



North Cork students prove the pen still possesses the power to inspire

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TWO North Cork Transition Year students have proven they have 'the write stuff' – scooping category wins in a prestigious competition aimed at fostering the skills of the next generation of aspiring young Irish writers

More than 7,500 students from schools across the country participated in the 2015 [NewsBrands Ireland](#) Press Pass competition, an initiative aimed at assisting second level students develop their reading, writing and critical thinking skills.

Under the Irish League of Credit Unions sponsored initiative, participating schools are provided with free national and local newspapers, with students encouraged to analyse a range of content.

A key element of the Press Pass project is the national writing and photojournalism competition. Under its auspices, participating schools are invited to enter three pieces in the following categories: news, sport, features, comment and photojournalism.

The category winners were selected by a panel of eminent editors and journalists, chaired by former press ombudsman Professor John Horgan. They were presented with their awards by Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation, Damien English, at a ceremony held on Tuesday at the and presented with their awards on Monday in Dublin's Convention Centre.

Eoin Hartnett from Coláiste an Chraoibhin in Fermoy won the Opinion category with his entry entitled 'Sport As We Never Knew It'.

In his thought-provoking and colourful piece Eoin, inspired by a conversation with his father, an All-Ireland hurling winner and international athlete, waxed lyrical about the generational shift in attitudes towards training and playing sport.

In their citation the judging panel said that while the next generation faces new challenges and uncharted waters, some things, such as the bond

between a father and son cemented by a shared passion for sport "thankfully remain the same."

"Deploying a mix of rich colour, nostalgia, pathos and razor-sharp analysis, it is only when the writer is being driven to training that he realises the streets that would have been bustling with children decades before are now deserted," read the citation.

"Which generation had it better? The winner of this category, Eoin Hartnett thinks he has the answer. Well done Eoin."

Ciarán Sheehan, a pupil at the CBS in Charleville, won the Sports category for his insightful interview with Tipperary All-Star hurler Séamus Callinan.

"Seamus Callinan is a big man and a big name in hurling, one of those players whom Tipperary fans will entrust with great expectations this summer," read the judges citation.

The panel went on to describe Ciarán as "someone who displays a passion for writing and passion for great sport" saying these were vitals qualities for any sports writer.

"To coin a phrase, Ciaran has nailed his interview with a hurling great. He describes the experience as a great honour. His work does the honour justice," concluded the judging panel.

The overall winner of the 2015 Press Pass was Emma Flanagan from Or Lady's College, Drogheda for her piece entitled 'The Politics of Apathy.'

To find out more about the competition and to read all of the winning entries visit www.presspass.ie.

The Corkman



Ciaran Hartnett, winner of the Opinion category in the 2015 Press Pass competition with his parents Miriam and John.



Press Pass 2015 Sports category winner Ciarán Sheehan with Maurita Ahern, Noreen Sheehan and Seamus O'Rourke.