



Dermot Ryan

Message from the President

Recently, on the morning of May 6th, the Kenyan athlete, Eliud Kipchoge, was part of a team of three runners who attempted to break the 2hr barrier for a marathon. Something many believe impossible. He finished, running alone, in a time of 2hrs and 24 seconds. In a sport in which records are set by mere seconds he was an astonishing 2 mins and 33 seconds faster than the current world record. His two hour marathon is something other athletes might only dream about achieving. In the post race interview Paula Radcliffe first asked him if he was already thinking about those 25 seconds and how he could make them up. While Kipchoge was quick to acknowledge that it will be possible for humans, he smiled "for now I am happy to have run a 2 hr marathon". It is not a bad analogy for a school or for our human journey. Our Christian faith allows us to believe that anything is possible and I know given the nature of our students and staff that great things lie ahead. In fact, the College would fail if our students had already achieved their best. We are, after all, in the business of preparing them to go on to greater things - but for now we can enjoy, celebrate and acknowledge the many wonderful achievements that, amazingly, are part of a normal year at St Kieran's: "for now we are happy to have run a 2 hour marathon".

The pages of this Record documents the wonderful achievements of our students this year. Our hurlers did us proud again by winning the

Junior, Juvenile titles and offering a brave battling performance in the Senior Colleges All-Ireland Final. We are Juvenile Football South Leinster Champions. Our athletic successes continue to inspire and this year our Intermediate team won bronze in the All-Ireland Cross Country. Our Equestrian Team won the White Cup and finished second in Ireland. We won a Maths All-Ireland and our Juniors came second. Our young scientists were in receipt of a highly commended award in the RDS this year; and our school day continues to be enlightened by innovation and progression - our drama group is going from strength to strength; our Choirs have made a CD; our Jazz band gets stronger and our Traditional band is emerging as a wonderful force. Academic, sporting and personal successes are the fabric of a year in St Kieran's College.

The fact that the Diocesan Forum, the Adult Faith Development Group, the Vocations Office, the Pastoral Plan Coordinator, and the Diocesan Retreat Evenings all find a home here is testimony to the fact that the College remains at the service of the Diocese and its people. Maynooth University's Outreach Campus offering First Arts, and Waterford IT's TSSG Research Centre continue to find here an environment for their academic pursuits.

This year saw the College undertake significant work to develop its network and connections. The establishment of the St Kieran's College Alumni brings back to life the links of past pupils with each other and with the College. In fact, under the guidance of Alan Buckely as Alumni Chairman a major event is planned this summer to welcome all past pupils back to the grounds of the College and we await this wonderful day. The College, in collaboration with Kilkenny GAA, also led a significant corporate event in Dublin earlier this year which saw over forty of Ireland's leading companies attend a Leadership in Sport Lessons for Business afternoon. Progressing this, a similar event is planned for New York later this year.

Much work is still ongoing with the Department of Education and Skills to facilitate the relocation of a new ETB joint venture of a Community School and Coláiste Pobail Osraí on College lands and to allow for the development of significant facilities here on the grounds of St Kieran's. In fact recently a grant of 6.7million has been secured to provide the necessary access road for these developments to begin. The hope is that these projects can, now, soon start to materialise.

While, as these pages attest, St Kieran's is a home for many varied educational and formational activities it is our school which lies at the heart of all that we do. Those who lead it continue to inspire. In Adrian Finan our Principal and Ken Maher our Deputy Principal we have two men with immense vision, dedication, drive and commitment to make the College all that it can be. It is impossible to accurately acknowledge the contribution they make as any attempt would fall far short of capturing it. However, our parents, students and staff know only too well how much care and attention they give to every member of this community and to every decision they make. I thank them for their selfless commitment to St Kierans College which they live out each day.

I am blessed to call St Kieran's my home. I never take it for granted. It is wonderful to observe each day the staff and students and all that they achieve. It is humbling, in seeing the calibre they are, to know that they will all go on to achieve so much more. I have, therefore, a real debt of gratitude to the students and their Council, the parents and their Association, the School and College staff, my colleagues on the Board of Management, my fellow Trustees, and all those who make St Kieran's College the place that it is. We will go on to much greater things but "for now we are happy to have run a 2hr marathon".

Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, President
Chairperson, Board of Management



Adrian Finan

Message from the Principal

We have come to the end of yet another incredibly busy and successful year here at St Kieran's College. The end of the academic year affords us the opportunity to reflect on the successes that have been achieved and to acknowledge the contribution of students, teachers and parents to all aspects of life in the school over the past twelve months.

The annual College Record aims to capture the essence of what makes St Kieran's College. We value a broad education that allows all of our students to thrive; and as you read through these pages you will get some idea of the talent, enthusiasm and all-round ability of the student body. We take pride in all of our students and we strive to encourage and inspire them to realise the fullness of their potential. This publication is a tribute to their school year.

I would like to thank all of those involved in the production of the Record, in particular Ms Regina Mulcahy and Ms Tina Lawlor for the countless hours and energy they give to providing such a fitting testament to the school year in St Kieran's College. Indeed, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Deputy Principal and my colleague Mr Ken Maher for his work on the Record and for his leading contribution to all matters in our school. I would like to thank and congratulate my colleagues on staff for the time and effort which they put in, to ensure that the

educational experience enjoyed by our students is so rich and varied. All of the endeavour, academic and otherwise, which gives the school its unique identity is testament to the capacity of my colleagues to engage with our students. For this commitment and dedication, we are very grateful.

At this stage I would like to especially acknowledge the role of Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan in his ongoing work in the development of the school and campus. As President, Chairman of the Board of Management and as Trustee of St Kieran's College he has had a profound impact on the school and the progressive agenda with which he is engaged has benefited us all and is helping to position this school for a prosperous and vibrant future. Among other things, Dermot is actively engaging on our behalf with our past-pupils through the newly formed St Kieran's College Alumni Association and with the Department of Education and Skills regarding the future of second-level education in Kilkenny and in particular with regard to the provision of a substantial redevelopment of our school facilities in the very near future. The whole school community is indeed indebted to Dermot for all his work on our behalf.

This year many schools faced the threat of major disruption owing to the ongoing industrial dispute involving the ASTI and the Department of Education and Skills. At all times we endeavoured to ensure that this dispute would have a minimal impact on the teaching and learning environment in our school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our students, parents and teachers for their support and cooperation throughout what threatened to be a very challenging year. There has been much change in education at national level in recent years and our school is fully engaged with new strategies around School Self-Evaluation, Healthy Eating, Wellbeing of our students and of course the reform of the Junior Cycle. We look forward to embracing

initiatives that have a positive impact on the welfare of our students, the curriculum, and teaching and learning in general, so that the best interests of our students are always to the fore and so that the highest academic standards are always maintained in our school. It seems a long time ago now to last August and the issuing of the Leaving Certificate results which reflected so well on the students and the school; and while two students achieving maximum points was a stand out achievement, it was the depth of the results and the number of students who did so well that was most gratifying.

I would like to congratulate the Student Council for being such an effective voice throughout the year and to the Parents' Association for again engaging with management in such a constructive and supportive manner. Their fund-raising and financial support have been extremely helpful, especially in the area of music and drama this year. The Fun Run, held this year for the first time in the grounds of St Kieran's was a great success, not only as a fundraiser but also as a social event that allowed families, pupils and friends of the school to meet and enjoy each other's company. Our school depends so much on the goodwill of people who serve on Parents' Associations and Boards of Management and I would like to thank all who served in any such capacity during the year.

Finally, on behalf of all of us on staff I would like to wish our Third Year and Sixth Year students all the best in their exams in June. The students have displayed a great attitude to work during the year and I'm sure that this will be evident in their results. As another group of Sixth Years now leave us, we hope that they will always take pride in their school and their achievements here with us. We wish them every blessing on their journey in the years ahead.

Mr Adrian Finan
Principal



School Staff 2017

Seventh Row (l-r): Mr Michael Forrest, Mr Simon Reddy, Mr Philip Walsh, Mr Michael Rice, Mr Tom Brennan, Mr Michael Connolly, Mr Niall Connolly. Sixth Row (l-r): Mr Michael Kelleher, Mr John McGinnity, Ms Eilish Ahern, Mr John O'Keeffe, Ms Jo Staunton, Ms Jacqui Norton, Mr Richie Windle. Fifth Row (l-r): Ms Jane Moran, Ms Sharon Stapleton, Mr Stephen Morgan. Fourth Row (l-r): Ms Pauline Bergin, Ms Ann O'Shea, Ms Rebecca Loughnane, Ms Loretta Mannion, Ms Ciara Dunne, Mr Michael Walsh. Third Row (l-r): Ms Bernie Boland, Ms Regina Mulcahy, Mr Fergal Brennan, Mr Robert O'Hanrahan, Mr Emmet Byrne, Ms Jennifer Kelly, Mr Tom Hogan. Second Row (l-r): Mr Paul Fitzgerald, Ms Anne Wemyss, Ms Jean Fitzpatrick, Ms Vivienne Holmes, Ms Eileen Hanrick, Mr Emmett McKenna, Mr Richie Ruth, Mr Lester Ryan. Front Row (l-r): Mr Ken Archbold, Mr Ken Maher (Deputy Principal), Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan (President), Mr Adrian Finan (Principal), Ms Mary Martin, Ms Hollie Hickey. Absent from photo: Mr Ger Buckley, Mr Larry Cotter, Mr Patrick Darmody, Ms Bernie Dowling, Mr Jonjo Farrell, Mr Eamonn Heffernan, Ms Debbie Ghanem, Ms Sharon Keyes, Mr Carl Lynch, Mr Martin O'Neill, Mr Liam Smith.

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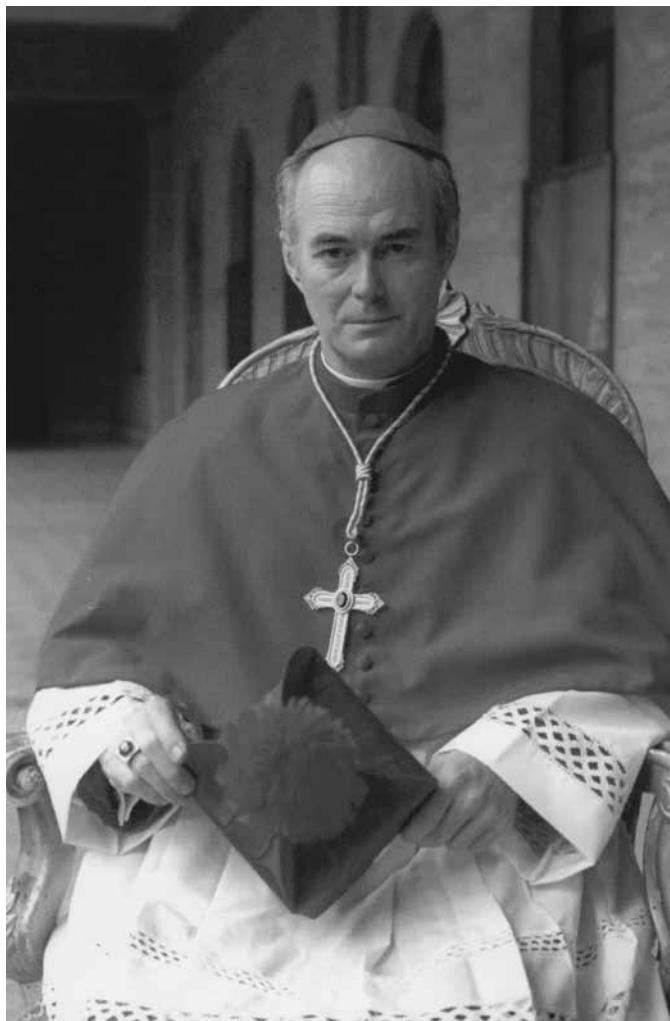
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LinkedIn St Kieran's College



College Staff 2017 (l-r): Ms Ann Meany, Ms Martina Lawlor, Sr Helen Maher, Mr Pat Drennan.

Archbishop Tom White 1931-2017



Recently, on the 7th May, Tom White, formerly of Durrow, a Priest of the Diocese of Ossory, a past pupil of the College, Titular Archbishop of Sabiona and former Papal Nuncio to Rwanda, Ethiopia and New Zealand died. Archbishop Tom was born, one of a family of five, on the 12th of August 1931. After his early education at Cullohill National School, Laois, he progressed here to St Kieran's College, Kilkenny. While here Thomas enjoyed outstanding academic and sporting successes and he was part of the College's senior hurling team who won Leinster Championships in 1949 and 1950; he was also chosen for the Leinster interprovincial schools hurling team in 1950. In fact 10 of the starting 15 of that Leinster team were students of St Kieran's.

Archbishop White continued his association with the College as studied for the priesthood first here and then later in Rome until his ordination for the Diocese on 25th February 1956. Released by his Bishop, Rev. Dr Patrick Collier from a commitment to teach Canon Law at St Kieran's, the newly ordained Thomas spent the next two years at the Pontificia Accademia Ecclesiastica in preparation for a career in the diplomatic service of the Holy See.

In 1960, after graduation Monsignor White was sent as Secretary to what was then the Apostolic Delegation of Eastern Africa, covering territory from Kuwait to the Zambezi, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya to work alongside

Archbishop Guido del Mestri. For the next five years much of his time was taken up with preparing for decolonisation in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi and the Seychelles, and the eventual establishment of separate Nunciatures in each of these countries after independence.

In 1965 he was transferred to the Nunciature in Guatemala where the Head of Mission was also Nuncio in El Salvador. It was a time of great political upheaval in Central America and the local Church was often in the forefront of the struggle to obtain fairer treatment for the poor campesinos.

From Central America in 1967 Monsignor White moved to Colombia. Most of his first year there was spent on the arrangements for the visit of Pope Paul VI in August 1968 for the Eucharistic Congress in Bogotá and the Plenary Assembly of the Latin American Bishops in Medellín. In 1970 he was posted to Switzerland as Counsellor of the Nunciature in Berne and also acted as Observer of the Holy See at various United Nations and other International Agencies in Geneva.

In 1974, following two years in administration work at the Secretariat of State, he received his first effective Head of Mission appointment as Chargé d'Affaires in the Apostolic Nunciature for China. His appointment coincided with the Cultural Revolution and as the Nunciature had to leave the mainland following the Communist takeover, he fulfilled his responsibilities towards China and the underground Catholic Church there from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau. In 1978 he was ordained as Titular Archbishop of Sabiona and returned to Africa, this time as Apostolic Nuncio in Rwanda.

Archbishop White was transferred again as Nuncio in Ethiopia in 1983. The six years he spent there and the three terrible famines in that space of time changed him for life. As head of the diplomatic corps he was responsible for coordinating the contributions of many countries and charities to counter the effects of famine. The endless struggle to help the starving people eventually took its toll. Thomas suffered a heart attack in 1988. He was then, in 1989, asked to serve in New Zealand. Attached to this was the Apostolic Delegation for Oceania, involving problems of distance and communication in that vast territory embracing practically all the island states of the Pacific Ocean. Shortly after his arrival in Wellington he presented his credentials to Queen Elizabeth II who was there for the Commonwealth Games and wished to exercise her prerogatives as Queen of New Zealand. Over the next six years he was to repeat the same procedure with the King of Tonga and with the Presidents of Nauru, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Western Samoa, Vanuatu and Kiribati.

The Archbishop was only the second Irishman in the history of the Church to have served as a Papal Nuncio in a country where he did not already hold an episcopal rank. After his retirement from the papal diplomatic service in 1996, Archbishop White carried out several important missions for the Vatican Secretariat of State, including liaison work with the church of the Syro-Malabar rite in India.

Following his retirement, Archbishop White lived in Blackrock, where he continued to consult on Church matters. Later again renewed his links to the College as he moved here to be close to his family.

College Reunion 2016

On the evening of the 16th August (the first Tuesday after the 15th) the College was delighted to welcome many men who had been ordained from St Kieran's College for the annual priests Reunion. In all nearly 40 men made the journey to the College.

The evening began with a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving in the College Chapel. The choir from St Canice's Parish added to the atmosphere and was greatly appreciated by all those in attendance.

After the Mass there was an opportunity for the traditional reunion photo for all celebrating a Jubilee and then a reception for all gathered. The heart of the day is in moments like this – when many old friends come together to recall fondly days and years spent in the College together. College President, Fr Dermot Ryan, noted that of all the reunions in the College calendar this is the most important as those ordained from St Kieran's represent all that is really important for the College: faith and service of others. Fr Gabe Troy, of Boston Diocese who is a golden jubilarian, recalled fondly the time his class spent in St Kieran's and he gave thanks for the formation and preparation they, and countless others, received there. In his words he noted that it is always important to remember where you come from and when that place is St Kieran's – what is important is easy to remember!



College Jubilarians 2016

Back row (l-r): Fr Jim Crotty, 50th anniversary Golden Jubilarian; Fr Denis Purcell, 50th anniversary Golden Jubilarian. Middle row (l-r): Fr Thomas Rea, 50th anniversary Golden Jubilarian; Fr George Murphy, 50th anniversary Golden Jubilarian; Fr Thomas Corcoran, 25th anniversary Silver Jubilarian; Fr Dermot Burke, 50th anniversary Golden Jubilarian. Front row (l-r): Fr John Rowan 50th anniversary Golden Jubilarian; Mgr Michael Ryan, Diocesan Administrator; Fr Dermot Ryan, President St Kieran's College; Fr Gabriel Troy, 50th anniversary Golden Jubilarian.

World Meeting of Families 2018 launch at St Kieran's

St Kieran's College was host to the launch of our diocesan preparation for the upcoming World Meeting of Families 2018. In the run up to the actual event each diocese is hoping to take opportunities to reflect on family, in its various forms, and its importance to us in our lives. The launch of Ossory's preparation was a great event with over 400 families in the grounds of the College on Sunday 7th May. Fr Dan Carroll, a past member of the staff here in St Kieran's will as diocesan delegate lead the diocesan preparations.



L-r: Sr Anna Corcoran, Ms Paula Stapleton, Sr Helen Maher, Mgr Michael Ryan, Ms Gemma Mulligan.

St Kieran's College Alumni Association



St Kieran's College Alumni Group

Third Row: Mr Tommy Walsh, Mr Pat Gannon, Mr Cathal Fitzgerald. Second Row: Mr Diarmuid Healy, Mr Eddie Keher, Mr Shane Doyle, Mr Alan Buckley (Chairperson). Front Row: Mr Ken Maher (Deputy Principal), Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan (President), Mr Adrian Finan (Principal).

Hundreds of past pupils will descend on St Kieran's College for a major event later this Summer. The gathering, which is being planned by the newly formed St Kieran's College Alumni Association, will be a two-day event culminating in a Gala Dinner in the grounds of the College.

The aim of the newly formed Alumni Association is to enable Kieran's men to connect with each other, not only here in Kilkenny but where ever they find themselves throughout the world, and to connect with the College again. At the launch of the new Alumni Association, earlier this year, Fr Dermot Ryan, College President noted that "having received our education and formation in St Kieran's, our pupils went on to contribute many great things to their families, communities and places of work; the friendships made here and the lessons learned stand us well even today, and through the Alumni, we can reconnect to each other once more".

The major two-day event on June 30/July 1 is aimed at enabling all past pupils to come together to celebrate all that is unique and special about St Kieran's College and those associated

with it. The event begins with a Golf Classic at Gowran Golf Club on Friday, June 30 where 50 teams will participate with at least one team from each year taking part.

The events on Saturday, July 1 will include an open day at the College from 1pm to 6pm with guided tours and an opportunity for past pupils to meet with former classmates in an informal setting. The afternoon will feature a 'Find yourself in the Archives' where alumni will be given an opportunity to identify themselves in the newly established College archive collection. Personal photographs of each past pupil's era at the College will be available to all alumni. A highlight of gathering will be the official naming of the senior hurling pitch in honour of former College President, and past pupil, Fr Tommy Maher.

The weekend will culminate with a Gala Dinner in the College Gymnasium for over 400 past pupils on Saturday night. Speaking at the launch of the weekend's activities the Alumni Chairperson, Alan Buckley noted "This weekend promises to be an exciting

occasion and we're looking forward to seeing generations of past pupils, who love the Black and White of St Kieran's, being welcomed back to their home".

It will be wonderful to see hundreds of past pupils coming together from the 'Fifties right up to last year's Leaving Cert group' for this unique occasion in the grounds of the College. This is the first major event for the Alumni Association who have earlier this year held smaller events such as: a mass for deceased past-pupils in November; an evening of Christmas Carols in the College Chapel; and a nights coffee and chat in the glasshall. However it is envisioned that this event will become the launch pad for many more similar events throughout the year allowing alumni to continue to connect with each other and with the College.

Full details of weekend events are available on www.stkieranscollege.ie or from any of the Alumni Committee members: Alan Buckley (Chairperson), Diarmuid Healy, Eddie Keher, Billy Fitzpatrick, Cathal FitzGerald, Peter Barry, William Maher, Shane Doyle, Dermot Ryan, Pat Gannon.

Throughout the year, the College often plays host to class reunions of students who studied on the 'lay side'. Former students gather to recall anniversaries of the year they started and/or the year they finished. These evenings are a wonderful occasion for friends and classmates to come together to recall time spent in St Kieran's College and to renew old friendships. This year was no different and we were delighted to welcome back, throughout the year, the classes of 1963, 1966, 1967 and 1971 (who were marking 50 years since they started here). These reunions were organised by Denis Bergin, Nickey Brennan, Donie Butler and Diarmuid Healy respectively and were all wonderful occasions of chat and laughter. Many stories were exchanged and familiar faces greeted each other once more on the Glass Hall. We were delighted to have these classes back and enjoyed sharing in your memories. We are proud of our past pupils!!

Class Reunion 1963



Class Reunion 1966



Class Reunion 1967



Class Reunion 1971



Kilkenny Archives at St Kieran's College

John Kirwan

Kilkenny Archives has been on the St Kieran's College Campus since the academic year of 2009-2010, working away quietly building up its archives. Recently we received three collections of material from the families of Mrs. Kitty Lanigan (1909-91), Margaret Tynan (1931-2007) and Nin Bligh (1916-2014).

The papers of Margaret Tynan, Kilkenny's first Lady Mayor, a post she held on eight different occasions, were the first of these three papers to arrive. During her political life Margaret was involved in many key issues: poverty in the community, Rights for Women, Keep Kilkenny Beautiful, the acquisition of the KDW shop, workshops and of Butler House for the city of Kilkenny, which led to the establishment of The Kilkenny Civic Trust, the founding of the Watergate Theatre with ongoing financial support from the Kilkenny Civic Trust. She founded the Rape Crisis Centre, Business and Professional Women's Group and helped with the establishment of The Alzheimer Centre (Kilkenny).

Then we have the Bligh family papers of Circular Road and earlier of Maudlin St, Kilkenny. Many of Kilkenny's older citizens will remember Adrian Bligh who in 1952 married as her second husband Nin Clohosey, née Duggan, of the Monster House family. Incidentally, the papers also include material relating to her own family as her father Richard Duggan, was a major business figure not only in Kilkenny but much wider afield throughout Ireland via his wholesale business. These include papers relating to the early years of the Fainna Fail party (Kilkenny branch) as Adrian had been a constituency member. Also too we find papers relating to The Kilkenny Archaeological Society, The Kilkenny Horticultural Society (Eileen Bligh, sister of Adrian was for some years Hon Secretary of this society), The Kilkenny Art Gallery Society, the Ossory Players and much more.

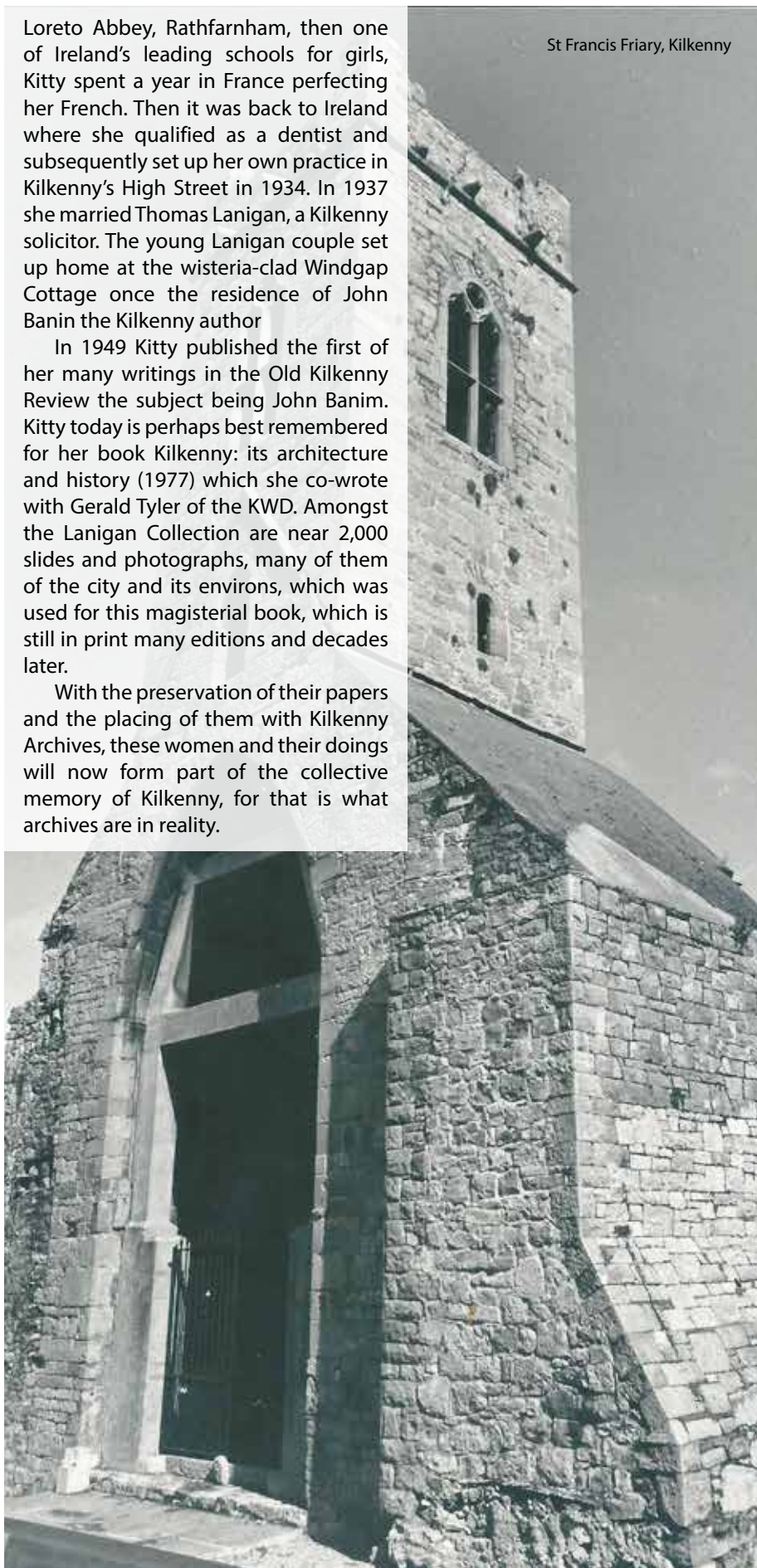
Lastly the papers of Katherine M. Lanigan, née Harte, who was born in Kilkenny in December 1909, the third child of James Harte and his wife Mary A. Harte, née Birch. The Harte home was at 39 Parliament St., almost opposite Rothe House. After school at

Loreto Abbey, Rathfarnham, then one of Ireland's leading schools for girls, Kitty spent a year in France perfecting her French. Then it was back to Ireland where she qualified as a dentist and subsequently set up her own practice in Kilkenny's High Street in 1934. In 1937 she married Thomas Lanigan, a Kilkenny solicitor. The young Lanigan couple set up home at the wisteria-clad Windgap Cottage once the residence of John Banin the Kilkenny author

In 1949 Kitty published the first of her many writings in the Old Kilkenny Review the subject being John Banim. Kitty today is perhaps best remembered for her book Kilkenny: its architecture and history (1977) which she co-wrote with Gerald Tyler of the KWD. Amongst the Lanigan Collection are near 2,000 slides and photographs, many of them of the city and its environs, which was used for this magisterial book, which is still in print many editions and decades later.

With the preservation of their papers and the placing of them with Kilkenny Archives, these women and their doings will now form part of the collective memory of Kilkenny, for that is what archives are in reality.

St Francis Friary, Kilkenny



Ossory Diocesan Forum

Helen Maher

Since the first meeting of the Ossory Diocesan Forum was held there on 4th December, 2004, St Kieran's College has been home to the Forum. Many meetings and various gatherings of Forum members have been hosted in the College over the years. St Kieran's continues to facilitate these meetings. The executive body of the Forum, the Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council, meets here regularly, as do smaller groups and working groups. As Forum Coordinator I work from a designated office in the College.

Originally the Forum was a diocesan body consisting of a lay representative of each of the forty-two parishes, a number of elected priests and religious with the Bishop as President. In 2009, following a review by the members it was decided to keep the same membership but divide it into three groups, one in each of the deaneries. Since then, the Forum consists of three Deanery Pastoral Councils and an executive body, the Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council, the membership of which is drawn largely from the other groups.

From the beginning, the establishment of Parish Pastoral Councils in each parish was a primary goal and these parish groups are an integral part of the Forum network.

This year sees the completion of the third four-year term of office of the Forum bodies. At present these groups are involved in an evaluation process to review the work of the last four years and to articulate a vision for the way forward. When a similar evaluation was done in 2013 the result was a clearly expressed need for a Diocesan Pastoral Plan to give focus and direction to pastoral ministry in the Diocese. The development of such a pastoral plan has been a very solid achievement of the last term. From the time work began to shape the Plan it was strongly felt that there needed to be a strategy in place to ensure that the Plan would immediately begin to be implemented. The appointment, last August, by Bishop Freeman of Ms Gemma Mulligan as Coordinator of the Pastoral Plan was seen as a really positive step in the direction of implementation.

Since her appointment Gemma has visited many of the parishes of the Diocese.

She has had conversations with priests, parish pastoral councils and week-end congregations about the Plan. Concrete initiatives are beginning to emerge from these conversations. One such event was a six-week course organised for a few adjoining parishes to prepare lay people to lead prayer services when a priest is not present.

In the light of the challenging words of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan that "the future shape of the Church in Ossory is in our hands" and very conscious of the decreasing number of priests, people have been keen to pursue other ways that lay people can be involved in the pastoral life of their parishes. Through the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Adult Faith Development Group, Gemma is actively following up these requests.

When the Forum begins a new term in September, the Diocesan Pastoral Plan invites the members to be creatively and collaboratively involved in the mission of the Diocese and provides a framework and guidelines to facilitate their work.

Diocesan Pastoral Plan

Gemma Mulligan

In 2013 the Diocesan Pastoral Council in consultation with the Council of Priests, Deanery Pastoral Councils and other Diocesan bodies, began preparing a Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Ossory. The Plan was identified as an important way to give focus and direction to the work of all pastoral groups in the diocese. Ossory Diocese has a long and rich tradition of vibrant local groups consisting of clergy, religious and lay people, working in many and varied ministries.

The Pastoral Plan which has 9 strands, Co-Responsibility, Re-imagine Parish Leadership, Pastoral care of priests, Liturgy, Young People, Child Safeguarding, Communication, Outreach and Nourishing faith, aims to bring people together in a spirit of collaboration and co-responsibility and also to support and incorporate all existing work in the diocese.

The Pastoral Plan also invites us to explore ways in which we can prepare parishes for the changes that are taking place in our diocese and in our Church. It is important that we continue to build strong vibrant faith communities where we can live out the Joy of the Gospel and the Pastoral Plan through Parish Pastoral

Councils, working with the coordinator, can help achieve this goal.

Before his retirement in 2015 Bishop Freeman appointed me as Coordinator of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and I began my work on August 15th last year. The office of the coordinator is in St Kieran's College which also holds the offices of Adult Faith Development and The Ossory Diocesan Forum Coordinator, Sr. Helen Maher.

During this past year much of the work that has happened around the Diocesan Pastoral Plan has involved meeting with Priests, Parish Pastoral Councils and the wider parish communities. It has been a valuable and important part of the work, hearing what people have to say about the future of their parish and our diocese. While visiting parishes during these past months it struck me the willingness of lay people in some parishes to take on more responsibility and leadership roles as the light of today's reality begins to take shape.

Other parishes have for some years been working in a spirit of collaboration where teams consisting of clergy, religious and lay people are working together in sharing responsibility in taking care of the spiritual and pastoral needs of the parish.

Recently a group of neighbouring parishes came together to participate

in training and preparation for leading prayers in a parish. This was organised through Adult Faith Development who are able to provide important and necessary training and formation for all those who wish to take up leadership roles in parishes. It is hoped that this training and similar will be availed of in other parishes in the diocese over the coming months and years. Parishes that are currently without a Parish Pastoral Council or Parish Pastoral Councils that need renewal are also being offered help and support by Adult Faith Development and a team working with the coordinator of the Pastoral Plan.

As working groups in parishes know only too well, the work can be challenging at times and sometimes the fruits of the work are unknown. In our vision for a pastoral plan we are reminded of what Pope Francis tells us in *Evangelii Gaudium*, encouraging us not to despair or lose hope, because even in the small things that we do, 'Joy is Present'.

Through our Diocesan Pastoral Plan faithful people all across the diocese are working hard in participating in the mission of Jesus, building up the kingdom of God. All of us are called to participate in this mission and to be united as we bring new life to the diocese.

Ossory Adult Faith Development

Since its foundation in 1782 the College has been at the heart of the Diocese of Ossory. First educating young men, then educating men for the priesthood to serve in parishes in Ossory and throughout Ireland and the world. The College today continues to serve the Diocese of Ossory by providing a home to various diocesan services. Chief among these is the Adult Faith Development Group. The members of this group, Eadaoin Maher, Fr Kieran O'Shea, Olivia Maher, Michael Hogan, Declan Murphy, Derek Dooley and Fr Dermot Ryan along with Tina Lawlor work to resource, equip and help the people of our Diocese to deepen their faith. Since its beginning in the Diocese the AFD group has worked through a variety of means to achieve this end. Using a mix of more traditional resources such as lectures and talks and more novel ideas such as texts, daily tweets, short movies and audio files the group continually attempts to offer helpful resources to parishes and people throughout Ossory.

AFD Pilgrimage to Rome 2016



Once again this year the AFD group provided the Lenten training courses for the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. These were offered in three locations around the Diocese for the Northern parishes, Middle Deanery and Southern parishes. In offering these courses the group gets an opportunity to meet so many generous people who have volunteered to serve in their communities helping at liturgies.

In fact, in furtherance of this, and in collaboration with Gemma Mulligan as Pastoral Plan Coordinator, the AFD group worked this year to create a course of preparation for people to act as leaders of lay-led liturgies. This initiative was in response to a request from the priests and people of Thomastown and Rosbercon parishes. Over a series of five nights various topics were explored in a dialogical fashion to help those prepare for this important service. Inputs on the Church, the formation of Sacraments, Liturgy, the Scriptures, and service were offered and a strong group of nearly 40 people took part. It was wonderful to experience the energy in the room each week as those who attended asked questions about their Faith, the Church and their role within it.

As part of the celebration of the Year of Mercy the AFD group lead a pilgrimage to Rome. In early September over 50 people from around the Diocese, and a few American friends, headed off on this pilgrimage. Over a week spent together, this group had the opportunity to explore many of Rome's wonderful historical and spiritual locations. Each day was populated with various stops to help the group, under the guidance of the Spiritual Director, Fr Kieran O'Shea, to reflect on the theme of mercy. A highlight of the week might well have been the Papal audience at which the pilgrims had the opportunity to hear Pope Francis remind them that we are all sinners and therefore there is no need for shame; but that we should step out proudly before the Lord who is waiting to embrace us. It was a wonderful message of hope that resonated so clearly with the week's reflections.

We are now in the second year of Parish Evenings and Retreats at St Kieran's College, again a product of the Faith Development Group. The leadership team of Michelle O'Connor, Peggy Lyons, Aidan Fitzpatrick, Lorraine O'Shea, and Gemma Mulligan ensure that the night's prayer is beautifully reflective. Making use of the Dunne Room and the College Chapel these Retreat Evenings are a wonderful success. The number of parishes who came to the College was up on last year and all those in attendance were effusive in praise. It is wonderful to see the College Chapel lit up at night in stilled prayer and reflection and it is great that

the College can make so many people welcome throughout the year. These Retreats are another way of the AFD team helping people to deepen their relationship with God.

Notable again this year was the now annual Diocesan U8 Hurling and Camogie Blitz which took place in St Kieran's. This year saw over 45 teams take part and over 500 families in the grounds of the College. In collaboration, Gemma Mulligan and the committee tasked with guiding Ossory's preparation for the upcoming World Meeting of Families and the AFD group helped prepare a wonderful day's activities for all the families. The highlight of the day was the launch of the diocesan preparation for the WMOF2018 which took place on the steps of the College. All who attended left with a "goodie bag" of diocesan prayers, magazines, and holy water that was blessed on the day by Mgr Michael Ryan who lead the prayer at the launch event. It is hoped that these prayers, and especially the one specific to the World Meeting of Families, will find a place of prominence in the homes of our Diocese for the months ahead.

The *Ossory Times* magazine is now in its fifth year of publication. It continues to be a great success. Each edition sees nearly 3000 copies distributed throughout the Diocese. Costing just €2, it is accessible to all in the Diocese and, in fact, many parishes have taken to simply covering the cost of their editions and making them freely available to people in their community. The *Times* is now a wonderful, and established, tool of sharing resources and news throughout the Diocese.

The Faith Development Group continues its usual offerings each year such as the Advent and Lenten daily texts which consistently go out to well over 1,000 people each time. the Advent and Lenten scripture "Thought for the Day" booklets, Sunday Scripture Reflection sheets, Prayer Cards and lectures etc. This year however, in a development of these offerings, the group also offered in Advent a simple thought for the day video through Twitter. A new video each day of about 20 seconds invited people to reflect on a simple thought or line about their faith. The videos which were produced here in St Kieran's featured many of the students of the school and were often recorded on the glass hall or on the fields outside.

The Faith Development Group is always exploring new ways to help people deepen their Faith, so if you have any ideas or suggestions please let us know. We always welcome them...

'Leadership in Sport. Lessons for Business'

A networking event launched with top sports and business people set to share insights for achieving success



Leadership in Sport: Back Row (L-R): Tommy Walsh, Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, Michael Rice, Brian Cody. Front Row (L-R): James Kearney, John Muldowney.

Tuesday December 13th saw the launch of 'Leadership in Sport. Lessons for Business', at Newstalk Studios in Dublin. This event was for those striving to build high performance teams both in business and in sport. The networking event was hosted in association with Newstalk and took place at the InterContinental Hotel, Dublin at 12:30pm on January 26th 2017. It brought together a number of the country's leading sports and business people who shared their perspectives and discussed their focus, passion and drive, as well as what they deemed is necessary in order to achieve success and importantly to repeat that success.

Speakers at the event on January 26th included:

- Siobhán Talbot, Group Managing Director, Glanbia
- Brian Cody, Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team Manager
- Rossa White, Chief Economist, NTMA
- Aidan O'Brien, Horse Racing Trainer

- Henry Shefflin, 10-time All-Ireland winner
- Panel discussion – Michael Rice, Tommy Walsh, David Herity and Jackie Tyrrell (All former Kilkenny Hurlers)
- Bobby Kerr, Newstalk will MC the event

The networking event targeted specifically leading corporates in Ireland, which explored the key attributes that drive both success in sport and in business. The speakers, each of whom are extremely accomplished, with proven track records, and are all leaders in their respective areas, provided invaluable insights for all those hoping to thrive in business.

All funds raised from the networking event, 'Leadership in Sport. Lessons for Business' went towards developing the game of hurling, creating a National Centre of Excellence for Hurling at St Kieran's College, Kilkenny and the development of the game in the County. Speaking at the launch, Brian Cody, said, "I'm always eager to be

involved in any project that is helping to advance and progress hurling, both at a local and a national level. I'm also really looking forward to the event in January, it's not often that the sports and business communities meet, and I think a lot could be learned from both parties and I'm looking forward to hearing the many different perspectives on what drives success." Siobhán Talbot, Group Managing Director, Glanbia, also commented, "There are many useful analogies which can be drawn between the world of sport and the boardroom, particularly in relation to the principles of performance, leadership and collaboration. As a global nutrition group focused on developing and producing products and nutritional solutions to complement healthy, active lifestyles, we are pleased to support this event and look forward to sharing our perspectives on the day."

Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, President at St Kieran's College said, "We are delighted with the speakers confirmed for our event in January and we have been



L-R: Cathal Kearney, Brian Cody, John Muldowney.

humbled by their enthusiasm for the project. Given the calibre and experience of the people in the room, the event is set to be fascinating for anyone working within corporate Ireland. All at St Kieran's College and in Kilkenny GAA are always striving for excellence, and this event, which we hope will become an annual fixture, will go a long way to helping us explore how this can be achieved."

In recent years St Kieran's College has been delighted to host coaching weekends and games for various clubs from around the country. This event has allowed for the continued growth of this in the grounds of the College along with striving to developing the game in clubs, squads and teams across the county, in conjunction with the county board.



L-R: Cathal Kearney, Michael Rice, John Muldowney.



Maynooth University's Kilkenny Campus

2017 MARKS THE 20TH YEAR MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY HAS RUN FLEXIBLE PROGRAMMES AT ITS KILKENNY CAMPUS BASED IN ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE. SINCE THE CAMPUS WAS ESTABLISHED, OVER 1,600 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED A VARIETY OF QUALIFICATIONS RANGING FROM LEVEL 5 CERTIFICATES TO PHD.

Originally, the programmes were aimed at mature students but since 2013 the focus has shifted to the First Arts programme, open to both mature students and school leavers alike. For the past four years, full-time students have been completing the first year of their Bachelor of Arts Degree (MH901) in Kilkenny before progressing to the main campus in Maynooth to complete their studies. Students have a range of options open to them allowing them to specialise in their chosen field.

The unique learning environment and ambient setting allows students a gentle transition to full-time university life. Smaller class sizes and in particular, the ease at which they can interact with lecturing staff provides students with great advantages.

In September 2016 the fourth group of First Arts students, 68 in total, began their studies at Kilkenny Campus hailing from all over Ireland even as far afield as Donegal. Students were given the opportunity to sample a variety of subjects including English, History, Anthropology, Economics, Sociology, Law, Philosophy and Theology before making their final subject choices.

The introduction of Law to the curriculum in September 2016 garnered lots of interest and in September 2017, Geography will be on offer to students on Kilkenny Campus.

Local students and those commuting experienced significant financial savings. Those wishing to stay in the vibrant city of Kilkenny have the option to lodge with local families or take a place in the on campus student accommodation provided by St Kieran's College.

Feedback from students about their experience on campus has been very positive with them commenting that there are "significant advantages, such as smaller class sizes and more opportunities to engage with lecturers and tutors" and the relationships they form with peers "will make settling into Maynooth easier in second year".

Students who chose to study law saw the benefit of visits to the Court House in Kilkenny for Mock Trials in semester one and subsequently a Moot Court in semester 2. The group also visited the Courts in Dublin and met with senior counsel, fantastic exposure for



Law Students take part in mock trial



First Arts vs St. Kierans 2017



Law Students take part in mock trial



any student interested in pursuing law as a career.

Kilkenny Campus actively encourages students in their extra-curricular activities be it becoming part of the Kilkenny Campus Society, exploring social justice or standing up for human rights. This year was one of the campus society's most successful and saw them running bake sales for their chosen charity, Pieta House along with a number of other fun events.

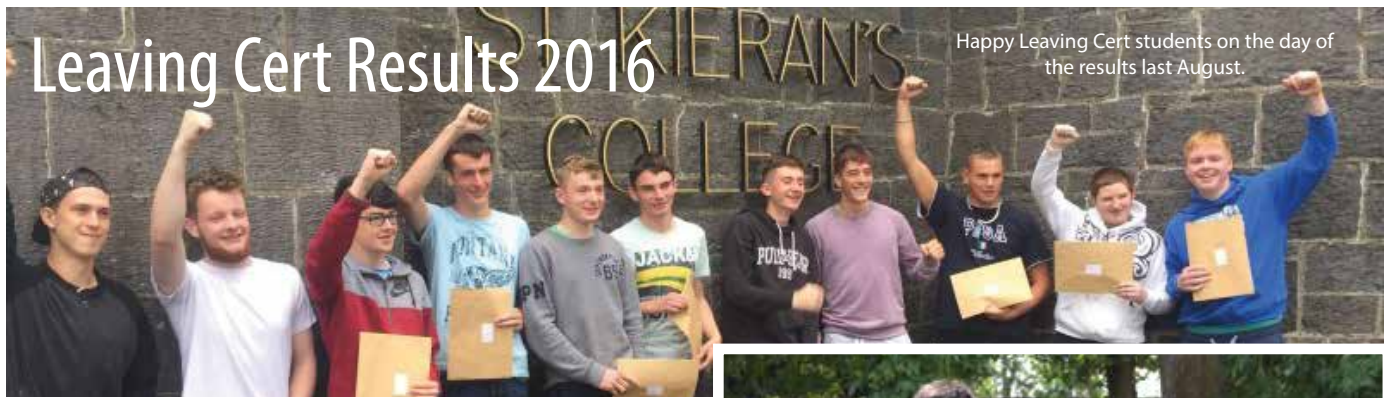
Students also garnered press coverage for their involvement in social justice week in October playing a football match against former Kilkenny Campus students to highlight the plight of Syrians trapped in Aleppo. Their flashmob to mark Human Rights Day in December also featured in local press. Supported by students from Kilkenny Secondary Schools including St Kieran's they braved the cold and rain to make a stand against human rights abuses.

For more information about the Bachelor of Arts at Kilkenny Campus visit www.maynoothuniversity.ie/kilkennycampus or email kilkennyfirstarts@nuim.ie

Upcoming Drop-In Days will take place on Monday 26th June and Thursday 24th August 2017.

First Arts Students 2016





The students of St Kieran's College obtained fantastic results last summer. The statistics speak for themselves. Two students, Conor Purcell and Michael Ryan received the maximum 625 points. 12% of the Leaving Cert Class got over 550 points. 28% of the class achieved over 500 points. 46% earned over 450 points and 63% attained over 400 points.

These exceptional results meant that the majority of students got their preferred choice of course at Third level and some students were honoured by their colleges for such impressive academic achievement.



Leaving Cert Results (l-r): Conor Purcell and Michael Ryan - both obtained the maximum 625 points in their Leaving Certificate.

UCD Entrance Scholarship Awards

Nine students from the 2016 Leaving Cert Class Group were recognised on Thursday 17th November, at O'Reilly Hall, UCD at the Entrance Scholars Awards Ceremony. The nine former St Kieran's College students are currently in their First Year in UCD and were acknowledged at a special ceremony for their academic achievement of obtaining 560 points or more in their Leaving Certificate. These awards recognise exceptional high achieving and highly talented students including Academic High Achievers, Sports Scholars, Bord na Gaeilge Scholars and Symphony Orchestra Scholars.

Michael Ryan received the Trinity College Entrance Exhibition Award at a ceremony last November. Trinity College offer this award to students who achieve outstanding Leaving Cert results. Michael is currently studying Medicine in Trinity College Dublin.

Michael Cody received the prestigious Ad Astra Scholars Award in UCD in February. Michael received an academic scholarship based on his excellent Leaving Cert results and he is now part of an elite academy of students, who all possess exceptional ability and collectively use their talents to be motivated, challenged and inspired.



Entrance Scholarship Awards at UCD (l-r): Eamonn Egan, Liam Walsh, Niall Brennan, Patrick Ryan, Michael Cody, Matt Kenny, Conor Purcell and Tim Howes. Absent from photo: Killian Fitzpatrick.



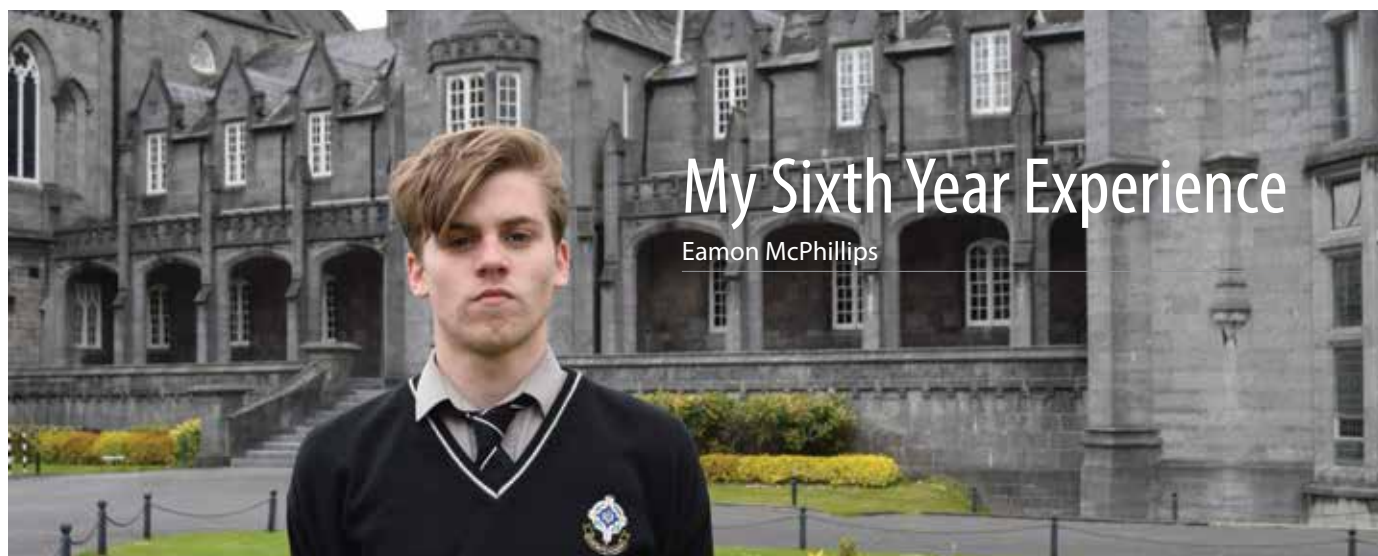
Trinity College Entrance Exhibition Award (l-r): Mr Chris Morash (Vice Provost and Chief Academic Officer TCD), Michael Ryan and Mr Ken Maher (Deputy Principal).



Ad Astra Award (l-r): Mr Adrian Finan (Principal) and Michael Cody.

Sixth Year Signatures

Fionn Jack Phelan Eoghan Kromes
 Dylan Aylward Michael Ryan Barry Alessa Alex Johnston Brendan Fitzgerald
 Eamon McPhillips Bill Cudding Noel Harty Liam Rafferty Ciaran O'Leary
 Ewan Shefflin Dean Green Luke Fitzpatrick Naimul Hossain Padraic mullen Gavin Delaney
 Paddy Parie Dylan O'Regan-Smyth Ciaran Dalton Jeff Kealy Dara Keane. Leary slattery
 Ryan Poyntz Ciaran Dalton Brian O'Hanrahan Robert Fitzgerald
 Jack Smith Paddy Boicey Adrian mullen Jack Ryan
 Ian Clifford Kevin Connolly Kevin Kehoe
 Adam Power Robbie K. Ryan Evan Walsh Aironas Miliauskas ENDA KENNEALLY
 Andy Parsons Tommy Wotton Michael Carey Rory Lodge Ben Lawlor Calum Malone
 Paddy Boicey John Dooley Simon Cullen Peter Lyster Eric Mahony (G. Manning)
 George Whelan Fintan Cullen James Bergin Jason Maher
 Denis Carrigan George Murphy Pádraig Healy. Conor Wallace Kevin Connolly
 Brian Comerford Shane Dawson Conor Hackett James Tennyson
 Pádraig Buggy Padraig Hennessy Adam Ryan Adam Flynn Leon Butler Eoin Minnock
 Patrick Lunny Ted Orea John David Bisher Johnny Burns Joseph Carrigan Tim Nugent
 Kamron Forrell Adam Flynn Matt Powell Jack Connelly
 Fennelly Conor Dysan Damian Skrzypczak Eoin Rudkins Martin Keogh Kevin McWilliam
 Dylan Smithwick David McHenry Conall O'Leary Adam Grayan Claren Byrne Colum Proctorville
 Kevin Fennelly



My Sixth Year Experience

Eamon McPhillips

As I begin to write this passage on a calm, sombre night in the middle of April, I find that my mind drifts to the very near and fast approaching future when I will no longer be a current pupil of St Kieran's College. Many of us are now at a stage where we feel we are ready to move on to different heights of education, as well as those who aspire to take alternatives, but by no means lesser routes to their own distinctly unique and individual ambitions. Of course, this is in no way intended as a slight towards the school, but merely something that comes with age. However, I myself imagine that walking out the venerable and seasoned gates of this prestigious school for hopefully the last time come August, I will look back, both in reminiscence and in a literal sense, with profound fondness and immense gratitude at the institution where I spent my much-valued school years. The very essence of this passage is to provide insight, a glimpse through the keyhole of my own personal experience, and that of my colleagues, as a student in this college, of which I am honoured to share with whomever is curious enough to read. Although I will admit that brevity in writing has never been my strongest suit, I will do my best to keep this short and sweet.

Nevertheless, the first time I entered through the aforementioned gates of St Kieran's College, as a buoyant and doe-eyed thirteen year old with a haircut that, in retrospect, probably warranted immediate expulsion, I, like many of my contemporaries did not quite know what to think. It has often been suggested to me as to whether a hurley is an extension of our black and grey uniform, and to those who seek to uncover the seeming truth; they may look no further than the corner of a first year classroom. Most likely, what they will find there is a

bin, containing the hurls of each student in said classroom, each inscribed with initials and the eternal S.K.C that implies to whom it may concern that the owner of said hurl is a pupil of the college. This is the constant, year-by-year nature of first year. In this manner, I am not akin to so many of my peers. I am not a hurler, but even I, who despite countless tries cannot successfully hit a sliotar correctly, carried a hurl with me wherever I went. Naturally, the initial months of our maiden year were quite frantic, as we gradually began to accustom ourselves to our timetable, our teachers, our lockers and arguably most importantly, each other. I still remember how we travelled from classroom to classroom in tight, compacted formations of five or six, rarely breaking formation, as if we were surrounded by wolves who sought to isolate us, and one by one, systematically pick us off. Of course, I mean no offence to the Sixth Year graduates of 2011, for I am all too acutely aware of the dishevelled and shaggy look that the Leaving Cert may bring. I'm sure they never meant any harm. Furthermore, first year ended almost as quickly as it had begun.

The origins of second year are entirely more commonplace than those of the previous year. And it brings with it an aura of confidence and comfort, in contrast to the initial outlandishness of first year. Nevertheless, the return to school always presents new adaptations, whether it be a timetable or a new social area. I specifically recall that I was burdened with the proverbial "bottom locker", which if anything, it means that I endured several bumps and knocks squatting down to access my books throughout the year. I know, I know, the horror. You may think I'm being sarcastic or dramatic, or indeed both, but I ask

you to question any secondary school in Ireland about the subject of the "bottom locker", and trust me; you will be met with a grimace. Anyway, enough about lockers. Throughout my time here, it has and I contend to say, always will be the small things that contribute most significantly to being a student of St Kieran's College. I could fill these pages and paragraphs with the titanic and inspiring victories of the senior hurling team with ease, as well as a wide and vast host of other achievements garnered through the talent and dedication of our students. While these achievements are magnificent and uniquely stimulating in their own right, in my judgement, they do not and cannot portray the unifying sentimentality of each individual student in the precise manner that the minute, constant and shared aspects of the school can. I speak of the sultry summer heat of the glass hall, the vibrancy of the ten-to-eleven break, the patterned idioms of Mr Lynch or the endless, charming ramblings of Mr Kavanagh, the annual excitement that epitomises St Kieran's day and the invigorating and warmongering calls of "TAKE THE STRAIN" and subsequent "HEAVE" of Mr O' Keefe, during the Tug o' War on Sports day. These seemingly inconsequential things are instilled with symbolic sentiment for me, as they are regular, homely and comfortable. I surmise that it will be these sentiments that stay with me as a graduate of this great school, as well as it might be different but nonetheless important memories to another.

Anyway, now that I've demonstrated my talent for long-windedness, (the quotation 'more matter, with less art' comes to mind) I ponder recounts memories of third year. Third year, as with every year, is important for several

reasons; firstly, it is an exam year, the principal state exam year for secondary schools students. In retrospect, although it seemed it then, I cannot compare the Leaving Cert and the Junior Cert on the basis of weight or significance. It's self-evident that they are incomparable in that respect. However, this does not diminish the importance of the Junior Cert. In preparation, students typically develop a work ethic and a hunger to do well, a quality that every academic should strive to maintain and develop throughout their schooling years. Like all exams, a piece of worldly wisdom that I wish to offer is in short; do not think of them as tests, but challenges to consolidate academic potential. As with such exam years, time flies. Time flies when you're having fun, studying, apparently. As utterly depressing as that concept sounds, third year need not be pigeon-holed as simply an exam year, for that assessment is ultimately not true. One of my favourite memories from third year is the breaks between exams in June. Naturally, as it was exam season, perspiration was heavy as the sun baked the stone of the college, as well as the many hurling pitches on campus. Often, we had two hours between exams, and there is only so much that can be revised at that stage. So we took to the fields to play soccer and sunbathe, where we could. These hours provided much relief from the frantic nature of exam season and I would even surmise that this time devoted to relaxation, the proverbial 'calm before the storm' is equally as beneficiary to any last minute study that any of us could have hoped to undertake. I would encourage any younger students who have an interest in what I have to write, as someone who has delved deep into the anxiety and will to fulfil potential; while exams are important, your mental wellbeing is far more essential.

Transition year, or the colloquial 'TY', is a thoroughly unique and distinctive year. If undertaken in the manner in which it demands, every student has the capacity to find it highly rewarding. Emphasis is not placed on academia, but on application in other areas, with the end goal of developing as a person, and maturing before entrance to the Leaving Cert. It requires you to break free from what feels homely, comfortable and safe, to take up a new hobby, be it a musical instrument, a new sport, volunteering, more or less anything that incites you to develop and gain experience in any particular field. As I understand it,

this is the foundation for the Gaisce programme, which I encourage all incoming TY's to take part in. In addition, the Enrichment initiative provides the students with an opportunity to lend a hand in the local community. One of my most prevalent and fondest memories of Transition year is that of a certain walk up Slievenamon in Tipperary, the only noteworthy attraction in Tipperary. Although I'm aware that this walk is undertaken more or less every year by that year's TY students, that, subtle fact, does not diminish its pervading charm. Nevertheless, as we approached the summit, on what started off as a warm and sunny day, we were gradually struck by the rising chill of the wind. Naturally, with all such occasions, it does not take long for competition and pride to seep into the minds of adolescent boys, and so as we neared the summit, the most competitive amongst us attempted to subtly pass out one another. What can we say, we're winners, and winners always want to win. Anyhow, I distinctly recall that once the lads had reached the summit, several t-shirts came off, in spite of the high altitude and teeth-clenching wind, and for seemingly no reason at all. Moving on.

Fifth year is undoubtedly a shock initially. Despite all that Transition year has to offer, it does not demand the maintenance of vigorous, study plans or schedules in any way, shape or form. In these departments, it is lax. However, as long as you are aware of the task at hand, ergo the leaving cert, I contend to say that you will be fine. Nevertheless, it is tough at first. In my fifth year, I was chosen as a Cairdeas, to help the new first years find their feet and adjust to their new surroundings. It is only then when I was made aware of the rapid passing of time, for although it was four years since we were first years, it had not felt it. I enjoyed my experience as a Cairdeas. To some, who wish to have as little distraction as possible from their studies, it may be seen as a hindrance. However, I took the position that as long as it didn't continuously take away from my productivity as a student, I was happy to help. For our fifth year retreat, we were given a talk by a trainee psychologist, Robert Luas, who essentially spoke about his life experiences and what incited him to choose his profession. This retreat resonated with me in particular, for it has long been an ambition of mine to become a psychologist in the not-so-distant future. Regardless of my own personal intrigue, I believe I can say that

my fellow students were also interested to hear what he had to say, which was only accentuated by the fact that he was uncannily similar in appearance to a Premier League football player. Nevertheless, certainly in my opinion, the talk was very interactive, inclusive and appealing to many of us.

Finally, the topic of this piece no longer relies on reminiscence, given that I essentially live and breathe Sixth Year every day, however depressing that sounds. As I write this, on what is by my estimations, the first day of exam season, given the outlandish heat and perspired foreheads, I am inclined to write my extended thoughts on St Kieran's college. What has struck me of late, as I routinely glance up at the school TV's to be greeted by a photo of a student, or students, having performed superbly in a recent event, is the deeply-embedded cult of success that surrounds this school. It is no short of commonplace in this school to bring success to the table. Not only in hurling, for those achievements have always garnered praise, and deservedly so, but in almost every competition that the school takes part in. Quite clearly, this school either instils or nurtures talent in a way that is uncommon and unfounded. As leaving cert students, we all have something to contribute, as we round the corner on the last straight of our secondary education, be it the fulfilment of our own academic potential, a wise piece of advice to a younger student, or a sporting victory, it is self-evident to me that success is tradition in St Kieran's college. For the surreal reality is that in just a month and a half, we will no longer be students of this school. I for one, have profound hope and belief that each and every one of my contemporaries has found, or will find their fateful paths in life. The ending of our tenure here is a paradox. It is a beginning as much as it is an end. We strive to pastures new, leaving behind the permanence of school life. However, what will always remain a constant is the bond, the brotherhood, and the fraternity that we developed within these silent-stoned, hallowed walls. So as we approach our end, wherever you may go from here, my friends, in the words of Dylan Thomas; 'Do not go gentle into that good light, rage, rage, against the dying of the light'.

School Awards 2016

SUBJECT AWARDS

Mathematics	Junior - Fionn Whelan	Senior - Robert Kerwick
Gaeilge	Junior - Jason Kelly	Senior - Michael Ryan
English	Junior - Jason Kelly	Senior - Liam Wallace
Religion	Junior - Luke Gannon	Senior - Peter Scariff - Lalor
Business	Junior - Fionn Whelan	Senior - Conor Purcell
Technology	Junior - Finn Lanigan	Senior - Niall Holligan
Tech Graphics	Junior - Krystan Pawlowski	DCG - Patrick Kennedy
History	Junior - James Kelly - Trans	Senior - Liam Wallace
Geography	Junior - Liam Fennelly	Senior - Joe Cuddihy
Science	Junior - Sean Comerford	Senior - Patrick Ryan
Ag Science		Senior - Michael Cody
Spanish	Junior - Krystan Pawlowski	Senior - Conor Purcell
French	Junior - Fionn Whelan	Senior - Peter Scariff - Lalor
Art	Junior - Barry Lennon	Senior - Daniel Fahy
Music	Junior - Tom Kennedy	Senior - Patrick Kennedy
Frank Muldowney Award Best Junior Cert 2016		Alex Doheny
President's Award		Maurice Walsh

ACADEMIC STUDENTS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

First Year	Seamus Hughes - Kennedy
Second Year	Joseph Cowhig
Third Year	Fionn Whelan
Fifth Year	Brian Hennessy
Sixth Year	Michael Ryan

AWARDS OF MERIT

First Year	Seamus Hughes - Kennedy, Richard Cash, Finnian Shefflin, Michael McCarthy, Eoin Crowley, Andrew Deveraux.
Second Year	Ciaran Brennan, Killian Rudkins, Harry Walsh, Jim Kirby, Michael Lewis, David Fogarty.
Third Year	Krystan Pawlowski, Eoin Walsh, Padraic Barragry, Jason Kelly, Luke Gannon, Ciaran Shortall
Fourth Year	Conor Drennan, Ruairi Green, David O'Carroll, James Phelan, Bill Cody, Liam Hoban
Fifth Year	Martin Keoghan, James Bergin, Colum Prendeville, Eamon Fennelly, Ben Whelan
Sixth Year	Edward Moylan, Robert Kerwick, Jack McHugh, Eoin Kelly, Patrick Kennedy, Liam Wallace

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

First Year	John Muldowney
Second Year	Michael McInerney
Third Year	Philip Hayde
Fifth Year	Ciaran Lennon
Patrick Kilroy Award	Conor Archbold
Student of the Year	Conor Purcell

SPORTS AWARDS

Pool	Morgan Thomas
Weightlifting	Stephen Kirwan
Karate	Aaron Varley
Swimming	Robbie English
Canoeing	Eamon Forristal
Orienteering	Conall Whelan
Golf	Ned Kirwan, Sean Manogue, Patrick O'Shea
Cross Country	Intermediate - Adam Fitzpatrick Senior - Peter Lynch
Soccer	U13 Player - Eoin Delahunty U15 Player - Ciaran Brennan U17 Player - San Hickey U19 Player - Niall Delaney
Handball	First Year - Jack Doyle, Eoin Brennan, Padhraic Foley U17 - Eoin Brennan U19 - Sean Carey, Dion Bourke
Gaelic Footballer of the Year - Alfie Sheehy Perpetual Trophy	
	Jamie Harkin
Juvenile Hurler of the Year	Conor Kelly
Junior Hurler of the Year	Adrian Mullen
Senior Hurler of the Year	Darren Mullen

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Back row: Mr Ken Maher (Deputy Principal), Mr Adrian Finan (Principal), Mr Niall Cody (Past Pupil Guest of Honour), Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan (President), Ms Jean Fitzparick, Mr Niall Connolly. Front row: John Muldowney, Conor Archbold, Conor Purcell, Ciarán Lennon, Philip Hayde, Michael McInerney.

ACADEMIC AWARDS



Back row: Mr Ken Maher (Deputy Principal), Mr Adrian Finan (Principal), Mr Niall Cody (Past Pupil Guest of Honour), Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan (President), Ms Jean Fitzparick, Mr Niall Connolly. Front row: Seamus Hughes-Kennedy, Joesph Cowhig, Alex Doheny, Michael Ryan, Fionn Whelan, Brian Hennessy.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD



Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan (President) and Maurice Walsh.

SPORTS AWARDS



Back row: Mr Ken Maher (Deputy Principal), Mr Adrian Finan (Principal), Mr Niall Cody (Past Pupil Guest of Honour), Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan (President), Ms Jean Fitzparick, Mr Niall Connolly. Front row: Niall Delaney, Darren Mullen, Ciaran Brennan, Conor Kelly, Adrain Mullen.

PASTORAL CARE IN KIERAN'S

IMPRESSIONS OF FIRST YEAR

Ryan Grace

My first experience of being a student in St Kieran's College was walking through the front gates. We were welcomed by our Year Head, the Principal, the Chaplain and the Cairdeas lads. We met as a group in the study hall. Ms Norton spoke to us. We were brought on our tours and quickly became good buddies. Kieran's felt like Hogwarts. I can't believe we are nearly finished. I can't wait for the next five years.

Samba Batchilly

My first year in Kieran's has been very enjoyable, between hurling tournaments, retreats and trips to different places we couldn't have asked for more. When you first come in those big gates and see the huge buildings and pitches you think to yourself "how am I going to get around here" but the Cairdeas group made it easy to settle in quickly and enjoyably. Hall 33 is also another handy feature in Kieran's because it's somewhere to go that's unique to first years. The year has really flown by and I'm already looking forward to second year in St Kieran's College.

Oisín Cahill

On the 30th of September, we assembled in the theatre for our first retreat. Everybody was excited. We learned about bullying and how we should be fair and treat everyone with respect. We watched a video on cyber bullying which was very interesting. After the theatre we went to K Bowl for an afternoon of bowling. It was great fun and a most enjoyable day.

Students attending the opening of the school year Mass in the College Chapel with Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan.

RETREATS

Every year the students of St Kieran's College have a day set aside for retreat. A retreat is a chance for our students to relax, to take some time out of their busy schedules and to spend some time together with their friends. Retreats provide opportunities for the students to reflect on their lives and to perhaps discuss and think about what direction their lives are going in. Retreats can also be spiritual experiences with some time set aside for some prayer or meditation.

Our First Year students receive their retreat in the school theatre. This is a "Friendship Day" which focuses on the importance of friendship and the importance of not tolerating bullying as a part of our school. This is a day which gives each of the First Years a good opportunity to meet and get to know everyone in their class in a more informal setting. The day begins with a couple of games encouraging the students to speak to others that they haven't yet spoken to. The retreat team spend a good part of the day on an anti-bullying workshop. Time is allocated for questions, answers and prayer. In the afternoon, an activity is planned to encourage First Years to relax, have fun and enjoy each others company.

In Second and Third Year, students visit a parish church for mass followed by excursions to Kells Priory and Castlemorris estate for a well being walk. Students participate in a walking retreat after mass in Duiske Abbey in Graigueenamanagh, Co Kilkenny to the picturesque village of St Mullins, Co Carlow. This gives class groups a

chance to bond and to allow some time to think a little about some of life's other issues and for prayer.

In Fourth Year, the retreat takes on a slightly different dynamic. Students partake in a day of pilgrimage. Transition Years journey to the monastic site of Glendalough, Co Wicklow. Here, we follow in the footsteps of St Kevin. Our journey begins and ends at the lake. Various thoughts, prayers and readings are given throughout the day and mass is celebrated upon our return to the lake. We pray for good weather particularly on this day!

In Fifth Year, the students get the opportunity to visit Castletown for discussion and prayer. Finally, in Sixth Year students receive a retreat with a difference. The retreat is held in the school theatre. The theme for the day is "Life After the Leaving Cert" and two guest speakers meet the lads to give them their experience of life after the Leaving. The class of 2017 met Ciaran Breen, past pupil who is currently studying in Maynooth and another past pupil Commandant Robert Kearney from the Irish Defence Forces. An opportunity to pray and a good lunch in Langtons helps the lads to enjoy this day, while focusing them on the Leaving and their future lives beyond the gates of St Kieran's.

Retreats offer a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. In St Kieran's College we feel that it's important for all students to get an opportunity to take time out of their busy lives during the school year. We often hear of things which can happen in life that puts things into perspective for us. May we never lose sight of the

real meaning of our lives and give thanks for the many blessings we have.

LITURGIES

Throughout the school year we hold many prayerful liturgies. In September we celebrate our Opening of the School Year mass which welcomes our new First Year students to the school as well as all teachers, staff and students for another school year. During November we remember our deceased loved ones and friends which quickly leads up into Advent when we prepare for the birth of Christ with class prayers. Before Christmas exams we gather for a Christmas Carol Service. 2016 saw the introduction of Carols in the College chapel on both the thursday and friday nights. This is an occasion which we hope to repeat in 2017. A whole school liturgy is celebrated every year for the feast of St Kieran in St Mary's Cathedral as part of St Kieran's Day. Lenten preparations consist of reflections and prayers for all classes, with pieces of scripture presented on the TV screens around the school. The end of the school year is marked by the celebration of mass for all students with special prayers for those sitting exams. The final school duty for every Leaving Cert student is to attend the Graduation Mass at the very end of the school where we bid farewell Leaving Certs and pray for a safe, healthy and successful future for all. Our liturgies are an integral part of life in St Kieran's College as it is through our liturgical prayer that we get the opportunity to express our faith and celebrate the important events and moments in our lives together.



Eoghan Moylan and Luke Murphy fulfilling their duties as Cairdeas supporting First Year students on their first day in St Kieran's College.



Cairdeas Team Leaders 2016 – 2017

Back Row: (l-r) Robert Butler, Jack Nolan, Michael O'Shaugnessy, Rory O'Keffee, Brian Staunton, Ciaran Hogan. Third Row: (l-r) David O'Carroll, Niall Doheny, James Phelan, Tim Ferris, Bill Cody, William O'Sullivan. Second Row: (l-r) Kyran O'Sullivan, Shane Guilfoyle, Eoghan Moylan, Sean Managoe, Liam Brennan Smyth, Cian Drennan. Front Row: (l-r) Adam Byrne, Daniel Cotter, Sean Ryan, Ruari Breen, Ciaran Fitzpatrick, Daithi Barron, Conor Archbold. Absent from photo: Laurence Campion, Eoin Kenneally, Ben Lanigan, Luke Murphy, Jack O'Connell.



Tim Ferris and Conor Drennan successfully playing their role as Carideas showing First Year students around the school on their first day.

CAIRDEAS

Each year a group of our Fifth Year students take part in the Cairdeas programme. This programme has been set up in the school to help first years to settle into their new school environment. The Cairdeas team agree at the beginning of the year to help initiate our first years. Each fifth year was assigned approximately ten students to look after. They met each of their students on their first day and at regular intervals throughout the year particularly during the first term. The beginning of secondary school can be difficult for first years with so many new subjects and new faces to get used

to. The Cairdeas team aim to help first years with any concerns they may have at this challenging time and indeed, throughout the year the Cairdeas team are present in the school to assist with the needs of their assigned first year group if necessary.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

From 30th January – 3rd February 2017, we celebrated Catholic Schools Week. In celebrating Catholic schools as places of faith and learning we are acknowledging that Catholic education is not closed or self-absorbed. It is open to the world and to new ideas. This year, Catholic Schools

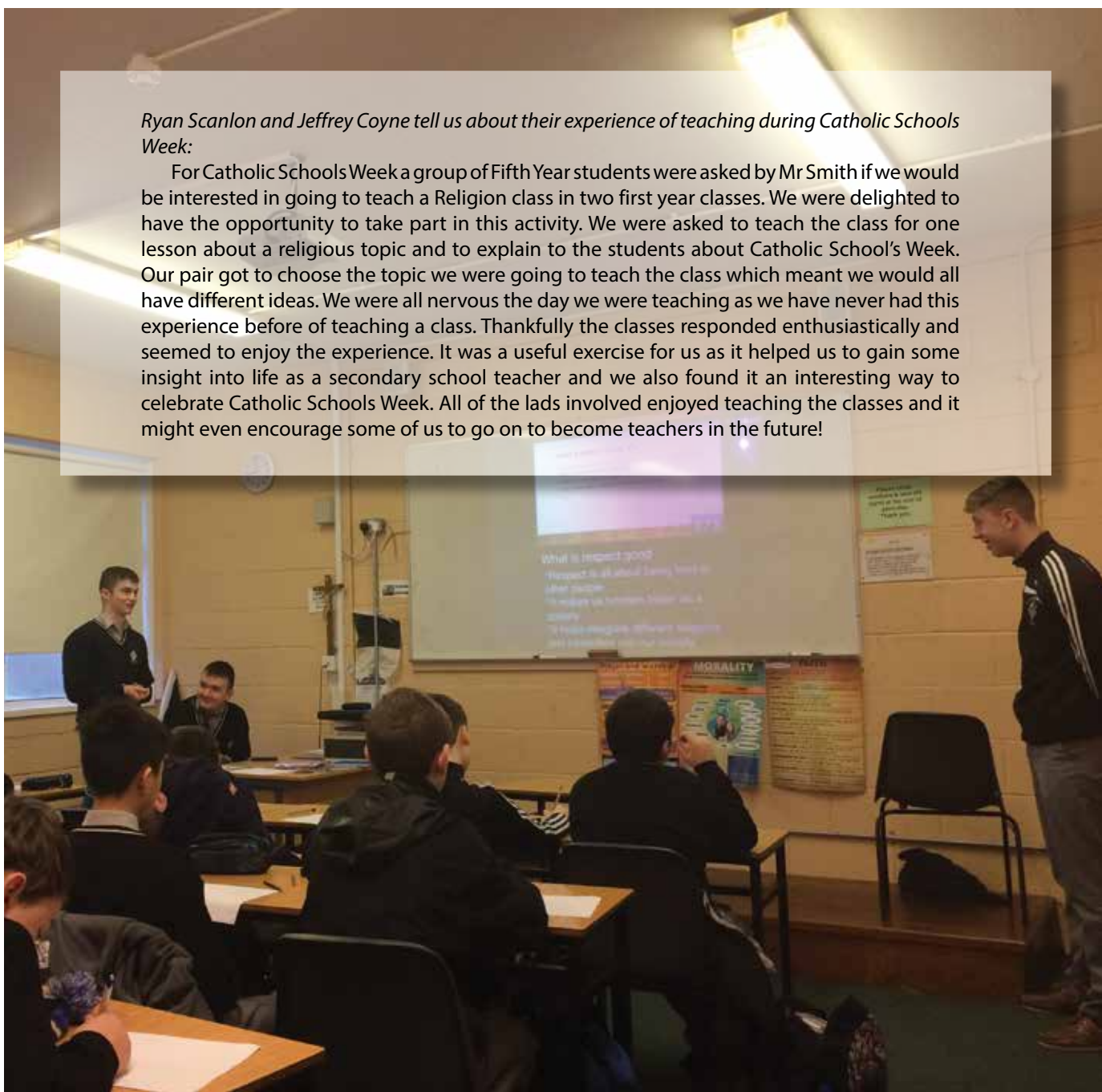
Week gives us an opportunity in our homes, schools and parishes to affirm Catholic schools as places of faith and learning.

We marked Catholic Schools Week with a number of reminders around our school. Inspirational quotes and messages could be found on the Television Screens and in strategic places in our corridors. Some of these were inspirational thoughts about life from famous people. Others were quotes from some of the other World Religions. Some were taken from our own sacred text, inspirational quotations from both the Old and the New Testaments. In our busy daily routines, these quotes serve to remind our students and staff about what's important in our lives.

During Catholic Schools Week, some of the Fifth Year students also got the opportunity to teach Religion in first year classes. This has replaced Fifth Years going to primary schools. It is used as a way of creating awareness of the importance of our identity as a Catholic School while also promoting the values of the Gospel through the teaching of Religious Education to the young people in our school. This year five Fifth year students taught two Religion classes two lessons each. Both students and teachers found it an enjoyable experience.

Ryan Scanlon and Jeffrey Coyne tell us about their experience of teaching during Catholic Schools Week:

For Catholic Schools Week a group of Fifth Year students were asked by Mr Smith if we would be interested in going to teach a Religion class in two first year classes. We were delighted to have the opportunity to take part in this activity. We were asked to teach the class for one lesson about a religious topic and to explain to the students about Catholic School's Week. Our pair got to choose the topic we were going to teach the class which meant we would all have different ideas. We were all nervous the day we were teaching as we have never had this experience before of teaching a class. Thankfully the classes responded enthusiastically and seemed to enjoy the experience. It was a useful exercise for us as it helped us to gain some insight into life as a secondary school teacher and we also found it an interesting way to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. All of the lads involved enjoyed teaching the classes and it might even encourage some of us to go on to become teachers in the future!



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

This year saw, once again, the opportunity for students to train as Ministers of the Eucharist. The students who took part in training this year are: Darren Cuddihy (Third Year), Tom Bolger (TY), Seán Carroll (Fifth Year) and Brevin Benny (Fifth Year).

Other practising Ministers in the school are: Conor Archbold (Fifth Year), Conor Rowe (Fifth Year) and Shanly Sebastian (Fifth Year).

We are very grateful to the lads for volunteering to live out their faith through their ministry. They give selflessly of their time to assist in liturgies throughout the year.



Back Row (l-r): Seán Carroll, Brevin Benny, Shanly Sebastian, Conor Rowe. Front Row (l-r): Tom Bolger, Darren Cuddihy, Conor Archbold.



Lourdes (L-R): Thomas Kennedy, Eoin Cody, Aaron Brennan, Harry Kavanagh, Tommy Farrell, Tom Bolger. Absent from photograph: Eoin DeBuitleir.

LOURDES

This year seven students from St Kieran's College will represent the school on the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The pilgrimage will take place from May 22nd to May 27th. The group from St Kieran's will join the larger youth group to help assisted pilgrims from the Diocese make their way to and from different ceremonies during their time in Lourdes.

The students have been working very hard on fundraising both in their own parishes and in the school over the last few months and a sincere thanks to all who contributed to it.

This trip is a huge chance for these students to care for those people who would otherwise be unable to enjoy the pilgrimage to Lourdes fully. It is a fantastic rewarding opportunity and one which we are sure they will cherish for many years to come. We wish them an enjoyable and safe trip.

SKC – PRAYER FOR EXAMS

Every student sitting the Junior and Leaving Certificates receive this prayer as a bookmark to keep with them throughout the exams. We wish all those sitting state examinations the very best in June.

Ever loving and eternal God be with me as I prepare to sit my examinations.

Give me peace of mind and quietness of heart so that I may approach each exam with confidence and trust.

Open my heart to believe that with you all things are possible and because you have created me I am worth much more than all the exams in the world.

Teach me Lord that there will be many opportunities for using my gifts and talents in the future. Bless that future and be with me, my family and my friends especially when the road is difficult, and when all is going well may I give thanks for your care and love through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

St Kieran's College

Prayer
for
Exams



Advent in St Kieran's



Junior Choir singing 'Silent Night'

Each year students participate in a number of events to spread the Christmas spirit. The senior and junior choir under the directorship of Mr Brennan returned once again to the Town Hall to perform carols in what has now become a Christmas tradition. This year the choir raised over €1000 for Teac Tom. The choirs also performed at three carol services which were held in the College Chapel and in St Patrick's Church. This year saw the introduction of a carol service for past pupils with a reception afterwards in the Dunne Room in the front of the College. Mr Alan Buckley, chairperson of the Past Pupils Alumni addressed those gathered. The following night, another atmospheric carol service was held for choir family members and guests. This atmospheric night saw some fine performances of many traditional carols, including a performance of 'Gloria In Excelsis Deo' by the Staff Choir. The School carol service for all students was held in St Patrick's Church and again both Junior and Senior Choirs didn't disappoint. There were also some fine individual performances at all carol services. Finally, as part of the Enrichment programme students joined the Rehab coffee morning where they provided some musical entertainment and festive fun. Christmas is always a festive time in St Kieran's and we would like to thank music teachers Mr Brennan, Ms Fitzpatrick, both Junior and Senior Choirs and all musical performers and readers who participated in Advent events to help make our preparations for Christmas all the more reflective, festive and joyful.



Junior and Senior Choirs carol singing outside the Town Hall.



Presentation Angela Hayes of Teac Tom (l-r): Mr Fergal Brennan, Daniel Cotter, Angela Hayes, Charlie Fitzgerald, Omotayo Bakare.



Jazz Quartet performing at the annual Christmas Carol Service, St Kieran's College Chapel 2016.





MY VERY FIRST ST KIERAN'S DAY 2016

Oisín Cahill (1A3)

On Friday, 3rd of March, everybody was looking forward to taking part in multiple activities for St Kieran's Day. Despite the weather the fun began and there was a very exciting atmosphere throughout the college grounds. There were multiple activities to choose from including bubble soccer, sumo wrestling and crazy golf, to name but a few. It is easy to say that the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all. After my first St Kieran's Day it is safe to say that I am already looking forward to next year's already.

ST KIERAN'S DAY 2017

Ruaidhrí Holden (1A2)

This year for St Kieran's Day I did bubble soccer. There were first and second years doing the bubble soccer. We were allowed to pick our own teams of eight. While two teams were playing against each other, the other teams were either doing sumo wrestling, a head to head combat or basketball, where two ropes were pulling back the ball while you were trying to score. Everyone got at least one go on everything. It was really good crack and the muddy and wet weather made it even more enjoyable.



"Aim High" Programme



Aim High Participants

Back Row (l-r): Tom Kennedy, Conor Murphy, Adam O'Brien, Seán Burke, Seán Ware. Middle Row (l-r): Martin O'Connell, Danny Coyne, Liam Fennelly, Killian Egan, Barry Lennon, Tom O'Dwyer. Front Row (l-r): Paul Prendergast, Eoin DeBuitléir, Conor Byrne, Harry Kavanagh, Tom Bolger.

The Diocese of Ossory has launched a new Parish Ministry Programme for young people. This new programme named "Aim High" has been developed to encourage young people to take an active part in their church, parish and community. It is coordinated through local churches, in conjunction with parish organisations, secondary schools and youth clubs.

In St Kieran's College there are currently sixteen Transition Year students engaged in the programme which was launched at a commissioning ceremony on Sunday evening, November 27th in St Fiacre's Church which students attended. Participants had the opportunity to take part in various events throughout the year with examples including "A day in the life of St Luke's Hospital", "Light up Life at Christmas" and "A Spiritual Walking Tour of Kilkenny", to name but a few. Students began their new roles in their local parishes during the Advent Season. Well done to all of our students who participated in this programme, we wish you well in your various ministries.

This programme has been designed to replace the St John Paul II Awards and we trust that it will be as successful. We look forward to seeing the fruits of this incentive to give our young people entrusted roles in our community. We thank Ms Loughnane for her work in coordinating this programme in St Kieran's College.



Recognised out of 184 students as the most proactive Mini Med Student at Royal College of Surgeons 16th Jan 2017

RCSI My Health TY Minimed

Sean Keyes

During the course of my transition year in St Kieran's College I was lucky enough to take part in the My Health TY Minimed in the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin and Beaumont Hospital. The programme is organised for people, like me, who are interested in looking at a future career in medicine.

The programme runs over the course of a week and every day consisted of something different, on most days there were lectures from RCSI lecturers, Doctors and Surgeons on the many different areas of medicine. We had the opportunity to watch footage of surgeries carried out during the day, for example a caesarean section and we got to ask present med students from the college about what the life of a med student was like and what the Royal College of Surgeons has to offer.

A part of the programme which I really enjoyed was when we were taught some of the practical skills of medicine like how to perform stitches and CPR and also when we heard from some patients about their health issues and experiences of surgery as well as from the surgeons who had worked on them, it was interesting to hear from both sides.

Medicine, as a career, has interested me for a while and my week in the RCSI had served to strengthen that interest as has the time I've spent this year completing a correspondence course in medicine with CTYI and DCU.

Annual 5k Fun Run

The annual 5k Fun Run organised by the Parents' Association took place on Sunday 2nd April. This year the event was held in the grounds of the school for the first time. The day itself was a beautiful, bright, sunny day and a good crowd turned out for a run in the Spring sunshine. The route began in the Quad area of the school followed by four loops of the College campus. Some well-earned refreshments greeted the runners upon completing the race in the famous Glasshall area of the school. Younger participants received a medal for their efforts and a few nice prizes in the raffle made it a very pleasant way to spend an hour or two on that Sunday afternoon. We would like to thank the Parents' Association for all of their hard work in organising this event, those who sponsored prizes for the raffle and to everyone who came out to support the event by running, walking or jogging around.

Many thanks to those who sponsored the run:

- Paul's
- Zuni Restaurant
- The Playwright Bar
- Star Hurleys
- Kilkenny Rugby Club Teen Disco
- Happy Days, Market Cross
- Glanbia Country Store
- Glanbia Gain Feeds
- Rinuccini Restaurant
- Grahams Shoes
- Duggans Mensware
- Dore's Nostalgic Cafe
- Chancellors Mills
- Bowes Food Hall, Durrow
- O'Briens Butchers, Loughboy
- The Pennefeather Cafe
- Khans Book Store
- The Wine Centre
- MacEneaney's Pharmacy
- Hair By Nigel, Market Yard
- Fiona's Barbers, Walkin Street
- Studio One Barbers, Loughboy
- Supervalu, Market Cross, Kilkenny



Parents' Association

Pamela McCluskey,
Chairperson Parents' Association

The Parents Association is a crucial voice in the life of any school. Last September it was an honour for me to take over as Chairperson of St Kieran's College Parents' Association.

The Parents' Association represent the parental voice in the school and this year, once again has been a very successful one again with the highlight being the Parents' Association 5k Fun Run which was held in the grounds of the school on 17th April. This was the first time that the Fun Run was held in the school and it was a tremendous success. The weather was good so many showed up to run the 5k and enjoyed the well-deserved refreshments in the Glasshall afterwards. We hope that this event will grow from strength to strength in the coming years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Parents' Association who give so generously of their time and put so much work into the running of the Association. We are fortunate to have a well-established relationship with Mr Finan and Mr Maher, who are always available to assist us in any matter. On behalf of the Parents' Association, I would like to wish the very best of luck to all Third and Sixth Year students who are undertaking State Examinations in June. I wish all teachers, students and their parents a very safe, enjoyable and relaxing summer and I hope that you enjoy reading the Record for 2016-17. We look forward to meeting you all again soon.

Brothers in St Kieran's



Barry, Ciarán and Padraig Lennon.



Kevin, John and Cormac Burns.



Philip, John and Michael Prendergast.



Eoghan, Fionn and Conall Whelan.



Bill, Paul and Conor Cody.



Joseph, Luke and Adam Fitzpatrick.



Daragh, Jamie and Leroy Slattery.

Career Guidance



Michael Bond gives advice on Study Skills to Fifth Year Students.

The Guidance Programme aims to respond to the needs of the student at any stage of their education in the school. There is always a lot going on in the school in relation to Career Guidance. Ms Wemyss, Guidance Counsellor, is always busy organising visits from Third Level Colleges, Study Skills courses, Open Days and the Careers Fair to name a few. This year alone we have had visits to the school from UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, WIT, DCU, UL, Carlow College, TEAGASC and SOLAS. Speakers give an overview of courses, college life and scholarships in all Third Level faculties.



Ms Anne Wemyss – Guidance Counsellor.



Michael Bond addresses parents with advice on Study Skills.

This year Ms Wemyss introduced a new Information evening into the school calendar for the parents of Sixth Year students to help comprehend the CAO Application procedures for College places. This year sees the introduction of the new grading and points system for the Leaving Certificate and it too was explained.

Michael Bond, a former Secondary School Principal and expert in Study Skills is now a familiar face in the school. This year he spoke to students and parents giving some great tips on how to study and to prepare for exams.

We would like to thank Ms Wemyss for all of her hard work in organising all of the above initiatives aimed at assisting students on their chosen career paths in life.

Changes to the Common Points Scale

HL Grade	Points	OL Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0

The New LC Grading and Points System.

Art in St Kieran's



'Fishing' by Jack Canavan



Untitled by David Delahunty



Untitled by Michael McNerney



'The Dog' by Conor O'Shea



'The Mobot' by Luke Whelan



'Absurd & Ridiculous' by Oisín Doyle

Young Art Competition Winners 2016



Young Art Competition Winners 2016

(L-R): Jason Walsh, Jack Canavan, Ben Lanigan, Donal Brophy, Kevin McQuillan, Tom Bolger.

The Young and Adolescent Art Competition and Exhibition was held during Kilkenny Arts festival in August this year. It was fantastic to see St Kieran's College students claim all of the top prizes in all categories.

The exhibition and prize giving ceremony were both held in The Black Abbey during the Kilkenny Arts Festival. Prizes were awarded for the following categories:

First/Second Year Category: Jack Canavan (1st Prize) & Jason Walsh (2nd Prize)

Third/Fourth Year Category: Ben Lanigan (1st Prize) & Tom Bolger (2nd Prize)

Fifth/Sixth Year Category: Donal Brophy (1st prize) & Kevin McQuillan (2nd Prize)

Well done to all of the students on their wonderful success and to Mr Kelleher, Art Teacher in St Kieran's College who works so hard to continue to nurture the artistic talents of his students.

School Photographers



Tom Bolger

Tom Bolger and Conor Drennan were the school photographers for the academic year of 2016/17.

Both Tom and Conor have a wonderful passion for photography and it is because of these two students we have such magnificent photographs to include in this year's school record.

Much appreciation and gratitude is offered to both of these students for continuously showing their dedication and commitment as St Kieran's College photographers. No job was too big or small for either of these students and they showed professionalism both within and outside of school hours on their photography adventures.

We wish to thank them for the continuous hard work and dedication and wish them all the best for their future photography ventures.

We would also like to thank all TY students who helped out with photography this year.



Conor Drennan

Concern Debating 2017

Conor Archbold

The concern debates have been running for over 20 years. Since its inception over 50,000 students have taken part and over 130 schools participated annually. The debates are to promote a deeper understanding and awareness of global issues. Students also develop excellent skills in research, presentation and debating. St Kieran's College have been participating in Concern Debates for the past number of years.

The senior debating panel this year started with students from transition year and sixth year but the majority coming from fifth year; Conor Archbold, Liam Hoban, Conor Rowe, Conor Lalor, Nathan Connolly, Ben Lanigan, Enda Kennelly, Daniel Cotter and Shanly Sebastian.

This year the debating team started off with a heated debate against Waterpark College with the motion of "Why Europe is failing Africa". The team consisted of Ben Lanigan (Captain), Conor Rowe, Conor Archbold and Nathan Connolly. Sorrowfully the team was narrowly beaten with a score of 2-1.

The second debate was held in St Kieran's College and was against Ardscoil na Trionoide, with the motion "France should allow religious symbols in public institutions". This was literally a back and forth debate with both teams having very strong arguments and

rebuttals. It came to a well deserved tie in the end with both teams giving it their all.

Alas another loss came against CBS Carlow with a re-freshened team of Conor Archbold, Conor Rowe, Nathan Connolly and Daniel Cotter. We lost to the motion "the United Nations should be disbanded". Unfortunately this ended the debating season for our debaters.

A big thanks goes out to Mr McGinnity and Ms Holmes who led the team and gave great advice to the team members.

The team is also grateful to Martin Murray, Alex Doheny and William O'Sullivan who acted as support for the team.

We look forward to the next successful year of debating with some new members joining the team.



Children of a Digital Age



On Tuesday 2nd May, Mr James Neary brought his well acclaimed presentation on Internet Safety to St Kieran's College students. Mr Neary outlined a wide variety of dangers associated with the internet and social media platforms common to young people today. He spoke about the dangers of oversharing personal information and internet predators lurking under the surface of the net. All students from First Year through to Transition Year were warned of the dangers of certain social media apps and learned some frightening statistics relating to internet safety. We would like to thank Mr Neary for bringing his entertaining and educational presentation to the school and we look forward to seeing

him again. It is intended that this Internet Safety presentation will become a permanent feature of our school calendar for students and from

next year onwards we hope to offer parents the opportunity to listen to this presentation and to discuss this important current issue.



ECDL



Leaving Cert students receiving their ECDL Certificates

The library's new reading space

As part of our whole school plan for Literacy this year, we decided to create an inviting space in the school library for students to take some time out to read in quiet and relaxing environment. This is one of the steps we are taking as part of our overall plan towards improving literacy levels, developing a whole school reading culture and enhancing the learning experience of our students.

There was much excitement with the arrival of our red couch and colourful seating on World Book Day this year! Since this area has been set up, it has been getting regular use with our First Year English classes using it during their 'Drop Everything and Read' classes, our TY and First Year paired reading groups and we also have quite a few keen readers using the space on Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunchtime.

Due to the enthusiastic response of the students, we hope to add to this space next year and provide more seating and regular access to this welcoming library environment.



National Treasury Management Agency Visit

By Cian Burke



NTMA (L-R): Mr Niall Connolly, Mr Lester Ryan, Mr Rossa White, Mr Vincent Butler, Mr Michael Rice, Mr Paul Fitzgerald.

On the 30th November 2016 St Kieran's College had the pleasure of hosting Rossa White and Vincent Butler both of whom work at the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA). Rossa White (Chief Economist at the NTMA) and Vincent Butler (Treasury Specialist in the Funding and Debt Management Division at the NTMA) gave a talk about the Role of the NTMA followed by a Q&A session. Rossa is a grandson of the former Kilkenny hurling great, Martin White. Vincent is himself a Kilkenny man and is a former student of St Kieran's College. We are grateful that both Rossa and Vincent could take some time out of their busy schedule to speak with the Senior Cycle Business, Economics and Accounting classes about the main functions of the NTMA as an asset and liability management body, borrower for the Exchequer, and manager of National debt. After a brief outline of the duties and careers of the two men, and a discussion on topical economic issues such as Brexit, students were invited to ask questions in which they enquired about issues such as Immigration, Government Bonds, and of course the looming Donald Trump presidency. This was very enjoyable and informative visit for all.

St Kieran's lads light up Literacy Week

Monday the 27th of April saw the start of a week of literacy themed events in St Kieran's College. Mr Kelleher and his second year Art class certainly set the scene with a display of beautiful book covers which were inspired by the novels they had read in their 'Drop everything and read' classes. First year students were the lucky recipients of a free book on Monday morning due to a kind donation from Fr Dermot and a generous discount from Khan's Bookstore. Each student received their choice of Sue Townsend's 'The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole' and Philip Reeve's 'Mortal Engines'.

A competitive stir was created each day by the 'Word of the Day' competition. First year students had that competitive edge with their creative sentences and they ran away with the prizes each day. Our lucky winners were Julian Maher (1A2), Oisín Keyes (1A2), Dylan Gordon (1A4), Luke Dunne (1A2) and Patrick Kennedy (1A5).

Wednesday got off to a fun start for our Junior students with a book fair hosted by Mr O'Neill and the TY students. Once again, a wonderful, varied selection of books were provided by Khan's bookstore and all students involved had an enjoyable time browsing the selection and choosing their favourites.

Wednesday also marked the final of our first year spelling bee competition. The initial rounds were conducted by the first year teachers; Miss Keyes, Miss Mulcahy, Miss Fitzpatrick and Mr Cotter. Two finalists were selected from each class and came head to head in nail-biting final which was



adjudicated by Miss Mulcahy, Miss Kelly and Mr Gorman. Our triumphant first place winner was Luke Dunne in 1A2, closely followed by Aaron Moore, Harry McIntyre and Kada Assaoui in 2nd, 3rd and 4th place respectively. Well done to all involved!

The library was also a hive of activity throughout the week. We had previously launched our new reading area a couple of weeks earlier with World Book Day and since then

TY students along with our first years have certainly been making great use of it during their paired reading classes. Students were also treated to a screening of 'Into the West' at lunchtime during Literacy Week. The library will continue to be open as a quiet reading space on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes for the rest of the school year.

Many thanks to all involved in making it such an enjoyable week!



Music Department News 2016-2017

As always the music department in St Kieran's College has played a big role in the lives of the everyday students. One of the most noticeable changes is the large amount of new and eager Junior Choir members. A record breaking amount of first years that auditioned in September and went on to perform at events like the St Kieran's College Christmas carol service with their brilliant version of 'Silent Night' and also performed at the Kilkenny Music Festival, at which they showed off their amazing abilities.

Guitar, woodwind and brass lessons proved very popular again this year and students are very grateful for the lessons they have received throughout the year.

The Senior Choir was also very busy this year rehearsing for the many competitions and performances throughout the year, even to the extent of rehearsing over midterm break. Performances for the Senior Choir included the school mass, the Christmas carol service with their rendition of 'Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas' and 'Gaudete'. As well as that the junior and senior choir joined forces this year to brave the harsh colds of winter and perform on High Street, Kilkenny, in aid of the Thomas Hayes Trust. With the combined efforts of the choirs they managed to raise over €1200. This day was made all the more special for everyone involved knowing that this money was going to a worthwhile cause.

As previously mentioned both choirs were extremely busy this year preparing for the Kilkenny Music Festival which was held in March. The Junior Choir performed extremely well in a very tough category and received very positive feedback from



Junior Choir Back Row (L-R): Adam Walsh, Jack Forristal, Charlie Nolan, Paul Mulligan, Liam Connelly, Sam Ryan-Ireland, Seán Keane, Nicholas Mullins, Charlie Delahunty. Middle Row (L-R): Harry McIntyre, Justin Okonkwo, Alan Dunphy, Matthew O'Neill, Philip Prendergast, Nicholas Conway, Ronan Fernando, Emmet Nolan. Front Row (L-R): Liam Walsh, Liam Moloney, Charlie Fitzgerald, Kevin Benny, Omotayo Bakare, Jamie Dempsey, Jacob Newman, Daragh Slattery, Michael Ibrahim.



Senior Choir Back Row (L-R): Dáire Cassin, Vincent Gornicki, Martin Murray, Alex McCluskey, Rian Houston, Darren Cuddihy, Bill Kavanagh, Conor Lalor. Front Row (L-R): Theo Yordanov, Joe Cashin, Luke Gannon, Cathal Ryan -Phelan, DJ Delaney, Steven O'Keeffe, Daniel Cotter, Conor Archbold, Mr Fergal Brennan.

the adjudicator for their versions of 'Down to the River to Pray' and 'Pure Imagination'. The Senior Choir were 'Highly Commended' in the Ann P. Smithwick cup for a strong performance with 'The Rocky Road to Dublin' and as well as that received a high mark in the Sacred Song category for an excellent rendition of 'The Holy Heart'.

Junior and leaving cert music have recently completed their practical exams. All students deserve high

praise for the level of dedication they demonstrated in preparing for their exams which make up 25% for junior cert students and 50% for leaving cert students. This year saw a variety of performances including guitar, drums, voice, violin, clarinet, trumpet, horn, uilleann pipes and piano, to name a few. Well done to all.

Finally, the Staff Choir also performed at the Christmas Carol service in the College Chapel once again with their version of 'Hark the



DJ Delaney Clarinet



Junior Cert Music Trip to the National Concert Hall to see the NSO perform.

Herald Angels sing' with some new teachers joining the choir. This year, the Staff Choir featured a hugely improved fifteen teachers who were accompanied by the hugely talented Transition Year student, Tom Kennedy.

JAZZ BAND 2017

Alex Doheny

The St Kieran's College Jazz Band is a long-standing tradition for all jazz musicians in the school. It's one of those things that feels as if it's been there since the beginning of time, but in reality the Jazz Band owes its existence to Eamon Cahill – the man behind the music. Eamon has been teaching various instruments in schools all over Kilkenny for many years now, nurturing talent encouraging students of all ages to try something new. The Jazz Band is no different to that. We play concerts twice every year in the Watergate Theatre and the ongoing practicing in the music room at lunch times that the sixth years know all too well is in preparation for that. Pieces are chosen that are simply fun to play and great to listen to, and the Jazz Band is a great opportunity to have fun while also getting the chance to play music as part of a large group. For anyone who plays an even semi-jazzy instrument, I cannot recommend the Jazz Band enough.

TRADITIONAL MUSIC GROUP

JJ Ryan

At the beginning of this school year I was contacted by Mr Brennan enquiring as to who was interested in playing in a traditional Irish group. I wrote out the instruments I played and I was invited to a meeting the following week with the other students who were also interested. Mr Brennan told us about the upcoming Christmas Concert. We



JJ Ryan and Alex McCluskey displaying their talent at a Traditional Music Workshop.



Head of Music at DCU with SKC Senior Choir.



Ms Fitzpatrick and Mr Brennan with the Senior Choir enjoying the Kilkenny Music Festival.



Jazz Band Back Row (L-R): Mr Eamon Cahill, David Delahunty, David Conway, Patrick Phelan, Tommy Farrell, Ronan Lavelle. Middle Row (L-R): Nicholas Doheny, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Dáire Mahon, Alex Doheny, Shay McEvoy, Peter Conroy, Patrick O'Shea. Front Row (L-R): Finbar Dunne, DJ Delaney, David O'Sullivan, Artem Arlukov, Dylan Gordon.

were given a month to learn our tunes and prepare for the concert in the school chapel. Alex McCluskey, James Phelan, Peter Holohan, Theo Yordanov and Cahal McAuley and I played our tunes excellently for the concert which ran over two nights. When we returned to school following the Christmas break the trad group, the choir and everyone involved in the Christmas Concert were treated to pizza in the ref by Fr Ryan.

After Christmas, Mr Brennan brought us back together again to discuss tunes for the annual awards night in the Watergate Theatre. We are currently practicing our tunes for the 2017 awards night every Tuesday at lunchtime and have acquired more members as a result of our exploits at the Christmas concerts.

Well done to all on yet another fantastic year of music in the school.



Trad Group (L-R): Peter Holohan, Alex McCluskey, Theo Yordanov, Laurence Campion, Mr Fergal Brennan, James Phelan, Cahal McAuley, JJ Ryan, Alan Dunphy.

Poetry Aloud

Joseph Lalor

Earlier in the year, three First Years and I were selected from our classes to represent our year in the Poetry Aloud competition. In this competition you must recite two certain poems which were selected by our English teachers. I recited Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" and Francis Ledwidge's "Lament for Thomas MacDonagh".

We had a practise run before the actual contest so that we could get used to it. However, it didn't soothe my nerves because I didn't do too well in it. I practised over night and eventually the big day came.

I was extremely nervous on the day and I shared that feeling with the other First Years participating in the contest.



We were the youngest contestants taking part. I felt better after the first practise run and nerves began to calm once the competition began.

Every contestant did very well and

it was so nice to hear different poems. It was an amazing experience even though I didn't get through and I'm definitely going to have another shot at it next year.

Kevin McDermott Workshop

Kevin McDermott lives mostly in Dublin with his wife and family. He has an MA in English Language Studies, an M. Litt in English Literature, and a PhD in Education. He has worked as a teacher and in teacher education and was the editor of the magazine Teaching English. Kevin has been involved in radio documentaries such as RTE and has written for radio programmes. Furthermore, he has successfully published two novels.

A group of enthusiastic students from St Kieran's College were fortunate enough to work with Kevin and Oisín Keyes kindly informed us of the work they conducted. Students were asked to share their personal experiences, for example, how they felt on their first day in St Kieran's College, and then write about them. To gain inspiration for their pieces, the group conducted a trip around the school where they discussed and photographed where

they felt safest on campus. Following these activities, everyone put pen to paper and expressed their thoughts in writing. Additionally the students were successfully shown the skilled of editing and how to apply this to their writing.

A heartfelt thank you to Kevin McDermott for sharing his inspiration and talents with our students, it is gratefully appreciated.



Kevin McDermott with a selected group of enthusiastic First & Second Year writers.

St Kieran's Drama Group

Ben Lanigan

St Kieran's Drama Group is back and we're bigger than ever!

This year the group met in early September with Ms Mulcahy to discuss what production we should do this year. I suggested we should re-enact an episode of Fawlty Towers called "Basil and the Rat". This went down well among the members because we all love Fawlty Towers. We all auditioned for our preferred roles and most members got the role they went for. It then came to rehearsals where we met every Tuesday and Thursday at lunchtime in St Kieran's College Theatre. As time passed it came closer and closer to our production. We are lucky to have Mr Kelleher who was so willing to give up his time to help us paint the set. A big thank you to Mr Kelleher for his kind help and support on the lead up to the show.

The 4th of March came too quickly and there was much excitement about the theatre, every actor was anxious to put on their best performance. It was our best production yet and a joy to be a part of. We performed "Basil and the Rat" to both first and second year students as well as showing a snapshot of our masterpiece on the Awards Night to a larger audience.

On behalf of all the lads involved this year I would like to thank Mr Finan, Mr Maher, and Fr Ryan, as well as the Parent's Association for their continuous support but most importantly, Ms Mulcahy for all her devotion and for never giving up on us!



The Fawlty Towers Cast

Back Row (L-R): Chris Barcoe, Conor Archbold, Conor Rowe, Nathan Connolly, Alex Doheny, Ben Lanigan, Conor Lalor. Front Row (L-R): Luke Dolye, Stephen King-Kohler, Ruaidhrí Holden, Ms Regina Mulcahy.



GEALT

Léirigh an chéad Bhliain 1A2 dán leis an bhfile Áine Ní Ghlinn i rith an téarma. An taispeántas ar fad a bhí ann. Cuiread i láthair é do na dhaltaí eile sa chéad bhliain. Ba léiriú den scoth é agus bhain gach duine idir aisteoirí, dhaltaí, agus mhúinteoirí an taitneamh as.



Maths News



All-Ireland Applied Maths Champions (l-r): Principal Mr Adrian Finan, Eamonn Fennelly, Jack Manning, David O'Carroll, Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan.

2017 proved to be another very successful year for the St Kieran's College Maths Department.

ALL IRELAND MATHS CHAMPIONS

The St Kieran's College Maths Department had both a Junior and Senior team who qualified for the All-Ireland Maths Championship in March. The day began with the the Junior Team consisting of Michael McNerney, Eoin Morgan, Kristin Pawlowski and Fionn Whelan competing first. They had won their regional heat and were representing the South East region at the finals. It was a hotly contested final with the lads finishing in second place after answering only two questions incorrectly. Next up were the Senior Team.

The Senior Team members were Eamon Fennelly, Jack Manning and David O'Connell. The questions in their competition were based on the Leaving Cert Applied Maths Curriculum with five topics assessed



All-Ireland Runners Up – Junior Applied Maths (l-r): Eoin Morgan, Fionn Whelan, Krystian Pawlowski, Michael McNerney.

– Linear Motion, Relative Velocity, Projectiles, Pulleys and Collisions. In an outstanding display the lads outscored their nearest rivals Clongowes Wood College, with a phenomenal scoreline of 36/36. This perfect result even drew gasps of admiration from long serving Applied Maths teachers. This is a very

prestigious honour for both teams and for the school with St Kieran's College joining a select list of previous winners.

Well done to both Junior and Senior Maths Teams and to the teachers who helped to prepare them for this competition, Ms Hanrick, Mr Kavanagh and Mr Lynch.



IMTA Irish Junior Maths Students Top Sixteen Regional Final Candidates: Back Row (l-r): Kevin Benny, Oisín Keyes, Jamie McGrath, Cathal Redmond-Brett, Dáire Mahon, Robert Kelly, Nicholas O'Keeffe, Liam Connelly. Front Row (l-r): Jimmy O'Neill, Conor Brett, Liam Moloney, Conall Ruane, Charlie Fitzgerald, Jack Butler, Pádraig Lennon. Absent from photo: Conor Booth.

IMTA MATHS QUIZ - SENIOR PROBLEM SOLVERS

On the night of the 27th of January, the Senior Maths Quiz Teams journeyed with Mr Kavanagh to the Mercy Secondary School in Waterford to take part in the annual IMTA Senior Maths Quiz. After a long eight rounds with scores being close throughout, the St Kieran's Team bested our neighbouring rivals, the CBS, by a single score. This allowed the winning team of Eamonn Fennelly, Ciarán Lennon, Kieran Lucey and Brian Hennessy to advance to the National Finals in Maynooth University. The National Final was held on the 8th of March and we represented the South-East Region. In the end, we were extremely successful in this competition, scoring third overall in the National Final. We would like to thank Mr Kavanagh for his contributions to the team.

PIE COMPETITION

On the 5th of May a team of Third Year Maths students came third in the All Ireland Pie competition hosted in Wesley College Dublin. The competition is based on the Junior Cert Maths syllabus. The students work as a team of four to problem solve. In training for the competition Third Year students tested themselves using competition questions from previous years which added an extra dimension to their preparation for their exams in June. The students who represented the school were Eoin Morgan, Oisín Carroll, Micheal McInerney and Joseph Cowhig.

NUMERACY WEEK

Friday 27th January marked the end of Numeracy Week in St Kieran's College. This is a week which focuses on the importance of Mathematics in our lives. During this week all First Year students participate in a quiz. The aim of this quiz is to pick a team to compete in the IMTA competition. This competition involves all students testing their problem solving abilities with 20 questions to be completed in 40 minutes. The top students are selected to represent the school in the Regional Final on the 12th of May.

The 2016 winner was Seamus Hughes Kennedy. Seamus went on to represent the school where he was placed within the top ten in Ireland. Hoping to continue the winning trend this year are: Conor Booth, Kevin Benny, Robert Kelly, Jamie McGrath, Charlie Fitzgerald, Liam Moloney, Liam Connelly, Pádraig Lennon, Cathal Redmond-Brett, Oisín Keyes, Dáire Mahon, Jack Butler, Nick O'Keeffe, Jimmy O'Neill, Conall Ruane and Conor Brett.



Pie Maths Competition - Third Place (l-r): Eoin Morgan, Joe Cowhig, Michael McInerney, Oisín Carroll.



Third Place IMTA National Finalists (L-R): Eamonn Fennelly, Brian Hennessy, Kieran Lucey, Ciarán Lennon.



IMTA Regional Quiz Winners (L-R): Eamonn Fennelly, Jack Manning, David O'Carroll.

Leaving Certificate Geography Field Trip 2017

This year our leaving cert classes travelled to Tramore beach. Here they completed their geographical investigation which is part of their leaving certificate course. The project is worth 20% of student's final grades but despite the serious nature of the task at hand, the trip was a pleasant day out. The trip gave them the chance to put the years of theory learned in the class to the test! After whinging about the cold the lads were eventually coaxed off the bus with the promise of chips in Dooley's after the day's work was done. With waders on, woolly hats on heads and equipment in toe we set about our tasks like measuring wave frequency and longshore drift. Once the work was done it was off to the chipper and after a few pucks on the beach it was time to make our way back to Kieran's.

Thanks to Ms Mulcahy for all her help and assistance over the two days!



History Trips 2017

FIRST YEAR HISTORY TRIP –

On the 20th October we went on buses to the National Heritage Park, Ferrycarrig, Co Wexford. We chanted Kieran's hurling songs all the way to Wexford. The tour started with a documentary film and then continued with a guided tour of the Park. Our guide was a woman dressed in medieval costume. She took us back through 9000 years of recreated Irish history, a cist grave, ogham stone, crannog, a horizontal watermill and much more were all to be experienced. Crouching in the Neolithic farmer's house made of interwoven sticks filled with smoke



from the fire gave you a real sense of what it was really like in the past. What stood out was the Celtic ring fort or rath, with its timber stockade, gate house and wooden buildings. Some of us were inside defending it while others pretended to be attacking it. Everything was so realistic particularly the Viking ship down near the River Slaney. On the way back to Kilkenny we stopped off at Jerpoint Abby near Thomastown. We learned that it was founded by the Cistercian Order of monks and took many centuries to construct. The weather was wonderful and a great day was had by all. Who said history was boring?

SECOND YEAR HISTORY TRIP

Peter McDonald

On Tuesday the 27th of September, the whole of second year went on a History trip. This trip included visits to Cahir Castle, Swiss Cottage and The Rock of Cashel, in County Tipperary.

We left at the beginning of our school day via bus. Our trip began at Cahir Castle. Cahir Castle was built in 1142 by Conor O'Brien, Prince of Thomand. It is one of the largest castles in Ireland. A tour guide showed us around informing us of the history of Cahir Castle. For the last few minutes we got to have a look around ourselves. We then had a 2km walk to Swiss Cottage. It was built in the 1800's. The cottage was a place for the ladies of Cahir Castle to gather for tea parties and to play games. Our third visit of the day was to the famous Rock of Cashel. The Cathedral was built between 1235 and 1270. It has a central tower facing westwards in a massive residential castle. The name "Caiseal" comes from the meaning Stone Fort. It was originally the residence of the Kings of Munster. Overall, this was a really enjoyable day whereby each student learned fascinating facts and information associated with the history of County Tipperary.

SECOND YEAR HISTORY TRIP

Vincent O'Grady

On the 27th of September, my fellow second year students and I went on our second year History retreat to the Rock of Cashel, Cahir Castle and Swiss Cottage in County Tipperary.

We started off our day by visiting the Rock of Cashel. Our tour guide started of the tour by telling us about the cross outside the castle. She told us that it was made out of Limestone and that many years ago before the limestone was worn away by the rain, that there also used to be a carving of Christ on this to symbolise it was a Catholic Church. Our tour guide then brought us inside the castle. When we went inside our tour guide informed us the castle was built in a style of architecture called Gothic architecture. This was a castle with pointed arches over windows and doors. Also within a Gothic church is a nave which is where a church has thin columns and a narrow aisle. Our year then noticed there were little holes in the walls so we asked what they were there for. Our tour guide then told us they were for protection and that the castles soldiers fired arrow through them from inside of the castle. We were then brought outside the castle to look at the graves. Our tour guide told us that back in the 1930's, a reform was held in the town of Cashel for the people to decide whether they want to be buried up beside the castle or not.

After finishing our tour of the Rock of Cashel, we proceeded to get back on our buses and head off to Cahir Castle. This was our second tour of the day. When we arrived at the castle we were immediately greeted by our tour guide. She told us that the Butter family, who owned the Castle Park in Kilkenny, also owned Cahir Castle. This time our tour guide told us about some of the traps and features the castle had. The one I and most of my year found especially interesting though was the portcullis which were two gates that would be lowered over the attacks stepped inside of them. After the defenders had their attackers trapped, they would then proceed to throw heavy stones and boiling hot oil down on them. One thing interesting about this portcullis was the fact the walls were slanted, so when the defenders had their attackers trapped, they would be able to push down very heavy boulders on them. After this we were brought into the main room in the castle. This was the room where all meetings were placed and where all the meals would be eaten.

After we finished up in Cahir castle, we then proceeded to go on a forty five minute walk to the Swiss Cottage. When we got there all we could see was a beautifully decorated cottage which would have been designed many years ago. Our tour guide then proceeded to walk us in around the cottage. He told us that this would not have been a place for living, but for leisure. He told is it was the kind of place you would bring your friends for tea.

This was my experience of my second year history tour and its one I will be in no hurry to ever forget it.



Young Environmentalist of the Year Awards 2017

Luke Gannon

This academic year Alex McCluskey, Cathal Ryan and I worked on a project entitled "Wild bird Cover, Yay or Nay?". This consists of a study into the effectiveness of growing linseed and oat habitats as a part of the government subsidised scheme GLAS. Our project involved the monitoring of small populations of birds and to record how the plantation of the linseed and oats affected them. After the period of monitoring the species of birds we discovered not much had changed, especially in the more endangered populations so we set out see if this was the trend countrywide. Unfortunately it was. We then furthered our investigation by creating species specific programmes which we will be presenting to the judges at the final of The Young Environmentalist of the Year Awards, which will be held in The Mansion House, Dublin.



St Kieran's Young Environmentalists meeting Lynn Boylan MEP (L-R): Cathal Ryan, Alex McCluskey, Lynn Boylan MEP, Luke Gannon with their project.

We also have had the honour of presenting our project to Lynn Boylan MEP who is a member of the European Parliament for the Dublin constituency representing the Sinn Féin party in

Brussels and Strasbourg. We also hope to meet with both John McGuinness and Kathleen Funchion who are both members of the Dáil representing the Kilkenny-Carlow Constituency.

Young Entrepreneur

Tom Bolger

The Young Entrepreneur Award is a project for all Transition Year students where the students are encouraged to come up with a business idea which they can then bring and sell to the public. The Business teachers encourage their TY students to get involved in this event and if their project is good enough it will be entered into the Student Enterprise competition, held in Newpark. This year saw a change to the enterprise project as each student was encouraged to come up with their own original ideas. This year many groups came about but only two were fortunate enough to be invited to the County Final in Newpark.

One group was a company called "Dowlos Club Keyrings" and in this group was Conor Kealy, James Dowling, Ethan Kerwick and Jack Carrigan. They were selling keyrings in the shape of a jersey and then inside this they had club jersey of whatever the person wanted. I myself also had a project called "Bridge Christmas Crafts" which consisted of clear Christmas baubles with a personalise sliotar



Tom Bolger with his Merit Award, 30th March 2017.

hanging from the top which could be personalised with names and clubs to order. Furthermore this was suspended by ribbons of the club colours. I also did a few other products such as hurl shaped medal boards.

On the day of the competition the two groups were given a stall in the function room in Newpark. My stall consisted of various samples of my project along with a powerpoint

presentation. We were interviewed by a panel of four judges who visited individually. At the end of the day the awards were given out. Kilkenny City Vocational School took the overall prize and I won an award for "Best Entrepreneurial Spirit". Overall this was a very good experience and gave me new skills such as entrepreneurial skills, communicational skills and also management of money.

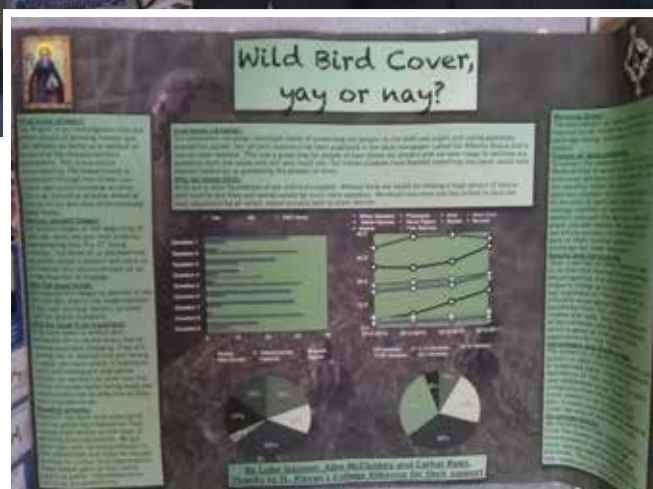
Sci-Fest 2017

Cathal Ryan

On April 6th we took part in Sci-fest in DIT on Kevin Street. We took the bus up the night before and stayed in a nearby hotel. In the morning we were up early to arrive at DIT before 9am. When we arrived we signed in and received our welcome bag. The organisers gave an opening speech at 11am and then judging commenced until approximately 1pm. We received two judgments during this time and felt they reacted positively. During lunch there was a science competition which gave us a chance at winning an i-pod. Following lunch several scientists spoke about their lives and experiences and gave reasons why we might wish to pursue a career in Science. This was particularly interesting. Once finished, the prizes were announced. We won a Highly Commended Award which was great because there was strong competition. We received a Certificate and a Prize which we were delighted about.



Luke Gannon, Alex McCluskey and Cathal Ryan with their project in DIT.



St Kieran's College three Transition Year students Sci Fest Project.

Senior Science Quiz

Last November, four teams from St Kieran's took part in the I.S.T.A. Regional Senior Science Quiz. The questions were based on the Leaving Cert Physics, Biology and Chemistry courses and general science knowledge. There were 26 teams in total in Carlow I.T. on the night and the team of Brian Hennessy, Kieran Lucey and Eamonn Fennelly emerged victorious, winning by a 1 point margin.

This team progressed to represent the South-East at the National Final in Trinity College Dublin two weeks later. Aoibheann Ní Shuilleabhan was quiz master for the evening and the level of complexity in the questions rose significantly. The team finished in joint 6th position with only a couple of marks deciding the winners in a hotly contested final.



ISTA Winners (L-R): Kieran Lucey, Eamonn Fennelly, Brian Hennessy.

BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition

The BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition took place from the 11th to the 14th of January 2017 in the RDS, Dublin. Over 2000 projects were entered and we were delighted to be selected to participate at the finals in the RDS.

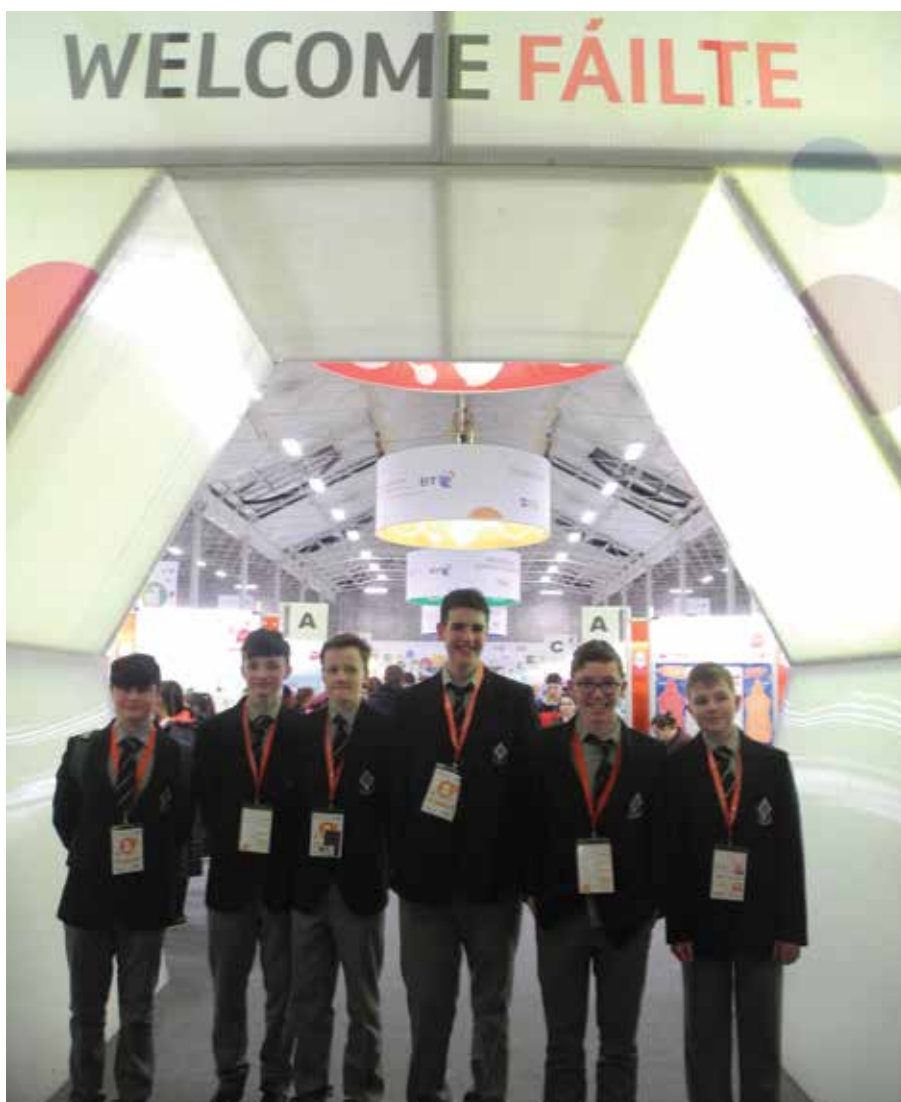
Our group consisted of Jim Kirby, Dáire Cassin and Bill Bryan. Our project was based on generating electricity from waste water using micro hydro-electric turbines. On day one of the exhibition, we had the first of three BT Judges, whom were all University lectures from Universities around Ireland, assessing our project. The event was opened to the public for the three days, and we had a lot of interesting and challenging questions to answers. In the evenings, after our day attending the event and dealing with the official requirements of the exhibition, we looked forward to attending various social activities, such as a concert and disco. We were fortunate to stay at the Clayton Hotel along with many other students so we made plenty for new friends.

We met the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins and he demonstrated great interest in our project and its potential environmental sustainable benefits. Over the course of the event we met many celebrities such as Leo Varadkar and Ryan Tuberty. Finally, after all our hard work, we won a Highly Commended Award.

BT YOUNG SCIENTIST 2017

Luke Gannon

This Year Tom O'Dwyer, Alex McCluskey and I attended the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition in the RDS, Dublin. This was a great experience for all of us and we really enjoyed it. When we arrived at the RDS, we immediately set up our display. The opening ceremony began and this was a great experience as we got to see the President of Ireland speak. Our first round of judging began which went very well, the judge was an Ornithologist from U.C.C. That evening we went back to a quiz in the RDS, it was great fun. The next day we got to the RDS early to get set up. The RDS was open to the public on this day and we



St Kieran's College, Young Scientists, RDS, Dublin 2017.



Our students had the honour of meeting President Michael D. Higgins at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition.

were very busy talking to the people who came around to see our project. We had another two judgings that day and as they progressed we got better at speaking off script. The following day we did an interview for BT's Youtube channel which was another great experience. We then went to the Awards Ceremony and were delighted

to be there to support the group from The Loreto who won the best project in category prize. During the three days which were open to the public, we loved telling the people about our project.

Overall the experience was a very enjoyable. We certainly made great memories and friends.



SKC students also had the pleasure of educating Leo Varadkar about their project.



Transition Year Students Alex McCluskey, Luke Gannon and Tom O'Dwyer with their projects.



Award Winners Jim Kirby, Dáire Cassin and Bill Bryan with their project.

Agricultural Science Trip 2016

The Fifth Year Agricultural Science class accompanied by Mr Darmody and Mr Ryan went on their annual farm visit to Kildalton Agricultural College in Piltown on March 3rd. Kildalton College is the largest agricultural college in the country. It is a leading provider of training in Equine Studies, Machinery, Agriculture and Horticulture. The farm visit is part of the fulfilment of the practical component of Agricultural Science, which makes up 25% of the overall marks.

On our visit, we got information on the enterprises in the College. Kildalton College has a one hundred cow spring calving herd. The herd is composed of Jersey and Norwegian Red cross Holstein Friesian cows. This breed of cow has been introduced into the farm to make use of hybrid vigour. Hybrid vigour is where the performance of the offspring outperforms the average performance of the parents. The Holstein Friesian has high milk yields, poor milk solids and reduced fertility, whereas the Jersey and Norwegian Red have the opposite. However, the Jersey offspring have very bad conformation



and therefore have limited beef value. The cows were producing 18 litres at 4.74% butterfat and 3.2% protein on the day of our visit. The low protein content of the milk is due to the cows being housed and fed silage due to the inclement weather in early March.

The suckler herd is made up of sixty continental cross suckler cows plus replacements. All progeny are reared to beef. The aim is to maximise liveweight gain off grass and minimise winter feed costs. We received a talk on grass quality. It was emphasised that grass must be grazed at the three leaf stage of growth because beyond this the older leaves die off resulting in overall lower productivity from the

grass sward. It was also highlighted to us that grass should be cut for silage before the seed head emerges (usually May 20th onwards). This is because the sugars and starches in the plant are converted into fibre (i.e. stem) to support the seed head.

The sheep flock is comprised of two hundred ewes. They are bred for early lamb and for mid-season production. In the sheep shed, we were shown how to stomach tube a lamb and how to tail dock.

Crops at Kildalton are grown for commercial purposes, skills training and variety trials. Tillage crops normally include winter wheat, spring wheat, spring barley, winter oats, oilseed rape, maize and potatoes. Bio-energy crops such as willow and miscanthus are also grown.

Overall, the farm visit was very worthwhile as we got to see theory being put into practice. We wrote up a report on our farm visit. This report along with our other projects on crops and animals will be examined by our practical examiner next May.

CSPE

3A2 CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

In October and November class 3A2 organised a fundraiser for the TEAM HOPE Christmas Shoebox Appeal. TEAM HOPE is an Irish interdenominational Christian development aid charity, working with children, their families and communities in Eastern Europe, former Soviet Union and Africa.

Their Annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal has sent millions of children gift boxes at Christmas and for the majority of children this is the only gift they will get all year round. TEAM HOPE helps children all year round (many families surviving on less than €1 a day) through a variety of community development projects. Class 3A2 did this fundraiser for their CSPE Junior Cert Action Project. These students worked hard collecting items and money from students in the school. In addition, they got sponsorship from shops and businesses and also organised a very successful soccer tournament for first year students to raise money for the shoeboxes. In total they collected enough money to send a remarkable 87 shoeboxes full of gifts to children in orphanages and in poor communities. Well done to all of 3A2 for this exciting and worthwhile project. Thanks so much to everyone who supported it.

TRIP TO MIDLANDS PRISON

Robbie English

My class visited Midlands Prison on 3rd October 2016. It was certainly not what I expected. Rather than being old, grey and dull, Midlands Prison is a modern building with a blue roof. It is surprisingly bright inside with the blue colour again on the doors and on the walls. It did not seem that bad to me. Firstly, there were no prison bars on the cells instead I saw blue doors. However, everyone seemed to have a room of their own. They had their own space containing a bed with a blue mattress, shelves, a desk and even their own T.V! I learned also that the prisoners have three meals each day. I was surprised as my mother always told me they only get bread and water! As well as television, the prisoners have access to books and a well equipped gym. There



are also extra incentives for work and good behaviour where prisoners can get €1 extra per day. €7 per week is not bad! However I learned that every day is the same and prisoners have little choice each day. This is loss of freedom. They are away from family and friends and this must be very lonely. This is the price they pay for their crimes. My conclusion that is it is still better to keep to the straight and narrow and avoid going to prison.

IRISH AID CENTRE

Bryn Wall & Jack McGrath

On the 10th of October the class 3A4 went to the Irish Aid Centre in Dublin to learn about global development. Irish Aid is a governmental organisation and is under the control of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The workshop was divided into two parts. In the first part we watched a video about poverty in the life of a young girl called 'Memory' and we asked lots of questions. In the

second part we did a role play on the life of a poor family in an underdeveloped country in Africa called Malawi. This involved playing a game to show food insecurities that chronically poor families experience. At the end we thanked everyone for a great workshop and gave them chocolates and a card. It was a very interesting and educational experience.

LEINSTER HOUSE VISIT

James Kennedy and Stephen Walsh

As part of our CSPE Action Project we took a trip to Leinster House. The purpose of our trip was to find out more about democracy and how it works. Before we were able to visit the Dáil we had to contact T.D John Paul Phelan to help us get into Leinster House on the day. Thanks to his secretary Frances O'Hanrahan for helping us arrange the trip. We then had to organise buses, collect money and do some research on this topic.

We began our trip by visiting the Dáil chamber. Our tour guide told us about what happens in the Dáil and about the methods used by the T.D's to share their opinions on certain topics brought to the Dáil. After this, our tour guide brought us around Leinster House and told us the history of the building. When we received the full history we were brought to the room where the Seanad meets to see a meeting in progress. It was very interesting to observe them talking about certain issues which are regularly addressed on the news.

After this we met the Carlow-Kilkenny T.D Pat Deering. Pat brought us to see the T.D debate during 'leader questions' in the Dáil chamber. We heard them talk about the recent health issues in Ireland. We asked Pat a few questions on the front steps of Leinster House and finished our trip with a photograph of our class and T.D Pat Deering.

Overall, the day was very enjoyable and we learned a lot about democracy.

Gaeilge

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge á cheiliúradh i gColáiste Naomh Chiaráin arís i mbliana. Rinne na daltaí ón gcéad bhliain agus ón dara bliain tráth na gceist sa halla staidéir. Eagraíodh go leor imeachtaí dóibh sna ranganna-comórtais póstaer, biongó agus scannáin san áireamh. Bhain gach uile dalta sult as an gceiliúradh i Mí an Mhárta.

Ghlac dhá fhoireann ó Choláiste Chiaráin páirt i gcomórtas Tráth na gCeist le Feachtas i mbliana. Bhí sé ar siúl i gColáiste Pobail Osraí. Tháinig siad sa chéad agus sa dara háit sa bhabhta sin agus chuaigh siad go Baile Átha Cliath le haghaidh na craobhe. Comhghairdeas do gach dalta!



Second Year Tráth na gCeist.



Tráth na gCeist First Year Winners.



Tráth na gCeist Feachtas National Final 3rd Place.



Feachtas Quiz First and Second Place Winners.



Leaving Cert Irish Workshop.



Transition Year

RIVERWALK TO BENNETSBRIDGE

As one of our walking trips during TY, we walked to Bennetsbridge, but we did not go by the road. Instead we walked along a track by the River Nore. We also crossed through fields of long grass. We walked at a fairly comfortable pace which meant that we could walk along while still being able to have a

chat with our friends, which naturally made the walk more enjoyable.

As we were travelling off the roads, the areas we were walking through were very peaceful and extremely quiet.

The walk was a nice break from the busy and noisy school day. When we made it to Bennetsbridge we had our lunch at the hurling pitch, and we then

had time to puck with each other for a while.

We then gathered together again and began our walk back to the school. All in all it was an enjoyable trip because we were spending time out of the classroom with our friends and it was a nice and peaceful while walking along beside the river.



Riverwalk to Bennettsbridge

FOOTGOLF

During TY, we spent a day at the Pockocke Golf Course, Kilkenny where we played footgolf for the day. Unfortunately the weather on that particular day was not ideal for such an activity however we carried on regardless of the conditions.

We divided ourselves up into teams of four when we arrived at the

course. We then put on our rain gear and grabbed a soccer ball. One person per team was given a scorecard and a pencil to keep track of the scoring on so we knew who was leading throughout.

For most of us, it was a new experience to be playing footgolf but thankfully it was not too complex of a game to figure out, and very quickly everyone was getting along well and

each team was getting competitive amongst themselves.

Once you had one round of the 18 holes completed, you had the opportunity to play another round or to get a set of golf clubs and play pitch and putt.

Overall it was an enjoyable day. It was a different activity that the majority of us had never tried before.

COIS NORE

Harry Kavanagh

Cois Nore is a cancer support centre, just off the Gaol road, which provides help for sufferers of cancer and their families. As part of this year's Transition Year Programme, students were given the opportunity to get involved and to take part in the Enrichment Programme. As done in previous years, it was run by Mr Lynch and those that wanted to take part had to enroll at the beginning of the year. This is a voluntary programme where students that took part spend an hour every Wednesday, during school time, throughout the year in various voluntary organisations.

During our weekly visit to the Cois Nore, we spent time organising fundraising events such as a table quiz with the Loreto, an inter-school raffle with the Loreto and several money collections around city throughout the year. We raised under €900 and I found the experience really enjoyable. A kind word of thanks to all who supported our fundraising.

GREENWAY CYCLE

When I got into school, you could feel that everyone was excited about the trip, and about getting a day off class. Instead of going to our first class 8.50am, we got on buses. We arrived in Dungarvan at around 10.45. The rental bikes were waiting for us down by the coast. The views were good from



TY Cois Nore (L-R): Seamus Farrell, Darragh O'Keefe, Killian Egan, Danny Coyne, Harry Kavanagh.

where we started. We all changed into our shorts and were all given a bike. The bikes seemed new and were very fast however the saddle was not as comfortable! We began to cycle at eleven o'clock. We began cycling up hill where the views certainly improved again. There were some huge bridges we cycled over, which was exciting. There was also a large

tunnel that we went through, which created a thrilling atmosphere. Once we had cycled half way there, there were roadworks blocking the road so we had to turn back. The guide gave us some history of the Greenway and in particular what happened there in 1916. Soon we arrived back where we started. Although a few people fell off, I found the trip fun and exciting overall.





ACCOUNT OF THE MAYOR'S VISIT

Adam O'Brien

CLLR. Patrick O'Neill visited us on the 18th of January to talk to us for our project on the Urban Study of Kilkenny. He opened his talk by telling the class how he first studied an Engineers course and afterwards continued his career in the agricultural sector carrying out farm inspections. As the talk progressed, the Mayor told us about the new plans for Kilkenny city. He talked extensively about the brewery site ideas such as a new visitor's centre and the redoing of St. Francis' Abbey. He informed us about the new tourist project The Medieval Mile and the museum in St Mary's Church. We were also informed about the development of an IT and bringing CIT and WIT together as a South-East University, which certainly could benefit our future educational careers. Furthermore, we were informed about the proposal of making a hurling museum in St Kieran's College. This was certainly a highlight from this talk. The Mayor put huge emphasis on the struggles the county has with housing systems and homelessness. He said there was a big need for new housing and there are plans for 3000-4000 new houses in the Wetlands along with the new Vocational School and Pobailscoil.

Patrick offered his views on how the new C.A.S scheme should benefit the city and about how it might take another 20-30 years to finish the Ring Road. As the talk progressed he said how we have a shortage of water which certainly needs solving. Professionally, Patrick mentioned how he is considering looking to run for the Dáil in the next election as Britain's exit has certainly raised concerns and Patrick feels this could benefit us as a country if we prepare correctly for it.

Everyone in our class really enjoyed the talk and we found that we learned lots about the future for Kilkenny. We would like to thank the Mayor for coming to talk to our class.

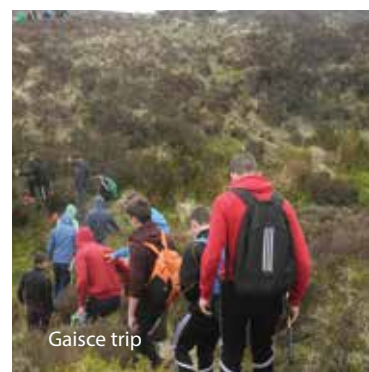




Gaisce trip



Tennis Day



Gaisce trip



Sliabh na mBan



Sliabh na mBan



Indoor Soccer winners



Top of Sliabh na mBan



Tag Rugby



Tag Rugby



Tag Rugby



Ploughing Championship



Ploughing Championship

PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

The Fifth Year agricultural science students and transition years went to the National Ploughing Championships in Screggan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Thursday, September 22nd. Three buses left the school gates at seven o'clock in the morning. We arrived on the site at half past eight and to our delight we beat all the traffic.

The day was spent going around to the different trade stands to explore any new technologies in agriculture. There were thousands of stands to visit, which proved how important the whole agri business sector is to the rural economy.

The Fifth Year agricultural science students had to get photographs and information on the different dairy, beef, sheep and pig breeds for their breeds project. Overall the day was

very enjoyable and we all made it back to the bus on time except for Mr Farrell and Mr Ryan.

TAG RUGBY

On the 25th of April this year we had a tag-rugby tournament with other schools from Kilkenny city. The

tournament took place in the Kilkenny Rugby Club. The teams were made up of a random mix of TY's from St Kieran's, Loreto and the Presentation.

That morning the sun was shining but the breeze was very cold. We waited on the first year pitch while a minibus ran shuttles to the rugby club to bring us out.

Once we arrived we got togged out in the dressing rooms and were divided up into sixteen different teams. The pitch was divided by four and there were four teams to a pitch and we all played each other in a group stage. The main rule was that boys got one point for scoring a try while girls got three points.

After lunch all the teams who came first in their groups played on one pitch, and all the teams that came second in their groups played on another pitch and so on.

The main thing is that everybody got plenty of game-time and everyone seemed to have a great day.

TY TENNIS

We played tennis as one of our activities during Transition Year. We played tennis in the Kilkenny Tennis Club. The tennis was fun as it was a break from the daily routine in school as it's not something that is played in the school. It was a good experience as many people had never played tennis before. Some people played singles matches and then others played doubles. There was no competition as many people were just getting used to the game. For most of the day the weather held up well, up until it started to rain around 3 o'clock, but at that time it was near the end of the day. Everyone seemed to get good enjoyment out of the day.



TY Editors (L-R): Fionn Whelan, Philip Hayde, Ruairi Breen.

First Year Class Photos



Back Row (l-r): Jack Forristal, Liam Connelly, Aaron Korthout, Eoin Turner, Jamie McGrath, Luke Wallace, Jack Archbold. Third Row (l-r): Kevin Molloy, Conor Lynch, Conor Walton, Eibhan McEvoy, Jack Delaney, Cathal Foley, Adam Bowe. Second Row (l-r): Joseph Lalor, Kelan Donohue, Emmet Nolan, Ború Bergin, Seán Keane, Matthew Lalor, Conor Brennan, Alan Dunphy. Front Row (l-r): Joshua O'Rourke, Nicholas Conway, Philip Prendergast, Peter Conroy, Kacper Konopka, Liam Moloney, Cillian Kelly, Ross Dermody.



Back Row (l-r): Cathal Murphy, Cathal Redmond Brett, Oisín Keyes, Ben Higgins, Oisín Meegan, Dáire Mahon. Third Row (l-r): Darragh Kennedy, Oisín O'Connor, Niall O'Brien, Luke Connellan, Conor Cody, Luke Dunne, Seán Fitzpatrick, Shane Fennelly. Second Row (l-r): Joseph Brennan-Duffy, Eamon Holland, Jack Dennehy, Luke Malone, Julian Maher, Stephen King-Kohler, Charlie Murphy, Seán Lanigan. Front Row (l-r): Shane Boles, Luke Doyle, Dillon Lawless, Bill Dalton, Sean Dowling, Darragh Dwyer, Conall Ruane, Ruaidhrí Holden.



Back Row: (l-r): Fionn McGarry, Jimmy Lennon, Jack Ryan, Liam Walsh, Eoin Phelan, Eoghan Whelan. Third Row (l-r): Mario Moses Duku, Patryk Bogusz, Nicholas Doherty, Noel O'Brien, Conor Gleeson, Jimmy O'Neill, Oisín Cahill. Second Row (l-r): Samba Bathilly, Ryan Duffy, Adam Walshe, Larry Cody, Conor Brett, Seán Moore, Josh Casserly. Front Row (l-r): Ronan Fernando, Coby Cummins, Michael Ibrahim, Charlie Watts, Ryan Grace, Killian Carey, Kada Aissaoui Embarek, Craig Shelly.



Back Row (l-r): Nicholas O'Keefe, Will Lanigan, Cian Moore, Tommy Phelan, Dylan Duggan, Dylan Gordon. Third Row (l-r): Cathal Quinn, Adam O'Connor, John Madigan, David Parle, Sam Ryan Ireland, Sam McEvoy, Robert Kelly. Second Row (l-r): Christian McInerney, Paul Mulligan, Jack Dowling, Conor Booth, Brogan McAviney, Patrick Langton, James Gladney. Front Row (l-r): Daragh Slattery, Jamie Dempsey, Eoin Deely, Aaron Wemyss, Luke Burke, Peter Walsh, Cillian Dunne, Zak Dwyer.



Back Row (l-r): Joseph Fitzpatrick, Shaun Rafter, Aaron Dorney, Éimhin Cassin, Jimmy Cantwell. Third Row (l-r): Ben Canavan, Adam Walshe, Charlie Delahunty, Naoise Dempsey, Richard McEvoy, Robbie Cord, Aaron Moore. Second Row (l-r): Adam Lanigan, Pádraig Lennon, James Kenny, Edmar Basilio, Daniel Bowe, Harry McIntyre, Kevin Benny, Ben Dermody. Front Row (l-r): James Carroll, Simon Bowe, Jacob Newman, Jack Butler, Charlie Fitzgerald, Omatayo Bakare, Patrick Kennedy, Liam Walsh, Ben Bourke.

Second Year Class Photos



Back Row (l-r): JJ Ryan, Michael McCarthy, Thomas Carroll, Ciarán Rice, Aaron Tully, Alexis Fitzgerald. Third Row (l-r): Peter McDonald, Jack Clifford, Oliver Baros, Eoin Southgate, Gavin Cleere, Sebastian Ruianu, Ramon Newman. Second Row (l-r): Cathal Kearney, Oisín Quirke, Seán McBride, Mark McBride, Denis Walsh, Myles Kehoe, Senan Forristal, Dara Mason. Front Row (l-r): Jake Malone, Jack Walton, Brian McDonald, Luke Bateman, Charlie Nolan, David Fleming, Harry Murphy.



Back Row (l-r): DJ Delaney, Daniel Hughes, Daragh Whelan, George Burghlea, Conor Nolan, Robert Vasiliachi, Keith Lanigan. Third Row (l-r): Craig Cummins, Dominik Gorny, Padraigh Brennan, Mohammad Zeb, Ciarán Keher-Murtagh, Matthew Shortall. Second Row (l-r): Jack Cleere, David Hoyne-Casey, Jamie Chisholm, Tomás Barron, Dylan Carroll, Liam O'Reilly, Aidan Kenny. Front Row (l-r): Oisín Brennan, Seamus Hughes-Kennedy, Ivan McCauley, Michael Molloy, Daragh Casey, John Muldowney, Cormac Brogan.



Back Row (l-r): Luke McKenna, Finnian Shefflin, Eoin Delahunty, David Walsh, Pádraic Foley, Daniel Cahill, Oscar Fomin. Third Row (l-r): John Paul Gamble, Andrew McGrath, Cormac Rafter, Matthew Treacy, Bill Brennan, Jack Connolly-Dalton, Marko Bistrovic. Second Row (l-r): Conor Farrell, Huzaifah Ifran, Daniel Murphy, Adam Walsh-Brennan, Luke McDonald, Josh Dempsey, Oisín Ronan, Brian Barry. Front Row (l-r): Jay McGuire, Richard Cash, Edmond Dowling, Peter Holohan, Shaun O'Keeffe, Luke Holohan, Ivan Kelly.



Back Row (l-r): Killian Norton, Jack McGuirk, Patrick Brennan, Cathal Mulhall, Niall Ward, Conor Fitzpatrick, Darragh Walsh. Third Row (l-r): James Duggan, Andy Hickey, Eoin Crowley, Kieran Keech, Finbar Dunne, Conor Whearty, Vincent O'Grady. Second Row (l-r): Andrew Brennan-Smith, Dylan Kenny, Aaron Condron, Eoin Carroll, Conor Beale, Brian Fahy, Tomasz Gruca, Ciarán Byrne. Front Row (l-r): Luke Hennessy, John Ruane, Robbie English, Andrew Devereux, Nicholas Mullins, Eoin Dalton, John Canny.

Third Year Class Photos



Back Row (l-r): Harry Walsh, David Delahunty, Diarmuid Rowe, Aod O' Connor, Steven Barron, David Conway. Third Row (l-r): Colm Nolan, Jason Butler, Jamie Harkin, Eoin Guilfoyle, Ger Coffey, Ronan Lavelle, Cormac Burns. Second Row (l-r): David O' Sullivan, William Slattery, Luke Whelan, Jack Sheridan, Seán McInerney, Conor Brett, Jack Canavan, David Fogarty. Front Row (l-r): Steven O'Keeffe, Nikita Rjabkovs, Ciarán Murphy, Patrick Phelan, Conor Gleeson, Conor Kelly, Jamie Owens.



Back Row (l-r): Oisín Doyle, Joe Cowhig, Cian Kenny, Niall Reid, Shay McEvoy, Ross Ten-Bohmer, David Fitzgerald. Third Row (l-r): Thomas Nugent, Peter Donoghue, Theo Yordanov, Darren Cuddihy, Conor Whitty, Nobin Rebi, Adam Barcoe. Second Row (l-r): Ben King, Peter Connellan, Ciarán Brennan, Seán McKee, Ríán Houston, Ciarán Mullen, Dermot Noonan, Pádraic Moylan. Front Row (l-r): Daragh Quinlan, Brandon Ryan, Cian Leahy, Ryan Metzger, David Kelleher, Mateusz Karasinski, Kevin Fitzpatrick.



Back Row (l-r): Dáire Cassin, Aidan McGree, James Carrigan, Stephen Walsh, Kieran Walsh, Rian Edwards, Vincent Gornicki. Third Row (l-r): Bill Kavanagh, Dacel Fwamba, Kevin Burns, Robert Wemyss, Darragh Maher, Jamie Phelan, Stephen Keoghlan, Jim Kirby. Second Row (l-r): Mark Brennan, Padraig Hally, Luke Campion, Oisín Egan, Bill Bryan, John Ring, Zac Cummins. Front Row (l-r): James Kennedy, Laurence Mahon, Eoin Morgan, Ian Wallace, Luke O'Dwyer, Adam Byrne, Mikey Lewis, Colin Morrissey.



Back Row (l-r): Dylan Comerford, Liam Barron, Luke Morrissey, Daniel Lynch, Jack McGrath, Brandon Walsh, Leo Capasso. Third Row (l-r): Luke Dermody, Michael McInerney, Jake Hickey, Liam Healy, Darragh Hackett, Adam O'Shea. Second Row (l-r): Patrick O'Shea, Ciarán Buckley, Cathal Ryan-Phelan, Padraig Kehoe, Oisín Carroll, Tomás Leahy, Conor Kelly. Front Row (l-r): James Shirley, Bryn Wall, Diarmuid Galway, Fintan Brennan, James Casey, Mark Gormley, James McOwan, Jack Murphy.

Transition Year Class Photos



Back Row (l-r): Jason Kelly, Fionn Whelan, Pádraig Holohan, Harry Kealy, Darragh Corcoran, Éamon Mahon, Seán Burke. Third Row (l-r): Eoin DeBuitléir, Dylan Crehan, Dylan Carey, Barry Lennon, Seamus Farrell, David Blanchfield. Second Row (l-r): Thomas Rice, Eoin O'Connor, Tom Bolger, Edward Dunne, Darragh O'Keefe, Finn Lanigan, Cameron Mullan. Front Row (l-r): Jack Roche, Paul Hayes, Luke Phelan, Michael Prendergast, Jacob Vuchiri, Luke Gannon, Jim Kehoe, Edward Ilban.



Back Row (l-r): Glen Gormley, Krzystof Gruca, Ruairi Breen, Alex Moore, Gary Anderson, Ciarán Shortall. Third Row (l-r): Krystian Pawlowski, Bob Cody, Adam Fitzpatrick, Shaun Liston, Pádraic O'Neill, Dillon Wall. Second Row (l-r): Cian Russell, Seán Keyes, Mark Twomey, Matthew Comerford, Conor Doyle, Jordan Grant, Eoin Cody. Front Row (l-r): Alan Thompson, Páraic Barragry, Jamie Reid, Jack Kenny, Matthew Russell, Aeden Moylan, Jamie Slattery, Jody Frayne.



Back Row (l-r): Thomas Kennedy, Jamie Young, Martin O'Connell, Tim Corkery, Dáire O'Neill, Conor Foley, Aaron Brennan. Third Row (l-r): Dean Mason, John Doyle, Harry Kavanagh, Danny Coyne, Killian Egan, Conor Byrne, Conor Kealy. Second Row (l-r): James Dowling, Paul Prendergast, Alex Duggan, Szymon Lukasiak, Liam Fennelly, Eric Kearney, Seán Ware, Ethan Kerwick. Front Row (l-r): Simon O'Dwyer, James Kearney, Shane Walsh, David Rainey, Evan McDonald, Tommy Farrell, Jack Carrigan, Thomas O'Dwyer.



Back Row (l-r): Gareth Singh-Hennessy, Conor Hoban, Barry Lennon, Gavin Blanchfield, Adam O'Brien, Jack Brennan. Third Row (l-r): Eoin Walsh, George Murphy, Aaron O'Brien, Seán O'Neill, Troy Walsh, Michael O'Keefe. Second Row (l-r): Alexander McCluskey, Philip Hayde, Conor Dermody, James Keogh, James English, Ross Ellis, Cathal Ryan. Front Row (l-r): Seán Comerford, Paul Cody, John Shortall, Brian Kearney, Pdraig Robinson, Ben Powell, Aaron Varley.

Fifth Year Class Photos



Back Row (l-r): Jack Nolan, Darwish Bourke, Paul O'Dwyer, Cathal Power. Third Row (l-r): Daniel Blanchfield, Robert McCauley, Evan Doyle, Shanly Sebastian, Sean Ryan, Evan Walsh. Second Row (l-r): Harry Murphy, Shane Guilfoyle, Sean Cassin, Ian Walsh, John Prendergast, Ethan Butler, Sean Richardson. Front Row (l-r): Shane Murphy, Conor Drennan, Jason O'Keeffe, David Walsh, John Nolan, Conor O'Keeffe.



Back Row (l-r): Jack O'Connell, Robert Butler, Eamon Morrissey, Eoin O'Shea, Sam Hickey. Third Row (l-r): Jordan Brett, Ciarán Hogan, Seán Manogue, Tom Dunphy, Peter Murphy, Jesse Roberts. Second Row (l-r): Ciaran Walsh, James Phelan, Bill Cody, Luke O'Brien, Adam Tallis. Front Row (l-r): David Griffin, David Bourke, Kevin Holohan, Ruairi Breen, Conor Archbold, Seán Matthew Carroll.



Back Row (l-r): Seán Michael Carroll, Damien Cahill, Rory O'Keeffe, Alex Doheny, Ben Lanigan, John Dillon. Third Row (l-r): Niall Doheny, Adam Hehir-Drennan, Nicholas O'Shea, Tommy Hennessy, Liam Brennan-Smyth. Second Row (l-r): Ryan Scanlon, Eoin Kenneally, Seán Grace, Daithi Barron, Laurence Campion, Tim Ryan. Front Row (l-r): Kyran O'Sullivan, Joe Breen, John Hynes, Robert Dowling, William O'Sullivan, Evan Clarke, Conor McHugh.



Back Row (l-r): Jeffrey Coyne, Michael O' Shaughnessy, Dylan Doyle, Fergus Byrne, Richard Phelan, Conor Condon. Third Row (l-t): Andrew Whelan, Luke Murphy, Eoin Brennan, Cian Dawson, Rory Cleere. Second Row (l-t): Eoghan Moylan, David O'Carroll, Owen Lynch, Kacper Mazurkiewicz, Mark Nolan, Liam Hoban. Front Row (l-r): Sean Greene, Edward O'Neill, Thomas Gormley, Seán Walsh, Tommy Ronan, Ned Kirwan.



Back Row (l-r): Colin McKenna, Jakub Czakiert, Killian Duffy, Cormac Nolan. Third Row (l-r): Joey Walsh, Nathan Connolly, Tim Ferris, Daniel Kenyi, Stephen Kirwan. Second Row (l-r): Jessie Dhillon, Shane Whelan, Jason Egars, Jay Meagher, Ciaran Fitzpatrick, Paul Healy. Front Row (l-r): David Maher, Adam Byrne, Chris Barcoe, Joey Organ, Daniel Cotter.



Back Row (l-r): Conor Lalor, Conor Rowe, Erick Oyat, Brian Staunton. Third Row (l-r): Jack McDonald, Daniel Maher, Ross Whelan, Diarmuid Phelan. Second Row (l-r): Martin Murray, David Mollerau- Graham, Ciarán Brennan, Kyle Fanning, Nathan Lawlor. Front Row (l-r): Hugh McOwan, Harry Jordan, Kealán Coyne, James Everard, Gerard Doheny, Michael Burke.

Sixth Year Class Photos



Back Row (l-r): Colum Prendiville, Jake Cullen, Michael Larkin, Fintan Fleming. Third Row (l-r): Kieran Conway, Ben Lawlor, Rory Lodge, Kevin McQuillan, Martin Keoghan. Second Row (l-r): Killian Ten-Bohmer, Paddy Parle, Luke Fitzpatrick, Dara Keane, Kevin Murphy, Tom Comerford. Front Row (l-r): Dean Gleeson, Pádraig Healy, Michael Rafter, Jeffrey Kealy-Brennan, James Tennyson.



Back Row (l-r): Calum Malone, Peter Lyster, Jack Connelly, Jim Nugent, Dylan Aylward. Second Row (l-r): Leon Butler, Jack Manning, Conor Dyson, Denis Carrigan, Callum O'Dwyer, Donal Brophy. Front Row (l-r): Adam Ronan, Brian Hennessy, John Farrell, Alex Johnson, Brendan Fitzgerald.



Back Row (l-r): Damian Skrzypek, Eoin Rudkins, Conall Whelan, Gary Moore. Third Row (l-r): Eric Mahon, Peter Mullan, Evan Shefflin, Eamonn Fennelly, Ciarán Lennon. Second Row (l-r): James Bergin, Pádraigh Lennon, Kieran Lucey, Damian Smialek, Bill Cuddihy, Jack Tynan. Front Row (l-r): Simon Cullen, Lorcan Whelan, Jack Crehan, Edna Kenneally, Eoin Minnock.



Back Row (l-r): Liam Rafter, John Burns, Barry Cleere, Eoghan Towmey. Third Row (l-r): Shane Donohoe, John Dooley, David McInerney, Robert Kirwan, Kevin Kehoe. Second Row (l-r): Tommy Walton, Michael Carey, Pádraig Buggy, Ted Drea. Front Row (l-r): Pádraic Mullen, David Busher, Ciarán Byrne, Cian Burke, Andy Walsh.



Back Row (l-r): Adrian Mullen, Conor Hackett, Robert Fitzgerald, Ryan Poyntz. Second Row (l-r): Cahal McAuley, Cian Enright, Dylan Simpson, Ben Whelan, Shane Dawson. Front Row (l-r): Jack Smith, Eamon McPhillips, Joe Cashin, Tom Lalor, Dylan Smithwick.



Back row (l-r): Jack Smith, Jason Maher, George Murphy, Adam Flynn, Noel Leahy. Third Row (l-r): Brian O'Hanrahan, Aironas Miliauskas, Daniel Young, Evan Walsh, Jonathan Tshimbalanga. Second Row (l-r): Finnán Phelan, Gavan Delaney, Ciarán Dalton, Kevin Fennelly, Matthew Powell. Front Row (l-r): Conor Wallace, Jack Beale, Ian Clifford, Evaldas Gerulaitis, Leroy Slattery.

Sports Day

Ciaran Brennan

Sports day has always been a big tradition in St Kieran's College. The activities are held in the sporting facilities at Scanlon Park which fell on the 23rd of September of this school year. This year first to third years completed track and field events and the TY's, fifth and sixth years all played soccer on the astro turf. As is the case every year, there was huge competition and rivalry between the classes for each event in the track and field, especially for the tug of war. Even the teachers got in on the act for the event. The sunshine made the day even more enjoyable for all involved. Overall, it was an enjoyable day and it was a good opportunity for all the students to get involved in an event with their friends and teachers.





Chess

Nobin Rebi

Like last year and the year before, three teams were entered into the Leinster Schools Chess League. The different age groups consisted of U14, U16 and U19. Each team was made up of 5 players. A small tournament took place in the study hall to select players for the teams. It took two days to finish due to the large numbers and keen interest.

The U14 team consisted of players who were a bit unlucky but put up a good fight. Sadly they were defeated in the group stages and were not able to proceed. Their team was made up of: Dylan Duggan (captain), Kevin Benny, Adam Bowe, Dylan Gordon and Simon Bowe.

The U16 team won three out of five games in the group stages. They had two close defeats, one at school and one in Dublin. Being unable to beat Gionzaga they were unable to qualify for the semi-finals but I guess losing to the best is not so bad. The players are Nobin Rebi (captain), Bill Kavanagh, Jim Ryan, Steven O'Keefe and Aidan Magee.

The U19 team did the best out of the three teams winning four out of five and progressed to the semi-finals.



After a good fight they were defeated by St. Benildus. They received third place, which is a huge achievement for the school. The winners at this age were: Conor Lalor (captain), Shanly Sebastian, Conor Rowe, Brevin Benny and William O'Sullivan. I wish to congratulate their success.

I really enjoyed playing chess with the school and so did the other lads. We

had some pleasure time off from school and after away matches as we went to Dundrum and Liffey Valley Shopping Centres. It was really enjoyable. We still practice most Tuesdays and hope to do better next year. I would also like to thank Mr O'Hanrahan and Mr O'Neill for organising this and Conor Lalor for arranging the matches. I look forward to next year.

Swimming

Robbie English

I compete in a number of special Olympic sports including swimming, BOCCE, Athletics and Kayaking. Special Olympics operates over a four year cycle, with area, regional, national and world games taking place in successive years. 2017 is year two of the cycle and I competed at Regional level in BOCCE, swimming and kayaking this year. My gold medals at Leinster Regional level ensure that I will be included for selection for National Games next year. I will compete in Kayaking at Regional level in June this year. I won three silver medals in the Irish Down Syndrome Swimming Organisation National Championships. This was a 32 county open age/all abilities championship which meant I was competing against adults as well as my own age group. In early April I competed in an open European Competition run by DSSF (Down Syndrome Swimming Federation) in Southampton. There were twelve swimmers from Ireland competing at this event which was held over two days. I was delighted to achieve seven PBs (Personal Bests) in these competitions winning six gold medals and one silver medal. The times which I achieved at this event ensures that I qualify for the DSISO (Down Syndrome International Sporting Organisation) European Championships in Paris in October. I hope once again to give my best for my coaches, club, county and country.



Handball

Yet again there were some excellent performances by handballers in the school this year. Eoin Brennan had an excellent year when he retained his schools Leinster U17 Singles 40x20 title, beating opponents from Callan, Johnstown, Thomastown and St. Ciarans CS Kells before narrowly losing his All-Ireland Semi Final in Kingscourt, Cavan in an epic. Eoin also performed brilliantly for both club and country this year, winning the Irish Junior Nationals 17 & Under Singles title for his club Kells, added to the wonderful achievement of becoming the U17 Singles US Open Champion in California.

In U15 Singles and Doubles, Windgap trio Jack Doyle, Pádraic Foley and Eoin O'Brien had some great games at school level despite being underage for this category next year. With their club, Pádraic and Jack won National Honours in the U16 60x30 Double in October, with Jack adding an U15 40x20 Juvenile All-Ireland title in March.

In First Year Handball, Niall O'Brien,



Junior Handball Team (L-R): Niall O'Brien, Larry Cody, Ryan Grace, John Madigan.

John Madigan, Larry Cody, Ryan Grace, James Carroll, Ben Higgins, Conor Brennan and Jack Butler represented the school in the Carlow/Kilkenny/Wexford One-Wall Blitz. Both teams of four were excellent on the day and faced off in the Semi Final with Niall, John, Larry and Ryan eventually finishing runners up overall to a strong Kilkenny Vocational School side, thus qualifying for the Leinster finals in UCD in May. In the Leinsters, the lads lost out on a tie breaking game in the Semi Finals after the match finished one game apiece, despite scoring more in regulation games. Niall, John and Pádraig Lennon represented the



All Ireland U17 Handball Winner: Eoin Brennan.

school in the First Year 40x20 and 60x30 tournaments this year. Well done to all players at club and school level this year.

Badminton

The Minor (U14) Badminton team took part in the Kilkenny/Carlow schools badminton tournament in the Watershed on the 7th February. The lads came second in Division 2 on the day which ensured qualification for the Division 3 Leinster Finals. These were held in Baldoyle the following Thursday. They performed admirably, qualifying from their group and beat Blackrock in the final to win and take home the honours. Well done to John Maguire, Cathal Foley, Luke Connellan and Liam Walsh. Thanks to Declan Bennett who coached them throughout the year.

U16 BADMINTON

On Tuesday the 24th of January, the Kilkenny U16 schools competition took place in the Watershed. St Kieran's had entered six teams of four players. Everyone on a team got to play singles and doubles against another school. There were schools from all over the county with Bangelstown entering it too. In the end, Bangelstown won the "A" final beating Kieran's "A" team by four games to two. All of the Kieran's teams competed and played well on the day but the A team lost out narrowly 4-2 in a final having already beaten them in a group stage.

A month later the A and B teams had qualified to play in the Leinster Schools Competition in Baldoyle Badminton Centre in Dublin. The A team were in Division 1 and the the B team in Division 3. The A team finished second to Terenure College while the B team came close to winning Division 3.



U14 Badminton Team (L-R): Liam Walsh, John Maguire, Cathal Foley, Luke Connellan.



U16 Badminton Team (L-R): Nobin Rebi, Peter Connellan, Pádraic Foley, Peter McDonald.



Equestrian



This year has been a hugely successful one for the St Kieran's College Equestrian Team. From the St Kieran's College Annual Equestrian event in Warrington Topflight Equestrian Centre to coming Second in Ireland in the Interschools Equestrian Showjumping League to qualifying for Balmoral and Hickstead during the summer months. The annual St Kieran's College Equestrian Event at Warrington Topflight Equestrian Centre, Kilkenny took place on Sunday 20th November 2016. While everyone woke to a dense fog that morning, the sun soon came out and the fog lifted, leaving a bright and fresh winter's day. People travelled from far and wide, some as far as Co. Clare and Co. Cavan. With the loss of daylight and a thick fog beginning to fall on the outdoor arena, the flood lights were ignited and the competition had everyone filled with excitement. St Kieran's College had excellent results in the Open Individual Competition with Ciarán Byrne not only winning the competition but also taking the third spot with Conor Fitzpatrick taking fourth place. There are a few people we would like to take this opportunity to thank. Firstly the Moloney Family for all their help with this event and to Pat Drennan who designed a fantastic course on the day, to all of our sponsors, we greatly appreciate your support. A big thank you to all the parents and teachers who helped out in any way both leading up to and on the day of the event. Well



11th December, Ballinamona Equestrian Centre, Waterford, 1st Place in the Open Team Competition.



2nd October, The White Cup, Warrington Topflight Equestrian Centre, Kilkenny, a hat trick; 1st, 2nd & 3rd Individual Open Competition.



Equestrian Interschools Ireland League Final in Mulingar, 2nd in Ireland in the Open Team Competition



20th November 2016, St Kieran's College, Equestrian Interschools Ireland League Event, Warrington, Kilkenny



Equestrian Interschools Ireland League Final in Mullingar, Ciarán Byrne 3rd in Ireland in the Open Individual Competition



Equestrian Interschools Ireland League Final in Mullingar, Hugh McOwan, 7th in Ireland in the Open Individual Competition



Séamus Hughes Kennedy wins his first international class in the CSIP 1.20mt at the BIP Show in Fontainebleau, France 20th April 2017.

Séamus Hughes-Kennedy (Second Year) has been competing abroad this year and representing himself and his country very well. Séamus represented Ireland in Fontainebleau, France in the Individual Competition on 17th April this year and won the Small Grand Prix on Kilkenny All-Star. He has upcoming trials to represent Ireland in the European Championships in early August this year. He will also be attempting to defend his Six and Seven Year Old title in Dublin later this year in the RDS.

Hugh McOwan (Fifth Year) applied for his Jockey's Licence in July 2016 and having completed his test on 21st August 2016 and his lecture course on 1st October 2016 he was granted his Jockeys Licence. Hugh is now licensed as a qualified rider of Irish National Hunt Flat Races. He led out two horses this year at the Punchestown Festival and has his sights firmly set on Cheltenham.

The St Kieran's College Equestrian Team is: Jack Brennan, Ciarán Byrne, David Fleming, Conor Fitzpatrick, Seamus Hughes Kennedy, David Parle, Patrick Parle, Darragh Maher, Hugh McOwan, James McOwan.

done to all students who participated in the event, there were some fine performances on the day. Special thanks to the students of St Kieran's College who not only performed so well but were also heavily involved in the preparation and running of the event. Once again you have done us proud.

The equestrian team has gone from strength to strength and this is down to the dedication of students and parents alike. Preparation for the All-Ireland Interschools Equestrian League takes place during the students own free time and parents give freely of their time to transport both rider and horse around the country, regardless of where the competitions may be held. The students came back this year with a hunger to compete at the top level of the equestrian circles and their success shows this. The first win of the year was in Wexford Equestrian Centre and from there the team went on to win at numerous shows, Ballinamona, Mullingar and of course the prestigious White Cup to name but a few. The final was held in Mullingar on Saturday 7th April 2017. The St Kieran's College Equestrian Team came

Second in Ireland and qualified for two prestigious Horse Show events in Balmoral and Hickstead. The St Kieran's students were just four points behind the league leaders going into the final round and put in some fine performances to come second in Ireland. On the day of the final, St Kieran's were represented by Hugh and James McOwan, Ciarán Byrne and Seamus Hughes Kennedy. Ciarán Byrne came 7th in the Individual competition on the day, 3rd in Ireland with Hugh McOwan coming 6th in Ireland in the Individual competition. However, an achievement like this is a real team effort. The Interschools Competition begins in early September and ended on 7th April – a long season with some very long journeys every weekend to compete with schools from all over the country. Therefore, other riders took up the baton to represent their school and to gain points as the league progressed, ensuring that the team could qualify for the final. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all on the St Kieran's College Equestrian team and to thank their families for all of the time, dedication and hard work that they too put in to make this massive achievement possible. We wish the students the very best of luck competing at the top level of Show Jumping in Hickstead and Balmoral.



2nd October 2016, Winning The White Cup, Warrington Topflight Equestrian Centre, Kilkenny.



20th November 2016, St Kieran's College, Equestrian Interschools League Event, Warrington, Kilkenny.

Jonjo Farrell Leinster Hurler of the Year 2016



Congratulations to our teacher Mr Jonjo Farrell on winning the inaugural Pearse Medal for 2016. Jonjo was selected as the outstanding performer in the 2016 Leinster GAA senior hurling championship. Leinster Chairman John Horan presented Jonjo with a specially commissioned Padraig Pearse medal in recognition of his achievement which is part of the province's activity to mark the centenary of the Rising - and also symbolises the link between Comhairle Laighean and Pearse.

Jonjo followed up an excellent league campaign with Kilkenny as hurler of the Month for April with a fantastic haul of 1-05 against Dublin in the Leinster Semi Final. This was followed by an equally impressive 1-04 in the Leinster Final against Galway. We wish Mr Farrell and all the St Kieran's College teachers and past pupils involved in the Kilkenny Senior Panel every success in the Championship this summer.

Golf 2016-'17

The Junior Team, made up of three U16 players, competed in the Irish Schools Junior Championship. The qualifying round was hosted by Kilkenny Golf Club in October. Patrick O Shea, Cian Russell and Thomas Nugent were selected to represent the school in the 18 hole stroke play event. All three played very well on the day and were top qualifiers for the Leinster Final.

Twelve teams qualified from the province to compete in the Leinster Final in Tulfarris Golf Club in the end of November. The team from St Kieran's were hoping to defend their 2016 Leinster title, Patrick O Shea being the only player to compete two years in a row. It wasn't to be however.

The Senior Team entered two competitions this year, the Irish Schools Senior Championship and the Leinster Inter-Schools League. We had a very strong panel featuring experienced players Jeff Kealy-Brennan, Simon Cullen, Brian Staunton, James Everard and also Junior All-Ireland (2016) runners-up Sean Manogue, Ned Kirwan and Michael O'Shaughnessy. The 18 hole stroke play qualifier was held in Abbeylax Golf Club in September. The Kieran's team of three, Jeff Kealy-Brennan, Simon Cullen and Brian Staunton were leading qualifiers on the day. Then it was on to the Leinster Quarter Finals in City West where we had to field a team of five to play singles match play off scratch. We were drawn against Dundalk Grammar, a school known for their quality golf teams. Jeff, Brian and Simon were the first three out, followed by James and Sean. St Kieran's were victorious with a great team performance and an outstanding individual win by Simon Cullen who beat his opponent on the 11th hole by a whopping 8 and 7 score line.

The semi-finals were hosted by Beech Park Golf Club. St Kieran's faced Mountrath Community School in a nail biting contest. Again, the team came out victorious. Ned Kirwan was back from injury in time to contribute to the victory. Next on the agenda was the Leinster Final. This was only the second time in twenty years for the school to make it



to this stage. It was always going to be a huge challenge to beat Blackrock College, a team with lower handicaps and a huge reputation in the game. St Kieran's were down early in the first three matches and were managing to hold their own in the final two pairings. These are not players who give up easily and it wasn't surprising to see Jeff, Brian and Simon battle on and keep their matches alive with superb play including some clutch putts. In the end, Blackrock were better or perhaps just luckier on the day but the team of Jeff, Brian, Simon, Ned and James did the school proud in the way they fought to the end. Well done to them.

Orienteering

Fionn Whelan

It was a good year overall for orienteering in St. Kierans College. The year started out with the Leinsters, which were held in Hellfire Woods just outside Dublin. It was a miserable rainy day, but an exciting race in the First Year Category took place between Eoghan Whelan (St Kieran's) and Cuan Riordan (St. Gerrard's, Dublin), which resulted in a draw to the second, with both runners achieving a time of 19 minutes 30 seconds on the 2.6 kilometre course. I managed to come second in the TY Boys Category, finishing 3 minutes off the mark with a time of 39 minutes on the 3.6 kilometre course.

The All-Ireland school finals took place in Castlecomer Discovery Park on the 27 April. This was another success for Kierans, with Conall Whelan winning out the Post-Junior Cert Boys, finishing with an impressive time of 33 minutes on the 4.7 kilometre course. Sixth year Peter Mullan also had a strong run, finishing 8th overall. Eoghan managed



Orienteering (L-R): Eoghan Whelan, Fionn Whelan, Conall Whelan.

to beat Cuan Riordan this time round, and in doing so won out the First Year Category, with a time of 18 minutes on the 2.3 kilometre course. A number of TYs took part in the Pairs Category. Páraic Barragry and Gavyn Blanchfield finished with the fastest time of the Kieran's bunch, taking 37 minutes to complete the 3.4 kilometre course. In total, Kieran's pupils won 4 awards for orienteering. It has been a very successful year for the school.

Cross Country Season

DCU INVITATIONAL

The DCU Invitational races in January proved an ideal opportunity for our athletes to assess their fitness levels prior to the regional championships. Schools from all over the country attended with a large contingent travelling from the North this year. The boys were tested in all the races and we were out of contention for the team prizes. The star performer on the day was Adam Fitzpatrick who comfortably won the Intermediate Race. Kevin Burns ran a very respectable 5th place in the same race. As always the DCU outing was revealing and beneficial, especially for the younger less inexperienced runners.

SOUTH LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP

The competitive Schools Cross Country championship began in the picturesque surroundings of the Electric Picnic site at Strabally, Co. Laois. All the teams were chasing titles. The U14 Minor Boys finished in first place. Brogan McAviney and Daire Mahon led the team home. Joe Fitzpatrick and Sean Fitzpatrick helped bring the team to victory, both running strongly. The Junior U15 boys finished up second to Nass CBS, with Cathal Kearney most impressive. The Intermediate Boys dominated their race with Shay McEvoy first, Kevin Burns fourth, James Kearney sixth and Adam Fitzpatrick, recovering from injury, coming in eighth. The Senior Team were impressive with particular strong runs from David O'Carroll and Conal Whelan, but were pipped to second in the team competition by a resurgent Knockbeg outfit.

LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP

All four of our teams qualified for the Leinster Championship which was held once again in Santry Demesne, Dublin. At this level the competition is keen and exciting. The Intermediates were really impressive in winning a Leinster title for the college. Two of our athletes dominated the race with Adam Fitzpatrick and Shay McEvoy first and second respectively. The other scorers for the team were Kevin Burns and James Kearney. Our other teams found it tougher going, especially the U14 Boys who were fourth overall, narrowly missing out on qualification for the All-Ireland's.



Junior Cross Country Team: Back Row (L-R): Jack Doyle, Jack McGuirk, Conor Fitzpatrick, Pádraic Foley, Cathal Kearney. Front Row (L-R): Conor Brennan, Edmond Dowling, John Muldowney.



Minor Cross Country Team: Back Row (L-R): Will Lanigan, Dáire Mahon, Joseph Fitzpatrick, Jack Delaney, Eibhan McEvoy. Middle Row (L-R): Seán Fitzpatrick, Joshua O'Rourke, Paul Mulligan, Eoghan Whelan, Conor Brett, Jack Archbold. Front Row (L-R): Liam Walsh, David Parle, Brogan McAviney, Ború Bergin, Alan Dunphy.



Intermediate Cross Country Team: Back Row (L-R): Senan Forristal, James Kearney, Tom Bolger, Luke Whelan. Front Row (L-R): Eoin Morgan, Adam Fitzpatrick, Shay McEvoy, Kevin Burns.

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP

March 11th saw the National Championship take place in Mallusk, Co. Antrim. The conditions were near perfect, both underfoot and weather. The Intermediate race, U17 Boys, was our focus event. To predict where today's winner would come from was a difficult task. The Intermediates came close to taking home the title. St. Malachy's Belfast were the eventual champions, followed by St. Colman's Newry second and St Kieran's third. The team, winning bronze, was led home by Shay McEvoy in fourth place, a result that earned him an international call up. The All-Ireland championship rounded off another successful cross country season.



Senior Cross Country Team: Back Row (L-R): David O'Carroll, John Nolan, Erick Oyat, Donal Brophy. Front Row (L-R): Conall Whelan, Lorcan Whelan, Seán Richardson, Ali Zabad.



Intermediate Cross Country Team



Erick Oyat, Conall Whelan, Seán Richardson.



James Kearney



Junior Cross Country Team



Adam Fitzpatrick



Shay McEvoy



Senan Forristal

Athletics

School Athletics, Track and Field 2017

Track and Field is a growing aspect of the sports offered at St Kieran's, with participation on the increase and new talent always welcomed.

This year was another successful year for Track and Field, following on from great results from previous years.

The first main event of 2017 was the South Leinsters, held in Waterford. Athletes from Minor to Senior age groups competed at various disciplines, with fantastic performances from all involved.

Standout performances included: Brogan McAvinney, Nicholas Doheny, Dacel Fwamba, Shay McEvoy, Kevin Burns, James Kearney, Krystian Pawlowski, Adam Fitzpatrick, Jack Manning and Rory Lodge.

The above athletes also qualify for the Leinster Championships and we wish them the best of luck.

Appreciation also goes to the rest of the team members, and to Mr Simon Reddy and Ms Jenny Kelly for support.



Minor and Junior Athletics

Back Row (L-R): Joseph Fitzpatrick, Cathal Kearney, Brogan McAvinney, Jack Archbold, Jack Delaney. Front Row (L-R): Ben Canavan, Seán Fitzpatrick, Alan Dunphy, Cathal Quinn.



Track and Field Senior and Intermediate Athletics

Back Row (L-R): Jack Manning, Ryan Poyntz, Krystian Pawlowski, Shay McEvoy, Luke Whelan. Front Row (L-R): Adam Fitzpatrick, Rory Lodge, James Kearney, Kevin Burns, Ali Zabab.



Brogan McAvinney First Year
Gold 1100m



Nicholas Doheny First Year
Silver 500m



Kevin Burns Third Year
Bronze Mile



Shay McEvoy Third Year
Silver 1500m & Bronze 3000m



Dacel Fwamba Third Year
Silver 100m



James Kearney TY
Silver Steeplechase



Krystian Pawlowski TY
Silver Shot Putt



Adam Fitzpatrick TY
Gold 3000m



Jack Manning Sixth Year
Silver 400m



Rory Lodge Sixth Year
Silver 800m

U14 Hurling Blitz

Each year Kilkenny County Board organise a hurling blitz for First and Second Year students and this year being no different, with one held at the beginning of the academic year and another to be held in May. All students are given the opportunity to tog out for their school if they wish. We entered eight teams in September and we are hoping for the same interest in May. We would like to thank Mr WIndle for all his hard work in coordinating these great days in conjunction with the Kilkenny County Board.



Soccer



U17 SOCCER

Fionn Whelan

Unfortunately this year's U17 Kieran's soccer team couldn't replicate the success of the younger age groups in the school. We travelled with a very strong team to Enniscorthy, hoping for a victory in the first round of the cup. They were also a strong side, and at half-time the game was still scoreless. We remained confident going into the second half however our hopes were dented by an Enniscorthy goal from a quick counter-attack, shortly after half-time. Changes were made by managers Mr Lynch and Mr Heffernan. We managed to create a number of good chances, but in the end we couldn't get the goal we needed, and so were knocked out of the cup in the first round.

SENIOR SOCCER

Dara Keane

My final year on the Kieran's College soccer team was a great experience. It was an enjoyable season with a great bunch of hardworking lads. Our first game of the season was a tough physical encounter against a strong



First Year Soccer Team: Back Row (L-R): Mr Ken Archbold, Shane Fennelly, Charlie Delahunty, Joseph Fitzpatrick, Tommy Phelan, Oisín Meegan, Adam O'Connor, Kasper Konopka. Middle Row (L-R): Omotayo Bakare, Jack Archbold, Ros Dermody, Daniel Bowe, James Carroll, Adam Lanigan, Cathal Redmond-Brett, Alan Dunphy. Front Row (L-R): Dillon Lawless, Jack Butler, Luke Burke, Robert Kelly, Cillian Kelly, Oisín Cahill, Laim Moloney, Conall Ruane.



U15 Soccer Team: Back Row (L-R): Pádraic Moylan, Mario Moses Duku, Oisín Egan. Third Row (L-R): Dylan Carroll, Sebastian Ruianu, Oisín Carroll, Adam Byrne, Rian Edwards, Peter Connellan. Second Row (L-R): Cormac Rafter, Jack McGuirk, Shaun O'Keeffe, Eoin Crowley, Josh Dempsey, Harry Murphy. Front Row (L-R): James Duggan, Daniel Murphy, Andrew Hickey, Brian McDonald, Matthew Treacy, Eoin Delahunty

Bagnelstown side. However, we dug deep as a team and won the game 5-2 with impressive passages of play throughout the game.

Next up for us was the local derby against Kilkenny CBS. We trained hard for weeks before the game and with our impressive win against Bagnelstown we carried our momentum and confidence into this game. With the conditions being very tough for the players we again saw Kieran's digging deep and grinding out a 3-1 win.

Spirits were high for our final league match against Pres Carlow. We showed again how strong a side we were as we brushed past them 7-0.

After our impressive start to the league campaign, we again crossed paths with Pres Carlow. We knew we were up against it as we knew that they were looking for revenge. Unfortunately, it was not meant to be for Kieran's as we lost 5-1. However, we kept our heads held high after the final whistle. Although we were not successful in winning any silverware, I was impressed with the hard work and skill shown by everyone on the panel.

On behalf of the players, I would like to say a massive thank you to Mr Cotter and Mr Lynch for their commitment to the team throughout the year.



U17 Soccer Team: Back Row (L-R): Mr Eamonn Heffernan, Fionn Whelan, Ned Kirwan, Jamie Harkin, Jack O'Connell, Seán Comerford, Seán Manogue, Mr Charlie Lynch. Front Row (L-R): Killian Rudkins, Tom Bolger, George Murphy, Jim Ryan, Ciarán Brennan, Eoin Brennan, Tim Corkery.



U19 Senior Soccer Team: Back Row (L-R): Mr Larry Cotter, Eoin Rudkins, Sean Carroll, Ben Whelan, Andy Walsh, David Maher, Jack Smith. Middle Row (L-R): Kevin Murphy, Ryan Poyntz, John Nolan, Rory Lodge, Sam Hickey, Owen Wall, Mr Charlie Lynch. Front Row (L-R): Dara Keane, Kryan O'Sullivan, Ethan Butler, David Griffin, Killian Duffy.



Football



JUVENILE FOOTBALL

The juvenile footballers began the year with trials in early September with large numbers in attendance. A complete overhaul was required after the majority of last year's panel were now over age. This tempered expectations for the coming year but to our pleasant surprise the standard of football was as high if not higher than the year before. After establishing the panel two challenge games were organised against St. Peter's of Wexford and Knockbeg College in Laois. After an impressive win against St. Peter's and a thrilling draw against Knockbeg the team were well prepared for the coming championship which pitted us in a group with Portlaoise, Mountrath and Portarlinton.

First up was our only home game against Portlaoise where a winning start would be crucial if we were to progress beyond the group stages. After a slow start, St Kieran's got to grips with the tactical game plan of a well drilled Portlaoise side to gain the two points on offer with captain Vincent O'Grady, Paddy Brennan &



Juvenile Football Team

Back Row (L-R): Luke McNena, Finnian Shefflin, Eoin Delahunty, Peter McDonald, Ian Walsh, Gavin Cleere. Fourth Row (L-R): Matt Tracy, Conor Farrell, Conor Fitzpatrick, Joseph Fitzpatrick, Ben King, Cormac Rafter. Third Row (L-R): Jack Doyle, Eoin Crowley, JP Gamble, Ciarán Byrne, Patrick Brennan, Daniel Murphy, Padraigh Brennan. Second row (L-R): Ciarán Rice, James Duggan, Andrew Deveraux, Brogan McAviney, Harry Murphy, Pádraig Lennon, Seán Moore, Cillian Dunne. Front Row (L-R): Denis Walsh, Andy Hickey, Jack McGuirk, Vincent O'Grady (cpt), Brian McDonald, Shaun O'Keeffe, Pádraic Foley.

James Duggan to the fore as Kieran's ran out winners with an epic win on a score line of 3-9 to 1-2. Next up was a trip to Mountrath where a win would see our final game become a top of the table clash with Portarlinton. From the outset it was clear that there

would be only one winner in this game as Kieran's eased past Mountrath on a score of 8-13 to 0-4. The game was highlighting some sweet inter-passing play and produced some wonderful scores from Cathal Kearney and Padraig Lennon. The final group game



was an away fixture to Portarlinton, a difficult assignment at best of times, in order to see who would top the table thus gaining an easier draw for the knockout stages. Portarlinton were by far the more physical team and used this to their advantage as they consistently turned over ball that Kieran's carried into the tackle. On the day they proved to be the worthy winners on a score of 7-8 to 3-5. While this was a very disappointing result it proved to be a watershed moment for this team in their development.

This result saw Kieran's finish second in the group and qualified to the semi-finals with a tricky away draw to CBS Enniscorthy. This game was played on a frosty winter morning with a rock hard playing surface and a low sun in the sky with a partisan local crowd in attendance. Kieran's, having learnt their lesson from the Portarlinton, game set an early tone that they would

dominate the key areas of the field with Eoin Crowley & Peter McDonald in superb form in the middle of the field. The Kieran's fullback line felt early pressure with Brian McDonald and Podge Brennan excelling in both corners. Cromac Rafter & Pádhraic Foley caused untold damage in the Kieran's full forward line. Despite building up a healthy lead towards the closing stages, Enniscorthy rallied strongly and, but for some resolute defending from the Kieran's rearguard, would have finished much closer. The final whistle sounded to great celebration and focus immediately turned to the south Lenister final where we would once again do battle with Mattie Forde's Gorey. Final score Kieran's 3-7 Enniscorthy 1-8.

The final was played in Feenagh and Kieran's gave what was the most complete performance of the season as they brushed aside the determined

effort of Gorey for the second year in a row. Peter McDonald, Conor Fitzpatrick & JP Gamble (despite his football boot malfunction!!!) were outstanding throughout the game with Peter scoring a very impressive 1-2 from midfield including a tantalising point from near the sideline. Jack Doyle, James Duggan & Denis Walsh caused mayhem in the Kieran's forward line and threatened to score everytime they gained possession. Eoin Delahunty defended manfully throughout the game and when his line was breached, Ben King was calmness personified in dealing with the situation, including a fine penalty save towards the end of the game. Huge cheers greeted the final whistle from the many parents who had travelled to the game and a special thank you to the person who treated the team to a McDonald's visit on the trip home. It was greatly appreciated by all the boys. This was a great achievement to win this title for the second year in a row. The win meant we received a by into the Lenister final this year. Awaiting us in the final was again St Mary's of Edenderry. After winning the competition by a cricket score last year we were surprised to see them appear again in the B final. However this news simply galvanised the group and narrowed their focus to try and reverse the result in last year's final. The game was played in O'Moore Park in front of a large crowd of supporters on a bitterly cold and windy day. The atmosphere was electric and a timely arrival allowed the boys to drink it in.

Kieran's began the game with the strong wind to their backs and a strong start to the game was vital to Kieran's chances in order to build up a lead big enough to withstand the undoubted second half fight back from St Mary's. Despite a tentative start, Kieran's rattled the onion sack on two occasions in the first half with the first goal worthy of special praise as Dennis Walsh intercepted a short kick out to lob the onrushing St Mary's keeper. This would have knocked a lesser team's confidence but to their credit St Mary's steadied the ship to ensure no further breaches and in doing so kept the game within their grasp. A ferocious second half began with Kieran's on the back foot for much of the opening period. The wind and strong running from St Mary's putting the Black & Whites under serious pressure and they began eating into the Kieran's lead. With 5 to go Mary's had gained a 3 point advantage. Kieran's at this stage threw off the shackles and pushed Andy Hickey forward in an attempt to force once last green flag. With time just up Kieran's pressure nearly buckled the St Mary's defence as a high lobbing ball was scurried off the line just as the final whistle was blown. For the second year in a row defeat was our lot but this year great credit must be given to the team who battled long & hard throughout the game and never gave up.

A sincere thank you to all the players & TY's who gave up their time after school for training, who took on board all the advice and coaching they were given and who all made sacrifices (such as holidays) in order to be available in the best possible condition to represent their school, family & clubs. Thank you to parents who came to follow the team at various games during the year and whose support was valued. We now look forward to the 2017/2018 season with hopes defending our south Leinster crown and further improving the standard of football being played. And you can believe that!

Hail Hail South Leinster Champions 2016/2017!

The panel:

Ben King (Bennettsbridge), Brian McDonald (Danesfort), Eoin Delahunty (Graigie Ballycallan), Podge Brennan (Clough Ballacolla), JP Gamble (Conahy), Conor Fitzpatrick (Young Irelands), Jack McGuirk (Carrickshock), Peter McDonald (Thomastown), Eoin Crowley (Charrickshock),

Jack Doyle, (Windgap), Vincent O'Grady (O Loughlins) (captain) James Duggan, (Harps Durrow), Pádraic Foley (Windgap), Cormac Rafter (St. Lachtains), Denis Walsh (Dunnamaggin), Conor Farrell (Danesfort), Pádraig Lennon (Carrickshock), Cathal Kearney (Danesfort), Matt Tracy (Bennettsbridge), Ciarán Rice (Conahy), Harry Murphy (Bennettsbridge), Daniel Murphy (Bennettsbridge), Luke McNena (Thomastown), Finnian Shefflin (Ballyhale), Gavin Cleere (Dunnamaggin), Ciarán Byrne (Young Ireland), Seán O'Keeffe (Dunnamaggin), Daniel Cahill (Graigie Ballycallan), Joe Fitzpatrick (Dunnamaggin), John Canny (Danesfort), Tom Carroll (Dicksboro), Darragh Walsh (Dunnamaggin), Brogan McAviney (Young Irelands), Seán Moore (Dunnamaggin), Killian Dunne (Clough Ballacolla), Andrew Deveraux (Ballyhale), Paddy Brennan (Young Irelands), Tom Carroll (Dicksbrough), Andy Hickey (Dunnamaggin).

Ty Helpers; Dylan Crehan, Conor Foley, Alex Moore, Pádraig Holohan, Dylan Carey and Dylan Wall.

Mr Windle, Mr Morgan & Mr McGinnity.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Fionn Whelan

This season's Junior Football campaign started strongly with a comfortable away win over Athy. The following week was a home game against a strong

Bunclody side. It was a tight game, but a goal from substitute Stephen Barron, followed by a strong defensive performance from the backs, including a goal-line clearance from Dylan Carey, we managed to swing the game in our favour, and pulled away towards the end, eventually winning the game well. Our last game of the group stage was against St Mary's CBS Carlow, who fancied themselves to win at home. A strong performance from the whole team led us to a comprehensive victory, meaning we topped the group, giving us a bye straight to the Semi Finals. We faced Gorey, who had also topped their group, away in the semi. We were playing against a strong wind in the first half, and they managed to put up a good score against us, leaving us ten points down at half time. We played well with the wind in the second half, but in the end we couldn't do enough, and lost by three points. Unfortunately this meant we were knocked out of the South Leinster League.

Despite this loss, it was a strong year for the Junior Football team, in the end only losing the one game to Gorey.



Junior Football Team

Back Row (L-R): Liam Barron, Fionn Whelan, Conor Murphy, Jamie Young, Dacel Fwamba. Middle Row (L-R): Mr Paul Fitzgerald, Tommy Farrell, Jim Kirby, Eoin O'Connor, Dean Mason, Dylan Crehan, Mr Niall Connolly. Front Row (L-R): Conor Kelly, Thomas Rice, Darragh Corcoran, Dylan Carey, Jamie Harkin, Stephen Barron.

First Year Hurling League



Back Row (L-R): Joseph Brennan-Duffy, Shane Fennelly, Pádraig Lennon, Luke Dunne, Eibhan McEvoy, Jamie McGrath. Front Row (L-R): Coby Cummins, Darragh Dwyer, Conall Ruane, Liam Moloney, Sam McEvoy, Christian McNerney. Absent from photo: Nicholas Doheny, Joseph Fitzpatrick, Kyle Fox, Brogan McAviney.

Mr Forrest and Mr Darmody

Once again our ever popular first year hurling league took place at lunchtime on Tuesday and Thursday every week between the end of September and finished with the final on Tuesday 29th November 2017. In total 110 students of all hurling abilities took part and we split them into seven teams. Each lunchtime two matches were held and the standard of hurling

was excellent. As is well known not everyone will make Kieran's Juvenile team but every first year gets a chance in these leagues to play against some of the future King Henry's, TJ Reid's, Lester Ryan, Jonjo Farrell and Michael Rice. Having mentioned the last three Kilkenny hurlers who work in Kieran's, we must thank them for coming out during some of the matches, especially the final and encouraging future stars. Team E and Team F contested the final

with Team E coming out on top after a great contest.

We have to thank the TY students who helped us referee many of those matches. Also the Kilkenny County Board have to be thanked for supplying a set of trophies for the winners and set of medals for the runners up. These trophies will soon be presented during an assembly with Miss Norton (Year Head) by our Kilkenny Hurlers. Thanks to everyone for their cooperation.

U14 B Hurling



U14 B Hurling Team

Back Row (L-R): Séan Moore, Jimmy Lennon, Jack Ryan, Oisín O' Conner, Eibhan McEvoy, Richard McEvoy. Third Row (L-R): Mr Robert O'Hanrahan, Jimmy O'Neill, Charlie Delahunty, Noel O'Brien, Joseph Fitzpatrick, Jimmy Cantwell, Cian Moore, Charlie Murphy, Adam O'Conner. Second Row (L-R): Ms Vivienne Holmes, Larry Cody, Eamon Óg Holland, Shane Fennelly, John Madigan, Luke Burke, Christian McNerney, James Carroll, David Parle. Front Row (L-R): Ruaidhrí Holden, Cathal Foley, Alan Dunphy, Jack Butler, Cillian Kelly, Aaron Moore, Charlie Fitzgerald, Seán Fitzpatrick, Mr Michael Connolly.



Juvenile Hurling

The Juvenile hurling panel and had started back for another year with First and Second Years having trials back in November and December, before the panel was finalised in January. The great campaign by the juvenile footballers gave us momentum going into the hurling with most of the same players on each panel.

Our first outing in the league was against St. Peter's of Wexford. After a poor first half, we ran out easy winners by 5-18 to 1-2. With our first win of the year, we travelled to Portlaoise to face a strong Laois school. We played with a strong wind in the first half but Laois battled back in the second half but we just had enough to win 3-12 to 0-12.

In our next game, we welcomed Dublin North to Kieran's but Dublin didn't perform on the day making us very comfortable winners.

Our last group game was against Kildare schools in Hawkfield where we were losing at the break but a strong second half secured the win for us. This game showed what a strong panel we had.

By now, we were in a league semi-final against Dublin South in Heywood Community School. After a poor first half, we found ourselves 2 points up but Dublin rallied back at us in the second half and it came down to one puck of a ball. We had lost by 1 point.



Juvenile B Hurling Team

Fourth Row (L-R): Finnian Shefflin, Cormac Rafter, Matthew Treacy, David Walsh, Conor Nolan. Third Row (L-R): Conor Farrell, Jack McGuirk, Thomas Buckley, Thomas Carroll, JJ Ryan, Liam O'Reilly, Eoin O'Brien. Second Row (L-R): Mr Fergal Brennan, Cathal Mulhall, Dylan Kenny, John Canny, Josh Dempsey, Andrew Brennan-Smyth, Peter Holohan, Mr Tom Brennan. First Row (L-R): Cathal Kearney, John Ruane, Andrew Devereux, Jack Walton, Luke Bateman, John Muldowney, Eoin Dalton.



Juvenile B Team at a hurling blitz in Fanagh, 9th May.



Juvenile Hurling Team

Back Row (L-R): Mr Jonjo Farrell, Nicholas Doheny, Vincent O'Grady, Eoin Delahunty, Matthew Shortall, Ciarán Keher-Murtagh, Tommy Phelan, Naoise Dempsey, Mr Lester Ryan. Third Row (L-R): Jack Cleere, Pádraig Lennon, James Duggan, Patrick Brennan, JP Gamble, Dara Mason, Harry Murphy, Conor Cody, Patrick Langton, Patrick Brennan. Second Row (L-R): Brian McDonald, Denis Walsh, Eoin Crowley, Ciarán Byrne, Cillian Dunne, Seán O Keffe, Killian Carey, Richard Cash. Front Row (L-R): Andy Hickey, Conor Fitzpatrick, Ciarán Rice, Peter McDonald, Pádraic Foley, Jack Doyle, Daniel Murphy. Absent from photo: Dan Cahill.



lead. CBS were not finished yet though and brought it back to 3 points with a minute to go. Thankfully we held on to the win by 2-15 to 4-6.

Three days later, we faced a strong Good Counsel on a blustery day in Thomastown. We had a very, very strong wind with us and at half time we were 1-7 to 0-2 up. We were expecting a tough second half but a goal for us straight after half time seemed to have buried Good Counsel. We played the last 10 minutes with the supporters cheering us on and ran out winners by 2-11 to 1-6. The Dr Barry Cup was back in Kieran's for the Fifth Year in a row. Thanks also to our TY helpers Thomas Rice, Finn Lanigan, Conor Foley, Pádraig O'Neill, Dylan Carey and Aaron Brennan for giving up their time to assist at training and matches. Also to Tom Bolger, Barry Lennon and Conor Drennan for their photography skills.

We were very disappointed on how we preformed but it just made us prepare harder for the championship.

We played Castlecomer C.S in the quarter final and made light work of them finishing the game off early. Everybody on the panel sampled championship hurling that day.

We had set up a local derby against our rivals CBS in the semi-final on a hot day in Nowlan Park. At half time we went in level and weren't pleased with our performance. Straight after half time, we went into and eight point



Junior Hurling



Trials for this year's St Kieran's College Junior team took place in the first week back with over a hundred students trying out. After winning the All-Ireland final last year it was clear from the start we were going to take whatever came at us to win it again. Our first match was away to St.Peter's down in Wexford. After a tight first half, we pulled away in the second half and had a convincing win. We then played a home game against Castlecomer. After a rapid start we ran out convincing winners. In our last group match we played Birr. After a slow start we comfortably cruised into a semi-final of Leinster.

We then faced Mount Rath from Laois in the semi-final of Leinster. We travelled to Ballyragget on a blustery day. After a tight opening encounter we ran out winners once again. We then found ourselves in a Leinster final against Castlecomer. We already played them in the league and won but this was a new game. The match was fixed to take place in Freshford. It was a tight low scoring first half until Ciarán Brennan scored a brilliant goal in injury time of the first half. We pulled away in the second half with the final score at 2-15 to 0-8. There were also excellent performances out of Jamie Young, Dacel Fwamba and Mark Nolan. After lifting the Fr Cosgrove cup we



Junior B Hurling Team

Sixth Row (L-R): Jason Butler, Barry Lennon, Rían Edwards, Kieran Buckley, Kieran Walsh, Oisín Egan. Fifth Row (L-R): Jack Carrigan, Colm Nolan, David Delahunty, David Conway, Stephen Barron. Fourth row (L-R): Harry Kealy, Thomas Nugent, Jack Canavan, Aidan McGree, Jim Kirby, John Doyle. Third Row (L-R): Conor Kealy, James Carrigan, Patrick O' Shea, Conor Foley, Diarmuid Galway, Darren Cuddihy, Diarmuid Rowe. Second Row (L-R): Mr John McGinnity, John Ring, Darragh Hackett, Seán McKee, Luke Campion, Adam Byrne, Mikey Prendergast, Evan McDonald, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Mr Robert O'Hanrahan. Front Row (L-R): Ms Vivienne Holmes, Jamie Harkin, Kieran Buckley, Conor Brett, Michael Lewis, Dara Glynn, Eoin O'Brien, Ian Wallace, Alex Moore. Absent from photo: Mr Tom Brennan.

then focused on the All-Ireland final which took place in Clonmel on Sunday December 4th 2016. We trained hard over the next month after the Leinster final.

We found ourselves playing St Coleman's from Cork in the All-Ireland final which was sure to be a thriller. We departed from St Kieran's College on the 4th of December by bus to travel to



Junior Hurling:

Back Row (L-R): Conor Hoban, Dáire O'Neill, Eric Kearney, Pádraic O'Neill, Liam Fennelly, Darragh Corcoran, Jim Kehoe. Third Row (L-R): Peter Donohoe, Stephen Keoghan, David Fogarty, Danny Coyne, Jamie Young, Killian Rudkins, Dean Mason, Dylan Carey. Second Row (L-R): Mr Michael Rice, Ciarán Mullen, Cian Kenny, Conor Kelly, Darragh Maher, George Murphy, Martin O'Connell, Aaron Brennan, Dacel Fwamba, Mr Richie Ruth. Front Row (L-R): Pádraic Moylan, Ciarán Brennan, Harry Walsh, Ruairí Breen, Conor Murphy (Captain), Mark Nolan, Eoin Cody, Tom Bolger. Absent from Photo: Aod O'Connor, Jack Roche.

Clonmel. Luckily, the rain held away for the duration of the match. The game started at a quick pace, with Colman's starting the better out of both teams. Eoin Cody scored a brilliant goal before half time to put one between us with Colman's edging in front. We came out in the second half determined to up our game and win the match. There were outstanding performances from Eoin Cody, Ciarán Brennan, Pádraic Moylan and David Fogarty. The game finished with a sore line of 2-12 to 1-12. We accepted the Niall McInerney cup and celebrated with joy. It was a great win for everyone on the team and for our managers Mr Ruth and Mr Rice.



Senior Hurling



The hurling year started in October with a series of trials to choose a panel of thirty five players from over one hundred aspiring St Kieran's senior hurlers. Adrian Mullen was appointed captain and Martin Keoghan vice-captain. Though we were reigning Leinster and All Ireland champions there were only two survivors, so we had to start afresh.

Our league campaign started against Birr Community School on October 20th where we had a good win. Two more victories followed in November against Dublin North and Castlecomer Community School. On December 6th we had a titanic battle against Offaly Schools in the league semi-final which we won after extra time. This qualified us to meet Kilkenny CBS in the final on December 14th in O'Loughlins ground. The conditions were terrible, with a lot of water on the pitch after heavy rain. Unfortunately we were outfought on the day and were beaten by two points on a scoreline of 1-13 to 2-12. Lessons learned we started our preparations for the championship.

As well as training we played a number of challenge games over the

Christmas period against Our Lady's Templemore, WIT freshers, Athenry, Thurles CBS and a Kilkenny minor selection. This gave our players a chance to stake their places on the team. Our championship began in Dr Cullen Park in Carlow against Borris Vocational School. Though we dominated for most of the game we conceded a late goal and just held on to win by two points 0-14 to 1-09. Next up was a St. Peter's team who already won the Leinster football final and were looking to do the double. The game took place in Fenagh on a wide open pitch with a freezing wind blowing down the pitch. The team really stood up in the first half against the wind and we were a couple of points up at half-time. We dominated the second half and won on a scoreline of 1-18 to 1-07. We were now back where we wanted to be, in a Leinster final versus Kilkenny CBS. The game took place in Nowlan Park on Sunday February 22nd. The pitch, as usual, was excellent but a strong wind made hurling difficult. This game was very tight all through but a determined St Kieran's team was a point up for most of the second half. We scored a very fortuitous goal with

the last puck of the game and won by 1-14 to 0-13. Leinster champions again!

A couple of weeks later we faced St. Brigid's Loughrea in the All Ireland semi-final in O'Connor Park, Tullamore. We were playing with a strong wind in the first half and needed to get a good lead by halftime. After a tough battle to get the better of a very good St. Brigid's side we went in at halftime five points up. Although St. Brigid's rallied well in the second half we scored a couple of excellently taken goals and won by 3-19 to 1-09 in the end. The stage was now set for the All Ireland final against Our Lady's Templemore in Thurles on Saturday March 25th. Templemore were very impressive all year and had cantered through the Harty Cup campaign. We knew we faced a huge task but the players relished the challenge and prepared accordingly. Final day was a beautiful sunny day and everyone was in good form. The first half was fiercely contested but a back injury to our centreback Martin Keoghan put us under pressure. But the players responded superbly. Just on halftime we were four points down when Ciarán Brennan, the youngest man on the field, scored an outrageous

goal from very near the end line. Buoyed up by that score we started the second half in great style, scoring 1-02 without reply. We now led by four but Templemore got a goal before Adrian Mullen responded with his second goal of the game. Templemore showed how good they were by scoring a third goal. The last ten minutes were frantic. Templemore went four up but we brought it back to two and bombarded their goal in the last few minutes. To be fair to Templemore they are a great team and won on a scoreline of 3-13 to 3-11. Everyone was naturally very disappointed at the final whistle but the overriding feeling was one of great pride at the way the team gave their all and battled to the final whistle. It was a great journey for players and mentors, and, despite struggling in the first round we came within two points of victory in the All Ireland final.

The hallmark of this year's team has been their work ethic and their never-say-die-attitude which was decisive on many occasions during the year. But the most important factor has to be the strength of the panel and the contribution that every single player made to the cause. A special word of thanks to our Transition Year students who helped out at every training session and every game, even on Saturdays, since last October. This group was made up of Martin O'Connell, Adam O'Brien, Barry Lennon, David Blanchfield, Jamie Young and Conor Murphy.

All Ireland Team Dean Mason, Tommy Ronan, Michael Carey, Luke Murphy, Ben Lawlor, Martin Keoghan, Killian Egan, Ted Drea, Diarmuid Phelan, Evan Shefflin, Eoghan Moylan, Eoin O'Shea, Daithí Barron, Ciarán Brennan, Adrian Mullen (Captain).

Subs: Seán Ryan, Jesse Roberts, Pádraic Mullen (used); Dylan Simpson, Shane Donohoe, Brian Staunton, Robert Butler, Paddy Bolger, Ross Whelan, Shane Dawson, James Phelan, Ciarán Hogan, David O'Carroll, Dylan Aylward, Conor Hackett, Andrew Parsons, Ryan Scanlon, Mark Nolan, Conor O'Keeffe, James Bergin.

The team management of Mr Tom Hogan, Mr Philip Walsh and Mr Michael Walsh would like to acknowledge the support of our fellow teachers and management during the year. There were classes to be covered, sideline support on match days, organising gear for the All Ireland Final and fundraising for the final. Many thanks.





Senior Hurling 2016-2017

Back Row: (L-R) Robert Butler, Dylan Aylward, Ted Drea, Brian Staunton, James Phelan, Evan Shefflin, Killian Egan. Fourth Row: (L-R) Jessie Roberts, Ciarán Hogan, Andrew Parsons, Luke Murphy, Mark Nolan, Ross Whelan, Shane Dawson. Third Row: (L-R) Mr Michael Walsh, Eoghan Moylan, Dylan Simpson, Seán Ryan, Conor Hackett, Shane Donohue, Dean Gleeson, Patrick Bolger. Second Row: (L-R) Mr Philip Wlsh, David Carroll, Michael Carey, James Bergin, Ben Lawler, Padraic Mullen, Ryan Scanlon, Ciarán Brennan, Mr Tom Hogan. Front Row: (L-R) Eoin O'Shea, Diarmuid Phelan, Martin Keoghnan, Adrian Mullen, Conor O'Keeffe, Daithi Barron, Tommy Ronan.