

Roman Catapults invade the Rugby Pitch

At noon on Friday, 9th May on the rugby pitch in College, 36 groups of first year engineering students will each be testing a medieval Roman catapult (Mangonel) which they have designed, tested and built themselves. This competition is part of a new course which has been designed by the School of Engineering and incorporates aspects of Mechanical, Electronic and Civil Engineering. The course was set up in direct response to calls from industry to modify the way engineering is taught by the third-level institutions - School of Engineering response was to commence the roll out of a Conceive, Design, Implement and Operate (CDIO) philosophy which is the cutting edge approach to teaching engineering and is being rolled out by the top third level institutions around the world. The course that has been rolled out in Trinity places the emphasis on design, creativity and group activity and represents the first step in this CDIO philosophy.

The Course Coordinator, Dr Gareth Bennett, has attracted a sponsor, Honeycomb Solutions, who has kindly agreed to contribute €500 in prizes and the School itself will provide some book tokens. The competition will be judged on ingenuity and sound engineering skills.

The following link is a viral of the Catapult/Mangonel in operation. Bearing in mind that 36 of these will be firing, manned by 180 quite excited engineering students, this will make for an action-packed aperitif for the Trinity Ball that evening.

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-688704210194556543&hl=en>