

The Wesley Update



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Wesley's annual Prize Distribution took place on October 17 to reward pupils' academic achievement and effort throughout the year. Dr. John Harris, Chairman of the Board of Governors, introduced the guest speaker, Noel Dorr, who is the former chairperson of the UN Security Council. He spoke eloquently about his interesting career and later distributed the prizes. This year, the school's highest award for the best overall girl and boy in terms of character, conduct, sporting and educational achievement, went to Huw Duffy and Jennifer Fair. There was also a musical interlude from the Senior Choir and orchestra who performed a medley from *Les Miserables*.

Prize Distribution



Back L-R Graham Darlington, Rev Nigel Mackey, Dr John Harris, Christopher Woods, Don Lewis Front L-R Patricia Lewis, Nicola Woods, Noel Dorr, Barbara Harris

It was a wonderful evening which acknowledged the breadth of talent in Wesley. We look forward to the Arts and Sports Awards evening later in the year which will mark achievements in these other fields.

TCD Awards

Congratulations to Graham Campbell, Huw Duffy, CAine McNelis and Suzy Percy who received Entrance Exhibition Awards from Trinity College Dublin on the basis of their performance in the Leaving Certificate Examinations.

Wesley is Changing

A series of campus wide developments over the summer and in recent years has slowly transformed the appearance and atmosphere around the school. The Green School initiative has helped improve the ground and new seating in front of the Music and Arts Centre has provided more social space for the students. The college's commitment to provide the most up-to-date environment for learning will drive future plans to install new and improved sporting facilities as well as the eventual modernisation of the Science area. As can be seen overleaf, the immediate changes over the summer have had a major impact on boarding, technology and the classroom block.



Wesley is Changing...

Embury House

The summer saw the beginning of the long-term building project designed to upgrade both boarding houses. The Junior dorms in Embury were refurbished in time to welcome back boarders in September. The renovated accommodation now provides individual rooms for up to four people. They have been modernised with improved insulation, new double-glazed windows and furniture which creates a more homely atmosphere for the students. Epworth House will be the subject of a similar redevelopment next summer.



Campus Developments

The classroom block has received some welcome colour with a new surface on the ground floor. This complements the improvements made to the upstairs of the building two years ago.



Technology Department

The Technology Department have responded to the changing technological age with a brand new state of the art computer suite. It has been created for the use of students taking Technical Drawing or Design and Communication Graphics as it is now called. The updated programme aims to advance the use computers and Computer Aided Design (CAD). It will also be the first time that ICT and CAD are assessed in the Leaving Certificate, making up some 40% of the final grade.



The Department of Education and Science has also selected Wesley as one of 48 schools to offer a new Technology course at Leaving Certificate. This is a continuation of the subject which was previously taken only at Junior Certificate level. It broadens the range of educational opportunities for the students and by extension the college and career paths open to them.

Model United Nations in Wesley

Aside from attending numerous conferences, Wesley students are also organising Wesley's inaugural conference: WCDMUN. The one-day conference will be hosted in the college on Saturday, 23 February. Headed by two 5th Years, Ben Healy as Secretary General and Alex Coleman as Deputy Secretary General, the committee members have been working assiduously since the start of the school year to ensure that Wesley's first MUN Conference is a success. We wish them the very best in their venture.





Model United Nations Manchester Trip

On October 5, a group of 14 students, along with Mr Lydon and Mr McConnell, left for Manchester to take part in MUNCH (Model United Nations Cheadle Hulme). One of the most exciting events of the trip occurred even before they boarded the plane, as unsuspecting TV gardener, Dermot Gavin, was mobbed by a pack of Wesley girls! Friday afternoon was spent shopping in Cheadle Hulme before a relaxed evening meal at TGI Fridays.

The next day MUNCH (Model United Nations Cheadle Hulme) got under way with the students representing the U.K., India and Mexico in their separate committees. The 2-day conference was very eventful with many resolutions and amendments passed by participating countries. Sara Stephens (5th Year) had the distinction of having her resolution ratified by the Human Rights Committee. There was much excitement when the Indian Ambassador from Wesley, Eve Kearney, was escorted out of the General Assembly by security for her protests about the situation in Burma. Apparently, it was not appropriate to use one's shoe as gavel!

Shane Caffrey (6th Year) and Katy Rae (3rd Year) were both commended at the closing ceremony by the Chairs of their Human Rights Council and Human Rights Committee. Overall, the conference was a huge success and well done to everyone who participated.



Harry Gleeson and Conor Carson

Leaving Cert Success

Congratulations to our 6th Years who achieved such outstanding results in the Leaving Certificate this year with an unprecedented 65% receiving over 400 points. They were welcomed back for a very enjoyable Pre-Debs soiree in October. We wish them success in all their future endeavours.

German Department Praised

The German Department of Wesley received glowing praise from the Department of Education and Science on completion of an official inspection at the end of the 2006/07 academic year. The report commented upon the excellent level of resources, including the impressive audio-visual and ICT facilities. It highlighted the very positive classroom atmosphere and stimulating learning environment in which an exemplary use of the target language and teaching methodologies were evident. Mr Drechsler and Ms Brennan are to be congratulated for the enthusiasm and commitment they bring to their subject. This German inspection follows on from the Biology inspection two years ago which was also very complimentary about the quality of teaching and learning in Wesley.

Bullying Awareness Week

Openness was the theme for this year's Bullying Awareness Week, which took place from 15 - 19 October. Students in 1st, 2nd and Transition Year watched films with a bullying theme, while all years explored the theme of "openness" in RE and SPHE classes. Once again, students wore anti-bullying button badges and made a contribution to the children's charity, the Laura-Lynn Foundation.

1st and 2nd Year students participated in a poster competition, while senior students were invited to design a Wesley College anti-bullying logo. Freddie Stevens in 6th Year won first prize for his entry which will be unveiled later in the year.

All assemblies during the week had bullying awareness themes, including those given by the Head and Deputy Head Boys and Girls. Prefects were also very involved and launched a "buddy" system with 1st and 2nd Year students, which will be further developed.

Finally, parents of 1st Year students were treated to a most enlightening and entertaining talk by Mr. John O'Leary, a retired psychologist with the National Educational Psychological Services, who spoke on "Adolescence, the Home and the School."

Preps Art

The Preps have been busily creating castles as part of their art classes and the results of their labours are display in the library. Meanwhile, an impressive selection of Junior Certificate Art Projects from last year have also been on display outside the Myles Hall to coincide with the 3rd Year Parent-Teacher meeting on October 11 and the Prize Distribution evening.

The Wesley Update

This edition of the Wesley Update is compiled and edited by Ms Eve Rogers and designed and typeset by Aoife Cassidy assisted by Mr David Rice.

Book Week

The annual Book Week started with the usual hectic rush to the library by staff and students alike to get their books for the daily reading period from 11.20am to 11.30am. There were a range of activities, including literary quizzes for each year, along with the usual poetry, writing and art competitions. An array of very impressive art entries were also on display in the concourse. In assembly, members of staff entertained students with readings from their favourite books. Meanwhile, in the book swap on the concourse, students traded their old reads for new. The following pupils won competitions during the week:

Haiku:
Preps
Junior
Senior

Nick Patten
Callum Douglas
Michael Naudé

Art:
Preps

Shauna O'Reilly
Freddie Huggard

Junior

Glen Byrne
Iremide Ife-Alabi

Intermediate

Leah Ward
Lauren Hall

Senior

Joseph Chu
Stefan French
David Zhao

Special award for irony Calum Haughton

Short Story:
Senior

Rebecca Shekleton
Eva O'Connor

Intermediate

Fionn Murray
Carin Hunt

Junior

Andrew Gallacher
Tochukwu Anachebe

Judge's special awards

Gwen Duffy
Zara Gleasure

Author Visits

Garth Nix

The acclaimed children's author Garth Nix visited Wesley and spoke to Preps, 1st and 2nd Year in the Myles Hall on September 17. He told his very attentive audience how he wrote his first novel at nineteen, how he writes in longhand and always takes note of his ideas which are now carefully preserved in some 40 notebooks.

After his very entertaining talk, Jane Misstear presented Mr Nix with a gift on behalf of everyone. The event ended with the results of the literary competition in which the pupils were asked to write an opening to a novel. The range and energy of the pupils' work was very impressive and Mr Nix kindly presented the prizes.

In the original fiction category, the winners were 'Night Killer' by Nicholas Patten (Preps), 'Marty's Mistake' by Matthew Nuding (1A3) and the overall winner was Ailsha Connolly-Davey (1A4) for her story 'Earth Goddess'.



Film Trips

Irish Film Institute

Transition Year made the first of three visits to the Irish Film Institute in September to see *Stand By Me*, a film that captured so well the anxieties and awkwardness of adolescence.

Scannán Gaeilge

Lá breá a bhí ann agus shiúil an cúigiú bliain go "Movies@Dundrum" in Líonad siopadóireachta Dhún Droma chun an scannán Kings a fheiceáil. Tá na haisteoirí cáiliúla Colm Meany agus Donal O'Kelly sa scannán. Scéal é seo faoi sheisear fear ó Chonamara. Fágann siad Éire agus téann siad ar imirce go Sasana. Faigheann fear amháin bás agus imíonn na fir eile go dtí an tsochraid agus an teach tábhairne ina dhiaidh sin. Aiscríonn coimhlint agus brón as an teacht le chéile seo. Is é seo an scannán is rathúla ón stiúrthóir Tom Collins.

Ruth Gilligan

At nineteen, Ruth Gilligan, is the youngest writer to ever visit Wesley. Ruth is known in book circles for her novel *Forget* which she published when she was only seventeen. She began it as a project during her Transition Year and a profitable one it proved to be, going to number one on the *Irish Times* Bestseller List. Not resting on her laurels, however, Gilligan went on to earn 8 A1s in her Leaving Cert, whilst finishing her second bestselling novel, *Somewhere In Between*. She is now studying English at Caius College, Cambridge and on the day she spoke to Wesley pupils she was also about to sign a contract for two more books.

The 5th Years clearly identified with Ruth Gilligan and her novels which revolve around the problem of eating disorders, post-Leaving Cert holidays and the heady recklessness of youth. She may even have managed to inspire some of our own budding writers.



Garth Nix

Debating

The College Debating Society has witnessed a flurry of activity in the opening weeks of this school year. The Junior Society continues to meet on a Thursday afternoon and has welcomed some new speakers to the podium. The issue of a children's right to a mobile phone, the necessity of school uniforms and whether PE should be made voluntary all managed to raise the temperature of the GB Shaw Auditorium. The house also voted against the return of cultural treasures to their country of origin. With around 30 members in attendance each week, the juniors also had their first Balloon Debate of the year. In a Balloon Debate, students pose as famous people and attempt to convince the audience why they should be allowed to keep their place in a sinking hot-air balloon. Jostled by celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Barney and Steve Irwin, Charlie Brown was narrowly defeated in the final, losing out to Sarah Cullen posing as the ever popular Assistant Chair, Eve Kearney.

On the competition front, Nathan Walsh, Jamie Haughton and Tara Masterson Hally along with Dara O'Brien and Carin Hunt have all proceeded to the second round of the AIB Leinster Junior Schools' Debating Competition. One other team composed of Jayne Misstear and Eoin Cullen will compete in their first round debates later in the term.

In the Senior section, Eve Kearney and Victoria Veitch (4th Year) will represent Wesley at the Denny Leinster Senior Schools' Debating Competition on October 25.

The Wesley Debaters would like to welcome back one of Wesley's most successful debaters, Mr Mark Haughton, who has assumed the role of Debating Coach. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Frank Bredin for all his work over the last few years. Mr Bredin has stepped down as Head Debating Coach but his dedication and commitment raised the status and success of debating in Wesley during his tenure. Long may it continue.

Liffey Swim

Lucy Gaynor (1st Year) received a mention in the *Irish Times* on September 17, as she became one of the youngest competitors in the annual Liffey Swim. There were near-perfect conditions as some 300 men and women took to the dubiously grey-green waters of the Liffey for the 2.2km race. Lucy is to be commended for her bravery!

Sailing

Well done to the college sailing team who came 5th overall in the All-Ireland Inter-Schools Sailing Competition. The team consisted of Niall Egan (5th Year), Alexander Rumball (2nd Year) and Enzo Michel (1st Year). Both Alexander and Enzo deserve special mention for their brilliant sailing performances, winning four of their races. Many thanks also to Alyson Rumball for helping to organise the team for this event. Both Alyson and Alexander continue their training with the Irish Academy in preparation for the ISAF trials in November.

First Year Bonding Day

All our new 1st Years went to Ovoca Manor, Co. Wicklow in October for their bonding day. The unusually good weather provided wonderful conditions for the challenging activities ahead. The year was divided into fourteen teams in order to encourage the students to engage with other pupils. Each group had to complete a set of tasks which required initiative, teamwork and leadership. Some of the tasks, rock climbing and the obstacle course in particular, were not for the faint-hearted. Nevertheless, there were many memorable moments on the trip and more importantly new friendships were forged.



Transition Year Bonding Day

On September 12, the Transition Years took off on a gloriously dry morning to Three Rock for their bonding day. The climb was interspersed with a variety of games which provided an opportunity to get to know new classmates. There were some interesting tasks on the trek up which encouraged team work and culminated in the Hokey-Pokey on the summit. On their return they were greeted with their long-awaited Junior Certificate results and many triumphant scenes ensued. Thanks to the teachers who accompanied them and of course congratulations to one and all.

Childrens Ombudsman Advisor

Inga Dalzell (2nd Year) has taken up a prestigious role as an advisor to the Children's Ombudsman, Emily Logan. A group of 25 teenagers has the important function of relaying the concerns of Ireland's youth to the Ombudsman, who has a statutory responsibility to promote children's rights. As part of her work, Inga recently helped with the initial preparatory work for the Children's Film Festival which is scheduled for next year. She also took part in the filming of the Big Ballot DVD which is part of an event where children will be able to vote on the issues which most concern them. It is a wonderful opportunity to affect the position and rights of children today and one which undoubtedly carries weighty responsibility. We wish Inga every success in her new role.

All Ireland Hockey Semi-Finalists

Wesley proudly co-hosted the All-Ireland Hockey tournament just before mid-term. Wesley supporters turned out en masse to watch the Senior Boys Hockey squad beat King's Hospital and Campbell College Belfast 3 – 0 in their first two matches. This was followed by a 4 – 3 win over RBAI with a stunning final goal by Mark English.

The semi-final against Banbridge Academy at Three Rock was a great contest. The team made an encouraging start with Kyle Good scoring first for Wesley. However, in the second half, the strain of the previous two days competitions began to show. Clive Hennessy flicked in a penalty late in the match to force the game to strokes. In a tense finale, Wesley lost out in sudden death flicks. Well done to the team for entertaining us with some skilful hockey and we look forward with anticipation to upcoming matches in the League and Cup competitions.

Senior Girls Australia Tour

Over the summer 25 of the Senior Girls' squad and three staff travelled to Singapore and Australia on a hockey tour. Play began in the uncomfortable humidity of Singapore with matches against their U21 and U19 sides. The 1st XI girls coped admirably and were unfortunate to lose 3 – 2 in the final minute. The squad also enjoyed sightseeing, shopping, a Night Safari and a lovely dinner hosted by Mustansir (a former Wesley pupil).

In Sydney, the squad took part in a coaching clinic at the Olympic Hockey Stadium and played a series of games against a Sydney area representative side and a local club. Even with a tight match and training schedule, the girls managed to fit in a trip to Palm Beach (the birthplace of Home & Away) where they met some of the stars, a visit to Mr & Mrs Ward at Hillsongs church and sightseeing around Sydney. The highlight was learning to surf at Noosa on the Sunshine Coast and the sight of 27 people attempting to stand on boards was something to behold.

The first two weeks of the tour afforded many invigorating experiences but there was also intense preparation for the Southern Skies tournament. Two teams were entered in the competition which meant that the squad was involved in four games every day. The 1st XI and 2nd XI qualified for the Trophy and Bowl finals respectively. In the Bowl final, the 2nd XI beat Frensham 3 – 1 with a fantastic performance.

The 1st XI were up against an impressive Moreton Bay College side from Brisbane in the Trophy final. Moreton Bay struck first and were 1 – 0 up by half-time. The Wesley girls showed great character though and scored twice in the second half to take the trophy. It was the first time in the tournament's history that the two trophies were awarded to the same school. Jennifer Wilson, captain of the 2nd XI, received the Bowl and Jennie Fair, captain of the 1st XI, received the Trophy. Rachel Scott scorer of 17 goals and Sarah Lewis were also selected onto an All Stars team.

This was an unforgettable experience for the girls and they can be duly proud of their historic achievement. They send their heartfelt thanks to those who made this trip possible.

Senior Girls Netball

The Senior Netball team in Wesley were delighted to have the opportunity to play against All Hallows School on September 27. This vastly experienced team were visiting from Australia and were only narrowly defeated by the Irish U17 team the day before. Despite missing three key players, Wesley put in a courageous performance for the first quarter, but the skilful Aussies were simply overpowering. However, in true sporting fashion, it was decided that for the remainder of the match, the teams would mix, giving our girls a chance to compete. It was a wonderful display of netballing ability and real sportsmanship and an experience that was relished by all involved.



Rugby

Congratulations to Ivan Campbell who has been selected for the Leinster U18 squad to play against the English Academy. Ivan, along with Jake Wrafter, has been training with Leinster all summer and will also be representing the team in a match against Munster. This is quite an achievement for a 5th Year who is one of the youngest members of the team.



Back L-R Stella Davis, Kate Willis, Leigh Pelow, Nicola Clarke, Amanda Walker, Shannon Taylor, Jennifer Wilson, Nadia Douglas Front L-R Jemma Colclough, Maeve Galvin, Jennifer Fair (Capt), Rachel Scott, Ebby Stafford, Sarah Lewis