

**Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna
October 2015**

Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate Results

Congratulations to all our Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate students who received results recently. The school is very proud of their achievement and wish to thank you the parents and their teachers who were a tremendous support to them

CAO Points

For your information I include a comparison of the CAO points achieved by our students compared to the National Average for our Leaving Certificate class of 2015.

Number of CAO Points achieved	National %	Mary Immaculate %
500-600	9.9	7.3
400-499	25.6	34.1
300-399	26.2	22.0
200-299	17.8	19.5
100-199	11.9	9.8
<100	8.2	7.3

Sunday Times School Ranking – September 2015

Mary Immaculate is ranked top mixed secondary school in Clare in the Sunday Times 'Definitive Guide to Ireland's Top 400 Schools'. This league table ranks the top 400 schools in Ireland according to progression to University and is based on the average proportion of pupils gaining places in autumn 2012,2013,2104 at one of the nine universities, main teacher training colleges or the National College of Art and Design. Mary Immaculate was ranked 94 out of the top 400 second level school. This is a significant achievement with our inclusive intake of students. It is a reflection of our school's determination that each student achieve their highest potential and is due in no small part to the support of parents, dedicated staff and interested and motivated students.

Our school is ranked no. 18 of all the secondary school in Munster – excluding Cork. It was placed 1st in Clare, sending an average of 87.9% to Third Level (i.e. University and Institutes of Technology rather than just University only) over the past three years. It was placed 3rd in Clare sending an average of 59.7% of students to University. The top school in Clare sending 70% to university.

Outcome of Leaving Certificate Class 2015

- **41 students sat the LC in 2015**
- **58.6% in Level 8 Courses**
- **9.8% in Level 7 Courses**
- **2.4% in Level 6 Courses**
- **14.6% in Level 5 (PLC) courses**
- **14.6% working/travelling/year out**

Mary Immaculate celebrates Mercy Day

Mary Immaculate Secondary School celebrated Mercy Day with a school Mass held in Lisdoonvarna Church on 24th September. The mass was celebrated by Fr. Cunningham, the local parish priest. A choir and musicians from the school enhanced the celebration by their musical contributions. Students, staff and parishioners attended.

Mass for deceased past pupils and staff

The annual mass for deceased past pupils and staff will take place in the school hall on Thursday 26th November 2015 at 8:00 pm. Relatives, friends and parishioners are all welcome. If you are aware of any past pupil who passed away during the past year we would appreciate if you would let us know.

School Calendar 2015-2016

Term 1

Monday 2nd November to Tuesday 22nd December. School will finish at 13.02

Term 2

Wednesday 6th January to Friday 14th February. School will finish at 15.42

Monday 22nd February to Wednesday 16th March (Thursday 17th March School closed)

Term 3

Monday 4th April to Friday 3rd June. School will finish at 13.02. (Monday 2nd May 2015 School closed)

Parents' Association

We would really like to see more parents becoming involved in the Parents Association. It gives you an opportunity to assist in shaping policy thus ensuring we are the best school we can possibly be.

Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Mock Examinations

These are scheduled to take place for 3rd and 6th year students in February 2016. Each year the school subsidises the cost of these examinations. We endeavour to keep costs to a minimum and will keep cost to parents at the same rate as 2014 which was €100. You may pay this now or in instalments or in any event by mid-January 2016. The Department of Education and Science does not meet any of the cost of these mock examinations.

Parent /Teacher Meetings

All PT Meetings take place from 4.15 pm to 6.45 pm. On evenings of a PT meeting school will finish 15 minutes earlier than usual. Please bring a list of your student's subjects, teacher's name and a list of questions you may wish to ask. Please come as early as possible.

Sixth Year Parent Teacher Meeting:	Monday 16 th November 2015
Third Year Parent Teacher Meeting:	Tuesday 1 st December 2015
Fifth Year PT Meeting:	Wednesday 13 th January 2016
First Year Parent Teacher Meeting:	Thursday 28 th January 2016
Transition Year & 2nd Year PT Meeting:	Monday 22 nd Feb 2016

Operation Christmas Child - Shoe Box Appeal

The school's annual "Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal" will be carried out again this year. It is an international project run by "The Samaritans Purse" which tries to inject hope into the lives of the world's poorest children in nearly 30 countries. Students from all classes are invited to take part in this project.

We would appreciate if all boxes could be returned to the school by the end of November 2015. Shane Slattery and Sally McNamara can be contacted for any further information.

Sponsored School Sleepover for First Years

For yet another year the school participated in the "schoolmates sponsored sleep over night" in aid of Focus Ireland for the homeless in Ireland. This took place on Friday 16th October. In order to make the experience more real the whole group slept in the school hall without any heating. The event was supervised by staff members: Ms. Hynes, Ms. Keane-Egan, Ms. Sally McNamara, Mr. Sims, Mr. Malone. We are indebted to Ms. Christina Commene and Peer Mentors who volunteered their time; Seán Kelly, Rowan Johnson, Iseult Leahy, Neasa McCormack, Deirdre O'Connell, Suchadar White.

Sharing, bonding, fun and fundraising for a good cause was our main aim for hosting this event. Your support in sponsoring this worthy cause was greatly appreciated. €919.80 has been collected so far.

BT Young Scientists

17 students have been successful with their entries, (13 projects) in this year's Young Scientist exhibition from Wednesday 6th January to Saturday 9th January 2016. We wish all the participants every success

Cahercalla Hospice Coffee Morning

The staff organised a coffee morning in September. Thanks to all who supported this event. Funds of €163.85 were raised.

Road Safety Workshops

Road Safety workshops were provided by Catherine Flaherty from the RSA. Students from all years participated in the workshops.

Business Quiz

3 teams selected from Third year entered the BSTAI/CIMA business quiz on Wednesday 7th October in Limerick Institute of Technology. Their teacher Ms. Keane-Egan organised and coached the teams. The teams came 1st, 4th and 10th. The team in first place goes forward to the All-Ireland Final to be held in Tipperary in February 2016. Placed in first place were: Muireann Leahy, Jessica Kelly, Arthur Collins, Dara Kenneally, in fourth place: Jane O'Loughlin, Melissa Roche, Lucy O'Growney, Lara Norrish, and in tenth place: Conor Clancy, Tara Flanagan, Claire Reilly & Hannah O'Brien. Well done to all for their interest and involvement.

Transition Year News

Cliff Walk

The students took part in a cliff walk on Wednesday 9th September. They were given a guided walk by Amy O'Brien who gave freely of her time and we wish to extend our thanks to her for this. We wish to thank Kate Burke on arranging a sponsored lunch for the students at the Cliffs of Moher.

Ploughing Championships

Students travelled to the Ploughing Championships in Co. Laois on Wednesday 24th of September, they were accompanied by Mr. Sims and Ms. Browne.

An enjoyable day was had by all.

Killary Outdoor Pursuits

Transition year students travelled to Killary on the 28th, 29th and 30th September and had a very enjoyable time. Many thanks to their teachers who accompanied them, Mr. Conway and Ms. Slattery.

Pilgrimage trip to Croagh Patrick

Transition Years, and 5th and 6th year students participating in Pope John Paul II Awards undertook a pilgrimage Croagh Patrick accompanied by their teachers Mr. Slattery and Mr. Murphy on Monday 5th of October.

Pope John Paul II Awards

5th and 6th year students participating in these awards are coming to the final stages in the submission of their work on parish and social involvement. We hope they will be successful in attaining their gold, silver and bronze awards. Students are being assisted by their Religion teachers Ms O'Doherty and Mr. Slattery. The Diocesan Youth Co-ordinator Maura Garrihy guided this project.

Transition Year play “Totally Over You”

The students are currently in rehearsal for their production of the play “Totally Over You” which will be performed in the school hall. The dates for performances have yet to be confirmed.

Erasmus

As part of the Erasmus Plus Programme Transition Year students will be travelling to Hoorn in Holland on the week of 8th February 2016. Mary Immaculate students and families will host the Dutch students for a week beginning the 9th May 2016. An information night will be held for parents, date to be confirmed. Any enquiries to Shane Slattery via the school office.

DEAR Reading Programme

Students from first year to Transition year are continuing the DEAR programme. We wish to acknowledge the students participation and enthusiasm and we appreciate the support of parents.

First Year Speech & Drama Workshop

As part of our whole school improvement plan for literacy, first year students have taken part in a speech & drama workshop facilitated by speech and drama teacher Theresa Leahy.

Trip To Ennistymon for Scoil Mhuire Musical “Guys & Dolls”

On the 15th October 1st, 2nd and Transition year students were given the opportunity to travel to Ennistymon to watch a performance of the musical “Guys and Dolls” performed by students of Scoil Mhuire Ennistymon.

Poetry

Students from Mary Immaculate have entered into the regional stage of the prestigious Poetry Aloud competition. We wish them well in their first outing on Thursday 5th November in Glor theatre Ennis.

Maths Ireland Week 2015

The school took part in Maths Week which ran from October 12th to the 18th. Students designed posters that are on display throughout the school. Teachers organised a variety of activities in class to promote positive numeracy awareness.

Open Day to NUIG Friday 2nd October and UL& LIT Friday 16th October

A group of Leaving Cert and 5th year students travelled to the open days with their teachers Ms Lynch and Ms. O’Loughlin.

Sport

Senior Boys

Congratulations and well done to the team and manager Brian Conway on winning the Clare Cup under 16 ½ victory on Friday 16th October. This was the final of the 2015 competition.

The senior team played the first round of the Munster Schools on Thursday 22nd October. The panel included: Conor Shannon, Alan Sweeney, Rowan Danaher, Liam O'Sullivan, Crebhan Hughes, Tristan O'Callaghan, Evan Barrett, Aaron O'Brien, Jack Sheedy, Jonah Culligan, Eoin Petty, Cathal Guerin, Joseph McGann, Colm O'Brien, Aidan McNamara, Denis McMahan, Cian Burke, Nicholas Dunne, Michael Garrihy, Cillian Blood, Seán Urquhart, Niall McNamara, Darragh Flaherty. The team emerged victorious against Gaelcholáiste, Tralee, Co Kerry on a score line of **4 : 10 to 2 : 7**

The first round of the Senior Clare competition against Rice College at home will be played on Wednesday 4th November.

North Clare Football School Blitz Thursday 24th September

The First years from the schools of Mary Immaculate Lisdoonvarna, C.B.S. Ennistymon, St. Josephs Spanish Point, Vocational school Ennistymon took part in a blitz at the beginning of the school year. Two squads of 9 aside took part, winning all their games. Well done to all.

The Junior Boys under 15

The under 15's played the first round of the Munster Schools tournament. They played St. Colmans Midleton Co. Cork, losing after a battle in extra time. They will play Killaloe in November.

Junior Ladies & Senior Ladies

Mary Immaculate Lisdoonvarna are currently competing in Junior & Senior ladies Football. The Seniors have suffered three defeats against Kildysart, Rice College and Kilrush. The Juniors have had two victories out of two against Ennis Community College and St. Pat's Shannon. The Juniors still have two games to play – St. Caimins Shannon and Colaiste Mhuire Ennis.

Futsal Competitions

1st Year Boys and Girls took part in a Futsal Competition for local secondary schools. The competition was held in Ennistymon Community Centre on Thursday 22nd October. Our boys won the competition and now go forward to the next round in early November. Our girls team were narrowly beaten in the final against Spanish Point.

Hurling

A new hurling team has been formed. The students will begin training and have entered the Munster schools Hurling Competition. Thanks to their new trainer Mr. Malone. We wish them well in their endeavours in the coming year.

School Lotto

The school is part of community lotto which helps raise funds for day to day running costs of the school. I wish to thank all parents who contribute to the Lotto either through our school or by buying tickets locally. I would encourage each family to consider contributing €100 to the lotto for the year or €50 for the half year. You have a chance of winning the weekly lotto jackpot and you are helping to ensure that the school can offer a better service. Forms are available from the school office. As you may be aware this is the only fundraising carried out by the school.

Lockers

Please ensure that your child has her/his locker key with them every day in school. In the event of a student coming to school without their locker key you may be requested to bring in key into the school on behalf of your child to help ensure that learning is not compromised. The cost of a replacement key is €6:50

Uniforms Reminder

Each student must have two full uniforms. Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform every day.

Student Council

Student elections have taken place and the following students have been elected to the Student Council for the school year 2015/2016

1st Year: Diarmuid O'Donoghue, Róisín Roche, Callum Dobbin Catto, Eve McMahon

2nd Year : Shane Fitzpatrick, Kate Considine, Cian Howley, Seamus McNamara

3rd Year : Conor Clancy, Tara Flanagan, Muireann Leahy, Niall Sweeney

4th Year : Olivia McGann, Tom Howley

5th Year: Niamh Reilly, Jack Griffin, Myra McNamara, Scion Flanagan

6th Year: Iseult Leahy, Ryan Burke, Stephen O'Connell, Deirdre O'Connell

LCVP Work Experience

The following are the dates allocated for work experience for 5th Year students participating in the LCVP programme:

Attendance and Punctuality

Students must be in school by 8:50 am and in their classrooms by 8:55am.

Students arriving late to class causes disruption and negatively affects teaching and learning for all. If your daughter/son is absent from school please ring the school on **7074266** or **text only** on **0877730000** on the morning of the first absence and follow up with a note of explanation. Please use the detachable slips at the back of the school journal.

The management wishes to thank all parents who adhere to these guidelines. Missing time from school hinders academic success.
Please arrange family holidays in non-term time.

Hugh Kivlehan RIP 1964-2014

A non-uniform day will be held in the school on Friday 23rd October in aid of the Irish Heart Foundation in memory of Hugh Kivlehan.

Yours sincerely

John O'Loughlin

John O'Loughlin,
Principal

