

# 2015 2016

## ANNUAL REPORT



BRIATHAR DÉ MO LÓCHRANN



**MIC**  
MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE  
COLÁISTE MHIURE GAN SMÁL

[www.mic.ul.ie](http://www.mic.ul.ie)





## **Professor Peadar Cremin**

**President of Mary Immaculate College 1999 - 2011**

In 1999 Professor Cremin was appointed as the first lay President of the College in 101 years. Over the term of his presidency, the College community expanded dramatically with, by the time of his retirement in 2011, over 3,000 students enrolled on 30 different academic programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels.

Professor Cremin contributed hugely to the development of the College, including the growth in student numbers, the introduction of new academic programmes and the physical transformation of the campus. He oversaw the completion of a major capital investment programme to a total of €40 million, resulting in the provision of class-leading facilities that include Tailteann, our award winning multi-purpose sports complex, and TARA – a teaching and recreational building. Professor Cremin was also the driving force behind the establishment of Limerick's premier theatre venue, the very successful 510-seat Lime Tree Theatre.

Throughout his long and exceptional career in Mary Immaculate College, Peadar-as he was always known - made an indelible mark in three respects particularly. He was a natural leader, as likely in company to make the first foray into tale or rhyme as he was, amongst colleagues, to set an ambitious vision and marshal all and sundry towards its realisation. Secondly, with remarkable tenacity, and in the face of towering odds, he succeeded in orchestrating the physical transformation of the campus by wrestling funds from an economy entering free-fall in mid-2008. Lastly, and most importantly, he fostered and epitomised the hallmark quality of the College so prized by our students and colleagues, past and present: that of community or, to portray that notion more fittingly in the Irish language he loved-meitheal.

## **Professor Peadar Cremin**

1949-2015

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Welcome to the Annual Report 2015-2016 for Mary Immaculate College (MIC).

2015-2016 proved to be a remarkably productive and successful year for Mary Immaculate College as we continued to successfully reach the targets as outlined in our Strategic Plan 2012-2016.

MIC became a multi-campus following the incorporation of St Patrick's College Thurles in the summer of 2016. As a result of this incorporation MIC now offers nine undergraduate degree programmes in Education and the Liberal Arts, as well as a wide range of Continuing Professional Development offerings for teachers and numerous postgraduate opportunities to Masters and PhD level. This development consolidated the position of MIC as the most significant provider of initial teacher education outside of Dublin.

This period also marked new high in student numbers which exceeded 3,500 for the first time. Our suite of programmes continued to expand, including a new and innovative BA in Contemporary & Applied Theatre Studies, which commenced in September 2015. Demand for each of our existing undergraduate programmes remains high with CAO points-levels remaining stable or increasing. Postgraduate growth continues unflinching on an upward trajectory and in October 2015, the 100th doctoral award was presented.

Another interesting development for the College during this period was the awarding of the contract from the Higher Education Authority, to a consortium led by MIC, for the delivery of the National Higher Education Programme for Inclusion Coordinators in Early Years Settings. The award of this tender represents a significant milestone for the College as it will see an extra 3,600 students added to the already expanding population at MIC. More importantly this new programme will further strengthen MIC's position at the forefront of early years and teacher education. It will also ensure that we continue to have excellent early years' educators and teachers from pre-primary through primary and secondary education as well as the third and fourth levels of higher education.

This period also saw the expansion of the College footprint following the purchase of the Mount St Vincent Building from the Sisters of Mercy. The re-purposing, repair, and refurbishment works will transform the building to provide higher education facilities of the highest standard on the John Henry Newman campus. It was also a year when the College obtained planning permission to construct a new Library/Learning Resource Centre.

This report details a number of high profile fora, symposia and conferences took place during this period, each contributing to MIC's vision of being an institution that offers higher level learning opportunities and research of outstanding quality. These events furthered our objective to be recognised and appreciated for making an essential contribution to the continuum of academic provision in effective and productive collaboration with our partners in the Higher Education Sector.

The geographic spread of MIC operations, the enhancement of our suite of programmes together with a rise in student numbers, places the College into a new sphere within the Higher Education System. These are bold departures for the College, but they are challenges that we very much look forward to.

More information on all of the above may be found further on in this report. We hope you find the information contained within interesting and informative as we work towards meeting the goals and targets of our Strategic Plan 2012-2016.

Office of the President

Mary Immaculate College

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# GOVERNANCE



## TRUSTEES

The Trustees for this period were as follows:

- Most Rev. Brendan Leahy (Chair)
- Very Rev. Fr Tony Mullins
- Sr Thomasina Finn
- Ms Maedhbh Ui Chiagáin
- Most Rev. Kieran O'Reilly
- Most Rev. Raymond Browne
- Ms Margaret O'Brien

The Trustees met on the following dates:

14 November 2015  
13 January 2016  
28 April 2016  
4 July 2016

## AN TUDARÁS RIALAITHE / GOVERNING BODY

The membership of An tUdarás Rialaithe for this period was as follows:

- Most Rev. Brendan Leahy (Chair)
- Professor Michael Hayes
- Professor Eugene Wall
- Mr John Coady
- Ms Catherine Kelly
- Mr Fachtna O'Driscoll
- Dr Áine Lawlor
- Mr Seán McMahon
- Ms Margaret O'Brien
- Ms Mairead Horan
- Mr Declan Madden
- Sr Michele O'Kelly
- Dr Nicholas O'Brien
- Mr James Deegan\*
- Ms Alison Dervan\*
- Judge Tom O'Donnell
- Ms Caitriona Breathnach
- Mr Eamon Stack
- Mr Conn Murray
- Very Rev. Tony Mullins

**AN BORD RIALAITHE / GOVERNING BODY met on the following dates:**

7 October 2015  
16 December 2015  
16 March 2016  
15 June 2016

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Executive Team acts as an advisory group to the President for the day-to-day management of the College. The Executive Team includes members of the senior College management group, appointed directly by the President.

### Membership

- Professor Michael A Hayes, President (Chair)
- Professor Eugene Wall, Vice-President Academic Affairs
- Mr John Coady, Vice-President Administration and Finance
- Professor Gary O'Brien, Associate Vice-President Administration
- Professor Michael Healy, Associate Vice-President Research
- Professor Teresa O'Doherty, Dean of Education
- Professor Michael Breen, Dean of Arts

The Executive Team met on the following dates during this period:

10 September 2015  
30 September 2015  
21 October 2015  
12 November 2015  
11 December 2015  
21 January 2016  
18 February 2016  
10 March 2016  
14 April 2016  
19 May 2016  
14 June 2016  
7 July 2016

\*\* Appointed as Student Representatives, the MISU President & Vice-President change in accordance with the MISU Annual Elections.



## **ACADEMIC COUNCIL (AN BORD ACADÚIL)**

### **Membership**

- Professor Michael A Hayes, President (Chair)
- Professor Eugene Wall, Vice-President Academic Affairs
- Professor Gary O'Brien, Associate Vice-President Administration
- Professor Michael Healy, Associate Vice-President Research
- Professor Teresa O'Doherty, Dean of Education
- Professor Michael Breen, Dean of Arts
- Dr Angela Canny, Assistant Dean of Education
- Dr Patricia Daly, HoD, Special Education
- Dr Liam Chambers, HoD, History
- Dr Emer Ring, HoD, Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies
- Ms Eucharía McCarthy, Director of Curriculum Development Unit
- Dr Carol O'Sullivan, HoD, Learning, Society and Religious Education
- Mr James Deegan, MISU President\*
- Ms Alison Dervan, MISU Vice-President\*
- Ms Tanya Carey, Postgraduate Officer\*
- Mr Des Carswell, Lecturer, Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies
- Professor Jim Deegan, Head of Graduate School
- Dr Loic Guyon, HoD, French
- Ms Maire Ni Neachtain, Ceann Roinn na Gaeilge
- Dr Kerry Greer, Acting HoD, Psychology
- Dr Christiane Schonfeld, HoD of German Studies
- Dr Patrick Connolly, Assistant Registrar
- Dr Anne O'Keefe, Director of Teaching and Learning
- Ms Gerardine Moloney, Librarian
- Dr John O'Shea, Course Leader, Bachelor of Education Programme
- Mr Diarmuid O'Driscoll, HoD, Mathematics and Computer Studies
- Ms Marie Ryan, Course Coordinator, B Ed in Education and Psychology
- Dr Niall Keane, HoD, Philosophy
- Dr Deirdre Ní Chróinín, Acting HoD, Arts Education and Physical Education
- Dr Rosemary Day, HoD, Media & Communication Studies
- An t-Úas Seán De Brun, HoD, Language, Literacy and Mathematics
- Dr Cathal de Paor, Director of Continuing Professional Development
- Professor Eamonn Conway, HoD, Theology & Religious Studies
- Professor Des McCafferty, HoD, Geography

### **Academic Council (An Bord Acadúil) met on the following dates:**

- 23 September 2015
- 18 November 2015
- 26 January 2016
- 9 March 2016
- 10 June 2016

\*\* Appointed as Student Representatives, the MISU President, Vice-President and Postgraduate Officer change in accordance with the MISU Annual Elections.

# EXTERNAL LANDSCAPE



## MIC / HEA MISSION BASED PERFORMANCE COMPACT 2012-2016 & HEA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE AND PERFORMANCE FUNDING

College Management met with the Higher Education Authority (HEA) in September as part of the Strategic Dialogue process where MIC was reported as being a 'very highly performing institution'.

The process of assessment was initiated with the return of a self-evaluation report by each Higher Education Institution. That assessment reviews performance against objectives and targets agreed for achievement by year-end 2014 as set out in the performance compact. The assessment considered progress against own institutional objectives and as benchmarked against peer institutions. It was subject to review by members of the HEA Executive with input from external advisors-Mr John Randall (former CEO UK Higher Education Quality Assurance Agency), Dr Andree Sursock (EUA) and Dr John Hegarty (former Provost of TCD).

A series of bilateral institutional meetings took place over the course of September and October. In advance of each meeting, each institution received a document entitled *Reflections on Performance*. This set out feedback under each compact heading and formed the basis of the meeting agenda. A process auditor was present at all bilateral meetings. The assessment findings placed MIC in the highest category of performance - Category One, allowing for the release of performance funding by the HEA to the College in respect of the 2016 budget allocation.

College Management was advised of the outcome of the Strategic Dialogue Cycle 2 process on the 27 November 2015. The HEA provided reflections on the College's performance across the seven domains which have been set by the HEA, namely: regional clusters; participation; equal access and lifelong learning; excellent teaching and learning and quality of student experience; high quality, internationally competitive research and innovation; enhanced engagement with enterprise and the community and embedded knowledge exchange and enhanced internationalisation and institutional consolidation. No changes to compact targets were suggested. The results of the Regional Cluster submission were also announced in November with MIC being awarded €65,100.

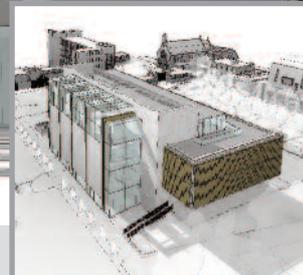
## MID-WEST REGIONAL CLUSTER / SHANNON CONSORTIUM

The Shannon Consortium Steering Group, comprised of the three Presidents of MIC, UL and LIT, chaired by Mr Tim O'Connor, met in June, September and March to progress work on a number of key and immediate areas of collaboration including the development of NISE, the creation of a Federated Graduate School, regional academic planning and the development of an enhanced programme in the Humanities.





# CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT



## LIBRARY

The Library/Learning Resource Centre Feasibility Study Report was presented to representatives of the Building Unit of the HEA in September 2015 who confirmed their concurrence with the Feasibility Study recommendation that delivery of a whole new Library building, followed by demolition of the existing Library, would be the most appropriate option.

Following an open procurement process, the design tender was awarded in January 2016 to a team led by Scott Tallon Walker Architects, a company long established as one of Ireland's premier Architect practices. In August the new plans for a future-proofed Library/Learning Resource Centre were unveiled and a planning application was lodged with Limerick City and County Council.

Costed at close to €21 million, the 5,000m<sup>2</sup> building will be situated in the heart of the campus replacing the existing outdated library. The positioning of the building relative to Tara and the existing Quadrangle, will allow the demolition of the old Library building to enable the formation of a new Quadrangle and outdoor civic space. Internally the building will feature a range of learning settings from silent study areas to lively group work rooms. It will have over 550 study places, and will accommodate over 170,000 volumes. The Library/Learning Resource Centre will also contain a 288 seat lecture theatre, media editing suites, a media studio, seminar rooms, staff offices and all the ancillary spaces necessary for a higher education library.

## JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CAMPUS PROJECT

The purchase of the former Mount St Vincent convent from the Sisters of Mercy was completed, and the contract for the works has been awarded to Monami Construction Ltd (following a public tender process). Monami commenced work on 1 February 2016.

The re-purposing, repair, and refurbishment works will transform the building to provide higher education facilities of the highest standard in the John Henry Newman campus.

The portion of the Mount St Vincent complex that was completed in August has been brought into use, and works have progressed on the remaining parts of the Mount building. The remaining parts are due to be completed by December 2016. The new direct pedestrian/cyclist link was completed and is now in use, providing a direct, straight-line link between the main MIC entrance gate and the John Henry Newman campus.

The commencement of the next academic term in January 2017 will see the John Henry Newman campus in full use as the main hub of MIC Postgraduate and Research activity with a significant number of academic staff offices.

## MIC THURLES

These ambitious capital projects will provide for the increased student numbers at MIC, which rose by 16% in 2015 bringing the student body to in excess of 3,500. This upward traction of student numbers increased further following the incorporation of St Patrick's College, Thurles, renamed as MIC, St Patrick's Campus, Thurles. As a result of this incorporation MIC became a multi-campus institution offering nine undergraduate degree programmes in Education and the Liberal Arts, as well as a wide range of Continuing Professional Development offerings for teachers and numerous postgraduate opportunities to Masters and PhD level. These developments are very much consistent with the College's Strategic Plan 2012-2016. One of the pillars of the College's Strategic Plan which sets out to enhance the College's learning environment and provide a workplace of the highest quality and to improve the quality of MIC's postgraduate student experience.



# 15-16 HIGHLIGHTS PROGRAMMES



## **BA in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies**

The BA programme in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies (BA CATS), which was officially launched by Minister Jimmy Deenihan, Minister for Diaspora Affairs, saw its first intake of students in September 2015. The BA CATS, which is located within a new Department of Drama and Theatre Studies within the Faculty of Arts, is a four year honours degree programme, devised by Dr Michael Finneran.

This unique degree covers such areas as Contemporary Irish Theatre; Theatre for Young Audiences, Performance Studies, Drama Education; Digital Theatre; Cultural Policy & Administration; Directing for Theatre, Community Theatre, and will include professional work placement options in a contemporary or applied theatre setting. In addition the programme will have all the benefits of an arts degree in that graduates of the course will not just have the skills necessary for a career in the arts but will be capable of thinking creatively and independently, possessing the transferrable skills necessary for working on their own initiative or as part of team - skills that are highly valued by employers.

The BA CATS has been termed as a legacy project as part of MIC's commitment to Limerick City of Culture and is in keeping with Pillar 2 of the College's Strategic Plan 2012-2016.

L-R: Dr. Michael Finneran, Programme Director; Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of MIC; Joan Sheehy, Arts Council member and theatre maker; Minister Jimmy Deenihan, Minister for Diaspora Affairs and Louise Donlon, Manager of the Lime Tree Theatre.



# 15-16 HIGHLIGHTS



## MA in Applied Linguistics

September saw the first intake of students onto the MIC's online MA in Applied Linguistics. This online course model opens up access to participants on a national and international basis, allowing a greater degree of flexibility and accessibility to participants. Specifically, the course is aimed at experienced English Language Teachers and other English language professionals.



## MA in Education & Well Being of the Older Person

September also witnessed the first intake of students on MIC's innovative and MA in Education and Wellbeing of the Older Person. This timely and relevant programme addresses Ageing Society and Sociology of Ageing, Psychology of Ageing and Active Ageing, as well as Leadership and Advocacy. This programme is directed at those working with older people, informal and formal carers and older persons themselves. Health and Social Care Practitioners and persons working in formal and adult education sector will also be interested in the programmes.



## Leadership for INclusion in the Early Years programme (LINC).

The College was awarded the tender from the Higher Education Authority for the National Higher Education Programme for Inclusion Coordinators in Early Years Settings. The award of this tender represents a significant milestone for the College as it will see an extra 3,600 students added to the already expanding population at MIC with anticipated student numbers at 5,000 by the year 2020. More importantly this new programme will further strengthen MIC's position at the forefront of early years and teacher education. It will also ensure that we continue to have excellent early years' educators and teachers from pre-primary through primary and secondary education as well as the third and fourth levels of higher education. Successful graduates of the programme will acquire an NFQ Level 6 (Higher Education) Special Purpose Award in the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Years Settings.

Pictured L-R: John Coady, Vice President of Administration & Finance, MIC; Marion Brennan, Early Childhood Ireland; Teresa Heeney, CEO, Early Childhood Ireland; Patsy Stafford, Froebel Department, Maynooth University; Professor Marie McLoughlin Head of the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University; Dr Emer Ring, Head of the Department of Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies, MIC; Dr Patsy Daly, Head of the Department of Special Education, MIC and Fintan Breen, MIC.



## Foundation Certificate Programme and the Pre-University Programme (PUP)

The Adult Education Awards ceremony took place on June 23 2016 in MIC with 27 mature learners from varying ages and cultures graduating from the two adult access programmes, the Foundation Certificate Programme and the Pre-University Programme (PUP). Since its inception in 2001, over 800 students have completed the programme with over 400 Foundation Certificate students progressing to the BA, BA ECCE, the B Ed and the B Ed in Education & Psychology Degrees through this route.

Prof. Gary O'Brien, Associate Vice President of Administration, pictured with the students from the Foundation Certificate for Mature Learners programme.

The Pre-University Programme is a part-time access programme for mature student that is delivered off-campus, in a community setting and is designed as a stepping-stone to other access programmes such as the Foundation Certificate. This year the programme was delivered by MIC in conjunction with Our Lady of Lourdes Community Services Group in Rosbrien and saw 12 students graduating from the programme.

# 15-16 HIGHLIGHTS

## PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES



### MIC Research Day 2015

This year's Annual Research Day at Mary Immaculate College took place on September 1, with financial assistance provided by the College through the Research Seed Funding Scheme. The day's proceedings consisted of reports on 24 different research projects funded through this scheme, including presentations on topics such as: New Horizons in Arts Education; Irish Network for Gothic Studies; Music and Cultural Politics in North Africa; Global Limerick: Building capitals through global partnership: the case of the Limerick region and its diaspora, and An examination of self-reported stress in undergraduate and postgraduate students of education. A further key part of Research Day 2015 was the roundtable session on 'Purposes and Principles of the National Framework for Doctoral Education' led by Mr Muiris O' Connor from the HEA.

Pictured at the MIC Research Day were, L-R: Prof. Jim Deegan, Head of Graduate School, MIC; Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of MIC; Dr. Fintan Bracken, Research Services and Bibliometrics Librarian, University of Limerick and Prof. Michael Healy, Associate Vice-President for Research, MIC.



### Composer-in-Residence

The composer Anne-Marie O'Farrell entered her second year of residency at MIC. The residency is hosted by the AEPE department, in conjunction with the Arts Council and the Lime Tree Theatre, and is coordinated by Dr Ailbhe Kenny. Anne-Marie worked with B Ed, PME, BA and MA students during the semester as well as contributing to the overall musical life of the college through new commissions and performances.



### Studio Classroom Project

The Studio Classroom project is a collaboration between the Transforming Education through Dialogue (TED) project, Curriculum Development Unit (Staff: Ruth Bourke and Dr Ann Higgins) and the Visual Arts staff (Anne Marie Morrin). The project was inspired by *The Virtually There* exhibition by Kids Own (2014). The Studio Classroom is a collaborative educational, art and research project which involved three visual artists (Jean Cleary, Julie Brazil and Kate McElroy) and three PLUS Band 1 DEIS primary schools (Our Lady of Lourdes, St Mary's NS, Presentation Primary School) and children from first and sixth classes who developed their art practice through online residencies. The primary focus of the Studio Classroom was to promote innovative ways for artists, primary school teachers and pupils to engage and respond to art practice. Connecting three artists with three primary schools demonstrated the use of virtual technology to connect studio and classroom where exciting collaborative arts practice evolved. The workshops focused on the child and imagination while promoting innovative ways in which children can respond to artists' work by working directly with artists. The workshops were multidisciplinary in nature and designed and developed in collaboration with the class teachers. The project encouraged artists, teachers and children to explore their own creativity through the challenges set by the project.

Pictured at the opening of the Studio Classroom exhibition held in Mary Immaculate College were Back Row: L-R: Dr. Ann Higgins, Coordinator of the TED Project; Eucharía McCarthy, Director of the Curriculum Development Unit, MIC; participating artist Julie Brazil, teacher Cushla Hehir from Presentation Primary School; Anne Marie Morrin, Visual Arts lecturer, MIC; Dr. Sandra Ryan, Chair of TED Project and Ruth Bourke, Ted Project.

# 15-16 HIGHLIGHTS



## Maths Week 2015

Over 100 children arrived at Mary Immaculate College campus on October 14 for a morning of mathematics activities. This constituted one of the largest Maths Weeks events in the country involving primary children and was hosted by Dr Aisling Leavy, Dr Mairead Hourigan, Maura Walsh and Claire Carroll (all members of the mathematics education team). Children came from Scoil Mháthair Dé, Nicker National Scoil, St Fergus National School Glin, and St Michael's NS in Pery Square.



## MIC lecturer undertakes one of the most significant pieces of research into rural vibrancy ever undertaken in Ireland

One of the most significant pieces of research into rural vibrancy ever undertaken in Ireland was completed by Dr Brendan O'Keeffe, Geography Department, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. The report, entitled Rural Vibrancy on North West Europe – the case of South Kerry, was launched in November by Irish Times Dáil Correspondent Michael O'Regan, and was conducted as part of the INTERREG Rural Alliances project in which South Kerry Development Partnership (SKDP) was involved. Mary Immaculate College acted as South Kerry Development Partnership's academic partner during the four year project which included findings from surveys conducted with more than 100 civil society organisations and 1,000 individuals throughout South Kerry.

Pictured L-R: Dr. Brendan O'Keeffe, Dept of Geography, MIC and report author; Dr. Emer Ring, HoD, Department of Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies, MIC; Michael O'Regan, Irish Times Dáil Correspondent and Lisha O'Sullivan, Department of Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies, MIC.



## RDS Primary Science Fair

January saw the RDS Primary Science Fair come to Mary Immaculate College. This was the first time that the event took place outside of Dublin. The event attracted over 60 schools from all parts of Ireland and was fully subscribed with participants having the opportunity to showcase a variety of projects.

The fair is part of the RDS Science and Technology programme which aims to encourage the development of science and mathematical skills in primary school pupils by fostering education innovation, imbuing teachers with greater confidence in teaching science and harnessing children's innate curiosity to equip them with the fundamentals of scientific inquiry.

Pictured at the Launch of the RDS Primary Science Fair Limerick at Mary Immaculate College, were L-R: Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of MIC; Jan O'Sullivan, T.D. Minister for Education and Skills; Matt Dempsey, President of the RDS and Liam Connellan, Director of the Irish American Partnership.

The RDS Primary Science Fair Limerick is held in association with the Irish American Partnership and supported by Science Foundation Ireland, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick and the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. Minister for Education & Skills, and local Limerick TD, Jan O'Sullivan opened the RDS Primary Science Fair Limerick on 15 January.





### MIC Hosts First Bank Of Ireland Regional TY Academy

MIC hosted the first Bank of Ireland Regional TY Academy when 30 Transition Year students from Limerick attended the Bank of Ireland TY Academy in February with a view to learn real-world business and life skills. This was the first time the BOI TY Academy was hosted outside of Dublin and MIC was delighted to host the first regional academy in Limerick.

Participating students pictured with Mayor of Limerick City and County, Councillor Liam Galvin (centre) and Liam Sheedy, Regional Manager and former manager of the Senior Tipperary hurling team (Back Row, L)



### Prof. Eamonn Conway presents Pope with Study Guide

Prof. Eamonn Conway, Head of Theology and Religious Studies, at Mary Immaculate College, presented His Holiness, Pope Francis with a copy of Companion and Study Guide to the *Encyclical Praise Be To You* by Pope Francis.

The study guide to Pope Francis's landmark encyclical of the environment was co-authored by Prof. Eamonn Conway and Cathal Barry, of the Irish Catholic, with foreword by Éamonn Meehan, CEO of Trócaire.

Prof. Eamonn Conway, Head of Theology and Religious Studies, MIC, (centre) pictured in Rome presenting Pope Francis with a copy of the Companion and Study Guide to the Encyclical Praise Be To You by Pope Francis written by Prof. Conway and Cathal Barry, of The Irish Catholic.



### Limerick Diocesan Synod

The College was delighted to host the historic Limerick Diocesan Synod on the 8, 9 and 10 April where over 400 delegates considered over 100 proposals which were grouped under themes, including community and sense of belonging, pastoral care of the family, young people, liturgy and life, faith formation and education, and new models of leadership.

Left to right: Prof. Michael Hayes, Rev. Kenneth Kearon, Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick, Paramjit Neote, a representative of the Sikh community, Mid-West region and Bishop Brendan Leahy attending the Synod.

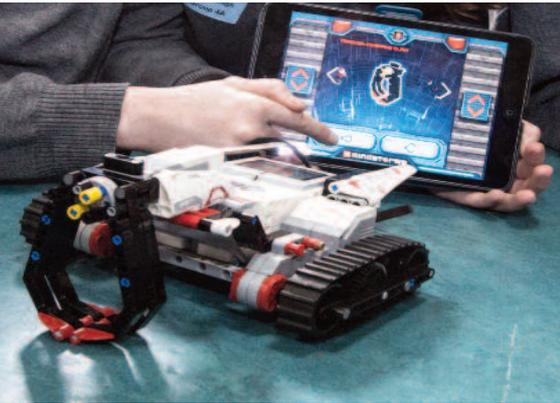


# 15-16 HIGHLIGHTS



## League of Legends

The League o' Legends is an annual event, typically held in June, where the PLUS schools participate in a very enjoyable soccer tournament in MIC. PLUS, a TED initiative, is a network comprising all the Limerick DEIS band 1 primary schools. The tournament aims to build partnerships between schools and the College and to give the pupils an opportunity to explore what a third-level campus has to offer and to utilise the sports complex.



## Lego Education Summer Camps

Over 340 innovators of the future, aged between 5 and 12 years, attended Learnit Summer Camps 2016 during the months of July and August. The camps which were supported by the Curriculum Development Unit/TED in association with ICT Education faculty, were offered both on the MIC campus and in Clare Education Centre. Children used a variety of LEGO Education products to explore the basics of structural engineering, the complexities of robotics and the software engineering (coding) required to operate them. Through hands-on workshops children developed a wide range of skills in areas such as STEM, communication, team-work, problem solving and much more. Similarly, 12 teachers attended week-long professional development in early July on the use of constructionism to enhance technology and learning in the Primary Curriculum. TED funded the development of this initiative.



# 15-16 HIGHLIGHTS

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



L-R: Prof. Michael Healy, Assoc. Vice President of Research, Dr Rebecca Breen, Dr Noel O'Connell and Dr Gerard Downes.

### Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship

MIC PhD graduate (2013), Dr Noel O'Connell, was successful in his application to the highly prestigious Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme for his project 'Belonging: An auto ethnography of a life in sign language'. Dr O'Connell's postdoctoral research is directed at an issue of central societal interest: how to understand and improve the quality of education and social life for deaf people.



Annemarie Brosnan pictured with Prof. Michael Healy, Assoc. Vice President of Research.

### Fulbright Student Award

Annemarie Brosnan, a PhD Student in the Department of History, was awarded a Fulbright Student award in order to spend time collecting research material at the University of North Carolina and elsewhere in the USA. Annemarie's research topic is Freedmen's Education in North Carolina during the Civil War and Reconstruction Era, 1861-1876.



### National Digital Media Award

Martina Ní Fhátharta and Seán de Brún, MIC Lecturers, award-winning programme Bua na Cainte was awarded the Gold Award at the National Digital Media Awards-in the Best in Digital Learning category.



Dr Loïc Guyon, Head of the Department of French Studies at MIC

### Ordre des Palmes Académiques (Order of Academic Palms)

In November the French Embassy awarded Dr Loïc Guyon, Head of the Department of French Studies at MIC with the Ordre des Palmes Académiques (Order of Academic Palms). The Ordre des Palmes Académiques is a French Order of Chivalry for academics and cultural and educational figures.



# 15-16 HIGHLIGHTS



### MIC Academics secure Irish Research Council 'New Foundation' Awards

Dr Ailbhe Kenny, lecturer in Music Education, MIC; Dr Gwen Moore, lecturer and coordinator of the MA in Music Education programme, MIC and Dr Eoin Flannery, lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature at MIC were named as recipients of the IRC 'New Foundations Awards' in April. The awards aim to support eligible researchers who seek to pursue research, networking and/or dissemination activities within and across a diversity of disciplines.

Dr Ailbhe Kenny, lecturer in Music Education, MIC; Prof. Michael Healy, Assoc. Vice-President of Research; Dr Eoin Flannery, lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature, MIC, and Dr Gwen Moore, lecturer and coordinator of the MA in Music Education programme, MIC.



### MIC PhD Student Nominated for Prix Europa Award

Daithí McMahon, a PhD student in the Department of Media & Communication Studies at MIC, was nominated for a prestigious Prix Europa Award in the radio fiction category. Entitled *William Melville: The Queen's Detective*, the radio play was produced by Dáithí McMahon of Henschman Productions, who also co-wrote the drama with Fred O'Connor.

Dáithí McMahon, from Listowel, Co. Kerry and PhD student in the Department of Media & Communication Studies at Mary Immaculate College.

PRIX EUROPA - The European Broadcasting Festival, awards the best European Television, Radio and Online productions each year with the aim of publicising them throughout Europe and supporting their continental distribution and use.



### WIRED FM Sweep the Boards at the Community Radio Awards 2015

In June Wired FM took home no less than three out of a possible four awards at the National Community Radio Awards (CRAOL)-the highest number of accolades awarded to any one radio station. The CRAOL Achievement Awards recognise the dedication and hard work of the many people who contribute to making community radio stations a powerful alternative voice in their communities. MIC Media & Communications student, Jazmyn Joyce, won the Music Category with her programme *An Seo Ceol Gaelgach*; Wired FM's specialist art show *Many Angles* received the top award in the Speech Category, while Wired FM won a special award for its outside broadcast show as part of the 6th Limerick Film Festival under the Special Programming category.

MIC students Liese Gubbins and Sinead Butler accepting, on behalf of Wired FM, the CRAOL Best Speech Programme award from Mary Lennon, Chair of CRAOL.



### MIC's First Joint International PhD by Research Awarded

When Dr Britta C. Jung successfully defended her thesis at the University of Groningen, Netherlands in December, it was the first Joint PhD by Research to be completed by Mary Immaculate College in cooperation with an international partner university.

L-R: Dr Christiane Schönfeld, Dr Britta C. Jung, Dr Sabine Egger



Fr. Michael Wall with the Board of Management of Gaelscoil Sáirséal

### IPPN - National Leadership award

Fr Michael Wall, MIC Chaplain, was presented with a National Leadership award from the IPPN, the Irish Primary Principal's Network Association. The Leadership Awards honour and recognise individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership qualities and influence others through their actions. Fr Wall was nominated by the Principal of Gaelscoil Sáirséal, Limerick, Bríd Ní Gháirbhith, in respect of his tireless work as Chairperson of the Board of Management and as such is the first Chairperson to be honoured in this way.



Dr Anne Dolan, lecturer in Primary Geography



Anne Marie Morrin - Visual Arts Educator

### National Forum Teaching Experts Award

Anne Marie Morrin, Visual Arts Educator and Dr Anne Dolan, lecturer in Primary Geography were shortlisted for the National Forum Teaching Experts Award 2015, they were among the 20 nominees shortlisted for the first year of the awards. The National Teaching Expert Awards aim to identify expert teachers who are models for excellence in teaching and whose knowledge about learning impact is strong and evidence based. Nominations for Teaching Experts submitted by their institutions have undergone a rigorous assessment process by an international Teaching Experts Panel. Anne Marie and Anne's nomination was based on their innovative interdisciplinary work with third year B Ed students from Visual Art and Primary Geography.



Winner Jason Reddan (L) with panel judge Tony Tormey, of Fair City.

### MIC Student Wins National Award for Short Film

First year BA Liberal Arts student, Jason Reddan from Kileely, Limerick, recently won a national award for his short film *Who Cares*. This short film competition is the initiative of St Patrick's Mental Health Services in order to shine a spotlight in a creative way on the issue of mental health.

# 15-16 HIGHLIGHTS



Dr Siobhan Howard (centre) pictured with L-R: Professor Mary E. Daly, President of the Royal Irish Academy; Professor Peter Kennedy, Policy and International Relations Secretary and Dr Kerry Greer, Head of Psychology, Mary Immaculate College.

## MIC Lecturer Awarded Prestigious Royal Irish Academy Charlemont Award to Study Biological Stress Reactions of Military Veterans

Dr Siobhán Howard, lecturer in Psychology was awarded a 2016 Royal Irish Academy Charlemont Grant to fund a research project studying the biological stress reactions of military veterans. As part of the 2016 Royal Irish Academy Charlemont Grant, Dr Howard spent four weeks at the research laboratories of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, USA, working on a research project studying the biological stress reactions of military veterans.





L-R: Prof. Eugene Wall, Vice- President of Academic Affairs; Dr Dorothy Morrissey, MIC ; Professor Michael A Hayes, President of MIC; Dr Ailbhe Kenny, MIC and, Professor Teresa O'Doherty, Dean of Education, MIC.

### Regional Teaching Excellence Awards

The annual Shannon Consortium Regional Teaching Excellence Award ceremony showcases excellence in teaching and learning within the three Third Level institutes of the Shannon Consortium: Mary Immaculate College (MIC), the University of Limerick (UL), and Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT).

Dr Ailbhe Kenny, Lecturer in Music Education, Department of Arts Education & Physical Education at MIC, and Dr Dorothy Morrissey, lecturer in Drama Education also in Department at MIC, were among six faculty members shortlisted across the Shannon Consortium for the annual Regional Teaching Excellence Awards.



MIC made history on Saturday 27 February 2016 when its Senior Hurling team beat UL in an epic final to secure the Fitzgibbon Cup for the first time ever.

# 15-16 HIGHLIGHTS

## DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL WORK



In September 2015, Director of the International Office, Ms Holly Cowman and the Dean of Education, Prof. Teresa O'Doherty travelled on a mission to the USA to meet with a number of prestigious colleges and universities including Merrimack College, Boston College, University of Notre Dame, Loyola University, West Chester University, Neumann University, Teacher's College NY, Notre Dame of Maryland University, St John's University and Marymount University.



### **National Association for College Admission Counselling (NACAC)**

Ms Cowman represented MIC at the National Association for College Admission Counselling (NACAC) Conference 1-3 October.

The Director of the International Office, Ms Cowman attended the European Commissions 'Contact Seminar with the Western Balkans' which will be held on 17-18 December 2015 in Vienna, Austria.

### **USA Guidance Counsellors visit**

In February 2016, 15 high school guidance counsellors from all over the USA visited the College as part of a tour of universities in Ireland. Many of the counsellors commented on the strongly student-focused approach and the evident pride in the College that they picked up from the many members of the College community whom they met during their visit.

### **Naughton Foundation Scholarship**

A highly competitive interview process resulted in six B Ed students with specialisms in Visual Arts Education being selected to represent Mary Immaculate College on a Naughton Foundation Scholarship to the University of Notre Dame and Perley Primary Fine Arts Academy from May 21 to June 11 2016.



**Brazilian Ambassador Visit**

MIC took part in the Government of Ireland International Education Scholarship for the first time in this year.

The Brazilian Minister-Counsellor Luiz Cesar Gasser and his wife, Ms Claudia Gasser, visited MIC with the Brazilian Embassy’s Cultural Attachée, Daniela Oliveira Guerra, on March 10 . They made a one-day visit to the three institutions of the Shannon Consortium in order to meet with as many of the Brazilian students in Limerick as possible, including the seven students at MIC at the time.

**Shanghai Office**

MIC and LIT opened a joint office in Shanghai to promote both institutions to Chinese universities and their students.



**Faculty-Led Visits to MIC**

We welcomed faculty from: Old Dominion University, Virginia; Queens College, CUNY; Carlow University Pittsburgh and, University of Florida. A university choir of 43 students from St Cloud State University, Minnesota visited in mid-May for a week and we had a faculty-led group from the University of Louisville, Kentucky attend seminars on Special Education and Higher Education in Ireland given by Dr Patsy Daly and Prof. Eugene Wall at the end of May.

A group of 93 graduate students and faculty from Gwynedd Mercy University visited MIC for the International Research Methods Summer School (IRMSS) organised by the RGSO and an additional itinerary comprised of various cultural experiences organised by the International Office. There are three more faculty-led groups coming to MIC over the summer, one from Gwynedd Mercy for History, one from West Chester University for Media & Communication Studies and one, comprised of University of New Mexico and University of Arizona students, for a fortnight of Service Learning and Medieval History.



**Erasmus+**

MIC received over €135,000 in Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility funding between the first and second round of applications in 2016. This funding was to cover inbound and outbound faculty and student mobility to the USA, China, Serbia, Montenegro and Morocco.

**Japan**

MIC welcomed the first six students from Japan to the College in August 2016 for an intensive English language programme.

# 15-16 HIGHLIGHTS

## CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

The College hosted several national and international conferences, seminars and public lectures throughout the year including:

- Resonance & Recapitulation – Echo of a Renaissance ISSTC 2015
- The Geography of Opportunity
- Reflecting, Re-conceptualising and Reviewing Pre-Service Teacher Engagement: Promoting 'Assessment of and for Learning' through Portfolio Methodology
- Physical Education, Physical Activity and Youth Sport Annual Research Forum (jointly hosted with UL)
- An examination of the effects of a cross age peer tutoring programme on lower achieving readers in fourth class
- Using ICT in teaching students with SEN
- Anois tánn tú ag caint,' – seal senchais le Pádraig Ó Cathalláin (90)
- Dissecting the Unfolding Drama of Blended Learning
- Facilitating a school-wide approach to data-informed school learning
- Exploring the Everyday - Economic and Social History of Ireland Annual Conference
- Moments of Becoming: Transitions and Transformations in Early Modern Europe
- Artists in Schools: Perspectives from Norway and Ireland
- The Curious Case of Dapper Dan: Or a Postmodern Vision of Arts Education
- MIC hosted a collaborative exhibition between Visual Art Education staff and colleagues from Limerick School of Art and Design
- Conversations in the Consortium
- Women in the Irish Film Industry: Moving from the Margins to the Centre
- Historical Research, Research Seminar Series, 2015-2016
- Assessing the Impact of Cultural Diversity Education
- Interbelief Dialogue
- Negotiating the relationship between assessment and learning: Tackling the tensions between competing assessment purposes within the third-level sector
- Hermeneutics, Culture, and the Humanities
- Irish Centre for Transnational Studies: Europe in Crisis?
- The seventh ELT ed – English language teacher education and development talks
- Public Seminar: 'Hearing the Voices of Refugees and Asylum Seekers Through Research'
- Public Seminar: 'Assessing Creative Arts Practice in Higher Education: Opportunities and Challenges'



Pictured at the conference were Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of MIC; Dr Christiane Schönfeld, Head of German Studies MIC; Mr Peter Adams, First Secretary, German Embassy Dublin and President of the AGS Professor Sarah Colvin (Cambridge University).

### **78th Annual Conference of the Association for German Studies in Great Britain and Ireland took place at MIC - September 2015**

Almost 70 delegates travelled from all major third level institutions in Great Britain and Ireland and were informed of how Limerick has developed into a hub for German Studies in Ireland, with two thriving and very research-active Departments of German Studies in MIC and at the University of Limerick. The theme of this year's conference was Transnational Screen Adaptation: Cultural and Medial Hybridities with panel discussions on such topics as History and Remembrance, Linguistics, Gender Studies, Translation, Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Studies, Boredom in German-Language Literature, Film and Discourse of the Neoliberal Present, and The War Child in the Occupied Period.



Pictured at the Women in Irish Film Industry colloquium, held at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick were L-R: Event organiser and MIC lecturer, Dr Susan Liddy, Anna Serner, Director of the Swedish Film Institute and James Hickey, CEO of the Irish Film Board.

### **Women in Irish Film Industry colloquium**

Hosted by the Department of Media & Communication Studies, MIC, the one-day event addressed the current under-representation of women in the Irish film industry. Practitioners, representatives from funding bodies, broadcasters, professional guilds and voluntary organisations all attended to lend their voice to the debate in the hope of positively influencing and implementing gender equality strategies right across the industry.





**McAuley Conference–Ecological Education, Policy and Spirituality: Caring for Our Common Home**

The annual McAuley Conference took place on on 5 & 6 May. This year the conference explored some of the key concerns of Laudato Si in an interdisciplinary context, drawing on the expertise of environmental scientists, philosophers, theologians, teachers, policy makers and practitioners. The keynote address entitled United by the same concern: Laudato Si and the call for ecological conversion was given by Éamonn Meehan, Director of Trócaire. Other speakers included: Dr Angela Cloke-Hayes, Department of Geography, MIC; Dr Patrick Riordan, Heythrop College, University of London; Prof. Eamonn Conway, Department of Theology & Religious Studies, MIC; Dr Cara Augustenborg, Chairperson of Friends of the Earth Ireland; Mr Fabio Bord, St Elias College, Malta; Sr Maria Hayes and Sr Kathy Cunningham, Páirc a Tobair, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork and Mr. Cillian Lohan, CEO, INFF (Irish Natural Forestry Foundation).

Pictured at the McAuley Conference held at Mary Immaculate College were: Back row, L to R: Mr. Fabio Bord, St Elias College, Malta, Dr. Patrick Riordan, Heythrop College, University of London, Dr. Eugene Duffy, conference convenor, MIC, Professor Eamonn Conway, head of Theology and Religious Studies at MIC. Front Row, L to R: Sr. Maria Hayes, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, Mr. Cillian Lohan, CEO, INFF (Irish Natural Forestry Foundation), Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Chairperson for Friends of the Earth Ireland, Sr. Kathy Cunningham, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, Dr. Brendan O’Keeffe, Senior Lecturer in Geography, MIC, Ms. Attracta Ui Bhróin, European Environmental Agency and Ms. Ann Goggin, Limerick City & County Council.



**Assessing Creative Arts Practice in Higher Education**

The third National Forum-funded seminar of 2016 hosted by MIC took place in February with 'Assessing Creative Arts Practice in Higher Education: Opportunities and Challenges' as its theme. The seminar included workshops and presentations on topics such as Evidencing Creativity and Assessing Creatively/Creative Assessment followed by a discussion on Where do we go from here?

Assessing Creative Arts Practice in Higher Education Seminar  
L-R: Dr Anne O’Keefe, Prof. Michael Hayes, Dr Ailbhe Kenny, Prof. Paul Kleiman

**IRMSS 2015**  
International Research Methods Summer School  
Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Ireland, June 5th to 7th, 2015

2015 Theme:  
**Turning Evidence into Impact in Personal, Professional and Public Contexts**

**IRMSS**

The fourth International Research Methods Summer School (IRMSS), organised by MIC Research and Graduate School, took place from 5-7 June, with 'Turning Evidence into Impact' as this year’s theme. The keynote speech was delivered by Prof. Norman K Denzin, Distinguished Professor of Communications, College of Communications Scholar, and Research Professor of Communications, Sociology, and Humanities, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.



Bonnfhoirgneamh  
Foundation Building

Séipeal  
Chapel

An Bhialann  
Restaurant

Amharclann Chrann Teile  
Lime Tree Theatre

Teamhair  
TARA

Aontas na Mac Léinn  
Students' Union

Tailteann  
Sports Complex

An Grianán  
Summerville House

Map of the campus with a legend and the university logo at the top.

# 15-16 HIGHLIGHTS

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CULTURE



### **Code Week (15-23 October) is a EU initiative to promote and encourage code in Europe.**

Niamh Armstrong of the Department of Mathematics & Computer Studies, MIC organised a workshop in coding through play and fun for children from Scoil Mhathair Dé. Niamh introduced infants to ScratchJr, which is an introductory programming language designed specifically for young children (ages 5-7) to create their own interactive stories and games. The pupils snapped together graphical programming blocks to make characters move, jump, dance and talk/sing. They modified characters in the paint editor, added their own voices and sounds and then used the programming blocks to make their characters come to life.



### **Teaching entrepreneurial skills**

A new model for teaching entrepreneurial skills to primary-school children was unveiled on 30 November as Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan T.D. officially launched the partnership between BizWorld Ireland and MIC. This exciting partnership will see BizWorld training MIC students in the delivery of its programme for primary schools, which is aimed at teaching children about enterprise, money management, problem-solving and critical thinking in fun and creative ways.



### 1916 and the Decade of Commemorations

Former Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan T.D., visited MIC in January to launch the College's programme of events in commemoration of 1916. The launch also included a historic performance of *Amhrán na bhFiann* which received its first ever signed ever public performance by children from the Mid-Wet School for the Deaf.

Entitled '1916 and the Decade of Commemorations at Mary Immaculate College' the year-long programme consisted of over 30 different events, ranging from educational conferences to exhibitions, from public lectures to theatrical productions in the Lime Tree Theatre. Highlights included a 1916-style classroom reconstruction illustrating aspects of the life of a child at school in 1916; a conference entitled 'Memory and Vision' which compared Irish social and educational policy and practice in 1916 with policy and practice during the subsequent century; the Abbey Theatre's new production of 'The Plough and the Stars' set amid the tumult of the Easter Rising; and 'The Illusion of Consensus' – Photographs of Limerick in 1916' exhibition featuring the multiplicity of life in Limerick in a time of transition and chaos with a focus on in the exceptional year of 1916.

Pictured at the launch of '1916 and The Decade of Commemoration' at Mary Immaculate College was, L-R: Michael Noonan, T.D., Minister for Finance; Prof Michael A Hayes, President of MIC, and Councillor Liam Galvin, Mayor of Limerick City and County.



As part of the MIC 1916 Commemorative Programme a replica of the Classroom of 1916 is currently on display in the Main Foyer of the College with Dr Eileen O'Sullivan providing workshops to interested parties.





Pictured performing at the MIC Arts Day at the Lime Tree Theatre were The Musicmakes-Anne-Marie O'Farrell, MIC Composer-in-Residence (harp), Jack Talty (concertina) and Matt Berrill (saxophone).

**MIC Arts Day 2016**

On 1 March, MIC held a campus-wide Arts Day packed full of activity. Spanning multi-arts genres, the day involved drumming workshops, pop-up puppets, installations, film showings, exhibitions as well as musical, theatrical and dance performances. There were also 150 children involved from Limerick primary schools as part of the MIC Children's Choir performing in the Lime Tree Theatre. The Arts Day stemmed from the ongoing work of the artists-in-residence, Branar Théatar do Pháistí, and composer Anne-Marie O'Farrell as well as reflecting the vibrant staff and student arts communities within the college.

The Arts Day was led by The Department of Arts Education and Physical Education with the primary purpose of enlivening the arts culture of the MIC campus.



**Key Appointments**

After three and a half years of providing the best in performing arts to the city, the Lime Tree Theatre moved into a new and exciting period of its development. This year it announced three key appointments to the board and staff of the company. Composer and musician, Bill Whelan was appointed to the board of Directors where he was joined by local businessman Colm O'Brien, who took up the mantle of Chairperson. Meanwhile Marketa Dowling, former Manager of Fishamble, was appointed Programme Manager of the Belltable.



**Belltable**

April saw the long anticipated relaunch of the much-loved Belltable following an agreement between the Lime Tree Theatre and Limerick City and County Council to programme and manage the Belltable in Limerick city centre.



### **Limerick Soundscape Project**

Limerick's National Learning Network centre at Raheen are the proud Munster winners of the Star Award at this year's AONTAS Adult Learner's festival. The first prize was awarded for the group's outstanding work with the Limerick Soundscape Project, a local initiative of Mary Immaculate College and the University of Limerick to build an online soundmap of the city.

Members of the group set about to collect the sounds of their lives, from downtown shopping centres to their back gardens, using digital recorders. The sounds were collected, edited and uploaded onto the site, so people all over the world can hear Limerick at large. Dr Aileen Dillane of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, UL and Dr Tony Langlois of the Audio research Centre, MIC congratulated the group on their success. The Limerick Soundscapes Project is based entirely on the recordings of community organisations and aims to record the changing sonic environment of the city for the next 100 years.



# 15-16 HIGHLIGHTS

## SPORTS



**Senior Hurling** – Fitzgibbon Cup winners 2016

**Camogie** – Ashbourne Cup semi-finalists & Freshers Blitz winners

**Ladies Football** – Giles Cup Finalists

**Men's Football** – Trench Cup quarter-finalists

### **Munster GAA Bursaries**

Richard English – Limerick

Conor Twomey – Cork

Aislinn Keogh – Clare

Jenny McCarthy – Waterford

Darragh O'Donovan – Limerick

Aoife Clifford – Cork

Luke Meade – Cork

Kevin O'Dwyer – Cork

Cormac Coffey – Kerry

### **Mary Immaculate College Bursaries**

Tim O'Mahony – Cork

Maidhc O'Chongaile – Gaillimh

Laura Marie Maher – Laois

Sean Linnane – Galway

### **GAA HEC Rising Stars**

Richard English – Limerick

Ronan Maher – Tipperary

John Meaghar – Tipperary

Darragh O'Donovan – Limerick

Cian Lynch – Limerick

Sean Linnane – Galway

Declan Hannon – Limerick



### **CCA0 Camogie All Stars**

Fiona Morrissey – Waterford

### **Boxing**

Oisín Fahey, PME2, won the Silver Medal in the Irish Athletic Third-Level Boxing Association (IATBA) Championships



L-R: Eamonn Cregan, Bishop Brendan Leahy; Cllr Liam Galvin; Prof. Michael A Hayes, and Richie English, Captain of the victorious MIC Senior Hurling team.

### MIC Secures Historic Fitzgibbon Cup Title

Mary Immaculate College made history on 27 February when their Senior Hurling team beat UL in an epic final to secure the Fitzgibbon Cup for the first time ever. It took two periods of extra-time and more than 90 minutes of hurling but the MIC team eventually emerged successful to claim their first Fitzgibbon Cup final after a pulsating encounter.

MIC paid homage to its victorious Senior Hurling Team, Fitzgibbon Cup champions 2016, at a special event held in the Castletroy Park Hotel on 22 April.

Over 150 guests attended the black tie ball to celebrate the team's historic achievement. Guests included Mayor of Limerick, Cllr Liam Galvin; Bishop of Limerick, Bishop Brendan Leahy; Chairperson of the County Board, Mr Oliver Mann, and Mr Sean Kelly, MEP.

Tribute was paid to Eamonn Cregan, who announced his retirement after more than two decades as MIC's hurling manager.

Tribute was also paid to Noreen Lynch, a former PE Lecturer at MIC, who in 2014 was awarded the GAA President's Award in recognition of her outstanding voluntary contribution to the GAA, specifically for her contribution in developing Gaelic games at third level. Noreen is credited with enlisting Eamonn Cregan to take charge of hurling in MIC some 23 years ago.



MIC's Cian Lynch is tackled by UL's Kevin Hehir.



Prof. Michael A Hayes and Eamonn Cregan.



L-R: Sr Delia O'Connor, Prof. Michael Hayes, Noreen Lynch.



MIC Fitzgibbon Cup Winners 2016



Mr. Robert Frost, Chairperson of Munster GAA Council and Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of MIC (centre) pictured with MIC students on the occasion of the GAA Bursary Awards presentation. Also pictured (R) is Joe Redington, Gaelic Games Development Officer, MIC.

**College and GAA Bursaries**

A host of Ireland’s young sporting stars were acknowledged at a special occasion at Mary Immaculate College on Monday 25 January when thirteen deserving students were presented with bursaries from the College and from the GAA in recognition of their sporting achievements to date.



Caoimhe Costello



Laura-Marie Maher



Fiona Morrissey

**Women’s Gaelic Players Association - Scholarship Recipients**

Three MIC students: Caoimhe Costello (2nd Year B Ed); Laura-Marie Maher (3rd Year B Ed & Psych) and Fiona Morrissey (4th Year B Ed) were amongst the 23 scholarship recipients who received from the Women’s Gaelic Players Association at an awards ceremony in the Druids Glen Hotel, Wicklow on Tuesday 23 February 2016. The recipients were from multiple colleges and all play intercounty Camogie or Ladies Football. This is the second year of scholarships presented by the WGPA, which now represents over 1,100 members. The theme of the scholarship programme is ‘Go Higher’ and aims to encourage recipients to achieve excellence in all aspects of their lives including as athletes. The scholarships also aim to take some of the financial demands off students to enable them to concentrate on their studies and sporting activities.



Back Row, L-R: Paul Kileen of LIT, from Galway; Paul Maher of UL, from Tipperary; Richie English of MIC, from Limerick; Darragh O’Donovan of MIC, from Limerick and John Meagher of MIC, from Tipperary. Front Row, L-R: Tom Morrissey of UL, from Limerick; Sean Linnane of MIC, from Galway; Padraic Guinan of UCD, from Offaly, John McGrath of UL, from Tipperary; Cian Lynch of MIC, from Limerick and Declan Hannon of MIC, from Limerick.

**MIC Hosts Higher Education GAA Hurling Rising Stars**

On 11 April the Independent.ie Higher Education GAA Hurling Rising Stars were the guests of honour at a special reception held in Mary Immaculate College which was sponsored by Independent.ie.

The Rising Stars Hurling Team 2016 included seven MIC students, who along with the other selected Rising Stars were presented with their awards by the Chairman of Comhairle Ardoideachais, Gerry Tully. MIC was the first institution outside of Dublin to host this awards ceremony.

# 15-16 HIGHLIGHTS

## CONFERRING CEREMONIES



The MIC Conferring Ceremonies took place on Friday 23 October with 624 students from 20 counties and 3 continents all of whom graduated with academic awards across the College's 27 programmes. The quality of advanced scholarship at Mary Immaculate College was evident on the day as the 100th PhD graduate was conferred, with a total of 9 PhDs graduating across the two ceremonies.

Among those graduating on the College's four Undergraduate Degree Programmes and Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching) programme were those students who received First Class Honours. In recognition of their stellar academic success in accomplishing this, each student was granted a Mary Immaculate College President's Postgraduate Scholarship for the Academic Year 2015-2016 enabling him or her to pursue postgraduate study at MIC at Graduate Diploma, Taught Masters or Research Masters level.



Pictured at the 2015 MIC Conferring Ceremonies were Back Row: L-R: Prof. Jim Deegan, Head of Graduate School, MIC; Dr John Treacy, Dr Paul Gadie, Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of MIC, (centre); Prof. Michael Healy, Associate Vice President for Research, MIC; Prof. Michael Breen, Dean of Arts, MIC; and Dr Rabson, Ndlovu. Front Row, L-R: Dr Anna Stiepel, Dr Vivien Hennessy, Dr Daniela Panzera, Dr. Miriam Walsh, and Dr Ciarán Ryan



Tara Hayes (BA graduate) from Castleconnell, Limerick was presented with the College Medal by Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of MIC, for coming first in the Bachelor of Arts Degree. She was also presented with College Silver Medals for coming first place in Philosophy and Geography.



Claire Connaughton from Athlone, Co. Roscommon, was awarded the Kieran Burke Fellowship for first place in Education (Foundation Subjects), as part of the B.Ed in Education & Psychology programme. The fellowship is awarded by the College in memory of the late Kieran Burke, Lecturer in Psychology 1974-1994.



Lisa Lynch (BA graduate) from Portumna, Co. Galway who was awarded the College Silver Medal, presented by Dr. Loïc Guyon, Head of French Studies, MIC, for coming first place in French Studies.

## GRADUATION NUMBERS FOR 2015

COURSE	NO. GRADUATED
Bachelor of Arts (Early Childhood Care and Education)	65
Bachelor of Education in Education and Psychology	34
Bachelor of Education	5
Bachelor of Arts	206
Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies (Level 8)	1
Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies (Level 7)	2
Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching)	76
Graduate Diploma in Adult and Further Education	21
Graduate Diploma in Professional Studies in Education	7
Graduate Diploma (Christian Leadership in Education)	1
Graduate Diploma in Special Educational Needs	50
Master of Education	22
Master of Education (Information & Communication Technologies in Primary Education)	1
Master of Education (Professional Studies in Education)	2
MA in Education and the Arts	2
Master of Arts (Christian Leadership in Education)	16
Master of Arts (Modern English Language and Literature)	9
Máistir sna Dána (Gaeilge)	6
Master of Arts (History)	3
Master of Arts in International Development Practice	4
Master of Arts in Media Studies	4
MA in Philosophy of Art & Culture	1
Master of Arts (Research & Thesis)	6
Master of Education (Special Educational Needs)	10
M.Oid. san Oideachas Lán-Ghaeilge	17
MA (Music Education)	4
Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Education	6
Certificate in Inclusive Care & Education	20
Certificate in General Learning & Personal Development	14
Doctor of Philosophy (Arts)	8
Doctor of Philosophy (Education)	1
Total Graduating	624

## STUDENT NUMBERS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-16

Type	Full-time	Part-time	Total
<b>UNDERGRADUATE</b>			
Access	0	30	
Certificate	0	16	
Honours Degree	3044	0	
Ordinary/General Degree	2	0	
Occasional	90	0	
<b>Total Undergraduate</b>	<b>3136</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>3182</b>
<b>POSTGRADUATE</b>			
Diploma	74	10	
Masters Taught	259	112	
Masters Research	20	0	
PhD	102	1	
<b>Total Postgraduate</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>578</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3591</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>3760</b>

# ENERGY USAGE IN 2015-16

## Overview of Energy Usage in 2015/2016

With the continued rise in the number of students, staff, space (John Henry Newman Building and MIC St Patrick's Campus Thurles) and events, the MIC energy team and energy management system, are proving very worthwhile and the overall energy performance of our college continues to improve.

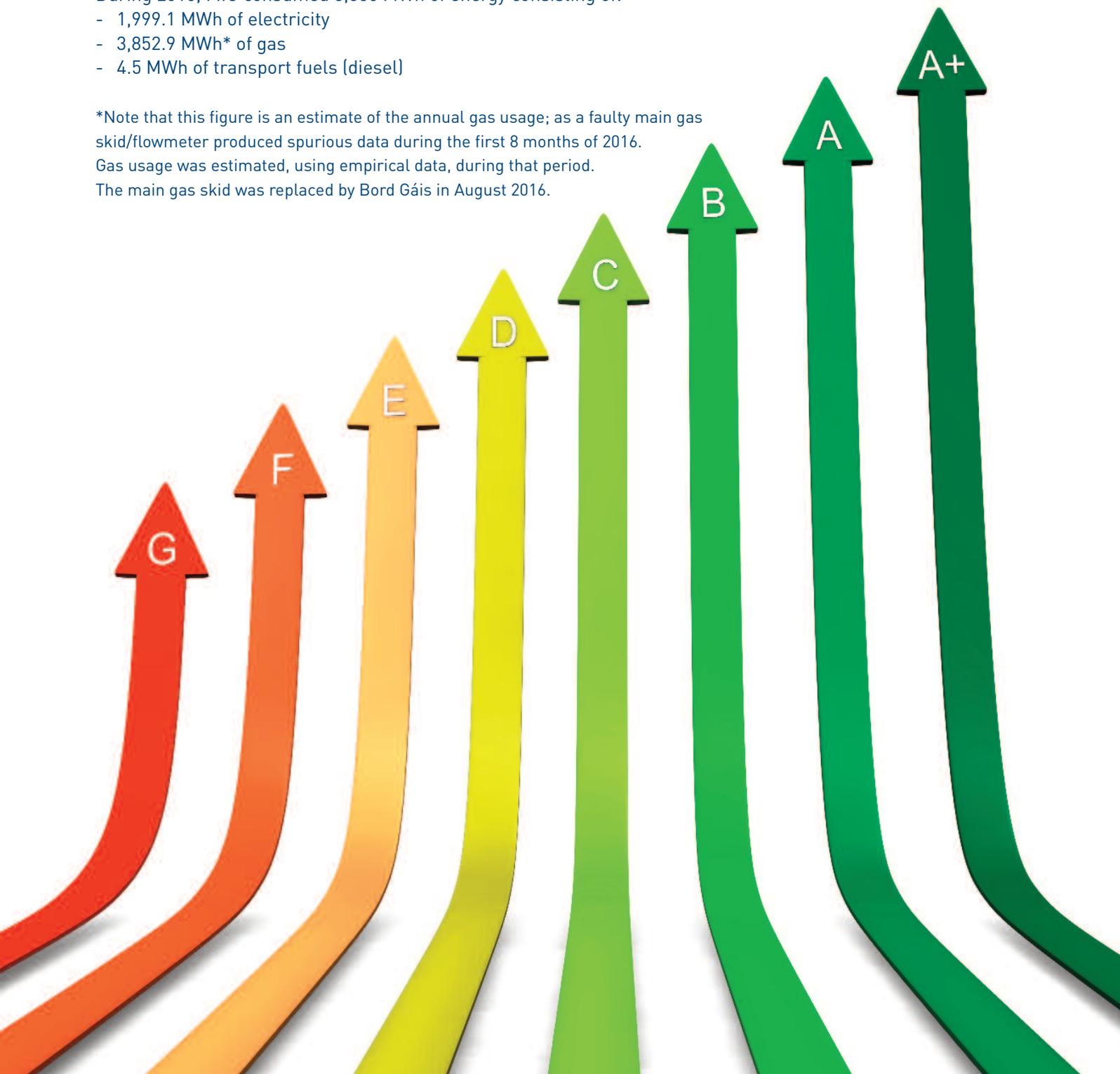
During 2016, MIC consumed 5,856 MWh of energy consisting of:

- 1,999.1 MWh of electricity
- 3,852.9 MWh\* of gas
- 4.5 MWh of transport fuels (diesel)

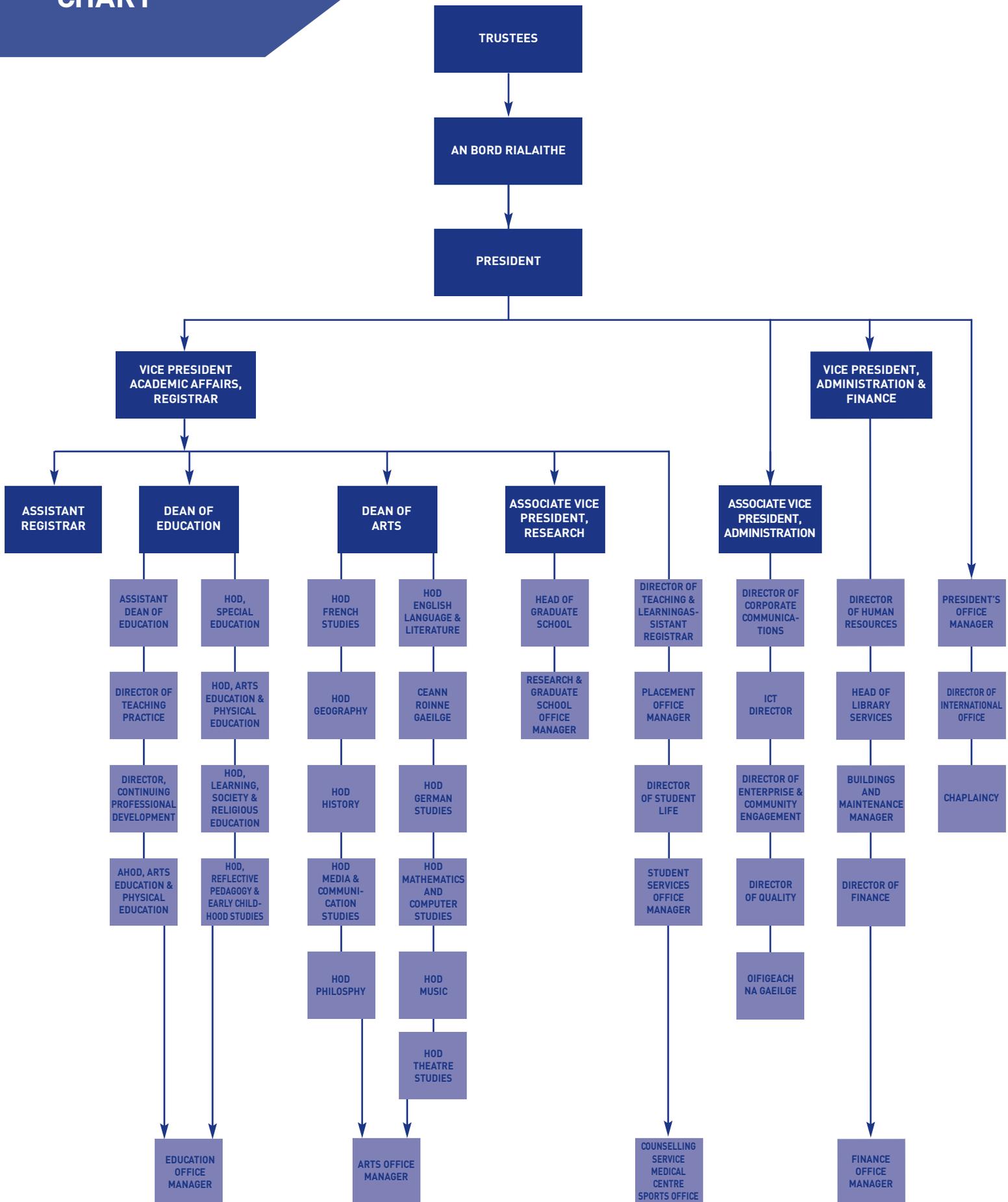
\*Note that this figure is an estimate of the annual gas usage; as a faulty main gas skid/flowmeter produced spurious data during the first 8 months of 2016.

Gas usage was estimated, using empirical data, during that period.

The main gas skid was replaced by Bord Gáis in August 2016.



# ORGANISATIONAL CHART



# ACCOUNTS

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

Extract from Statement of Comprehensive Income	Year Ended 30-Sep-16 €'000	Restated Year Ended 30-Sep-15 €'000
<u>Income</u>		
Academic Fees	18,415	16,044
State Recurrent Grants	9,986	8,761
Other Income incl. Deferred Pension Funding	11,559	10,933
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>39,960</u></b>	<b><u>35,738</u></b>
<b>Amortisation of state capital grants</b>	<b>1,508</b>	<b>1,351</b>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Staff Costs	(19,369)	(18,109)
Other Expenditure incl. Pensions Costs	(19,034)	(17,930)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>(38,403)</u></b>	<b><u>(36,039)</u></b>
Unrestricted Comprehensive Income	3,065	1,050
Gain on Combination of St Patrick's College - Restricted	9,190	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>	<b><u><u>12,255</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>1,050</u></u></b>

### NOTE FOR 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

#### St Patrick's College Thurles

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) requested Mary Immaculate College take over the running of St Patrick's College, Thurles. This integration took effect on the 23 July 2016 when certain assets of St Patrick's College, Thurles were transferred into the ownership of Mary Immaculate College.

#### Capital Commitments and Enhancement of the College Campus

The College had commenced a significant refurbishment project of the John Henry Newman Campus (formerly The Mount) at 30 September 2016 and this project was substantially complete by 31 January 2017 with the building fully occupied and used as a Research and Graduate School.

The College is also engaged in essential works at the MIC Thurles Campus.

The College has obtained Planning Permission to construct a new Library/Learning Resource Centre and this project awaits the sourcing of suitable funding.

BRATHAR DE MO LÓCHIRANN



MIC

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