

Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

NEWSLETTER - November 2014 (Issue 26)

Christmas Concerts

As is traditional the school is putting on a string of concerts over the festive period featuring collaborations between many of the staff and students of the school. On Friday 12th December at 7:00pm Dr. Ramin Haghjoo and David Szabo will be performing along with a selection of their students. This will be followed on Saturday 13th December at 4:00pm by a piano recital performed by Rosemary Clarke, David Clarke and a group of their students. Tom Portman and Gerard Madden will perform together on Wednesday 17th December at 7:30pm. The final two concerts in the series will take place on Friday 19th December when Hazel Collins and her students perform at 6:00pm. This is followed by collaboration between Hugh Kelly and Robert Solyom and their respective students at 7:30pm. All these concerts will take place in the Drawing Room in St. Mary's College.



Everyone, who is able to, is encouraged to attend as these events provide the students with a platform upon which to showcase their skills and progress as musicians. The concerts, by providing the students with an opportunity to perform in front of a live audience, help to build the confidence of young people and show the positive impact that music can have on the lives of these students.

Cushion Concert

The first instalment of our popular Cushion Concert series for the new school year will take place on Saturday 13th December at 5:00pm. If you have never attended one of these concerts the Joy of these concerts lies in the approach. They are timed earlier for younger audiences and they are also shortened and less formal. There are cushions! There is interaction and talking and no one has to sit still. In short they are fun! Those who attend even get a drink and a biscuit at the end. We want the idea of live performance to inspire our students and the standard of the music is of the very highest calibre. These concerts are still provided free of charge.

The cushion concert this year will be performed by a String Quartet comprised of Hazel Collins, Eamon Rabbitte, David Clarke and Hugh Kelly. They will be performing a selection of works designed to entertain and enlighten the children. They will also be performing a selection of well known Christmas carols in order to ensure that everyone comes away filled with the festive spirit!

Colourstrings Christmas Party



The Colourstrings Christmas Party will take place on Saturday 13th December from 3pm until 4:30pm. All parents and children are welcome. There will be various activities and games for the children including face painting. Santa Claus will also be on hand to provide the children with presents. It should be fun for all the family. Those who

then wish to do so may stay on for the following cushion concert. Little ones tired from all the excitement can head for home.

Fees

We would just like to remind everyone that has not paid their fees in full for this semester that they should be taken care of before the Christmas Holidays begin on 21st December. Anyone who has not paid in full by this date will be unable to recommence classes in the second semester. If you have any queries regarding fees please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Twitter

The school now has a Twitter account which will be used to notify students and parents about upcoming events and important announcements. We hope you will follow us @MCnG2010.

Lost Flute

One of our teachers has recently lost their Trevor James Cantabile Flute (right). We are offering a €100 reward for anyone who can help us reclaim the instrument. Any assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated. If anyone has any information regarding the missing instrument they can contact the office.



Colourstrings Policy Regarding Parents

Due to certain enquires we thought it would be best to clarify the school's policy regarding parents remaining with their children during Colourstrings classes. The school's policy is that by the time your child is 4 years of age it should be possible for you to leave them with the teacher without any issue. It may even be possible for you to leave your child at an earlier age; however, this would have to be assessed on an individual basis. We would ask that parents who choose to stay with their child participate in the class, rather than remaining there in a purely observational capacity. This interaction can be beneficial to both the teacher and the children in ensuring that the maximum benefit is obtained from the lesson. Parents, who do not engage in the lesson with their children often become a distraction, and a place to go to, rather than focusing on the lesson.

School Art Competition

The school will be holding a Christmas Art Competition, which is open to all students of the school. The artwork should be music related, but, aside from that, students have full creative freedom to design whatever they want. The artwork can be handed into the teachers during lessons or can be left into the office. The prizes are €50 for first place, €25 for second and €15 for third place. The closing date for entries is Saturday 13th December. We will contact the winners and present them with their prizes before the Christmas Break. As an added incentive any artwork sent in for the completion will be proudly displayed in the teaching rooms.



Oboe Lessons

The school has recently purchased an Oboe which is available to be used, free of charge, by anyone who has desire to learn the instrument. If anyone is interested in taking up this opportunity you are more than welcome to contact the office where we could arrange lessons with Robert Solyom our resident woodwind teacher. The opportunity to learn this beautiful instrument does not often occur and anyone that takes up the challenge will

find themselves in huge demand with the various orchestras in the city before too long.

Videotaping

As the school has recently purchased a new video camera we felt it necessary to outline the school's policy regarding videotaping certain events and classes. In relation to Colourstrings classes, sometimes classes will be taped as a means of assessing the teacher's performance and helping them to improve and learn from their lessons. These videos are used for assessment purposes only and will be seen by no one outside of who is necessary. Following which they will be destroyed. It is also a necessary part of the training of staff to international standards as set out by colourstrings. The international organisation have in the past stipulated that teachers must travel to England or Finland to present themselves for teaching practise examination but lately because of sheer force of numbers here, they have agreed to allow us to forward such information by video. So at times which will always be announced by staff ahead of lessons there will be a need to record some footage.

Once examined in England it is always destroyed. No copies are ever kept and no child is ever identified by name.

Videotaping will also take place of the concerts that take place throughout the year in the school. These tapes will be used to showcase the vibrant and diverse musical talent that the school helps to nurture. If any parents, who have a child performing at a specific event, object to their child being filmed please let us know in advance and we will ensure that no footage is taken of your children. All footage filmed at these concerts will be available to parents upon request. The school rules and regulations are currently being amended to reflect these changes.

Christmas Holidays

The Christmas Holidays this year run from Sunday 21st December until Sunday 4th January. The final week of the first semester will begin on 5th January. The second semester will then commence from the week beginning Monday 12th January.

