Professor Trevor West was synonymous for over 50 years with Midleton College. He served as a board member for 36 years, 24 of those as Chairperson. Professor West had a vision for the kind of education Midleton should provide: A Christian base, independent thought, an exposure to the arts & humanities, an involvement in sport, a questing mind in the sciences, an involvement in society; what is often described as ‘an holistic education’.

Inasmuch as this term is often used in relation to Midleton College, past, current and future generations of students, staff and families are in his debt. Professor West was a crucial support to 3 Headmasters of the College, Mr Jim Smyth, Mr Brian Cairns and myself. He is sorely missed by all and our sympathy and support continues to his wife Mrs. Maura Lee West and the wider family circle.

Simon Thompson, Headmaster
MIDLETON COLLEGE
CO. CORK

Founded 1696

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TELEPHONES
Office and Principal – 021 4631146 Staff – 021 4632389 Pupils – 021-4621110

FAX 021-4632279 e-mail: info@midletoncollege.ie Web Site: www.midletoncollege.ie
MIDLETON COLLEGE
CO. CORK

A Limited Company, Midleton College Ltd., has been established with responsibility for all financial matters relating to the College.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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A Board of Management of Midleton College was incorporated by the Board of Governors in June 2009. The membership comprises nominees of the Patron Body, elected staff members, elected parent members and the Principal. The members of each Board of Management serve for a three year period.

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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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DR. I. HAYES

SECRETARY
MR. S. THOMPSON
EDITORIAL

Welcome once again to the Midleton College annual magazine. The primary purpose of this editorial is to give a flavour of the contents to be found within these familiar blue covers. Much has occurred in the life of the school in the past twelve months. The intricate details may be found in the Principal’s Report and in individual articles by staff and students here we merely present a humble thumbnail sketch.

Physically the school campus continues to change with the demolition of the venerable Kenworthy building. The IT and history department are now comfortably ensconced in the new Colton building. This was named in honour of Bishop Colton for his tireless fundraising on behalf of the College and was officially opened on the 21st of September by Ruari Quinn T.D., Minister for Education and Skills. It was a red letter day for the school and provided a deep sense of satisfaction upon seeing a very ambitious project coming to fruition so successfully. It is also pleasing to report that September saw our biggest ever intake of First Form students (68) so that all classrooms old and new will continue to be fully utilised! Meanwhile the work continues towards the building of a new Sports Complex and with over a quarter of the necessary funds now raised it will surely be only a matter of time before this dream too becomes a reality. If you wish to personally help in this endeavour see “The Friends of Midleton College” article on p. 7.

Academically it has been a very good year with both the Junior and Leaving Certificate students performing extremely well (and in some cases beyond our and their expectations!). In our wall of fame feature we pay tribute to Amy Kingston, Eoin Walsh and Mark Twomey (Form VI) on their outstanding results. It also praises the individual sporting achievements of Ned Hodson, Josh O’Sullivan-Hourihan, Andrew Colton, Andrew Power and Gavin Smiddy and the ongoing success of our students of the Chinese language and culture. Read it to find out more! Generally the year was a mixed bag for sport but as Mr Leopold references Kipling in his Senior Boys Hockey article, it is how you deal with the “two impostors of victory and defeat that really matters!

The odious Claudius in Shakespeare’s ‘Hamlet’ correctly pointed out that “sorrows come not single spy but in battalions” and there has been cause for sadness during the year. The deaths of Trevor Levis, Dr Elmer Morrissey and most recently Prof Trevor West deeply impacted on the school community past and present. Each had a close association with the college and in the case of Professor West he literally wrote the book on the place with his Tercentenary ‘History of Midleton College’. He was a past pupil, his father was a past Headmaster and Prof West served as a member of the Board of Governors for 36 years. His contribution to the life of the school would be impossible to quantify. Trevor Levis was a past pupil and retained close links to the school through his brother John and sister-in-law Ruth. The Trevor Levis Perpetual Cup for the most promising Form I rugby player has been established in his memory. Dr Elmer Morrissey Class of 1998 died at a tragically young age with so much potential yet to be fulfilled. Tributes to all three may be found in the obituaries section and we offer our heartfelt sympathies to their families and friends. Bishop Colton lost both his parents within the space of a few months this year and we likewise offer him our deepest condolences.

Mrs Ruth Levis retired this year and we wish her many happy years avoiding housework in Aghada! In a pleasing symmetry her son Andrew is now “taking up the slack” in the Geography department! See tribute articles and photos on P. 60. Ruth was a stalwart of the Geography and English Departments for over thirty years and has definitely earned her right to a place “where peace comes dropping slowly” and importunate students voices slowly fade away (with apologies to WB Yeats and Mrs Levis in that order!).

The year also saw a bewildering array of trips, tours, excursions and exchanges. Members of Form V travelled to the Netherlands for the bi-annual Geography Tour, all the more poignant as it was Mrs Levis’ last one! Not one but two sets of students went to Shanghai in China. One group were there on linguistic ability as part of the Confucius Institute language exchange programme while the others were attending a Science expo. The fact that these Midleton College students could meet up for tea on the far side of the world is actually quite astonishing! Members of Form II went on exchange to Ellwagan in Germany and members of Form III went to Almeria in Spain. Closer to home members of Form IV enjoyed a week on Heir Island and later a day out at Ballyhass Activity Centre. Form II also went to Ballyhass last year and Form I had their annual historical outing to Ferrycarrig and of course members of Form IV travelled to Calcutta on behalf of the Hope Foundation. In a pleasant new development pupils of an Indian school...
made a reciprocal visit to Midleton in October of this year. Details of all these trips are to be found in this year’s magazine.

Within the school the Transition Year modules continue to prosper and details may be read within these pages. As an adjunct of the Journalism module Mrs Paula Stead is trying to establish a definitive archive for Midleton College (see the appeal p. 90) and I urge people to support her efforts. Outside of this worthy endeavour we once again ask that any past associate of the school make contact to enrich the jottings portion of the magazine with their current status. This year the magazine will be posted on the college website to be read and downloaded which hopefully will encourage an electronic response from some past pupils!

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks to all who assisted in the compilation of the magazine this year. Ironically, the last articles submitted, came from the 6th Form Magazine Committee (which says more about the nature of committees than any of the individual students involved!). To those remarkable few who submitted work within the established deadlines well done indeed! To those who submitted past the due date try to do better in the future! To Mrs O’Sullivan-Hourihan, Mrs Stead and the Secretarial staff my thanks for the typing and collection of articles. To Mrs Linehan and Mr Power for their technological expertise and to Mrs Cairns for her assiduous collection of the jottings. Finally a huge debt of gratitude is owed to Mrs Shelley O’Reilly who has the unenviable task of compiling all the random articles and pictures into a coherent whole. To all named above and to all who contributed to this magazine in any way shape or form thank you! Without people willing to make an effort we could produce nothing!

Editor: J.B. Hickey

Editorial Committee: Claire Douglas, Adam Erangey, Oliver Ind, Oliver Kane, Jess Knoblauch, John McEvoy, Billy McCarthy, Paddy Moloney, Fiona Power, Rachel Quinn, Hannah Spink, Robbie Steele, Tiger Waite.

Photographs: Mr Power, Mrs Cairns, Mrs Curtin, Mr Leopold, Ms Linehan, Ms O’ Regan, Mr Stanley, Mr Thompson.

- Ed.

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE 2012

Congratulations to each of our Scholarship winners on their outstanding achievements consequent on their superb Leaving Certificate results in 2012.

Gavin Smiddy (Form IV) and his horse Mr Hale Bob had an exceptional year in 2012, winning several competitions including each of the three Irish European team qualifiers, at Tyrella in Co Down, at Ballindenisk International in Cork and at the final international at Tattersall’s Ireland. He achieved his dream of a place in the Irish Pony eventing team to compete in Fontainbleau in France in July 2012 where the team of Cathal Daniels, Anna O’Brien, Lucy Latta and Gavin Smiddy won Gold for Ireland, (the first ever Irish Pony Eventing Team to achieve team gold).

This July three Midleton College students successfully represented their school and their country at the “Shanghai International Sister Cities Youth Camp 2012”. Well done to Billy, Jack and Andrew and long may Chinese studies continue to flourish within the school!

Eoin Walsh
University College Dublin
Mechanical Engineering

Amy Kingston
Trinity College Dublin
Medicinal Chemistry

Mark Twomey
University College Cork
Law


2nd left Jack Cowhig, 4th left Billy McCarthy, 5th left Andrew McGregor.
An Invitation to all who count themselves as Friends of Midleton College to join us.

The purpose of the Friends is to invite current parents/guardians, teachers/staff, as well as past members of staff, past pupils and any supporter to show a continuing interest in and support for the life, work and ethos of Midleton College.

As this is the foundation year for the Friends of Midleton College you now have the opportunity to become a founder member and to have your name included on a commemorative plaque.

Friends of Midleton College will receive the College Magazine annually. A newsletter and College calendar will be circulated at the start of each school year with an open invitation to attend College events. The Friends will have a dedicated page on the College website and email notification of special events. The Friends are already maintaining a presence on Facebook. In addition, it is hoped, in due course, to hold special gatherings and social activities from time to time.

We hope that you might accept this invitation to be part of this exciting new venture. Those who are already involved in the Midleton College Association might think of extending your College involvement to include now membership of this new body as well, the Friends of Midleton College.

Founder members are invited to enrol as a household of one or two people per household. There is a choice of membership levels (each includes up to 2 people at one address):

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual membership</td>
<td>€30 per annum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory five-year membership</td>
<td>€100 for five years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founder Member Lifetime membership (2012 rate only)</td>
<td>€300</td>
</tr>
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The Founder Member Lifetime membership, being to a qualifying charity, may, in your case, be eligible for tax efficient giving also.

The names of all who take Founder Life Membership before the end of March 2013 will be inscribed on a commemorative founding plaque which will be permanently located at the College.

We are confident that you value your link with Midleton College, its history, its present, and your involvement in it. We hope too that you will accept this new opportunity to journey with us into our future together by joining the Friends of Midleton College.

If you are interested in joining the Friends please email your name and address to:

friends@midletoncollege.ie

A Friends’ Membership Form will then be posted to you.
The following is the Address given by the Principal, Mr Simon Thompson, at the Annual Prize Day on Friday October 12th 2012.

A mhíora, chathoirleach, a dhaoine uaisle, is mór an phríbhliadh agus onóir dom failte a chur roimh gach duine anseo inniu chuig ócáid mhór i stair Choláiste Mhainistir na Corann an lá bronadh na ndúiseanna dha mhile is a d'fhágadh.

Ba mhaith liom failte foílte a chur roimh a chur chuimhneachtaí go mbí sinn ann. Tá an lá agu an go mbainfidh tú taitneamh as an lá, anseo inár measc.

Bishop Good, Bishop Colton, Mayor, Deputies, Ladies and Gentlemen it is my great privilege to welcome you once again to the academic Prize Day for Midleton College for 2012. Bishop Good, I thank you for honouring us with your presence as Guest Speaker. It is wonderful for us to be the cause of you and your wife Mary returning not only to Cork but today, to Midleton College, your former school.

During the past year our senior history students visited Northern Ireland for their special topic research. The reality is that for many in the group it was their first visit to the North. Their experience is not untypical. It is a sign perhaps of the ongoing sense of separateness that still exists across our island. Your spiritual and pastoral work in Derry and Raphoe uniquely requires an immersion in life in both parts of our island seeking to extend and further the interrelationships between people in the living of their faiths. I thank you on behalf of us all for all that you give in this regard and know that through your wisdom and guidance closer links continue to build between people of goodwill across Ireland.

I believe there are many aspects of our College that you will still recognize on a tour of the campus since the days when you were a student. The current generation of students and staff remain the fortunate inheritors of the work of many previous generations in creating the resources we still use today. Our school is still a place where people come first, where friendship matters, where parents are involved as partners whose support is vital to our ongoing success.

Equally, it is important that in our own time we maintain the constant forward movement of resources both in small ways and large ensuring our students are best catered for as far as we can provide.

The major work of the last six years culminated in the opening of ‘The Colton Building’ by the Minister of Education and Skills, Ruáiri Quinn T.D. on the 21st September. This was a significant day in the history of the College as the first serving Minister for Education performed the opening ceremony.

‘The Colton Building’ is the largest capital investment in facilities in a generation. It is a building that has been co-funded by the Department of Education and Skills and Midleton College. I expressed on the day of the opening, and do again now, the deep gratitude of our school community to the DES for the allocation of contributory funding to this project allowing it to provide long sought resources for our students. It is transforming our ability to provide relevant and important teaching facilities for our students, crucial as it is our students who lie at the centre of all we do. It is the hub of our Information Technology activity, guided by Ms Linehan, Mr Power and our GAP student Mr Elission Ziemmer alongside the rapidly expanding Home Economics department led by Ms Lawlor.

Minister Quinn was good enough to recognize the inclusive, democratic structures that exist in Midleton College during his visit. Central to this has been the benefit that has derived from the creation of the Board of Management. It was right that the Colton Building opening occurred within weeks of the completion of the three-year term of office of the 1st Board of Management. This body is comprised of Patron Nominees, elected parent and teacher members. The energy generated by the co-operative fusing of talent and interest of the Board members, supported by Directors and Governors, lit the fire that drove the engine of activity which saw this project move from idea to reality. Today I take the opportunity on behalf of all of us who work and study in the College to pay tribute to the Board members who have overseen this great project. I ask you to recognize them with applause.

It is perhaps no coincidence that the attendance at our recent Open Day showed a significant increase on previous years as families wished to investigate the facilities the College is now able to provide. To our Board members I can confirm that your investment is fulfilling your vision day after day in the life of the College.

Yet it remains a reality that our school faces significant challenges in the immediate and medium-term future. By far the greatest of these is the government’s on-going audit of fee-charging voluntary schools. Today I want to share with you the scale of the challenges the State is placing in front of us. Since 2009, the State has withdrawn all secretarial, administrative, caretaker and ancillary grants from our school; these primarily amount to 200,000 per year. They have suspended access to the Summer Works Scheme for our school, they have suspended future capital funding from our school; they have cut our teacher allocation by a total of four teachers since 2009. We have reviewed, restructured and reorganised our operations to allow us to maintain our range of services in order to access for our full student cohort. In as much as our enrolments have increased from 306 to 354 in that time, we have been successful, but now I have to say that we cannot realistically hope to continue indefinitely in the face of what appears to be a concerted campaign targeting schools such as ours.

Though serving, in the first instance, the Protestant community of East and North Cork, our school is by nature coeducational, it has boarders and day pupils and is non-selective in enrolment. Our school is supported by families from across this region because we work very hard to provide for and cater for each and every one of our students during the six years of their education.
Research commissioned by the Council of Governors of minority faith schools from Amárach Research in June of this year supports the belief in the unique and different structures of Protestant-managed schools. The results are robust as they are provided by 1,800 families from the total of just over 6,000 families who have students in our schools across the country. I wish to focus on two central research findings.

For 71% of respondents, the ethos and academic reputation of the school were the key deciding factors in parental choice. These figures were even higher among the most economically and socially vulnerable families whose children are enrolled, reflecting the even greater importance placed on the power of education as an underpinning for the young person’s future life.

The second key feature identified was the mix of social groups found within our schools. Our school is peopled by families, many of whom, have made a conscious decision to forego material goods in order to invest what you see as a key priority for your children – their education.

What makes our schools unique is that they are established to serve the community. We do not hold entrance examinations. We are co-educational. We serve students of all abilities. We have full-time learning support and resource provision in every year group in the school. We provide a comprehensive education.

29% of respondents confirmed that they had an annual family income of €60,000 or less. It is simply iniquitous thinking by certain voices within the current government parties to believe that people’s use of their after-tax income on education in such circumstances is a luxury. It is a right, not a subsidy, for parents to have a provision of education made for their children by the State.

Some politicians, while advancing their general argument acknowledge that there is a specific situation regarding minority faith second level schools but claim that that is a separate debate for another day. It is not. The reality is that some of the proposals currently being raised could have the consequential impact, planned or otherwise, of removing many Protestant-managed schools from the landscape of Irish education.

The application of a ‘one-size fits all model’ which gives no regard to the specific structure and function of this College may well sweep aside the community-based nature of this school. We will continue to challenge the flawed policy of those within the current coalition government who wish to reduce or remove the right of choice of an Ethos-based education choice by parents for their children.

I thank our Chairperson for his ongoing active involvement in bringing to the fore the unique structures of schools such as Midleton College which are within his diocese. I know Bishop Colton’s actions are supported by Bishop Good and other Bishops across the island. I also encourage our parents to make your voice heard with local politicians in the weeks ahead as Budget decisions are finalised.

We welcome to our staff this year Mr Andrew Levis, Ms Valerie Ollivier and Mr Ellison Ziemmer. Higher Diploma Students Ms Bridget O’Riordan, Mr Daniel Mulligan and Mr Feargal Walsh also join us. Ms Kristen Hollowell joins us to take up the role of Church of Ireland diocesan youth link for the year. Ms Rachel Dool arrives as a teaching assistant in Mathematics and Science.

The College welcomed 68 new 1st Form students this year, a year which for the first time ever has more girls than boys. The first years have been getting to know each other and taking their first steps in the academic and extra-curricular programmes.

Another new group at the start of each school year are the incoming senior Prefects. The senior prefects play an important leadership role linking 6th Form to the other years in school and to the staff of the College. As they commence into their respective roles I ask them to come forward now to receive their insignias for the year from our chairperson, Bishop Colton.

Head Boarding Girl: Jessica Knoblauch
Head Boarding Boy: Colin Jermyn
Head Day Girl: Fiona Power
Head Day Boy: Daniel Wardle

I also wish to congratulate the members of the Student Council on their election by their peers. I wish the Chairperson for the year, Eamon Moloney, as he coordinates the work of the Council in the year ahead. A 99% turnout in the annual election gives each new member a strong mandate for the year ahead. I thank Ms O’Regan for taking on the role of staff liaison with the Student Council. Ms O’Regan’s wisdom and sound guidance will prove an important asset for the Student Council in all its activities. This is in addition to Ms O’Regan’s overseeing the ongoing transformation of the Art Room.

As our former students progress through to Third Level we endeavour to retain contact with their progress. In the past 12 months 2 former students have attained 1st Class Honours at degree level and we would like to make a small presentation to them now:

Presentation to 1st Class Honours students:
Colin Jermyn Engineering in UCD
Polo Crosbie Business Economics and Social Studies in TCD

Last June the College said farewell to Mrs. Ruth Levis who completed 35 years of outstanding service as teacher, Post Holder, coach, Student Council liaison, mentor, colleague and friend. Mrs. Levis is living embodiment of all that makes an excellent teacher in this College; absolute mastery of subject material, excellent communication skills, organized, meticulous, nobody’s fool but someone everyone respected.

These are all important qualities but Mrs. Levis possessed much more. Ruth loved the personal interaction that the role of teacher permits while possessing the confidence to utilize that space effectively in guiding the ethical and moral development of her students. At the end of the day we can most all of us teach subject material, but transmitting an appropriate ethical and moral pathway to the sometimes fragile understanding of adolescent students, that is what separates the good from the great. Mrs. Levis was a ‘great’.
In the concluding weeks of the year, the Inspectorate had one final excitement for members of the Geography department, a Subject Inspection. The Inspector left well pleased with what he had seen. The final Report described the quality of teaching and learning as ‘very good’, the Inspectorate highest level of praise. ‘Interaction, challenge and engagement were central to the classroom experience’, the Report states. I congratulate the members of the Geography department on this outstanding Report. That our Deputy Principal, Mr Morrissey, continues to teach Geography in addition to the fulfilment of all his administrative responsibilities is proof once again of his unique personal and professional qualities. I could not do my job without his support and friendship and I thank him for all he does for the College.

The College continues to be the beneficiary of outstanding support from two associations, the Parent-Teacher Association and the Midleton College Association. In recent weeks the PTA has elected their new committee. Mrs Bronwen Lynch, Mrs Tracy Wardle and Mrs Bernie Browne have all retired from their respective positions. To each of them I express my gratitude for the leadership and input they have given over the past 3 years ensuring the ongoing development of the PTA in encouraging parents to have an involvement in the education of your children. This week Mrs Gráinne Keating has been elected as the new Chairperson alongside Mrs Mandy Devlin, Secretary and Mrs Liz Deane, Treasurer. I wish each of them and their fellow committee members well as they take on their new voluntary roles.

The MCA, led by President Mr John Smyth and Secretary Mrs Kay Cairns, also continues to support the activities of the students of the College and act as a point of communication and socialization for former pupils. Tomorrow the Association is supporting the ‘Scrap Saturday’ disposal of waste metal products fund-raising in Tattans Yard in Midleton. In a fortnight the annual gathering for past pupils and parents. Today we recognise the specific achievements of 30 of last year’s Junior Certificate students, but in so doing we acknowledge the collective achievement within the Year group.

Collectively they have produced the most outstanding set of Junior Certificate results over the course of the past 25 years. It is remarkable that 99.68% of all papers were passed, 76% were taken at higher level and, perhaps most astonishingly of all, more than twice as many Higher Level ‘A’s were achieved as any year group who have sat the Junior Certificate at this school.

An extraordinary 96 Higher Level ‘A’s were achieved. It is no embarrassment to myself, my colleagues or previous years to note that only once in the past decade has a Junior Certificate group attained in excess of 43 Higher Level A grades.

Thus the total number of prizes awarded today for the Junior Certificate class is higher than ever before. This year we are awarding a greater number of The Midleton College Scholarship, Association and Principal’s prizes than ever before at Junior Certificate. These prizes recognise, each in their own way, the exceptional achievements of students whose attainment in this year’s State exams surpassed their teachers’ collective expectations and possibly the students’ own. I salute each prize winner in Junior cycle.

Ruth Provan-Bessell is awarded the Intermediate Shield having attained 9 ‘A’ Honours in all nine subjects – absolute mastery of each subject taken. Anthony O’Shea and Daisy Beth Gibbons ran Ruth very close, both attaining 7 Higher Level ‘A’ grades. Their achievement was emblematic of the exceptional performance in the Junior Certificate this year. 76% of papers were taken at Higher Level and, of these, honours were attained in 88% across all subjects.

Leaving Certificate 2012

This overall level of achievement was matched by the Leaving Certificate class of 2012. 73% of papers taken at Higher Level is a record for the College. 99.3% of papers were passed with 100% pass rates attained in the subjects of Irish, English and Maths. The introduction of 25 bonus points for Mathematics has proved controversial and will be subject to Departmental review. Nonetheless we can give thanks for the achievements of our own students, allowing for the additional stress and strain that they, their families and their teachers lived with: all our candidates attained a D grade or higher. I wish to thank each member of the Mathematics department for having immersed themselves in preparation for the new Project maths curriculum and ensuring its introduction has been a success for our students.

In total, the average CAO points score attained by our students was 417 as opposed to a national average of 330. 45% of our students achieved 450 CAO points or higher in 2012.

Mark Twomey and Amy Kingston were awarded the Moore Memorial Prize for the highest overall set of grades obtained this year. Amy achieved 595 CAO points and is studying Medicinal Chemistry in TCD. Mark also achieved 595 points and is studying Law at UCC.

Andrew Colton has been awarded the Maura Lee West Prize for Special Achievement, reflecting both his outstanding Leaving Certificate as well as his selection for Munster

Sports Complex Fundraising

18 months ago we launched our fundraising initiative to build a Sports Complex at the College. The response of parents, friends and the local community to the ceaseless voluntary efforts of our committee members has been remarkable. To date we have raised €261,000, over a quarter of the costs needed to bring the project to a reality. I thank each committee member for their outstanding commitment to seeing this project through and likewise express gratitude to each and every person who has been kind enough to support the Sports Complex in whatever manner they have felt able to do so.

State Exams

You will notice the 3rd Form of 2012 have been awarded a large total number of prizes. This reflects the fulfilment of potential right across the year group. There is clearly a coalescence of a pool of hard-working students, committed to achieving the very best they are capable of, which stretches right across the Year group. What is also demonstrated by these results is further evidence of the mutually supportive working relationship that exists between our staff, students and parents. Today we recognise the specific achievements of 30 of last year’s Junior Certificate students, but in so doing we acknowledge the collective achievement within the Year group.
in hockey and his involvement in senior rugby in his final year. Andrew is studying International Law at UCC. Ben Mitchell, who is studying Commerce in UCC is awarded the Midleton College Citizenship prize, recognition of Ben’s willingness to work for the good of all during his years as a student.

**New Junior Certificate Reforms**

The new Junior Certificate reforms published by the National Council for Curricular Assessment and due to commence on a rolling basis from September 2014 will create a new landscape in Junior Cycle, over the course of the next 6 years. The plans to introduce modular courses as part of Junior cycle, reducing or potentially removing the need for formal examination at the end of Third Year, will challenge both methods of teaching and assessment in all schools. It is noteworthy that the NCCA has invited Protestant-managed schools to have a direct involvement in the roll-out of Junior Cycle reforms. This is recognition of the successful manner in which our schools have managed the introduction of previous reforms such as the evolution of Transition Year. I am certain that the challenges created by Junior Cycle reform also bring potential opportunities for a school such as ours where student-centered education is embedded in our curricular and learning structures.

The academic curriculum forms the centre of gravity of our daily activity. It is the achievements of our students in that domain which we celebrate today. We will always retain that focus, while having a level of comfort in knowing that many of the revised provisions outlined in the new Junior Certificate give formal recognition to a range of student experiences that this College provides and has provided for many years.

In Midleton College we will plan for and put into practice what we believe to be the best set of structures to accommodate the diversity of learning abilities and needs which our students present. From that philosophical starting point we will not be diverted.

Change comes in more local forms as well. This year we are implementing our plans to move to more electronically based communication, both internally and externally. Our website has been fully revised and re-launched, a process overseen by Ms Linehan. We are attempting to maximise communication with parents and guardians by email or text and avoid duplicate posting where possible. The ‘Friends of Midleton College’, a support association for those who have no direct link with the College through the MCA has launched an online ‘Facebook’ which I commend to you.

In all these ways, small-scale and large, a complex long-standing organisation such as ours must manage change effectively in order to continue to fulfill our responsibilities to those we serve.

Our students are well served in this regard by the dedication and commitment that is required to teach successfully here. Our staff room is no place for the half-hearted or partially committed. Our professional work ethic demands and must continue to demand that our students sit at the centre of all we do. It is my belief that, as in all things in education, the student-teacher relationship will remain the core component of the learning process and in this our students can proceed with confidence. In making the choice to send children to Midleton parents rightly believe that each person will be positively challenged, set high expectations and be encouraged to do and achieve their best. As this is what we ask of our students it is only right that it mirrors what we ask of ourselves.

I believe a number of examples over the course of the past year highlight this truth.

**4th Form/Transition Year**

4th Form / Transition Year co-ordinated by Mr Stanley and supported by every member of staff continues to fuse together a programme of academic and broader learning challenges for our students. It fuses together the creative abilities of staff, students, parents and friends of the College. With fusion you have exponential increase in energy, which is exactly what we see. Three 4th Form ‘Mini Company’ groups reached the County finals this year. All 3 companies were awarded prizes. ‘Edu-Key’ won the Overall Winner and went forward to the national finals in Dublin. ‘Mad-Card’ won the Best Marketing award. ‘Scrudu-Beal’ received the award for the Best School in the competition on behalf of the College.

In our first year of involvement in the Young Social Innovators programme our students reached the national ‘Speak Out’ finals in Dublin. Their project ‘Don’t Diss Ability’ investigated the level of access for people with disability in both the College campus and the town of Midleton. The Board of Management received the groups’ final report.

The Young Rotary club, co-ordinated by Ms Twomey allows students to become active citizens participating in activities which aim to improve the society we all live in.

In a different way Horticulture, led by Ms Mackillop allows students to engage with the soil and discover the excitement of producing your own food.

When they had completed Work experience, guided by Mr Leopold, all 4th Form students travelled once again to Heir Island where they participated in a week long sailing course.

Our local fund-raising programme provides beds for residents in Midleton Community Hospital and involves our students in direct interaction with the hospital residents. Our national fund-raising programme sees us linking this year with Barnardos, whose centres in Mahon and Knocknaheeny we are beginning to support. Our international fund-raising with The HOPE Foundation continues to provide a fully equipped 24 hour a day staffed ambulance service thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the people of Midleton and East Cork. In each of these cases the willingness of our students, staff and families to look beyond themselves is testament to the generosity of spirit which pervades our community and from which we all benefit.

The 3rd Form Spanish exchange with students from IES Almiña, Almeria, has been completed once again. This is the third year we have completed this exchange, with this year’s group leaving for a week in Spain next Tuesday. Thanks are due to all the families, the students and especially Ms Power and Ms Kelleher for making this exchange such a success.
Equally the German exchange with staff and students from Ellwangen College Stuttgart, organized by Ms Henry, Mr Hickey and Mr Baker has just been completed.

Séachtain na Gaeilge Tá an Ghaeilge go forbheo anseo sa scoil, gan dabhht ar bith. Biónn seiachtain na gaeilge brónmhara(breevar) agus spreoíúil(spee ore) againn gach bliain i mí na Samhna; le céilí mór, tráth na gceist, biongód, poc fada agus comórtais talainne.

Freisin táinn dáltaí na súil blíana go dté Ceanam slé i gCiaraí ar deireadh seachtaine, roimhn an scrúdú béal i mí Albreán. Baineann siad an tarbhbe(тарб) as an taithí (тэея) seo, go háiríthe anois, nuair a dtá daichhead (даход) fán gcéad(40%) do na marcanna ag dul don scrúdú béal amháin.

The generosity of members of the English department in organizing excursions for students to attend dramatic performances in Cork is appreciated and reciprocated by the large numbers of students who attend each of these during the year.

Important as the social dimension of these exchanges and excursions are, and exhausting as being involved in them may prove, the level and range of these type of activities is clear evidence of the desire of teachers, parents and students to invest in the learning of languages for the ultimate benefit of a broad education.

The ongoing implementation of our CSPE programme saw, among other activities all 3rd Form students travelling to Daul Eireann as guests of Deputy David Stanton whom I take the opportunity to thank today.

Daniel Wardle, David Cullinane and Graham Corbett were invited to attend the World Youth Science EXPO in Shanghai in July where they presented their prize-winning science project, ‘The ergonomic design of wind turbine blades’ accompanied by Mr Power and Ms Guest. Kieran Carew, Jack Cowhig and Andrew McGregor travelled to Shanghai in June having qualified from the Confucius Institute at UCC examinations for Irish students. They were accompanied by Ms Shan Wu. Remarkably, over the past three years 8 students have attended world-wide conferences in Sciences and Languages in China.

**Extra-Curricular Activities**

The Senior Rugby Team captained by Ned Hodson, gave a magnificent display in narrow defeat to Ard Scoil Rís in the Munster Schools Cup. They then qualified for the final of the Munster Cup against Bandon only to leave their previous performance behind them in the final. Ned went on to have the honour of playing for Munster Schools at out-half for the season and an Irish schools trial. Stuart O’Sullivan, Ben Mitchell and Bryan Moore played for Munster Schools. Recent further success has been achieved by former student David O’Callaghan, who has been selected for the Irish training squad ahead of the autumn internationals.

The Junior Rugby Team captained by Patrick O’Riordan was defeated with the last play of the game by Abbeyfeale Limerick 10-9 in the Junior Cup. A great performance which, despite the disappointment of the defeat, bodes well for this group of players as they progress through the College.

The Senior Girls Hockey Team captained by Ruth O’Callaghan was narrowly beaten in extra time by Ashton in the Munster Senior Cup. The team, with a majority of 3rd & 4th Form players, can be pleased with how well they played and how close they came to victory on that occasion.

The Senior Boys hockey team was captained by Andrew Colton. The squad maintained the standards of previous years reaching the All-Ireland schools competition and the final of the Munster Schools competition. It is noteworthy the number of girls and boys who went on to achieve selection for Munster at U16 and U18 level, as you can see on the screen. Alex Burns has managed to go one step further and be selected for the Irish U16 team, a magnificent achievement for him, his family and his coaches.

The Girls Soccer Team, captained by Alannah Finn, qualified for the first time for the semi-final stages of the Munster soccer leagues. Congratulations to all members of the squad on this significant achievement.

The Show Jumping Team attained 7th Place overall in the Ballyrafter Interschool’s Show Jumping Championships. Niamh McCormack (Form 3) and Sam Lynch both jumped clear in the final round. Niamh won the Individual Competition. Niamh is the first Midleton College student to win this competition. Gavin Smiddy was a member of the Irish pony eventing team which won the European Championships in Fontainbleau, France.

The College Orienteering Teams achieved a number of successes at the Munster Schools Championships in Doneraile. Sinead James, Sarah Murphy & Zac O’Sullivan-Hourihan all won their categories. Students also won a number of individual and team placings.

27 students, accompanied by Ms Dennehy and Mr Sexton participated in the Wesley Choral and Musical Festival. Congratulations are due to all the participants for the standard of their performances. Daniel Wardle won the Percussion competition. The last days of the Christmas term were filled with colour, music and the magic of Oz as the drama group, led by Mr Doyle and Ms Dennehy, thrilled packed houses with ‘The Wiz’. The Summer Music evening raised the bar and standard of music to even greater heights. 42 performances. 12 of which involved members of 6th Form, held the audience captivated for the entire night and reflected the central place musical performance now holds in the life of the College.

What makes all of these wondrous and diverse learning and developmental activities occur in our school?

Ultimately I believe it is an expression of a collective belief in the importance of our young people, your children, our students.

As I hope you will have seen, Midleton College is a place where people come from differing backgrounds, locations and family experiences. It is a place where the God-given and natural talents of each of our students can be fostered, encouraged and developed. A place where learning, growth and personal development can occur in an environment where our students feel secure, valued and challenged.
In November 2012 three national newspapers (The Irish Examiner, The Irish Times, The Irish Independent), have published their annual lists of student progression to 3rd Level study based on the 2012 Leaving Certificate Results.

While we were aware that the 6th Form students had achieved high standards in the State Examinations this year it is most encouraging that the standards reached place our school in the highest bracket of attainment nationally in 2012.

- **100% of 2012 Leaving Certificate candidates registered in 3rd level.**
- **Midleton College the highest ranked Fee-charging school in County Cork for student progression to 3rd level 2012.**
- **Midleton College ranked within the top 40 schools nationally (of 732 in total) for progression to Higher Level degree courses in 2012.**

In these challenging times it is a great encouragement to us all to know that the professional commitment given by all members of staff, working with you in support of your aims for your child(ren), has had such a significant impact for good on our students’ lives.

I take the opportunity once again to congratulate each member of 6th Form 2012 wish them well in their 3rd level course of study and life beyond.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Thompson
Principal
Midleton College
October 2012

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To the extent that this is the case, I wish to formally thank each of my colleagues without whose continuing commitment all that you have seen of our students’ experiences, simply would not occur.

On the occasion of the opening of The Colton Building, it was obvious how every ‘team’ within the collective of the staff worked to ensure that all went smoothly and effectively. Yet that team spirit is what drives this College every day. Our teaching team, household team, catering team, administrative and grounds team; to each member of staff on my own behalf and that of our Boards’, students and parents I wish to affirm what you give and ask that we join in a collective expression of thanks to our staff members.

Finally, I want to say to our students that we are tremendously proud of who you are. It is you who give all of us who work here our sense of purpose. Your energy, your interest, your excitement in challenging yourselves to succeed, this is what, even though it may not always appear so, sustains myself and my colleagues. It is what gives us the determination, even in challenging times, that you have the opportunity to develop to be the fullest and most complete expression of who it is you were created to be.

Simon Thompson
Principal
Midleton College
October 2012
TEACHING

Mr. Simon Thompson, B.A., M.Ed.  Principal  Religious Studies.
Mr. Bud Morrissey, B.A.  Deputy Principal  Geography, Mathematics.
Mr. Ivan Leopold, B.A.  .  Learning Support, History, C.S.P.E.
Ms. Mary Power, B.A.  .  Spanish.
Mr. Martin Preston, B.A.  .  History.
Mr. Ray Power, B.Sc.  .  Biology, Science.
Mrs. Margaret Rumley, B.Sc.  .  Mathematics.
Ms. Gobnait Buckley, B.A., M.Ed.  .  Irish, S.P.H.E.
Mr. Brian Hickey, B.A.  .  English, Journalism.
Mr. Paul Cashman, B.A.  .  Geography, Religion.
Mrs Elizabeth McMahon, B.A.  .  English, Learning Support.
Mr. Brian Gill, B.A.  .  Economics, Accounting, Business Studies.
Miss Hannah Denney, BA Mus. Grad Dip Ed. (Mus)  .  Music.
Mr. Cormac Nugent, B.Ed.  .  Physical Education, Irish.
Miss Rachel Wilson, B.A. M.A.  .  CSPE, SPHE
Ms. Ciara Wall B.A.  .  Art.
Mr. Eamonn Doyle BA. M.A  .  English.
Mr. Fergal Walsh  .  Maths, P.E.
Mr. Daniel Mulligan, B.A.  .  History, C.S.P.E.
Ms. Rachel Dool BSc. MSc.  .  Maths.
Ms. Mary Cocking  .  Special Needs Assistant

Librarian:  Mrs. P. Stead.
Career Guidance:  Ms. Maril Twomey
Director of Choral Music:  Mr. I. Sexton
Transition Year Co-ordinator:  Mr. K. Stanley.
Gap Student:  Mr. Elisson Zimmer.
Cork Diocesan Youth Liaison:  Miss Kristin Hollowell.
Medical Officers:  Dr. B. Jordan and Dr. C. Healy.
Nurses:  Mrs. P. Stead, Ms. K. McNamara, Mrs. A. O’Dwyer, Ms. K. Ryan.
Household Manager:  Ms. T. Strickland B.A
Chef:  Mr. R. Graham.
Grounds Manager:  Mr. G. Maguire.
Grounds Staff:  Mr. L. Power, Mr. T. Jones.
Bursar:  Ms. C. Hurley, B.Comm., C.P.A.
Administration:  Mrs. R. O’Sullivan-Hourihan, Mrs. E. Flynn, Mrs. C. Cashman and, Ms. E. Lenehan.
Household Staff:  Mrs. J. O’Brien, Mrs. H. Sinclair, Mrs. M. Barry, Ms. M. Duggan, Mrs. N. Lomansey, Mrs. S. Foley, Mrs. G. Tomczuk, Mrs. E. Power, Mrs. K. Smith, Mrs. J. Mulcahy, Mrs. C. Daly, Mrs. K. Cody, Mrs. A. Nixon, Ms. K. Woronivel, Ms. R. Sisk.

PREFECTS:

Senior Boarding Boy:  Kim Crosbie  Senior Boarding Girl:  Jessica Knoblauch
Senior Day Boy:  Daniel Wardle  Senior Day Girl:  Fiona Power

GIRLS:  Clare Douglas, Kate Phelan, Fiona Quinn, Hannah Spink, Chantelle Thomas, Tiger Waite.
TEACHING STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES 2012-2013

Mr. Simon Thompson: Principal
Mr. Bud Morrissey: Deputy Principal, Head of Boarding, Co-ordinator of Duty Rota, Timetable Co-Ordinator, Form Teacher.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
Mr. Ivan Leopold
Ms. Mary Power

RESPONSIBILITY
Job Placement Co-ordinator, Form Teacher.
ELOS Co-ordinator, Uniform Co-ordinator, Form Teacher.

SPECIAL DUTIES TEACHERS
Mr. Martin Preston
Mr. Ray Power
Mrs. Margaret Rumley
Mrs. June Johnston
Ms. Lucy O’Regan

Form Teacher, House Exam Co-ordinator, Tuck Shop Co-ordinator, Rugby Secretary.
Form Teacher, IT Purchasing & Support, October Returns.
Form Teacher, School Attendance and Absences.
Form Teacher, School Books/Stationery Purchasing.
Student Council Co-ordinator, Form Teacher.

BOARDING RESPONSIBILITIES
Ms. L. Guest
Mr. B. Gill
Ms. Liz Clifford
Ms. Niamh Lawlor
Mr. Andrew Levis

Head of Girls Boarding
Head of Boys Boarding
Resident Teaching Staff
Resident Teaching Staff
Resident Teaching Staff

LEARNING SUPPORT EDUCATION
Mr. Ivan Leopold
Ms. Liz McMachon
Ms. Mary Linehan
Mr. Mitch McGuckin
Ms. Rachel Wilson
Ms. Laura Guest

TRANSITION YEAR CO-ORDINATOR
Mr. Kevin Stanley

UCAS/CAO APPLICATIONS
Ms. Mariel Twomey

IT & COLLEGE WEBSITE CO-ORDINATOR
Ms. Mary Linehan

TRANSITION YEAR NEWSLETTER
Mr. Brian Hickey

IT PURCHASING and SUPPORT
Mr. Ray Power

ANNUAL MAGAZINE
Mr. Brian Hickey

FESTIVAL CHOIR
Mr. Ian Sexton

ORCHESTRA
Mr. Colin Nicholls
Mrs. Angela Nicholls
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<td>Mr. Ian Sexton (Piano &amp; Singing)</td>
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<td>Mr. Fearghal O’Connor (Saxophone, Clarinet &amp; Flute)</td>
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**LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2012**

**Moore Memorial Prize:**
Amy Kingston, Mark Twomey

**Midleton College Citizenship Prize:**
Ben Mitchell

**Maura Lee West Prize for Special Achievement:**
Andrew Colton

**James McNeill West Memorial Prize for Mathematics:**
Eoin Walsh

**A.I.B. Leaving Certificate Prize for English:**
Louis Farnham, Sophie Smyth

**Webster Memorial Prize for English:**
Amy Kingston, Hannah Hayes

**Long Memorial Prize for Irish:**
Amy Kingston, Mark Twomey, Greg Chambers, Ben Mitchell, Hannah Hayes, Emily Humphreys, Stuart O’Sullivan

**J.H. Bennett Memorial Prize for Chemistry:**
Amy Kingston, Mark Twomey

**Bank of Ireland Leaving Certificate Prize for Physics:**
Eoin Walsh, Greg Chambers, Owen Monagan

**Iris Olive Atkins Memorial Prize for Biology:**
Amy Kingston, Mark Twomey, Andrew Colton, Hannah Hayes, Sabrina Laatz, Katie Matthews

**Alan McBeth Memorial Prize for Languages:**
Amy Kingston, Mark Twomey, Emily Humphreys, Lydia Daly, Sabrina Laatz

**B.J Hickey Memorial Prize for Modern Languages:**
Amy Kingston, Mark Twomey, Emily Humphreys, Lydia Daly, Sabrina Laatz

**Isaac Butt Memorial Prize for History:**
Andrew Colton, Sam Lynch, Odhran Brennan, Ned Hudson

**J.W. Smyth Prize for Leaving Certificate Geography:**
Greg Chambers, Ben Mitchell, Andrew Colton

**Dorothy West Memorial Prize for Business:**
Greg Chambers, Adam Colton

**Midleton College Prize for Applied Maths:**
Eoin Walsh

**Midleton College Prize for Economics:**
Hannah Hayes, Katie Matthews, Alex Simonin

**Tait Prize for Agricultural Science:**
Emily Humphreys, Odhran Brennan

**Midleton College Prize for Religious Education:**
Andrew Colton

**Mrs. E.F. Bennett Memorial Prize for Music:**
Amy Kingston, Sam Lynch

**Brian D. Cairns Memorial Prize for Singing:**
Louis Farnham

**Webster Memorial Prize for English:**
Mark Twomey, Sam Lynch

**Tait Prize for Creative Writing:**
Emily Humphreys, Ned Hudson

**Midleton College Art Prize:**
Timothy Bourke

**Bishop Hearn Memorial Prize:**
Beth Wardle, April Hackett, Shane Murphy

**Principal’s Prize:**
Julie Guinee

**Midleton College Association Prize:**
Sally Anne Quill, Katie McCarthy, Hugh Delahunty

**JUNIOR CERTIFICATE 2012**

**Intermediate Shield:**
Ruth Provan-Bessell

**CLASS PRIZES:**
Daisy Beth Gibbons, Anthony O’Shea, Kate Fleming, Ellen Ryall, Sinead James, Kieran Simpson, Sonia Strongach, Christian Lynch, Jaco Bronkhorst, Sophie Keating, Ciárán Lydon, Kevin Carew

**Midleton College Scholarship Prize:**
Joseph Lydon, Alex Deane, Aisling O’Sullivan, Áine Lehan, Nova Schooneengerber, Ian Keating, Niamh McCormack, Eva Bourke, Aisling O’Neill, Caomhce Walsh

**Midleton College Association Prize:**
Ben Hales, Brandon McEvoy, Josh Beamish, Rob Johnston, Patrick O’Riordan, Edward Hayes

**Midleton College Principal's Prize:**
Adam Dwane, Olivia O’Callaghan, Jack McGauran, Rory O’Hara

**CLASS PRIZES:**
**Dr. F.M. Hilliard Memorial Prize for Form V:**
John McEvoy, Billy McCarthy, Oliver Ind, Graham Corbett, Jack Gibbons, Kate Phelan, Kim Crosbie, Hannah Spink, Kevin Laatz, Claire Douglas

**Form IV:**
Andrew McGregor, Kate O’Mahony, Olwyn Anthony, Jack Cowhig, Lola Dockhorn, Eoin Doyle, Emma Herlihy, Lidia O’Shea, Daniel Moore, Patricia Igos Ares

**Form II:**
Bryony Archer, Katie Archer, Oliver Norton, Padraig Power, Clara Roch-Perks, Tao Yu, Alex Aldous, Alby Whyte, Philip Punch, Martha O’Leary

**Form I:**
Isaac O’Sullivan-Hourihan, Ava Burns, Grace Smith, Julie Ryall, Adam Ford, Adam Morris, Ciaran McGregor, Oisín Parsons, Niall Quill, Sean Emerson

**Ron Little Memorial Prize for Practical Science:**
Isaac O’Sullivan-Hourihan
AVETE 2012

The following entered the College at the beginning of the academic year. We bid them welcome and wish them happy and rewarding careers in the College.


VALETE 2012

Killian Abernethy .......... Mechanical Apprentice in Abernethy’s
Peter Abernethy .......... University College Cork – Arts
Timothy Bourke .......... University College Cork – Biological & Chemical Science
Odhrán Brennan .......... Deferring from UCC for a year
Patrick Cattell .......... University College Cork – Arts
Greg Chambers .......... University College Cork – Commerce
Sarah Collins .......... Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa – Biology
Adam Colton .......... Trinity College Dublin – Business, Economic & Social Studies
Andrew Colton .......... University College Cork – International Law
Lydia Daly .......... University College Cork – Law
Hugh Delahunty .......... University College Cork – Social Science
Steven England .......... Kildalton College, Teagasc, Kilkenny – Agriculture
Louis Farnham .......... University College Cork – Music & Arts
Jackie Feehely .......... Hewitt College, Cork
Jessica Griffin .......... University College Cork – Commerce
Julie Guinee .......... St John’s College, Cork – Veterinary Nursing
April Hackett .......... St Angela’s College, Sligo – Home Economics & Religion
Hannah Hayes .......... University College Cork – Biochemistry
Ned Hodson .......... University College Cork – Arts
Marc Hornibrook .......... Cork College of Commerce – Alternative Health Therapies
Emily Humphreys .......... Trinity College Dublin – Business & Spanish
Rory Hurley .......... University College Cork – Arts
Alex Huth .......... University College Cork – Arts
Rebecca Johnston .......... Cork College of Commerce – Pre-Nursing Studies
Emily Kearns .......... Cork Institute of Technology – Social Care
Amy Kingston .......... Trinity College Dublin – Medicinal Chemistry
Sabrina Laatz .......... University College Cork – Biochemistry
Andrew Lenahan .......... University College Cork – Computer Science
Robyn Lynch .......... Cork College of Commerce – Early Childhood Studies
Sam Lynch .......... University College Cork – Applied Psychology
Katie Matthews .......... University College Cork – Food Nutrition
Katie McCarthy .......... Cork Institute of Technology – Business Studies
Evangeline Mills .......... Dundalk Institute of Technology – Midwifery
Ben Mitchell .......... University College Cork – Commerce
Owen Monagan .......... Trinity College Dublin – Computer Science & Business
This year Prize Day was held on Friday the 12th of October in The Silversprings Moran Hotel. Bishop Colton began proceedings by welcoming everyone and he particularly greeted his fellow bishop, The Right Reverend Ken Good, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe who was this year’s guest speaker.

Moving swiftly along he called on Mr. Thompson to present the Principal’s Report. Mr. Thompson spoke eloquently on many facets of schoollife over the past 12 months. The report was most comprehensive and may be read in its entirety on p. 8.

When Bishop Colton introduced Bishop Good he began by pointing out that he was a past pupil of Midleton College. He later attended Trinity College and did postgraduate work in England. Later, on his return to Ireland, he did the H.Dip. and M.Ed in UCC. It was clear that Bishop Good had become quite an academic. As a clergyman he had a parish in Wicklow for several years and was then reassigned to Northern Ireland and in 2002 he was elected as Bishop of Derry and Raphoe. In this capacity he was very helpful in organizing aspects of the Senior History Tour last year.

Bishop Good began his address by complimenting the Principal’s Report and congratulating him on the great success of the school. He commented on all the hard work that must have gone into the many achievements but was sure that the students had good fun along the way as well. Commenting on the school motto the Bishop interpreted it to mean “make the best of the opportunities given to you” which was sound advice. In the final part of his speech Bishop Good chose the analogy that life is like running a marathon. Firstly you must run with purpose, you cannot be aimless. Secondly you must run with perseverance, when you hit the wall you must keep going! Don’t stop running. On this positive note Bishop Good concluded and the musical interlude was introduced.

The Midleton College Orchestra under the baton of Mr. Nicholls gave a rousing rendition of ‘The Teddy Bear’s Picnic’. Fi Power and Hannah Spink sang a duet of ‘For Good’ from the musical Wicked. Tao Yu performed a fugue by J.S. Bach on the piano. Jess Knoblauch performed a song, that she had written herself, called ‘Hope’. Finally the whole Midleton College Choir sang a eucharistic hymn. The prizes were then presented to the winners from each year and following the final blessing another Prize Day had been successfully completed.

- Ed.
Form I Prize Winners

Back Row L-R:  N. Quill, S. Emerson, C. McGregor, O. Parsons, G. Smith, J. Ryall, A. Morris, A. Ford
Front Row L-R:  A. Burns, Bishop Good, Mr. Thompson, Bishop Colton, Mr. Morrissey, I. O’Sullivan-Hourihan

Form II Prize Winners

Front Row L-R:  K. Archer, Bishop Good, Mr. Thompson, Bishop Colton, Mr. Morrissey, B. Archer.
Form III Prize Winners


Form IV Prize Winners


Front Row L-R: Bishop Good, Mr. Thompson, Bishop Colton, Mr. Morrissey.
Form V Prize Winners

Front Row L-R: J. McEvoy, Bishop Good, Mr Thompson, Bishop Colton, Mr Morrissey, B. McCarthy.

Form VI Prize Winners

Front Row L-R: M. Twomey, A. Kingston, Bishop Good, Mr Thompson, Bishop Colton, Mr Morrissey, Andrew Colton, B. Mitchell.
Senior Prefects

Back Row L-R: J. Knoblauch, K. Crosbie, D. Wardle, F. Power
Front Row L-R: Bishop Good, Mr. Thompson, Bishop Colton, Mr. Morrissey.
Last year saw ‘The Wiz’ take to the stage in our annual Christmas concert.

‘The Wiz’ is a musical that is based on ‘The Wizard of Oz’, Dorothy gets transported to the land of Oz and she learns that the only way home is through the assistance of the infamous Wiz.

The large cast consisted of students from all year groups of the school. The Wiz was played by Louis Farnham, Scarecrow by Hugh Delahunty, Tinman played by Dan Wardle, Rachel Quinn as Aunt Em, The Lion by Jack Cremin-Memhet, and I enjoyed playing the role of Dorothy. Also we had Fi Power and Emily Humphries playing the two good witches, and Hannah Spink played the wicked Witch Evileene.

We were lucky to have the wonderful Miss Dennehy in charge of the musical aspects of the show and we were in the safe hands of Beth Wardle, who was in charge of the sound systems. We were equally lucky to have Mr. Doyle as the director of the musical.

Each year the money raised from the musical is donated to the Midleton Hospice. This year we raised a considerable amount.

On behalf of everyone who was involved in the play last year, I would like to thank Mr Doyle and Miss Dennehy for their commitment to the show.

J. Knoblauch (Form VI)
Last April all of First Form travelled to Wexford Heritage Park with the history department. We left around eight in the morning on the bus for New Ross, to visit the Dunbrody famine ship. The Dunbrody is moored on the banks of the river Barrow, and is one of the first things you see as you enter New Ross over the bridge. The Dunbrody is actually smaller than you might think, but even so 200+ people would cram into the lower levels during the crossing to America. Families of seven or eight would share one small bunk together. The Dunbrody was very interesting, and the tour guides were very informative.

After the Dunbrody it was on to Wexford Heritage Centre. When we arrived there was time for a quick snack, then we were brought into a room where we watched a brief video explaining the background of some of the things we were going to see. Then our tour guide brought us out past some of the buildings to the Fulacht fiadh, a prehistoric way of cooking meat by wrapping it in straw, and putting it in boiling water. The water was boiled with hot stones from a fire. When the meat was cooked (which didn’t take long) we all got a taste, it was delicious. After that we began the tour proper. We were shown some very interesting sites, such as a Dolmen which is an old tomb. There was also a Christian Ireland Settlement, a Viking settlement and a Ring fort, unfortunately this last one was closed for repairs.

Finally we headed for a Viking shipyard, where there was a replica Longboat. Sadly that concluded the tour and we headed back to the bus. The day concluded with a bite to eat at McDonalds on the way home. It was a great day that we all enjoyed and I would like to thank Mr. Preston and the rest of the history department for the brilliant day.

O. Parsons (Form II).

‘Re-Living History!’
Chinese has been taught in Midleton College as an extra curricular activity, availed of by both parent and student alike, for the last two years. Thanks to Miss Wu Shan, and her devotion to teaching mandarin Chinese 3 times a week to any student who is interested in Chinese language, culture and cuisine. Midleton college has had great success in recent years with large numbers of students passing internationally recognised tests for youth Chinese, to varying levels. At the end of the last school year the school was offered places to take part in “Shanghai international sister cities youth camp 2012” which is where cities who are linked with Shanghai all join together there and discover the beauty and history of this metropolitan city.

On the 17th of July Miss Wu Shan, Andrew McGregor, Jack Cowhig and I met up with two other students who would be in the Irish group with us, Sarah Clifford(Mount Mercy) and Ashling Moran(Regina Mundi) and boarded our flight. Before we knew it we had already arrived in Schipol airport where we would wait for our connecting flight to Shanghai. We got off the plane relaxed and explored the immense network of gateways that were situated in this huge international airport. Before we knew it we were on our plane to Shanghai, a great feat for any young student, our eleven hour flight was made more entertaining by the comic relief as a sniffer dog was attracted to a pack of crisps which meant Jack had to unpack in the middle of the terminal. We soon realised that living in Ireland might be a bit of a handicap for us…upon the electric doors of the airport opening a gust of warm air came blowing against our faces, we stepped out and realised that the Chinese summer was nothing like ours, It was 9 am and the temperature had already broken into the mid twenties, it was at this point I realised packing as I would for a holiday back home would cause me some serious problems, after ten minutes we had met up with Mia and Ivy, who were local high school students around our own age, who would be our guides for the next two weeks. The bus came and I’m pretty sure all of our prayers were answered when we were met by ice cold air conditioning, we sat down and were off on our way to Shanghai no.2 high school. We got to see the contrasts of Shanghai, temple and high-rise, all in close proximity.

Later that night we met some of the other groups there and soon became the centre of attention as the New Zealanders tried to copy our accents as they chanted what they thought to be common phrases such as “top of the morning to ya” and “oi my lucky charms”, we soon got to meet nearly all of the groups from Canada, Japan, Mexico, South Africa and...
and France. The place was buzzing with activity and noise as everyone began to talk to one another.

We woke up for what we thought would be a lovely opening ceremony, until we found out its location, it took place on the outdoor soccer pitch, which would have been fine but then when we arrived we knew it would be interesting. Our skin gleaming with factor 50, we stood by our flag proudly, the 300m walk had already begun to take its toll on us, the camp uniform not hiding the sweat that began to run down our backs, the other countries looking in amazement. As soon as the ceremony started it took our mind off the heat and the cool breeze was quite refreshing.

We partook in many trips and visits during our time in Shanghai, we got to see the vast variety of animals housed in Shanghai zoo, Amazing acrobatics shows which left every attentive observer awestricken. These trips really helped us to take in and learn about the Chinese culture and also gave us a good ol’time to enjoy ourselves and bond with one another.

Visiting Pearl Tower was also a great experience, we got to see this symbolic building which is well known all around the world, after making our way around the sightseeing area looking over almost all of Shanghai, we sat down to a meal in the rotating restaurant which caused much confusion as many had lost their table after clearing the all you can eat buffet of delicacies from all over the world.

We went to ancient water towns and temples where we got an insight into the oriental past hundreds of years ago. We learned about the architecture and customs of these people between the queues forming to take a photo with us (only in China…), with the casual photo bombing sure to give memorable family photos.

The cuisine was amazing, when staying in the school we sure made great use of the “free refills” at every meal to make up for our inability to withstand the temperatures outside. Food provided in the school was nice but the orient was lost as they were cooking for the “western” taste. The first day consisted of many people adopting the stabbing method when given chopsticks leaving those of us who could use them looking all the more gracious. The restaurant visits were where we saw the real food of China, fish, rice, pigeon soup and many dishes which I have never seen before lined the tables, the central stand was seldom still as our curiosity took over.

Classes in the mornings were great fun, games and talking helped to get everyone up to scratch in a situation such as “would you like directions to the metro?” to more likely situations such as “I’m lost” and everything in between, practicing for the markets in my opinion was definitely the most fun as you had to argue with your partner to try and get the price down.

The markets were amazing, with a lot of haggling both in Chinese and English with great bargains to be had everyone coming away with one or two “Beats” Headphones. The next time we went as a group altogether to the science expo market, this is where Andrew and I really got to practice what we had done in class, maybe a bit too well, as the Chinese murmurs began in our first shop, after that point we knew the limits and stuck to them, working together to get deals and better prices. The markets supplied everything, clothes, sporting goods, bags, earphones, lasers and so on, literally anything you could want.

We also went on a home visit with our guides, Andrew and I went with Mia to her family’s house and enjoyed a traditional Chinese meal, we got to take a tour in her local area and meet up with her friends who took us to an old market town and then to a nice restaurant serving Italian food, and also play games such as a Chinese connect 4 and monopoly which was interesting to say the least.

We had met up with David Cullinane, Daniel Wardle, Graham Corbett, Miss Guest and Mr. Power who were participating in the Shanghai science expo, it was great to see our school mates over here on the other side of the planet.

For the final few days we went to oriental land which was a massive activities centre where there was a vast range of activities available to us, theme park, water activities and obstacle courses were just some of the facilities, it was here that Ireland came out on top at a water based obstacle course in which we decimated all other teams times and won the best team spirit prize. Dragon boating ended up being a very unstable water fight with the accidental splashing of a Canadian caused pandemonium in the race with every teams boat tipping from water logging. The following day we had a water fight but everyone’s main intention to soak the organisers “on the sly”, not the most successful plan as they were prepared.

The closing ceremony ran smoothly with our performances from many a country, each of us had something to do, singing, dancing, tai chi and cultural performances took centre stage as well as the occasional speech.

Our final night entailed a “disco” in which Wu Shan showed she could dance being the main competitor in many a dance off that night, it was an enjoyable night filled with good byes and parties.

The last day consisted of tough goodbyes to people who before this trip we never knew but over the 2 weeks we had become extremely close to and at the end people found it hard to leave, every hour one more group leaves and finally it was our turn, goodbyes filled with happiness and tears from all the remaining people and promises that we will remain in touch, which has been possible thanks to both Skype and Facebook.

The flight home was filled with reminiscing, the final good byes, the memories and what we had found out about each other. We all missed those Gaelic-Canadian singing sessions on the back of the bus, we learned that Andrew Is a bottomless pit when it comes to other peoples pizza (as I’m sure many of you already know), major linguistic errors (which I have yet to live down), and many memories and friends that I hope to never cease contact with from all over the world but also new friends from Cork.

I’d like to thank everyone responsible for this trip.

B. McCarthy (Form VI).
This summer David Cullinane, Graham Corbett and I all went to China to be part of the Shanghai Youth Science Expo 2012. We were accompanied by two of our science teachers Miss Laura Guest and Mr. Ray Power. It was a whole new experience for us and there were many aspects of the trip that we found fascinating. After two long flights we arrived tired and bedraggled in Pu Dong Airport, Shanghai. We were greeted there by Li Fei who would be our “minder” for the duration of the expo. He was a postgraduate student in Shanghai University studying ceramics. He was small in stature but big in personality. We took a bus to Shanghai High School 981 where we would be staying for the next few days. The rooms were small, and the mattresses on the bunk beds were less than an inch thick! Luckily we all had camping mattresses to sleep on so we avoided chronic back pain. After a few hours rest we headed to the Expo to set up our display and reconstruct the flat packed designs.

The next day there was a fantastic welcome ceremony that showed us many aspects of Chinese culture, including dancing, presentations and more. We really enjoyed the performances and it was a great start to the day. After this the Expo became open to the general public and projects from all over the world were scrutinised and admired, a long day of presenting and meeting people ensued. By the end all we were good for was sleep, mattress or not!

In the evenings the organising committee arranged various activities for us. One evening we went to an amazing gymnastics display and on another we were introduced to many aspects of Chinese culture such as Ti Chi, Origami, Chinese knot tying, tea tasting, calligraphy to mention just a few.

The weekend continued with more presenting and even a design-build competition. David and Graham did Midleton College and Ireland proud with their creative design. While they created I manned our stall and Miss Guest and Mr. Power sampled coffee in Starbucks across the road where iced coffee was much more popular than Americanos or Cappuccinos!

There were many great things that we experienced during our trip to Shanghai, China. One of the more noticeable details about the whole venture was the food. During the five days we were there we were immersed in a completely different culture to our own, which was both exciting and confusing. There were a huge variety of foods served that we had never seen before in our lives, the only barrier to trying the foods was the Chinese cutlery: Chopsticks. David Cullinane promised us from day one he would not use the forks provided and committed to doing things the proper Chinese way as it was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

For the first few meals the food was merely stabbed and the rice was left completely untouched, but after practicing for the first afternoon we were all able to eat dinner with some ease. We tested a whole range of foods which were both odd and delicious like dumplings, dragon eye (a type of fruit) which looked and tasted like a melon the size of a grape, chow mein, sweet yam flour balls, spring rolls, won tons, sweet and sour pork and many different kinds of rice. None of the food tasted anything like the usual Chinese takeaway we all know and love, all tasted so much better.

The closing ceremony took place on Sunday with even more immersion into the Chinese culture. But even after the closing ceremony that had signalled the end of the Expo, our experience in Shanghai was not over. Monday and Tuesday saw us visiting museums of culture and science, all of which interested us greatly, but the biggest surprise of the trip by far was when we moved out of our Expo accommodation on Tuesday and arrived at a huge 5 star hotel in the middle of Shanghai. The place was amazing,
we couldn’t believe we had been so lucky. This had all been arranged for us by a past pupil of Midleton College called Gavin Keane. He lives in Shanghai and even though he was not there at the time of our visit he really laid out the red carpet for us.

We arrived at the hotel at about 9.30 in the morning. We booked in and moved quickly to reception where we met Alex. She is a personal trainer and a friend of Gavin. He had arranged for her to show us the sights of the city. We spent the day travelling by multiple taxis and the underground to see as much as we could squeeze in. We got a taste of what life was really like in this amazing city of 23 million people! Alex told us that we were to be entertained that evening in a restaurant on the 24th floor of a building with panoramic views of this most colourful city. There was a dress code that required more than the shorts and runners that had sufficed for the previous few days. This meant a quick visit to the infamous fake markets to acquire some trousers and even a glitzy shirt for David. The effort was all worth while both the food and the views were wonderful.

The final day involved an early morning run to the airport and the long flight home. All of us had a fantastic time, it was a tremendous experience. Our thanks go to all who helped organise this trip, especially to Gavin.

David Cullinane and Dan Wardle. (Form VI).

Ballyhass Lakes

After a week of sunshine we woke up to a bleary day on Friday, though the chill didn’t deter our sense for adventure.

Mr O’Neill and Ms Curtin accompanied us on our day out. We took a bus to Mallow and after a loud journey we finally arrived at Ballyhass Lakes.

We were split into groups and our instructors wasted no time fitting us with ridiculous climbing harnesses and hats. After a quick briefing on how not to die while climbing we headed to the rocks. Set aback on the view of the lake itself, my classmates took turns racing up the sloped rocks and performing crazy ‘Jesus’ poses where they hung upside down on the rock-face, held by only their harnesses.

Next – the leap of faith. And you had to have a serious amount of faith. Climbing up an unsteady telegraph pole, which was shaking in the wind, our aim was to reach a tiny platform fifty feet up – and jump. There was a trapeze bar a little way out from the platform and if you missed you had to rely solely on your harness to bring you back to earth. Not for the faint hearted.

After a lunch which consisted mainly of hot tea from the snack store, we went kayaking. We played games capsizing each other and even ourselves, never thinking about how freezing the water would be till we actually hit it. Shivering and with the girls makeup running we stumbled back up to the changing rooms.

Our last activity consisted of a creative obstacle course – and we had to get around it as a team. Not as easy as you think and our group completely failed dropping our ‘plastic weights’ more times than were worth counting.

At the end of the day we all piled back into the bus, and left the Ballyhass Lakes behind – exhausted but still having the energy to joke about the great day all the way back to Midleton.

Clara Roch-Perks (Form III).
On the 7th of March 2012, nine Form II pupils embarked on the second German exchange with Ms. Henry and Mr. Hickey.

After a 2 hour flight to Munich, followed by a bus journey, we arrived at our exchange school Rolf Hariolf Gymnasium in Ellwangen, Southern Germany, and were welcomed by our host families for the week.

On our first full day in our host town, we experienced German school life, followed by a walking tour around Ellwangen and an audience with the Mayor.

The following day saw us travel to Nürnberg with our exchange partners to visit the Dokumentationszentrum and the city itself. The weekend allowed time for trips with our host families. Some of us went to the zoo, others visited Stuttgart to see the VfB Stuttgart play or went to the local wave pool.

During our last day in Ellwangen, we had a few more classes, visited a climbing wall and held a cooking night at our exchange school.

We said our final goodbyes on Tuesday morning, before travelling to Munich. There we visited the fantastic Deutsche Museum and many other sites around the city and had an afternoon to explore the shops of Munich, before ending the night with a dinner in the fine Italian restaurant near our hostel.

Having arrived home safely, I, on behalf of all the participants of the exchange, would like to thank Mr. Thompson and our parents for allowing us to travel to Germany and Ms. Henry and Mr. Hickey for giving up their time to provide an amazing trip.

Philip Punch (Form III)
On 16th October 25 Third Year Spanish students accompanied by Ms Power and Mr Leopold met at Cork airport at 5am sleepy but excited. After arriving at Malaga we then took a three hour bus trip to Almeria. We were introduced to our families for the week at Ies Alhamilla Almeria. We were taken to our new homes and given some typical Spanish food. The Spanish had organised to go to the beach for the evening and also show us around the town.

Wednesday morning we visited the Alcazaba. We were given a historic tour through the town on the way to the Alcazaba – this tour was given by one of the Spanish teachers. The castle itself was built by the Arabs out of mud but when the Catholics arrived they built the next bit out of stone. In the afternoon some of us went to the beach and went shopping while some of the lads watched a soccer match between Almeria and Alcarcon in the Almeria football stadium.

Next day our journey to Granada had great views of the snow capped Sierra Nevada Mountains and thousands of windmills and solar panels. We visited the Alhamibra and The Albaicin, the Moorish part. We were allowed roam around the city and go to various Spanish markets and shops. On Friday we went to the Cabo de Gata, Europe’s only desert and we stopped at one of Spain’s most beautiful beaches where we swam and played football.

On Saturday and Sunday our families had arranged various activities. Some of us visited Sorbas caves. In the evening people went to Sandra’s birthday party. Sunday we all visited Mini Hollywood where famous western films have been made. There is also a zoo there. Afterwards we all went to the beach.

Monday for our last day we attended school and went to different classes with our Spanish partners. Maria and Laura played the cello and Teresa and her friend did a traditional Flamenco dance for us. We played a very competitive and intense soccer match against the Spanish in the scorching sun. It ended with a 3 – 3 draw.

On Tuesday everybody met at 5am at the school to say their final goodbye. There were lots of sad faces but we will see them again in April. Everybody slept on the bus to the airport and on the plane. We were glad to be home but missed sunny Spain and its people.

A big thanks to Ms. Power and Mr. Leopold from everybody.

Padraig Power & Richenda Thomas (Form III)
Millipore Competition

This year a team of students comprising of Daniel Moore, Cormac O’Sullivan and Andrew McGregor from form 4 competed in the annual Millipore Science Competition finals held in the Fota Sheraton Hotel last April. Having won their school final heat in competition against other groups from 4th yr Daniel, Cormac and Andrew represented Midleton College with their project on the “Placebo Effect”. Whilst ultimately not winning the competition outright a wonderful experience was enjoyed by our students in terms of the research work involved during the course of their project, not to mention the opportunity to present both to their own peers in Midleton College along with a panel of distinguished judges from Merck Millipore itself. Interest in this event is increasing yearly and this coming spring our students will again be competing in a competition which has brought us success on a number of occasions.

K.O’N.

Junior Certificate Results

On the 15th of September the long awaited Junior Certificate results came out. Here we see Ed Hayes in the Gym holding up the all important envelope!

In the schoolyard Ian Keating and Sinead James were all smiles as they celebrated their exam success.
In September of this year all of Form IV took an hour long bus ride to Ballyhass Lakes in Mallow. This trip was a fun day out for us organised by the school for finishing the Junior Cert.

When we arrived at the Adventure Centre, we split into three groups. In my group, for our first activity, we did ‘The Leap of Faith’. This was where we climbed all the way up a wooden pole 12 metres in the air, got onto a platform (which was wobbling in the wind!) and then jumped off! It was terrifying but brilliant fun.

After that, we took a break before getting kitted out with safety harnesses and helmets and then went ziplining across the lake.

Finally, after lunch, we went kayaking on the lake, and played a game where you had to line up all of your kayaks, and then swap kayaks with someone further down the line......I wasn’t the only one to fall in more than once! We then jumped off of the wooden boardwalk into the water, which was my favourite part of the day.

At the end we did a teambuilding exercise where we had to get across a course as a group without touching the ground. On the way back on the bus we were all exhausted but had had a brilliant day.

Ruth Provan-Bessell (Form IV)
Friday 9th November
Nine other students and myself (Eadaoin Sheehan, Jack Tierney, Brandon McEvoy, Steve Lynch, Anthony O’Shea, Ian Keating, Angel Axson and Mari Lynch) left school at a quarter past two for the Model United Nations (Nat M UN) in UCC. The bus driver dropped us off at the Boole entrance to UCC. There we waited for our teacher, Ms Twomey, who was driving up with two more students, Blanca Pages and Nerea Garrues. When they arrived, we went into Boole 1 and signed in.

Our group separated into two sets of six people, a delegation for Guatemala and another for Jordan. I was in the delegation for Guatemala. We were each given our areas – each delegate has the same area as the team. I was given the area of UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Once we were all organised, we entered Boole 1 for the Opening Ceremony. A Simpsons episode was played while we waited for the ceremony to begin.

We were given an introduction to Nat M UN and then the chairpersons of the individual areas told us what they were about and what we’d be doing.

When the Opening Ceremony had finished, we watched the movie “Thank you for Smoking”. We were finished at 7 o’clock.
Saturday 10th November
We had an early start today. Once in UCC, the committee session began at 10am. I was in committee with all the other students for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. The Drugs and Crime Chairperson told us the committee rules and we voted on our topic. We chose the topic: “Possible solutions to the human rights crisis that is human trafficking, specifically within central and northern Africa”.

As the debate went on, two groups were formed. One group formed with the belief that education is the solution, while the second group believed that force is the way to go.

Committee broke for lunch at 12.30.

We were back in session by 2 o’clock. We began with an un-moderated caucus. During this, both groups mixed their ideas together, but when a third group formed we were left arguing the nitty gritty.

The groups drew up their draft resolutions.

By the end of the day, we were sticking with two draft resolutions, both the same, but for a minor detail.

Session broke at 7pm.

Sunday 11th November
Today we went into session at 10 o’clock. Everybody quickly agreed on the Final Draft Resolution, except for the French representative, who was determined to get in a clause she believed important. It was eventually agreed on and the Final Resolution was drawn up.

Session broke at 1pm and we had break until the Closing Ceremony at 3pm.

The Closing Ceremony was held in the Aula Maxima, which is a pretty impressive place. One of the Masters of the College gave us a speech and thanked us for attending. We were then awarded prizes. There were prizes for the best delegation and outstanding delegates. The Ceremony finished at around 5pm.

I greatly enjoyed the weekend. It was a wonderful experience and I hope to do it again next year.

On behalf of everyone who went, I’d like to thank Ms Twomey and Mr Thompson for allowing us the opportunity.

Aisling O’Sullivan (Form IV)
Calcutta Trip

It was bright and early on the morning of Thursday the 9th of February when we all filed onto the bus, Dublin bound, and departed from Mahon Point car park to embark on our long journey to Kolkata, (formally known as Calcutta) full of excitement. Pamela Wolfe, Hattie Durrant, Rachel Healy, Sally Poynton, Jayne Walsh and I were the lucky ones who had been chosen following much fundraising, (including bag-backing in places such as Marks and Spencers and Tesco’s, selling boxes upon boxes of chocolate, swimming, fasting and several coffee mornings to name but a few), writing an essay, and an interview process in early December.

From the moment we stepped off the plane in “The City of Joy” it seemed as if we had entered a completely different world. The sheer volume of people was staggering, the difference between those who had and those who did not, striking. Men in suits could be seen striding purposely by, seemingly utterly oblivious to the abject poverty surrounding them. To this day, I fail to grasp how they became immune, when everywhere you turn you’re greeted by the sight of people making their homes on the side of the street, sorting through piles of rubbish, backs hunched, insignificant and ignored, just trying to survive. No amount of reading or research can prepare you for the sights or indeed the smell of poverty, uncensored and real. Open sewers run through slums, people go to the toilet on the side of the street; mounds of rubbish are left lying by the road, animals wandering over them slowly, in the muggy heat. The most difficult part to witness by far, though, was when children, dressed in what can only be described as rags ran up to the bus as it was stopped in the chaotic traffic and stuck their hands under the window, begging for money or food, whatever we would give. The faces of these children will stay with me for a long time. They, like so many others, have yet to be helped, which is why it is so important to continue fundraising for HOPE, so that they can not only continue their existing projects but expand and help more and more children get off the streets.

During our trip we visited a number of HOPE’s facilities based in Kolkata After checking into the hotel where we were to spend the week, (and taking a quick power nap to recover from the flights over), we were off on our first visit to one of HOPE’s Girls Home. As we stepped through the door we were greeted by a cheery chorus of “Hello Auntie!” (Ours being an all girls group), and each given a red rose by one of the girls. Spending time with them, watching them perform traditional Indian dances for us, and just seeing the happiness radiating out of every beaming face was truly an amazing experience. To know that our fundraising had played a part in enabling them to have the safe, happy life they live today was truly humbling. It was the same when we visited the boy’s home, where balloons, stickers, and games such as ring a rosy were a huge hit.

As lovely as it was to see the happy, safe homes created for these rescued children, it was a different story when it was time to pay a visit to the slums. Our group visited Ultadanga and Chetla Lough and it was there that the full extent of poverty in Kolkata really hit home. Hundreds of families are packed into tiny shacks, bunched tightly together in a small, dreary wasteland, in Chetla an open sewer running through its centre. It was absolutely heartbreaking to witness the appalling conditions these people were forced to live in. HOPE had set up a school in each for the children; however it was only those who could afford a uniform that were allowed to attend. As we emerged from playing with those lucky few, we saw those whose parents needed them to work, standing outside, looking in, unable to join in our fun. This occurrence, repeated in both slums, was for me, a pivotal moment in the trip and by far the most upsetting.

We also visited Midleton College’s project: The Night Ambulance, a polio hospital, the Hope hospital, lifeskills cafe and learning centre, drop in centres, craft shops, and a number of schools. In each place women and children were being cared for, and given the one thing that cannot be taken away from them, an education.

It was both an honour and a privilege to be given such an amazing opportunity to represent the school and see what a huge difference HOPE makes to the lives of so many children, and I can honestly say it changed my outlook on life forever. If asked to return there I would do so in an instant, without the slightest hesitation. It’s hard to put into words how much this trip affected me. As a person I’m changed, but for the better and I fully hope to return there someday and relive the whole experience.

I would like to thank the Hope Foundation for affording the school the opportunity to be involved in the immersion programme and I would also like to extend our thanks to Ms Niamh Lawlor for accompanying Mr Preston and for helping us with our fundraising.

*Olwyn Anthony (Form V)*
The mini-company module began at the start of the year. We were first divided into groups and then we began the brainstorming process. Many good ideas were suggested such as the discount card “Mad Card” and the Irish oral aid “Scrúdú Beil” but many others didn’t leave the assembly hall. My mini-company was called “Edu-Key”, a memory stick with past papers and marking schemes for LC students. Dylan Somers and Robert Cashman were also in my group.

After being successful in two previous mini-company competitions we were awarded fantastic prizes. We won the “most innovative product” and “the best overall mini company” in regional competitions. In turn we got generous cash prizes and the invitation to compete in the national finals in Croke Park, Dublin. “Mad Card” won the “Best Marketing prize” in an earlier competition. Our mini-company group Edu-Key, travelled to Dublin on the 17th of April. It was the 10th anniversary of the competition so stakes were high.

“When last September 16,647 students from 387 secondary schools have been researching, setting up and running their own enterprises, with help from teachers and local enterprise boards” stated the Irish Examiner. Taking this into account we were absolutely delighted to have reached this stage of the competition.

Our adrenaline was high as we set up our stand at 8:45 am for a 9am start. Tensions were high at this stage because every group was under pressure to have their stands put up the best possible way.

The schedule for the competition was that the three judges in our category would interview us at different times. We waited a considerable time for them to come around but meanwhile we had the opportunity to look at the other enterprise ideas. They included new mobile apps, a convenient can crusher, a foot rot preventer for sheep, sock savers, a bicycle laser to indicate your route when dark, food, a rugby lift assist and Irish baubles (the outright winner of the competition).

The competition had a great vibe to it. The music and the videos projected onto the wall added to the great atmosphere.

When all 72 groups were interviewed there was a sing-off and an event video made for the “Nationwide” programme.

The ceremony for the winners was held next. Rick O’Shea from 2FM was the guest speaker and talked about the record amount of students applying to take part in the competition. He also said that 12,000 new businesses are established in Ireland every year and that this era of teenagers will get Ireland out of the problems that we’re in.

Although we didn’t win any prizes we were delighted with how well we presented our business to the judges.

It was rewarding to notice the advancements that we made from setting-up our company to presenting it to the judges.

Owen Chambers (Form V).
Young Social Innovators

Horticulture Module

Nature has a way of ensuring one never gets notions about themselves. Just as you begin to think, ‘I can grow this’ or ‘I have mastered this process’ we come upon a new challenge and realise that the goal posts have been moved. Outfoxed by mother-nature the only course of action left to us is to wait until next year and try again.

Suffice to say that our merry little band of horticulturists did not have a bountiful harvest, a bumper crop or a brilliant year. The college hens decided they would go walkabout, frequently and indiscriminately, in the tunnel – while the eggs tasted great sadly our crops lost the battle! Wandering hens were just one of the challenges sent to try us...We were visited by more rain than the ground could cope with while our good friend the sun kept away for much of the time.

On a happier note our outing to Ballymaloe Cookery School and House was most enjoyable. The Christmas wreaths we created looked festive and the plant sale raised a considerable sum. As always thanks to our green fingered goddess Susan Turner...So here’s to next year may it be bountiful.

A.M.

Last year students came up with the idea of assessing wheelchair accessibly in our school, promoting awareness for wheelchair users and experiencing what it would be like to be in a wheelchair for a day.

They also prepared a comprehensive project for the YSI judges and report for Mr. Thompson and the Board of Governors

They presented our project at speak out in cork city hall and from over 400 projects in the country they got through to the national final in Dublin where 50 teams presented. This was a huge achievement in the first year that we hope to build on this year.

N.L.

Members of Form IV are pictured attending the YSI national final in Dublin.
Pictured right are Ian Keating and Lisa Kenneally. The two representatives from the mini-company “Spellit” who won the “Best Overall Award” at the South Cork competition on the 5th of December 2012 at Douglas shopping centre.

The other two members are Eva Bourke and Ellen Ryall. Their company is promoting the rules of spelling.

Pictured left are Ruth Provan-Bessell and Janet Rumley, they are in a mini-company called “Love Language” they won Best Exhibition Stand. Their mini-company has produced a bi-lingual children’s book. It is in English and Irish. The other members of the group are Monica Gonzalez, Hayley Trevor and Aisling O’Neill.

*M.M.*
REPORT OF MIDLETON COLLEGE’S ROTARY INTERACT CLUB 2011

Last year Midleton College began its 2nd year as an official Rotary Interact group. The total membership last year was twenty students. We are happy to say this year that the number has further increased to thirty students. We accomplished quite a lot since the inauguration of the club last year.

We completed two projects one international (Hope Foundation - Clothes Sale) and one local project (Irish Wheelchair Association – Sponsored Walk). We invited and hosted the President of the IWA, whom we presented the cheque to in assembly.

The international project was chosen because of the close ties between Midleton College and the Hope Foundation. The idea of a clothes sale came from members of the group and the generosity of the school that supported it. The clothes sale was held on the 9th and the 16th of December which went particularly well because of the brilliant venue, thanks to Market Green Shopping Centre.

Everyone in the Rotary Club was involved rotating on a shift basis and nearly everyone sold one thing or another. Everything that was left over we took to the Cash 4 Clothes shop, we then converted our unwanted clothes into more money.

In total the whole project raised 1300Euro for the Hope Foundation and the clothes left over made 113Euros, which was put towards the fund of the Midleton College Sports Complex.

The Local Project last year also was another great success. We came up with an idea of doing a sponsored 25km walk with people rotating turns at being in wheelchairs and seeing what its like to be in a wheelchair. The wheelchairs we’re given to us by the IWA.

The walk, which took a day, brought in 1500Euro for the Irish Wheelchair Association. We presented this to the President of the IWA when she attended a school assembly in May 2012.

Returning in September 2012 we opened membership to all members of the school community not just 4th year as in previous years. We now have 35 members, which come from all across the year groups of the school.

So far we have had 4 meetings, we have identified a new local project _Barnados. We have hosted Barney Callaghan out going district governor of the Rotary Club who came to talk to us all about what rotary is and how we can improve our rotary club. We also hosted Gold Winning Paralympian John C. Twomey who came to talk to us about his experiences in the paralympian world, what happens and how it was set up and what he does in the Paralympics.

Our aim for the coming year is to complete another international project a local project and also to begin getting a guest speaker at least once a month. We also would like to begin competitions such as RIBI Youth Speaks, RIBI Young Chef, RIBI Young Musician, RIBI Young Photographer, RIBI Young Writer, RIBI Young Citizen Awards, RIBI Technology Tournament. We would like to see some of these competitions held as we think that it could increase the awareness and reputation of the Glanmire Rotary Club while at the same time benefiting our interact group immensely.

Thanks you for your continued support,

Jack Cowhig (Form V)
President of Midleton College Rotary Interact Club.
On Thursday the 25th October five students from Midleton College, including myself were accompanied by Miss Twomey to the Clarion Hotel in Cork where Comhairle Na Nóg was being held. Comhairle Na Nóg is a youth based organisation that concentrates on the lives of young people and the issues they face. Its members come together and discuss issues such as cyber bullying and ways the organisation can make people aware of these issues and hopefully help to solve them.

The Comhairle Na Nóg meeting in the Clarion Hotel was set up to find out the options of the youth in Cork and which issues they thought were the most prominent and also to recruit new members.

The day began at 10.30 with the official opening by the Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr. Barbara Murray. Around a hundred students from schools all over Cork attended. After the ice breaker stations were set up and we (the students from Midleton College) visited each, they were as follows:

- Referendum video
- Jigsaw priority issues
- Passion sun
- Grounds of equality
- Dramatisation of Youth issues
- Round table discussions

Each station was unique from the others and all interesting. After lunch we were split into groups so that each group had a mixture of schools and we had to brainstorm and come up with our top five issues for the Comhairle to work on in 2013. Each group said their top five and then we selected our top 10 issues out of the 50 by raising our hands and then once they were selected ten discussion groups were set up. This included Mental health, bullying, changing the leaving cert amongst others. We could choose which discussion group to go to. I went to a discussion about the lack of rural transport and facilities.

From there we voted on the two issues that we felt that the Comhairle needed to tackle most. The result of the vote is unknown to me as the votes had not been counted before the end of the meeting.

I felt the day was a worthwhile experience which broadened my opinion on a whole host of topics.

Aoife Dunne (Form III)

Students who attended:
Eamonn Maloney, Form 6 – Chairperson of student council
Pádraig Power, Form 3 – member of student council
Aoife Dunne, Form 3 – secretary of student council
Philip Punch, Form 3 – member of student council
Sam Brady, Form 1 – member of student council

‘Should have gone to Specsavers!’

Ross Donovan and Conor Sheehy give their own clever take on a popular ad campaign as part of their Media Module studies.

‘To act or not to act that is the question’

Rob Johnston and Luke Finnerty contemplate a future ‘treading the boards’ during a Drama Module class.


Back row L-R:  N. Quill, J. Byron, O. Twomey, O. Parsons, J. Kowalski, E. Scully.
Back row L-R: C. Daly, A. Nuzum, C. McGregor, R. Swanton, R. Stafford, D. Wright, M. O’Sullivan.
Middle row L-R: O. McIlreavy, E. Perea, S. Murphy, P. Loyer, B. O’Callaghan, A. O’Mahony.

Middle row L-R: A. Morris, S. Emerson, E. Marley, I. Morgan, C. Eng, D. Kelly.

Back row L-R: M. Humphreys, D. Murphy, J. Power, R. England, J. Hennigan, S. Kearns, J. Ryan, A. Burke, C. Fuchs.
Middle row L-R: P. Punch, A. Cowhig, R. Walsh, C. Hall, R. O’Callaghan, F. Bailey, S. Punch, S. Gies.
Front row L-R: S. O’Mahony, A. Whyte, A. Hevers, C. Roch-Perks, B. Archer.

Front row L-R:  S. James, A. Axson, N. Garrues, R. Drennan, M. Guerrero, N. Schoenenberger, S. Stronach.

Middle row L-R:  H. Greaves, A. Lehane, S. Keating, N. McCormack, C. Walsh.
Darina Allen recently gave a cookery demonstration to members of the Home Economics class and nobody left the room with appetites unsatisfied! L-R C. Devine, C. Hall, J. Hennigan, Darina Allen, R. O’Sullivan, Ms.Lawlor.

Form VI eager to be off to the Governors Reception held in The Midleton Park Hotel last May.

Here we see Form III in the role of water carriers (using a strange array of receptacles), they were doing a water walk for the charity Aidlink as part of a CSPE project.

Three Form V students had three very different reactions to this experiment which took place as part of Science Week.

Young Aquarians!

Playing with fire!

Too many cooks?

Darina Allen recently gave a cookery demonstration to members of the Home Economics class and nobody left the room with appetites unsatisfied! L-R C. Devine, C. Hall, J. Hennigan, Darina Allen, R. O’Sullivan, Ms.Lawlor.
‘Blast from the Past!’

Attending the official opening of the Colton Building were the recently retired Mrs. Ruth Levis and Mr. Leonard O’Mahony. Immediately behind them may be seen Mrs. Cairns, Mr. Johnston and Mr. King also retired veterans of the College staff.

‘Three little maids from school are we!’

L-R: H. Hayes, E. Humphreys, A. Hackett are pictured celebrating their winning performances in the annual Cobh Chamber of Commerce languages competition.

‘The water babies!’

Members of Form II at Ballyhass seem all set to practice water safety while still on dry land!

‘My lovely Horse!’

In a Father Ted like surreal moment Sally-Ann Quill and Katie McCarthy (Form VI) enjoy the chaos of the final piggyback race on Sports Day.

“Bookended by Bishops!”

Mr. Thompson and Mr. Morrissey must have felt either exalted or nervous when surrounded by a brace of bishops on Prize Day!
Opening of The Colton Building

Here we see the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn T.D. Officially opening the Colton Building.

Here we see some of the cast of the Christmas Concert, 'The Wiz' looking disappointed as it is revealed that the wizard has no power to grant their requests.

‘All the world’s a stage’

‘Ground Control to... Mayor Tom!’

‘Charge!’

Sam Lynch and Ellen Ryall gallop towards the finish line on Sports Day.

‘Masterchefs!’

Members of the Form III German tour are pictured here at a civic reception in the town hall hosted by the Mayor of Ellwangen. Tom Loftus inadvertently sat in the Mayor’s chair but the Mayor graciously declared Tom Bürgermeister for the day!

Here we see the cookery competition finalists and their dishes laid out for inspection. Katie McCarthy was chosen as the winner.

Here we see the cookery competition finalists and their dishes laid out for inspection. Katie McCarthy was chosen as the winner.