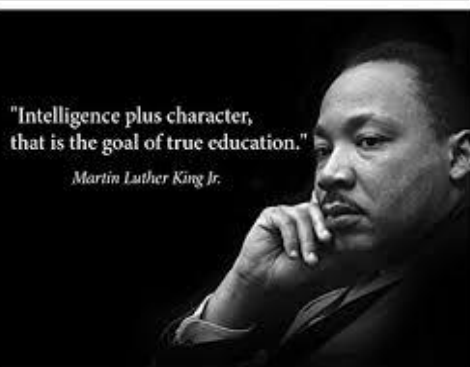
Congratulations to seven of our students who were successful in a variety of categories in the recent Iverk Show in Piltown. With so many entries from schools throughout the South East, it is always difficult to even get nominated for a prize. Scoil Aireagail has a reputation for submitting projects of a very high standard, particularly in Home Economics, Woodwork and Art. Well done to Patrick Hearne, Eugene Somers, Emilio Hayden, Katie Doyle, Chloe Waters, Sarah Aylward and Leona Drennan. Leona won two prizes in two separate categories. Congratulations to all on such excellent work, and thanks to teachers Ms. Naddy, Ms Dalton and Mr. Walsh.

## Student Diary 2018/19



A Reminder to students and parents of the importance of the School Journal/Diary, and how it is to be used on a daily basis:

- ✓ Students write in homework daily
- ✓ Parent(s) sign weekly
- ✓ Students keep it neat and secure



## Scoil Aireagail Student of The Year



On 7<sup>th</sup> September last Kilkeny/Carlow Education & Training Board (ETB) hosted its annual Student of the Year Award, in the Ormonde Hotel Kilkeny. This event recognises and rewards exceptional students who have excelled in their studies and contributed so well to their school community. One student is selected from each of the ETB schools, which proves always to be a very difficult task. Jamie Barron was awarded the title of Student of the Year 2018 for Scoil Aireagail. In his citation, principal Mr. O' Brien, outlined the many characteristics which earned Jamie this prestigious award. Jamie's work ethic, organisational and people skills, together with his determination to succeed made him a well-deserved winner. Chief Executive Ms. Cynthia Deane, Director of Schools Ms. Eileen Curtis and Councillor Peter Cleere attended the event. Jamie has already begun his teacher training in St. Patricks College Dublin. Congratulations Jamie. We wish you success in your chosen career. Ms. Deane acknowledged the enormous effort of parents and teachers, who are pivotal in guiding our young people through their early years and education so as they develop into responsible and respectful adults.

## *First Year Mentoring Programme*



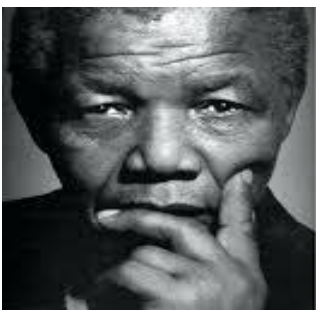
On 3<sup>rd</sup> September last 6<sup>th</sup> Year students worked closely with 1<sup>st</sup> Years in our annual mentoring programme. This involves our senior students engaging with our youngest students in a variety of activities in the school hall. The mentoring programme is an important feature in helping our youngest students transition from primary to secondary school, and provides them with the opportunity to meet with the older students. 6<sup>th</sup> Years showed excellent leadership, maturity and commitment in welcoming the newest members of our school and making them feel part of the Scoil Aireagail community. 1<sup>st</sup> Years participated very well in all activities, and are now generally well settled into their new school. Well done to both 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Years. Thanks to Ms. O' Callaghan for co-ordinating the event.

## *1<sup>st</sup> Year Parent Information Evening*

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September we held our 'Parents Information Evening', for parents of 1<sup>st</sup> Year students. This is an important annual event, which provides an opportunity for parents of 1<sup>st</sup> Years to informally meet with teachers. It is held early in the school year, so as to provide some insight into how our youngest students are settling in to their new environment. Principal Mr. O' Brien outlined to parents some key features of Scoil Aireagail, how best to provide support at home and the importance of monitoring student diaries etc.

Parents and teachers gathered in our Carmelite Canteen, where parents could discuss how their child was getting on in all their subjects. Thanks to parents for a very good turnout, and to teachers for making the time to meet with and talk to parents. Thanks also to Bobby, Kathleen and Mary for making the necessary arrangements and for the serving of refreshments.

The general feedback from parents was highly positive. Scoil Aireagail remains very proactive in ensuring the conditions are there for all our newest students to experience a smooth transition from primary to secondary school.



**"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."  
- Nelson Mandela**

## *Student Council Training 2018*



On 17<sup>th</sup> September members of our student council attended a one-day training session in Hotel Kilkenny. The programme is organised by Kilkenny/Carlow Education & Training Board (ETB), where seven schools from the area attended. Harry Freeman, who is an educational consultant, presented the programme. The course is tailored to facilitate schools in looking at the roles of the student council in their schools, and to raise the voices of the student body. It encourages student leadership, initiative and teamwork. Tara Duggan, Caoimhe Brett, Michael O' Shea, Ciarán Holden, Orestas Balsys, Toni Dunne, Maria Duffy, Chloe Waters, Codie Cass-Kennedy, Darragh Kelly, Shane Aylward and George Culleton attended the event. Well done to all for participating, and thanks to Student Council co-ordinator Ms. Phelan for organising the event, and for accompanying students on the day.

## *Evening Study*

Evening study is now available for any students who wish to avail of the service. This is a great opportunity for students to study in a quiet, supervised and comfortable setting. Many students find it very beneficial to use the two-hour session to complete homework and study before they return home each day. It is held in our Carmelite Canteen from 4pm to 6pm each day, and 1:30pm to 3:30pm Wednesdays. While many 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year students use the service, it is open to all year groups. Enquiries please to Mr. O' Brien.

## *Safe Parking*



Parents are asked not to park their cars in the front area of the school at the end of each school day. This area is essentially a bus park. Buses need this entire area at evening collection time to manoeuvre/reverse safely. Cars parked in this area, or along the kerb, seriously restrict bus movement. As the inner area is for staff parking only, parents are asked to park outside the front wall at evening collection times. These restrictions are in place to help maintain safety for all our students. Thanks to all for your continued support and co-operation.

## *Parent / Teacher Meeting*



A reminder that the next scheduled Parent/Teacher meeting is **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October, from 4 – 6:30pm**. This is for parents of 3<sup>rd</sup> Years. It remains hugely important for parents to attend these meetings, to accurately monitor how your child is getting on so far. Thankfully, attendance at P/T meetings remains excellent, and we expect this to continue. We look forward to meeting with parents on the night.

## *Open Night 2018*



Scoil Aireagail hosts its annual Open Night on **Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00pm to 9:00pm**. This is one of our most important evening events of the year, where students from local primary schools get an opportunity to tour our school. Students will start the evening with some activities in the gym. While this is going on parents are invited to the Music room, where principal Mr. O' Brien will make a brief presentation on key aspects of Scoil Aireagail. After activities in the gym, teachers will escort students in groups to many of our classrooms. Here, they will get to meet teachers, and experience some of our subjects with brief activities specially organised for the night.

The event is an excellent opportunity for primary school students and their parents to sample school life in Scoil Aireagail. Primary school teachers and principals are also most welcome. As it is a busy night, it is advisable to have students in the school gym at 7pm sharp.

We look forward to meeting you on the night.

## *5k Fun Run 2018*



Scoil Aireagail Parents Association is currently organising a '5K Fun Run' which will take place from the school on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October next**. Students are asked to do their best to sell lines from the Cards over the coming weeks. Lines on the Cards are just €2 each. All proceeds go towards the development fund, which are used to continue improvements to the school building and facilities. Proceeds raised last year were used to fund our new Carmelite Canteen, so all students directly benefit from events such as these. Sincere thanks to all members of the Parents Association, who remain very generous with their time and effort.