

Straight A student celebrates exam success

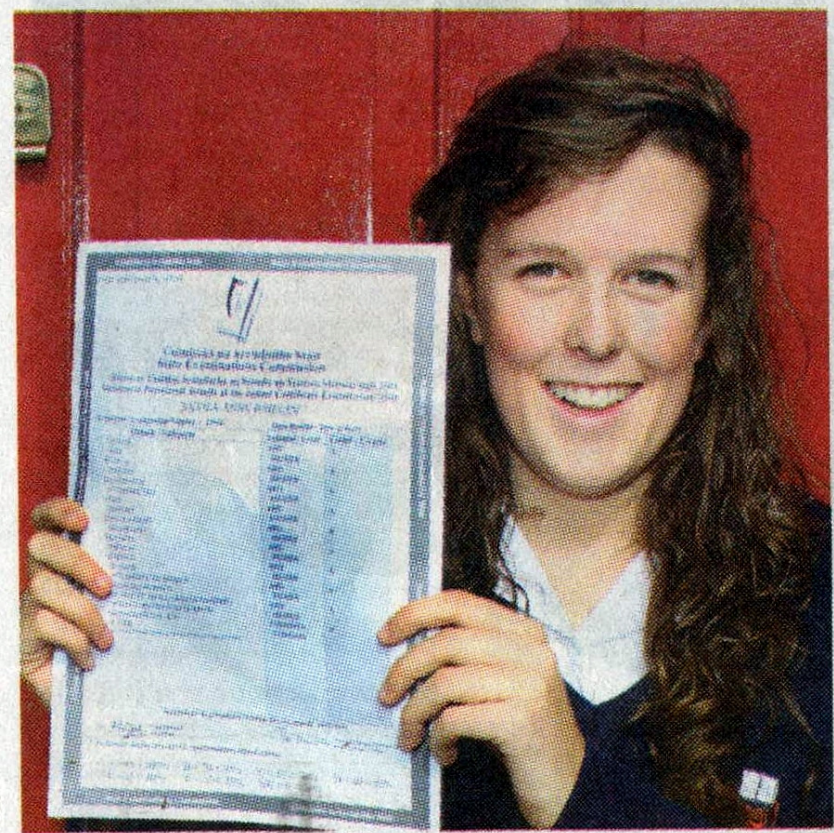
TOP marks to Rathfarnham student Nicola Whelan (15) who earned 10 higher level As in her Junior Certificate last week.

Nicola's entire class at Rosemont Secondary School for Girls in Blackrock did extremely well, with many earning multiple As.

by Neil Fetherston

not have any career aspirations as yet but her favourite subject is maths.

The grade A student does



Meanwhile, students at another South Dublin school were in jubilant form as everyone passed every examination they sat.

Citywise Midschool is a full-time programme for young people who have dropped out of the school system.

Operating from the Citywise centre in Jobstown the school takes on 18 young people aged from 13 years and upwards each year.

Students are enrolled on the basis that they have no other educational alternatives available to them.

This year six students sat the Junior Certificate, taking an average of four subjects each, and all subjects were passed. Midschool manager Paul Whinnery expressed delight with the outcome.

"For some of our students even sitting an exam is a big challenge," he said. "So we were really happy with some of the results. The fellows had a traumatic last term with the sudden death by

lightning of Paddy Ryan, who was a very popular member of Midschool. But they worked together well, took their exams seriously and got their deserved reward today."

Citywise manager John Keogh said the results brought home to all that with the proper supportive environment, all young people can thrive.

"We spend our time struggling with the Department of Education for funding for this programme," he said. "Last year the students

who received their results today were involved in picking the department for funding. I hope these results send out some sort of message about the valuable work done here."

Midschool received some financial support from the Department of Education in 2007 but has received no State funding in 2008. Currently it is partially funded by the South Dublin County Council Community Linkage Fund.

