

Press Release

Reference: Plymstock School Sports College Celebration Evening.

On the 13th October Plymstock School hosted their ninth Sports Award Evening for students, parents coaches and staff. The Annual Sports Presentation Evening made a transition to a Sports Celebration Evening. Unlike the previous years the night had a slightly different aim which was to reward students who throughout the year have represented the school in teams and individual sports; rewarding commitment for those who continually represent Plymstock School.

Over 400 students, parents, coaches and staff were treated to a succulent 'hog' roast in the state of the art dining facility to celebrate Plymstock School's sporting successes. Each team proudly had their photograph taken with their respective teachers and were then presented with school colours. Following the feast and fun the evening became more formal with an address from the Director of Sport, Kevin Dyke who thanked all those involved and spoke about forming sustainable partnerships and the future of sporting opportunities at Plymstock. He was followed by a heart warming speech from the Deputy Head boy, Jacob Roberts who talked about his journey as a student and how sport has had a positive influence on his life so far. Each year a guest speaker is also invited to talk to the pupils. This year the retired professional boxer and experienced speaker Dermot Gascoyne was invited to deliver a sporting message to the audience.

Gascoyne is a former international heavyweight boxer. As a professional he was managed and promoted by Frank Warren and boxed in some of the world's most prestigious boxing venues. Although he did not win a major title he holds victories over British, Commonwealth and European champions and was regularly employed by both Frank Bruno and Lennox Lewis as a sparring partner.

Gascoyne's ease and sheer presence was awe inspiring and fantastic for all gathered. His main message to the attentive crowd was one of taking all opportunities available and going for it. He truly believes and supports the concept 'You only live once – live life to the full.' His story was poignant and down to earth; everyone appreciated his honesty and integrity.

Students and teachers alike had a superb evening, enjoying their special occasion. Mark Taylor, Head of PE commented at the end of the night 'a truly wonderful evening which brings together all the hard work of staff, pupils and parents!'

Kevin Dyke, Director of Sport said 'these evenings are not only about celebrating our sporting successes, but also a big thank you to all those involved in school and community sport'.

Mark Taylor Head, of PE went onto note 'this is what Plymstock School is all about. It is not only about rewarding success but also giving credit to pupils who are committed and dedicated to their chosen sporting activities. In this

audience we could have boys and girls competing in future Olympic Games which is the Everest of all achievements’.

Last season Plymstock School saw exceptional achievements from teams and individuals reaching National finals within Basketball, Netball and Hockey. Furthermore over twenty students represented their respective countries. The school hopes to build on these successes in the future by continuing to support all students.

Dermot Gascoyne, Mr Taylor (Head of PE) and Plymstock School students

