Junior Cert & Leaving Cert Classes 2017
We wish you all the best of luck with your exams and all the best to the Leaving Certs in your future careers.

Parents Council
The Parents Council would like to thank the many parents and TY students who helped out recently with the successful Flag Day. We would like to thank the Parents Council for their contribution towards both the Lourdes trip and the Gospel Choir gowns during the year.

Celebration Day
A wonderful afternoon was held for the school’s annual Celebrations Day on 18th of May. Masters of Ceremonies were our 5th year students who carried out an excellent job. There was a huge array of achievements from attendance, Student Council, Mentors, art and culture competitions, sports awards, music awards, academic and attendance awards and much more.

The Sports Star of the Year awards were presented by Sinead Shaw on behalf of Bank of Ireland to Alice Hussey, Junior Sports Star. Both Evanna Lyons and Saoirse Mac Cabe (TY) were presented with Senior Sports Star of the Year awards. The award for best Junior Cert. 2016 was presented to Kate McCarthy and Flora Afrose, who both achieved 10 A grades. Niamh Breslin also received an award her admirable 9 A’s and 1 B. The CEIST award was presented to Rebekah Ryan, pictured below.

Last but not least, the Leaving Cert. of Year Awards were presented to Ciara Murphy (gold) and Erica McMorrow (silver). We were entertained throughout the afternoon with a variety of musical treats from our choirs, traditional groups and various soloists. Thanks to the staff in An Sportlann and all the staff from St. Joseph’s who helped out on the day.

Awakening Concert
The Transition Year choir took part in Awakening 2017 hosted by the Archdiocese of Tuam on May 4th in Breaffy Sports Arena. Awakening 2017 was an amazing concert with more than 450 young people coming together from a large number of secondary schools across the diocese to perform a concert of uplifting church and contemporary music. The proceeds from the concert went to Pieta House. Well done to Ms. McHugh and Ms. Lee for orchestrating the event.

Music & Choir
Congratulations to our newly formed Gospel Choir, under the direction of Ms. Durcan, who were awarded 2nd place at the Navan Choral Festival. The choir also performed in Ballintubber Abbey on the 26th of May as part of the Mayo International Choral Festival. Congratulations to the Irish Traditional Group who were recently awarded 1st place in the Feis Shilgigh.

The TY and senior choirs enjoyed two excellent choral workshops with Veronica McCarron of Britain’s Got Talent fame last March. Veronica was inspirational and the choirs were delighted with their sound at the end of the day! Congratulations to Caolinn Gaughan on her new composition ‘Forgotten Dreams’. This song was performed by Caolinn and the 2nd yr. choir at Achievement’s Day. The 3rd year choir, winners of the Junior School Choir Competition, also performed at Achievement’s Day. They were presented with the ‘Aisling Hynes Memorial Cup’ by the Hynes family. The Senior Choir was presented with the
Sr. Cecelia Perpetual Cup by the Mercy Sisters, for their contribution to choral music in the school and community! They were accompanied by the very talented Maria Ruddy, 6th year. Ms Lee and the Senior Choir took part in their final performance for this year, in Ballintubber Abbey on Friday 26th May as part of Mayo International Choral Festival!

Leaving Cert Graduation
6th year Graduation liturgy was celebrated on the 24th May. The occasion was a beautiful celebration of friendship, talents & creativity. We thank Fr. John McCormack, our chaplain, for celebrating the liturgy with us.

Lourdes
On Easter Sunday, ten girls from St. Joseph’s, along with Fr. Mike (our former chaplain) and students from Mount St Michael in Claremorris travelled to Lourdes for the trip of a lifetime. While there, they looked after children and young adults with special needs. For the students, it was an experience they will never forget. We thank Fr. Mike for giving the girls this opportunity.

TY Parish Project
TY students participated in the Tuam Diocesan Parish Projects. The initiative aims to give TY students the opportunity to become involved in some aspect of their local parish. Some of the projects they got involved in include the Peer 4 Peer Programme, the Confirmation Preparation Programme, visiting the elderly in social service center, training as eucharistic ministers, exam prayers and organising a Well Being Week in school. The project culminated with an appreciation day in Knock in April. All participating schools presented their projects in written and spoken form. Archbishop Michael Neary was in attendance and took time to view the stands and to speak with all the young people present. Thank you to their teacher Ms. McHugh, Mary Connell, Parish co-ordinator and Yvonne Horkan, Peer 4 Peer.

Mindspace
Well done to Sorcha Higgins, Molly McHugh and Abbie Waldron for making it onto the Mindspace Youth Panel. During the year, Ms. Hurley’s classes visited Mindspace to gain an insight into their work.

Bositivity Day
The TY YSI (Young Social Innovators) class held a Bositivity Day for the whole school. The aim of this project was to ‘help people learn to accept the body they have been given and to teach them to love who they are.’ A zumba class was organised for all first years, which promoted positivity and self-confidence. The day was a massive success and raised great awareness around a serious matter.

TY Presentation Night
On Tuesday 23rd May, the TY presentation and awards night took place in the school hall. The evening began with a short prayer service of music and reflection. This was followed by a display of the TY portfolio boxes. It gave people there an opportunity to view all the wonderful activities that the students took part in during the year.

Green Schools
The theme this year was Global Citizenship, Marine Environment. The TY Green Schools Committee carried out a survey to test the knowledge of the student body on marine litter. We also had a Walk On Wednesday (WOW). The students attended talks in GMIT. All TY students helped to build an outdoor willow classroom, which is currently growing outside the front door of the school. RTE’s Duncan Stewart came to our school to talk to the TYs about global warming and how we can make a difference for the better. The school will apply for its 8th green flag next spring.

5th Year Geography Trip: Iceland
In February, 20 5th year Geography students travelled to Iceland with Mrs. McGrath & Mrs. Lavelle for a geography trip which was undoubtedly a trip of a lifetime. Geysers, volcanicoes, rift valleys, a geothermal energy plant, spectacular waterfalls and a guided tour of Reykjavik all formed part of what was a superb trip to Europe’s northernmost capital. The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the three luxurious hours spent in the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa!
Mayo Macra na Feirme Quiz
Mercy Okojie, Eve Okunzwa, Aoife Madden and Aoife Gormally won fourth place in the Mayo Macra na Feirme Quiz which took place in Castlebar Tennis Club in April. Well done girls!

CERN Institute
On the 13th-15th of January 2017 a 2nd year group went on a trip to the European Space Centre, Belgium. This trip was the prize they got for winning the Saffron Science 2016 national competition.

TY Effective Communication Exams
In early May, TY students were examined by Leinster School of Music and Drama for their Effective Communication Certificates. The examiner praised the students for their outstanding performances, with many students receiving first class honours. Well done to all concerned.

Mentors
Well done to the 5th years who were mentors to our 1st year students for this school year. We thank you for your commitment and leadership. The mentors for next September have already been selected and they will commence their roles at the 1st year Induction Day in August.

TY Trip to Germany
The Transition Year group travelled to the Rhineland, Germany, from the 7th of April to the 10th, accompanied by Ms. Broderick, Ms. McGrath, Ms. Walsh, Ms. Durcan, Ms. Sweeney, Ms. Keaveney, Ms. Brennan and Ms. Morrissey. The group of 80 students visited many sites over the three day trip including Cologne Cathedral, Lindt Chocolate Museum and Marksburg Castle. They were entertained with a trip on a Rhineland Cruiseliner, a cable car ride over Koblenz, visits to the Tauris Waterpark, disco bowling and Boppard Village. One of the highlights of the trip was a day spent in Phantasialand, one of Germany’s highly acclaimed theme parks. The tour was a massive success and an unforgettable experience for all.

Cycle Against Suicide
We achieved our status yet again as an Ambassador School. This award is given to schools who actively promote positive mental health. This is the third time our school has received this status. Well done to all who have promoted this great initiative.

BT Young Scientist
TY student, Niamh Breslin presented at the BT Young Scientist competition which was held in the RDS in January. Niamh’s topic was ‘Domestic God and Goddess’, where she did an investigation on people’s domestic skills and the factors that influence them. Niamh was awarded a highly commended rosette. Well done Niamh.

School Bank
This year’s TY school bank was extremely successful. The bank opened every Tuesday at lunch time under the guidance of Sinead Shaw from Bank of Ireland. Weekly raffles were held for members and the students involved in running the bank really enjoyed the experience. The team consisted of Aoife Rabbette, Saoirse Mac Cabe, Nicole Flannery, Leanne Burke, Ruth Murphy, Aoife Donohue, Rachel Lammond, Saoirse Timothy, Mairéad McCann and Hannah Needham.

Architecture module
Orla Murphy, architect, volunteered to carry out the IAF programme with our Transition Year students in January. Designed and delivered by the Irish Architecture Foundation, this new initiative provides students with first-hand experience of the design process under the guidance of design professionals. The girls loved the ten week module and got a great insight into the world of architecture and design.

Seachtain na Gaeilge
We had a very busy and exciting Seachtain na Gaeilge week which began with the annual Tráth na gCeist which was organised by Conradh na Gaeilge Castlebar. The quiz was held in St Joseph’s school hall. A huge thank you to Fear an Ti Sean Kennelly and all from Conradh na Gaeilge for such a great night.

All Ireland Linguistic Olympiad
100 students from St. Joseph’s participated in the Linguistic Olympiad this year. This is a competition in which students
develop strategies for solving problems in fascinating languages from around the world. Round 1 was corrected by the ADAPT Centre at DCU with over 1300 students from schools across the country participating. Aoife Donohue, Transition Year, made it to the final 100 students and competed in the National Final in DIT Grangegorman in March. She achieved the bronze standard in her age group. Aoife was presented with an award at Celebration Day.

**ITS Award**
Well done to our 2nd year science students who receiving an ITS award for educational excellence at Women in ITS Interest Group seminar in Dublin on Wednesday 26th April 2017. ITS Ireland exists to promote the development and deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for safer, more efficient and more sustainable transport. Pictured is Mr John Davis, Chairperson of Executive Governing Board of ITS Ireland presenting the award to Ms. Fionnuala Lynch, Science teacher.

**Student Council**
The council has accomplished a great deal of work this year. In monthly meetings, we have raised many different issues concerning the student body. The following are some of our achievements: We visited Mindspace and raised awareness about young peoples’ mental health. We have reduced the use of plastic cutlery in the canteen due to their negative impact on the school’s carbon footprint. We have raised the idea of getting school scarves and also altering the school trousers. We hosted a ‘Christmas Jumper Day’. Thank you to Ms. Harrington who helped guide us during the year with our work.

**Junk Kouture**
The Junk Kouture Grand Final was held in the Helix, Dublin on the 27th April with one team from St. Joseph’s making it through to the final. The name of the dress was ‘Toxy, Tweedy, Turby’ and the team included Amy Walsh, Niamh Flannery and Katie Padden. The dress was made from tweed and botox lids. Congratulations to the girls and their teachers Ms. Geary and Ms. Flannelly.

**Senior Irish Debate Team**
In January, Ruth Murphy, Kate McCarthy and Katherine Smith represented the school in the regional finals of the All Ireland secondary school Irish debating competition (Comoratas an Phiarsaigh a d’ eagragh Gael Linn). Well done girls.

**Graduate Online Quiz**
Kate McCarthy took part in the Graduate Online Quiz and was lucky enough to win a 4 day trip to Strasbourg which will be taken in October of this year.

**CEIST Leadership Conference**
On March 14th, 5th year students Sinead Horkan, Laura Corcoran, Niamh McDermott, Ethel Nyland and Ciara O’Malley attended the third CEIST Leadership Conference in DCU, Drumcondra. Following the opening liturgy the students from 76 schools around the country worked in workshops where they heard presentations from students who had displayed leadership in their own schools. They also explored the concept...
cept of being a leader in a Catholic School. The event was addressed by the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Diarmuid Martin and the Minister for Education, Mr. Richard Bruton.

Transition Year German Exams
This year the Transition Year students sat the Goethe-Zertifikat A1: Fit in Deutsch examination. It corresponds to level one (A1) on the six-level scale of competence laid down in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Certificates issued by the Goethe Institute are recognised throughout the world. The girls were very successful in their exams and some of them are planning to sit level 2 next year. Well done girls and their teachers Ms. Loftus and Ms. Keaveney.

Eir Junior Spiders
Congratulations to Laura Corcoran, 5th Year, who was shortlisted for the Giga Spider, Best Concept in website design at the Eir Junior Spider Awards. Laura created a website to help Transition Year students with one of the biggest challenges they face in TY - that of finding work experience. Laura set up a database which will be constantly updated in association with Mayo Comhairle na nÓg. This informative website was created under the supervision of ICT teacher, Ms. Calvey.

Camino de Santiago
Islandeady Senior Foroige Club won a trip to walk 100km of the Camino de Santiago in the last week of May. 19 members and 5 adults will walk roughly 20km every day for 5 days though Spanish villages and countryside. Well done to all our students who are involved.

Theatre Trips
Third and sixth year English students travelled to the Hawkswell Theatre in Sligo in April to see performances of the Shakespearean plays that they have studied this year. TY students attended a performance called ‘Waves’ in the Linenhall recently.

Visit by Governor of Central Bank
In March, Professor Philip Lane, Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland, visited the school and spoke with senior cycle Economics students.

Special Attendance Award
Leaving Cert. student Claire Murphy received a special award for full attendance at our Celebration Day. She was presented with her award by Mr. Conal Byrne, Year Head for 6th years.

TY Coaching
The TY’s took part in a coaching module for PE. TY(A) doing gaelic football, TY(B) doing basketball, TY(C) doing spikeball and TY(D) doing rugby. They all found this module very interesting and educational.

West of Ireland Mini-Marathon
This year 80 students, from 1st to 6th year, and teachers, took part in the mini-marathon on the May Bank Holiday weekend. We walked, jogged & ran the 10k route. We decided to fundraise for a very worthy cause, Rock Rose House, by holding a ‘Wear Pink Day’. We have recently presented a
cheque to Rock Rose House for €300. We are delighted to have won the ‘It’s For Girls’ aspect of the competition. A prize of a €1,000 voucher for Achill Adventure Centre is awarded to the school with the greatest percentage of its students taking part in the 10K. This is the second year that the school has won this prize.

Basketball
St. Joseph's basketball teams had good success this year. The highlight of the year was our 2nd year basketball team who made it to the All-Ireland semifinals and the school is very proud of the girls. Well done to them and their coach Ms. Kilkenny.

Track & Field
Our school was well represented at track and field events this year. Over 30 students took part in the initial rounds and the following students qualified for the Connaughts: Megan Frazer, shot put; Ella Deely, 800m; Katie Gibbons, mile; Laura Tunney, walk; Sarah Conlon, 800m; Holly Reilly, long jump; Maeve Gallagher, mile; Róisín Quinn, shot put; Rachel Lammond, 300m; Keira Conway, 300. Laura Tunney, Ella Deely, Katie Gibbons and Maeve Gallagher qualified for the All Irelands which were held in Tullamore over the bank holiday weekend. Well done to Maeve Gallagher who took first place in the mile event.

Cross Country
Well done to all our students who represented our school at various cross country events this year.

Camogie
Well done to Aileen Gavin, Alannah Courell, Jean Benson, Dearbhla Mullins and Saoirse Mac Cabe who have made it onto the Mayo Minor Camogie team.

Swimming
Well done to the students who represented our school in the Connaught Schools Championships. Congrats to Niamh Breslin who took the bronze medal in the IM. Well done to the junior relay team who won bronze: Ella Deely, Sarah Conlon, Zoe McHale, and Fiona Conway. Congrats also to the intermediate relay team, who won bronze: Heather Fadden, Brianne Horan, Rachel Henehan and Hannah Grady.

Senior Sports Star of the Year
Senior Sports Star of the Year award winners: Saoirse Mac Cabe and Evanna Lyons

Second Hand Book Sale
Book sale takes place the 21st June in the school canteen from 3.00 – 4.30pm.

Twitter
Follow us on Twitter; @stjosephscb. Or follow the Twitter link on our website.

Sympathy
We extend our condolences to families and staff members in our school who have been bereaved recently and who are experiencing sadness at the time.