



Gaelscoil an Chaistil

Meán Fómhair / September 2014



Fáilte ar ais!!!
Welcome back!



New school uniforms, new school bags and pencil cases full to the brim. That's right, it's that time of year again - Back to school!!!!

On behalf of the entire school, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our returning pupils as well as our new pupils starting in our Náiscoil and in Rang 1. I trust you all had a very enjoyable summer and are as excited as we are about beginning our new academic year here at Gaelscoil an Chaistil. This year we will see big changes to our current school building. We look forward to having two brand new classrooms and a multi-purpose hall. The school had an excellent year last year which saw us achieve wonderful successes throughout the school and I have no doubt that this year will only be better. **Brídín Ní Dhomhaigh**

Foghlaim dhúchasach / Indigenous Learning

You may be aware of some of the work that we've been carrying out recently with the children around the new trees on our school site. Trees play an extremely important role in our lives and we need to conserve what we have for the generations to come. Our ancestors recognised this important role and indeed had laws governing the management of trees - some of the oldest conservation laws that existed, as far back as the 4th century when Ireland was the most forested country in Europe. Unfortunately, we are now one of the least forested countries in Europe but, little by little, we are working to change that.



In addition to managing their trees, our ancestors used 18 different native trees by which to learn the alphabet. In planting these trees around the school site and in beginning to research their history with the children, we hope to revitalise that alphabetical use for the trees, to facilitate our children in both becoming more aware of their heritage and the important role it plays in our culture and in enhancing how they learn their alphabet and continue to use the Gaelic language up through the school.





Exam Successes



September saw Gaelscoil an Chaistil's Primary 7 pupils receiving their Irish GCSE results. This is the fifth year that Primary 7 children in Gaelscoil an Chaistil have sat their Irish GCSE - an exam that they normally wouldn't sit until they were 16. This year, 10 children sat the exam and they achieved 3 A*s, 6 As and 1 B. These are exceptional results for 11 year old pupils and the entire school community wish to extend their heartiest congratulations and

wish them all the best as they progress on through their post primary career. Méabh Ní Fhlannagáin deserves a special mention as she achieved one of the highest scores in the north, placing her joint 2nd. This is a huge achievement for Méabh, her family and the school. Well done Méabh, we are so very proud of you.

While Gaelscoil an Chaistil is celebrating their GCSE grades at the moment, the school's reputation for excellence is growing, thanks to the high calibre of its governors and staff. We have a great team in place at every level. Our board of governors brings a huge wealth of skill sets and includes a former inspector of schools, a special needs expert, two preschool specialists, a social worker and specialists in immersion education and management skills. At the close of our first year of full time nursery provision our nursery was inspected by the Education Training and Inspectorate and the staff and school were very highly praised. Our nursery team, Seona, Jaimee and Caoimhe, continue to go from strength to strength. We also have a very experienced staff team who have taught both in the English medium and Gaelic-medium sectors. They all contribute greatly to our close knit team through sharing teaching and learning methodologies such as Linguistic Phonics and Reading Recovery in Gaelic and English, whole-school maths projects and ICT to name but a few. Indeed, Gaelscoil an Chaistil has invested heavily in ICT both in terms of equipment and up-skilling our staff in the last few years, and we are involved in a number of online and other technology projects which enhance literacy and numeracy.

Our past pupils continue to excel in their education. Just recently quite a number of our former pupils who are now at secondary level education were recognised as being 'top of their year' and 'top of their key stage'. Quite a few of our past pupils sat their AS exam in Years 9 and 10. Once again they achieved fantastic grades and as usual some of them came back to the Gaelscoil to celebrate their success with us. We are truly delighted and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate their post primary teachers and schools who have continued to support their development in the language and in their education in general.



Gaeilgeoirí na Seachtaine



Gaeilgeoirí na Seachtaine

01/09/14 - 05/09/14

- Rang 1: Corrick
- Rang 2: Áine
- Rang 3: Jamie-Lee
- Rang 4: Óisín
- Rang 5: Dearbhla
- Rang 6: Somhairle + Liam
- Rang 7: Bébhíonn

Gaeilgeoirí na Seachtaine

08/09/14 - 12/09/14

- Rang 1: Hannah
- Rang 2: Iva
- Rang 3: Naomi
- Rang 4: Amy
- Rang 5: CJ
- Rang 6: Erin Dubh
- Rang 7: Ana Cara

Gaeilgeoirí na Seachtaine

15/09/14 - 19/09/14

- Rang 1: Eddie
- Rang 2: Fiadh
- Rang 3: Bláthnait
- Rang 4: Aoife
- Rang 5: Peadar
- Rang 6: Fionn
- Rang 7: Conrad

Gaeilgeoirí na Seachtaine

22/09/14 - 26/09/14

- Rang 1: Erin
- Rang 2: Aoife
- Rang 3: Aoife
- Rang 4: Conán Mhichil
- Rang 5: Aaron
- Rang 6: Ryan
- Rang 7: Oonagh

Back To School



Here is a small selection of some of our first photographs of the children back at school. To see all our photos and keep up to date with school events, visit our Facebook page where you can like, comment and share our photographs and news.



Gabh i dteagmháil linn!

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Gaelscoil an Chaistil, Gaelic-
medium nursery and primary
school



Gscoil an Chaistil



Foscailt Doirse is a programme aimed at providing the parent / guardian who has little or no Gaelic to play a central role in encouraging a positive attitude in their child towards Gaelic language and culture. If you feel you would like to play a more active role with your child in relation to their experience with bilingual learning at school and with the language, well this is your chance! Former participants highly recommend the programme. If you are interested or would like to find out more, call into the school or contact us on 20768883 or at gael-scoilanchaistil@gmail.com.



Active Travel



Last week the school welcomed a special guest who met the staff and pupils and talked about a new and exciting programme in which we're participating. Sustrans is a sustainable transport charity that encourages people to choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment. Emma Keenan is the Sustrans Active Travel Officer for the Causeway Coast & Glens, and will be working with Gaelscoil an Chaistil for the next two years, promoting cycling and walking on the school journey.

