It also represented the newly elected President’s first engagement on his first ever official visit to County Meath.

The landmark occasion was also a proud moment for principal Mary McMahon who had written to President Higgins shortly after his election, inviting him to perform the official opening.

The guest of honour cut the ribbon at the school doors and spoke at length to a packed hall that included local politicians and parents while the official blessing was carried out by the Bishop of Meath, the Most Rev. Michael Smith.

Several presentations were made and the school choir sang ‘A Song for Ireland’ while other entertainment was laid on throughout the course of a memorable morning.

Scoil Naomh Eoin opened its doors in temporary accommodation just off the Windtown Road in 2003 when they commenced with just 20 pupils.

The school, with 400 pupils, moved to its nearby new address at Clonmagaden Valley in August of last year.

The newly constructed school boasts 16 classrooms and state of the art facilities including a computer room, library and assembly hall as well as a basketball court and football pitch.

President Michael D Higgins accepts a piece of artwork by local artist Noreen Walsh, from young McKenzie Cullen at the official opening of Scoil Naomh Eoin recently.
Above: The president arrives at Scoil Naomh Eoin, greeted by school principal Mary McMahon.

Left: Christina Nestor and Yvonne Forde were at the grand opening of Scoil Naomh Eoin in Navan recently.

Young Reece Fallon shakes hands with President Michael D Higgins at the opening of their new school at Scoil Naomh Eoin in Navan recently.

Damian Cullen (Board of Management) and Michael Kelleen (former Board of Management).

Vincent Hannon and Siobhán Finnerty.

Shirley Hayden, Kathleen Gillic and Kay Lydon.

President Michael D Higgins and school principal Mary McMahon.