

Scoil Mhuire presents its end of year awards



Pictured at the Scoil Mhuire end of year Awards Ceremony were students of the year, seated from left: Aine Doyle (Second Year), Rhona Butler (Fifth Year), Maire Beth Kirby (Fourth Year), Avril Norris (Third Year) and Fiona Hearne (First Year). Back from left: Mr Robert McCarthy (Chairperson, BOM), Dr Siobhan Walsh (Guest Speaker and past pupil), Ms Tricia Ryan (Principal) and Brendan O'Dwyer (Deputy Principal). | Photos: Anne Marie Magorrian

The end of year Awards at Scoil Mhuire, Carrick-on-Suir were held on Thursday, May 25th and Friday, May 26th.

MC for the event Deputy Principal Brendan O'Dwyer congratulated the students for their hard work and their dedication to study and commended them for sharing their diverse talents in sport, music, art, athletics in which many excelled bringing many awards and silverware to the school.

Other categories rewarded students for their leadership qualities incorporating a strong sense of justice, empathy, kindness, friendship, spirituality, courage and respect, which are strong core values in the school and Bronze and Silver Gaisce Awards were also presented.

The Graduation Ceremony for Sixth Years began with Mass. Graduation Certs were presented to all students and Student of the Year Award sponsored by Carrick-on-Suir & District Credit Union, represented by Chairperson Ray Power who attended, was awarded to Renée Mackey.

Guest Speaker at the Awards Ceremony on Thursday was former student Dr Siobhan Walsh BAgSc, MAgSc, PhD, a Lecturer in Agricultural Science in the Waterford Institute of Technology.

Siobhan spoke with pride of her time spent at Scoil Mhuire and how this helped develop her into who she was today.

She graduated in 2001 and regaled tales of her life's journey and how school life had helped nurture, direct and guide her make "informed choices".

Siobhan spoke of the immense changes in technology today and how accessing resources and information had changed dramatically.

During her years at Scoil Mhuire there was only one computer in the library. Appointments were necessary to use it and Internet access was on "dial-up!"

Siobhan grew up in the rural village of Kilcash and recalled how her first days at Scoil Mhuire were overwhelming as she felt out of her depth. She decided to join as many committees, clubs and sports teams as possible and as a member of the Carrick Dippers got to represent the school in swimming galas from Third Year.

She joined Tae-kwon Do and was honoured to become the first female Black Belt in Carrick-on-Suir. Later Siobhan was a member of the Sixth Year Student Council and she recommended all students to get involved in as much as possible in the school activities.

Siobhan spoke of her career and how gender equality was very close to her heart as she felt that more females should be encouraged to work in male dominated careers such as agriculture, engineering and architecture.

Speaking of TY year Siobhan embraced this opportunity to mature, work and reflect on her future. She advised the students to be kind to themselves, their family and their friends, to embrace school and all it has to offer and to put 100 per cent into their studies.

She said she could vouch for all the staff at Scoil Mhuire and thanked them for inviting her back to talk at the awards.

Principal Ms Tricia Ryan and other teachers also addressed the students each speaking with great pride of all their achievements and wishing each and every one of them good health, success, happiness and long lives well into the future.