

TY Youth Retreat in Knock:

On Thursday May 9th the TYs travelled to Knock Shrine to celebrate the 11th Anniversary of the death of Donal Walsh. Donal was an inspirational young man who battled cancer three times during his short life. He came to national prominence on the Saturday Night Show hosted by Brendan O' Connor at the age of 16. Donal had written an open letter to young people urging them to choose life as he was so despairing of the number of teenage deaths by suicide whilst he was trying so hard to live. As a result of his TV appearance the #livelife began to trend, suicide numbers in his native Kerry went down and his parents set up the Livelife foundation. Following his death a few weeks later they began to visit schools to get his message out there and to encourage young people to seek help and to make the most of the wonderful opportunities that lay ahead for them.

Over 2,500 students attended the youth retreat on Thursday. There were two invited speakers Nikki Bradley and Adam from the Knock Cenacolo community who shared their inspiring stories with us. Nikki spoke about having cancer at the age of 16 and the amputation of her leg a few years ago. She showed great resilience and nothing holds her back, plus unbelievably is now climbing mountains. Adam began taking drugs at the age of 13, failed his leaving cert, was thrown out of college, was fired from his job and found help and support in the Cenacolo community where he now, three years on, is helping the new members to find their feet and rebuild their lives.

There were a number of workshops, the Creation Walk and the Knock museum available for the students to visit. After lunch, Mass was celebrated for Donal. Well done to Darragh Staunton who read the first reading which was a daunting enough task in front of such a large congregation. It was a lovely opportunity for young people to visit the shrine, hear the story of Knock and a reminder to cherish the life that we have been gifted with.

Many thanks to all for attending and for your impeccable behaviour during the day.

Lourdes Candidates.

Congratulations to current Fifth Year Students- Sarah Clancy, Enya Lodge, Paul Cahalan and Daniel Healy who were selected to represent our school as Youth Helpers with the Oblate Pilgrimage to Lourdes in September 2024. Each year

we send four students who will give of their time and energy to help make the Lourdes pilgrimage a wonderful experience for the sick and elderly in attendance. They met Pdraig Corcoran the Oblate Youth Service Assistant Director, this week who gave them a synopsis of how they will spend their time in Lourdes. It is a fantastic opportunity for them and our students who have been there in the past can attest to that.

First Year Boys Football:

Our First Year Boys travelled to The Faithful Fields on Thursday May 16th to play Oaklands Edenderry in the Leinster Final. Unfortunately it was Oaklands who made the better start to the game and had raced into a 1-3 to 0-0 lead before Iarla Sheahan opened the Banagher College account in the 19th minute. This remained the score at half time with Iarla adding some more points after the break. However, a second Oaklands goal in the 38th minute put paid to any chances of a Banagher resurgence. Diarmuid Darcy added a late point to narrow the gap but that was as close as it got with Oaklands running out winners 2-5 to 0-6. Well done to all the first years who participated and who worked hard throughout the year to earn their place in the final. Beidh lá eile agaibh.

Banagher College: Oisín Egan(Capt.), Jack Doorley, Hugo Loonam, Harry Keane, Charlie Flaherty, Colm Boylan(0-1), Shane Lynch(0-1), Robbie Wynne(0-1), Jack Connoll, Conor Donoghue, Daniel Devery Kearns (0-2), Iarla Sheahan(1-2), Oisín Larkin, (0-1), Diarmuid Darcy (1-0), Conor Moran (0-1).

Sub Used: Seamas Óg Carberry

Minor Camogie:

On Tuesday May 7th the Banagher College Minor Camogie squad made the long trip to Carnew Co Wicklow to play Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew in the quarter final replay of the Leinster Minor B Camogie Championship. Two first half goals from Emma Byrne saw Banagher College run up a half time lead of 2-4 to 0-5. Banagher built on this after the break with further goals from Amy Kenny, Emma Byrne and Holly Sexton to kill off the Carnew challenge. In defence, Emma McDermott was excellent all through. The convincing second half performance allowed Banagher College to introduce their full complement of substitutes after the interval. This win secured a place for the Banagher girls in

the Leinster Semi Final against Coláiste Abhainn Rí, Callan, Co Kilkenny in Callan on Thursday May 16th. Final Score Banagher College 7-9 Coláiste Bhríde Carnew 0-8.

Banagher College: Rebecca Slevin, Isa Duffy, Laura Foley(Capt.), Caitlin Donnelly, Emma McDermott, Elodie Loonam, Aoibhe Doyle, Leah Delaney, Louise Flannery, Annie Mulhare (0-1), Amy Kenny (2-0), Emma Byrne (4-4,1-3 frees), Laura Staunton, Holly Sexton(1-3), Saoirse Coughlan(0-1).

Subs Used: Amber Gohery, Caitlin Cooney, Caoimhe Flynn, Lily Kilkenny and Saoirse Jane Egan

M.O.S.:

TY students Sibéal Mc Mahon and Ruth Kilkenny were proud to represent Banagher College at the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Irish Finals in DreamSpace, Dublin on Thursday May 16th last.

Medal Presentation:

On Tuesday May 14th, former Past Pupil of the school and Tipperary Hurling Star, Patrick “Bonnar” Maher, graciously joined us in Banagher College to present the Leinster Senior B Hurling Medals to the Banagher College Senior hurlers, as a result of their victory over Heywood C.S. in Rosenallis on Monday February 6th last. Bonnar spoke very well to all gathered and encouraged the students to apply work rate to everything that they do going forward in life, an approach that has brought so much acclaim to the man himself. Among those who received medals were Shane Rigney(Capt.), Éanna Mulhare, Dáire Daly, Ruairí Kelly, Eric Rigney, Robert Duffy, Mark Kilkenny, Lee Hogan, Luke Bowe, Luke Bowe, Paul Cannon, Harry Grant, Aaron Molloy, Niall Flannery, Michael Boylan, Ricky Fitzsimons, Darragh Scully, Evan Mannion, Daniel Healy, Liam Donoghue, Killian Fitzgerald, Sam McGuckin, Martin Mannion, Kian Costello, John Foley, Morgan Glynn, Paul Cahalan, Fionn O Meara, Shay Kavanagh, Shain Cleary, Ruaidhrí Cahill, Damien Burke, Brooklyn McDermott, Callum Moore and Owen Devery.

Bonnar also presented winners medals to the Senior Camogie Team who won the DCU Sevens Competition for the second year in a row. The girls involved were Jasmine Gohery (Capt.), Sophie James, Taylor Mahon, Niamh Sheehy, Niamh Daly, Emily Corcoran, Ruth Kilkenny, Laura Foley, Aoife Byrne, Fianait Dooley, Holly Sexton and Amy Kenny.

Offaly U-20s:

Best wishes to Banagher College lads Ruairí Kelly, Shane Rigney & Darragh Scully and the Offaly U-20s in tonight's Leinster Championship Final v Dublin at 7pm in O Moore Park Portlaoise.