

# ST. AIDAN'S C.B.S NEWSLETTER

## MR. NOEL DUFFY - RETIRING

Noel arrived in St. Aidan's in 1999 having had 32 years of teaching experience behind him at that stage. Some people might have wearied of the job after such a long spell but "burn-out" is a phrase that is not in Noel's lexicon. Indeed, as Al Pacino said in *Scout of a Woman*, he was "only warming up". Dylan sang of *The Hurricane* and Monaghan had *The Clones Cyclone* but when Noel Duffy arrived in Aidan's we got our very own "Tornado", such was the dynamic energy of the man.

Noel made an immediate impact on life in the School and the thing that struck us first about him was his sheer energy. His zest and enthusiasm seemed boundless. No matter how early one arrived in school, Noel was already at work in his room getting everything ready, laying out all the materials and implements necessary for the day. He could be found there at lunchtime as well, helping weaker students with an extra class or giving freely of his expertise to students preparing for the State exams. He rarely went straight home at 4 p.m. Instead, he gave further tuition to any students who needed additional help. He would be on hand during the State exams, giving last minute advice to his charges and helping to calm the nerves of many a nervous student. Noel revitalised the Transition Year Programme in the school and was head of this department until his retirement. Parents regularly expressed their gratitude that their sons had had the privilege of experiencing the Transition Year programme in the school. Many lads from Aidan's will be for ever grateful to him because he made their dreams come true by making at least some of their classes co-ed. The arrival of the girls from Dominican College, Griffith Avenue every Friday morning for their Materials Technology class was the highlight of their week.



**Mr. Noel Duffy**

Noel Duffy, who has just retired from the St. Aidan's staff, spent 46 years of his life in the teaching profession. Noel epitomised everything that is best about teachers and teaching. He was a man who didn't just go the extra mile for his students and colleagues : he went the extra 10 miles or more on their behalf.

# MR. NOEL DUFFY

But if anybody is getting the impression that Noel was all work and no play, oh boy-would they be mistaken ! Soon after he arrived, Noel joined the social committee in St. Aidan's and it wasn't long until he was one of the main driving forces. He was, in fact, full of *joie de vivre* and you only had to see him on the dance floor at the annual Christmas Party to realise that. Some of his moves were obviously picked up from John Travolta but many were improvised, or possibly learned in The Town (he ) Loved So Well ( "*Those Derry lads can throw wild quare shapes, hi*" ). Mind you, in some respects he was a late starter : he admits not to having had his first drink until the age of 25. Instead of going the usual route of diluted beer ( it used to be called "shandy" ) and progressing to "porter", Noel went right to the top and had a drink of whiskey ( straight, of course ). He wasn't shaken or stirred, just "*hammered*". It was a characteristic of Noel to do "firsts" with a flourish : for example, he was the first man to swim in the St. Vincent's pool back in 1967 and, indeed, he put his swimming skills to good use. For example, when a group of wavering Transition Year students would stand shivering on the edge of an icy lake in Connemara, during an adventure trip there, he would be the first to plunge in, putting the young lads to shame.

This was typical of the man : challenging his students, "pushing" them on to greater things, making them believe that they could do things which they themselves didn't think they could do, drawing out the best in them and helping them to become the sort of young men which he believed they could become. He had some innovative methods of maintaining student discipline, especially when he would be away with them on school trips. There are stories told of Noel taking a photo of his own eye, making several photo copies of it and then sticking those copies outside the spy-hole of each student's room. If any boy, planning a nocturnal mischievous expedition, peeped out, he would see a familiar looking eye staring back at him. Big Brother, apparently, was indeed watching. Noel would also get the other teachers to place their shoes at the corners of hotel corridors so that, again, if any wannabe escapees looked out they saw shoes protruding from around every corner. The Guards, it seemed, were everywhere ! Escape was impossible !



Noel's various achievements over the years are manifold. As a Christian Brother, he served in many schools all over Ireland. Starting his career as a Primary teacher, he taught in St. Vincent's, Glasnevin from 1967 to '73. He was the Principal in Strand Street from '73 to '76 before working as Principal of Brunswick St. ( the famous Brunner ) from '76 to '78. He taught in St. Declan's, Cabra, from '78 to '80 and, indeed, still serves on the Board of Management there. He headed for the country in 1980, teaching in Dundalk C.B.S from '80 to '81 before spending nine years in Roscommon C.B.S. He worked in Coláiste Cholm, Tullamore from 1990 until 1999, serving six years there as Headmaster. All these different locations gave him a wealth of experience and he was always ready to share the benefit of his vast knowledge with his colleagues.

# MR. NOEL DUFFY

When he decided to leave the Christian Brothers, he did so with the courage, dignity and manliness which characterised all his actions. His former confreres in the Christian Brothers remember him as being a man of the utmost integrity : hardworking, trustworthy and obliging. They also remember him as a man with whom it was very easy to get along. He has remained a great “link” between the Brothers and the staff of the school and regularly drops into the monastery for a chat and a cup of tea.

Those of us who were privileged to work with Noel will remember him as an inspiration to us all. He was so generous to everybody, both students and staff. He was always ready to give a word of advice to any colleague who was in need of help. He always tried to “push” his students in the best sense of the word, trying to bring out the best in them. They described him as “sound” and I’m sure that many of them, and indeed many of his colleagues, would nominate him as their “*Most Unforgettable Character*”. I, for one, would say that “ If I had to go into the trenches, Noel Duffy is the man I would like to have beside me”.

He never lost his infectious enthusiasm. Noel has taken Dylan’s advice and remains “forever young”- young in mind, young in heart and young in spirit. Even in physical terms he has continued to amaze us, still lining out for the annual Staff v. Sixth Years football match. ( We often wondered was he in more danger from the Sixth Year lads or from some of his own team mates.) Noel was certainly in danger from “friendly fire” but he always emerged unscathed. Perhaps it was due to the fact that he had been a very skilful player in his youth, playing at a very high level and winning a Dublin Senior Championship medal with Na Fianna.

It is strange to think that Noel is retiring. Some of us blame Alex Ferguson. Fergie used to say that “ retirement is only for young people “ and Noel seemed to subscribe to that philosophy. If that irascible old football genius hadn’t decided to hang up his hair dryer, perhaps Noel would have soldiered on. But of course, Noel will not really retire. He is far too fit and active to do that. And with his myriad of talents, interests, hobbies and pastimes he will keep himself very busy. His was a life full of generous giving and, no doubt, it will continue to be so. Everybody in St. Aidan’s has told him “ not to be a stranger” and he will always have a *fáilte ‘s céad* awaiting him in the School and Monastery. We wish Noel and Olive health, happiness and a long, fun-filled retirement.



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# ACTIVITIES IN BALLYMUN



On a showery May Thursday, ten 5<sup>th</sup> year students gave up their time, energy and skills to do voluntary gardening work in the Ballymun Community Garden. It was typical Irish weather, lashing rain and bitter cold hailstones followed by bright blue warm skies.

They boys got straight to work in the garden weeding and digging trenches for potatoes. It was tough work but they completed it well. They transformed two sections of the garden and began planting seeds for flowers, lettuce and potatoes. They worked under the guidance of Deirdre Walsh from Global Action Plan. Deirdre was extremely happy with all the work that was done in such a short amount of time. She credited the boys for their positive attitude, good work ethic and determination to work

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**Present were:** Derek Hyland, Stefan Stroe, Daniel Kiely, Talah Ishfaq, Elihu Essien-Thompson, Conor Halpin, Conor Harford, Dylan Hardy, Robert Markey Fox and Karl Philpott.





The two MC's on the night were Ms Hazel Thompson and Mr Darragh Humphreys now on their eight year entertaining us on the night with that touch of class.

Our guest of honour was Deputy Tommy Broughan who is no stranger to the school as he taught here for a number of years. We appreciate and give much thanks to our sponsors as the night is always a huge success.

### **AWARDS NIGHT 2013**

The glamour and glitz of The Awards Night is always worth waiting for and is organized so well by Mr Paul Ward with the support of both staff and Student Council.

Congratulations to all the nominees and the winners in each category it is a great achievement.

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### **ART OF STORYTELLING**

2 East went to a Storytelling Event in the Cinemagic Film Festival on Wednesday 15th May. Storyteller Jack Lynch spoke to them about the traditions of storytelling and then told them some stories. The festival then screened Troll Hunter, a Norwegian film based on traditional stories of trolls from Norwegian folklore.



### **OUR OWN DRAGONS IN THE DEN**

Ryan Healy, Daire Carty and Gareth Byrne took part in the Transition Year Dragons Den which was held in Smurfit Kappa. They finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and did an amazing job representing the school well done lads!

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## NEW GYMNASIUM ON TARGET

The good news is that our new State of the Art Gymnasium is on course to be completed by the middle of September. The external building is nearly completed and as you can see from the photo the inside is beginning to take shape and is very impressive even at this stage.



A big thank you to all the parents who have supported the project by contributing to the building levy and very soon your sons will be making full use of it.

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## LEAVING CERTIFICATE GRADUATION

The Leaving Certificate students were looking their very best on the night and so grown up. There were plenty of proud parents in the room and rightfully so. We wish them all the very best in their exams and on their journey through life, we hope they take away fond memories of St Aidan's. In the photo taken on the night we see Ms Ann Marie Dunne our Deputy Principal, past pupil Shane O Connor presenting Oisín Devlin from 6<sup>th</sup> year with the "Best Student of the Year Award," Shane won the award last year and very kindly came to present Oisín with the cup. Congratulations to all the staff and students involved on the night.





### **On Tour in Germany**

As a part of Transition Year the trips you go on are the things you most look forward to. This year the students got to experience an amazing trip to Germany for 5 days during the Easter holidays.

We flew out of Terminal 2 in Dublin Airport very early on Monday 25th March and landed in a snowy Dusseldorf Airport. We met up with our bus and headed to Cologne. We had a tour of the city and climbed what felt like thousands of steps to see the breathtaking views of the city from the tower in the cathedral.

We stayed in a charming hotel in Koblenz where we got involved in many different activities in the evenings such as intense games of bingo and games that tested our knowledge.

We had a boat trip on the Rhine, we saw two incredible castles. We had a great laugh in Frankfurt zoo.

The highlights of the trip though, were Phantasialand, a theme park full of roller coasters and the trip to the racing track the Nurburgring.

It was a trip that myself and all of my other classmates will never forget and we cannot thank Mr Duffy enough.

Ben Hanlon TYPS



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# VISIT TO MAYNOOTH TO LISTEN TO BR. PINTO

In March, we travelled to St. Patrick's College Maynooth to hear Brother Phillip Pinto's lecture on the occasion of Trócaire's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Brother Pinto is the Congregational Leader of the Christian Brothers and is also a truly inspiring speaker. He is well-known internationally for leading retreats and delivering keynote addresses.



He spoke to us about how we progress as people and as nations. He used a quote from Albert Einstein to explain. "Crisis is the best blessing that can happen to persons and countries because crisis brings progress. It is in crisis that creativeness, resourcefulness, discovery and strategies are born. Without crisis there are no challenges, without challenges life is routine. It is in crisis where the best in each person surfaces." If this is the case, in comparison with Ireland are Tanzanians better people. With an economy 40 times worse off than ours it certainly makes you think.

Then he began to speak about things more relevant to us as individuals. He said that in his own personal experience whenever he walks by homeless people, or someone poor, or someone looking for money he tends to avoid eye contact. He noticed that this is something common in all of us. He told us that this is because we all want to avoid human suffering and human misery and by looking in the eyes of the poor we somehow feel responsible. Then he acknowledged us in the crowd and told us that this is one thing he expects of us when we go to Tanzania. To look into their eyes and see them the same as us with hopes and dreams the same as us.

He went on to say "Young people fill me with hope" because he believes there is no depth to the generosity of young people. When we get back from Tanzania, after our Immersion experience, Brother Pinto wants us to tell their stories which is an act of generosity in itself. He knows by doing this we will be creating awareness and he knows when people like us go to places like Tanzania it fills them with hope and lets them know they matter. He finished by saying while we are over there, we are God. By this I understand that we will live the atmosphere of community to be there for one another in whatever way presents itself to us.

We enjoyed listening and learning from Br. Pinto and I know this experience will help us get the most out of

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## TANZANIA IMMERSION FUNDRAISING

Over the past number of years St. Aidan's have sent a number of students to Arusha in Tanzania on an Immersion Project.

While the students are in Tanzania they will attend a local Christian Brothers School and they will visit various outreach projects such as a remand centre for teenage boys and an orphanage.

Also, over the past few years we have sponsored a number of students in Tanzania to complete their second level education and we have made sizeable donations towards various school projects, for example purchasing school



As part of the fundraising, there was a race night in Shelbourne Park on Wednesday, May 1st. While raising funds for Immersion, it was also a great social night for parents in the school to meet each other. A terrific night was had by all! This term also we also had a sponsored walk, Art Exhibition, raffles, and more to come. Keep up the good work and many thanks for all your support!



## CHILDVISION

The Student Council help out local School for the Blind.

We were delighted to meet Mr. Paddy Coyle recently from Childvision, Drumcondra, and present him with a cheque for €400 to help with projects in this wonderful local school.

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## HISTORY QUIZ

Congratulations to all who took part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year history quiz. The overall winners were Brian O Connor, Keith Hodson, Fintan Roche and Darragh Bergin.



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## The President's Award

Again this year many Transition Year students signed up for The Bronze Gaisce Award. The dedication and commitment shown by those students who completed this noble undertaking was awe inspiring. Throughout the year they participated in various sports, helped out with worthwhile charities and community involvements and improved on personal skills. Many of these Transition Year students learned valuable skills and developed new interests which will stand to them in future endeavours. We are very proud of them and we hope that next year the Transition Year students maintain the high standards set by their predecessors.



*Ms. Keenan & Mr. Hanley*

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## BEST SPELLING BEES IN TOWN

Well done to all 1<sup>st</sup> years for all their hard work with the Spelling Bee competition. It was very competitive on the day and the champion was Kian Aignite 1 West. It is part of the initiative run by the English Department and has been very successful.



## The Student Council stay focused on Charity

Past-pupil and Dublin Hurling Star Cormac Ryan joins Mr. Enda Kennedy from the Irish Heart Foundation as the boys present as cheque for €700 to aid rehabilitation and research.



## **ALL IRELAND SCHOOLS TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Ian becomes Ireland's number one long distance schools athlete what an achievement.

It was an emotional day at the recent All-Ireland Schools Track and Field Championships in Tullamore. We had 4 students in action, and the first man up was walker, Gregory Hossenny. After exploding off at the gun, Greg put himself in with a great shout for a medal. He crossed the line in 3<sup>rd</sup> place after a fantastic battle with Ireland's best, only to be disqualified for 'lifting'.



Next up was Adam O' Brien, a seasoned campaigner at major events. But things didn't go to plan for Adam, as he suffered from fatigue after a lung busting season, coming home 9<sup>th</sup> overall. In the U/16 Mile, Cathal Doyle was in perfect position to pounce on gold, only to be clipped by a fellow athlete. He showed incredible courage to get back on his feet only to collapse over the line in fourth place. No medal for Cathal, but a gold medal for character.

So as the sun set over the midlands on a glorious evening, it was up to Ian Guiden to put the smiles back on everyone's faces in the Senior 5,000m. After 6 laps, Ian had enough of the pedestrian pace and slammed down consecutive 64sec, 65sec, 64sec and 66sec laps to burn off the field. It was a joy to hear Liam Moggan on the public address system informing the crowd of St. Aidan's great sports stars such as Tommy Drumm, Niall Bruton, Liam Brady and Mark Kinsella, as Ian glided around the track to glory. And as the sun set over stadium, Ian climbed the podium, to sign off on his St. Aidan's running career. We have no doubt in years to come Ian Guidan's name will be amongst the greats of St Aidan's.

## TOM QUINLIN CUP

The victorious St Aidan's First Year Gaelic Football Team celebrating their success in the dressing room after the match.

St Aidans CBS 5-11

St Fintans, Sutton 3-5

A superb second half display ensured St Aidans First Years tasted their first success in 11 years in the Tom Quinlan cup. This was literally the game of two halves. Although playing against a stiff breeze in the first half, it did not fully explain the nervous start made by St aidans in this match. If it was not for the excellent defensive play by the St Aidans full back line and an excellent goal by James Doran, the 7 point half-time deficit could have been considerably more.

Half time score: St Aidans 1-4, St Fintans 3-5

However St Aidans came out a new team in the second half. An impressive second half display by team captain Keith Campbell at midfield and the switching of Jordan Leonard from wing half forward to full forward was crucial to the outcome of this game. Jordan registered 4 second half goals that broke the spirit of the St Fintan's boys. He was ably assisted in the forwards by the dominant displays of Adam Keogh, Enda O'Donnell, James Doran and Gavin Kilkenny.



The second half displays of Andrew McCaul and Josh Mulhall were instrumental in this achievement.

The last St Aidans team to taste success at this level went on to dominate Dublin school's Gaelic football for a number of years, winning a Leinster U-14 'A' title and two Dublin U-16 'A' titles. Three of that team starred in recent successful Dublin U-21 teams (Ted Furman, Luke Sweetman and Colin Moore) and the St Aidans coaches this year feel that this team has an opportunity now to follow a similar path.

The St Aidan's rear guard must come in for special praise also. The fact that they held the St Fintans boys completely scoreless in the second half was quite an achievement.

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## The Hurling Year 2012/2013

St. Aidan's CBS had another successful hurling year. Both the U-14 and U-16 teams won their respective 'A' Shield finals. Our senior hurlers were unfortunate to lose their final. The school is still competing at 'A' level at all levels. Like the previous three years we qualified for at least the semi final stages at all levels. We look forward to a bright future for hurling in the school. We would like to give a special thanks to the 6<sup>th</sup> year boys that are leaving this year. They gave an awful lot to hurling in the school and it will be extremely hard to replace their qualities.

With the calibre of students in the school being so high, we are fortunate to have four representatives on the Dublin County Minor panel.

WE would like to wish Eoghan O'Donnell, Sean Ryan, Jonathan Treacy and Sean Gray the best of luck in Lenister and hopefully All Ireland championships this year. We have also many other players on the other underage development squads in Dublin. With so much talent, we are hoping for another big year from the lads again next year.



## SOCCER NEWS

Josh O Hanlon has been named as the first "St Aidan's Soccer Player of the Year" and is the first recipient of "The Liam Brady Perpetual Trophy." Watch this space and remember his name as we will be hearing a lot more about him.

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## Other News

Well done to Eoin O Donnell, John Tracey, Sean Ryan and Sean Gray who were all part of the Dublin minor hurling team who defeated Offaly in the recent Leinster Championship QF.

## **St. Aidan's CBS - Titles '12/'13**

**Clonliffe Harriers Invitiaion - Winners**

**Senior Hurling Shield - Winners**

**U/14 Gaelic - Runners up**

**U/16 Gaelic - Runners up**

**DCU Invitational XC - Winners**

**North Leinster Schools XC - Winners**

**Leinster Junior Water Polo - Winners**

**Senior Gaelic - Runners Up**

**Leinster XC Finals - Champions**

**Juvenile Hurling Shield - Winners**

**Green Schools - All - Ireland Secondary School of the Year 2013**

**U/14 Basketball - Dublin 'A' Runners up**

**All - Ireland CBS Track and Field - Champions**

**First Year Gaelic Football - Champions**

**A very small thanks you for all the encouragement, covers and pats on the back.**

**We could not and cannot do it without you.**

**One school, one team!**

**The extra-curricular department**