

# Davitt News



## Excellent Results for Davitt College Students in Junior Certificate 2015

Page 1 October 2015

It was screams of excitement and delight following the Junior Certificate results at Davitt College, Castlebar on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Results were excellent with the vast majority achieving honours in all subjects. “I am delighted with all of our students’ excellent results in the Junior Certificate,” said Ms. Bernie Rowland, Davitt College Principal. “Our students worked very hard throughout the three years leading up to the Junior Certificate Examination and today they reap the rewards of that hard work. It is a wonderful day and we are very proud of each and every one of them. A special word of thanks to all of their dedicated teachers and supportive parents who, collectively, helped today happen,” she said. Clearly a very happy principal as well!



*Pictured (from Left) Eibhlin Lennon, Freya Blendell, Orla Minish and Rachel Kelly of Davitt College, Castlebar are joyous after receiving their Junior Certificate results 2015.*

*Pictured (from Left) Ethan Belton, Matthew Fahey, Alan Bourke-Tuffy and Dane Thornton of Davitt College, Castlebar celebrate their excellent Junior Certificate results 2015.*





## Hurling Legend Henry Shefflin Visits Davitt College



Davitt College, Castlebar, recently welcomed former Kilkenny Hurler, Mr. Henry Shefflin. Henry gave a very interesting talk about his life as a top hurler for Kilkenny and his club, Ballyhale Shamrocks.

His haul of medals, awards and recognition makes him one of the all-time legends of Hurling and possibly the greatest hurler ever to play the game. Henry spoke about his life, both, on and off the pitch and delivered inspirational words to his audience.

The students gave him a great reception and in a lively question and answer session, he handled all the questions about his victories, defeats, injuries and personal achievements.



**FIVE Davitt College Students have been accepted to the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2016 !**

Congratulations to FIVE Davitt College Students who have been accepted to the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2016. Students Benjamin Studnicka and Callan Quinn have developed MediBands, a silicone wrist band containing personal medical information accessible by a smartphone via QR scanner that provides emergency responders with potential lifesaving information. Also in the intermediate age category, the group of Maeve Walsh, Clodagh Hegarty and Aoife Parsons ask: If breast is best, why isn't it the norm? They are investigating the reasons why breastfeeding numbers in Ireland are so low, and are trying to promote breastfeeding to mothers and the general public. Best of luck to all students!



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## Spreading Their Wings Davitt College Graduates Celebrate Success As They Begin University



*Leaving Certificate students of 2015 at Davitt College, Castlebar. Pictured (from Left) Mr. Ger King, Deputy Principal, Davitt College; Bethany Duffy (B. Sc. in Dietetics, University of Ulster); Michael Flatley (B. A. in English & Music, UCD); Shannon Davitt (Bachelor of Business with German, University of Limerick); Róisín McGovern (Bachelor of Business, DCU); Melanie Nally (Disability Studies in Early Childcare and Education, Castlebar College of Further Education); Jordan Lynch (B. A. in Linguistics and English, UCD); Aisling Gallagher (B. A. in History & Politics, UL); Aine Loughran (Bachelor of Business with French, UL); Sinéad Gaffney (Bachelor of Business, Trinity College Dublin); Sean Togher (B. A. Social Care Practice, IT Sligo); Emily Nolan (B. A. in Fine Art, Crawford College of Art & Design, Cork); Liam Higgins (Bachelor of Business, UL); Rebecca Lawless (B. Education - Primary Teaching, St. Patrick's College, Dublin); Owen Higgins (B. Sc. in Physics, NUIG); Ms. Bernie Rowland, Principal, Davitt College.*

A number of Leaving Certificate students of 2015 at Davitt College, Castlebar dropped in to their school recently to say goodbye and thank teachers and staff for their six years of post-primary education. These young men and women are embarking on Third Level courses in universities and training colleges throughout Ireland for the academic year 2015/2016. They are spreading their wings to all four provinces of Ireland – from Trinity College Dublin to Crawford College Cork to N.U.I. Galway to the University of Ulster. “I will certainly miss Davitt College,” said Ashling Gallagher. “We have had some unforgettable times and we have definitely made friends for life.” “The Transition Year Programme was one of the highlights for me,” she said. Michael Flatley was in no doubt about what the best part of his years at Davitt College were, “The Music Department are very active and talented and Davitt College has a brilliant tradition of school musicals”. Michael is furthering his love of music by studying Music and English at UCD. “Davitt College is student centred and has a very broad range of subjects,” said Owen Higgins. “There is a wonderful relationship between students and teachers and a great support system for everyone. Teachers are enormously generous with their time and talents. I will miss that,” he said. Ever the health conscious and sports star, Bethany Duffy was quick to reflect on the great sports teams and football training she experienced at Davitt College. “The Joe Langan Sports Hall and Gym is a huge asset to Davitt College,” she said. It is no surprise at all that Bethany is pursuing a B.Sc. Degree in Dietetics at University of Ulster. “There is definitely a trend towards the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) this year,” said Bernie Rowland, Davitt College principal. “We offer all four science subjects at Senior Level, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Agricultural Science.” “There has been a steady increase in the uptake of these subjects over the past two/three years and this is evident when you consider the degree programmes students are choosing at Third Level,” she said.



*Congratulations to Davitt College, Castlebar students Holly Logan who has been accepted into NUI, Galway to study Medicine and David Gavin will pursue a B.Sc. in Theoretical Physics at Trinity College, Dublin.*



## “Record Turnout” for the Davitt College Career Options Event 2015

To meet specific needs of Post Primary students in Co. Mayo, Davitt College, Castlebar in partnership with the Education Working Group of Mayo Co. Council and the Mayo LEADER Partnership Company held its **third** very successful Career Options Event on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015. There was certainly something for everyone on the day at the Davitt College Joe Langan Sports Hall. The exhibition provided an opportunity for second level students and their parents to access information regarding the wide range of education and training courses that are available in Third Level Education. Over 1,500 people were present at this event and admission was free.

Career Options 2015 was a great example of partnership and collaboration in action. Over 40 Universities and Colleges throughout Ireland, UK and America were represented including the Ivy League Research University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University. There were presentations on the day from CAO, SUSI Grants, UCAS, HEAR and DARE. There was also information available on Third Level Scholarships, Bursaries and Grants.

Ms. Bernie Rowland, Davitt College Principal, was delighted with the big turnout to the event. “There was a wealth of information available on the day to accommodate every interest – academic, creative and technical.” “I feel students experience has been enriched and I hope parents and their sons and daughters are now better able to make informed decisions about future careers,” she said.

Strengthening existing partnerships with Third Level providers is a vision Davitt College has for the future and a spirit of collaboration was certainly evident on the day.



*Davitt College Fifth Year and Leaving Certificate students Leanne Hanbury, Evelyn Coyle and Niamh Tobin are delighted with the information they received at the Career Options Event 2015.*



*Mr. Brian Murphy from Trinity College Dublin (TCD) offers advice to a second level student during Career Options 2015 at Davitt College, Castlebar.*

Sincere thanks is extended to the organising committee at Davitt College for their hard work and attention to detail.



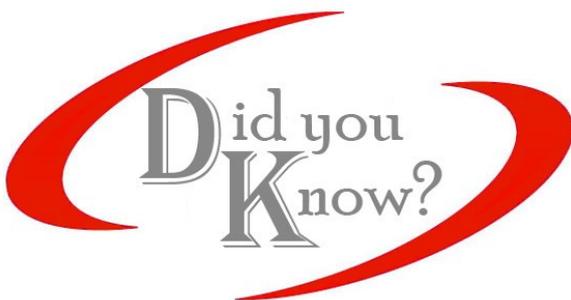


## DAVITT COLLEGE STUDENTS HONOURED FOR JUNIOR CERTIFICATE BUSINESS MARKS



Davitt College students celebrated academic success when they were presented with certificates of achievement from NUI Galway based on their Junior Certificate results. The students recorded an 'A' in their Higher Level Business Studies Examination 2015, and were among a group of 250 students from throughout Connacht to receive awards. The presentations, in association with the Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland (BSTAI), were made at a special ceremony at the university, to which teachers and parents were invited.

*Pictured are: (from left): Ms. Joan Walsh, Business Studies Teacher; Clodagh Hegarty; Dr. Gerard Turley, J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, NUI Galway; Ruth Kearney and Ms. Antoinette Hopkins, Business Studies Teacher*



The Davitt College Business Department offers **Business, Economics, Accounting and Link Modules** to all Senior Cycle Leaving Certificate students.

Link  
Modules

Economics Accounting

Business



## Aoife Wins Essay Writing Competition



Congratulations to Davitt College, Castlebar Fifth Year Student, Aoife Tierney on winning the Senior Category of The Pioneer Total Abstinence Association Essay Competition recently. Pictured (from left) Ms. Érin O'Hara, English Teacher; Aoife Tierney; Mr. Stephen Burns, President of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association, Castlebar Regional Council



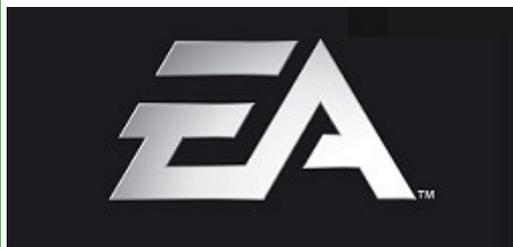
## “Best Individual Robot Award 2015” for Davitt College, Castlebar Student

Congratulations to Davitt College, Castlebar Fifth Year Student, Shane Gavin on winning “Best Individual Robot” at the EA Games Robotics competition in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Galway on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015. Supported by EA Games, the competition pits rival robots from schools throughout the country against one another to battle it out for the coveted trophies, with this edition seeing 450 second-level students competing.

“The Irish Robotics Championship is a great way to engage teenagers in the design and construction of robots, which we are really pleased to support,” said Donal Doherty of EA Games.



*Pictured: Mr. Paul Sleem, Event MC; Shane Gavin; EA Games Representative*





## Davitt College Awarded Second Green Flag!



Pictured at the Raising of the Second Green Flag were: (Left to right) Mr. Ger King, Deputy Principal, Ms. Martina Kelly, Mr. Fintan Murphy, Green Schools Co-Ordinator, Jordan Keighley, Michaela Maloney, Grace McNicholas, Eoin O'Doherty, Andrea Callaghan, Declan McDonnell, Ms. Marian Harkin, MEP, Stephen Kearns, Aishling Hughes, Ryan Potter and Ms. Bernie Rowland, Principal. Transition Year students at Davitt College have been working on the Green Schools Programme as part of the Transition Year Social Studies module. Student Council members also became involved in the programme where students set up a Green Schools Committee and carried out an Environmental Review focused on Energy Conservation. All the hard work paid off and Davitt College was awarded the Second Green Flag by An Taisce. Well done to Mr. Fintan Murphy, Green Schools Co-Ordinator and all involved.

## Davitt College Student, Fintan Borotto selected for Sligo Rovers

Congratulations to Davitt College Student, Fintan Borotto who has been selected to play for Sligo Rovers. Fintan is also involved in the local Castlebar Celtic team. Fintan has a very bright future ahead of him!



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## CSI Comes to Davitt College!



*Pictured at the Forensic Science Workshop are Mr. Aaron Tonry, Physics Teacher; Ms. Fiona O'Connor, Biology Teacher; Ms. Alison Leck, Forensic Scientist; Mrs. Caitriona O'Donnell, Chemistry Teacher; Ms. Tracy Britton, Transition Year Co-Ordinator; and Transition Year students participating in the workshop.*

On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, Transition Year students of Davitt College participated in the fourth annual Forensic Science Workshop at Davitt College. The aim of these workshops is to bring classroom science into real-life situations and get more students interested in continuing to study science for Third Level education. The activities provided the students with an exciting opportunity to experience an everyday use of Science in a real world situation. It proved to be an exciting and interactive educational experience, where observation and deductive reasoning combined with the science that students are learning in Davitt College, and are used to solve crimes in the real world.

As part of the workshop, students were presented with a real crime and given all the appropriate information to solve it, such as suspect information; where they were and what they were doing at the time of the crime, their occupations and evidence such as fingerprints. Students then went from station to station trying to match pieces of evidence to each suspect to help solve the crime. Each station had a different topic such as ballistics, where students had to study the amount of GSR (Gun Shot Residue) left on the clothing of each suspect.

The students of Davitt College thoroughly enjoyed being put through the analytical stages and having to actively bring their learning to life. This is just a sample of the showcases that the Science Department do each year, with the BT Young Scientist Competition being a pivotal part of the Transition Year Programme.

Year Programme.

This day was facilitated by Forensic Scientist, Ms. Alison Leck from Education Interactive, Sydney, Australia.



## Career Options 2015 at Davitt College, Castlebar



*Pictured at the launch of Career Options 2015 were The Davitt College Organising Committee: Front Row (Left to Right) Mr. Frank Kelleher; Ms. Ruth Carney; Mr. Brian Murphy; Mr. Keith Higgins, Three time All-Star and Mayo Senior GAA Football Captain and Player; Ms. Bernie Rowland, Principal, Davitt College; Ms. Aine Coyne, Creer Guidance Counsellor; Mr. Ger King, Deputy Principal, Davitt College; Mrs. Patricia Jennings, Davitt College Parents' Council. Back Row (Left to Right) Jordan Duffy; Mr. Michael Baynes, Castlebar Chamber of Commerce; Lee Moran; Mr. Paul Kelly; Niamh Kelly; Mr. Colm Garvey; Katie Beirne.*

## Mayo GAA Senior Football Captain Visits Davitt College



Mayo GAA Senior Football Captain took time out of his busy schedule to meet with some of our hard working Leaving Certificate students. Pictured from left: Ashling Grady, Ellen Murphy, Hugh Geraghty, Caoimhe Burke-Tuffy, Thomas Mongey, Mr. Keith Higgins, Cillian O'Brien

## Literary Award for Davitt College Student

CONGRATULATIONS to Davitt College student, Lauren Bright who was successful in the Wild Words Short Story Writing Competition earlier this year. Lauren's story was selected for inclusion in 'Wild Words Volume 3' (an anthology of short stories and poems by young authors from all over Ireland and the UK) and she was invited to a two-day writing master class with some of Ireland's leading authors and industry experts. Lauren is pictured with other budding authors and the special guest for the festival, Ray D'Arcy, who launched the third volume of Wild Words in August. This is a fantastic achievement for Lauren; we are all very proud of her in Davitt College and wish her all the best with her writing pursuits in the future.



## The Music Department is flourishing this year, with **Music Department News**



a record number of students participating in extra-curricular activities. The school choir has over 75 students enrolled and are currently working very hard on the school musical under the guidance of Mrs. Kennedy. They are also preparing to provide music for a Mass this October in the Church of the Holy Rosary, Castlebar. Rehearsals are held every Monday 4- 5pm throughout the year.

Another group rehearsing for this year's school musical is the school orchestra, who practice every Wednesday at lunchtime with Mrs. Kennedy. Any Davitt College student can become a member of the orchestra, with current students ranging from grade 1 – grade 8 on instruments including violin, piano, percussion and tenor horn.

The Traditional Irish Group also has a very healthy enrolment and includes instruments such as fiddle, button accordion, banjo, mandolin, piano, guitar, flute and tin whistle. Many of the current students are award winners locally and nationally and are very proud to be playing for Davitt College. Each rehearsal is facilitated by Mrs. Kennedy on Tuesday Lunchtimes, and is open to all students.

Davitt College School of Rock has had an exponential rise in numbers this year – Mr. Mulderrig oversees rehearsals for this on Monday and Thursday Lunchtimes. Like all musical extra-curricular activities, this is open to any student interested in learning or improving their performance skills.



## RBS Women's Six Nations Fever Hits Davitt College!

Following on from the recent RBS Women's Six Nations Championship win for Ireland, rugby has been high on the agenda for many. The students of Davitt College got to view and hold the RBS Women's Six Nations trophy which caused great excitement throughout the school. Pictured holding the elusive Trophy are members of the Davitt College Girls Rugby squad and Year Head, Ms. Deirdre Gibbons.



## Dublin Trip for Davitt College Transition Year Students



Transition Year Students recently enjoyed a trip to Dublin where they enjoyed the Skyline Tour of Croke Park. The students also visited the Irish Aid & Volunteering Centre where they learned about global issues and the work of Irish Aid in fighting global poverty and hunger. The students really enjoyed the day in Dublin.

## Welcome to the First Years of Davitt College

There is a certain buzz around Davitt College as First Year students begin their Post-Primary education. Positive feedback from parents and staff suggests that the transition from Primary to Post-Primary school has been very smooth indeed. Wishing all First Year students the very best over the course of their time in Post-Primary School and hope they have some unforgettable times as well.



# 1A

1A Class (Class Tutor Mr. Kevin Donlon)

1B Class with Class Tutor Ms. Sinead Flynn

# 1B



After School Supervised Study for all students in Davitt College takes place Monday-Thursday, 4pm to 6pm

*Please contact Ms. Claire Kennedy for details*

*Coming Soon!*

**Science** Week

**Lots of Experiments, talks and advice!**



**1C Class with Class Tutor Ms. Michelle Hession**

**1C**

**1D Class with Class Tutor Ms. Martina Kelly**

**1D**



**1E Class with Class Tutor Ms. Evelyn Kearns**

**1E**



## Thank Abba for the Music

Davitt College's annual Musical production, "Thank Abba for the Music", will be staged in The Joe Langan Sports Hall on the Davitt College campus. From November 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> the Sports Hall will be transformed into a theatre and auditorium by a professional company of outfitters, providing sound, lighting and a purpose-built stage and sets. "In recent years we have played to capacity audiences each night," explained Ms. Bernie Rowland, Principal. Over the years Davitt College has staged Musicals such as Jesus Christ Superstar, Guys and Dolls, All Shook Up and many, many more. These school musicals have all been very well supported by the local community in Castlebar and large audiences from throughout Co. Mayo. The school musical is a Transition Year Module in Davitt College. "The Transition Year students are at the heart of the school musical," said Ms. Bernie Rowland. "Their energy and passion is inspirational each year. I am always very impressed by the huge amount of talent displayed and how very hard the students work to ensure top class performances," she said. This year is no exception, with a record number of students taking part. "The singers and dancers are all Transition Year students," said Mr. Eamonn Mulderrig, Musical Director. "Then we have a cross-section of musicians, some All-Ireland champions, supporting in the pit." "The talent this year is exceptional," added Mr. David Nevin, Producer and Director. "All of the students are highly motivated and have worked tirelessly over the past number of weeks to ensure top class performances," he said. The Davitt College production is a real crowd pleaser musical and includes some of the classic Abba band, including Mamma Mia, Dancing Queen, S.O.S. and Waterloo. "Thank Abba for the Music" will be staged on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> at Davitt College. Tickets are available from the school or by calling 0949023060.



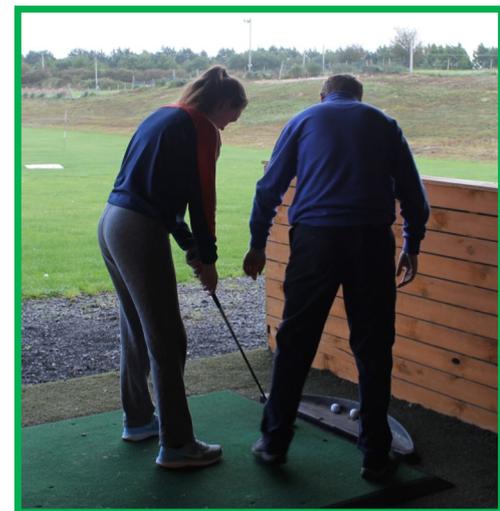
## Transition Year Activities

A group of 14 Transition Year girls are currently involved in the Spikeball Coaching Programme. They coach four local National School 6<sup>th</sup> class students to play spikeball. Other Transition Year activities during the first term have been Castle Leisure Fitness, Castlebar Driving Range and Health Quarters, Castlebar.



Transition Year students try out the fitness equipment at The Health Quarters, Castlebar. Well done guys!

Transition Year student Saoirse Walsh improves her Golf swing at the Castlebar Driving Range.



Students take part in a Chess Competition organised at lunchtimes in the school library. Please contact Mr. Buckley if you wish to take part!



## The Legacy of our very own Super-Hero

The Davitt College family lost one of our most-cherished members in the final hour of July 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 when Melissa Patterson lost her life. In the intervening weeks there have been millions of words spoken and written about the pain, loss and emptiness experienced since that awful night, but in truth, the correct words haven't yet been invented.

Melissa lit up Davitt College. She didn't particularly enjoy the academic side of school; she took a more holistic view of education and was never too stressed about the ordinary things of life. She did her best in class but would be the first to tell you that there were other things in school that she loved much more.

She came alive on the football field. When she put on that famous green jersey she was transformed. To be honest, Melissa always reminded me of Clark Kent. Clark was the quiet guy who became Superman in the blink of an eye – Melissa was the same! She'd wander up the corridor towards the dressing room, a slight, lithe, beautiful young lady, but once she pulled that famous green jersey over her head she became a warrior, a superhero!

The Davitt College jersey was her armour against the greatest of challenges; her source of strength and power. Once she had the green on her back, she'd take on anyone! Melissa was often the heartbeat of our team. If we needed someone to take on the world, she would get the nomination and as soon as instruction reached her ears, she'd spring into action. God help anyone who came in her way!

Thankfully, many, many wonderful memories were embedded in the brain over the years as Melissa and her buddies carried the Davitt colours into battle time and time again. We had sad days and glad days; elated days and devastated days, but most of all we had fun!

Appropriately, Melissa's last day in the green was on the biggest day of all – the All-Ireland senior final in Longford. After we narrowly lost that game we went back to the dressing room with the heaviest of hearts. Eventually, Ms Flynn, Ms Silke-O'Connor and I got power back in our throats and told the girls that we were so eternally proud of them and that we would be friends for the rest of time. We promised to be there for one another in good times and bad. Little did we realise how much we would need one another in just a few short weeks.

But, Melissa would want us to dry our tears, breathe deeply and walk on into the future. That's what we've been doing in the green jerseys of our football teams this term. We're competing strongly at senior level, playing the Davitt way, with savage intensity and wild abandon, but even more importantly we have huge numbers of younger girls wanting to wear the green at U14 and U16 level. They want to follow in the footsteps of Melissa and her friends. They want to experience what it's like to play their hearts out on the pitch, to dream the dream and most importantly of all, have fun in the company of their friends. That's the lasting legacy to our very own superhero!



*Melissa - Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis*



# Davitt Sport

The Davitt College Sports Department has been a hive of activity during the first term. All teams are busy training during lunch time and after school. The first year boys and girls are busy training for the Mayo round of this year's Futsal competition. The girl's Gaelic teams have over 60 girls togged every Tuesday. The Senior girls played their first game against Mountbellew. This was the team's first taste playing in the Senior B competition. The Davitt College girls played with sheer determination to pull a 10 point gap back to finish within 3 points of Mountbellew. Their next fixture was against old rivals Foxford. Again this was a nail biting encounter when the Davitt girls came from a 12 point deficit to go ahead in the last 2 minutes by 1. Foxford fought to the end and in the dying seconds scored a goal to steal the game by 2 points. The Davitt College girls can be proud of their performance following what has being a tough couple of months for all the girls. The Junior and U-14 teams have started well by capturing wins over near rivals Balla. The first year girls took part in a development blitz held in Foxford. This was an enjoyable day for the girls where they played four games.



**Davitt College U16 Boys Basketball Team**



**Davitt College Junior Boys Gaelic Team**



**Davitt College First Year Girls Gaelic Team**



**Davitt College Hurling Team**



**Members of the Girls Junior Football Team: Emily Clarke, Róisín Callaghan, Emma Mullahy and Leah Flynn**

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