

Report on Newbridge College Interschools held at Coilog, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

#### DECISIVE VICTORY FOR NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE AT INTERSCHOOLS COMPETITION COILOG.

Newbridge College took full advantage of the beautiful weather on Sunday in Coilog equestrian centre to put on an exciting show. With spectators and riders alike sporting short sleeve shirts, strolling around with their dogs watching the jumping action in the three main arenas.

Newbridge College have never won at this competition. Being the host school, parents were too busy organising the event to focus on their own teams. This year the tables completely turned, with the aid of their trainer Julianne Gaffney, who focused on the Newbridge riders all day leaving parents and organisers to concentrate on running a very efficient and enjoyable show. This proved to be a great decision as Newbridge won all 5 major competitions held on the day.

The Novice Team competition started off the day with 17 teams entered and the Judge giving kind words of encouragement to all nervous riders. 3 teams ended on a zero score and went into the jump off. The Newbridge College 1<sup>st</sup> year team of Sophie Carroll, Leah Heffernan, Niamh Flinter and Leah Ross were victorious with St Andrews's taking 2<sup>nd</sup> and St Farnan's taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The main event was the Open competition with 24 teams entered. George Gueorguiev of Coilog EC had built a very technical track which only awarded 7 teams a zero score to make it into the jump off. With the sun glinting off the tops of the poles Caragh Sweeney jumping for Newbridge College set the fastest time of the day with 36.84 seconds. Her team mate Daniel Fitzgerald's score of 38.87 seconds gave them a combined time of 75.71 seconds beating Collaiste Bhríde Carnew's Aidan & Patrick Kavanagh's combined time of 79.50 into second place with Borris Vocational School taking 3<sup>rd</sup>. First place was presented to the Newbridge team of Caragh Sweeney, Daniel Fitzgerald, Sarah Behan & Amy Carroll by the Principal of Newbridge Mr Pat O'Brien, with Caragh's sister Caoimhe on the Newbridge College team which took Best Turned Out Prize along with team mates Alanna Kelly, Cian Springate and Emily O'Brien.

Newbridge rider Daniel Fitzgerald went on to win the Open Individual in a time of 24.84 seconds. The 1.10cms class brought some very strong riders to the arena with 29 top competitors. This popular class was introduced in 2013 with 6 venues and has expanded to include d10 venues throughout the season with 6 competitors qualifying at each venue for the overall final in April. This competition was again won by Daniel Fitzgerald with another Newbridge rider Sarah Behan taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place with yet again another Newbridge College rider, Ivanna Dempsey taking the Novice Individual title.

The Primary School competition started in the late afternoon with 10 teams. This year's format saw 2 riders jumping a 50cms track and 2 riders jumping 70cms. This proved very popular and with much cheering and applause Gaelscoil Eoghain Ui Thuarisc with riders Rachel Ni Cheara, Ava Ni Mhurchu, and Cara Ni Cheallaigh took 1<sup>st</sup> place with Aine Kavanagh, Evan Kavanagh, Patrick Doyle and Sophie Bolger of Drumpea National School taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The primary individual competition was won by a delighted Christine Worrell of St John's School in Monasterevin.

The Next interschool's competition "The White Cup" will be held at Warrington EC on 4<sup>th</sup> of October and hosted by Kilkenny College.