

ENGLISH WRITER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM CUMAS

This exciting programme took place in the English Department as part of our *Cúmas Initiative* at Coláiste Pobail Setanta. The *Cúmas Initiative* is a programme designed to extend the learning of our gifted and talented students. In 2010 *Poetry Ireland* and the *Teaching English Magazine* held an All-Ireland Poetry Competition. One of our second year students at the time, Akshaya Sivakumar, won the top prize in the Junior Category with her poem, 'The Colours of Southern India'. As part of this top prize, Coláiste Pobail Setanta secured a 'Writer a Residence' programme with *Poetry Ireland*. The programme ran for 8 sessions with teen fiction writer and illustrator Oísín McGann. During the programme selected students worked with Oísín and each other composing a number of short stories, poems and illustrations. These were then compiled and published in a book for our school library, entitled 'Tales from Clonee Castle.'