

## End of Year Message from National Manager of Detention School Services

As we approach the end of 2007, I want to acknowledge the great level of involvement and assistance which we have received from all staff across each of the four schools. Since the IYJS took over responsibilities for the detention schools on the 1st March, 2007 we have been working very hard to improve existing facilities for children and staff, as well as planning for the future of the detention school service. Each of you know how you have contributed to this work, and made it possible.

There are over 65 capital projects currently underway - some of the larger projects include the fence and CCTV in FCAC, the opening of Cuan Beag, refurbishment of the step-down unit in OBS, and plans for integral sanitation in the bedrooms in THS. We are currently in the design phase of the swimming pool on Oberstown Campus, and construction should commence early in the New Year.

Operationally, we have set up the bed management process to support the sentencing requirements of the courts, and we improve it on an ongoing basis with input from the Deputy Directors. We have introduced a serious incident policy, set up a working group to develop a drugs policy - another group is looking at behaviour management.

As you know the Expert Group has now completed its final Report, which made recommendations to the Minister for Children, on the future arrangements of the detention school service. Minister Smith is currently considering the content of the Report, and will present it to Government, for decision, in the New Year.

I also want to emphasise the importance we attach to the work you all do on a day to day basis i.e. ensuring that children remanded or committed by the courts to your care, receive appropriate assistance, and are managed in a safe and secure environment. At the end of the day, this incredibly important work is what we are all about.

This has been a year of great change for all of us, and I look forward to your continued cooperation and assistance as we move into another busy and productive year in 2008.

*Mary Geaney*

National Manager, Detention School Services

## Boards Visit Woodlands, Bangor



**From left to right:** Mr. Brian Arnold and Ms. Elizabeth Howerd from Oberstown Residents Association, Mr. Pat Rooney, Oberstown Board of Management, Mr. John Lynch, Chair, Oberstown Board of Management, Mr. John Grant and Ms. Martina Coombes who sit on the Boards of Management at Finglas and Oberstown.

Mary Geaney accompanied representatives of the Boards of Management and local residents in what was the first of a number of visits to Woodlands.

Woodlands is the new state of the art juvenile detention facility in Northern Ireland. The visitors saw how good design and use of new technology can create a safe, secure and child friendly place to live and work.

Spacious and bright living areas in the units, dedicated courtyards, swimming pool and gym, video link to the Courts, a full medical centre and the education/training centre were just some of the areas which impressed the visitors.

The IYJS is grateful to the children, staff and management at Woodlands for hosting our visits.

## Awards Day in Trinity

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August was a very successful end of summer awards day. Children, staff and parents gathered and enjoyed the festivities. On display were various well made pieces of woodwork and a very impressive motorbike which the boys had totally rebuilt highlighting one of the many skills which the boys had.



A Father Ted play was performed by a cast which was made up of staff members and children entitled "Fr. Stone comes to Visit". Fr. Jack, Fr. Dougal and Fr. Stone all put in excellent performances which had all the crowd in fine spirits. The play was full of budding actors.



Following a very tasty BBQ, the prize-giving ceremony acknowledged the numerous achievements reached by the boys in many areas including sport, woodwork and education.

Ending a very enjoyable and well organised day was a football match. Trinity House School Vs Home Farm football club. The boys and staff put in a very good effort against one of the country's top underage football club thanks to the help of Mr Paul Whelan of Home Farm coaching them.

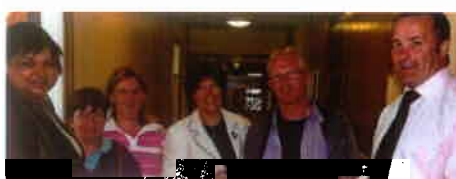
The Staff of the Irish Youth Justice Service would like to congratulate all the staff and children for what was a very successful day.



### Capital Projects at Trinity House

It was a good year for capital projects in all the schools this year. Trinity House was no exception. A feasibility study for creating integral room sanitation has been undertaken by the OPW. The IYJS will be consulting with Trinity House on this study to examine the implications of such a project.

**Michelle Shannon, National Director IYJS, was very impressed with the standard on display**



**Michelle Shannon, National Director IYJS, visiting Trinity House during the summer with Terri Bellew, Phil Greene, Deirdre Seery, Director, Joe O'Toole and Damien Hernon**

## Finglas Basks in Summer Glory

It was a beautiful sunny day on Friday 24th of August. Finglas had finally got a break in the weather. On arrival it was great to see the boat waiting for the boys to get their hands on it to bring it back to life. The anticipation was high, it was pride that was in the air. The staff and boys alike held their heads high, as per usual, but it was with noticeable gusto. The staff dining room was transformed into a banqueting hall that could rival any five star hotel with food that was fit for any King, Queen or even anybody who was there.

The ceremony started with a film called 'A Day in Finglas'. It Showed the boys and staff enjoying summer activities, from Gorge jumping, a trip to the Zoo, and a travelling farm which came to the centre.

That was followed by fantastic gastronomic treat which satisfied even the fussiest of appetites. The tapping of cutlery on the plates and friendly light chat, made a bright day seem even brighter. A DVD presentation from the boys of animated projects that they wrote, scripted, filmed, produced, directed and starred in themselves was screened. This really showed their creative sides blossom.

The music teacher who was brought in to the centre for the summer Ruirí Anderson played a song which was interrupted, to go over to Venice by satellite to receive a congratulatory message from Paul Coffey. Then came the certificates for the staff members who completed their Therapeutic Crisis Intervention.



List of Staff Members : Sandra O'Toole, Declan Doyle, Ciaran Derham, Sinead O'Herlihy, Andrew Bray, Linda Carter, Stephen O'Donnell, Alan Kernan, Anthony Dunne, Elaine Hurley, Valentine Echezona, John Kelly, Paddy Kelly, Paul Furphy, Grace Smyth, Shay O'Neill, Jason Kearney, Bill Greene and Valerie Murphy



Also the awards for NVQ were presented by Liam Dunigan from the Glenmore Resource Centre, Belfast to the following Staff Members:

Deirdre Laverty, Ruth Stanley, Elaine Hurley, Tracey Metcalfe, Paddy Darcy, Valentine Echezona, Marc Devlin, Alex Zhironkins and Tont Keegan

There were awards presented to the boys and staff for completing parts of their water safety certificate.

The music teacher gave out Certificates to a number of boys for various achievements such as musicianship and Technical Knowledge showing patience and determination.

This was followed by a pretty serious rendition of 'All Along the Watchtower' a song written by the Master, Jimi Hendrix. One of the Boys who (only picked up the guitar a few weeks previous) got up and played his socks off.

The Staff in the Irish Youth Justice Service would like to congratulate all the Staff and Boys who received awards, and may they keep on striving to better equip themselves for the future following on from their well deserved education and creativity Awards.



Roof refurbishments  
In FCAC completed in  
2007



### **Human Rights Commissioner at Trinity House**

Thomas Hammerberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, paid a visit to Trinity House School on 27 November 2007, as part of a visit to assess Ireland's protection of human rights. The Commissioner met with Michelle Shannon, National Director of the Irish Youth Justice Service, Deirdre Seery, Director of Trinity House and others before taking a tour around the school. He met with the boys in House 1 to talk to them about their experiences in the school and also visited the step down unit.

The Commissioner was very pleased with the assistance and information he received from Trinity House and has expressed his thanks to all involved. He will be writing a report on his assessment of Ireland which should be available early in 2008.

### **On Call Phone**

The Irish Youth Justice Service have taken up management of bed places in detention schools, since January 2007. This role was previously undertaken by the Special Residential Services Board. There is a dedicated phone number which may be contacted to ascertain the availability of bed places where the remand or committal of a child under 16 years of age to a detention school is being considered by the Court. This service was extended to include female children under 18 years of age from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2007.

Every effort is made to provide up to date information on bed places to the Courts and to provide early information to the Children Detention Schools regarding possible referrals and outcomes from Court.

### **Serious Incidents Policy**

A Serious incident policy has been drafted by a sub committee of the Directors Forum consisting of representatives from the Children Detention Schools and the Irish Youth Justice Service. The purpose of this serious incident policy is to clearly identify the reporting and recording responsibilities of various staff and managers in response to serious incidents occurring within the realm of responsibility of the schools

A universal grading structure for incidents will be introduced. It will provide a consistent basis when and to whom the incident should be reported and the timescale for doing so.

The document has been approved by the Boards of Management subject to some modification and is expected to receive final approval and publication early in 2008. The final document will be distributed to the schools.

**The Irish Youth Justice Service would like to wish all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year**

**... and finally, before Father Time hands over to 2008....**

- Oberstown Boys and Girls Education Centre will celebrate a Mass on 21st December followed by lunch in the respective schools
- Finglas Child and Adolescent Centre will be having a Christmas lunch on 19 December and a Mass to end school term on 21st December
- Trinity House are X factoring with Stars in their Eyes on 20th December and expect Santa to make a quick visit on 21 December.