

*Photo Gallery*



Mr.A. Groeger (Deputy Principal) presenting Rochestown College students with their Awards for Academic Achievement at the Annual Awards Ceremony



Ms. E. O'Daly presenting Rochestown College students with their Attendance Certificates at the Annual Awards Ceremony



Ms A. Conroy and Mr D. Ó Mathúna Principal Rochestown College presenting Mr John Coleman with a gift on the occasion of his retirement



Ms Leen presenting Rochestown College Students with their Music Awards at the Annual Awards Ceremony



Mr. D. Ó Mathúna presenting Actor and past pupil Mr Louis Lovett with a gift to thank him for attending the Rochestown College Annual Awards Ceremony as a Guest Speaker



Mrs P. Power and the Principal Mr. D. Ó Mathúna presenting Richard Magee of Rochestown College with the JOHN J. POWER GEOGRAPHY AWARD at the Annual Awards Ceremony



Mr. Finbarr Brassil Leaving Cert 2004 Highest Achiever with his mother Kate Brassil and Rochestown College Principal Mr. D. Ó Mathúna at the Rochestown College Annual Awards Ceremony



Mr. D. Fahy presenting Rochestown College students with their Gaelic Football Awards at the Annual Awards Ceremony



# ROCO REPORT

ISSUE NO. 8

JUNE 2005

*Homily from Br. Jeremy Heneghan*

In mass today, I heard the words:

*“Come to me, all who labour and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes my yoke is easy and burden light.” (Mt 2830).*

Many years ago now, when I was in school and studying hard for exams, this was one of my favourite parts of the Bible. I used to say it to myself and think about it, and wonder what it would mean. It gave me great consolation, that whatever was worrying me I could go and talk to Jesus about it and he would lighten the burden and help me bear up and carry on.

In Rochestown College this is what Father Brian and myself try to do: Lighten those burdens which from time to time fall on all shoulders. It is our firm belief that “A problem shared is a problem halved”. So, if at any time anything is bothering you feel free to approach Father Brian, myself or any staff member to share your burden. We will help in any way we can, even if only with our ears.

Best wishes to all, enjoy the summer, and even if the only difference is that the rain is warmer - enjoy the warm rain.

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## Trip to Strasbourg and European Parliament

In April this year I won a week-long trip to Paris and the European Parliament in a competition on the [www.graduate.ie](http://www.graduate.ie) website. The competition was sponsored by RTE, the Department of Education, and a number of other government agencies. On Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> May I headed for the European Parliament offices in Dublin, where I met the other 29 winners, all second year students from various schools around Ireland. After lunch and (many!) presentations we board-



ed our coach and headed for Dublin airport. It turned out to be a long day, with security checks and our flight being delayed. We didn't reach our hotel outside Paris until 2.30am on Tuesday morning.

Just 5 hours later we were up again and on our way to Strasbourg, a 7-hour bus trip. We had great craic on the journey and when we arrived we checked in to the hotel before having a look at the famous sights of Strasbourg. We then returned to our hotel and prepared for our visit to the parliament. We split into our groups and worked on our topic of European democracy and on questions to ask the parliament.

On Wednesday we were up early and arrived at the parliament building at 9am. It was a breathtaking sight, !. After getting through the security checks we were led in to the main parliament chamber. It was brilliant. We got an introduction to the parliament and then got a chance to vote on certain topics with our electronic screens next to us. Then some of us got to ask questions to the three heads of the parliament. I stood up and got my question on Turkey's chances of joining the EU answered delightfully. We then got lunch and afterwards the Eurogame quiz began. I was on a team with a French Student, a Swedish Student and a Hungarian Student. We didn't win but I got to know a bit about their countries and they got to know about Ireland. Then the finals of eurogame began and it was time to leave after the closing ceremony.

On Thursday morning we had a look around the famous cathedral in Strasbourg before heading for Paris. We arrived about 5pm for some shopping and an evening tour of Paris. We all got some great pictures of the Eiffel tower. Back at our hotel we all had a great big party till 3 am ordering pizzas and having 10 bottles of coke each. Nobody slept.

On Friday it was back to the airport for our trip home. We arrived in Dublin at 2pm and it was time for goodbyes. We all promised to meet up sometime next year for a reunion. We swapped mobile numbers and promised to text each other and keep in touch. I had a brilliant time and I will never forget the craic with the boys and (girls!!!!) in Strasbourg.

**Jim O Callaghan**

Second Year



## Chess Club

This year our school team made it to the finals of the All Ireland Chess Competition. This is the furthest we have got so far. We played four teams, which was very difficult as none of us had played that many matches in a row at such a high level. The team was comprised of Feargus Fawsitt, Cathal Malone, Stephen Walters and Joshua Byrne. The competition was held in the Kilmurray Lodge hotel in Castletroy, Limerick. We all won points with Stephen Walter scoring three victories, which was a great achievement as we were against Irish internationals. It was a great experience and we learned valuable strategies for next year.

The school's Grandmaster tournament was played recently with yours truly (FF) winning it, Cathal Malone coming a very close second and Stephen Walters third. As we go to press the semi-finals of the First Year Chess Championship have just finished. Adrian O' Leary beat Shane Murray and Richard Magee beat Edmund O' Halloran in very close battles. The chess championship was a classic this year and produced some surprise results, Garreth Allen beating both Martin Burke and Eoin Breen in the battle of the heavyweights on his way to the final, where he was humbled by the chess shark, Adrian O' Leary.

In our final inter-schools match we were hosting Regina Mundi. It was an exciting match and we enjoyed making some new friends as well. I look forward to playing them again next year.

**Feargus Fawsitt & Adrian O' Leary.**



The school Chess team with mentor Mr Buckley who reached the All-Ireland final Schools Chess Competition

## Cork Choral Festival

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of April the school choir entered the National Competition for Youth Choirs as part of the Cork Choral Festival. We started practising the two songs, "Drill ye Tarriers" and "Wade in the Water", just after the Christmas Holidays. "Drill ye Tarriers" is a fast tempo work song accompanied by the piano. "Wade in the Water" is an unaccompanied four part religious song in the jazz style. After only a few weeks we felt that we were ready to perform them at our annual music night; "Music Fever". However after watching the video we realised that a lot of work still had to be done. A lot of the harmonies sounded wrong which were bringing down the performances of the songs. The day before the competition we had to go to the City Hall to go over the songs with the accompanist. One by a choir from Croatia, who sang an unaccompanied religious song, and one by a choir from Finland, who sang an unaccompanied traditional Finnish song.

Finally after many hours of practising (and much vocal encouragement from Ms. Leen) we were ready for the day. The nerves were tingling as we stepped up onto the stage, but once we started they were forgotten about. No one forgot their lines and we put in a great performance. When we had sung our songs all we could do was wait for the results.

After much nail biting the time came for the results to be announced. "In Third place...", we weren't called out. "In second place...", we still weren't called out. Then it came: "In first place, St. Francis College Rochestown", called out the presenter. We let out a big cheer and the crowd were applauding us. We were thrilled to have won. We won a painting donated to the Cork Choral Festival and €200 for the School.

Many thanks must go to our music teacher, Ms. Leen, who spent many hours getting the songs right.

**By Richard Barry**



School Choir. Winners of THE NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR COMPETITION in the CORK INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL 2005

## Under 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Cork Colleges Hurling Final

The game between Rochestown College and Mitchelstown was played at Bride Rovers pitch in Rathcormac. The game started evenly with both teams being very cautious not to give away any easy scores. Mitchelstown made the breakthrough, scoring two quick points from open play. Rochestown had chances too early on, but failed to capitalise. The pace of the Mitchelstown forward line was too quick and Rochestown gave away numerous frees which Mitchelstown converted easily. Rochestown were under a lot of pressure and Mitchelstown took advantage, scoring the first goal of the game. Mitchelstown scored another three points without reply, leaving the half time score at 1-9 to no score in favour of Mitchelstown. Mr. McDonnell gave a very inspi-

ration team talk at half time, which fired up the players. The second half began at a frantic pace, which saw Rochestown competing for every 50-50 ball.

Eoin Buckley scored Rochestown's first goal of the game, but Mitchelstown replied quickly scoring another goal. Rochestown battled well but Mitchelstown were too strong and in the last ten minutes ran away with the game scoring another 1-4 without reply. This left the final score at 3-13 to 1-2. Rochestown put on a brave display but in the end Mitchelstown were too strong, and we were well beaten in the end.

**Ian Giltinan and David Mc Donald**  
4<sup>th</sup> Year



The Under 14 1/2 hurling team with coach Mr McDonnell who reached the final of the Cork Colleges Hurling Competition

## IRISH

Nuair a shroich mé an scoil seo ar dtús, bhí mé an-néirbhíseach. Bhí a lán daoine nua anseo ach bhí cúpla duine a bhí a fhios agam ar. Bhuaill mé le daoine nua a bhí an-cháirdiúil agus gan mhoill ina dhiadh sin bhí chairde nua agam. Tá cúpla ábhair nua agam atá deacair ach is cuma liom mar tá mé ag dul i bhfeabhas. Tá na muinteoirí go cothrom anseo agus thóg siad an rang ar thuras uair nó dhó. Chuamar ar thuras oideacheas timpeall damba Chorcaigh agus chuamar ar bhord long mór darbh ainm an L.É. Aisling. Chuir na múinteoirí a lán oibre isteach ann agus baineamar an-taitneamh as. Go raibh míle maith

agaibh!! Chuamar go dtí an "Cork Pops Orchestra" freisin agus bhí sé thar barr! Bhí an thuras an-súimíúil agus d'fhoghlaim mé rudaí suimiúil nua as.

Tá sé an-difriúil ón Gaelscoil anseo ach níl sé ró-dona. Tá eolas nua agam ó nuair a bhí mé sa scoil seo. Tá grúpaí difriúil sa scoil seo, tá grúpaí ficheall, bad-maintáin, sacair, íomáinaíocht agus peil gaelach. Tá cór againn freisin agus táimid an-mhaith. Bhuaigh an cór cómhortas mór le deaná agus bhí feasta againn tar éis!!! Cheap me nuair a thainig mé anseo ag tús na bliana go beadh sé an-deacair, ach tar éis tamaill bhí mé cleachta leis an gnáth nua.

**E. Mac Aindriú** 1st Yr

## Under 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Cork Colleges Football

We started training in October with high hopes of winning the competition as we did last year. There were some changes to the team with the loss of great players such as David Carroll and Damien Ashman, but there were some good new players on the team from first year such as Thomas Noonan and Elliot Cantwell.

The competition started with two teams from Cobh and Crosshaven. With only five teams in our group we had three games before the final. Our first match was against Doneraile at home. We were really up against it as we had only played one practice match beforehand, and this was the team that we only narrowly beat in last years final. We won this match well in the end. With only one game left in the group we were gaining in confidence as the team were pulling together nicely. Mayfield was our last game, we thought that they would be strong but to our surprise they were not the best, and we beat them well. We were disappointed as we did not have a hard game throughout the tournament and we were coming up to the final untested. We got a better game in the semi final against Blarney. Although the score was 2-16 to 0-4 they attacked very well numerous times but couldn't put the points on the board as our backs were solid. We were

delighted to have won and to be in the final for 2 consecutive years.

A day before the final we found out that Eoghan Buckley could not play, due to injury. We were in good spirits as we togged out in the dressing room. Mr O Murchu had us well fired up for the game.

The game started with everyone diving in for 50-50 balls. We scored an early goal by Stephen Downey. Ballincollig, replied with 1-1. We went down by 5 points but with great displays from Cormac Collins and others, we were 2 points up at half time. We went back on full of confidence. With 5 minutes to go we were up 2 points. We were getting tired and Ballincollig were coming at us hard. As weather conditions were deteriorating, the game was getting tense as players were going in hard for the ball. Ballincollig kicked the ball into our 6 yard box, and an error in defence let Ballincollig steal a goal. With a fast kick out from Steve Hurley the last play of the game fell to Cormac who made a great run but hit the crossbar which left us a point down. The keeper kicked the ball out but the time was up for us for this year.

**Patrick Boyle,**  
Mark Jordan 2nd Year



The Under 14 1/2 football team who lost narrowly to Ballincollig Community School in the final of the Cork Colleges Competition with coach Mr Ó Murchú

## Prize-Giving

Rochestown held its annual prize-giving evening on Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>. Following the trend of recent years, the blue room was full to the brim with parents and students looking forward to an enjoyable evening.

Firstly, the presentation of a cheque was made to Ms. M. O'Sullivan of the Irish Motor Neuron Disease Association. The college has a particular link to this organisation as the late Fr. Aengus Fegan, a Capuchin Franciscan and former teacher in the school, suffered from this disease. After the presentation, Fr. Jack Twomey began the evening with an opening prayer. This was followed by some music as David Keating played 'Lady Hyndon's Allemande' on guitar.

The first awards to be given out were the Capuchin Franciscan awards. These awards rewarded students whose conduct throughout the year embodied the ethos of the school and that of the Capuchin Franciscan order. Presenting these awards was Bro. Jeremy Henegan.

The next awards given out were the academic awards, given to the students of each year with the highest overall grades. These awards were presented by Mr. Adrian Groeger. Following this were the school attendance awards, presented by Ms. Emer O'Daly to the students that didn't miss a single day during the year. Ironically, some of them were not present to collect their award! After this, Mr. Liam O Murchú presented the Irish award, followed by the music awards presented by Ms. Marion Leen, the science awards presented by Mr. Dan O' Regan and the merit awards presented by Ms. Olive Sexton, Fr. Jack Twomey and Mr. Jack Kennefick.

Next, the chairperson of the board of management Fr. Jack Twomey spoke. He was followed by the guest of honour Louis Lovett. Louis is a past pupil of the college and he entertained the crowd with stories of his time in the college. The one bad memory of the school he did have was that a spectacular goal that he had scored against the teachers was disallowed by Mr. O'Murchú. Louis, things haven't changed much since you've left!

Following this was the newly introduced I.T. award, and the John J. Power Geography Award presented by Mrs. P. Power. Next, former student Finbarr Brassil received the Leaving Cert. 2004 award and spoke fondly about his time in the college. After this the art awards were presented by Mr. David Barrett, followed by the sport awards including the Richard Buckley Memorial award for chess. This award was presented by Mr. J. Buckley.

Finally, there was a special presentation made by Mrs. Anne Conroy to John Coleman, who is retiring after serving as the school's care-taker for 25 Years. John will be missed by teachers and students alike. To finish the evening, Donal O'Shea provided some music with a piece on the viola.

### Dominic MacHale



Mr. B. Hourihan President of the PPU presenting Rochestown College students with their Hurling Awards at the Annual Awards Ceremony



Mr. D. Murray presenting Rochestown College Students Cathal Fitzpatrick and Paul Lordan with their Soccer Awards at the Annual Awards Ceremony



The Buckley family presenting Rochestown College Student Fergus Fawsitt with The Richard Buckley Memorial Chess Award at the Annual Awards Ceremony in the College



Mr. D. Ó Mathúna Principal Rochestown College presenting Mark O'Flynn with his overall Junior Achievement Award at the Annual Prizegiving Ceremony

## Prize-Giving



Ms O. Sexton presenting Rochestown College Students with their Merit Awards at the Annual Awards Ceremony



Mr. M. Hurley presenting Rochestown College student Eoghan Rynne with the Irish Medal at the Annual Awards Ceremony

### The Life and Times of a First Year Student

The year was tough for first years but all managed to make it through, bar one. Yes, there was that unfortunate loss of Gary Wycherley to the evil, uncivilised back of beyonds of Bantry. It took us a while to settle down, but once we did, the year went smoothly ... enough. I learned that there were many types of people coming together in 1st year. For example, there are people who stay quiet and out of trouble and people who are incapable of staying quiet for more than two minutes.

Although there were some disagreements at the start of the year, after September things quietened down. This was simply for the reason that because the numbers are so small, people who wanted to fight had already fought any other willing culprits. Coming up to the sports day I learned of a friendly rivalry between the very weary and mature Mr. Kennefick and the sprightly, blazer-wearing Mr. Buckley. The latter spread rumours among the students of a teachers' race which Mr. Kennefick had won the year before. I'm sure the dapper dresser was aware of what vintage we thought Mr. Kennefick was.

I was one of the lucky people to make it on to the Badminton team. Although we were knocked out in our first tournament, I had the chance to see some people from my primary school. One other highlight of my year was being selected for the competition choir. I felt very lucky to be taken out of classes to be quietly tutored by the calm Ms. Leen for forty minutes. We had the chance to hear some international choirs which we were glad not to be competing against. The win came completely unexpectedly to all, even Ms. Leen. I guess it just proves her theory that if you encourage a group of boys for long enough you'll get what you want. There were many events along the way, such as a can of Fanta exploding on Mr. Connor's leg on the Geography trip. There was also the subject choice between Art or Music for second year. After much thought, I have chosen Music. I have now made a point of not asking Mr. Barrett about my Art grade due to having crossed over to the dark side.

It was a good year - tests were never too hard and there was a nice environment. Teachers were hard-working and fair. I for one am confident I made the right choice in coming here.

David Vaughan / 1st Yr