

## CBS Dungarvan Awards Night November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

On Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> the Academic Excellence Awards annual presentation proved to be an unqualified success. The ceremony was held in the school's Main Assembly Area and in spite of the inclement weather conditions outside, the hall was chock-a-block as parents, students, teachers and invited guests filled the auditorium to capacity.

Mr. John Murphy, Principal, got the proceedings underway around 7:30 pm. He extended 'a very warm welcome' to the assembled group – to all the students; parents; family members; teachers; Ms. Marie Casey of the Board of Management; Mr. Jim Beresford of the Parents Advisory Council; Mr. Maurice Kearney, Principal of St. Joseph's Primary School; Rev. Fr. Paul Waldron, the School Chaplain; invited guests' and 'most especially' to the guest speaker, Mr. Frank Daly, himself a past-pupil of the CBS and recently retired as Chairman of the Revenue Commissioners. Mr. Murphy noted what an important occasion this annual Awards presentation was for the school.

The school provided, he said, 'a holistic education' which caters for the all-round well-being and development of all the students. The main aim of the school is that every student would reach his full potential; that is, that every student would become 'the very best that he can be', achieving the highest grades that he is capable of. Not everyone can be Number One, he said, but everyone can do his best. However, he continued 'we make no apologies for being an academic institution which can hold its own with the very best in the country'. Mr. Murphy also made reference to the long tradition of academic excellence which the CBS has going back across the years.

The Principal went on to explain that the Awards Night is held to encourage achievement and excellence but that there were also Special Recognition Awards for each class where endeavour and improvement were recognised. He went on to pay tribute to the CBS three top achievers in their respective Junior and Leaving Certificate Examinations in 2009.

On the night that's in it Mr. Murphy said it was appropriate to 'pay special tribute' to two of our students for their wonderful individual achievements. They brought 'immense pride' to themselves, their families and the school.

Firstly, Richard Looby won the Earl of Cork scholarship for his performance in the Junior Certificate examination 2009; the prize is awarded annually by the Department of Education and Science for the best results in West Waterford/East Cork. Secondly, Alan Meehan, who did his Leaving Certificate examination last June was awarded a prestigious J.P. McManus scholarship for his performance in this senior exam. This award was presented to Alan by the President Mary McAleese at a function held in the University of Limerick on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009. In conclusion Mr. Murphy made reference to a quote from Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

