

DECADE OF COMMEMORATION

The School Management and PPU have been very active in promoting the role of the school and its past pupils during this, the decade of commemorating the momentous events which took place 100 years ago.

The school had already been chosen to host the launch of the Government's Schools 1916/2016 commemoration programme on 22 September, when 4 Government Ministers attended the launch. School pupils made a significant contribution to the 1916 commemoration day in St Joseph's, Marino on 26 January, and drew great praise from the organisers for the quality of their individual contributions and for the posters they had created for the event. They stood out among their peers from St Joseph's, O'Connell's, Synge Street and Belvedere College. And, of course, our Cuimhneachán publication remembers those who took part in the Great War, the 1916 Rising and the War of Independence.

The most recent event, on 14 March, saw the direct descendants of the Pearse family attend at the school to present the Pearse coat of arms, sponsored by the PPU, to the school museum. The family members included Noel Scarlett, a sprightly 87 year old great grandson of the Pearses' father. James Pearse re-married after the death of his first wife, and Noel is the grandson of the son, James, of that first marriage. That makes him a grand nephew of Patrick and Willie Pearse. Both sides of the family lived happily together in what was then Great Brunswick St, and later in Cullenswood House, Ranelagh. Noel was accompanied on the occasion by his two sons, Ciarán and Patrick, as well as Ciarán's wife, Mary.

The Deputy Principal, Eddie Kelly gave a well - researched and thoughtful presentation on the Pearse brothers' time in the school, which went down particularly well with both the Scarletts and the pupils present. Noel Scarlet made a short complimentary speech, *as Gaeilge*, in which he expressed the honour he felt at being asked to make the presentation. The family enjoyed browsing through the Pearse artefacts in the school's museum, and viewing the Pearse brothers' enrolment records now available through the PPU Archive project.

The next 1916 commemoration event will take place in May when plaques will be unveiled to recognise the past pupils who fought and died, both as combatants and civilians, in the Rising. Follow the website for details of this event.

The photos below capture some of the action from the visit of the Scarletts.



Noel Scarlett with his sons Ciaran and Patrick and some pupils from WR CBS



John Cullen with the Pearse Coat of Arms



Principal of WR CBS, Kate Byrne with Noel Scarlett