

Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

Newsletter March 2015 Issue 27

Dear Parent

This is a special newsletter in order to inform everyone of the details of this year's MCnG award and the exciting news that we have now welcomed the Adventures in Music organisation to the school, where it is hoped we will create a symbiosis of great proportions.

MCnG Award Night

On Saturday 9th May we are going to conduct an in school assessment of students. For this purpose we are recruiting the services of an external examiner who will listen to each student and provide a written assessment of their performance and with that a certificate from the school indicating the standard achieved. From the day's performances 12 students will be selected who have shown particular ability. These students will be invited to return on Sunday evening to compete in front of a panel of teachers and the Extern where we will select three outstanding performances.

One of these will be given the title of 'Student of the Year' and will be awarded a significant bursary towards the cost of next year's tuition. The first and second runners up will also receive bursaries.

There will be consideration given to the age of each performer in the selection of awardees which will help to level the playing field. What this means is that a performance of excellence at a grade 2 level has the same chance as one given at a grade 8 level.



This assessment cannot be recommended highly enough. Firstly for those students of the school not taking examinations this year but who might value a considered report of their musical progress, but also for those who are taking examinations, as it will provide a pre-grade wakeup call that should be invaluable for those hoping to gain every possible point.

As always we will be asking a senior public figure to come and present the awards themselves in what we hope will be a truly memorable evening.

What has been achieved in the five short years we have been open is something we are immensely proud of and this will be an opportunity for everyone to witness that progress. But most of all it will be an occasion upon which we can celebrate the talent of all of our young students. Their skill and hard work will be on show for family and friends to be proud of.

MCnG Award Night will also be the occasion upon which we will present our young 'Colourstrings' students with their bronze medals, for graduation from kindergarten to instrumental training.

Adventures in Music

Ten years ago a group of highly enthusiastic and dedicated parents formed a charity organisation called Adventures in Music to bring music into the lives of young people in child friendly musical experiences. Since then they have consistently provided concerts and workshops for children in



Galway that have made an indelible mark on all those lucky enough to have attended them. Those founding parents have now handed the baton for the organisation over and we are very pleased to say that henceforth the Adventures in Music program will be delivered in conjunction with Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe. Our very own cushion concerts will now be subsumed into AIM and there will be an exciting program rolled out from next September.

But there is also now to be a second component to the organisation. It is our hope to use the charitable status of AIM to help us to raise funding for the provision of Music Literacy, through our colourstrings outreach program, for some of the more disadvantaged children in our schools. This program now reaches out to 1400 children per week and we do have a real and substantial need for funding in order to maintain these figures. We hope to achieve this through a variety of means but it is no harm mentioning that if there are any individuals or companies amongst the families of our student body that has an interest in supporting our work with these children then we would really love to hear from you. The music program has really made a substantial difference to the schools we have selected and creating a better and fairer educational system for everyone can only have positive knock on effects for the future of Galway.

Other bits.....

We are hoping to organise a weekend workshop in traditional fiddle with two great masters of the tradition in April.

We are also hoping to announce a very special event with piano virtuoso Finghin Collins later in the semester.

There will be a summer school in orchestral performance this year. It will take place from the 13th July and information will be released about this in the next couple of weeks.

Our school ensemble is back and playing. Once a month, Dr. Haghjoo puts the group through its paces. Spaces are available for any of our wind or string players that might like to be a part of it.



There will be a NUI Galway Orchestra concert on Monday 13th April at 6:00pm in the Bailey Allen Hall. The concert contains a fundraising component in aid of the 'Colourstrings' music programme.