

School Newsletter 17, 2011/12



Seat dedicated to the memory of late colleague and friend, Tom Walsh

In a busy week during which the Mock Examinations strated on Wednesday, there were Parent/Teacher meetings for 5th and 2nd years on Friday and Monday last respectively. There was also an information night for parents of 3rd years and TY students on programme options and subject choices for next year; this was held in the school church on Wednesday night. In addition the Assessment Day for incoming 1st Years, Sept. 2012, takes place on Saturday next as per details sent out to those concerned.

In a short prayer service on Thursday after school, an outdoor bench with an engraved plaque commemorating our colleague, Tom Walsh who died 2 years ago, was blessed and unveiled. The bench which is situated just outside the church will,

hopefully, be a place for a quiet thought or a moment of rest in memory of a quiet, soft spoken friend and gentleman, Tom.

The U-14 Football squad landed a comprehensive win over St Peters College in the South Leinster Final played in Enniscorthy on Friday last. The school was landing this trophy for the 3rd consecutive year and will now bid for a hat trick of Leinster titles with the not so minor matter of St Patricks, Navan to overcome in the semi final on Tuesday next.

Well done to all concerned. *(A full report of the game can be accessed in the P.E./Games section of this website)*

In a game played in atrocious wind and rain on Wednesday last, our Senior Footballers made a gallant exit from the championship when losing out by a single point to a highly rated Colaiste Eoin team. In an inevitably tight game with a final scoreline of 1-5 to 1-4, Counsel led midway through the second half until the Dublin side got a goal which put them one point up. Despite a huge effort the boys could never quite get the initiative back as the conditions made it extraordinarily to pick off scores. They did the school proud, nonetheless, and can be very proud of their contribution to school life. The time put in after school and during school holidays may not have brought glory but it will no doubt have cemented strong friendships which will hopefully last many years. We thank them and their mentors for all of those efforts.

Rehearsals for the joint school musical, 'The Hot Mikado' have begun and will continue over the next number of weeks in preparation for a series of performances in March. Good luck to all those involved in the production.

U-14 Sth Leinster Football Champions, 2011/12



Captain, Ian Carthy, receives the trophy from the legendary, Pat Henderson.

Good Counsel, New Ross...5-11

St. Peter's, Wexford...2-3

Our U-14 Footballers retained the South Leinster Schools juvenile football championship 'A' title for the third consecutive year with a convincing win over old foes St. Peter's of Wexford in the decider at St. Patrick's Park on Friday afternoon.

The victory puts them through to the Leinster Semi-final, and the chance to continue their quest for a remarkable hat-trick of Leinster titles at U-14 level.

Mikey Dwyer opened the scoring for 'the Counsel' in the first minute after a great run from left wing forward which was followed up by an equally impressive major from Adam Mansfield in the eight minute. Another point from O' Dwyer (11min) was followed quickly by a point from one of our two first year players on the starting team, Tadhg Cody (17min). Some impressive forward running and support play resulted in a Joe Sutton point (22min) and another Adam Mansfield goal (23min) before St Peter's registered their first and only score of the first half, a pointed free (26min). The Good Counsel defence and midfield performed very well as a unit with individual battles being won all over the field. The outstanding performance of capt' Ian Carthy at centre back and the courageous block of full back Adam Winters (17min) to prevent an almost certain score, were defensive highlights in the first half worth noting. The first half score was 3.4 – 0.1 in favour of Good Counsel.

St Peter's restarted with intent and caught the Counsel out with a well taken goal in the first minute of the second half. This seemed to spark our boys into life however, and straight from the kick out the ball made its way to Adam Mansfield who appeared to 'lob' the keeper from thirty yards at the end of yet another threatening run. The crowd went wild! With our defence on top and our Midfield pairing of Daragh Lyons and Martin Fitzharris in flying form, our forwards found opportunities aplenty. Mikey Dwyer scored an excellent brace of points from distance (36 & 40min), which was followed by a pointed free from substitute Mark Rossiter (48 min). St Peter's first point from play(51min) was followed by an Adam Mansfield point(52min) before perhaps the point of the day, a Mikey Dwyer long range point that seemed impossible when being tackled by up to three St Peter's players at the time. The final St Peter's point (54min) was again followed up by an Adam Mansfield point (56min) before Joe Sutton stormed through for a cracker of a goal after some very good approach play (57mins). Darragh Lyons scored the Counsel's final score of

the day, a point from play which was a good reward for his work on the day (57min). It seemed that the Counsel had started to celebrate too early however when St Peter's struck for a goal in the final minute of the game. Although the team and subs performed very well on the day they will need to improve somewhat on their teamwork in the final third and get a greater return from their possession, as their wide count of (16) is far too high if they are to go any further in this competition. Well done to all concerned on a job well done and a fantastic result for our school. Also, many thanks to the teachers and parents who accompanied our second year students as supporters on the day.

Counsel Team/Panel:

1. Cian Ó Connor (Cloughbawn) 2. Conor Crosby (St James) 3. Adam Winters (Taghmon) 4. Sean Barden (Adamstown) 5. Evan Murphy (Adamstown) 6. Ian Carthy (Taghmon) 7. Eoin Higgin (Rathnure) 8. Martin Fitzharris (Gusseranne) 9. Daragh Lyons (St James) 10. Michael Dwyer (Fethard) 11. Paul Manning (Tullogher) 12. Adam Mansfield (Mullinavat) 13. Tadhg Cody (Cushinstown) 14. Luke Sinnott (Taghmon) 15. Joe Sutton (Fethard) 16. Mark Rossiter (Gusseranne) 17. Richie Waters (Fethard) 18. John Roche (Gusseranne) 19. Shane Doyle (Taghmon) 20. Eoin Porter (Cushinstown) 21. Daire McGrath (Tullogher) 22. Ciarán Conway (Gusseranne) 23. Liam Stafford (Adamstown) 24. Ore Mojogegbe (Tullogher) 25. Sam Wall (Gusseranne) 26. Martin Doyle (Fethard) 27. Mark O'Neill (Gusseranne) 28. Andrew Walsh (St James) 29. Clem Rossiter (Bannow-Ballymitty) 30. Daire Bolger (Cushinstown) 31. Rory Higgins (Rathnure)

Scorers:

Adam Mansfield (3-2), Mikey Dwyer (1-5), Joe Sutton (1-1), Mark Rossiter (0-1f)

Subs / Ionadaí

Mark Rossiter(0-1f) for Tadhg Cody, John Roche for Evan Murphy, Richie Waters for Paul Manning, Shane Doyle for Conor Crosbie, Ciarán Conway for Luke Sinnott
Referee – Pat Kehoe (Carlow).

Class of '91 – Reunion



From the Class of '91, John Lawlor, Richard Murphy and Kevin Cowman

The Leaving Cert. class of 1991 met for a reunion over the Christmas period with over 40 of the cohort gathering in 'The Ship' on North Street. Organised mainly by Clem Power, Tom

Galway, Michael McCormack and Kevin Cowman it was a very pleasant evening with lots of schoolday incidents being recalled, losing nothing in the telling. Other members of the class had been in contact to wish the gathering well even though for various reasons they themselves could not attend.



P J Doyle, Shane O'Brien, Martin Ryan and John Mackey

School Newsletter 16, 2011/12

A very busy few weeks in the school calendar with parent/teacher meetings for 1st years held on Tuesday last and those for 2nd and 5th coming up in the next 10 days in addition to the start of the 'Mocks' on February 1st. There are also information evenings for the parents of 3rd/Tys and

1st years on February 1st and 8th respectively while the Assessment Day for the incoming first years of September 2012 takes place on Saturday, February 4th. Please note that the Parent/Teacher meetings for 2nd and 5th years will take place in the Sports Hall.



The current 6th year Meitheal Leaders received their certificates of appreciation at a ceremony held in Wexford on Tuesday last. by the Co. Wexford Meitheal Alliance. Two 1st year students, Eoin Porter and Darragh Lyons made the presentation on behalf of the current 1st years with whom the Leaders have worked this year. 'Meitheal' is a mentoring programme where 6th year students work with the new 1st years, particularly through the first term to help with the transition to secondary school and to provide support in a relaxed and friendly manner. Our thanks go to those senior students who have carried out the role so effectively this

year and also to Ms Bolger who put a lot of work into ensuring an effective schedule was put in place and that the leaders were fully prepared for their task.

Congratulations to both the U-16 and U-14 football teams who had good wins during the week against St Peters College and Carlow CBS, respectively. The U-16s in defeating St Peters, retained their South Leinster Title and now progress to face St Patricks, Navan in the Leinster Semi Final. The U-14s, meanwhile, will play St Peters College in their South Leinster final in Enniscorthy on Friday next.

Our Senior footballers host Colaiste Eoin of Stillorgan on Wednesday next in the Leinster Championship. The Dublin side come with a very tall reputation so it will require a top class effort from our boys if they are to progress to the quarter final.

While the U-19 Badminton team, under the guidance of Mr Coffey, lost out narrowly to Terenure College in the Leinster final played in Dublin on Tuesday last, the school showjumping team returned to the top of the Hoofprints League with a thrilling win in Thurles over the weekend. The team of Ethan Cahill, Daniel Holden, Stefan Kirwan and Jim Redmond saw off some stiff competition from Kilkenny College and Newbridge College by posting the fastest time in the jump off. Well done to them and many thanks to the parents who travel with them and support them .Thanks also to Mr molloy who lent his expertise to the group at the Sunday's event.

As the 2nd anniversary of his death occurs at this time of year we remember our colleague Tom Walsh while also extending sympathy to the Butler family on the loss of their wife and mother, Sharon, who died last week. May she rest in peace.

School Newsletter 15; 2011/12



Just before the Christmas break a group of former pupils, 5 of whom are students at Mercyhurst College, Pennsylvania, USA, dropped in to say hello and to speak to the current 6th year

group about life in third level level education in America. Good Counsel has had a very successful relationship with Mercyhurst over the years and the past pupils, in addressing the 6th years, spoke in very positive terms about their experiences to date.

While these 5 young men pictured above, Stephen Donohue, Richard Molloy, Ciaran Doherty, Simon Murphy and Darren Conway headed west across the Atlantic on leaving Good Counsel the 6th member of the visiting party, Michael Stafford headed east across the Irish Sea to further a career in the music industry which he has done very successfully thusfar. Better known by his stage name of Maverick Sabre, Michael has appeared on such high profile TV programmes as 'Later With Jools' and 'The Late Late Show' as well as touring extensively. His presence in the school created quite a stir and he may have done more writing in signing autographs than he did while here as a student. We are very grateful to all of them for calling in; it is always very pleasant to see past pupils drop by.

On a similar note, the Leaving Certificate class of 1991 had a get together in 'The Ship' on North Street on the night of December 28. A good turn out of approximately 40 turned out for what was a most enjoyable night of chat and reminiscences. It is always interesting to see the various directions people's lives and careers have taken and of course many incidents and encounters from their days in 'The Counsel', none of which were diminished in the telling by the passage of time, were recalled. Hopefully some of the contacts renewed will be maintained into the future.

Fr O'Donnell R.I.P.



The death took place in Dungarvan last week of former school chaplain, Fr. Columba O'Donnell, a man fondly remembered by students, staff and parents from his time here at Good Counsel College. Fr O'Donnell had been serving as chaplain in our sister school, St Augustines for the past number of years and his popularity there was no less than it had been in New Ross. The great affection for the man was reflected in the huge turn out of students, past and present, and of local families whose lives he had enriched with his infectious enthusiasm and optimism.

While chaplain of Good Counsel, Fr O'Donnell made it his goal to visit the family home of every student each school year, an enormous undertaking given the numbers and the geography involved but one which he carried out successfully and with great rewards in the appreciation shown by all those he visited. For any member of the school community who needed a little help and support, Fr O'D was always there to provide a

listening ear and a kind word.

He will be sorely missed by all whose lives he touched in the various communities he served. Our sympathies are extended to his family, his Augustinian brothers and to all his friends.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.