



Ardscoil Rís Annual Report

Academic Year 2009-2010



Table of Contents

	Page
Mission Statement	1
ERST: Edmund Rice School Trust	1
Chairperson's Address	2
Message from the Principal	4
Board of Management	7
Parents Council	7
Staff	8
In -SchoolManagement	10
Students Council	11
School resources	13
Links with Community	14
Links with Parents	15
School Development Planning	15

Building	20
Curriculum	23
Department Reports	24
• Religious Education	24
• Art	28
• Business	33
• Civic, Social and Political Education	35
• English	37
• French	37
• Gaeilge	39
• Geography	41
• German	42
• Guidance	45
• History	48
• Maths/Applied Maths	49
• Music	51
• Physical Education	54
• Science Department Report	56
• Social, Personal and Health Education	61
• Technical Graphics	63
• Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme	65
• Learning Support & Resource	66
• Transition Year Programme	71
School Choir	74
Lunchtime Club	76
Supervised study	77
Awards Evening	77
Photo Gallery 2009-2010	83

Ardscoil Rís Mission Statement

Ardscoil Rís aims to promote the spiritual, personal, physical, cultural, aesthetic and academic development of its students. We aim to create a community where students are imbued with Christian values of respect, justice and integrity.

Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST)



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust

Edmund Rice was that rare combination – a creative visionary who was also immensely practical. From the humble beginnings of the first such school in Waterford in 1802, Edmund Rice Schools have played an important role in the history of Irish education for over two centuries. Today there are over a hundred of these schools in Ireland, and the Edmund Rice mission has extended to all five continents.

At the start of the new Millennium, the Christian Brothers founded by Blessed Edmund Rice decided to hand on responsibility for the schools to a group of lay people. The Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST) was established to hold the schools in trust so that they may continue to provide Catholic education into the future for the people of Ireland. This pioneering decision marked the opening of a new and significant chapter in the history of the schools.

The ERST Trust has a nine person Board of Directors with the Hon Mr Justice Peter Kelly as Chairperson and Ardscoil Rís past pupil, Mr Pat Cox as a board member.

The process whereby lay people would take on responsibility for the schools was carefully planned during a long period of discernment. The lively and active participation of the students, staff, parents, trustees and boards of management of the schools over a four year period from 1999 to 2003 in an Identity Project was a vital part of this preparatory phase. Through reflection, and sharing, the school partners sought to reach consensus on what comprises the heart and soul of an Edmund Rice School. We have a common purpose and together are finding new ways to support each other in our work.

In handing over their schools to the Edmund Rice Schools Trust the Christian Brothers have placed their confidence in a group of people who are deeply conscious of the great heritage of these schools. Faithful to the Church and inspired by Edmund Rice's vision, these people ensure the future of the schools as Christian communities dedicated to learning and excellence. Ardscoil Rís takes its responsibility to cherish and promote the ethos of Edmund Rice very seriously and great emphasis is placed on faith formation, liturgical services and values education. The school has very close links with the Christian Brothers who live adjacent to the school in St Teresa's; Brother Muiris Cunningham, Brother Senan Ryan and Brother James Dormer who take an active part in our events and celebrations.

Chairperson's Address

On behalf of the Board of Management I am delighted to introduce the Ardscoil Rís Annual Report for the Academic Year 2009-2010. The report is a testimony to the vibrancy of both academic and extra-curricular life in this

school. Ardscoil Rís Student Council is exemplary of this school spirit. The Council has fostered a deep seated sense of school spirit through its input into school policies, its meeting with the Board of Management and its involvement on Open Night.

The report is indicative of a Staff which has striven to encourage and foster a stimulating, educational and creative environment. The Staff has given generously of its time and skills and this report demonstrates aptly the numerous ways in which this is manifest in Ardscoil Rís – through the excellent academic results, the magnificent sporting achievements, competitions, Action Projects, celebrations of Irish Language and European Language Days, concerts, musicals, drama workshops, and the work of the Special Educational Needs Department.

The report demonstrates the importance of the school's links with the wider community through the visits of Guest Speakers, its involvement with Limerick City Enterprise competitions and the students' commitment to local charities.

Part of the uniqueness of the Ardscoil Rís school experience is due in no small part to the commitment of Board members, student council, parents - especially the Parent Council – and the relentless hard work and exceptional leadership of the Principal, Bríd de Brún and Deputy Principal, Nodlaig O'Grady.

We, as a school community, look forward to the completion of our extensive building projects and to the ways in which the members of our community will enrich and enliven that building. I hope you will enjoy reading about school life in these pages.

Adrian Cahill

Principal's Message

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. ~ Nelson Mandela

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2009-2010. I hope that this gives each of you – students, staff and parents an insight into the complex running of a school over an academic year. “It takes a village to raise a child”. This ancient African proverb teaches an eternal truth. No man, woman, or family is an island, we each impact on and influence each other. Similarly it takes an entire school community to educate a child. It is the blending of the academic with the extra-curricular that fully exposes and enriches the gifts of each student and I am deeply grateful to the many teachers who share their time and expertise with us to ensure that our students have the very best opportunities provided to them.

Each of the subject departments offers a brief summary of the year's work. This provides an insight into the diversity and breadth of work that takes place in each subject area. The many outcomes are a tribute to the very dedicated teachers who work so hard for each of the pupils. It is equally testament to the commitment of our students and I sincerely thank each student who has positively contributed to life in Ardscoil Rís. I wholeheartedly thank each parent/guardian who supports us in our endeavour to create a quality learning environment. Ní neart go chur le chéile!

I hope that you enjoy reading the report and recall with us the many achievements of 2009-2010 including:

- Outstanding academic results: The students in this cohort worked extremely hard and kept up the school's tradition of academic excellence. It is a validation of the school's focus on both the extracurricular and academic development of the students that a great number of the panel that won the Harty Cup for the first time in the school's history also shone in the state examinations. Players such as Eoghan McCarthy, Kevin Keane, Adrian Breen, Niall Kennedy and Darren O'Connor not alone played sport at the highest level but also achieved places in courses such as medicine, pharmacy and architecture. Our teachers excelled also with 22 A grades in one class in Leaving Cert and 28 A grades in one Junior Certificate class testifying to their dedication.
- Ardscoil's historic and hard-won victory in the Harty Cup was accompanied by the excitement and promise associated with winning the Rice Cup. We also won the Limerick Colleges Hurling Championship and eight of our students play with the Limerick Minors while two qualified for the Clare Minors.
- Ardscoil's Tour to South America: In June 2010 Ardscoil Ris embarked on its third International Rugby Tour. Tours to South Africa in 2002 and 2005 were followed by this year's tour incorporating, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. Preparations for this tour began two years before and great credit is due to all staff members, parents and players for this ambitious undertaking. Our fabulous win over Newman College was the highlight of the tour and we look forward to their return visit in September. We would like to thank all parents, sponsors and supporters of this tour without whom it would not have been possible.
- The school's continued fundraising and contributions to humanitarian organisations. Supporting the marginalised is a major part of our ethos in Ardscoil Ris. This year the students raised much needed income for Haiti, organised the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Food

Appeal and of course did an immense amount of fundraising for the school's India Immersion project.

- A very successful Transition Year Programme with 96 boys taking to the stage in The Millennium Theatre in "Disco Inferno".
- All-Ireland Finalists in Basketball.
- Mr Liam Kennedy's student, Eoin Fahy, was awarded the Institute of Chemistry's Award for highest results in Ireland in Leaving Certificate Chemistry.
- Edward Garrihy who achieved 7 A1s in his leaving certificate was awarded an entrance scholarship to UCC where he is studying medicine.
- Conor Allis was awarded a Sports Scholarship for Hurling to UCD where he is studying physiotherapy.
- Our rugby players had an exciting year. We won the North Munster Shield, had a very successful Rugby Tour to South America and Jamie McGarry was selected for the Munster Schoolboys Rugby Team.
- New School Building. The sod was turned on our new building project on December 18th, starting a process of building and renovation that will see the physical size of the school double by 2011. A range of new facilities and social spaces will see a greatly enhanced teaching environment in Ardscoil which will more than compensate for the inconvenience of the building phase.

Whilst celebrating our achievements, I acknowledge all of the changes that occurred in our school community during the last year. To our students who moved on from us we hope that they go on to have fulfilling, happy and meaningful lives and that the ethos of Ardscoil permeates their encounters and their endeavours.

Brid de Brún

Principal

Board of Management

A new Board of Management was constituted in October 2009.

Members:

Chairman	Mr Adrian Cantillon
Trustee Nominees	Ms Una White
	Mr Philip Jones
	Mr Philomena Flood
Parent Nominees	Mr Eugene Leonard
	Ms Linda Keane
Teacher Nominees	Ns Lorna Dundon
	Mr Michael Gleeson
Secretary to BOM	Ms Bríd de Brún

Parents Council

This has been a very busy and productive year for the Parents Council as they were very active organising activities and planning for future events. They were also instrumental in organising a team building / bonding day for the incoming first years in September which was held in Killaloe. The students really enjoyed the day and it was a great success.

The A.G.M. of the Parents' Council was held on Monday 30th September 2009. Detective Garda Sandra Heelan addressed a meeting of parents and

gave a very informative talk on 'Drugs and challenges facing teenagers in today's society'. This meeting was very well attended.

In October they organised the catering for the Open Night for sixth class students and their parents. David Coleman, a psychologist from the television series 'Teens in the Wild' gave a talk to parents on 'A parents survival guide to the teenage years' on the 20th of October in the Strand Hotel.

A meeting of all the members of the Parents Council for the current year was held on Monday November 2nd 2009. It was great to see many new members present. The committee for the current year was elected at the meeting. The current officers are: Chairperson: Mary Cavanagh, Vice Chairperson: Linda Wixted, Secretary: Zvezdana Vukosavljevic, Treasurer: John Sweeney, Assistant Treasurer: Mary Teresa Bourke.

A number of events took place this year in order to raise funds for the staging of the Musical 'Disco Inferno' which was staged in the Millennium Theatre, L.I.T. at the end of February. The Parents' Council organised three days of bag packing in Dunnes Stores, Harveys Quay along with the Transition Year students in November.

Staff 2009-2010

Bríd de Brún **Principal**

Nodlaig O'Grady **Deputy Principal**

Assistant Principals in Alphabetical Order

Bill Burke

Catherine Casey

Maria Goodwin

Rita Hayes

Marie Hogan
Moira Wallace

Liam Kennedy

Special Duties Post Holders in Alphabetical Order

Sheena Butterfield
Liam Cronin
Nicola Cunningham
Patricia Heuston
Rose Lawlor
Mairead Nic Chártaigh
Elaine O'Leary

Diane Condon
Niall Crowe
Sean Guilfoyle
Derek Larkin
Kevin Long
Gail O'Carroll

Other Teaching Staff

Yvonne Buckley
Karen Burke
Aisling Cahill
Cathal Daly
Karina Doherty
Lorna Dundon
Michael Gleeson
Daniel Harrison
Jennifer Hickey
Fergal Lyons
Martin McPhail
Julieanne Neville
Paula Reidy
Pat Tobin

Eva Burke
Louise Burke
Kay Collins
Niall Dennehy
Padraig Doyle
Enda Gavigan
Miriam Griseto
Phil Harte
Marguerite Linnane
Carol McCarthy
Niall Moran
Patrcia O'Dwyer
Paul Sugrue
Antoinette Trimble

Special Needs Assistants:	Sarah Clifford
Administration Staff:	Margaret Leland & Noreen Hogan
Caretaker:	Ronnie O'Dwyer
Cleaning Staff:	Marcin Krawczyk & Andrei Strok
Work Placement Student:	James Carroll
Teaching Practice Students:	Francis Broderick, Ellen Collins, Ingrid Laffin, Lorna Noone

We bade farewell to a number of staff members in 2009/10. We wish them all the best in their lives outside school.

In-School Management Structure

Due to restrictions in promotions in the public service post-holders who retired, resigned or went on leave were not replaced in the 2009-2010 academic year. This resulted in the loss of four Assistant Principal and one Special Duties post during the period in question. A review of posts was held in May 2009 and a prioritising of the school's needs resulted in the following schedule of posts.

7 Assistant Principals

- 1 . House Examinations Co-Coordinator
2. Year head 1st year
- 3 Year head 2nd year
4. Year head 3rd year
5. Year head 6th year
6. Co-ordinator Parents Council

7 Programme Coordinator

Special Duties Posts

1. Administrator 2nd year
2. Administrator 3rd year
3. Administrator 6th year
4. School Plan
5. Safety and Lockers Administrator
6. Co-ordinator of Special Needs Student
7. Students Council
- 8 Co -Year Head 5th Year
- 9 Co-Year-head 5th Year
10. TYO Co-Coordinator & Year head 1 and 11
- 11 TYO Co-Coordinator & Year head 111 and 1V
- 12 Administrator – TYO
13. Sports Administrator
- 14 . Sports Administrator

Student Council

The Ardscoil Rís Student Council had a very active year in 2009-2010 starting with their Orientation Day on September 7th and culminating in the inclusion for the first time of a Student Council Special Category in the Annual Awards Night on May 27th.

The following are officers and members of the Ardscoil Rís Students Council 2009-2010

Chairperson:	Lorcan O'Connor, Sixth Year
Secretary:	Shane Hickey-O'Mara, Sixth Year
Treasurer:	Simon Keane, Sixth Year
Vice Chairperson:	Neil Jordan, Fifth Year
Vice-Secretary:	Brian Masterson, Fifth Year
Vice Secretary:	Cathal Quirke, Fifth Year
PROs:	Ronal Houlihan, Transition Year Dylan Kruger, Transition Year
Members:	Robbie Deegan, Third Year Tony Cusack, Third Year Josh O'Halloran, Second Year Eoin Ryan, Second Year Conor Casey, First Year Jack O'Shea, First Year

The council was strongly represented at the school's open night held on the 5th of October and were given the task of taking groups of prospective first years on a tour of the school. October is Mental Health Awareness month and to mark this important time of year, the student council organised for support services Aware and The Samaritans to visit the school and give talks to the students. Aware spoke to Third and Sixth Years (with the help of Bean Uí Chárthaigh), while The Samaritans met with Transition, Fifth and Sixth Years. The council were also involved in selling pens, stickers and t-shirts to raise money for Aware.

The Student Council read and reviewed Ardscoil Rís' Critical Incident, Work Placement and Pastoral Care policies in addition to organising non-uniform days to raise much needed funds for the school's Indian Immersion

Programme. They also considered proposals to change the student uniform jacket deciding not to alter it at present. In early November, Transition years with the aide of the Deputy Principal and Mr. Crowe organised the first year elections for the student council.

Monday the 30th of November marked the signing of the official documents for the new school building project. Senior student council representatives were invited to attend this momentous occasion which proved to be a big success.

On January 20th the entire Student Council met with the Board of Management, Staff and the Parents Council. This was an extremely productive exercise. Ideas and views were exchanged. The council appreciated the interest shown by these groups in our work. 12th February saw a colours day for Haiti. A cheque for €1,000 was later presented to the Limerick Rotary Club. Many thanks to all who contributed on the day. A 5th Year soccer league organised by council member Brian Masterson commenced in the spring and it was a great success. Thanks to all the teachers who both refereed and supervised matches.

Elections for 2010/11 were held in May. Next year the council intends investigating new ventures such as a Multi-Cultural Day and School Radio. A huge thanks to all council members for their effort this year.

Congratulations to Shane Hickey O'Mara on being chosen as the winner of the Student Council Award at the 2009-2010 awards evening.

School Resources

Ardcoil Ris consists of a building which was constructed in three stages over a period of 46 years. There are 27 classrooms, three science

laboratories, TD Room, DCG Room, SPHE Room, RE Room, IT Room, Music Room, Art Room, Staff Room, several offices, store rooms, meeting rooms and a Sports Complex and pitches. Student numbers have grown steadily in recent years making the present accommodation inadequate to meet the needs of a vibrant centre of learning in the 21st century. In 1999 the Board of Management started a campaign to get a major extension to Ardscoil. The contract was finally signed in December 2009 and work began on a building project that will see the size of the school double with new facilities such as a canteen, social area, rooftop library, four science laboratories, two art rooms, material technology wood, material technology metal, home economics, prayer room, guidance room, resource suite and sports hall, and a complete refurbishment of the two and three story wing. Cordil Construction have been awarded the contract, Arup the engineers, and Healy and Partners architects.

Ardscoil Rís wished to particularly acknowledge the tolerance and patience with which our neighbours have endured the disruption and inconvenience that our building programme has entailed.

Links with Community

Ardscoil Rís has been part of the Holy Rosary Parish for almost fifty years and has grown to be an integral part of the community. All boys living in the parish have right of entry to the school. PAR (Parents of Ardscoil Rís) Bridge Club meet weekly in the school, Junior School, Senior School and Graduation Masses are held in Holy Rosary Church and our students go on work experience and social placement in the community. The Sports Complex is used by the local community in the evenings and, as requested, at weekends. The school is cognisant of, and grateful for, the support of our local community in all our fundraising endeavours through the years.

Links with Parents

There is a strong tradition of cooperation and support between the parents of our pupils and the school. Parents call to the school daily and the percentage of parents attending information evenings and Parent-Teacher meetings reached in the high 90s%. A similar high percentage commit to paying the voluntary contribution without which the quality of the educational experience we aim to provide would be greatly diminished. The financial contribution of the parents to the development of the new facilities at the school is also significant and is greatly appreciated. We are especially indebted of the parents who give of their time and talents to support the school by becoming members of the Board of Management, coaching teams, driving and accompanying students to golf, rowing, tennis and athletics meets, by providing work placements and social placements to our Transition Year students and who repeatedly respond to our requests for sponsorship. A special mention must be made of the hundreds of parents who manage over and over again to find time in their busy schedule to support our boys on the playing fields, the stage and podium.

The past academic year provided a number of fora for socialising with parents - always a pleasant experience. A Taste of Christmas, the TY musical, David Coleman's presentation and numerous sporting events culminating in a terrific night at the Harty Cup Victory Dinner in Adare.

School Development Planning 2009-2010

There was an active programme of School Development planning engaged in by the entire school community of Ardscoil Rís in the 2009-2010 academic year. Special thanks is due to the Students Council, the Parents Council, the Board of Management and the staff who have worked hard at advancing and updating the School Plan. A summary of the progress in this area is outlined below.

October 11th 2009 Staff Planning Day

The morning was devoted to in-service by Second Level Support Service on Assessment for Learning, as a consequence of which the teachers of First Year English are using the techniques in their teaching as part of the Learning school Project.

In the afternoon the staff was given an update by Sheena Butterfield on the outcome of the last three-year tranche of school planning. Then, individually and in small groups, the staff identified their priorities for planning for the next session of planning. Feedback, to inform planning, was also to be sought from the parents and Board of Management.

As a result of this consultation 11 areas were identified as the focus of school planning for Ardscoil Rís. Not surprisingly the demands of the building programme emerged as a priority. In tandem with this process of school planning is a parallel process of Curriculum Review necessitated by the new school facilities in areas such as Wood Technology and Engineering.

February 8th 2010 Staff Meeting

The staff were presented with the 11 planning areas and given the opportunity to opt for the ones they wished to work on in order of priority. A list of the areas and the staff planning groups appears on page three of this report. School principal, Bríd de Brún, presented the staff with a document clarifying the different curricular options available to the school and requested that thought be given to the possible consequences of these options for individual teachers and subjects in advance of the Planning Day sanctioned by the Board of Management for March 16th 2010.

16th March 2010 Curriculum Planning for the New School

Mr Joe O' Connell, Director, Limerick Education Centre, facilitated a half-day workshop; ***Curriculum Planning for the New School***, with the staff in the Strand Hotel, Limerick. The staff examined the implications of different

subject options for Junior Cycle. An outline of the staff preferences appears on page four of this report.

During the afternoon session the staff broke into their 11 planning groups for their first meeting. The agenda for this session was as follows:

- 1) *Nominate a contact person for the group.*
- 2) *Consider the terms of reference for the group.*
- 3) *Decide how you will involve the other members of the school community in your area, if appropriate.*
- 4) *Develop an action plan.* 5) *Identify other resources that may be necessary.*

Each group reported back to the staff on their progress so far.

Committees	Staff Committee Members
Pastoral Care	Maria Goodwin, Enda Gavigan, Cathal Daly, Eva Burke
Building - Colour Scheme /Art Pieces/Display/ photographs	Danny Harrison, Kay Collins, Miriam Griseto, Julieanne Neville,
Room Allocation, sinage, numbers , corridor names	Sean Guilfoyle, Gail O' Carroll, Karen Burke, Liam Kennedy.
Canteen provision	Fergal Lyons, Niall Moran, Derek Larkin, Paula Reidy (2010/11)
Library & Social area for students	Sheena Butterfield, Rose Lawlor, Michael Gleeson, Mairead NicCarthaigh, Patricia Heuston
Staff Mentoring	Paula Reidy, Kevin Long, Antoinette trimble, Niall C
	Moira Wallace, Bill Burke, Karina

Dress Code & Open Night	Doherty, Carol McCarthy
Extra Curricular Activities	Yvonne Buckley, Pat Tobin, Louise Burke, Nicola Cunningham, Martin McPhail
Classroom management	Lorna Dundon, Ciara McMathuna, Catherine Casey, Rita Hayes, Paul Sugrue
IT	Phil Harte, Liam Cronin, Trish O' Dwyer, Marie Hogan, Marguerite Linnane
Transition Year Policy	Elaine O' Leary, Aishling Cahill, Pdraig Doyle, Diane Condon Pat Walsh (2010/11)

Feedback from Planning Groups 16th March 2010

Core Exam subjects for Junior Cert	<u>Irish/Eng/Maths/Hist/Geog/CSPE</u> Science & Business Science & Business & Foreign Language Science, Business & PE Science
Optional Examinable Subjects for Junior Cert	Art Music TD French German Home Economics Wood Technology PE Technology RE Metalwork Spanish Italian Business Construction Studies
What subjects should be banded?	Music/German/TD Pick two subjects from bands created from optional subjects

	French/German/Music/TD/Art
	French/German/Music/TD/Art/Home Ec/Technology
	French/German/Music/Art/TD/PE
	Choose two from French/
	French/ German/Music/Art/TD/Home Ec/Wood
	Tech/Spanish/Italian/PE

26th May 2010 Staff Meeting

At this meeting the work started on the Curriculum Planning Session of March 16th was resumed and it was decided that the First Year classes 2010-2011 will take both French and German for 10 weeks and then choose one language to continue with for the remaining weeks of First Year. It was also decided that Science and Business would remain compulsory subjects for Junior Cert.

April – June 2010

During this term several planning groups met to progress their plans.

The **Dress Code/Open Night** group met and with the aid of Dress Code policies from three other schools drew up a draft policy that, after consultation with SNAs, Administration and teaching staff was adopted as the school's official Dress Code for September 2010.

This group has also put a structure in place to facilitate the operation of the Open Night for Sept 29th 2010. This work has been complicated this year by the school building programme and its implications for parking and room space available on the night.

The **Transition Year Policy** group met with the National Coordinator of the Transition Year Support Service and organised a staff in-service on Transition Year Programme review for 3rd September 2010. This was a particularly useful day for all staff and the feedback has been extremely

positive. The admission process for TY has also been revised by this group and the staff has been consulted in relation to this review.

Building

The new building project necessitated the following committees:

The **Room Allocation** group met several times and did sterling work in allocating rooms to staff after a process of information giving and consultation.

The **Building and Colour Scheme** at their inaugural meeting met with Mr Richard Rice, Architect from Healy's who outlined his vision for the school and the elements which informed his design. The group had several subsequent meetings, including two during the Summer holidays and liaised with the architects in choosing a colour palette for the floors and walls of the new building. Their work continues.

The **IT Planning** group met twice and their work is viewed as particularly urgent in view of the new IT facilities available in the new school. The group has requested contact be made with schools that have recently upgraded their facilities to investigate, in particular, staff utilisation of Information Technologies. This request is currently being processed.

Canteen Provision. The work of this group has taken on urgency as the canteen will be in Phase One of the building. The group has recently surveyed a sample of 15% of the student body on their requirements of the canteen in advance of preparing a description for tender. Options being considered include breakfast, hot lunches and food after school for those going to study or training.

Extra- Curricular Activities. This committee are focused on maintaining the excellent extra-curricular activity programme available to many of our

students, while expanding the variety and provision of these activities to involve as many different areas, staff and students as possible.

The **Library and Social Area** group began with a meeting met with Mr Richard Rice, Architect from Healey's who outlined his vision for the school and the elements which informed his design. They have since met twice and submitted an ambitious and exciting range of activities and facilities for consideration. This group requested to connect with schools that have modern library and social areas to inform their planning. This request is being facilitated.

Classroom Management. As a result of their meetings this group have submitted a range of practical and well-thought proposals designed to enhance classroom management of low level indiscipline in the classroom. Some of these proposals are immediately enactable and others will be considered by management as to their feasibility in this school year.

The **Pastoral Care** committee considered the proposal to introduce mentoring for incoming first years (2010-11). Consequently 30 Transition Students applied to become mentors. They completed a day's training in the Pastoral Centre and further in-house training and in pairs they mentor a group of 8-9 first years. The Mentoring Programme is now being managed by The Guidance Counsellors, the Year Head for First Year and the Deputy Principal and the members of this committee have moved to other areas of planning.

The **Staff Mentoring** group considered the process of induction and support for new staff in Ardscoil Rís. As a consequence a Staff Handbook was developed, a staff photograph was taken in August, a day's induction was organised for all new staff including teaching practice students on August 24th and a staff bonding event took place to which all staff were invited on September 2nd. The Staff Induction Day included a session on Child Protection Guidelines to which all sport coaches involved with school teams, cleaning, caretaking and administrative staff were invited. Staff Mentoring

will continue to be developed under the supervision of the Deputy Principal while the members of this group are now reassigned to other groups.

As some members of staff were freed up from the last two groups, and new members joined the staff two additional planning groups were constituted. These are as follows:

Cultural Development	Eva Burke, David Collopy, Maria Goodwin, Antoinette Trimble,	To develop the cultural dimension of the students of Ardscoil Ris
Developing a Protocol for Conduct at Matches	Niall Crowe, Cathal Daly, Enda Gavigan, Victor Leyden, Kevin Long	To develop a protocol, in cooperation with students for the proper conduct of the student body at matches

Policy Development

Concurrent with this ambitious and energetic programme of School Development Planning work continued on reviewing and developing a number of school policies.

- September 2009: The Admissions and Enrolment Policy was updated
- October 2009: The Substance Use Policy was amended to include Head Shops
- November 2009: Work Placement Policy Developed
- January 2010: Religious Education Policy reviewed
- February 2010: SPHE/RSE Policy reviewed
- April 2010: Substance Use Policy clarified in relation to its application to school related activities.
- May 2010: Dress Code developed.

The school extends its gratitude to the staff who have made an enormous contribution to range, quality and pace of this work during the past year, to the Parents Council and the Students Council for their considered and

astute comments and amendments to planning and policy development in Ardscoil, and finally to the Board of Management for its enlightened and generous support of this endeavour.

Curriculum

The Junior Cycle

The boys begin a three year course of study as laid out by the Department of Education and Science. The school provides a broad and balanced course of study in a range of curricular areas. The examination subjects include English, Irish, Mathematics, French, German, Science, Business Studies, History, Geography, Technical Graphics, Art, Music, C.S.P.E and Religious Education. Computing, S.P.H.E and Physical Education are also important parts of the curriculum. Students take all subjects in First Year and make choices for the Junior Certificate at the end of First Year.

The students sit examinations at the end of the Christmas and Summer terms, the results of which are furnished to parents.

The Senior Cycle

Building on the foundation of the Junior Cycle, the Senior Cycle aims to provide a comprehensive, high-quality learning environment which prepares individual students for further education or for immediate entry into the workplace. The boys follow a two year course of study in preparation for the Leaving Certificate Examination. This is a long established concluding examination of post-primary education and is the main basis upon which places in third-level institutes are allocated. To emphasise the academic importance of these two years, in-house examinations take place at the end of the Christmas and Summer terms. Continuous assessment is also carried out throughout each term to enable the school to monitor student progress.

The school offers a broad range of subjects to cater for all student preferences. Subjects include Irish, English, Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, French, German, History, Geography, Art, Music, Technical Graphics, LCVP, Accounting, Business, Economics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Department Reports

Religious Education

Department Members: Nicola Cunningham, Padraig Doyle, Karina Doherty (Coordinator), Enda Gavigan and Gail O'Carroll.

Allocation of Hours:

- 2 hours per week for every class in the school.

Observance of Liturgical Year:

September – October:

- Welcome to new students, teachers and staff.
- Junior Mass
- Open Night – emphasis on the importance of prayer
- Distribution of Gideon Bibles to all First Years

November – December

- Holy day celebration of saints November 1st 2009, all souls
November 2nd 2009
- Senior Mass
- Staff reflection Day on the 8th of December
- Remembrance service in class

- Advent/Christmas – Christian action projects such as SVP hampers, toys for children appeal, kristkindle and carol singing
- Preparation for the birth of Jesus – Visual displays around the school e.g. Advent wreath, Christmas tree, crib, religious symbols and icons.
- Mariology – Study of Mary

January – April

- Lenten prayer service
- St. Brigid's Day
- St. Patrick's Day – 17th March 2009
- Easter Preparation
- Holy Week – April 5th – 12th 2009

May- June

- Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice – 5th May 2009
- Mary – Our Lady and the Rosary
- Ascension Thursday -
- Pentecost Sunday
- Graduation Mass
- Mariology

Retreats:

- First Year – Trip to Callan
- Second Year – Gerry Keegan(school based retreat)
- Third Year – Trip to Mount Sion in Waterford.
- Transition Year – Students climbed Croagh Patrick
- Senior Students – Encounter Programme (Three day retreat programme in Ballyloughran).

Culture of Prayer:

- Spiritual development of the staff – Staff Reflection Day
- Prayers were said at the beginning of each class
- Icons and religious symbols were present throughout the school.

Links with the local community and wider world:

- Edmund Rice Awards(Transition Year)
- Social Placement (Transition Year)-TY 1 and TY4 went in November. TY2 and TY3 went in May
- Awards night – recognition was given to students who reach out to others.
- Links with pastoral centre e.g. Anois programme or students who wish to go to Lourdes.
- Links with Diocesan Advisor, Fr. Frank O’ Connor and R.E staff.
- Feedback to parents on Indian Immersion

Religion as an Exam subject:

- Religion is not an exam subject in Ardscoil Rís. This will be reviewed during the academic year ‘10/’11.
- The exam syllabus is followed at Junior level under the following headings
 - Communities of faith
 - Foundations of religion-Christianity
 - Foundations of religion – major world religions
 - Question of faith
 - Celebration of faith
 - Moral challenge

Senior Cycle;

4th Year- The 4th Year programme of study was modular with students covering two modules.

- Module 1-Social Justice

- Module 2- World Religions(Hinduism and Buddhism), Domestic Violence

The Edmund Rice Award was presented to students who actively participated in Social Placement

5th Year-During the year fifth year_students studied Morality and Moral Issues. This began with all fifth years getting a 6-9 class introduction to Morality. Thereafter, all students studied the following;

- Relationships/ Human reproduction/ explored a range of attitudes and values regarding sexual behaviour in modern society
- Suicide and Euthanasia
- Abortion and Cloning
- Drug and Alcohol abuse
- The Environment
- Human Rights
- War

6th Year- The topics the 6th were taught during the year were;

- The Search for Meaning
- Images of God
- Addictions
- Jesus Christ-St John's Gospel
- Relationships
- The Church- Early Church and Church today

Chaplaincy service:

- Links and support from the diocese and parish.

Inservice:

ERST Charter:

The vision, Mission and Values of the ERST Charter is central to Religious Education in the school. We strive to implement the five key elements of an ERST school: -

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel – based values;
- Promoting partnership in the school community;
- Excelling in teaching and learning;
- Creating a caring school community;
- Inspiring transformational leadership.

Some of the staff attended a cluster meeting organised by ERST

An Tobar :

- Offered practical and creative resources for teachers
- Online newsletter and e-mails.

Department Meetings:

All five RE teachers were timetabled to meet once per week with the Principal and Deputy Principal.

Policy Development:

The school Religious Education Programme was reviewed by the RE Team in 2010.

Art

Department Members: Julianne Neville and Daniel Harrison

1st Year

First years are introduced to basic techniques and materials so they learn fundamental art elements, and acquire knowledge to make an informed

subject decision for next year. Each project is designed to last approximately four weeks in duration, so a wide range of art areas are covered.

- Drawing
- Painting
- Graphic Design
- Clay Work
- 3D
- Craftwork
- Printing

All first years took part in the poster design competition for the school musical 'Disco Inferno'. The competition was a great success and 1st years enjoyed it immensely.

Exhibitions were held throughout the year of 1st year work including observational drawing and painting. These displays were of an excellent standard and greatly enhanced the school surroundings.

2nd Year

Building upon skills and knowledge gained in first year, pupils are encouraged to improve and experiment with techniques and materials. Projects are longer and more detailed. Pupils are introduced to the Junior Certificate course and to the concepts of support studies and preparatory work. Pupils need to practice their figure and object drawing, in order that a good standard be attained in 3rd year.

Areas covered are:

- Drawing – Figure and Object drawing
- Painting – From real and imaginary sources
- 3D Work – Construction using card and found objects, also clay modelling

- Craftwork – Photography, Lino Printing, Pottery and Batik (Two or three of these options)
- Graphic Design – Poster work and Packaging

All 2nd years took part in the Bord Gais, ‘Capture the Power’

History of art is introduced as a major part of the syllabus. Resources include the book “History and Appreciation” and visits to exhibitions. We are fortunate to have in our department an excellent selection of slides. The Irish art section is studied during this year.

- Drawing – the emphasis is on figure drawing using different media

Still Life – covered mainly in sixth year. photography competition. All entries were of a high standard and allowed students to explore photography in greater detail.

A competition was held to design the poster for this year’s school musical – ‘Disco Inferno’. All 2nd years took part in this competition. 2nd years work was displayed around the school. These exhibitions were greatly admired by students and staff.

3rd Year

Pupils are prepared for their Junior Certificate exam. This involves a project, which is started in November and ends in May. There are two drawing exams in May.

Project – 75% Drawing – 25%

- Painting Object Drawing
- Poster/Graphic Design Figure Drawing
- 3D work
- Craft Area Photography
- Modelling

- Printing
- Batik
- Calligraphy

Most pupils take the honours options. 3rd year projects are on display in the Art/Craft room on our Open Night are always the focus of highly positive comments.

4th Year

Since art is an optional subject some pupils in fourth year may never have taken this subject before. Therefore projects are kept simple and interesting, but flexible enough for the more experienced pupils to excel. Projects this year included drawing and project work.

The poster competition for the school musical 'Disco Inferno' was also open to transition year. Josh O'Keefe Fitzgerald was overall winner of the competition with his design chosen as official poster and invitation.

Photography

Photography is a practical course design for students to help them to develop their photographic skills. It is an introduction to the basic techniques and procedures that need to be mastered in the darkroom. The course covers image formation and techniques such as stencilling and photomontage. These provide help in understanding their purpose and how they can be best used.

5th Year

The Leaving Certificate includes the following:

- History of Art 38%
- Figure Drawing 12%

- Craftwork 25%
- Still Life Drawing 25%
- Craftwork – Three areas are covered so that the pupil can select one are to study for next year. The crafts that are covered are clay work (modelling or pottery), poster work and batik. Considerations are - design source, research and drawing, degree of finish and use of technique.
- Visits to Limerick City Gallery of Art to view exhibitions are encouraged.

Pupils are encouraged to look and respond to art works as part of the appreciation section of their course. To facilitate this visits are arranged to museums and galleries.

This year fifth and sixth year pupils accompanied by their teachers viewed a contemporary art exhibition.

Students who are interested in Art College/Architecture etc. start preparing a portfolio in 5th year. They are given constant guidance and advice.

5th year students also part in the Google Design Competition. Students had to design the Google logo in relation to the theme of being Irish.

6th Year

- Pupils work on a their imaginative composition as part of their exam
- Design is studied in detail during the first term. Experimentation in pencil, pastels and paint is encouraged.
- Art student of the year was awarded to Oisín Higgins who excelled in his portfolio receiving the maximum 600 points from the Limerick School of Art and Design.

- Figure drawing skills are further refined.
- History of Art. Study in this area is continued in the European section.
- Students attended a history of Art seminar held in Limerick City of Art in conjunction with the National Gallery of Ireland. This was an excellent overview of the Art history course for 6th years.
- The final exam!

School Building

The art department are involved in regular meetings in relation to the new school building.

Many aspects of the new school such as colours, flooring and ceiling have to be decided.

We are working with other staff members, management and architects to decide these matters, which will enhance the school building greatly.

Business

Department Members

Cathal Daly, Derek Larkin, Niall Moran, Karen Burke, Paul Sugrue

Department Meetings

Two meetings were held this year and a choice of text books were discussed. It was agreed for the Business Senior cycle to continue using the publication '21st Century Business' by William Murphy. It was agreed collectively that the book's material most closely resembled the business syllabus. For Junior Certificate Business Studies it was agreed to use 'Business Studies for Households and Enterprises' by Matt Hynes. 'Accounting for Senior

Cycle' by Christy Tyrrell was selected for the Senior cycle, as the questions contained are similar to those in the Leaving Certificate paper.

For the 1st year Business Studies students it was decided to teach common material across the five first year classes. This would facilitate a common exam to be held at Christmas and Summer to determine which students would need extra help in second year. A Business Magazine from Fallon Publishers was used but as it was felt that the quality of the material had deteriorated, it was decided to discontinue using it.

Guest Speakers

Ms. Helen Fitzpatrick from the PAUL Partnership in Limerick City was invited to speak to the 5th year Business classes about the role of community groups and the community sector in business; the potential for the social economy and the nature of community development. This covers an important chapter of the Business Course and the pupils found the visit very stimulating and helpful.

Pre-Examination

Pre-examinations take place each February. The process is also useful in giving feedback to pupils on where improvements can be made.

Resource Hours

A great aid to the Business, Accounting and Business Studies teachers, is the extra support given to students who have been allocated resource hours. Teachers agreed that an obvious improvement was evident in the students that received this resource.

Classroom Resources

A range of resources are made available to students including the following:

- Newspaper articles are very helpful in the area of current events topics

for both the Business and Economics courses.

- Students are encouraged to bring in articles from papers or websites that can be useful in class discussions of business topics such as the role of the EU and the most recent banking crisis.
- DVD's are shown, especially in the area of entrepreneurship. On completion of the construction of the new school building, it is envisaged that a bank of resources will be compiled in a central location.
- Teachers will also have their own classrooms where it will be easier to manage resources.

Professional Development

A number of Department teachers are members of the Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland. This allows teachers to meet fellow professionals from different schools. Past marking schemes and methodologies for teaching certain topics are discussed.

Tours

The 5th year students visited Shannon Aerospace as many of the students are studying Business. The visit was very successful in giving pupils an insight into the daily operation of a manufacturing facility that operates in the global economy. It was agreed that many aspects of the visit could be applied to the Business course.

Civic, Social and Political Education

Department Members: Mairead Nic Charthaigh, Julianne Neville, Martin McPhail, Pat Tobin, Yvonne Buckley, Karen Burke (Coordinator) and Aisling Cahill.

Provision of Subject in the School: CSPE is compulsory to all Junior Certificate students from First Year through to Third Year

Timetabling: One Class (40mins) a week for all years in the Junior Certificate

Facilities: CSPE Locker

Planning & Preparation:

- **Meetings:** Intermittent meetings with CSPE Teachers
- **Resources:** An audit was carried out on all the resources that are available to the CSPE Department and a copy of the listed materials were issued to all CSPE teaching staff. Resources are stored in the CSPE Locker and in boxes in the AV Room. All CSPE teachers were issued with a key to this locker.
- **Textbooks:** *Make a Difference* Textbook & Workbook – Conor Harrisson & Mairin Wilson

Assessment

First Year: Class Timetabled Christmas & Summer Exam (40mins)

Second and Third Year: Timetabled Christmas & Summer Exam (1 Hour)

Teachers Associations - CSPE Teachers Association

Use of Notice Boards

Correspondence and material to highlight designated days are displayed on notice boards in the School Corridors and Staff Room.

Inservice and Continuous Professional Development

September 2009: CSPE Introductory Inservice attended by Ashling Cahill and Martin Mc Phail

CSPE Action Projects 2009/2010

As part of the CSPE Junior Certificate Programme an Action Project worth 60% of the course is completed by the students. This academic year a number of Action Projects were completed including organising a sponsored

walk in aid of the Indian Immersion Programme, a visit from a speaker from Aware and a Fair Trade shop during Fair Trade Week.

English

Department Members: Eva Burke, Sheena Butterfield, Elaine O’Leary, Aisling Cahill Kay Collins, Niall Crowe and Yvonne Buckley.

- There were mixed ability higher level classes and one ordinary level class in senior cycle English.
- Kevin Keane awarded the Bobby Byrne memorial Cup for excellence in English. Kevin went on to achieve A1 in Higher Level English.
- A rich variety of literature and film continues to be explored in classes
- While teachers meet to plan at subject meetings each teacher chooses material suitable for relevant class. The English syllabus lends itself to such self-determination.
- Comprehension skills, expression, both written and oral, require sharp focus.
- Transition year teachers were pleased with the decision to use Niall McMonagle’s new textbook, “Text”, aimed at TY students. The variety of material contained therein meant that photocopying was kept to a minimum; teachers could design modules using the textbook as the key resource. Modules included The Short Story; Drama; Poetry; Journalism.
- The English Department benefits from the experience gained by acting as Correctors at the State Examinations in Leaving Certificate English.

French

Department Members:

Bill Burke, Miriam Griseto, Lorna Dundon, Eva Burke

The choice of textbooks was discussed by the department members. It was decided to continue with *Bienvenue en France 1* and *2* for Junior cycle and to use *Je Comprends Bien* and *Ecoutez Bien* to reinforce the aural competency.

For Transition Year, it was decided to use a textbook for one half of the programme and a novel for the other half of the term. A new book by the Educational Company contains all the themes we were already teaching and saves photocopying. A survey of the previous year's students on whether they would like a textbook as opposed to individual sheets for a folder showed an overwhelming response for the textbook.

The choice of book for Leaving Cert depends on the level of the class. As the quality of the material in the French magazine *Francais Plus* has deteriorated, it was decided to use teacher designed materials as required instead of ordering the magazines.

Professional Development

Lorna Dundon and Miriam Griseto successfully applied to Comenius to do a language and methodology course in July 2010 in *Ecole France Langue* in Nice, France. This course proved to be extremely valuable.

French Culture

Second years participated in French cheese tasting and really enjoyed the experience with some students brave enough to try the *Roquefort*. It was decided to continue this next year and perhaps do French cookery with transition years when the Home Economics Room is ready as part of the new building. Sixth years were recommended to listen to the news on www.monjtquotidien.fr for five minutes a day. They found this website fantastic.

French Quiz

Unfortunately, the senior French quiz organised by the Limerick French Teachers Association did not take place. Ardscoil Ris won this competition last year against twenty schools in Limerick City and County.

French Courses for Students

Pupils are informed regularly as to ways they can improve their language skills both here in Ireland and abroad. Some students go to Euro Languages Colleges in Ireland. Others go to a language school in Biarritz where they stay with local families. One or two of the students have gone to French boarding schools during transition year but the cost is prohibitive for most families.

French Student of the Year

There were eight students in the running for this award. All were excellent in all language skills but Kevin Keane had the edge and won the award.

Gaeilge

Department members: Bill Burke, Patricia Heuston, Ciara McMahon, Karina Doherty and Mairead Nic Charthaigh.

Provision of the Subject in the School:

Compulsory in the school for all students from 1st year to Leaving Cert.

Timetabling:

Junior Cycle: four classes per week

Transition Year: three classes per week

Leaving Cert Cycle: 5 classes per week

Planning and Preparation:

- **Meetings:** Timetabled; one per term

- **Resources:** tape recorders, DVD players, DVDs
- **Textbooks:** as per booklist. Fonn 1,2,3; Fuinneamh, Fiuntas ; An dTuigeann Tu?
- Dreimire (LC) and Staighre (J C) magazines were used

Assessment: Class tests, orals with Senior Cycle students, school and house exams, Pre-exams Transition year projects

Teachers' Associations: Comhar Muinteoiri na hEireann, Conradh an Gaeilge, Gael Linn,

Use of Notice Boards: Seachtain na Gaeilge activities (see next report), Colaisti Samhraidh

Inservice and Continuous Professional Development:

Bill Burke, Mairead Nic Chartaigh and Karina Doherty attended inservice on "Teaching of Irish in First Year". Need for more, particularly in use of IT in teaching Irish.

Scolaireachtaí Two 1st. Yr students, K Howard and E Mulcahy, were awarded scoilaireachtaí in Colaiste Sheosaimh , Carna after a competition among first years

An Triail : a group of Sixth Year students travelled to Cill Chainnigh to see the drama

Gradam na Gaeilge was awarded to Adrian Breen (6th year) at school awards night.

Cumann Gaelach to be set up for First years at lunchtime on Thursday . TYO students to help out.

Bord quizeanna : Third year teams took part in bord quiz in October and at Seachtain na Gaeilge organised by Conradh na Gaeilge

Fainni were awarded to Transition Year students after a module on Labhairt na Gaeilge and were examined by a Timire from Conradh na Gaeilge.

Seachtain na Gaeilge, 2010

- The transition year students spent several months organising events for the students and teachers of Ardscoil Rís during Seachtain Na Gaeilge, 2010
- The main focus was on the Junior classes and some senior classes
- The organisation took place during the class period provided for Seachtain na Gaeilge on the TY timetable (Wed. 12.20 – 1pm) and was coordinated by Ciara McMahon.
- Transition Year students created posters and notices
- They drew up timetables for each of the junior classes
- Art posters competition as Gaeilge
- They took charge of 2-3 class periods of Gaeilge during the second week of Seachtain na Gaeilge and carried out various competitions within each class
- For 1st and 2nd years, there were word games and games of bingo
- For 3rd years there was a table quiz and a limerick competition
Prizes were awarded.

Geography

Department Members:

Enda Gavigan, Elaine O'Leary, Pat Tobin, Karen Burke, Martin McPhail

The geography room situated on the basement floor was occupied daily by both the senior and junior school. Public and incoming first years had access to the room on the open evening where a variety of displays and a mini 3 minute class was held.

Junior School:

While first years commenced their study of geography, our second and third years classes continued their studies. Third years are preparing for their junior cert and all department members wish them well.

Transition year:

As transition year students, the group undertook a local studies module. Students look at the Limerick and its surrounding hinterland in relation to geography, history and religion. Students spend three classes a week visiting local buildings and historical sites exploring why Limerick is located where it is.

Fifth and sixth year:

As well as undertaking extensive coursework, all sixth year students travelled to the Burren outdoor education centre to undertake their field work option. Accompanied by two teachers the students completed a range of tasks in the karst region. Sixth year students are currently preparing for their leaving cert exam and all department members wish them well.

In- Service:

Members of the department have attended a variety of in services provided by the Association of Geography Teachers of Ireland. Some topics included correcting of the senior cycle exam and an extensive look at the fieldwork in senior cycle.

Resources:

It was noted that the new interactive white board was a great asset to the department.

German

Department Members: Rita Hayes and Carol McCarthy

German is taught to both Junior Cert and Leaving Cert in the school with two classes studying for each exam. As many students as possible were encouraged to sit the higher level paper. Throughout the school year in the classroom students were taught to become competent at communicating in the language and to develop and improve the language skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. The communicative approach was used as much as possible in teaching the language. Overall, students were very happy with their results.

Textbooks: As per booklist; Klasse 1, Zur Sache, Horschatz 1, Themen Deutsch 1 und 2, Horthemen, Die Mundliche Prufung

Other Resources: Maps, posters, CDs, DVDs, Data Projector, Internet, Exam Papers, handouts from other textbooks such as Ausblick, Viel Spass 1 und 2, Achtung Deutsch, Sprachschatz. Last year we added to our pool of resources (DVDs, posters, maps).

Meetings: A department meeting took place at the beginning and end of the school year and a number of informal meeting occurred throughout the year.

Assessments: Small class tests took place throughout the year at the end of each topic with formal exams at Christmas and summer. These assessments tested the basic language skills ie reading, writing, listening and speaking. In Transition year there was a huge focus on oral work and presentations and the students were also assessed through project work involving research, recording and presentation of information. They also learned a lot different aspects of German culture such as music, festivals, sport etc and they were also assessed on these.

Pre Junior and Leaving Certificate Examinations: Papers were ordered from the Dublin Examining Board and were corrected externally.

Oral Examinations: The German oral exams were held on the 17th and 18th of April.

IT: IT plays an important role in teaching the German language. Many of the class groups used Microsoft Word to creating posters for projects. Some of the Transition Year student also produced Microsoft PowerPoint presentations on aspects of German culture such as festivals, food, music etc. We used the Internet in class to source material for projects. We also used it to view German newspapers such as 'Die Zeit' and 'Der Spiegel' and to listen to German radio, in particular news reports eg. www.deutschewelle.de. There are also some excellent interactive German language websites which the students used to improve vocabulary, grammar and reading skills eg. www.bbc.co.uk/languages

European Languages Day: This was set up by the Council of Europe and occurred in September. We celebrated it by showing German films to some of the classes such as 'Der Wunder von Bern', 'Lola rennt', 'Goodbye Lenin'.

Gesellschaft der Deutschlehrers Irland: The German teachers association proved to be a very useful resource for teaching the language. It helped us keep up to date with any changes that occurred and new resources and teaching methodologies.

German Exchange: One of our Transition Year students took part in an exchange to Koln last year. This was organised through Euro Languages. He personally found this a very rewarding experience. The students here also benefited from having the German exchange student in class. He was able to tell us a bit about the area in Germany where he lives and enlighten the class on the German way of life. It also gave them the opportunity to converse in German with someone their own age.

Debating: Last year we looked at some debating themes and have this year put together a team from Transition Year to enter the GDI Debattierwettbewerb, a German debating competition run in conjunction with the Goethe Institut.

Other Information: Throughout the year we tried to give the students as much information as possible and encouraged them to take part in

exchanges and enter competitions such as the essay writing competition run by NUI Galway for senior cycle students. We also brought in some samples of German chocolate and cheese to 1st years. Hopefully with better facilities in the new school building we will be able to do more with German food.

Guidance

There are 30 hours per week allocated to this department and there are two guidance counsellors: Maria Goodwin and Michael Gleeson. The guidance counsellors are part of the Pastoral Care Team in the school and also the Critical Incident Team. They have a weekly planning meeting and attend the junior and senior year head meetings.

Both guidance counsellors are members of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors and attend regular branch meetings. Continuous professional development is an integral part of their work and they attend group counselling supervision on a regular basis.

Guidance Programme

1st Year

- 1st year induction
- 1st year bonding day in Killaloe
- Each student met on an individual basis
- Class and individual guidance for subject options in second year
- 1st year parents night
- Individual counselling provided on request
- Liaise with NEPS
- Class guidance 5 times per year

2nd Year

- Individual counselling provided on request
- Class guidance 5 times per year

- Liaise with NEPS

3rd Years

- Individual counselling provided on request
- Career Interest Inventory administered to all students
- Class guidance for senior cycle options after Junior Certificate
- Class guidance for subject options in fifth year
- Individual appointments with students who are going directly into 5th year to discuss career / subject options
- Subject options seminar for students who are going directly into 5th year
- Subject options seminar for parents
- Liaise with NEPS

Transition Years

- Individual counselling provided on request
- One class of guidance per week
- Class guidance for subject options in fifth year
- Individual appointments with students to discuss career / subject options
- Subject options seminar for students
- Subject options seminar for parents
- DATS administered to all students
- Mid West career exhibition
- Liaise with NEPS

5th Years

- Individual counselling provided on request
- All students receive guidance classes on a rotational basis
- Guest speakers from various colleges
- Liaise with NEPS

6th Years

- Individual counselling provided on request
- Individual appointments with students to discuss career and third level options
- CAO evening for parents
- Mid West career exhibition
- Higher Options Conference in RDS
- Local College open days (LIT, UL, MIC and Art College)
- Students attend other college open days
- Guest speakers from various colleges
- Access information seminar
- UCAS information seminar
- Liaise with NEPS
- HPAT preparation during midterm break

Additional Information

- Liaise with Resource Department
- Available on day of Leaving Certificate results
- Available on CAO offers day
- Attended UCC open day for Guidance Counsellors
- Guidance display at school open night
- Co-ordinator of Midwest Career Exhibition
- National PRO of IGC
- Available to meet parents of all students
- Attend HSE Network Meetings for students

2009– 2010

Professional Development

Michael Gleeson completed a Reality Therapy course and attended the AGM of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors. Maria Goodwin attended courses in

Reality Therapy, Schizophrenia and Psychosis, Family Systems, Working with Trauma and Adolescence Psychotherapy.

History

Department Members: Niall Crowe, Sheena Butterfield, Pdraig Doyle, Mairead Nic Charthaigh, Rita Hayes, Julianne Neville, Patricia Heuston

Senior History:

- Research topics were begun in 5th year. Students have chosen topics and located sources.
- The volume of material to be taught and the variety of possible exam questions/answers to be prepared makes the history course demanding for both the particularly able and weaker students.
- Students are scoring higher marks in the research and documents sections than in the other three sections on the exam.

Junior Certificate History

All students undertook History for the Junior Certificate. As many students as possible were encouraged to sit the higher level paper. Throughout the year students were taught to develop the skills essential to the research and writing of history and to perceive patterns such as cause and consequence, change and continuity.

Timetable Allocation:

1 st year:	2 class periods per week
2 nd year:	3 class periods per week
3 rd year:	3 class periods per week

Textbook: *The Past Today*

Other Resources: Posters, CD's, DVD's, Internet, Exam Papers, handouts from other textbooks such as *New Complete History*, *Discovering History*, *History – Revision and Resources* and *Footsteps in Time*.

Staff Meetings: A department meeting took place at the beginning and end of the school year and a number of informal meetings occurred throughout the year.

Assessments: Class tests took place throughout the year at the end of each topic with formal exams at Christmas and summer.

Pre Junior Certificate Examination: Papers were ordered from the Dublin Examining Board and were corrected externally.

IT: IT plays an important role in developing the skills of a historian. Some classes were afforded the opportunity to access the IT room.

Projects: Some Junior Certificate classes complete project work on topics such as Ancient Rome, Renaissance and Age of Exploration.

Mathematics

Department Members: Paula Reidy, Patricia O Dwyer, Margurite Linnane, Fergal Lyons, Liam Cronin

First Year

The first year students are not streamed. They follow a common programme throughout the year with common proven approaches being utilised and examined. Some students receive Resource or learning support time to supplement their learning.

This approach is very successful with common goals being well achieved across the groups.

Second Year

Some classes got the Second Year programme fully completed and thus some chapters of the Third Year programme were introduced. We did two classes of Number quizzes which the students enjoyed a lot. We were also able to form cross curricular links to IT especially in statistics, excel and maths websites.

Third Year

The final split on levels took all of September. Curriculum was covered with a high focus on exam success and papers were worked through afterwards. The students became very competent and they finished the year confidently taking their exams

Transition Year

We had TY groups for half the year each. We covered a variety of material some with practical applications and some to stimulate their interest in maths.

Transition Year Applied Maths

The Transition Years all studied 7 to 8 weeks of applied maths. Vector maths was introduced followed up by a trip to play snooker to highlight motion, impacts and collisions. It is hoped to encourage students to consider taking Applied Maths for Leaving Certificate.

5th Year

Some of this group had excellent ambition this coupled with excellent Math skills from junior cycle and Transition Year has left them well prepared for 6th year. We coordinated regularly with the each other to facilitate movement between classes.

Assignments were corrected and stored for reference in assignment copy. We gave a weekly test in the last term to establish positive revision. This was very effective.

The ordinary level maths groups were organised as per their Junior Certificate results.

6th Year

We had three higher level groups that in January amalgamated to form two higher level groups.

This was a good split that worked well throughout the year. We finished most of Paper 2 by November and they set a mock pre-exam in school on a Saturday in November. They sat another pre for their Christmas test, the official pres in February and then another in April. This gave the students valuable exam exposure.

We had three smaller ordinary level classes that worked through the course and covered exam papers in preparation for exams

Other points

We went to one or two full day in-service for Project Maths. Although aspirational we found them motivating and interesting. We used many of the techniques in class especially with TY. But hope to be able to use the others when we have facilities.

Well planned scheduling and positive communication between each other is facilitating organisation and utilisation of effective methodologies.

Transition Years exposure to applied maths has been very positively received by the students.

Music

Department Members: Ms. Louise Burke & Ms. Nicola Cunningham

1st Year

Students in first year get a taste of music for two periods per week. During this period, the students are facilitated through the basic rudiments of music including music reading, instruments of the orchestra, film studies and music from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th Century, Popular and Contemporary eras along with a module in Irish music. Active learning is an integral part of music in first year with students being taught how to

sing, clap and be active in the classroom. The students partake in projects and display work.

Cork Pops Orchestra's November 2009 Concerts for Post Primary Schools, devised and presented by Dr. Evelyn Grant - CIT Cork School of Music Lecturer and RTE lyric fm presenter took place on Friday, 13th November. All first years travelled to Cork to see this performance accompanied by six teachers.

This year's concert title, '*Beat the Blues with the Cork Pops Orchestra*' referred to the range of rhythmic and vocal music on the programme. The music ranged from music of the Baroque era through to contemporary jazz, blues, funk and soul. It was demonstrated, performed and explained by Dr. Evelyn Grant and special guests and celebrated trombone duo *Crossbones* (featuring Eoghan Kelly and Paul Frost). Great day had by all.

It was with great enthusiasm that all first year students took part in making instruments of the orchestra. This project required a lot of time and effort and the finished products displayed great talent and skill. Special congratulations to all students who were chosen winners including: Overall winner was Alex Boylan and other winners were Denis Moran, Jamie Moore and Luke Moylan.

2nd Year

Students in second year have four periods per week. This year eleven students took music to junior level. The students learned how to compose answering phrases, appreciate different music from different genres and prepare pieces for Junior Certificate practicals.

3rd Year

Students in third year have four periods per week. This year the third years continued their study of their set course, which included set songs, set works, choice songs/works, Irish music, jazz and dictation. The Junior

Certificate practical examination took place on 21st April. The students involved displayed great skill and were very satisfied on the day.

Transition Year

Students worked on a range of topics including music reading and a variety of genres such as traditional, film music, ethnic music and also Baroque/Classical/Romantic and contemporary music. Many of the students worked hard on their performance for the Transition year graduation. All our Transition year students took part in a percussion workshop in early April. Students successfully explored, studied and performed rhythms from West Africa and Brazil. They played many instruments including Djembe, Surdo, Agogo Bell, snare and tambourine. The students experienced the richness of African musical culture under the inspiring guidance of expert African music drummers and facilitators. The workshops were an amazing opportunity for students to learn and experience the effectiveness of practical music making.

5th Year

Students in fifth year have four periods per week. We have covered melody writing, modulations, Irish music, aural skills and set works *Piano Quartet No 1* by Gerald Barry, Bach's *Cantata-Jesu, der du meine Seele* and *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Queen.

6th Year

Students in sixth year have five periods a week. This year the sixth year music students were very talented. Many of the students have played instruments for school events, partook in school musicals and were members of the school choir since first year.

The Diversus Guitar Ensemble is an exciting and unusual orchestra of 20 plus guitarists. As part of their European tour, they performed at LIT Millennium Theatre on 6th November. 6th Year music students went to this performance as the ensemble were performing two works from the Leaving Certificate syllabus Raymond Deane's *Seachanges* and songs by the Beatles.

The Leaving Certificate practical examination took place on 14th and 22nd April.

The students involved displayed great skill and dexterity and we would like to wish them the best of luck for the future. Students completed their Leaving certificate course concentrating on minor melodies and harmonies, aural skills and set work *Seachanges* by Deane.

Physical Education

Department Members: Fergal Lyons, Martin McPhail, Pat Tobin

Topics covered within Physical Education Programme

1st year

- Game Making
- Gymnastics
- Health Related Activity
- Rugby
- Orienteering and team building

2nd year

- Gaelic Football
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Soccer and associated games
- Athletics

3rd year

- Field Games
- Badminton
- Health related activity
- Basketball, through sports Ed.
- Aussie Rules

Transition Year

- Team building activities
- Sport education model
 - Focuses on the development of the pupil's role in physical activity and helping to encourage a lifelong habit of participation. Various sports used during this module to allow pupils to experience a wide variety of activities.
- Golf lessons
- Outdoor adventure trip
 - An incredibly successful trip which all TY students would mention in their highlights of the year
- Physical education teachers also lead students in other outdoor activities through programs run within the school. The most noticeable of these were the Gasice walk in the Burren and the pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick

5th year

- Sport education model

Curricular developments

A huge amount of work has been produced within the physical education department on implementing a syllabus which we feel offers a wide range of activities to our students during their time in the school. Our main focus

was on our junior cycle syllabus in the past year and a programme of study and resources have been developed to accommodate bringing this programme on stream for the current year.

Development of facilities

- Weights room: From funds raised within the physical education budget, rugby and hurling budgets we have been able to update our gym equipment and purchase some new equipment.

Future planned developments

- Fully equipped gym should be operational by next September. With the new hall and dressing room amenities we are looking to develop further the gym facilities.
- This year we will look to develop our senior cycle syllabus. This work began last year and will be built on this to make a more varied and interesting senior cycle physical education programme.

Science Department Report

Department Members: Diane Condon, Rose Lawlor, Liam Kennedy, Catherine Casey, Marie Hogan.

Laboratory Assistant

This year we were joined in our department by a very dedicated lab assistant, Heather Murphy. Her contribution to the running of the three labs during the school year was invaluable. It is hoped that we will continue

to be able to avail of a lab assistant into the future through this FAS scheme.

Inservice

During the academic year teachers attended the following inservices

- Chem Ed – This was a full days inservice held in UL on a Saturday specifically for the teaching of L Cert Chemistry. D. Condon
- CSI - This was a full days inservice held in the LIT on the Saturday during Science week. D. Condon
- TY Science – This was held one evening in the Limerick Education Centre. D. Condon and R. Lawlor
- Immunology – This was a Biology inservice held one evening in UL. D. Condon
- Chemistry – This was held one evening in the LEC and run by the Chemistry SLSS. L. Kennedy
- Coursework B – This was an evening inservice run by the ISTA specifically discussing this years Junior Cert Coursework B Experiments. D. Condon, R. Lawlor, L. Kennedy
- Lab Management. This was held an evening in Villiers School. R. Lawlor and H. Murphy
- Physics Exam 2009. This was a review of this year's exam paper and marking Scheme. It was held an evening in the Limerick Ed Centre. C. Casey
- Science Exam Papers 2009. This was a review of all Junior and Leaving Cert Science Exam papers and marking schemes. It was run by the ISTA in the LIT. D. Condon, R. Lawlor, L. Kennedy
- Leaving Cert Biology Resources 2010. This was held an evening in the Limerick Ed Centre. D. Condon and R. Lawlor

Open Night

The Biology laboratory was open and very busy on the evening. Several experiments were set up around the room, providing lots of interaction with parents and perspective students.

Senior Science Quiz

During Science week two teams made up of sixth year students entered the ISTA Senior Science Quiz Regional Round held in the LIT.

Team A

Aneeq Ahmed

Adrian Breen

Mark O'Brien

Team B

Niko Flores

Thomas Kinsella

Stephen Murray

In the regional round Team A finished in second place and Team B in fourth place. This enabled Team A to travel, by train, with their teachers D. Condon and L. Kennedy to the National final held in Trinity College in Dublin. This was a very close contest and our students finished in sixth place in the National final. This was a marvellous achievement.

Both teams worked very hard on their revision in preparation for the quiz, giving up their lunchtimes for several weeks.

CSI in TY

Transition year students travelled to Dublin with their teacher D. Condon, to visit the CSI Experience Exhibition. This was a hands on approach on

Forensic Science in crime solving. Each group of students needed to review crime scenes and the forensic results in order to come to a final conclusion in who actually committed the crime. Each student received a certificate for their forensic abilities on the day.

Chemical Instrumentation

The sixth year Chemistry class, with their teacher D. Condon, visited the LIT where they completed a short course on Chemical Instrumentation which is part of the Leaving Cert programme.

Physics Experiment Workshop

Sixth year Physics classes visited UL, with their teachers L. Kennedy and C. Casey, where they undertook workshops on Leaving Cert. Physics Experiments. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to revise their physics mandatory experiments.

Science Olympiad

This is a National competition run by DCU for students who show excellence in their study of the Science subjects. This year Adrian Breen represented the school in Biology and Mark O'Brien in Chemistry. Brian Murphy represented the school in Junior Science and Maths.

ISTA AGM

This year two of our teachers, D. Condon and R Lawlor, travelled to Sligo for the weekend of the Irish Science Teachers Associations AGM. This was an excellent weekend for continuing professional development as a range of

lectures and workshops are held. There is also a large exhibition area for equipment, books and other resources.

Careers in Engineering

Transition year students received a presentation on Careers in Engineering from a past pupil, Cormac Eason, from the University of Limerick.

Awards Night

This years Science Student of the Year was Leaving Cert. student Mark O'Brien. Mark was a worthy winner for his excellence in the study of Physics and Chemistry.

Eoin Fahey, who did his Leaving Cert in 2009, achieved the highest result in the country in Chemistry that year. Mr. Liam Kennedy was his Chemistry teacher. Eoin was presented with a special award to mark such a marvellous achievement.

New Extension

At the end of the school year the Chemistry and Physics labs were packed up and the equipment moved to various locations for storage as these rooms will be renovated and made into new classrooms. Heather, our lab assistant, did amazing work, not only packing and moving a mountain of chemicals and equipment but cataloguing everything so we know where everything is stored.

As labs will be restricted in the 2010-2011 school year, as many mandatory experiments as possible were carried out with all the classes.

Social, Personal and Health Education

S.P.H.E TEAM: Eva Burke (Coordinator), Julianne Neville, Padraig Doyle, Nicola Cunningham, Sheena Butterfield, Louise Burke, Enda Gavigan, Maria Goodwin.

SPHE is compulsory at junior cycle and is timetabled for one class a week.

A comprehensive Mental Health Module is included in the Transition Year Syllabus.

The Course aims are:

- To enable students to develop self- fulfillment and social skills.
- To promote self-esteem and self- confidence.
- To enable students to develop a framework for responsible decision making.
- To provide opportunities for reflection and discussion.
- To promote physical, mental and emotional health and well-being.

These aims underpin our school's commitment to nurturing the Christian values of respect, justice and integrity in all aspects of school life and to fostering the holistic development of the students in our care.

Programme Content

The Curriculum for SPHE is presented in ten modules in line with the Department of Education and Science guidelines.

The Ten Modules include:

- Belonging and integrating.
- Self-management
- Communication skills
- Physical Health

- Friendship
- Relationships and Sexuality
- Emotional Health
- Influences and decisions
- Substance Use
- Personal safety

The SPHE/RSE Policy was revised in Academic year 2009-2010 and is available in the school.

In-service Training 2009-2010

Louise Burke attended an RSE in-service for junior cycle on March 4th and 5th 2010.

We expect to continue in-service training for new and experienced staff in the coming academic year.

Events

The team focused on Bullying issues last year. A survey was carried out from 1st to 3rd years .

The Blue Rose Theatre presented a drama workshop on Bullying to Third Years , Transition Years and 5th years.

It is hoped to engage Humourfit this year to present drama workshops on Bullying and Substance Abuse.

Meetings

The team will meet weekly during this academic year (2010/2011) as we are introducing new texts .These weekly team meetings will build cohesion and standardisation in our methodologies and course content.

Technical graphics/ DCG.

Department members: Sean Guilfoyle, Kevin Long.

Provision of subject in the school:

- All first years complete a taster course in Technical Graphics.
- Second years may choose Technical Graphics as an option to Junior Certificate.
- Transition years complete modules in solid works and geological geometry, (this is reviewed yearly).
- DCG is an option for students to the Leaving Certificate.

Timetabling:

- 1st Year: 1 Double/ week.
- 2nd Year: 1 Double and 2 Singles/ week.
- 3rd Year: 1 Double and 2 Singles/ week.
- TY: 1 Double / week (9 wk Modules).
- 5th YR: 1 Double and 3 Singles/ week.
- 6th Yr: 1 Double and 3 Singles/ week.

Facilities:

- DCG Room 1 with attached computer suite for CAD.
- DCG Room 2.
- New facilities to be incorporated in new building.

Planning and Preparation:

- **Meetings:** These are facilitated by school and ongoing as required.
- **Resources:** DCG Room 1 with attached computer suite for CAD.
- DCG Room 2.
- New facilities to be incorporated in new building.
- Technology as provided by DCG DOE grant.

- **Textbooks: JC** *Understanding Technical Graphics.*
LC *Graphics in design and communication.*

Use of IT:

- DCG Room 1 with attached computer suite for CAD.
- Technology as provided by DCG DOE grant.
- IT incorporated in Junior Cert courses.
- Solidworks module in TY.
- IT integral part in LC DCG Project.

Assessment:

- Generally assessments take place at the end of each topic, results are recorded by the teacher and the assessment itself signed by the parents.
- Examinations take place at Christmas and summer in exam hall arrangement. Pre Exams take place separately.

Future Planning:

As part of the new Building Project, it is envisaged that one Technical Graphics room will move to phase one due for completion in academic year 2010-2011. Technical Graphics room 2 will move to TG room 1 temporarily before a permanent move to the current location of the Art room. This is included in the refurbishment part of the project to be completed as phase 3.

Results:

Outstanding results were achieved for the previous academic year in both Junior and Leaving cert subjects.

Teachers associations:

- Techno teachers.

Use of Notice boards:

- Used to display exceptional work of students (past and present).

In-service and Continuous Professional Development:

- Completed 9 sessions of inservice over period 07-08 and 08-09.
- These dealt with the implementation of the new DCG curriculum to LC.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

Department members: Moira Wallace, Cahal Daly, Derek Larkin, Paul Sugrue

General Information

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is a highly regarded subject within the school curriculum. This was evidenced by our successful Open Night for prospective incoming students to 1st year and their parents/guardians who were given an opportunity to view materials relating to portfolio items. LCVP teachers were present to answer any questions concerning the course.

Information concerning in-service courses and other matters relating to LCVP activities was given by the LCVP Co-ordinator to other department members. Weekly scheduled meetings provided an invaluable forum for the department members to share ideas and discuss methodologies. Resources such as DVD's, posters and useful website addresses were compiled and circulated.

Pre-papers were ordered for 6th year students to assist them with exam preparation. In-house exams took place at Christmas and Summer for 5th year students and at Christmas for 6th year students. Regular monitoring of each student's portfolio was also undertaken.

Fifth Year

There were 2 classes in 5th year. The group completed four components of their portfolio. Students acknowledged their thanks to all the employers who facilitated the work experience component of the course (which was carried out in the students own time) and to the speakers from the St. Vincent De Paul Society and Shannon Aerospace, for their contribution and time.

LCVP students also had access to the IT room once a week to help them to improve their technology skills and work on their portfolio material. A visit to Roche Ireland was undertaken by students in November where there was an opportunity to see how pharmaceuticals are manufactured. The above facilitated greatly the preparation of 'Summary Reports' for the portfolio. Portfolio material and a written exam were both used at the Christmas and Summer house exams. The Students also benefited greatly from carrying out work experience and shadowing which they used to respectively construct a 'Diary of Work Experience' and 'Career Investigation' for their portfolio.

Sixth Year

There was one 6th year class taught by Mr. Sugrue. Much of the portfolio content was carried out in 5th year and therefore the 'Action Plan' was the first key component completed in 6th year. The recorded interview was another component of the portfolio that was completed.

Special Educational Needs Department (Learning Support & Resource):

Patricia Heuston (Co-ordinator of Students with Special Educational Needs), Maria Goodwin, Kay Collins, Moira Wallace (Learning Support), Antoinette Trimble, Niall Moran, Danny Harrison, Phil Harte.

A weekly 40 minute meeting period with the above was allocated during 2009/2010.

This designated period was an integral and extremely beneficial contributing factor to the SEN department. Teaching strategies, testing practices, psychological assessments, reasonable accommodations, application and allocation of resource hours, learning support hours and other Special Educational Needs issues were discussed during this period.

Location of SEN teaching:

Learning Support room, Resource room, SPHE room, Counsellor's office, classrooms, IT room.

Resources:

Budget allocation for 2009/2010 was spent during the year on the following:

- English – reading schemes including age appropriate readers, workbooks, cloze pro comprehension material, grammar revision books, language books, games, Exam papers.
- Office stationary & class room materials – folders, index copies, refill pads, biros etc..
- Testing resources – The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT 3) is an assessment of a range of reasoning skills. The test looks at reasoning with three types of symbols that is verbal (words, numbers and shapes or figures) quantitative and non-verbal reasoning.

Psychological testing:

Throughout the school year a number of students were identified as experiencing behavioural and / or learning difficulties. A list was compiled and a number of standardised tests were carried out to differentiate if

further psychological testing was required and as a result psychological reports were undertaken by the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) school psychologist Marie Hayes and some students' reports were reviewed and reassessed for reasonable accommodation. Others issues discussed with the school Psychologist included behavioural issues, reasonable accommodations, classroom management strategies, curriculum access issues, referral to outside agencies for further assessment and diagnosis and the use of assistive technology (laptops) by particular students.

Regular reviews and testing practices:

- Diagnostic tests
- Standardised testing kits
- General classroom and class teacher observations.
- Checklists
- Entrance examination

Reasonable Accommodations:

- A small number of both Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate students were granted reasonable accommodations for the state examinations.
- Students with special educational needs were facilitated with reasonable accommodations during Christmas and Summer house exams and Pre-Laving and Pre-Junior certificate exams where possible. This proved to be extremely beneficial for such students; easing anxiety and stress levels and allowing for practice of approved accommodations under exam and indeed state exam conditions.

Individual Educational Plans:

Individual Education Plans (IEPs) were drawn up and implemented for all students allocated resource hours (students IEP's are confidential and dealt with in a professional manner by all).

Resource teaching and learning support was delivered in an individual or small group setting. All students in receipt of Learning Support have an individual file (stored in the Learning Support room in a locked filing cabinet) where their level of ability is recorded and their progress maintained and reviewed on a regular basis.

International students:

- In accordance with Department of Education and Science guidelines (see circular 0053/2007 '*Meeting the needs of pupils for whom English is a second language*') all foreign national students are entitled to support in English each week over a period of two years.
- If this support has not been exhausted in primary school no allowances will be allocated to Post-Primary school. If none or partial hours of this support have been allocated to the student, Ardscoil Rís will make an application to the Department of Education and Science for the remainder of the allocation. Special applications may be made to the Department of Education by the school Principal to facilitate non-national students where deemed necessary.
- All applications were made by the school Principal. In 2009/2010 four students received additional English Language support.

Visiting teachers:

During 2009/2010 the visiting teacher Mary Quinlan for the Hearing Impaired visited the school regularly for a particular student. She offered practical strategies, help and support that would assist the student in his learning environment.

In-Services:

Several in-service sessions were attended by the learning support teacher and the resource teachers. They were organised by various organisations including the local Education Centre in Limerick, the Special Education Support Service (SESS) and took place both during school time and outside of school time. Among the topics covered were:

- *“Surviving an SEN inspection”*
- *Useful teaching strategies for students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)*
- *Meeting the needs of students with Special Educational Needs through Co-operative Teaching.*
- *Implementation of Individual Education Plans (IEPs)*
- *Including students with Asperger’s Syndrome in post-primary schools.*

Parental Involvement:

Parental Involvement is an integral part of a student’s academic and personal development in Ardscoil Ris. It is welcomed by all and in particular the learning support and resource teachers. Parental support, contribution and co-operation are invaluable from their initial contact with teachers through telephone conversations, arranged individual planning meetings and parent/teacher meetings to discuss their son’s progress.

Special Needs Assistant:

During the academic year 2009/2010 one SNA was appointment to the school by the board of management.

Entrance Assessment:

On 13th May 2010 a number of students who were offered places within the school for the Academic year 2010/2011 were recalled for further standardised testing following their entrance exams. The learning support teachers administered, marked and collated the results of the tests and the results were used to target support for students more accurately.

Co-operative teaching:

Following an in-service and departmental recommendations co-operative teaching was discussed in great lengths within the designated meeting time. A number of models were discussed including parallel teaching, station teaching, alternative teaching, one teaching one drifting and team teaching. Team teaching in particular was explored extensively and the benefits and indeed challenges of such a model of intervention discussed at length. Mr Art O Mhuruchu, DES Inspector, met with the Principal and Deputy Principal to further explore this issue. It was agreed by all that this form of co-operative teaching should be implemented in 5th year, preferably 5th year English for 2010/2011.

Lourdes trip:

One third year SEN student was nominated and chosen as a volunteer for the Marie de Lourdes Invalid trip. He travelled as an active helper/volunteer during Easter 2010 representing his local parish and school. This proved to be a wonderful learning opportunity for the individual allowing for interaction with peers from a number of other schools and parishes, an increase in self-confidence and self-esteem and indeed responsibility.

Transition Year Programme

Affirm Challenge Excel (ACE)

Co-ordinators: Nicola Cunningham and Elaine O'Leary

Programme Co-ordinator: Moira Wallace

The mission statement of the Ardscoil Ris Transition Year Programme is to promote the personal, social, educational and vocational development of the students; to prepare them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society; achieving this through enabling students to affirm themselves through challenge in the pursuit of excellence.

This year there were a total of 96 students, divided into four groups, in the TYP. In addition to the core modules of (English Irish Maths and French/German), there were modules in Art, Photography, Information Technology (where students could receive their ECDL Certificates), Chemistry, Biology, Enterprise, Local Studies, Debating, Music, Leisure and Recreation, DCG, Shaping Space, Environment Studies, L.I.T.Sports Initiative, Mental Health, Road Safety, film studies, Money Advice and Budgeting, P.E., and RE. The programme comprised a wide range of projects, modules and courses which provided a busy, fulfilling and enjoyable year for students.

Outside of the classroom TY students attended Golf lessons, went to Killary, climbed Croagh Patrick, were awarded Harty Cup medals and travelled with the rugby tour to South America. Well done to Sebastian Raszka and Kevin O'Sullivan who took part in the Limerick City enterprise finals. All students participated in Social Placement.

A number of TYP students must be congratulated for going the extra distance in challenging themselves by signing up for the Bronze Medal Award in Gaisce : the President's Prize.

Students got involved in so many different types of competitions throughout the year from the science olympiad to photography competitions and "My Vision For Europe Competition" (where the students made it to the finals in Dublin and competed against five other school and were runners up). The

hand ball competition (through Leisure and Recreation), the End of Year Project and the Public Speaker Competition are just to name a few more!

The Musical “Disco Inferno” gave some of our students stage experience for the first time in their lives and it was such an experience.

Work Experience provides a salutary insight into the deeper meaning of the world of work in many different ways and all students were exposed to four weeks in the workplace.

Other competitions, opportunities for involvement, courses, visits and guest speakers included:

Competitions

Debating competition, Design a cover for “Disco Inferno”, “Oui le crunch” Radio advertisement, Handball, Irish Science Olympiad, Public Speaking Competition, Art Competition, Photography Competition

Out of school courses

Online course from UCC, Limerick Youth Theatre T.Y. workshop, Dail na n-Og, Limerick Youth Service and Irish Peace Institute Seminar, Anois Leadership, Indian Immersion, Debating workshop in U.L., Physics workshop, Mathematics workshop in U.L , Special Olympics, First Aid course(Irish Red Cross), Mentoring Course(for incoming first years)

Visits

The Life –Saver Programme, Irish Aid Centre and C.S.I., Atlantic Aircraft Educational Centre, Local Studies Excursions, Titanic Exhibition, Croke Park

Guest Speakers

Thomas Coomes (E.U.), Talk on Epilepsy, Mock-Car Demonstration, Blue Rose Theatre (Anti- Bullying,) Limerick Enterprise Board, Careers

Exhibition, Aware, Lunch-Time Social Club, Gold of the Desert Kings, Permanent T.S.B, Afro-Drumming, Kamal Ibrahim, Mr. Ireland and Stephen O'Hara Magician, The Samaritans, "Psych- Spagetti" theatre, "A Space for learning" Michael O'Connor Architects.

Transition Year 2009-2010: Roll of Honour

<u>Student of the Year:</u>	Dean Craig
<u>Limerick City Enterprise Winners:</u>	Kevin O'Sullivan, Sebastian Razkha
<u>Public Speaker of the Year:</u>	Rory Higgins
<u>End of Year Projects:</u>	Stuart Mackey and Jonathan Noonan
	Eugene Begley
	Daniel O'Sullivan
	Brian O'Dwyer
<u>Innovator Award:</u>	Dean Craig and Patrick Murphy
<u>Community Award:</u>	Thomas Healy

School Choir

The choir performed their debut performance for the academic year on the 5th October singing *Dona Nobis Pacem* and Journey's *Don't Stop Believing* for the school open-night. This was a huge success and a wonderful opening to the night. The soloists involved were Eoghan Dillon (6th Year), Daniel Duffy (6th Year) and Niall O'Hollaran (5th Year). Joining the senior students were 35 students from 1st Year. This was their first performance with the choir

and they were exceptional. Instrumentalists involved were Shane Fahey (6th Year), Michael Hennigar (6th Year) and Éanna Quigley (5th Year).

Like previous years, both Junior and Senior masses are the highlight of the year for the choir. This is a great opportunity for the choir to participate in the liturgical festival and celebrate with the school community. There were wonderful performances by the choir, soloists and instrumentalists.

The choir were invited by the Parents Council to perform at *A Taste of Christmas*, which was held on the 25th November at The Strand Hotel. This evening was a great success and the choir outshone themselves with solo performances from Eoghan Dillon (6th Year), Daniel Duffy (6th Year), Ryenn Malone (6th Year), Jack Daly (6th Year), Dylan Flynn (1st Year) and Billy Higgins (1st Year). Some of the Christmas classics performed were *Fairytale of New York*, *Oh Holy Night*, *Away in a Manger*, *Deck the Halls* and many more. Instrumentalists involved were Shane Fahey-Piano (6th Year), Conor Casey-Accordion (6th Year), Lucas O'Brien-Oboe (3rd Year), Andreas O'Brien-Saxophone (1st Year) and Emmet Ryan-Guitar (1st Year).

The school choir were cordially invited to perform with the Caherdavin musical community to celebrate the Christmas festival on 20th December at Caherdavin church singing *O Come all Ye Faithful* and *Ring Christmas Bells*. The choir certainly added to the Christmas liturgy.

The 6th Year graduation was again a highlight in the music department calendar. The choir performed for this ceremony singing, *Dona Nobis Pacem*, *Eagles Wings*, *Shine*, *Hallelujah*, *Together we are one* and *Lean on me*. Jack Daly (6th Year) gave a beautiful performance of *Closer* and Darragh Hickey (6th year) played two momentous slow airs on the tin whistle. The 6th year graduation song was *Breakaway*. Previous 6th year students who sang with the choir joined current 6th years in the choir for this performance. I think it fair to say there wasn't a dry eye in the church. Well done lads, we were very proud!

The choir took the stage for the 2nd year of the Awards Night. They opened this prestigious event with a beautiful rendition of *Dona Nobis*. Also, they sang a unique version of *Lean on Me* with soloists Daniel Duffy, Eoghan Dillon and Niall O' Hollaran. The choir were accompanied by Shane Fahey(piano) and Colm Fitzgerald (Drums). *Too Close*, our 1st Year band entertained the crowd with their rendition of *Dancing in the Moonlight*. Dylan Flynn (vocals), Emmett Ryan (electric guitar), Paul Breen (Drums) and Andreas O'Brien (saxophone) were joined by Michael Hennigar from 6th Year who received a certificate for guitarist of the year. Music student of the year was awarded to Daniel Duffy from 6th Year for his dedication to promoting music in Ardscoil Ris and thirteen of our 6th years were awarded for their contribution to the choir over the past 6 years-Daniel Duffy, Aaron Barriscale, Eoghan Dillon, Shane Fahey, Colm Fitzgerald, Darragh Hickey, Jack Daly, Ryenn Malone, Niall Carmody, Bryan Tracey, Andrew Murphy, Shane Harty and Niall Minihan. Congratulations and justly deserved.

Lunch-time club:

In September a small group of Transition Year students and a fifth year student took the initiative to set up a lunch time club with the assistance of a staff member. The aim of this club was to help facilitate and ease the transition from primary to second level education for first year students (those with special educational needs and all other students finding it difficult to settle into their new environment). The club involved students interacting informally with their peers playing various board games and availing of the opportunity to meet and interact with other students in their year in a safe and controlled environment. Initially the club took place once a week but due to demand was extended to two lunch periods a week. Other fifth year students volunteered to help and assist in the club. Social interaction, confidence and self-esteem were identified as key areas of development. On reflection the club proved to be a great success and it is envisaged that it will continue again in 2010/2011.

Supervised Study

Supervised Study was available in the school for two hours each evening fifteen minutes after classes finished. This was supervised by Mr Frank Shaloo. As a fundraiser for the Haiti Disaster Fund two days supervised study was organised by Frank for Leaving Certificate students during the January Parent Teacher meeting. Frank gave his time for free and the students' contributions went to the fund.

School Annual Awards 2009-2010

The Awards' Ceremony took place on May 27th in the Radisson Hotel. It can only be described as a glittering occasion and we were honoured that past-pupil, Mr Pat Cox, graciously presided over the event. The Awards ceremony was organised by Ms Karen Burke and Ms Moira Wallace was Master of Ceremonies. The evening was enhanced by the contribution of the school choir under the baton of Ms Louise Burke. Attendance was well over 400 and the evening was thoroughly enjoyable. One of the many highlights of the occasion was the presentation to Pat Cox of a framed newspaper cutting of him when a member of the Ardscoil Rís Debating Team in 1967. The presentation was made on behalf of the school by First Year student, Hamish Cowton, winner of Best Speaker in the First Year 2010 Debates.

List of Awards

Winning Teams:

Harty Cup Munster Colleges Senior Hurling

**Champions & Limerick Colleges Hurling
Champions**

Adrian Breen, Fergal Carey, Mark Carmody,

Shane Crehan, Alan Dempsey, Shane Dowling,

Kevin Downes, Eamon Farrell, John Fitzgibbon,

PJ Hall, Declan Hannon, Jody Hannon,

Kevin Keane, Ronan Keane, Jack Kelliher,

Niall Kennedy, Ciaran Keogh, Kelvin Lynch,

Eoghan Mc Carthy, Cathal Mc Inerney,

Kevin Mc Namara, Martin Moroney, Eric Neville, Kevin O'Brien, Sean O'Brien, Brendan O' Connor, Sean O' Connor, Mark Ryan, Jamie Shanahan & David Sheppard

Limerick Minors:

Shane Dowling, Mark Ryan, Ciaran Keogh, Mark Carmody, John Fitzgibbon, Declan Hannon, Alan Dempsey, Brendan O, Connor

Clare Minors:

Jamie Shanahan & Martin Moroney

U15 City Cup – North Munster Shield

Paul Blake, Killian Bracken, Francis Bradshaw Ryan, Gordon Brown, Kelvin Brown, Darren Buckley, Joe Cannon, Eric Clancy, Evan Cunningham, Ciaran Cusack, Pdraig de Brun, Robbie Deegan, Kevin Dunne, Daire English, Jack English, Gavin Farrell, Shane Fenton(c), Stephen Fitzgerald, Dillon Hargreaves, Billy Hoare, Eoin Hurley, Callum Jones, Jack O' Halloran, Josh O'Halloran, Alex O' Riordan, William Leonard, Oscar Lyons, Brion Moriarty, Jack Mullane, Paul Obande, Conor Quigley, Cian Quinlan, Chulainn Ryan, Eoghan Ryan, Jack Ryan, Joey Walshe, Thomas Walsh, & Daniel Wixted

U19 Basketball Team:

Aaron Barriscale, Gavin Farrell, Ronan Finucane, Peter Hayes, Eoghan Kehily, Niall Meaney, Stephen O'Mahoney, John Obande & Mark Tuite

Senior Rugby Player of the Year: Eoin Commane

Junior Rugby Player of the Year: Ciaran Power

U14 Rugby Player of the Year: Paul Obande

1st Year Rugby Player of the Year: Pierce Lyons

Irish Schools Boy Rugby Team: Jamie Mc Garry

Senior Hurling Player of the Year: Kevin Downes

Dean Ryan Player of the Year: Eric Neville

U14 Hurling Player of the Year: Cian Lynch

1st Year Hurling Player of the Year: Ronan Lynch

Junior Athlete of the Year: Kyle Larkin

Limerick Soccer Player of the Year: Ryan Earls

Rowing: Mark O'Brien, Niall McInerney & James Fahey

Handball: Colin Crehan

Stacking: Tadhg Bogan Carey

Hockey: Mark Ryan

Community Achievement Award (Senior): Eugene Johnson

Community Achievement Award (Junior): Thomas Healy

Limerick Youth Service Winners: Daniel Grimes, Rory Higgins, Sadmir Hossain, Dylan Kruger, Warren Lee, William Richardson

Music Award: Daniel Duffy

6th Year Choir: Aaron Barriscale, Niall Carmody, Jack Daly, Eoghan Dillon, Daniel Duffy,

Shane Fahey, Colm Fitzgerald, Shane Harty, Darragh Hickey, Ryenn Malone, Niall Minihan, Andrew Murphy & Bryan Tracey

Winner of School Talent Show: Adam Reeves

Guitarist of the Year: Michael Hennigar

Main Cast of School Musical: Dean Craig, Lee Dillon, Mark Fitzgerald, Rory Higgins, Ronan Houlihan, Hugh McGowan, Luke McGrath, Liam McMahan, Dan Noonan, Barry O'Donnell, Padraig Sheahan & Bobby Sherlock.

Winner of School Musical Poster Competition: Josh Fitzgerald

Winner of the Junior Cert Eircom Study: Bryan O'Riordan

School Mascot: Philip Desmond

Edmund Rice Awards (Senior): Mark Ryan

Edmund Rice Awards (Junior): Kristen Kelly

Special Minister of the Eucharist

Certificate Authority: Peter Hodnett, Mark Carmody, John Fitzgibbon, JJFortune, Gearoid Glynn, Andrew McGrath, Kevin Phelan, Daire Ryan, Padraig Sweeney, Niall Walsh

Encounter Leaders: Aaron Barriscale, Niall Carmody, Kevin Keane, Ryenn Malone, John Monaghan, Mark O'Brien, Darren O'Connor, Mark Ryan & Bryan Treacy

Art Student of the Year: Oisin Higgins

Science Student of the Year: Mark O'Brien

Gaeilge Student of the Year: Adrian Breen

French Student of the Year:	Kevin Keane
German Student of the Year:	Sean O'Dalaigh
DCG Student of the Year:	Donal Bourke
Business/Enterprise Award:	Kevin O'Sullivan & Sebastian Raszka
Innovation Award:	Dean Craig & Patrick Murphy
Photographer of the Year:	Rory Higgins
Science Quiz Team:	Adrian Breen, Aneeq Ahmed & Mark O'Brien
First Year Quiz Team:	Cian Doherty, Ciaran Harty, Pierce Lyons & David O' Connor
Irish College Scholarship Award:	Kevin Howard & Eoghan Mulcahy
'My Vision for Europe':	Josh Fitzgerald, Niall Madigan, Brian Murphy, Hugh Mc Gowan, Eric Neville, Kevin O' Brien, Jack O' Connor, Barry O' Donnell, Brian O'Dwyer, Darragh O'Shea, Kelvin O' Shea, Kevin O' Sullivan, Milan Radic, Sebastian Raszka, Cian Ryan, Conor Ryan & Jack Skehan
Le Crunch Qui Today Fm Competition:	Lee Dillon, Ronan Harte & Liam Mc Mahon
1st Year Debating Winners:	Hamish Cowton, Andreas O' Brien & Liam Ryan
Best Overall Speaker:	Hamish Cowton
Student Council:	Conor Casey , Tony Cusack, Robbie Deegan, Shane Hickey O'Mara, Ronan Houlihan, Neil Jordan, Simon Keane, Dylan Kruger, Brian Masterson, Lorcan O'Connor, Josh O'Halloran, Cathal Quirke, Eoghan Ryan & Jack O' Shea

Student Council Award for Contribution to School Life: Shane Hickey
O'Mara

Basketball Player of the Year: Eoghan Kehily

Contribution to School Quiz Team: Darren O' Connor

Pramerica Award: Niall Carmody, Darren O Connor,
Conor Ryan, Darragh Scanlon

Robert Manning Memorial Cup: Ian Irwin

Bobby Byrne Memorial Cup: Kevin Keane

Highest Chemistry Leaving Certificate Results: Eoin Fahey

Highest Academic Achievement L.Cert '09: Edward Garrahy

Highest Academic Achievement J.Cert '09: Brian Murphy & Paul Reidy

TY Student of the Year: Dean Craig

Pat Cox Trophy of the Year: Adrian Breen/ Darren O' Connor (joint
winners)

Choral Performance Ardscoil Ris Choir : 'Dona Nobis Pacem ' (Opening song)

First Year band (Paul Breen, Dylan Flynn, Andreas O'Brien & Emmet Ryan) joined
by Michael Hennigar 6th Yr **'Dancing in the Moonlight'**

Choral Performance – Ardscoil Ris Choir: 'Lean on Me' (Closing Song)

PHOTO GALLERY 2009 – 2010



Awards Night May 2010

Past Pupil, Mr Pat Cox presents Student of the Year Award to joint winners Adrian Breen and Darren O'Connor



The Mayor of Limerick, Mr Kevin Kiely hosts a civic reception for the victorious Harty Cup panel at City Hall, May 2010



Ms Bríd de Brún, Principal, with coaches and staff who embarked on the rugby tour of South America. June 2010



Signing the Contract for New Extension.

Front: Bríd de Brún, Principal, Gerry Dillon, MD Cordil Construction, Adrian Cantillion, Chairperson Board of Management. Back Row: Gary cotter Arup Engineering, Minister Willie O’Dea, Gene Leonard BOM, Richard Rice, Healy and Partners Architects, Minister of State Peter Power. Dec 2009

The senior Basketball team, semi-finalists in U19 B Competition. Back row: peter Hayes, Ronan Finnuacane, John Obande, Eoghan Kehily, Niall Meany.

Front row: David O’Connell, Stephen O’Mahony, Mark Tuite, Aaron Barriscale, Gavin Farrell.



May 2010. Ardscoil Rís won the Rice Cup for the first time in our history. The team was captained by Cian O’Brien

The School Musical, 'Back to the Future' was performed for four nights in Millennium Theatre in February 2010 by Transition Year students and guests.



Scholarship

Edward Garrihy who achieved seven A1s in his Leaving Certificate in 2009 being awarded a UCC Entrance Scholarship by Dr Michael Murphy. Edward is studying Medicine in UCC.

Eoin Fahy achieved the highest mark in Ireland in Leaving Certificate chemistry. Eoin, who is studying Medicine in NUIG, was presented with Institute of chemistry medal to mark his achievement.





Clockwise from above right: Leaving Cert members of school choir; Kevin Keane with Mr Pat Cox at the Awards Night. Kevin won a Harty Cup medal, a Limerick Colleges Hurling medal, was a leader on the Encounter Programme, French Student of the Year and won the Bobby Byrne Memorial cup for excellence in English; Wolf – our school mascot; Transition Years on the top of Croagh Patrick; The U15 Rugby squad – winners of the North Munster Shield.

