



The late Phoebe Prince who formerly attended Villiers school

following a campaign of bullying at the school.

Six former South Hadley students have been charged in connection with the 15-year-old's death.

Classmates of Phoebe Prince have been saving money, since before her tragic death, to go on the Spring break tour which will take 40 students, parents and chaperones to Ireland and Great Britain.

Headmaster of Villiers secondary school, Thomas Hardy, said the students should be welcomed to Ireland.

"God knows we need tourists, so if these people want to visit Ireland then so be it," he told the Limerick Chronicle. "There is a fair link between North America and Ireland over the years, and I'm sure this is no different.

"We have a school trip coming back from Rome. Last week we had a Spanish school here. These things happen all the time, so I see this one as no different to any other and I've no problem with it. I wish them well," Mr Hardy said. "They are picking a good time to come to Ireland, the weather is great and hopefully they will have a great time."

A planned protest at Shannon by anti-bullying campaigners was cancelled at the family's request.

with Shannon firm

Mike Dwane

A SHANNON firm which has just won a €15 million contract with Lockheed Martin to supply technology for the US Navy is set to double its local workforce to 50 over the next three years.

Bustec provides data capture and testing technology to the likes of NASA and has been based in Shannon since 1997. Minister for Enterprise Richard Bruton visited the company last week as it announced details of its latest contract.

"Bustec is a sophisticated technology company operating at the cutting edge of its sector and its decision to retain its headquarters and manufacturing base in Shannon since the mid 1990s is a major vote of confidence for Ireland and the region. I know Shannon Development, with the help of my Department, has supported the company in the past and I commend them for their work," the Minister said.

"I am developing plans to ensure that we can build on the success of companies like Bustec and ensure that high-end technology companies continue to thrive and expand in Ireland, retaining and protecting the jobs of the future. Companies like this are a great unsung success story of the real enterprise economy, and we need to promote them and learn from their success to ensure that the economy itself can become a real success story again."

Data capture and testing products developed by Bustec are being used on the International Space Station, to test pacemakers while its technology is also used to monitor equipment at every nuclear power station in France.

The company's founder CEO Fred Blonnigen commented: "Bustec is delivering innovative products which are at the heart of this essential function and which provide the technology platform for capturing, testing and controlling key data which are critical to the safe and effective operation of many of these processes."

"The contract we have agreed with Lockheed Martin will ultimately see Bustec products in use in data testing and quality systems across the US Navy fleet. This contract is not only significant for Bustec in meeting our financial and business goals, it is also a strong endorsement of the quality and effectiveness of our test and control products and helps us to fulfil our mission to supply the benchmark products of choice where accuracy matters," he said.

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Tibetan leader attracts total audience of 10,000

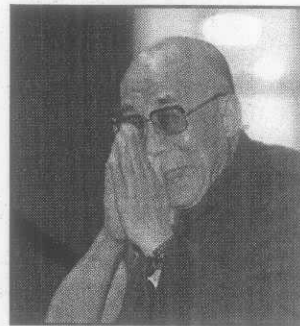
Anne Sheridan

OVER 7,000 people watched the address by the Dalai Lama online during his visit to the University of Limerick last week.

A spokesperson for UL said they have had a huge number of requests for access to a recording of the event, which has been made available on www.ul.ie/dalailama since this Monday morning.

In addition to those watching the events online, some 3,100 attended his sold-out address in the UL Arena.

Tickets sold out within a matter of hours for the most



The Dalai Lama in UL

anticipated event in Limerick this year.

The UL spokesperson said they arranged for the entire

event to be streamed live across the internet "in order to bring the public address by His Holiness the Dalai Lama to as wide an audience as possible".

Some 300 people were involved in organising the event in UL, which was being planned for 10 months.

Many people arrived on campus as early as 6.30am travelling from across the country, the UK and destinations in Europe.

His address in UL was the biggest in the country, following his addresses in Dublin and Kildare earlier in the week.

Arriving by helicopter,

the Dalai Lama flew to Sweden afterwards from Shannon Airport after the event, travelling through the Limerick Tunnel.

Among those in attendance at UL were former rugby star Keith Wood, the former Bishop of Limerick Donal Murray, and the families of murdered rugby player Shane Geoghegan, and Michaela Harte, who was killed while on honeymoon.

On the website you can view the musical prelude, which includes diverse musical performances, the full talk by the Dalai Lama and also the question and answers session.

in Irish writing) at Queen's Univer's Belfast.

Positive thinking

O2 and Headstrong, the Nation Centre For Youth Mental Health, he launched a social campaign that will see O2 donate €200,000 to support youth mental health.

Entitled 'Share a Happy Thought' and part of the wider Think Big programme, the campaign is calling on Limerick to share a happy thought on o2thinkbig.ie, Twitter or Facebook and O2 will donate €1 to Think Big for every happy thought shared.

Easter camp for children at LYS

LIMERICK Youth Service will host an Easter camp for kids from Wednesday April 27 to 29. Running from 9am to 1pm each day, children can take part in activities such as soccer, baking, jewellery making, games, dancing and an Easter egg hunt. The camp is for children aged six to 12 years.

All materials will be supplied at a cost of €30 per child. To book call 0412444 and ask for Amanda.

Fundraiser for Irish Heart Foundation

A FUNDRAISER for the Irish Heart Foundation will be held on Thursday April 28 in the Bailey Bar, Limerick from 8pm.

The night comprises of a waxathon as five men are being waxed by Mobe Beauty a local business, also a raffle will take place and sale of cupcakes, finger food and drinks available. Organisers have said it promises to be a great night. More information at www.irishheart.ie

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