



ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE  
KILKENNY  
[www.stkieranscollege.ie](http://www.stkieranscollege.ie)



ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE RECORD 2013









Monsignor Kieron Kennedy

## Message from the College Administrator

student facilities. For the financial year ending 31st August, 2012 additions to our School Buildings cost €34,496 and for Computer/IT Expenses, ICT infrastructure and Technology the costs incurred were €66,575. Also, a contract was agreed and signed following another successful submission to the DES. This was for the provision of accessible toilets, lift and special needs access for our students.

St Kieran's College continues to have a special place in the hearts and minds of many people, not just past students. Many visitors are impressed on seeing the whole campus and the ongoing developments. The College environment and the community of students and staff elicit much positive comment. This does not happen by accident. It takes much hard work at all levels and particular commitment to our traditions and shared values. Therefore, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the Principal, Mr John Curtis, the Deputy Principal, Mr Adrian Finan, the teachers and staff, my brother priest Fr Dermot Ryan and the Chaplaincy Team, the students and their Council,

our parents and guardians and their Association, my colleagues on the Board of Management, my fellow Trustees and Bishop Seamus Freeman, our Patron.

The economic climate continues to impact on most sectors of society in our country. The areas of Healthcare and Education provision, in particular, remain under severe pressure due to budgetary constraints. These in turn invariably make the lives of all associated or involved with St Kieran's College and in the care and education of our students more challenging. But in spite of all the related demands and pressures the pages of the 2013 edition of The College Record allow us insight into how effective a team we have in place and to how well St Kieran's has responded to and celebrated its mission during this past year.

Enjoy reading The Record. A special thank you to all who made the publication possible.

Let us bless the Lord.

Monsignor Kieron J. Kennedy  
Chairman,

Board of Management and Trustee



### ST KIERAN'S STAFF 2012/13

Back row (l-r): Mr Michael Rice, Mr Philip Walsh, Mr Ger Flood, Mr Michael Kelleher, Mr Eamon Heffernan, Mr Michael ForreSt Sixth row (l-r): Fr Dermot Ryan, Ms Sharon Keyes, Ms Eilish Ahern, Ms Jo Staunton Ms Pauline Bergin, Mr John Sugure, Mr John O Keffe. Fifth row (l-r): Mr Tom Hogan, Mr Patrick Darmody, Mr David McCormack. Fourth row (l-r): Mr Larry Cotter, Mr John Quane, Ms Claire Hanafin, Ms Mary Martin, Ms Jacqui Norton, Ms Jane Moran, Ms Bernie Dowling, Ms Orla Reynolds, Mr Stephen Morgan, Mr Lester Ryan. Third row (l-r): Mr Liam Smith, Ms Eadaoin Maher, Mr Richie Ruth, Ms Aisling Phelan, Ms Jean Fitzpartick, Ms Eileen Hanrick, Mr Richie Windle, Mr Paul Fitzgerald, Mr Ken Archbold. Second row (l-r): Mr Joe Kavanagh, Mr Ger Buckley, Mr Ken Maher, Ms Karen O'Mahony, Ms Christina Warner, Mr Niall Connolly, Mr Carl Lynch. Front row (l-r): Mr Adrian Finan, Mgr Kieron Kennedy, Mr John Curtis. Missing from photo: Ms Debbie Ghanem, Ms Mary Lennon, Ms Loretto Mannion, Mr Don O'Connor, Mr Simon Reddy, Ms Ann Wemyss.

# Message from the Principal



Mr John Curtis

In the last number of years this school has seen many changes. Successive College Records will have charted developments in the curriculum we offer, the facilities, the grounds, the establishment of an appropriate structure for the development of IT in the school and the embracing of progressive teaching methodologies and practices. The current year has seen the refurbishment of Room 10 in the Glasshall and its transformation into a fit-for-purpose media and conference room to accommodate class and staff groups, our Parents' Association and outside speakers, as an initiative that has proven to be very successful. For his leadership and vision on this project, as in all areas of our enterprise here in St Kieran's, I would especially like to acknowledge the central role of my colleague and our Deputy Principal Mr Adrian Finan and to thank him for his insistent focus on the improvement of our school.

This year, there has been great attention to change in education on a national level. Schools are engaging in literacy and numeracy strategies to improve outcomes in these particular areas and a process that will reform the Junior Cycle has commenced. Changes will be made, in time, to the terminal examination now taken at the end of Third Year and the type of accreditation that will follow. There are undoubtedly positives in these reforms and the nature of the engagement with students that is envisaged and

it will be incumbent upon us all, as the process rolls out, to ensure that the highest academic standards and the sense of direction and purpose, that a school like ours is renowned for, is maintained. We look forward to the measured change in the areas of curriculum and pedagogy that can undoubtedly be positive and as always we will embrace what we feel to be in the best interests of our pupils.

It is important, too, to remember that the educational experience involves much more than the academic and as you leaf through these pages we feel that this is reflected in the range of activities that the Record captures. I would like to congratulate all of our pupils on their endeavour and creativity and to thank my colleagues on staff for the time and effort which they put in to ensure that the educational experience in St Kieran's is so rich and varied. The present Board of Management is reaching the end of its three-year term and I would like to thank all the members, who give so generously of their time and energy, for all of their work and support during the year. The Parents' Association as always has been integral in helping us shape policy and improve infrastructure in the school. The Fun Run in the Castle Park was a great success not only as a fundraiser for our ongoing work on developing IT facilities in the school but also as a social event that allowed families, pupils and friends of the school to meet and enjoy each other's company:

congratulations and thanks to all involved. As Chairman of our Board of Management, Administrator and a Trustee of the College, Mgr Kennedy has continued on with the duties of President and in these leadership roles has been integral to the developments and improvements that have taken place on the campus in the last decade. Generations of pupils will owe him much for his prescience, stewardship and guidance.

There are many people involved in the production of the Record but we especially thank the main editorial group of Fr Dermot Ryan, Ms Eadaoin Brennan, Mr Adrian Finan and Ms Martina Lawlor for the huge amount of time they put in to its publication. Fr Dermot is, of course, our Chaplain and has also been involved in the development of IT infrastructure on the campus and for his overall contribution to the school we are most grateful. As the State Examinations approach, there is a palpable air of concerted study throughout the school and to the Sixth Years especially, we wish you well. We trust you have enjoyed and benefited from your time in St Kieran's and we hope that we have in some way prepared you for the journey ahead. Our thoughts now turn to welcoming a new cohort of students to the College and we are confident that they, too, will develop and mature in a way that makes us all so proud of this great school.

Mr John Curtis M.A., M.ED



# Heritage collections at St Kieran's College Campus

An eighteenth century portrait study of Ossory bishop and additional historic papers added to the heritage collections at St Kieran's College Campus.



Bishop Thomas de Burgo (1759-76).

As a result of a visit to Rome by the Ossory clergyman and diocesan archivist/historian, the Rev. Dr Fergus Farrell, a copy of the portrait of Bishop Thomas de Burgo, has made its way to the College, to hang amongst the episcopal collection of portraits, in the dining room. The original remains in Rome at the Italian headquarters of the Dominican Order. Over the centuries the order has provided Ossory with five bishops.

Bishop de Burgo, otherwise the Rev. Thomas Burke, a Dominican priest was elected bishop of Ossory in 1759, an office he held until his death in 1776. This portrait now joins those of Bishops David Rothe (1618-50), John Thomas Troy (1777-86), John Dunne (1787-89), William Kinsella (1829-45), Edward Walshe (1846-72), Patrick Francis Moran (1872-84), Abraham Brownrigg (1884-1928), Patrick Collier (1928-63), Peter Birch (1963-81), Laurence Forristal (1981-2007) and the current occupant, Dr Seamus Freeman (2007). With only two exceptions, Bishops James Lanigan (1789-1812) and Kieran Marum (1815-27), the College now has a full representation

of Ossory prelates since 1759, a record which can hardly be equalled by any other Roman Catholic Irish diocese.

In 2011, a photographic copy of Bishop David Rothe's fine portrait of c. 1640 joined the collection through the courtesy of a Rothe descendant now living in Co. Louth. The College has amongst its sacred plate Bishop Rothe's silver rosary beads and his silver-gilt monstrance, as well as a set of vestments. These were gifted to the College c. 1880 by Mrs Bryan of Jenkinstown Park.

On the archival front the historic collections in the care of Kilkenny Archives, continues to grow. Last October, the family papers of the acclaimed Kilkenny writer, Hubert Butler (1900-91) were donated by the Goodwillie and Lenox-Conyngham families (of Lavistown and Anaverna, Co. Louth). This particular collection will in the years ahead attract many researchers to Kilkenny especially those with an interest in Hubert Butler and the Ireland of his years. Glanbia PLC too have added to their deposited papers at Kilkenny Archives, with more to come.



Bishop David Rothe (1618-50).

## St Kieran's Jubilarians' Reunion 2012



St Kieran's College Jubilarians' Reunion 2012 group, pictured from back, left to right: Very Rev. Clement Ledwaba, Pretoria, South Africa; Very Rev. Philip McKenna, Mobile (Golden); Very Rev. John O'Donoghue, Southwark (Golden); Very Rev. Tony Brady, Maitland (Golden); Very Rev. Peter Kehoe, O.Carm. (Silver); Very Rev. Anthony Owens, Hexham & Newcastle (Golden). Middle row: Very Rev. Jim Nolan, Southwark (Golden); Very Rev. Dan Bollard, P.P., Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny (Ruby); Very Rev. Charlie Kelly, Germany (Ruby); Mgr. Benny O'Shea, Arundel & Brighton (Ruby); Very Rev. Jim Murphy, P.P., St Canice's, Kilkenny (Ruby); Very Rev. Eamonn Tobin, Orlando (Ruby). Front row: Very Rev. Tom Dermody, Sacramento (Golden); Canon Dick Phelan, P.E., Ballycallan, Co. Kilkenny; Rt Rev. Mgr Kieron Kennedy, President, St Kieran's College; Most Rev. Seamus Freeman, SAC, Bishop of Ossory; Very Rev. Sean Skehan, St Augustine (Diamond); Very Rev. Ted Harrington, Shrewsbury (Diamond).

(Photo: Eoin Hennessy Photography)



## Kilkenny Research & Innovation Centre

The Kilkenny Research & Innovation Centre was opened in May 2012 by An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny, TD, in the refurbished Burrells Hall building. It is a partnership between St Kieran's College, Kilkenny Local Authorities, and the Institutes of Technology in Waterford and Carlow. Since then, activity at the centre has been growing rapidly.

The Telecommunications Software and Systems Group from WIT now has 15 researchers working on a range of EU-funded applied research initiatives,

along with several commercialisation projects. This group is currently recruiting for several software engineering positions to meet the growing demand for its services. Other WIT research groups based at the Centre includes three staff from RIKON, which provides business development services to SMEs.

A team from Carlow Institute of Technology are running a programme for local SME's called "INSPIRE". The programme consists of mentoring and seminars aimed at inspiring creativity

and helping SMEs to develop ideas for new products and services. Additional supports such as hot-desks and one-to-one mentoring can also be accessed during the programme.

WIT and ITC are jointly delivering the "New Frontiers" programme for entrepreneurs in the South East and have been holding workshops at the Centre over the past six months. Two start-up companies have joined the Centre and we look forward to supporting many more new businesses in the coming year.



# Reunion for the Class of 1962

Ray Cleere



A trip down memory lane was made recently when past pupils of St Kieran's College in Kilkenny city from the First Year class of 1962 got together for a reunion. This year St Kieran's College is 230 years old. It was founded in 1782. The function was a huge success as old school friends met, some for the first time in 45 years.

The idea was mooted by Donie Butler who brought together a committee of Jim Delaney, Jim Kavanagh and Bill Bergin. Unfortunately, Jim Kavanagh missed the occasion as he was held up on the Belarus customs border while on a charity trip in aid of the Chernobyl children's fund.

The reunion was held on Saturday, May 12. Countless memories came flooding back as the past pupils took

a stroll around the College grounds. They then attended Mass in St Patrick's church across the road. The celebrant was Fr Liam Taylor. The readings were read by past pupils John Loughman and Jim Delaney. Deceased colleagues were remembered as were former colleagues who are scattered around many parts of the world including England, Germany, New York, Australia and California. However, three former classmates made overseas flights to attend the memorable occasion. Joe Cummins came from Australia, Louis Farrell came further afield from Afghanistan and Anthony Dillon came from London.

On the previous day, Friday, May 11, 13 of the group enjoyed a day's competition at the renowned golf

course at Mount Juliet. The competition was won by Pat Alley from Durrow in County Laois and the team competition was won by event organiser Donie Butler, John Clifford and Pat Alley.

More than two thirds of the past pupils, including this writer, turned up and the celebrations continued well into the early hours during which many "famous" incidents were recalled. An excellent reception was held in the Club House Hotel which is owned by former classmate, Jim Brennan. Following a formal welcome, dinner was served and the past pupils reflected on how the last 45 years had treated them. The group plan to meet again in the summer of 2017 on the 50th anniversary of leaving the Alma Mater.



Above back row (l-r): Mr Pat Drennan, Mr Frank Murphy. Front row (l-r): Ms Ann Meany, Ms Martina Lawlor, Ms Breda Hickey, Ms Dorota Lacek. Right: Mr Frank Murphy with some members of Kilkenny Fire Brigade.





Olivia Maher of the Adult Faith Development Group



Parish Pastoral Council Training

## Ossory Adult Faith Development



OssoryDiocese

ossory.diocese

afd@ossory.ie

www.ossory.ie

For the past number of years they have been working to assist people in their journey of faith. Its members Olivia Maher, Kieran O'Shea, Michael Hogan, Eadaoin Brennan, Declan Murphy, Derek Dooley and Dermot Ryan, along with its secretary Martina Lawlor, work together to try and offer to parishes, groups and individuals resources and aids to help people deepen their understanding of God.

Since its foundation the AFD group has hosted some major workshops and weekends on topical issues such as the weekend on Catholic Involvement in

Education and one on the contribution of Cardinal Newman at the time of his beatification. This year has proven to be no different. Last October they hosted a conference to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and were fortunate enough to secure American Theologian Richard Gaillardetz to be the keynote speaker at this event and just recently a festival to mark the year of Faith in the Diocese: Faith Fest 2013: Celebrating Faith in Ossory, about which you can read more in this section.

But it is the everyday task of this group that is the mainstay of its work. Offering resources to parishes and groups to mark different periods of the Church's year and days or nights of training for parish and diocesan groups. Most noticeably over this past year initiatives such as the text service for Advent and Lent saw nearly 2500 people receiving daily messages on their phones with a line of scripture, a thought for the day or a suggested task to help them journey together during those seasons. Moreover the group has continued to produce the very





Fr Eamonn O'Gorman



Faith Fest 2013

At the heart of the mission of the College is not only education but faith education. It is, therefore, very fitting that the diocesan Adult Faith Development group has its office here.



Public Speaking



Faith Fest 2013

popular CDs and booklets which guide people in reflecting on and praying the scriptures.

Another aspect of the work of the AFD group is helping train people to serve in different ministries and activities in the diocese and in their parishes, and during this past year they have offered training and resources for Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, School Boards of Management, Baptismal Teams and Parish Pastoral Councils.

The work of knowing God is never done and hopefully as a committee we

who work for the development of the faith will continue to be able to think of ever new and helpful ways to support people in their journey of faith.

### FAITH FEST 2013

St Kieran's College was awash with colour and activities on the weekend of the 10th-12th May as the Ossory Adult Faith Development group, assisted by the students and staff of St Kierans, hosted its Faith Fest 2013: Celebrating Faith in Ossory in the grounds of the College. The group undertook the

staging of this weekend in response to an invitation by Pope Benedict XVI who asked that Catholics throughout the world would mark this year, (October 2012 – November 2013) as a "Year of Faith".

This festival was held to mark and celebrate the rich heritage of faith and faith activity that has taken place, and continues to take place, in the various parishes of our diocese. Since the diocese was first established people have been coming to pray together and to support each other on the journey of faith and the festival organizers



Richard Gaillardetz, American Theologian, was a keynote speaker at a recent conference to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

planned that this weekend was to be a celebration of this fact.

The weekend began with a concert by Liam Lawton and special guests the Unity Singers on the Friday night in St Mary's Cathedral. The Cathedral provided a wonderful setting for this evening and over five hundred people were there to enjoy the concert. Then from early Saturday morning through to Sunday evening the grounds of St Kieran's College was buzzing with activities.

Many of the Parishes, Religious Congregations and Organisations in Ossory were represented at over seventy display stands located along the glasshall. And while the packed glasshall hummed with people many others took part in some of the nearly forty workshops, talks and lectures that were offered. Speakers such as John Waters, Julie Kavanagh, Dermot McCarthy, Suzanne Mulligan, Mgr Jim Cassin and a host of others offered insights, guidance and entertaining talks to mainly packed lecture rooms all weekend.

The entire weekend was built around families and the on-site catering, activities and games for families, bouncy castles, slides, face painting, clowns for the children all ensured that all who came had an enjoyable day out. The Senior pitch was also full for the weekend as young people were given the opportunity to hurl for the pride of their parishes thanks to a hurling and a camogie blitz for the u8s. Great excitement was ensured by the arrival of many

of the county senior players to ref the matches and present the medals. The children were delighted to have the opportunity to show their skills in front of greats such as Tommy Walsh, Jackie Tyrrell, Michael Rice, Lester Ryan, Conor Forgarty, Richie Hogan, and on Sunday Angela Downey was on hand to





watch the camogie unfold and to present medals to all who took part.

In all nearly 5000 people came through the grounds of the College during the weekend for a festival that was, by any standards, a massive success and a wonderful opportunity for people to celebrate together the rich tradition and future of the diocese.

## OSSORY TIMES

Sharing the good news is the task of every Christian. Doing this is each generation's response to that early invitation of Jesus to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19). Embracing this fact and realising that we have so much good news to share here in Ossory the diocesan Adult Faith Development group launched the *Ossory Times* earlier this year.

The idea which gave birth to this publication was very simple. The group recognised that there is an immense amount of good and exciting things happening in the parishes and groups of our diocese and while we are all concerned with what we are doing on our own patch sometimes we might not be aware of what is happening in a neighbouring parish. Knowing what is happening not only gives us energy and impetus for the work we are doing ourselves but also, and very importantly, it gives us ideas! It was, therefore, the decision of the Faith Development Group to try and facilitate the sharing of this information here in the diocese.

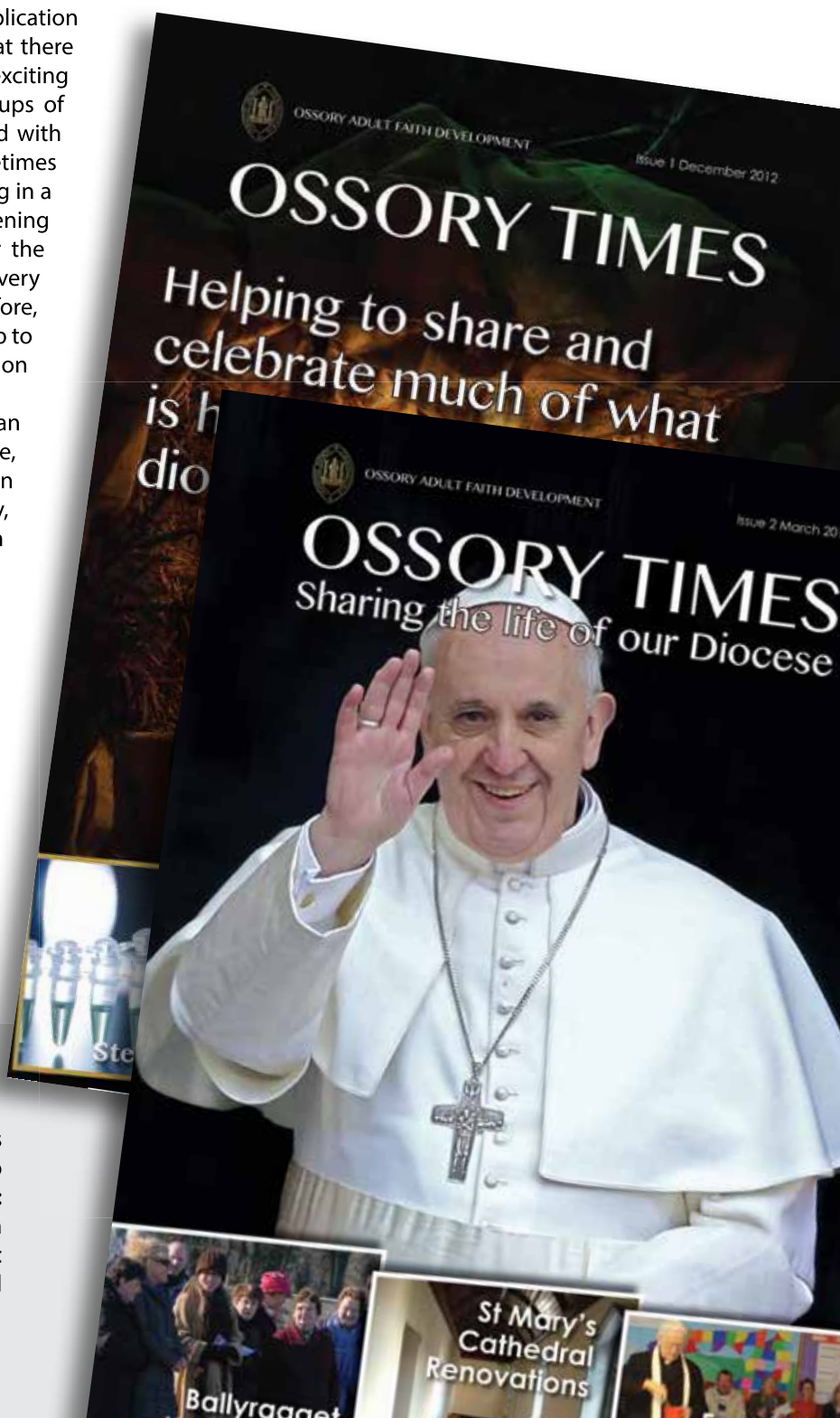
The original idea was for a diocesan newsletter - something small and simple, maybe even akin to what we receive in parishes each weekend. However, thankfully, as the project began to take shape it was soon realised that this would not be sufficient. Far from it! The parishes and people of Ossory have lots going on and when tentative feelers were sent out for material for the first edition of the newsletter it was quickly apparent that something different was needed. The *Ossory Times* was born!

The *Ossory Times* in over forty pages covers anything that is happening throughout the diocese, from a gathering in Urlingford, the departure of the sisters

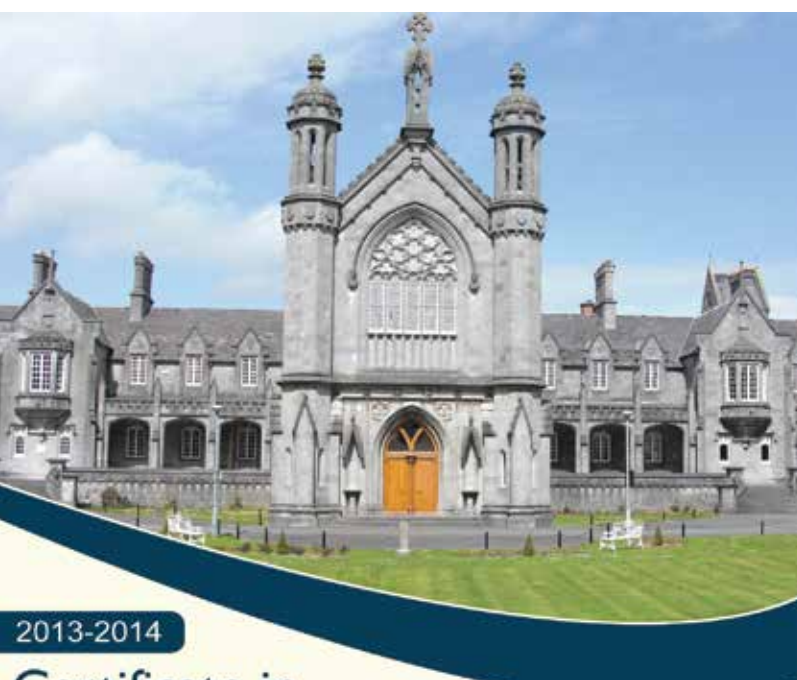
from Kilmacow, the novena in St John's to the work in the Cathedral and everything in between.

The *Times* is available in all the parishes in the diocese and is sold after weekend masses and it has proven to be successful. A print run of three thousand for both the first and second editions sold out. With over forty pages of full cover news and articles the *Ossory Times* is priced extremely well - it was decided to charge just €2 thereby hoping to make it accessible to all in the diocese. In fact the magazine is also available, in the most modern form of publication, as a free download as an ebook or ibook to be viewed by people on the go. Why not check out the Ossory website.

If you have something going on and would like to advertise it or share how it went with others why not send it to the *Ossory Times*. The next edition is already taking shape...



Further information on the year's activities of the Adult Faith Development Group is available on the diocesan website: [www.ossory.ie](http://www.ossory.ie) or by contacting the Faith Development Office which is located in St Kieran's College at 056 7753624 or email [afd@ossory.ie](mailto:afd@ossory.ie)



# Certificate in Theological Studies

Declan Murphy, Course Director

The Certificate in Theological Studies began in September 2011-2012 in St Kieran's College with its first group of 25 students and has continued this year with a further 20 students. This programme was initiated following a recommendation of the Diocesan Forum, which was acted upon by St Kieran's College on behalf of the Diocese of Ossory.

The programme runs for 24 weeks on two evenings each week. The rationale for the programme is to provide for the education and faith formation of those who are actively engaged within their parishes. It also for those who, when provided with the opportunity to deepen their faith, would like to become involved in parish life. Those on the programme have had the opportunity to deepen their faith and their understanding of their faith through participating in modules in Old and New Testament Scripture, Ecclesiastical History, Ecclesiology, Liturgy and Sacramental Theology and Moral Theology.

Students have found that the theological and scriptural formation and education which they have engaged in throughout the programme have been of 'immense value and benefit to them'. In their feedback on their experience of the programme, they have stated that they found the modules to have been 'thoroughly stimulating and enjoyable'. They really enjoyed the many opportunities they received to reflect on and engage in discussion on what they had learned. One student noted that 'the individual modules all connected and fed into each other to give a clearer and deeper understanding of faith'.

Many commented on how the formative nature of the course has helped them in their own lives as they live out their faith in their own families and communities.

Enrolment for next year's programme is now open and application forms are available through your local parish or directly from St Kieran's College, Kilkenny.

Declan Murphy B.A Th., M.A. Course Director, may be contacted on 087 9081470, 056-7753624 or email [theology@ossory.ie](mailto:theology@ossory.ie)

2013-2014

## Certificate in Theological Studies

Level 7 (20 credit ECTS)

### Aims of the Course

To provide general theological education and formation in the main aspects of faith.

To provide the theological background needed for lay involvement and leadership roles at parish and diocesan level.

### Course Duration

100 hours part-time over one academic year from September 2013 to May 2014.

For an application form and further information please contact:

Declan Murphy M.A., Course Director, St Kieran's College, Kilkenny.

Email: [declanmurphy@ossory.ie](mailto:declanmurphy@ossory.ie) or [theology@ossory.ie](mailto:theology@ossory.ie) Telephone 056-7753624 or 087-9081470

Application Forms can be downloaded from

[www.stkieranscollege.ie](http://www.stkieranscollege.ie)

[www.ossory.ie](http://www.ossory.ie)

Closing date for applications: 23rd August 2013



Sr Helen Maher,  
Ossory Diocesan Forum Co-Ordinator.

## The Ossory Diocesan Forum

The Ossory Diocesan Forum, established in 2004, consists of a network of Pastoral Councils at parish, deanery and diocesan levels.

The Pastoral Councils are designed so that the voices of all people of goodwill, priests, religious and lay, are heard and enabled to shape the

faith life of the Diocese. The focus of the Forum is to promote the co-responsibility of priests and lay people for the mission of the Church at every level in the Diocese of Ossory.

The Forum Coordinator, Sr Helen Maher, is based at the Forum Office, St Kieran's College.



# Kilkenny Campus NUI Maynooth

Since its establishment in 1997, the Kilkenny Campus of NUI Maynooth has been located in a wing of St Kieran's College, and over time has come to occupy considerable space on four floors of this historic building.

A local Steering Committee, representative of a wide range of business, educational and community interests in the region was put in place to ensure local ownership of the project and continues to guide its development up to the present.

The first courses offered through the Campus were the newly developed modular, part-time and inter-disciplinary degree programmes in Community Studies and in Local Studies. These involve nine Departments of NUI Maynooth have continued to be the core programmes at the Campus. Other early offerings included the Diploma in Youth and Community Work, which provided professional training for practitioners in this field, and continuing professional development programmes for teachers and trainers.

The Campus programme has since

been augmented by a number of other Certificates and Diplomas which offer stepping stones to the degrees, and progression thereafter to postgraduate studies.

In the past few years the Campus has run short non accredited courses in various areas such as English Literature and Local History, as well as a teg (Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge) course in the Irish language with optional examinations.

From 2011 the Campus has offered part time postgraduate programmes in Adult and Community Education and in Arts in Healthcare Settings, and this year will offer an MEd in Adult and Community Education.

## FIRST ARTS COMES TO KILKENNY CAMPUS SEPTEMBER 2013

In 2012 the Campus launched the Firsts Arts initiative which offers the opportunity of pursuing the first year of the three year, full time Bachelor of Arts degree in Kilkenny with progression on to NUI Maynooth in years two and

three. The offering is through the CAO and for the first time the Campus will welcome students directly from Leaving Certificate as well as mature students.

At the NUI Maynooth Campus there are 26 subjects spread over 8 groups to choose from. At the Kilkenny Campus, students can choose from 10 subjects spread over the 8 groups. Although for logistical reasons, the choice is smaller, the range of subjects reflects some of the most popular on offer on the main Campus. These are: English, Sociology, History, Geography, Anthropology, Nua Ghaeilge, Medieval Irish and Celtic Studies, Philosophy, Theology and Economics.

Students will have the opportunity to study in a small, friendly environment with a strong ethos of student centred learning.

Further information on First Arts and all other activities and programmes at the Campus can be found on our website at <http://kilkenny.nuim.ie> or please contact Tel: 056 777 59100/ 7775919/ 087 2630999 or Email [Kilkenny.campus@nuim.ie](mailto:Kilkenny.campus@nuim.ie).



# Subject Awards

<b>Mathematics:</b>	Junior - Jack Brett	Senior - Aravind Menon
<b>Gaeilge:</b>	Junior - Sean Brennan	Senior - Eoghan O'Connor
<b>English:</b>	Junior - Robert Dunne	Senior - Aidan Byrne
<b>Business:</b>	Junior - Vladyslav Medvensky	Senior - Patrick Duggan
<b>French:</b>	Junior - James Lahart	Senior - Anthony Forristal
<b>Technical Graphics:</b>	Junior - Vladyslav Medvensky	Senior - Miodrag Ignatovic
<b>Technology:</b>	Junior - Eoin Holligan	Senior - Patrick Hughes
<b>Science:</b>	Junior - Sean Lynch	Senior - Fergal Lalor
<b>History:</b>	Peter Butler	
<b>Geography:</b>	Eoin Corcoran	
<b>Art:</b>	Junior - Liam Costello	Senior - Jake Casey
<b>Music:</b>	Junior - Alan Hayes	Senior - James Rice
<b>Frank Muldowney Award Best Junior Certificate 2012:</b>		Conor O'Carroll and Graham English

## Academic of the Year Awards

<b>First Year</b>	Eamon Fennelly
<b>Second Year</b>	Diarmuid Minnock
<b>Third Year</b>	Vladyslav Medvensky
<b>Fifth Year</b>	Cormac Everard
<b>Sixth Year</b>	Anthony Forristal

## Special Achievement Awards

<b>LCVP Student of the Year:</b>	Conor Holligan
<b>Debating:</b>	Aravind Menon
<b>Green Schools:</b>	Cormac Lehnen
<b>Young Entrepreneurs:</b>	Cian Smith and Brendan Cullen

## Sports Awards

<b>Snooker</b>	Stephen Bateman
<b>Boxing</b>	Kevin Kehoe
<b>Tetrathlon</b>	Cian Drennan and Leon Butler
<b>Taekwondo</b>	Alex Milchev
<b>Badminton</b>	Eoghan O'Connor, Paddy Walsh, Shane Comerford and Fergal Brennan
<b>Chess</b>	Eoin Minnock, Aravind Menon and Donovan Ashcroft
<b>Handball</b>	Dylan Walsh and Brian Mahon
<b>Athletics</b>	Jack Manning
<b>Junior Cross Country</b>	Peter Lynch
<b>Senior Cross Country</b>	Anthony Forristal

### Soccer Players

<b>First Year</b>	Dara Keane
<b>Second Year</b>	Eoin Kelly
<b>Soccer Player of the year</b>	Declan McQuillan
<b>Gaelic Football player of the year</b>	Ricci Drennan
<b>Juvenile Hurler of the year</b>	Michael Cody
<b>Junior Hurler of the year</b>	James Tyrell
<b>Senior Hurler of the year</b>	Robert O'Hanrahan

## Awards of Merit - Student of the year

<b>First Year</b>	Peter Walsh, Robert Fitzgerald, Eamon Fennelly and Eric Mahon
<b>Second Year</b>	Daragh Phelan, Joe Slnnott, Niall Brennan and Patrick Ryan
<b>Third Year</b>	Eoin Delaney, Vladyslav Medvensky, Jack Keoghan and Liam Costello
<b>Transition Year</b>	Ciaran Fennelly, Conor O'Carroll, Shane Walsh, Brian O'Carroll, Ian Martin and Kevin Blanchfield
<b>Fifth Year</b>	Alex Helizon, Eoin Gough, Ciaran Breen, Cormac Everard, John Murphy and Mike Nikandrocs
<b>Sixth Year</b>	Conor Holligan, Fergal Brennan, Aravind Menon, Fergal Lalor, Conor O'Shea and Enda Morrissey

## Student of the Year

<b>First Year</b>	Eoin Minnock
<b>Second Year</b>	Bill Whelan
<b>Third Year</b>	Eoin Walsh
<b>Patrick Kilroy Award</b>	Nicholas Dunphy
<b>Fifth Year</b>	James Tyrell
<b>Sixth Year</b>	David Hennessy



# Academic Award Winners

Back row (l-r):  
Mr Adrian Finan (Deputy  
Principal), Mr Darren O'Neill  
(Guest Speaker), Mgr  
Kieron Kennedy (College  
Administrator), Ms  
Joan Mahon (Parents'  
Association), Mr John Curtis  
(Principal)  
Front row (l-r):  
Eamon Fennelly, Cormac  
Everard, Anthony Forristal,  
Diarmaid Minnock,  
Vladyslav Medvensky.



# Sports Award Winners

Back row (l-r):  
Mr Adrian Finan (Deputy  
Principal), Mr Darren  
O'Neill (Guest Speaker),  
Mgr Kieron Kennedy  
(College Administrator),  
Ms Joan Mahon (Parents'  
Association), Mr John Curtis  
(Principal)  
Front row (l-r):  
Anthony Forristal,  
Robert O'Hanrahan,  
Declan McQuillan,  
Ricci Drennan, James Tyrell.



# Student of the Year Awards

Back row (l-r):  
Mr Adrian Finan (Deputy  
Principal), Ms Jean  
Fitzpatrick (Organiser),  
Mr Darren O'Neill (Guest  
Speaker), Mgr Kieron  
Kennedy (College  
Administrator),  
Ms. Joan Mahon (Parents'  
Association), Mr Niall  
Connolly (Organiser),  
Mr John Curtis (Principal).  
Front row (l-r):  
Eoin Minnock, James Tyrell,  
David Hennessy, Nicholas  
Dunphy, Eoin Walsh,  
Bill Whelan.







Liam McCarthy visits St Kieran's





## Sixth Year Signatures

[illegible]



Ciarán Breen

The 27th of August 2007 doesn't seem that long ago but it's hard to believe it's nearly six years since the class of 2013 took our first collective steps into St Kieran's College. It was a very proud day for me being the first member of my family to attend St Kieran's and also a daunting prospect as I knew no one, because I was the only one from my primary school as well. So on that momentous day I began my St Kieran's experience. It still stands out in my mind, it was a beautiful, sunny day and for some reason I was there early and was the second person there. I was greeted by Fr Sean O'Connor and the first pupil there who told me his name was Paddy "Bull" O'Reilly. We were all assembled in Hall 33 and were introduced to our Year Head Mr O'Connor and of course the Deputy Principal and Principal. We were told that we were the lucky ones, hundreds had applied, words which would never leave me. There was a sense about that speech that because you were now a Kieran's man we had to conduct ourselves befitting of the school because Kieran's men are better than everyone else and now it was our turn to carry the torch and remind everyone that we're the best school around be it hurling, running, education, music etc. If you look at the pictures on the wall you see the hurlers, politicians, artists, musicians, athletes, scholars and the list goes on, now it was our turn to add to that list. It's for that reason I always felt a sense of pride for being a Kieran's man it was our job to uphold this proud tradition.

After the first day we started to settle and friendships started to form and it was particularly important for me seeing as I knew no one but I fitted right in because we all had that mutual

## My St Kieran's College Experience

love of hurling. Every morning was spent playing wall-ball and after a while you got to know lads not on the basis of what class they were in, but their club. Of course there were the new challenges of having many teachers and subjects. I remember Ms Norton coming in for French and speaking in French, looking for a response. We hadn't a clue what she was saying, she might as well been looking into a field of thistles! First Year was flying by and we had some great times along the way like the sports day, Kieran's day and the activities that go with it, the mile run which Simon Rafter won, oh no actually it was Cormac Everard! Some lads made the juvenile panel which is a big deal as a First Year, I wasn't as lucky, but maybe it was one of the best things to happen to me because after that I put the head down and trained harder and was fuelled by the pain of not making the panel. I can't stress it enough to any of the younger lads reading this that by not making a panel it's not the end of the world. Come back next year and earn your spot because there's no greater honour than wearing the black and white of Kieran's.

Just as quickly the holidays were over and we were no longer the lowest in the pecking order. Second Year probably gives you the most freedom because you don't have exams; there isn't the fuss about being a First Year or Fourth Year. I'd like to think we made the most of this freedom. We witnessed history in Oriel Park in Dundalk as Kieran's claimed our first ever soccer All-Ireland. Six of us represented the school in the cross-country All-Ireland in UUJ, Belfast. We lost our south-Leinster football final to Enniscorthy no thanks to my own-goal which was a huge blow and devastating, but we bounced back to win the Leinster Juvenile Hurling Championship in Dr Cullen against Dublin South when Willie Dooley whipped on a loose ball in the dying moments to win the match. In the meantime we were getting a solid education, one moment comes to mind in science with Mr Darmody when we were studying genetics like hair colour etc. this got one pupil curious in particular. A certain red-headed individual questioned why he had red hair when neither of his

parents had; to which Mr Darmody replied, "Tell me this, what colour hair has the postman?" And just like that Second Year was over.

Before we knew it we were in Third Year and every teacher kept stressing the importance of this year it was like a broken record playing by the end of the day. And while study and all that was important there was more to Third Year than that. A new phenomenon hit the school on those sunny summer days especially around the days leading to the exams and that was red-ass and the craic was had. We lost a week's school in January due to a huge snow storm that hit the country, not that we minded. The mocks were done and dusted and we all got an indication of how we were getting on but in the background something special was brewing. The senior hurlers were making their way through Leinster and defeated local rivals CBS in the Leinster Final. They marched onwards and overcame Athenry after extra-time to book their place in the All-Ireland Final in Semple Stadium. The school's motto *Hiems Transiit* was very befitting as the drought was over and winter had passed as we were once again All-Ireland Champions and the Dr Croke cup came home having been rambling round for a few years. We ourselves claimed the Leinster Junior Championship over rivals CBS in Nowlan Park with an emphatic victory. Then at the end of the years the exams arrived and the only three weeks of sunshine that summer.

After the stress and fuss about Third Year we found ourselves in the complete opposite scenario in Transition Year. Once we got our results back and the Junior Cert party out of the way we began to settle in and realised how easy going a year TY is. TYs run the school without doubt and get no credit for it, from lining pitches, putting up nets, picking rubbish, doing the roll, sweeping the halls, setting up for parent teacher meetings the list goes on. TY is very much "you get out of it what you put in" and for those who put lots into it they got loads out of it like the lads who went to the bother of doing Gaisce and those who went on the school tour to Poland are testament to this. There



was the triumph of conquering Sliabh na mBan (for those who didn't get lost or try to skip down it and have to get the mountain rescue to come to their aid), everyone thought the Young Entrepreneur would be their chance to make fortunes but sadly this was not to be, especially if you were selling jerseys and never included VAT into the selling price! We also got to know our fellow counterparts in Loreto through a céile and tag rugby day. On the GAA front the school achieved the grand slam winning every hurling competition available to us and u14 football, this was a proud year for Kieran's in this regard and reinstates its status as the nursery of hurling, almost every lad in the year got to wear the Kieran's jersey and be a part of this historical achievement being topped off by the Seniors All-Ireland victory over Ard Scoil Rís again. TY has provided us with many memorable occasions however it was not all sunshines and rainbows as the whole school suffered a sad loss when Jim "The Chicken Roll Man" left. It was a struggle for some lads to take but we, as a year, got through it together! But on a more serious note we would like to thank Jim for all his hard work over the years, 11 o'clock break wasn't the same without him.

Coming off the back of TY I don't think we fully expected what Fifth Year would bring, and what it brought was an intense work. I along with other Fifth Years was selected to be a "cairde" to the First Years to help them settle in to Kierans. This is a very worthwhile and benefitting experience with a couple of funny characters. We had the hype of the Eucharistic congress bell which wasn't as big as we were led to believe, the snow fights after the Christmas break and many a game of red-ass. On the Senior Hurling front it was great to be a member of the panel along with other of my fellow Fifth Years and



we gained valuable experience and improved our hurling no end, we added two Leinster honours to our collection. However, an All-Ireland place eluded us as we lost out to eventual winners Nenagh.

As for Sixth Year it's hard to know where the time has gone. As I write this there's less than a month to our leaving cert and it's scary because it's like yesterday we were back from holidays, the top dogs of the school and listening to teachers beating on about the Leaving Cert. Now it's on our doorstep and I'd like to wish everyone the best of luck. I'd like to thank the teachers for their patience and the work they put in throughout the six years but we made it easy for them in fairness we're such a sound group! We even added a bit of Christmas cheer to the Sixth Year area when we decked the halls. We had our debts fundraiser which was a success (made money and there was no Fourth Years at it!) and now we look forward to the day itself and thanks to the lads for organising it, I hope it was worth the free ticket! It was a disappointing year for us Senior hurlers in our final year, ending unfortunately without any silverware. It was a great panel of players that all got along great together and were always pushing each other for places in

a great environment to be a part of. Our mentors did a brilliant job and I extend a huge thanks for their endless work and dedication to the cause. We had a great day's bonding session on Kieran's Day up in Clara where we hurled, worked out in the gym and ran through the countryside. For me the highlight was playing against CBS in the Leinster final. Although we lost it was a proud day for me personally getting to play in a Leinster final for Kieran's against our rivals in Nowlan Park which is a dream fixture. Throughout my Kieran's days it's obvious hurling has been a huge interest to me and fellow students in the year and I can personally say it's improved me as a hurler, getting to play with and against the best hurlers in the country and follow the proud tradition of St Kieran's. As for the whole experience itself it's been very good to us, especially for me. Coming into Kieran's I had high hopes and the experience itself surpassed expectations and it's been brilliant from day one and it's the best decision I ever made and am proud out to be a Kieran's man and always will be. I got to know some great lads, got a good education, plenty of hurling, had the craic and will definitely miss the place and I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels the same.





## Pastoral Care in St Kieran's



### JOHN PAUL II AWARDS 2013

Alan Hayes

This year many students from St Kierans College participated in the John Paul II Award. This is an award dedicated to the memory of Pope John Paul II. It was set up by the Papal Nuncio on the 7th of November 2006.

Many Transition Year students from all over Kilkenny got involved in their community by doing various tasks. Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards can be obtained through dedicating a certain amount of hours per week to both parish and social work. Parish work would include collecting at mass,

reading, altar serving and so on. Social involvement may be going to a crèche, helping your local GAA club, or litter picking.

I aimed to achieve the the Gold Award so I had to do 20 hours of each type of work. For my social involvement I went to Loughboy resource centre once a week and I helped out with the various activities with the children in the centre. For my parish involvement I sang at mass and helped out with the

This award was well worth doing and it was a great way to get to know more people in school, in my parish and in my diocese. It was also very fulfilling to know you are doing good for your

community. I would recommend every student to do this award as it is an enjoyable experience which will strenghten our faith.

### THE SCHOOL LITURGICAL CALENDAR

During the school year there were many opportunities for the students to gather together in prayer. Our beginning of year masses which took place in St Patrick's Church seem to be a long time ago now. At these masses, Fr Dermot, the school chaplain, welcomed everyone back to school and looked forward to another year. In November, we remembered our deceased loved



Cairdeas 2012 /13

Back row (l-r): Ciaran Fennelly, Paddy Reade, Robbie Hennessy, Danny Burke, Michael Sheils, Cathal Dermody, Shane Walsh, William Bergin, Conor O'Carroll, Kieran Freeman, Michael Fitzgerald, Brian Cody. Front row (l-r): Shane O'Brien, Nicholas Dunphy, Stephen Farrell, Cian Smith, Luke O'Connor, Brian O'Carroll, Brendan Cullen, Kevin Blanchfield, Kasper Pawlowski, Sean Sinnott.





ones and friends through some class liturgies in the College chapel. Our Christmas preparations during advent involved class prayers and two carol services. Our school patron, Bishop Freeman, led the celebrations for our St Kieran's Day liturgy, which was celebrated on Friday 8th March. We are currently making preparations for our end of year liturgies in which we will pray for those doing examinations. Our Leaving Certificate graduation liturgy will be celebrated on 23rd May. During this celebration, we will give thanks for the gifts and talents of our Leaving Cert students, we give thanks for the love of their parents and wish them every blessing and success in their future lives.

Once again, it's been a busy year but one in which we hope that through the liturgies and retreats provided, God's love, Christ's compassion and the gifts of the Holy Spirit can be nourished, nurtured and truly experienced in the hearts of all members of our school community.

### 3RD YEAR RETREAT

Brian Power

On Tuesday 25th September the Third Years students of St Kieran's College went on retreat. This year, the format was different, as the retreat was held locally in a number of locations in Kilkenny. The day began with a visit to







the Dominican Black Abbey where we met Br Louis Hughes. He guided us in a meditation, giving us some quiet time to ourselves and to bring our thoughts and prayers to God. He then gave us a guided tour of the Black Abbey, telling us stories of those who have passed through it since it was built in 1225. Br Louis also told us about his daily routine and invited us to join in the morning prayer of the Church.

Following our visit to the Black Abbey, we made the short journey to the original site of St Kieran's College where St Mary's Cathedral stands today. Here we met Fr Mark Condon who gave us a guided tour of the Cathedral giving us great insight into its past, present and into the current renovations being carried for its future. We learned about the statues, mosaics and paintings on display while also getting the opportunity to visit the Chapter Room where we saw a monstrance from 1901, a chalice from 1604 and some pre-Vatican II vestments, which are still in pristine condition. We also took this opportunity to visit the newly renovated Bishop's Meeting room and the new cafe in the basement of the Cathedral. At this point we took a break for a well deserved coffee break.

Following this, we made our way to St Canice's Cathedral for a tour. Many of the lads were interested in the model of Kilkenny City on display from the 1600's before St Kieran's was built. It was great to see a model of Kilkenny with the old city walls – very useful for History class! Our morning was topped off with a trip



up St Canice's Round Tower. Although it was cloudy, we still got a great views of Kilkenny city and the surrounding countryside. Some lads didn't realise they were afraid of heights until they reached the top! Thankfully, we all returned in one piece.

A trip to K-Bowl in the afternoon topped off a great day out together away from our daily routine in the classroom, which is what retreats are all about! It was a day for prayer, Religion, local history, and most of all – a day of fun.

## 2A3 CLASS MASS

Ciaran Lennon, Evan Shefflin and Martin Keoghan

2A3 had their class mass on the 26th of April in the school chapel. Father Ryan was saying the mass and members of 2A3 participated in the mass by saying the Introduction (Liam Rafter), the First Reading (Enda Kenneally), the Psalm (Andy Walsh), Second Reading (Kieran Neville) and the Prayers of the Faithful, said by seven members of the class. Some of the class members brought up symbols of the class, items such as a hurl, artistic impressions, school books and a school flag, for the offertory procession. Ryan Poyntz and Dylan Simpson chose songs which were played during Communion. Patrick Lawry rounded off a successful mass with the Communion Reflection. On behalf of the class we would like to thank Father Ryan, Mr Maher, our religion teacher and all those who participated.

## SECOND YEAR RETREAT TO OLD LEIGHLIN

This year 2A3 and 2A4 were accompanied by Mr Ryan and Mr Windle when they went on their retreat

to Old Leighlin and to Mount Leinster. We started the day by getting a bus to Bagnelstown where we picked up our tour guide Fr Paddy Byrne famous for his contributions to Hector's radio show on 2fm every morning. He brought us to Old Leighlin where we visited St Lazarin's church and cemetery. It's a lovely church and we took some time there to pray.

We then went to Mount Leinster where we walked for a few miles. It sounds like a lot, but the time flew by as Fr Paddy was telling us about the local area. After lunch we went to the local church in Bagnelstown and Fr Paddy said mass. We prayed for our families and friends and gave thanks to God for our friends and for the opportunity to share a day like this together. On the way home we stopped in "The Little Shop" where they got a special deal on their famous ice-cream cones! Everyone enjoyed the day.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK

This year, Catholic Schools' Week took place all around Ireland from the 27th of January to the 2nd of February. Since St Kieran's College is the oldest Catholic school in Ireland, the school decided to take an active part in the week. I and a few other Fifth Year students were approached by Fr Ryan and Mr Maher, and asked to give a Religion class to students in either the St John of God or in St Patrick's De La Salle primary schools. I was delighted to have the opportunity to take part as last year, on work experience, I had a brilliant time working in a primary school and was glad to have the chance to give a lesson of my own rather than just observing.

We were divided into pairs, each with their own class. I was asked to teach a Fourth class in St John of God.





The week coincided with St Bridget's Day so we decided this would be a topical and interesting subject to deal with. We began preparing our classes, trying to think of different ways to approach teaching this story that the children had probably heard a hundred times before. Nicholas Dunphy, who I was working with, had a story about Bridget that very few people, including myself, actually knew. It was a local, little known story called 'St Bridget and the Well'. The well in the story was actually on his grandparents' farm! We decided that this would be a really great story to tell, so we prepared the class around this story and the famous story of 'St Bridget's Cloak'.

I was quite nervous on the day of the lesson, but we were warmly welcomed into the school and the day turned out to be a great success. The

class responded enthusiastically to the lesson and seemed to really enjoy it. It was also a really beneficial day for a lot of the Kieran's pupils as many of them wanted to be teachers themselves. We really had a great time and I would recommend it to anyone.

We would like to thank Fr Ryan and Mr Maher for helping us to prepare the lessons and for giving us the chance to participate in the week.

### MY LOURDES EXPERIENCE

Bill O'Neill

Firstly, to receive a place on the Lourdes group we had to do the following: we had to write a letter saying why we thought we should get the privilege of going to Lourdes on the schools behalf, after this if it was good enough you went on to have an interview with two

local priests. From the forty or so pupils I had the privilege of being chosen to represent the school.

The group then had to raise funds for the trip to Lourdes and to pay for any other expenses that arose. Some of this was raised as a group by running such things as bag packs, tag rugby day and Christmas cards. Then we each had to raise a small amount of money on our own. We could do this by paying it ourselves, getting sponsorship or asking family members etc.

We arrived in Lourdes on Wednesday the 22nd of May. Every morning after breakfast we walked down to the hospital where we met up with the other pilgrims. We then accompanied the elderly or the sick to the various churches and areas around Lourdes. On the first day we went to mass at the Grotto to celebrate the opening of our pilgrimage in Lourdes. One day, we all went to confession while on another day we walked around, while pushing the elderly and the sick in wheelchairs, and did the Stations of the Cross. We went to the baths on another of the days where we were given the opportunity to bathe in the healing water.

We also attended mass in a church underground which was attended by dioceses from all around the world. Every night, we went to the Candle light procession which we took part in by carrying candles around Lourdes, praying and singing hymns. Every night, a different diocese hosted this and one of the nights our diocese,



Back row (l-r): Philip Dreeling, Jack Kavanagh, Ronan Lynch, Tom O'Keeffe, Stephen O'Connor. Front row (l-r): Niall Walsh, Niall Brennan, Alan Hayes, Mark Doyle, Bill O'Neill.





Ossory, hosted the Procession with one other diocese. This was one of my favourite experiences of Lourdes as it was really inspirational to see all different races from all different parts of the world uniting because of their faith. After the procession, we brought our charges back to the hospital where they stayed every night.

Going to Lourdes with my friends was one of the best experiences of my Transition Year and I would definitely encourage next year's Transition Year students to seize the opportunity before it passes them by.

## CAIRDEAS PROGRAMME

Nicholas Dunphy

It was February of 2012 when Fr Ryan came around asking a group of us 18 to go to see himself and Mr Maher about being Cairdeas for the incoming First Years. Even though we were still in Fourth Year we had to prepare for the next generation of St Kieran's College students. The group of us had to come in on the first day of school to meet the First Years and help them settle in to their new venture in St Kieran's. We were split into classes and we each

got five or six students to help them through their first few days and weeks of their new school. At first, our duties involved simply showing the First Years around, helping them to get to know the layout of the school and find their way around. We helped out with any worries they might have had.

As the early days turned to weeks, our duties changed. We visited the First Year groups and answered any questions they had. We helped them with issues arising over exams or timetables. We joined them on their retreat, an anti-bullying day followed by a trip to K-Bowl. We organised some activities for them such as a soccer tournament and a table quiz, all aimed at helping the First Years to get to know one another.

We believe that the Cairdeas programme is very successful in its aim to assist First Years, especially in the first six weeks of their time in St Kieran's, to settle in, find their way around and to get to know people in their class. We believe that if students feel comfortable in their surroundings, then they will find it easier to make friends, to learn and be happy. We as an entire group enjoined the programme





immensely and would like to thank Mr Maher and Fr Ryan for their help throughout the year.

## FIRST YEAR RETREAT

Edward O'Neill

The 18th October 2012 started out with typical Irish weather - dull dreary and overcast! However, we had our First Year retreat, which meant no class, and we didn't have to wear our uniforms - the day had just got brighter! Our first task was to sit in the theatre and watch a movie about the bullying of a boy. We sat with our new pals the Cairdeas leaders. It made me more personally aware of what can happen around me, and what to look out for. We had a discussion in our groups about the various types of bullying that can happen to people. Each group spoke about their ideas of what bullying meant to them. Our teachers spoke to us about cyber-bullying.

After the serious part of the day was over, we all headed off in the direction of K-Bowl in McDonagh Junction with our Cairdeas leaders. We played some arcade games had some crisps and drinks thanks to the teachers. Then the serious games of bowling began! The poor teachers and Cairdeas leaders didn't know what hit them. We all went wild. It was great fun.

Everyone got a chance to play a game of bowling which helped us all to make new friends. Overall it was a good day that helped us to settle into our new school.



## IMPRESSIONS OF FIRST YEAR

David Griffin

When asked about their first impressions of St Kieran's College, most students seem to mention the front gates, and I must say I am no different. They were obviously the first thing I noticed as I entered on the first day of school, the towering stone walls and the glittering golden letters displaying the name of the school. I made my way up to the study hall, following the instructions of the Cairdeas, our Fifth Year friends for the year, who were very helpful. As I entered the hall, I saw about thirty First Years seated alongside many other unoccupied spaces. These seats were steadily filled as the new St Kieran's First Years flooded into the room while I chatted to a lad I'd played a few hurling matches against. Mr O'Keeffe arrived and 140 voices fell silent. He explained what was expected of us as pupils and announced the classes. I was pleasantly surprised to be placed with two of my friends from primary school, and many others I knew from sports. We received a tour of the school from our Cairdeas leaders and while the size of the school seemed daunting, I still felt I would be able to soon find my way around as I headed home very excited about the six years of fun and learning to come.

Feargus Byrne

I have had a very good experience of First Year. On our first day, last August, we went in for two hours and were told who would be in our class. We were given a tour of the school by the Cairdeas leaders, who are students from Fifth Year, who really help the First Years to settle in.

In the first few weeks we had lots of activities which shortened our week, such as a hurling blitz, a history trip to Wexford, a retreat and much more. All the staff and teachers were very nice and helpful to us and this helped us to settle in. I was delighted that we didn't get as much homework as people said we would! The school has great sporting activities on offer such as hurling, soccer, football, cross country running and more. It also has music, choir and other activities. First Year was a great year. I made lots of new friends and have some unforgettable memories. I'm now looking forward to the summer holidays but also to being a Second Year!

Evan Walshe

The first few days of First Year were scary but everyone, whether it was the teachers or the Fifth Years were so helpful and settling in would have been challenging without them. I think most people will remember Hall 33 the First Year area to eat, make friends and study. The year went by so quickly and I felt I learned so much in such a short period of time. We travelled to loads of interesting places inside and outside the county on various trips. The year ended on a high with the class travelling to the Leinster final. I've made loads of new friends during my time here in Kieran's. I'm looking forward to the rest of my time here.

Eoin Kenneally

My first impression of St Kieran's College was that it was massive. The Cairdeas lads showed us around so that was no problem, though. The Cairdeas lads also set up fun quizzes and other activities for us to take part in. They were great fun. Settling in was easy at St Kieran's. All the teachers and older students did their best to make us feel welcome. Our social area is Hall 33. All our lockers are in there and we can study in peace. The First Years normally stay around the Wall-Ball area to play hurling at lunchtime. St Kieran's is a very easy place to settle into and I would advise any incoming First Years not to be nervous or scared.

# What Kieran's Day means to me

Craig Murphy

The ball was placed on the spot. If I scored we were through to the final and it was all down to this last penalty. The shame of losing to a Fifth Year team in this tie was unbearable to think about. A short run up and I side footed it in the direction I wanted it to go. From the moment it left my foot I knew where the ball would end up. I stood there planted to the spot for what felt like minutes as I watched the ball roll to the left of the post, wide. Pressure had got to me and I bottled it.

This is the memory of Kieran's Day 2013 and my last. It's something which will probably stick with me forever but in reality it was all light-hearted. It's these kind of memories which define Kieran's Day for me. By the end of six years it's not the x's, y's and wherefore art thou's I'll remember, but days which weren't the norm. It's a day where you get to shoot your teacher with a paintball, really find out who's the best at FIFA, treat an astroturf football kick about like the FA Cup or even just relax and go fishing.

It's a day where we celebrate our patron Saint of the school but also it has a just as important intention. It's a break from our usual routine, which can become monotonous over a year of the same timetable, same classes and same teachers. It might be just a day but the week or two before consists of something to look forward to as students ask teachers what they will be doing for the day and the notice board becomes cluttered with various different activities.

By the end of Sixth Year I find myself looking back on the last six years full of memories many of which included Kieran's days. From bowling in the Dome as innocent and naive first years to the tactical decisions regarding formations in the senior astroturf league, Kieran's Day has given us a chance to do things other schools don't get the chance to do.

At the time these activities may have felt like a bit of banter to break up the term but now they're memories that will never be forgotten.







## GOLF

Tim Ferris

On St Kieran's Day I went to Kilkenny golf club. The teachers that accompanied us were Mr Quane and Mr Windle. On the day I played with John Nolan, Dan Blanchfield and Ciaran Fitzpatrick. I am a member of Kilkenny golf club so I know the course well, we had a very competitive match but unfortunately Dan won out on the day. St Kieran's Day was really enjoyable and I am really looking forward to it next year.

## SOCCER

Jonathan Tshimbalanga

On St Kieran's Day after mass we went back to the school and changed our clothes and got ready to go on our activities for the day. I went down to the Watershed to play in the soccer tournament. The day was organised by Mr Lynch and the teacher who was



in charge of the First Years was Ms Hanrick. Unfortunately, our team didn't win out the tournament but we had a really enjoyable day nonetheless.

## PAINT BALLING

Diarmuid Phelan

For St Kieran's Day this year I went paintballing in Carlow. I had a great day, but it did hurt when you got hit with the paintballs. It only stung for a little bit and then the pain went away. The course in Carlow was really good and there were loads of areas to hide etc. They had incorporated a fort into the course which made it easier to hide but harder to attack

## AIRSOFT

Maciej Siolkowski

I went to a place called Airsoft in Wallslough with a group of First, Second and Third Years for St Kieran's

Day. When we got there we were put into two different groups, the groups were doing different shooting activities and then we were changed around in the afternoon. First there was target shooting and we were timed to see who got the best round in the shortest time. Then we moved onto target practice where we had to shoot at moving targets. It was a great day and I would like to thank Ms Brennan, Mr Heffernan, Mr O'Neill and Mr Reddy for organising a great day out.

## CANOEING

For Kieran's day this year I went canoeing. Around 17 of us went. It cost us €30 each for the day. We left the school after the mass and went out to Borris for the canoeing. When we got out to Borris we were all given wet suits, helmets and life vests. Before we could get into the canoes we were given a tutorial. There were two people in each canoe. It took a while to get used to the canoe but once we did it was great





fun. We were in the water for about two and a half hours. We went down a few rapids and weirs. It was very funny as many people fell out of there canoes and got drenched. What I found the best about it was going down the rapids as you had to keep balanced and try not to fall out. At the end we had to get all of the canoes out of the water and load them up. Then we left to go back to school. Overall I thought that the canoeing was very enjoyable.

## ST KIERAN'S DAY

Andy Whelan

St Kieran's Day is a great day for all students. With so many activities it is one of the most enjoyed and memorable days of the year. This year especially there were lots of sports and games that suited everyone, from quadding to golf and from tennis to canoeing. Kieran's Day is a day where you take a break from school and homework and have fun with your fellow classmates and maybe some of the teachers!. If you asked any St Kieran's college past pupil what they did for St Kieran's day in First Year they would know. That is what St Kieran's Day does, it stays in your mind long after you have left the school.







## GAISCE – THE PRESIDENT’S AWARD

Shane O’Gorman and Eoin Walsh

The President’s Award is Ireland’s National Challenge Award for young people, the country’s most prestigious and respected individual Award programme. It is a challenge from the President of Ireland to the young people of Ireland.

Gaisce works on the basis of a personal challenge set by the young person. The students are led by the PALS (President Award Leaders) in the school.

Students must complete 13 weeks in 3 areas - Community, Physical and Skills and an extra 13 weeks in one area. Students in St Kieran’s have engaged in a wide range of activities from scuba diving and computer courses to learning a new musical instrument and assisting with wheelchair basketball. Well done to all students involved in the Gaisce Programme this year and to

the teachers who act as the President Award Leaders.

Another element of the programme is the Adventure Challenge. On Thursday the 25th of April, 73 Transition Year students gathered at St Kieran’s College for the Gaisce adventure trip. We needed to do this trip to accomplish the Bronze Medal Gaisce Award. The adventure trip involved walking twenty six km and camping out overnight.

We set out at two o’clock on the Thursday and walked 17km to Jenkinstown Woods carrying our camping gear, food and guitars on our backs. The sun was splitting the stones and the atmosphere was brilliant. We arrived at half five in the evening and spent a while pitching our tents on the hills. We played soccer, rugby and american football until the food arrived at 8 o’clock. After a good feed

we settled down and had a sing-a-long. When it was over we went back to our tents for the night. Not much sleep was had that night as it was cold and uncomfortable in the tents. There was a lunar eclipse that night and the light from moon shone brightly upon our tents.

We rose early the next morning at 7:30am, packed up our tents and sleeping bags and cleaned up the campsite. One student set up a small barbaque and cooked some sausages. We left at 9 o’clock and didn’t reach St Kieran’s College until 12:30, exhausted from the walking and lack of sleep!

The Gaisce adventure trip was challenging and testing but also enjoyable and rewarding. Thanks to the teachers for accompanying us on the trip.





# Music Department News 2012-2013



Junior Choir

Students from 1st and 2nd Year who were members of the St Kieran's College Junior Choir 2012-2013. Back Row (l-r): David Mollereau-Graham, Jack McDonald, Dylan Simpson, Dan Blanchfield, Pauraic Mullen, Conor Condon, Conor Lalor. Third Row L to R: Daniel Cotter, John Prendergast, Eoin Brennan, Conor Phelan, Ben Whelan, Kieran Lucey. Second row (l-r): Seán Richardson, Colin McKenna, Tim Ryan, Evan Doyle, James Everard, Ryan Poyntz, Eoin Wall. Front row (l-r): Bailey Byrne, Joseph Breen, Jason Egars, Martin Murray, Conor Archbold, Joe Cashin, Michael Burke.



A number of First Year students put themselves forward for Junior Choir auditions in September and the resulting ensemble, which also includes some Second Year students, worked very hard all year on pieces for the St Kieran's Day mass, Christmas Carol Singing and the Kilkenny Music Festival.

Guitar, woodwind and brass lessons proved very popular again this year and a number of TY Gaisce candidates also decided to take guitar lessons as the required skill element of the awards.

Music students Danny Burke (Fifth Year) and Niall Brennan (Third Year) performed live on the Sue Nunn Show on KCLR in November. Both received very positive feedback from listeners who thoroughly enjoyed Danny's singing and Niall's clarinet performance. Niall was accompanied by Ciarán Fennelly (Fifth Year) on keyboard. All of the lads found it to be a great experience as they got to see the inner workings of a radio show.

The Senior Choir was honoured to be invited to join forces with choirs from the Loreto and the CBS in early November for the Pope John Paul



Senior Choir

The St Kieran's College Senior Choir, winners of the Eddie Gray Memorial Cup in the Kilkenny Music Festival for the second time. Back row (l-r): Roman Hartman, James Nugent, Alex Milchev, Ciaran Fennelly, Alan Mooney. Middle row (l-r): Cormac Lehnen, Niall Brennan, Patrick Kennedy, Jack Byrne, Paul Farrell, Alexander Rafter. Front row (l-r): Daniel Harty, Alex Lalor, Daniel Egars, Alan Hayes, Ian Martin, Ben Moylan.



II Awards in St Mary's Cathedral at which the Papal Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Charles Brown, was the guest of honour of Bishop Seamus Freeman. The Senior Choir also sang beautifully at the Beginning of Year and Christmas masses.

Fifth and Sixth Year Music students travelled to O'Reilly Hall on the UCD Campus in Dublin for a performance of the Romeo & Juliet Fantasy Overture by the National Symphony Orchestra in November and all agreed that it was a great experience to hear and see the work live.

Junior and Senior Choirs combined in early December and did a day of Carol Singing at the Town Hall in aid of Kilkenny Alzheimer's Association. With the help of collectors from TY the choirs managed to raise an impressive €1700. This really enjoyable day was made all the more special for everyone involved knowing that this money was going to a very worthwhile local cause.

The Junior and Senior Choirs were also busy all year preparing for the Kilkenny Music Festival, which was held in early March. The Junior Choir performed extremely well in a tough category and received very positive feedback from the adjudicator for their 2-part rendition of "True Colours". The Senior Choir were highly commended in the Ann P. Smithwick Cup for a spirited version of "I Get Around" and were awarded 1st Prize in the Eddie Gray Memorial Cup for the second time in recent years for their stunning performance of "The Holy Heart". Both choirs deserve high praise for their commitment and progress over the year.

Congratulations to Niall Brennan, a 3rd Year student in St Kieran's College, who performed at a Gala Concert organised by The Royal Irish Academy of Music in The Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise on Sunday November 11th. Each year over 40,000 candidates perform in



As a thank you for all their hard work during the year the choir went on a group trip to Dublin. A great day was had by all, it was a fantastic reward for their work and dedication.

local centre examinations organised by the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Of this number, 300 (fewer than 1%) are awarded a High Achievers Certificate. Of the 300 only 15 are invited to perform in the Gala Concert at the awards ceremony. Not only was Niall, who plays the clarinet, awarded a High Achievers Certificate but he was also selected from the 300 to perform at the Gala Concert. This is a truly outstanding achievement by Niall and one of which everybody in the St Kieran's College community is extremely proud. It is also an acknowledgement of his wonderful talent and is richly deserved after all his hard work over the years.

St Kieran's students also did exceptionally well in other Kilkenny Music Festival competitions this year.

- Patrick Kennedy (Third Year) - Commended - Francis Kearney Trophy (U-15 Piano)
- Patrick Kennedy (Third Year) - Highly Commended - The Kit O'Toole Perpetual Cup (U-17 Piano)
- Jack Teehan (TY) and Patrick Kennedy (Third Year) - 2nd Prize - Sarah Connolly Memorial Cup (u-17 Piano Duet)

- Niall Brennan (Third Year) - 1st Prize - Eddie O'Carroll Memorial Cup (U-16 Clarinet)
- John Rice (Fifth Year) - 1st Prize - The Donal McDonald Trophy (Senior Clarinet)
- James Nugent (Third Year) - 2nd Prize - AIB Cup (U-15 Brass - Trumpet)
- Conor Lowe (Fifth Year) - 3rd Prize - Ellen Ritter Memorial Cup (Senior Saxophone)
- Ciarán Fennelly (Fifth Year) - 1st Prize - Teresa Ann Murphy Memorial Cup (Voice)
- Danny Burke (Fifth Year) - Highly Commended - Teresa Ann Murphy Memorial Cup (Voice)

Junior and Leaving Cert music students recently completed their practical exams. All students deserve high praise for the level of dedication they demonstrated in preparing for the exams, which make up 25% (Junior Cert) and 50% (Leaving Cert) of their total marks. This year saw a fantastic variety of performances including guitar, drums, tin whistle, mandolin, uilleann pipes, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, piano and voice. Well done to all.





## Student Council 2012-13



Back row (l-r): Alexander Rafter, Robert Fitzgerald, Michael Fitzpatrick, Brain Cody. Third row (l-r) Patrick Gallagher, Shane Walsh, Liam Wallace, William Bergin, Alan Hayes. Second row (l-r): James Drea, Enda Kenneally, Daniel Young, Padraig Buggy, Alan Mooney, Patrick Kennedy. Front row (l-r): Shane Donohue, Jeffrey Coyne, Eoin Brennan, Conor Archbold, Eric Oyat, Diarmaid Minnock.

## UCD Awards November 2012



St Kieran's College students who were presented with University College Dublin Entrance Awards (for outstanding results in the Leaving Certificate) at a ceremony recently in the O'Reilly Hall recently: Mr John Curtis Principal, St Kieran's College, Aravind Menon (Actuarial and Financial Studies), Anthony Forristal (Veterinary Science), Michael Freeman (Economics and Finance), Conor Holligan (Engineering), Conor O'Shea (Engineering) missing from the photograph, Paul Lynch (Biomedical Health and Life Sciences), Thomas Talbot (Biomedical Health and Life Sciences) and John Power (Arts).

## Disposable Film Festival

One of our Transition Year students Nathanael MacDonald participated in the Disposable Film Festival in San Francisco. He shot a mini Documentary for OláGolá and the All Ireland Skydive Challenge for the prevention of suicide, depression and stress related illness in young adults.

Liz Campbell and Eddie Hughes

organised this charity event. Jumps took place at Kilkenny Airfield in cooperation with Tandem Skydive Kilkenny.

Nathanael Macdonald shot and edited the entire film (@nathanaelmac) except for the actual skydive footage from the air, courtesy of Tandem Skydive Kilkenny and Skydive Ireland.







## MICHAEL COTTER

Michael was approached by Mr Finan at the beginning of the school year, to take on the onerous task of being the school photographer for the year. At first, this may not appear to be a difficult task, but when one considers the amount of activities going on in the school, one soon realises the massive undertaking involved. Michael took on this role with much enthusiasm. He attended as many activities throughout the year as he could. As you can see from the range of photos on this page alone Michael has put an enormous amount of time and effort into the job. He attended activities during school time, meaning he missed a few classes (which I'm sure may not have upset him too much!), but Michael also attended many activities that occurred outside school hours and at the weekend. A couple of recent events which Michael catalogued were the 5k fun run organised by the Parents Council in the Castle Park and the Faith Fest which was held on the College grounds over the weekend of the 10-12th of May. Much of Michael's work can be seen throughout the Record this year and we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge his work in a special way. Michael, many thanks for your hard work, commitment and dedication to our school this year.



## MARK DOWLING

Mark was asked to take on the role of Videographer at the start of the year, a task which he took on with great gusto. Mark firstly had to learn how to operate the camera and all the stands etc that goes with it. Once he had that mastered he set about recording some of the main school events. Mark could be seen at school hurling, football and soccer matches recording the game for teachers and students. He became an accomplished recorder throughout the year and we have much footage for the archives. Many thanks to Mark for your hard work.





## Brothers



The Cotter Family (l-r): Michael Cotter (Transition Year), Jack Cotter (Sixth Year), Daniel Cotter (First Year).



The Minnock Family (l-r): Eoin Minnock (Second Year), Cathal Minnock (Sixth Year), Diarmaid Minnock (Third Year).



The Mullen Family (l-r): Darren Mullen (Third Year), Patrick Mullen (Sixth Year), Adrian Mullen (Second Year).



The Ryan Family (l-r): Mark Ryan (Transition Year), Adam Ryan (Sixth Year), Timothy Ryan (First Year).

## CSPE

Michael Ryan

### TRIP TO CORK CITY PRISON

On September 24th, class 3A1 along with their teachers Mr Morgan and Ms Moran boarded a bus and headed to Cork City Prison as part of our Junior Cert CSPE action project.

When we arrived at the prison we were subject to the normal prison security routine just like one would find in an airport. The prison warden then introduced us to the layout of the prison. He told us that the prison has a capacity of 250 inmates, 6 of which were serving life sentences. They spend 17 hours daily in the environs of their prison cell. During our visit, there was an eerie silence as we toured around the corridors. We were then shown the prison dress code. All prisoners had to wear the same outfit of a red t-shirt, jeans and white sneakers. Throughout the prison names of people who lost their lives to drugs are written on the wall, this in particular was very sad. The inmates learn many useful skills while in prison. Many of them participate in the ECDL computer course, while more learn subjects such as woodwork and metal work. The inmates are allowed one visit a week, two letters a week and one phone call a day. All prisoners must get one hour of exercise a day in the yard. Recreational activities include pool and board game. Dogs are used to stop altercations between prisoners and to search visitors and cells for drugs.

We received a great insight into the penal system from visiting the various parts of the prison. Well done to all the students for organising the visit and many thanks to Mr Morgan and Ms Moran for accompanying us on the visit.

### GUEST SPEAKERS

The other classes in Third Year also had projects to complete. The remaining classes invited guest speakers into St Kieran's college to speak to their classes on certain topics. Each class was divided up into groups in order to organise the guest speakers including the permission group, thank you group and room organising group.





3A3 invited Jill from the local Samaritans branch to speak to them about the importance of mental health in people. 3A2 invited local county councillor Fedileas Doherty from Glenmore to speak to them about representing their local community. 3A5 invited Garda Tadgh Mohally in to speak to them about law and order in Ireland and the different types of crimes that the guards deal with. 3A4's project was based on their class trip to the Dail last year.

## IRISH AID CENTRE

Naimul Hossain and Jack Manning

On the 22nd of January Class 2A1 went to the Irish Aid centre on O'Connell St in Dublin for our CSPE Action Project. Irish Aid is the government funded programme which helps people in developing countries. We left school at 9.00am and arrived at our destination at 11.00am. We were first greeted at the door by our tour guide who asked us a range of question to test our knowledge. I think we did better then she expected! Then we were divided into two groups and sent to different parts of the centre. During the workshop we watched a short film about the challenges faced by families in the developing world. We were shown the life of 'Memory', a young girl in Khulungira, a rural village in Malawi. As the workshop continued it became evident that life in poverty stricken countries can be very hard. We saw food and tools used by the farmers in Malawi and also did a role play where we learned about the problems of hunger and food insecurity in Malawi.

We were then allowed to get some much needed food on Connell St This was a very valuable learning experience and one we will never forget. Well done to all who organised the trip and also we would like to thank Mr Heffernan and Ms Moran for accompanying us.





# Michael Brannigan Memorial Run



On Thursday November 29th the annual Michael Brannigan Memorial run took place. This run takes place every year and all First Years take part in the race. The race is organised by Mr O'Keeffe and Mr Hogan. The race starts in a corner of Fennessy's Field and follows a route around the boundary of the campus - around the senior hurling pitch, the soccer pitch and around the Birchfield pitch. The First Years have to

do this distance twice to determine where they come in the race. Fourth Years stand at intervals along the course to encourage us to finish the course.

After the race Mr Hogan and Mr O'Keeffe selected students to represent the school in the South Leinster Cross Country Championship. Students from Second Year also take part in the race to qualify for the South Leinsters but



they have to complete three laps. The First Year race was won by John Nolan, the class competition was won by 1A4.

Senior students also compete in different age categories. Luke Fitzpatrick won the U-15 category, Cormac Buggy was victorious in the U-17 category and John Murphy won the U-19 competition.

Well done to all the organisers and to all the participants.



# Renovations to Hall 10

Last year renovation works started to take place on Hall 10. It was decided during the academic year 2011 -2012 that a room in the school should be dedicated to extra curricular activities. It was decided to choose Hall 10 as it was in the centre of the school and a good focal point for students. Throughout the year, many activities took place such as debating, public speaking and general meetings. The room has been equipped with an overhead projector, television screens, speakers, and a whiteboard. The room is also showcasing some of the students artworks and achievements. It has proven to be a very successful project.







## 5k Fun Run

The Parents' Association organised a 5k Fun Run/Walk on the 12th May in aid of the school IT fund in the Castle Park. Registration on the morning began at 10.15am and it was clear then that there was going to be a good turn out. There were different categories for participants with some taking the day more seriously than others! The winner on the day was one of our own Sixth Year students John Murphy, notable mentions have to go to Mr Hogan and Mr Darmody both of whom picked up a prize on the morning. The run was very successful and all who attended enjoyed the opportunity to either stroll or run around the Castle Park. Thanks to all those who turned out and made the event such a success.



## Charity Sleep Out



On Thursday 14th April 44 students from St Kieran's College braved the elements and slept out underneath the Tholsel in Kilkenny City. They were raising awareness and funds for the Kilkenny Branch of the Irish Society for Autism. The project they were raising both money and awareness for is an education and living project for adults with Autism on a residential basis. There is no current facility in Kilkenny City for adults.

These students raised more than €4000 for this project through sponsorship. They assembled at 9pm underneath the Tholsel with sleeping bags, pillows etc. Mr Carl Lynch (St Kieran's teacher) cheated by bringing a bed with him but claimed extreme old age as an excuse!

The next 10 hours were passed with singing, guitar playing, chatting and interacting with any passersby. Strangely enough very little sleep was had. We would like to thank the Civic Authorities for access to the Tholsel, Glanbia and the Ormonde Hotel for sponsorship in the form of food drinks etc.

## Teachers' Run



This year eight teachers in the college took it upon themselves to take part in the Waterford half marathon in aid of Autism Kilkenny. Some who participated were old veterans as they had participated in the Dublin half marathon the year before others were new to running and so were apprehensive about what may lie ahead. Their apprehension was without cause as each person crossed the finish line in impressive times. Well done to each teacher involved and who knows maybe next year they may take on a marathon!





## Belfast Trip 2012

On the 30th of November 2012, twenty two 3rd year students, along with Mr Ruth and Mr Morgan headed for De La Salle College, Belfast for the annual exchange trip which has been running for the last twenty years.

On the Friday morning we began our journey to Antrim. After a long trip we arrived and were fed in the school canteen. We then walked to the pitch to play against the De La Salle under 16 team, where we escaped with a narrow victory. Afterwards we were collected by our host parents and brought to their houses, where we stayed for the weekend.

On Saturday morning we played a very physical Lámh Dearth under 16 team, but managed to beat them comfortably. Following this we got onto our bus and headed to the Odyssey Arena which is home to the Belfast Giants hockey team. We ate in McDonald's and paid a much anticipated visit to the O'Neill's sports shop. We finished off the day with a stop-

off at the Christmas market in the city where we saw the vibrant lights of Belfast's city centre.

On Sunday morning we went to mass and from there to the swimming pool at Lisburn leisure centre. We were then given a tour of Belfast by Mr Buchanan who gave us an insight of what life was like during the troubles. We got to see many murals including the most famous one showing Bobby Sandes, who died during the troubles while on hunger strike. He also brought us along the Falls Road and the Shankhill Road, both notorious areas in Belfast during the troubles.

We left Belfast on Monday morning, after saying goodbye to our host families. Thanks very much to the teachers, students and parents of De La Salle, Belfast for their welcome and hospitality over the weekend. Thanks also to Mr Ruth, Mr Morgan and Mr McCormack for organising a great trip that none of us will forget.









## Writer in Residence

This year we in St Kierans have been lucky to have Siobhan Parkinson as our writer in residence. She is an award winning author and former Children's Laureate. She is also an editor with Little Island Press. Siobhan comes to us from the genie in Poetry Ireland and the Arts Council who support us in this venture.

Sixteen First to Third Years volunteered to take part in a series of creative writing workshops facilitated by Siobhan and Larry Cotter. The result is four collaborative stories produced by the students and published by modern printers. These short stories are an amazing result from such young students. I hope you get to read stories from St Kieran's.



## Irish Debating

Liam de Bhailis



Bhí an bhliain 2013 an-rathúil dúinn mar fhoireann díospóireachta. Shroicheamar craobh Laighean. Bhí ceathrar ar an bhfoireann – Liam de Bhailís (captain), Bréanán de Roisfort Fréine, Éamon Ó Broin agus Robbie de Paor.

Bhí an chéad bhabhta ar siúl i gCnoc Bheag agus phléamar "Droch-chultúr is ea popchultúr". Bhíomar i gcoinne

an rúin. Bhí an dara bhabhta suite i meánscoil na mBráithre Críostaí áitiúil. Bhíomar sásta a bheith ag argóint ar son an rúin "Ba cheart bata agus bóthar a thabhairt do Trappatóni".

Ar aghaidh linn go dtí óstán Dolmen i gCeatharlach do chraobh Laighean. Bhí orainn cúrsaí eacnamaíochta na tíre a iniúchadh agus an chéad rún eile

a phlé. "Tá an tír seo ró-fhláithiúil lena chúnamh don Tríú Domhain."

Ar an drochuair, bhí deireadh an bhóthair buailte linn ansin, ach chuamar amach le taithí mhaith á baint as gach babhta. Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil do Ms. Ghanem as a cabhair is a comhairle.





## Debating

Debating in St Kieran's College has gone from strength to strength. This year a team consisting of Cormac Everard (Captain), Alex Helizon, Graham English, and Conor Quinlan, the debating team co-ordinators, Ms Jane Moran and Mr Martin O'Neill participated in numerous debates throughout the year. The team had many motions on which to debate such as "The world has more to fear from President Romney than President Obama". The team was opposed to this particular motion and successfully debated the topic. Congratulations to all the members involved in the team for a very successful year in the debating field.

## English Debating

Transition Year students participate in a day of debating in Loreto Secondary School Kilkenny. The object of the day was to give Transition Years a taster of what debating was like and hopefully encourage them to participate in the future. The students who participated have a very enjoyable day and learnt much on how to prepare for motion. Hopefully we will see many of them on the schools debating teams in the future.







## Student Enterprise Awards

Vladyslav Medvensky

It was only a couple of weeks after the start of Transition Year, when all the TY Business classes were told about the annual Student Enterprise Awards, run and held by the Kilkenny County Enterprise Board. The Student Enterprise Awards provide second-level students all across Ireland with the opportunity to set up and run their own business, from the initial stage of brainstorming and coming up with an idea right up to the stage where you get to sell your final product or service to potential customers. Each year, nearly 15,000 students participate, making it one of the biggest second-level competitions out there for students to get involved in.

Immediately students began to come up with various ideas on possible products to sell. For some it took a matter of days, but in the case of my group, it was only at the start of October when we finalised an idea that we were all happy with and that we all wanted to go along with. The name of our mini-company was 'The Kilkenny Tourist', and our group was, Neil Grogan and Jack Larkin. Our idea was a simple one, but one that wasn't already out there, something important

to consider if you want to make your mini-company stand out. It was the creation of a tourist Smartphone application for the Kilkenny area that was to provide tourists with essential travel information regarding Kilkenny.

After much brainstorming, all mini-companies started to carry out their market research – an important stage to find out what exactly your potential customers want. If carried out correctly, the information obtained would have told you exactly what the target market you should aim at was, and at what price your potential product/service should be sold at.

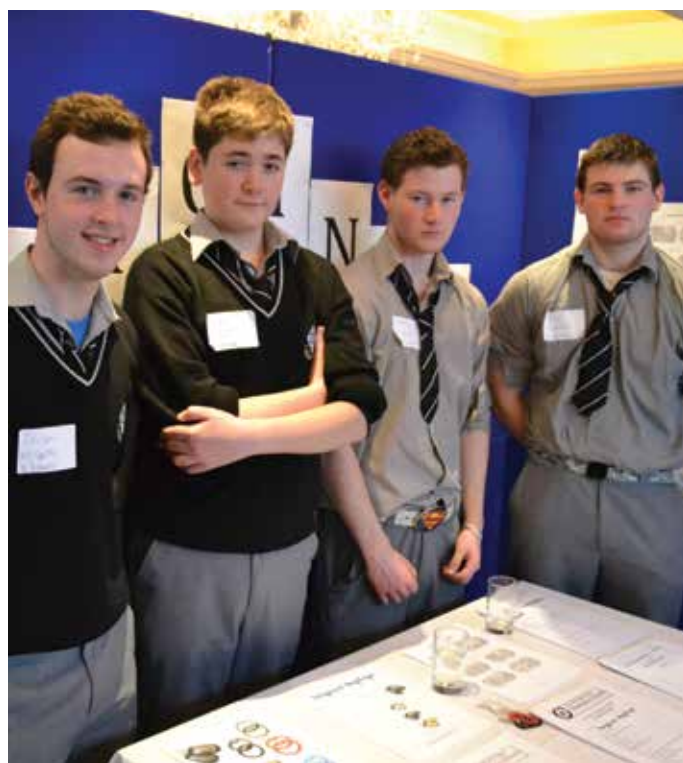
After that came the stage that was to determine the future of your mini-company, and that was the selling stage. Some started selling their products as early as September while in the case of my mini-company it was only January before we could move onto the finance side of things. This stage showed the high level of creativity among the mini-companies created by St Kieran's students. Some of the products sold included bracelets made out of beads, St Kieran's College water bottles, USB wrist bands, personalized Smartphone covers and

Christmas log decorations. All of these ideas involved something completely new, were of excellent quality and most importantly, were very popular among potential customers that they each targeted.

It was not long after the Christmas holidays, when we were informed that the school final was approaching. All effort on selling stopped, and instead everyone focused their attention on producing the business report, which was a prerequisite if you had any hope of progressing into the county final. This section is often the part that is most neglected; however it is actually the part that gives the first impressions of your business, an important aspect to consider during the Student Enterprise Awards.

The day of the school final finally arrived and around twenty mini-companies were present. It was a tough competition, and all mini-companies had equal chances of progressing. This stage involved, firstly giving up finalised versions of the business report to either Mr Ryan or Mr Connolly and secondly being interviewed by either one of them. Each interview was around ten minutes long; however, it





was as hard for the students to prepare themselves for this stage as it was for the teachers to pick the best six mini-companies that would represent the school in the county final.

After a number of weeks, the finalists were finally announced. These included 'The Kilkenny Tourist' that two of my friends and I came up with; personalised skins for Smartphones by Seán Lynch, Donagh Mahon and Seán Farrell; USB wrist bands by Alex Lalor, Seán Comerford and John O'Meara; Timber for stoves and fireplaces by Jack and Richard Keoghan; Christmas log decorations by Seán Brennan, Alan Harrison, Pádraig Dunphy and Ronan Tynan and finally dog tags by Declan McCarthy, Terry O'Neill, Tom Cuddihy and Cian Costelloe. All of these ideas were great and deserved to be in the county final.

It was not long after the school final, that the county final grew closer and closer. Up to that point the finalists had the opportunity of selling more of their products and updating key areas of their business report, like the finance section for example.

The 7th of March, which was the day of the county final, finally arrived

and was held in the beautiful ballroom of Newpark hotel. There were around 45 mini-companies present on the day, representing 12 schools from all around Kilkenny and each one of them had around two hours to prepare their exhibition stands. Afterwards the judging process began, in which each mini-company was interviewed by three judges. It was hard to know who was and who wasn't a judge at first, and so a pointer in the county final would be to present yourself in the best possible light as possible, as each impression counts, no matter who's asking you about your business as you don't know who's who. The judging process ended shortly after it started, and this was followed by a long period of both anticipation and anxiety for all who had their eyes set on representing Kilkenny in the National final in April. The anxiety heightened right up to the point of the presentation, when all prizes were to be given out. The Kilkenny Tourist achieved the Science/Technology Award sponsored by IT Carlow while Jack and Richard Keoghan got a special achievement award for all their hard work.

Though it was disappointing

that other mini-companies from St Kieran's didn't win anything, having represented the school was still a very big achievement, and they should be proud no matter what the outcome was. The Student Enterprise Awards taught each one of us what it takes to be an entrepreneur and the skills and dedication that it takes to run a business. The skills learned by all, are invaluable, and will without doubt become useful later in life.

A special word of thanks has to go to the Kilkenny County Enterprise Board for hosting such a wonderful competition; Mr Ryan and Mr Connolly for all the hard work that they put in making sure that each mini-company did their best and also Bernie McCoy, a representative from the Kilkenny County Enterprise Board, who regularly visited us to talk about ideas and see what we could do to make them go as far as possible in the competition. I also have to thank greatly my friends and mini-company colleagues Neil Grogan and Jack Larkin for all their input into our mini-company, without whom 'The Kilkenny Tourist' project wouldn't have been a success.



## Business Quiz

Killian Fitzpatrick

The regional quiz was the first round, and in our case it was the South-East Mr Connolly's class (Alan Mooney, Liam Wallace, Michael Ryan and myself) and Mr Fitzgerald's class (Patrick Gannon, Conor Purcell, Eamonn Egan and Duirmuid Minnock) had a team. To decide who would go to the quiz, he gave us a section from the previous year's quiz, and the top four results were chosen.

The South-East regionals took place in November 2012 on the campus of WIT. There were over 20 schools from 5 counties at the event and some other Kilkenny schools as well. The questions were mostly business orientated but a good amount of general knowledge questions appeared also. There were 10 rounds with 8 questions in each round. Both teams did very well with Mr Fitzgerald's class just losing out to third in a tiebreaker. Our team came first which meant we could advance to the All-Ireland finals as well as receiving an iTunes voucher each.

The finals came in April 2013. We headed to the LIT campus in Thurles.

They were run by CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) in conjunction with BSTAI (Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland). The MC for the day was Olympic boxer and former Kieran's student Darren O'Neill. Unfortunately, that didn't give us any advantage! There were 25 schools who were all finalists from the different regional heats. The quiz began and we could see that the questions were more difficult than before. At half-time we were tied for third with seven other teams. It was clear that it was going to be a close one! A representative from CIMA spoke to us about the work of a management accountant and the routes that can be taken to become one. The second half then began. Unfortunately, we finished fourth, just missing out on placing by a point. The Presentation College Cork were the winners on the day.

I enjoyed the whole experience and the hard work of Mr Connolly was greatly appreciated. It was good to represent the school in the competition and especially the finals.

## Sixth Year

### Ecology Day 2012

On Monday 22nd October we had an Ecology Day for 6th Year Biology students in St Kierans College. Our guest on the day was well known ecologist and broadcaster Eanna Ni Lamhna. We spent the morning studying an area of the college grounds where we examined all practical aspects of the Leaving Cert Biology course. Eanna provided us with interesting anecdotes on many of the species found. An interesting and very educational day was had by all.

## Fifth Year

### Agricultural Science

The Fifth Year Agricultural Science class accompanied by Mr Darmody and Ms Boland went on their annual farm visit to Gurteen Agricultural college in Ballygarry outside Roscrea on April 22nd. Gurteen Agricultural College is a provider of training in machinery and agricultural courses. 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. The dairy herd is composed of one hundred pedigree Holstein Friesian cows. They are a high yielding herd with an average milk supply of 6800 litres per cow at 4.01% butterfat and 3.37% butterfat. There is a high replacement rate with 18 % infertile cows in 2012. This is attributable to the high yielding Holstein Friesians. The high infertility rate could also be due to high levels of blood urea, which can lead to early embryonic death. This occurs when there is a burst in grass growth resulting in high protein levels in grass. Farmers can reduce the chances of this occurring by spreading artificial fertiliser immediately after grazing to allow enough time for the



BSTAI/WIT Awards. Back row (l-r): Mr Niall Connolly, Luke Dowling, Vladyslav Medvensky, Eoin Walsh, Jack Keogh, Mr Paul Fitzgerald, Tom O'Keeffe, WIT Business School Head. Front row (l-r): Sean Lynch, Noel Whelan, Conor Aylward, Cathal Phelan, Robert Dunne.





nitrogen to be used up before the next grazing. Farmers should aim for a urea concentration in the milk of between 25-35 mg/dL (milligrams per Deciliter).

The suckler herd is made up of seventy five continental cross suckler cows plus replacements. Gurteen Agricultural College aim to make use of hybrid vigour. This is where the performance of the offspring surpasses the average performance of the parents. It is achieved by crossbreeding, which involves mixing breeds so that the good characteristics from both parents appear in the offspring. Charolais, Limousin and Simmental crosses are the breeds used on the farm. Replacements are obtained from the dairy enterprise such as limousin x Friesian. All progeny are reared to beef. The aim is to maximise liveweight gain off grass and minimise winter feed costs. This has been difficult in the previous year given the inclement weather last summer and therefore the poor quality forage conserved.

The sheep flock is comprised of 600 Cheviot X Suffolk ewes, with 160

lambling in January and the rest lambing in March – April. There are 6 Texel and 4 Charollais rams on the farm. Sheep are short day breeders and so to get ewes to lamb in January, they are treated with hormones in July. Early lamb production is a high cost system as the ewes and lambs are fed expensive feeds in order that the lambs will be 40kg for slaughter at the end of March. In the sheep shed, we were shown how to stomach tube a lamb and to tail dock. Crops at Gurteen Agricultural College

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.





At 4am on Monday October 29th 2012 35 Fourth Year students from St Kieran's College left the school gates and headed for Dublin airport. There was an exciting and nervous atmosphere on the bus considering it was most people's first trip to London.

We arrived in London at 10 o'clock and we checked in to our hotel. We then got the tube to the city centre. We spent a lovely afternoon on a walking tour of London visiting many interesting sights such as Big Ben, The Tower of London, Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey. Afterwards we went to an outdoor heated swimming pool. Although it was raining and bitterly cold we soon warmed up as everyone plunged into the pool.

On Tuesday morning we got the tube to Thorpe Park, London's most famous theme park. There was a funny incident when Mr Darmody decided to ride a rollercoaster, Mr Heffernan had to calm him down. The students all had a great time in Thorpe Park, testing their nerves on the rollercoasters. After the adrenalin rush of Thorpe Park we went on a scary ghost tour of London. The

tour guide brought us to London's known ghost sights and we learned about Jack the Ripper and the many executions in London through the centuries.

On Wednesday morning we visited the London eye which was fantastic. When we reached the top, to Ms Moran's delight we were able to see all of London. We then travelled by tube to the science museum which was very interesting and everyone learned new scientific information. After the museum we went to Westfield shopping centre and got to shop and browse for a few hours. We then went bowling and ice skating to celebrate Halloween. Mr Darmody showed us his ice skating skills by falling over numerous times which was quite funny.

Overall we thought the trip was a brilliant experience and it will be a highlight of transition year and a great memory of our time in the school.

On behalf of all the Fourth Year students on the trip we would like to thank Ms Moran, Ms Ring, Mr Heffernan and Mr Darmody for making it a very enjoyable trip.





## St Kieran's College Fourth Year school trip to London





## French Breakfast

This year the French department decided to hold a 'French Breakfast' for all First Year students. The idea behind it was to introduce First Years to some French cuisine and culture. All students thoroughly enjoyed the cultural and food experience!! Thanks to the Ms Norton and the French department for organising the experience.



## Spanish Fiesta

This year once again Ms Ghanem organised a Spanish fiesta for her students. This experience proved to be so successful last year that she decided to run it again. It is a great experience for students to sample some Spanish cocina, many of whom had never tasted things like chorizo before. Well done to Ms Ghanem and her students for holding another successful event.





# The Rotary Youth Leadership Development Program

Robert Dunne



Rotary is an international organisation with over 1,200,000 members from over 170 different countries. Rotarians (members of Rotary) aim to develop themselves whilst working with their communities, for the benefit of those communities. The Rotary youth leadership development program is just one of the programs that Rotary runs for the benefit of young people aged between 15 and 18.

The program looks for people with great leadership skills and five applied from St Kierans this year. Those five had to firstly fill in a form in which they explained information about their personal achievements, experience, leadership, planning and organisation skills. They then were each interviewed

for approximately 20 minutes and whichever person impressed the interviewers most would move on to the county finals, where there was another interview. At the interview they were asked many questions including, "Who is your role model?" and "What do you think needs to be done to improve Ireland's financial situation?"

The prize, if you succeeded in the regional finals was a trip to Strasbourg in France, however St Kierans College were beaten in the county finals and unfortunately this year they will not get that chance. Although they did not win the prize, they won invaluable the experience of what an interview is like and that itself will surely be useful in the future!

## Raising of the Green Flag

Josephn Cashin and Conall Whelan

Last year St Kieran's Green Schools Committee was awarded the Green Flag for meeting all the environmental targets set out by the organisation. We had Phil Hogan raise our first green flag. It was cold outside but, we still enjoyed it, Alan Mooney read his speech he prepared for us, and we got our pictures taken outside the school. Ms Moran, Ms Ring and Mr Reddy were with us as they are the teachers who helped us and the school achieve the award. It was a day to remember. After the raising of the green flag we had biscuits, cake and tea. Without the green schools committee's help we wouldn't have succeeded in getting the green flag. All our work on getting the green flag has finally paid off.





# Art in St Kieran's



Shark, Aidan O'Sullivan



Angler Fish,  
Liam Wallace



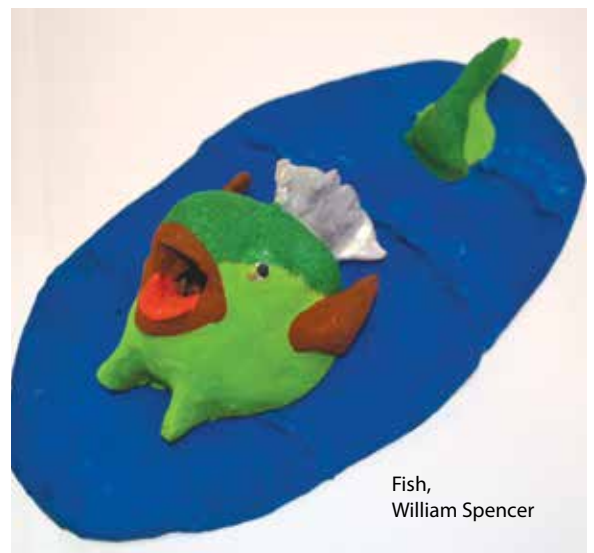
Engineer, David Dunne



Old Lighthouse,  
Dion Burke



Green Turtle, Gavin Delaney



Fish,  
William Spencer



# The YSI Project

At the start of Transition Year we were told to go to Mr O'Neill's room before Crafts class he asked Niall Brennan, Conor Fennelly, Brad Ellis, Sean Cuddihy, Sean O'Neill and Lyndon Brannigan to go to his class before Crafts and when we went in, he began to tell us about YSI. He explained that YSI was a program to raise awareness for a chosen organisation and to address social issues. He explained that we had to choose a topic to do and we had no Crafts class as YSI classes would be on at that time every week which was the double class at the end of Thursdays.

We began to think about what kind of project we were hoping to do and we considered many options such as age action, cancer awareness, cyber bullying and healthy eating. After much consideration we decided to do a project which involved working with the KSPCA (Kilkenny Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) and raising awareness for animal cruelty.

The six of us walked down to the KSPCA headquarters at Norebank Lodge, Greenhill, Kilkenny. We discussed with them how we were going to carry out the project and we suggested fundraising around Kilkenny. They agreed this was a good idea and gave us official high-vis vests and fundraising buckets.

We split into three groups of two and we hit the streets and started fundraising. People were very generous and we managed to raise a substantial amount of money the first few times. Brad brought his rescue dog, "Sally" and people saw the great work of the KSPCA and began to donate more. We told people of how the KSPCA has no government funding and is run by



Back row (l-r): Padraic Dunphy, James Lahart, Gavin Costigan, Harry Bruton, Jack Keoghan. Middle row (l-r) Sean Comerford, Niall Brennan, Alex Milchev, Conor Fennelly, David Shivgulam, Sean Cuddihy. Front row (l-r): Mr L. Ryan, Mark Ryan, Fintan O'Sullivan, Alan Hayes, Sean O'Neill, Arron Healy, Bill O'Neill. Missing from photo: Billy Ryan, Ben Conroy, Brad Ellis, Lyndon Brannigan, Nathaneal McDonald, Terry O'Neill.

donations only. When we went again we brought Niall's dog, "Mittens" and we began to go past our expectations in raising money.

We began to think people needed an incentive to donate so we came up with the idea of customized wristbands advertising the KSPCA and their cause. We ordered 1100 yellow wristbands with black writing saying "KILKENNY SPCA" on the front and "HELP STOP ANIMAL ABUSE" on the back. They were a massive hit and men, women and children were wearing them all over town were wearing them. We went to different classes during school to give out as many wristbands as we could. Any donation we received merited a wristband.

We created an account with the credit union to keep the fundraised money safe until we could donate it to KSPCA. When we decided to donate the money, we went to Canice's Credit Union and borrowed a presentation cheque. The KSPCA were very gracious of our support and made us very glad to have helped them.

On the 14th of March we had a YSI Speak-out, where we had to present

our project to the other Leinster schools and a panel of judges.

On arrival we began handing out our wristbands to the other groups, and judges. Our speak-out itself went well, we got our message and achievements across to everyone present.

We attended another YSI event in the City West Hotel, Dublin. It took place on the 8th of May. In advance of this we had to make a poster highlighting the social issue we addressed. While in the City West hotel we got a chance to see the work of the finalists and some organizations that address social issues of today such as BeLongToYouth Services, Focus Ireland, Samaritans and Sexual Violence Centre Cork. Over 5,500 young people participated in Young Social Innovators this year, undertaking some 350 projects aimed at finding and implementing solutions to the social issues that concern them.

Overall the whole experience was positive. We all highly recommend more people to take part. It definitely made our year!

By Brad Ellis, Sean Cuddihy, Niall Brennan, Sean O'Neill and Lyndon Brannigan.





# First Year History Trip

Sean Carroll

On our way to Ferrycarrig Mr O'Keeffe who was supervising our bus handed out worksheets for us to fill out when we got there. When we arrived at the heritage centre we were shown a film about Irish history. After the film we were introduced to our guide who was dressed in Ancient Ireland clothing.

We started our tour beside a stone age hut, firstly a mesolithic house and we moved on to a neolithic hut. After the stone age reconstructions we moved on to Celtic Ireland where we saw a ringfort. Mr Ryan joined us at the ringfort and took a few pictures our next stop was the monastery. Other things that we

saw on the tour which were really interesting were the mill, fulacht fia and the the crannog. When we were finished with our tour of the heritage centre we moved on to the Dunbrody Famine ship. Here we started out on the deck, we learnt that the first Dunbrody sank off the coast of Canada and that the ship we were on was a reconstruction. When we went under deck we got to see the terrible conditions people stayed in while on the journey to America during the famine. It became clear why these ships were called coffin ships.

Thanks to all the teachers who accompanied us on a great history trip.

# Second Year History Trip

Bill Cuddihy and Eoin Minnock

On Tuesday the 16th of October 2012 St Kierans College Second Year students went on a History trip to Cahir Castle and the Rock of Cashel along with teachers Ms. Hanafin, Mr O'Neill, Mr Morgan and Ms Moran. At 9.00 on that morning we got on the buses as we headed to the Rock of Cashel firSt Here we learned about the history of the castle from ancient Celtic Ireland. We also took some photos of the round tower and the rest of the castle. We had a great view of the countryside surrounding the castle. We then went to McDonalds and a Topaz shop where we were able

to get lunch. Shortly afterwards we once again got on the buses and went to Cahir Castle. When we first got to the castle we watched a movie about castles in Ireland. Here we saw some of the defensive features of the castle such as cannons on the battlements. Afterwards we headed off on a long walk to a kings cottage where the guide told us that when the king wanted to get a break from his duties this was where he went. We then walked back to the buses where we were told that we were going to have to head back to the school in order to make the buses.









Photographer Michael Cotter



## Transition Year 2012-2013

Vladyslav Medvensky

My name is Vladyslav Medvensky and I was asked at the start of the academic year by the Transition Year Coordinator, Mr O'Neill, to be editor-in-chief of this year's Transition Year section of the annual school record, which with great honour I accepted. My main job involved attending most of the activities scheduled for the Transition Years and then writing short, informative and

somewhat entertaining articles about each of the activities that I witnessed firsthand. The articles that you will find in this year's section are only some of the activities done by this year's group. There were many more that I have not had the opportunity of attending, but do sincerely hope that you'll enjoy the articles found here.

For those of you who are not familiar of what Transition Year is like, hopefully the articles will give you a

good idea of what the year is about and for the current TYs, remind you of the fun that was had and the many memories of the various activities that we were involved in, that will hopefully last a lifetime.

But above all I would like to thank Mr O'Neill for the great opportunity that he has given me with being able to contribute to the school record and leave my own mark on it. Hope you greatly enjoy the articles.



## ART TRIP

On January 17th and 22nd, all of the Transition Years headed to Dublin to visit the National Gallery of Ireland and the National Museum of Ireland to view and look at art and to learn more about the history of art. Accompanied by Mr Kelleher on both trips, we set out in the early morning on both of the days, and by 11 am had arrived in Dublin City; however before arriving, each group got an introductory lesson from Mr Kelleher regarding the history of Irish art and craftwork, mentioning the various developments of Irish art and how it had developed at each stage. Upon arrival, we were divided into two groups, with one going to the National Gallery of Ireland, while the other going to the National Museum of Ireland. We were then rotated once we had finished viewing the various exhibitions at each of the museums. At the National Museum we were shown the developments of Irish craftwork and design from the early Neolithic tools to the ornate Celtic brooches and croziers, and from the fashion of the Middle Ages to that of the Industrial Age. All was fascinating, especially the Ardagh Chalice with its ornate, delicate and colourful patterns, that drew in many of us with its beautiful craftsmanship. After that the groups were rotated, and in my case, it was my group's turn to visit the National Gallery of Ireland, located not far from the National Museum. Upon getting there, we were straight away brought by Mr Kelleher to the room with filled with Renaissance paintings. We were given a few pointers on their unique styles and were then shown paintings by some of the other famous names in European art including Caravaggio, Van Gogh and Picasso. Of much interest was also the exhibition of William Turner's watercolour paintings that takes place only in January of each year. Our last stop in the National Gallery of Ireland was the exhibition hall of leading Irish artists, which proved to be a nice finishing point of our day in Dublin before our departure back to Kilkenny. We learned a lot about art and craftwork from the different ages, both European and Irish during the day and also refreshed our knowledge of Junior Cert History. We had a very enjoyable day and much credit to for the day's success has to go to Mr

Kelleher, who provided us with such short yet informative accounts on each aspect of art and craftwork that we got an opportunity to witness first hand during the day.

## BOWLING

On the 13th and 15th of November last, all of the Transition Year students had an opportunity to go bowling at KBowl. As soon as the students arrived at KBowl, they were seated and soon organised into lanes of six by their accompanying teachers. The games started shortly afterwards. It was seen from early on that some had previous experience at the game, while with others it was not the case; however it didn't take long for everybody to get the hang of it. As the games went on, so did the amount of strikes being hit, but what was of most interest was peoples' attitude towards the game. What was initially planned to be a break from all the hard work of Transition Year soon became a fierce competition to see who was the beSt However, despite the high level of competitiveness and the rather short sessions on the day, everyone immensely enjoyed the day out. Even the teachers had a mini-game of their own, to whom we must give our sincere thanks for organising such a fun and 'educational' day out!

## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

The Wednesday afternoon activities now form an integral part of the Transition Year programme at St Kieran's College. The afternoon activities take place during the last two classes of each Wednesday. This year there were five groups and as a result five classes of activities, which included: Green Schools, two PE classes, cookery and swimming lessons at the Watershed. Each group got to try out each of the five activities available for a period of six weeks, after which they were then rotated to the next activity assigned to them. This programme allows students to try out certain things that they wouldn't have had a chance to try out otherwise and has been running several years now in the school. Every Transition Year student immensely enjoys these activities, and we have to thank the teachers and Mr O'Neill, the TY Coordinator for its success.

## CAR SAFETY DEMONSTRATION

On Thursday 10th of January, all Transition Years had an opportunity to learn about car safety in a car safety demonstration provided by Michael Gleeson, a professional car safety instructor. Each class group spent two classes at the demonstration during which students learned about the workings of a car and the safety precautions that should be taken when on the road. Michael told us how to properly wear safety-belts, how airbags work. He then described the workings of an engine, the gearbox and the breaking system. Although he had a humorous side, he soon showed his seriousness when he told us about what can happen when a car driven by an unbelted driver hits a solid object at 55mph. The demonstration came to an end at that point and students soon afterwards realised the seriousness of drunk and careless driving and how important it is to follow all safety-precautions when on the road. The demonstration proved to be of great educational value, which hopefully has made students much more informed on the matter.

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

One of the earliest activities for this year's Transition Year students was a talk organised by Alcoholics Anonymous that happened on Tuesday 17th September. Two people came in, Stephen and Tracy, both of whom were alcoholics, but who are now trying to rehabilitate. Each of them told us their life story and then showed us a video on the harmful effects of alcohol, especially on adolescents. For the most part, the talk was a not a laughing matter, but instead a very serious one, filled with sad and affecting stories. Even though the talk proved to be somewhat sad and depressing, it was informative and showed each one of us the potential consequences of the abuse of alcohol. A word of thanks has to go to Mr O'Neill for organising this talk, which was enjoyed by all.

## CHINESE

This year St Kieran's took a new initiative in extra-curricular activities by providing a small group of Transition Year students with the opportunity





to learn Mandarin Chinese and discover the beauty of the Chinese culture for the year. This is a programme specifically created for Transition Year students by the UCD Confucius Institute of Chinese language and Culture in collaboration with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). At the start of the year, four students from each of the four classes were chosen to take part in this programme. The students were mainly chosen on the basis of their academic and language-learning abilities and when the selection process of the students finally ended, we were given the opportunity to start our course and meet our teacher, Ms O'Mahony. She herself used to be a professor of international relations in Beijing University and spent over six years working and travelling all around China, from Shanghai to Hong Kong and to even the most rural parts of the Tibetan plateau. But now, she teaches Chinese at UCD. In our first class, we were given an overview of the topics that we would be covering as part of the course, which included a variety of topics on Chinese culture such as Chinese history, food, tea, school life and of course grasping the basics of the Chinese language. Not only did we practice our language skills and learn about Chinese culture, we were also told various stories by our teacher on the massive differences between the Chinese and Western-world lifestyles, which she considered to be rather shocking when experiencing them first-hand and for us rather unusual and surprising.

One of the highlights of the Chinese programme was actually a visit to Ming-Court restaurant on 14th March. Following our double Chinese class, we assembled under the arch and accompanied by our teacher and Mr Quane, we made our way to the restaurant for two o'clock. Having arrived there, students were already ordering traditional dishes like Chow Mein and chicken in Szechuan sauce. However, our visit to a Chinese food restaurant wouldn't have been complete if we didn't try out chopsticks. It proved to be a real challenge for many at the very beginning, but by the end of it all, we could have easily said that we weren't far from being experts!

Overall, everybody involved found the course in the Chinese language and culture to be amazing, it not only taught us about the basics of the language but also showed us how different and yet simple the Chinese way of life is, something that many of us wouldn't have known much about before the course. A big thank you goes to our teacher Ms. Helen O'Mahony for providing us with such an enjoyable and invaluable experience and her great efforts in teaching us the Chinese language. We also thank our principal Mr Curtis who signed up the school to the course.

## CINEMA

Like in previous years, the teachers decided to bring the current group of Transition Years down to the cinema at the end of November as a 'treat' for all of our hard work. This happened on two different days, with two classes going at a time. There were many films to choose from; however the one that appealed to me most was the new James Bond film 'Skyfall', while a small group of students decided to see Argo, a film about the rescue of six U.S. diplomats from Tehran, Iran, during the 1979 Iran hostage crisis. In the end, everybody enjoyed the films that they decided to see, and a sincere thanks goes to the teachers involved.



## ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

As part of this year's Transition Year programme, students were given the opportunity to get involved and participate in the Enrichment Programme. This was run and organised by Ms Wemyss and those who wanted to take part in it had to give their names to her at the start of the year. The programme was a voluntary one, where students had to spend one period of classes every Wednesday throughout the year, in a voluntary organisation that was assigned to them. Some groups that students went to as part of the programme included: the Irish Wheelchair Association, the Alzheimer's Association, Oxfam to name but a few. Overall, around half of the Transition Year group got involved in this programme. Apart from it acting as a new experience for many, the students also got encouraged to develop various skills during the time spent at the various organisations such as communication skills, research skills and in some cases even artistic skills. Along with self-development, the students greatly helped the people they were volunteering for. The programme was a fantastic experience for every student involved in it and a special word of thanks goes to the programme's coordinator Ms. Wemyss for providing such an invaluable opportunity to this year's TY group.

## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGE

Each year on the 26th of September European Day of Languages is held which is aimed at promoting bilingualism and the appreciation of other languages. This year, the Transition Years were very active in promoting other languages around the school by means of placing various posters around the school, learning more about foreign languages and even preparing food from other countries' cuisines. The information learned by students from this event was immense and hopefully this day will continue to be celebrated in the school well into the future.

## LAW DAY

On Thursday 21st and 28th of February, a Law Day was organised for Transition Years, by Kate Hedigan, she is a Kilkenny born solicitor who now works

in Limerick city. The day started off with her asking each group what they define law to be and how we have used law in the past hour, week, month and year. After giving us some time to answer the questions Kate discussed the answers that were given and then started off with a general introduction on what law is. She then slowly started to navigate towards the legal system in Ireland. She introduced us to important laws which we should be aware of, and of much interest to us were the internet and privacy laws that are for most part neglected by adolescents. For each of these topics she gave short and concise points which proved both informative and at times even entertaining. However, the highlight of the day were the mock trials that students had to participate in. There were three groups of six students, that each had a different scenario to act out. Each group member was given a different role and after a short period of preparation time, the groups were ready to perform. Even though it was evident who really put in the effort in rehearsing the scenarios and who didn't, it was still very entertaining to watch these mock trials, and for most of it, everyone was laughing and having a great time. It proved to be a really enjoyable day, while also being educational and informative.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Work Experience is an integral part of any Transition Year programme and thousands of students participate in it around the country each year. Like in previous years, this year's students had four weeks of work experiences divided into two, two week blocks, one in mid-October and the other at the end of January and start of February. Even though it is seen as an important part of each Transition Year programme, it is often neglected and many find that the most challenging part of the year is actually obtaining work experience placements. After much hard work in seeking work placements, each student got accommodated across a diverse range of professions and industries, ranging from medical to retail and from financial to artistic. Students had the option of choosing to spend a single week or two weeks at a particular company; however the most popular option was to spend a single week in

a given place. Our experience of work experience had to be recorded in the form of a diary and also an evaluation project. Each student evaluated the time they spent in each place that they chose, and hopefully each one of them gained a great insight into the particular careers that they ever thought of doing. Apart from assisting each student on the career path to take, students also improved on a number of skills during the time they spent on work experience including communication, research and in some cases even presentation skills, where students were required to present certain assignments to their bosses! A word of great thanks goes to the Transition Year Work Experience Co-Ordinator Mr Connolly, who provided us with help and support regarding work experience and also Mr Quane who visited us during our work experience placements.

## TRIP TO DUNDRUM SHOPPING CENTRE

Several weeks before the Christmas holidays, the entire Transition Year headed to Dundrum Shopping Centre for some Christmas shopping. Organised by the teachers, this trip served as their kind gesture, for all the hard work that the TYs put in since they started the year. Accompanied by Ms Keyes, Ms Galway, Mr O'Neill and Mr Fitzgerald, we got on the bus at around 9 in the morning and slowly made our way to the shopping centre. Having arrived at 11, students quickly made their way around some of the shops there. After having a very exhausting day filled with shopping, we finally filled the buses at around 2 and made our way back to Kilkenny. It was a fantastic trip that was enjoyed by all.

## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Each year on the 26th of September European Day of Languages is held which is aimed at promoting bilingualism and the appreciation of other languages. This year, the Transition Years were very active in promoting other languages around the school by means of placing various posters around the school, learning more about foreign languages and even preparing food from other countries' cuisines. The information



learned by students from this event was immense and hopefully this day will continue to be celebrated in the school well into the future.

### DAY AT THE WATERSHED

At the end of November, the Transition Years headed off to the Watershed for a 'Sports Day' of their own. Accompanied by Mr Flood, Mr Walsh, Mr Ruth and Mr McCormack, the students headed down straight after the morning roll was taken. Upon arrival, we were broken up into our class groups and were each assigned an activity. Each activity was rotated so that every class participated in every activity and these included: soccer, badminton, athletics and circuits. Each activity lasted roughly an hour and in between the activities we had some small breaks. Despite some serious competitiveness during some of the activities, everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing day.

### NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Tuesday 25th of September a small number of Transition Years and Leaving Cert Agricultural Science students visited the annual National Ploughing Championships held in New Ross, Co. Wexford, accompanied by Mr Darmody and Mr Heffernan. Having left the school early in the morning, we arrived in Wexford several hours later after which we were allowed to roam the thousand or so stalls by ourselves. After a tiresome and enjoyable day, we headed back to Kilkenny and arrived in time for students to catch their buses. A word of thanks goes to Mr Darmody for organising such an enjoyable day out.

### TRANSITION YEAR PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

On 1st October 2012, 25 students from Transition Year were chosen by the school to represent St Kieran's College at the annual Transition Year Photography Festival, organised by the Kilkenny Photographic Society in collaboration with the Kilkenny Education Centre. 23 of the students were from TYB, while the remaining two were the two school photographers- Michael Cotter and Mark Doyle. This event took place over a period of three days, where each day, four different secondary schools were represented. The group, accompanied by Ms Ahern made their way in the morning of the first day to the Education Centre and found themselves in the company of the Loreto Secondary School, Coláiste Éamann Rís Callan and Coláiste Pobail Osraí. Upon arrival the group got divided up and was sorted out into four separate groups which were all composed of a mixture of students from each school represented on the day. The groups were divided according to the coloured-sticker that you got. The workshops were specifically aimed at raising the student's awareness of all the different aspects to photography and to help students appreciate and improve on their artistic, photographic and visual skills. The presentations were given by experienced photographers and presenters that included: Hugo Reidy, who taught us about the importance of composition and lighting in photography; Fiona Power and Amanda Burke who gave us lessons on the basics of Photoshop; Seamus Costelloe who showed us various slideshows

of his works and told us how much variety a photographer experiences and is exposed to on a daily basis and Ben Power who gave us a couple of hints and tips on portraiture. The day even allowed the students to seriously consider a career in photography and whether it is something that they would enjoy doing as a lifetime job. The event was officially opened at 12:45 by mayor Seán Ó hArgáin who gave a brief note on the importance of developing artistic skills during a young age, especially when such fantastic opportunities exist for students. There were also several guest speakers on the day, including Emer Foley, chairperson of Kilkenny Arts Festival who talked to us about the growing importance of photography and its aesthetic values in the modern world and contemporary art. After the official opening, students continued with their workshops and finally finished up for the day at 3:20.

As part of the festival, each student from every school represented during the three day period, had to submit one photograph for entry to the Transition Year Photography Competition. Each school then selected their three best finalists to represent them in the county final that took place in the St Patrick's Community Centre, Loughboy, on Thursday, 18th April 2013. The photographs selected to represent St Kieran's on the day were taken by Vladyslav Medvensky, Michael Cotter and Mark Doyle respectively. On the day of the county final, St Kieran's did not find itself in the top three places that were available; however Michael Cotter did receive an honourable mention for his beautiful composition that highly impressed the judges.





## TENNIS DAY

This year an outing to the Kilkenny Tennis Club was organised for Transition Years by the PE teachers. TYB and TYC went on 8th October while TYA and TYD went the following day on 9th October. Both groups were accompanied by Mr Flood and Mr McCormack.

The groups made their way to the tennis club in the mornings of their respective days and after a short tutorial and introduction to the game and its rules by the teachers, the games began. Due to the number of students on the day no individual matches were held and instead all games played were doubles. There were six groups overall with four teams in each group. The morning games acted as a knockout stage for all teams, with the top three teams in each group advancing to the 'Cup' while the teams in fourth place advanced to the 'Shield'. After the knockout games were played and some snacks were eaten, each team prepared for the tournament games that they were in. Each match played was hotly contested as everybody got to grips with the game and slowly, one by one, teams began to get knocked out until only the finalists remained. It was these matches that produced the most tension and proved to be the most exciting and spectacular to watch. After a tough competition the victors of both tournaments were named, while the teams that weren't so successful simply cheered them on. The day went really well and we thank all the teachers involved for organising such an enjoyable day.

## PRESS PASS

This year St Kieran's was one of the first schools nationwide, to participate in

the first ever Press Pass, an initiative organised by the National Newspapers of Ireland. The aim of Press Pass is to promote literacy among secondary school students, while at the same time promoting the importance of newspapers in today's society. Each participating school received free newspapers to distribute to its students throughout a two-week period along with student activity workbooks, that challenged the student's media awareness. After learning more about newspapers and how to properly construct newspaper articles, students were then required to produce a piece of work as part of the last stage of the Press Pass initiative which was a nationwide journalism competition. Students were allowed to submit their works in one of the following categories: News, Feature, Comment/Analysis, Sport and Photo Journalism. Although no student from St Kieran's won anything at the national awards, it was still a great and exciting opportunity to learn more about newspapers and its main concepts, and hopefully more students will now be aware of the importance of newspapers in society.

## OPEN NIGHT

It has become customary for every Transition Year group to get involved in and help out at the annual open-night for all incoming First Years. A couple of days before the open-night Mr O'Keeffe and Mr O'Neill went around and assigned each student a role for the night. The roles and tasks that were given out varied greatly, but at the same time allowed each student to feel a sense of responsibility in ensuring that the night went smoothly. Some

were assigned to guide the sixth-class students with their parents around the school while others had roles in certain subject areas. These roles included displaying Technology projects, doing lino-block printing for art, reading books at the library and even having a hurling match on display to the much excited and a bit anxious primary school audience. The night went really smooth overall and was a great opportunity for the future students of St Kieran's to see what secondary school life is all about. The night also showed them, that there is so much more that the school has to offer than just fascinating academic opportunities and outstanding levels of hurling, but also the great fun and enjoyment that you could have during the six years in it. A word of thanks goes to all the teachers involved on the night for providing us with such an enjoyable and invaluable start to Transition Year.

## NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Tuesday 25th of September a small number of Transition Years and Leaving Cert Agricultural Science students visited the annual National Ploughing Championships held in New Ross, Co. Wexford, accompanied by Mr Darmody and Mr Heffernan. Having left the school early in the morning, we arrived in Wexford several hours later after which we were allowed to roam the thousand or so stalls by ourselves. After a tiresome and enjoyable day, we headed back to Kilkenny and arrived in time for students to catch their buses. A word of thanks goes to Mr Darmody for organising such an enjoyable day out.





## PURE IN HEART WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, 4th of December, a workshop was organised by Pure in Heart Ireland for all of Transition Year students on the topic of teenage relationships. Each class group was given their own workshop, which lasted the length of two classes. Emmet Dooley and Ferghal McGrath who had been working for Pure in Heart Ireland for several years, giving similar workshops to students all over the country, gave the presentations on the day. The workshops were structured around love, relationships and chastity, but all had a religious aspect to it. We started the workshop by discussing what love is and gradually moving into the discussion of teenage relationships and then finishing with marriage and its religious fundamentals. The workshop was very interesting and did give students the opportunity to view relationships from a different perspective. Though it was difficult at times to fully understand the things underpinning true love, especially when being surrounded by peer pressure and modern glamour and gloss, it was a very enjoyable workshop that I would recommend to all.

## PSYCHO SPAGHETTI

On the 12th of October all of Transition Year, accompanied by Mr O'Neill, Mr Connolly and Mr Flood made their way to the Watergate Theatre to watch a play called 'Psycho Spaghetti'. The play was specifically designed for Transition Year students and most schools in Kilkenny were present at it alongside St Kieran's. This one-man show produced and carried out by Gerard Carey which toured all around Ireland, aimed to answer the age old question "just what goes on inside the teenage brain?". Carey's one man show gave an accurate observation of teenagers and kept the full house of TY students on the edge of their seats which, along with the enthusiastic laughter and clapping, created a very enjoyable and relaxed atmosphere. Gerard took us the whole way through our childhood to our teenage years and showed how we gradually start to develop into adults. He used the space of the theatre very well and the non-colourful set attracted all of our attention to him, which, with his accurate body language was cleverly done. He, as an

older man writing on younger people, portrayed the younger generation extremely well and his comical parody really made us think about our attitude and behaviour and the way that adults perceive us. I, along with my year, loved this interactive play and on the behalf of the entire Transition Year group thank the teachers for giving us an opportunity to see it.

## ROAD SAFETY QUIZ

Sean Brennan

On the 14th of March, An Garda Síochána held a road safety quiz in Hotel Kilkenny for Transition Year students. Teams from four Kilkenny schools took part: St Kierans College Kilkenny, CBS Kilkenny, Loreto Kilkenny and CBS Callan. This was the second year of the event which is held to promote road safety awareness. The quiz consisted of ten rounds of six questions in each. These questions ranged from simple things like working out what a sign means to what the braking distance of a vehicle is. The students found the questions tough at the beginning and by the end of the second round CBS Kilkenny had established an early lead. However, things soon changed and by the end of the sixth round there was a four way tie for the lead with a team from each school on 29 points. Garda Con Dooley, who was quizmaster for the evening, allowed the teams a break to catch their breaths at this point.

The quiz then carried on until the end of the tenth round. The result was then called out. There was a tie for first place between St Kierans College who had clawed back the lead of CBS Kilkenny and were now on 41 points along with the CBS Kilkenny team. A tie break round was then held. At the end of the round CBS Kilkenny had 44 points while St Kierans just pipped them and in the process won the quiz on a score of 44 and a half points. Team captain Alan Hayes accepted the trophy on behalf of the team which also included Sean Brennan, James Lahart and Padraig Dunphy. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all the participants and a special thank you to An Garda Síochána for hosting the event.

## SAMBA DRUMMING

On the 16th of March, samba

drumming lessons were organised for each of the Transition Year classes. In the morning TYA and TYB tried it out, while later in the afternoon it was TYC and TYD's turn. Though many seemed apprehensive about this workshop at first, it soon was not the case when we were introduced to Dave, our instructor for the whole day. He was an energetic and charismatic figure who explained to us at the very start that the workshop was designed to be a fun experience, not requiring any previous knowledge of music. Though what he said did relieve pressure from a lot of us at first, we were soon faced with another big challenge and that was to perform the melodies that he asked us to play, correctly on the instruments that we were given. We were divided into groups according to the instrument that we were given and then we started practicing the melodies that we were told. It didn't turn out to be quite as easy as expected at first, and many were struggling with the task given; however, it didn't take long for everyone to get the hang of it. Upon the successful completion of the required beats and melodies we were then faced with another, harder task of coming up with our own piece of music involving a beginning, middle and an end. It proved tedious at first, but after an hour or so, we finally had everything prepared in harmony with each other. The piece was then demonstrated to a number of teachers who rated it first class and applauded loudly for us after an hour's hard work. The day was enjoyed by all, and gave us an introduction into the world of samba, but most importantly it taught us valuable team skills, without which we wouldn't have succeeded in the first place.

## SEÁN BYRNE MEMORIAL RUN

The Seán Byrne Memorial Run is an annual running challenge that is done to honour the former member of Kilkenny City Harriers - Seán Byrne. This challenge is designed for Transition Year students from all over Kilkenny each year and is also an opportunity to check the fitness levels of students. This year, it was originally scheduled to take place at the end of March; however, due to bad weather it was rescheduled to Thursday, April 11th at two o'clock in the afternoon. The day soon came and



students were ready to take on the challenge. Due to the large group of students present, the year was divided into two groups, with one competing after the other. Competitiveness was seen early on, even before the start; however before each group started, we got a few tips by KCH trainer Seán Lynch. He told us the strategies we should take into account when running and what things should be avoided at all costs. Before we even noticed, the whistle was blown, and off we went running four laps of Scanlon Park. After some time, the two groups ended their races and the results started to get announced. The winner with the lowest time on the day, was Ray Lahart, while strong performances were also shown by Tom O'Keeffe, Mark Dowling and Seán O' Neill. The day went very well, and we have to take this opportunity to thank Kilkenny City Harriers for organising such a fun day.

### TAG RUGBY DAY

The St Kieran's and Loreto Tag Rugby Day takes place at the Kilkenny Rugby Club every year, between the TY students of both schools and acts as a fundraiser for the St Kieran's TY students going to Lourdes. This day has been organised for the past number of year and this year it took place on Monday, April 22nd. Following the morning roll, students quickly assembled at the school gates where they waited to get buses down to the rugby club and by eleven o'clock, all students had arrived and were soon togging out to get ready for the games ahead. While it was somewhat time-consuming, students soon found themselves out on the pitch, ready to play; however before any games were to begin, all rules and safety precautions had to be mentioned in a clear and straight forward manner to avoid any accidents later on. After a quick run over the rules, the teachers began forming teams. There were sixteen teams in total, divided into four groups each containing four teams. Each team was captained by a St Kieran's student and had five boys and five girls on it. Seven of those players were active, while the remaining three acted as subs; however everyone got a chance to play a fair amount. Finally after everything had been explained and all questions answered, the games began, with each one lasting roughly twelve minutes. After all the games of the first round were played, two divisions were created the first or the 'Cup' Division, comprising of the best two teams in each group and the 'Shield' Division comprising of the two losing teams in each group. However, before the Division games were to go ahead, students were given a 45 minute break during which they could relax and regain their energy for the big games ahead. The games continued after everyone had their lunch, and one by one teams began to get eliminated from each of the divisions, with only the best teams remaining at the very end. The games were hotly contested and in the end victors did emerge, whose victory was celebrated throughout and this nicely ended the entire day, despite the terrible weather in which everyone had to play in. We have to greatly thank everyone involved, including Mr Flood, Mr O'Neill, Mr Fitzgerald and Mr McCormack who accompanied us and were behind the organisation of the day, the Loreto teachers and also the rugby club who kindly agreed for us to use their pitch and facilities.





# First Year Class Photos



Back row (l-r): Conor Lalor, Damien Cahill, Brevin Benny, Jack McDonald, Cathal Power. Third row (l-r): Jakub Czakiert, Daniel Kenyi, Shane Murphy, Shanly Sebastian, Bill Cody, Ruairi Breen. Second row (l-r): Harry Murphy, Cian Dawson, Ciarán Walsh, Liam Hoban, Shane Whelan, Conor Archbold, Eoin Kenneally. First row (l-r): Kevin Holohan, Gerard Doheny, David Walsh, James Everard, Brian Madden, Seán Carroll, Kyran O Sullivan. Missing from photo: David Graham, Tom Gormley, Conor McGree.



Back row (l-r): Feargus Byrne, James Phelan, Eoghan Moylan, Robert Butler, Maciej Ziolkowski, Darwish Burke. Third row (l-r): Niall Doheny, Ian Walsh, Adam Tallis, Stephen Kirwan, Padraic Mullen, Ciaran Fitzpatrick, Dylan Drennan-Smyth. Second row (l-r): Alex Pawliczek, Joe Walsh, Ciaran Hogan, Tim Ferris, Eoin Brennan, Evan Doyle, Nathan Lawlor. Front row (l-r): Sean Richardson, Tommy Ronan, John Nolan, Conor Drennan, Daniel Cotter, Owen Wall, Robbie McCauley, Kyle Fanning.





Back row (l-r): Thomas Dunphy, Eamon Morrissey, Benjamin Lanigan, Jesse Roberts, Luke Murphy, Sean Cassin. Third row (l-r): Jeffrey Coyne, Ryan Scanlon, Conor O Keeffe, Eoin Kelly, Shane Guilfoyle, David Bourke, Adam Hehir-Drennan. Second row (l-r): Jason O Keeffe, David Maher, Andrew Whelan, Killian Duffy, Joseph Organ, Jack O Connell, Sean Carroll. Front row (l-r): Ali Zabad, Jason Egars, Paul Healy, Hugh McOwan, Evan Clarke, Jay Meagher, Conor McHugh, Michael Burke.



Back row (l-r): Michael O'Shaughnessy, Sam Hickey, Rory O'Keefe, Jack Nolan, Conor Condon. Third row (l-r): Richie Phelan, Erick Oyat, Dylan Doyle, Mark Nolan, Sean Greene, Nick O'Shea, Alex Doheny. Second row (l-r): David Griffin, Bailey Byrne, Blaise Wall, Martin Murray, Sean Manogue, Kealan Coyne, Luke O'Brien, David O'Carroll. Front row (l-r): Joe Breen, Christopher Barcoe, Edward O'Neill, Tim Ryan, Kasper Mazurkiewicz, David Barron, Liam Brennan-Smith. Missing from photo: Ned Kirwin.



Back row (l-r): Evan Walshe, Jonathan Tshimbalanga, Diarmuid Phelan, Jack Connolly, Daniel Maher, Ross Whelan. Third row (l-r): Daniel Blanchfield, Tommy Hennessy, John Prendergast, Cormac Nolan, Jordan Brett, Paul O'Dwyer, Conor Rowe. Second row (l-r): Jessie Dihllon, Peter Murphy, Rory Cleere, Sean Ryan, John Dillon, Ciaran Brennan, Sean Grace, Robert Dowling. Front row (l-r): William O'Sullivan, Colin McKenna, Laurence Campion, John Hynes, Ethan Butler, Nathan Connolly, Owen Lynch.



## Second Year Class Photos



Back row (l-r): Kieran Conway, Jack Manning, Eoghan Twomey, Kevin Kehoe, Eamonn Fennelly, Daniel Young, Andrew Parsons. Third row (l-r): Peter Walsh, Ciaran Dalton, Naimul Hossain, John Farrell, Adam Ronan, Killian Ten-Bohmer, Damian Skrzypek. Second row (l-r): Tom Lalor, Conall Whelan, Tommy Walton, Jack Crehan, Peter Mullan, Shane Dawson, Jack Smith, Kieran Lucey. Front row (l-r): Dean Gleeson, Conor Phelan, Padraig Healy, Jack Tynan, Adam Power, David Busher, Patrick Parle, Eric Mahon.



Back row (l-r): Robbie Kirwan, Barry Cleere, Evan Walshe, Ciaran Doyle, Conor Dyson, Calum Malone. Third row (l-r): Jack Connelly, Thomas Comerford, John Burns, Dylan Smithwick, Conor Hackett, Bill Cuddihy. Second row (l-r): Cian Burke, Ben Whelan, Luke Fitzpatrick, Rory Lodge, Peter Lyster, Evaldus Gerulaitis, Mickey Larkin, Conor Dowling. Front row (l-r): Simon Cullen, Jack Beale, Dara Keane, Ben Lawlor, Shane Donohoe, Leroy Slattery, Ciaran Byrne, Eoin Minnock, Paddy Bolger.





Back row (l-r): Colum Prenderville, Aironas Miliauskas, Martin Keoghan, Ciaran Lennon, John Dooley, Adam Grogan, Liam Rafter. Third row (l-r): Brian O'Hanrahan, Gavin Delaney, Jason Maher, George Murphy, Gary Moore, Brendan Fitzgerald, Kevin Fennelly. Second row (l-r): Noel Leahy, Dylan Simpson, Ryan Poyntz, Ted Drea, Michael Carey, James Tennyson, James Duffy. Front row (l-r): Eoin Rudkins, Lorcan Whelan, Kieran Neville, Andy Walsh, Kevin Murphy, Enda Kenneally, Patrick Lawry, Damian Smialek, Evan Shefflin.



Back row (l-r): Denis Carrigan, Ian Clifford, Robert Fitzgerald, Fintan Fleming, Adrian Mullen, Cian Enright. Third row (l-r): Dylan Aylward, James Bergin, Pádraig Lennon, Cahal McAuley, David McNerney, Jack Smith. Second row (l-r): Adam Flynn, Luke Frayne, Leon Duffy, Kevin McQuillan, Donal Brophy, Pádraig Buggy, Callum O'Dwyer. Front row (l-r): Leon Butler, Sean Walsh, Brandon Maloney, James Nugent, Jeff Kealy-Brennan, Joe Cashin, Eamon McPhilips, Alex Johnston.



# Third Year Class Photos



Back row (l-r): Tom Dorney, Patrick Earle, Michael Cody, Eamon Forristal, Brian Power, Tom Whitty. Third row (l-r): Mattheus Stefanski, Liam Walsh, Tadhg O'Dwyer, Daniel Egars, James Mulally, Greg Morrissey, Aidan Nolan. Second row (l-r): Connor Rafter, Michael Ryan, Darren Mullen, Patrick Maher, Daniel Fahey, Danny Carpenter-Kehoe. Front row (l-r): Luke Kelly, Patrick Doyle, Joe Sinnott, James Drea, Stephen Carolan, Morgan Thomas, Shane Byrne. Absent from photo: Jacob Murray, Evan Swan.



Back row (l-r): Robert O'Dwyer, Artur Helizon, David Kelly, Chris Keane, Darren Meaney, Marc Leahy, Jack Lynch. Third row (l-r): Brandon Rochford-Freaney, Garreth Graham-Mollerau, Liam Wallace, Tyler Lennon, Peter Scarrif-Lawlor, Kevin Shaughnessy. Second row (l-r): Eamon Byrne, Michael Harold, William Spencer, Peter Lynch, Robbie Power, Niall Holligan, James Walton. First row (l-r): Robert Freeman, Dylan Jordan, Jack Woodgate, Paddy Vaughan, Jody Dwyer, Tommy Byrne, Eamon Egan.





Back row (l-r): Conor O'Neill, Roman Hartman, Joe Cuddihy, Pearce J Dalton, Patrick Kennedy, Darby Fwamba. Third row (l-r): Brian O'Neill, Jack McHugh, Richie Stapleton, Niko Doyle, Brian Wall, Robert Kerwick, John Hession. Second row (l-r): Kevin Azah, Niall Brennan, Pdraig Roberts, Brandon Ashcraft, Cian Drennan, Victor Costello, Tommy Allen. Front row (l-r): Dylan Collins, Matthew Powell, Sean Carey, Brian Crowdle, Shane Hennessy, Dylan Dunphy-Wallace, Nathan Donoghue, Stephen Bateman.



Back row (l-r): Tommy Walsh, Thomas Maher, Cormac Lehnen, Edward Moylan, Thomas Phelan. Third row (l-r): Shane O'Shaughnessy, Brion Kirwan, Luke Gannon, James Nugent, Matthew Kenny, Alan Mooney. Second row (l-r): Eoin Kelly, Evan Carroll, Morgan Walshe, Sean Maher, Ronan O'Connor, Paul Holden, Dion Bourke, Joe Connolly. Front row (l-r): Hugh Corkery, John Gilman, Aidan O'Sullivan, Paul Luttrell, Paddy Ryan, Eric Whelan, Padraic Purcell.



Back row (l-r): Paddy Brennan, Abban Bohanna, Tom Murphy, Cormac Buggy, Maurice Walsh. Third row (l-r): Paddy Gannon, Conor Purcell, Jack Condon, Edmond Delaney, David Dunne, Ben Lawlor. Second row (l-r): Timmy Howes, Noah Canty, Geoff Brennan, Oisín Gough, Killian Fitzpatrick, Diarmuid Minnock, Nicholas Kelly Kavanagh, Conor Byrne. Front row (l-r): Evan Tully, Niall Delaney, Darragh Phelan, Bill Whelan, Ciaran Browne, Adam Mcelroy, Shane Stapleton, Kevin Sullivan, Gavin Doheny.



# Transition Year Class Photos



Back row (l-r): Padraic Dunphy, Eoin Walsh, Liam Costello, Liam Blanchfield, Ben Conroy. Third row (l-r): Shane O' Gorman, Richard Teehan, Patrick Clifford, Garry Kehoe, Greg Aylward, Jason Byrne, Robert Donnelly. Second row (l-r): Richard Keoghan, James Lahart, Diarmuid O'Brien, Billy Ryan, Arron Healy, Richie Leahy. Front row (l-r): Eoin Holligan, Donovan Ashcraft, Daniel Harty, Shane Maher, Marco Perrozzi, David Jordon, Niall Walsh.



Back row (l-r): Sean Cuddihy, Robert O'Flynn, Gary Tynan, Brian Busher, Daniel O'Connor, Vladyslav Medueinsky. Third row (l-r): Jason Cleere, Neil Grogan, James Brennan, Dylan O'Shea, Niall Brennan, Conor Fennelly. Second row (l-r): Dillon Dooley, Conor Byrne, Brad Ellis, Sean O'Neill, Lyndon Brannigan, Jake McDonald, Ronan Lynch. First row (l-r): Eoghan Kearney, Mark Ryan, Colin Corrway, Jack Larkin, Rocco Pesce, Ben Hickey.





Back row (l-r): Ronan Tynan, Donagh Mahon, Sean Brennan, Sean Farrell, Sean Comerford, Jack Keoghan. Third row (l-r): Jack Teehan, David Shore, Jonathan Barron, Harry Bruton, John O'Meara, Declan McCarthy, Conor Aylward. Second row (l-r): Aaron Casey, Luke Dowling, Eamon Hennessy, Gavin Costigan, Jack Kavanagh, Darragh O Connor, Shane Howe-Tyrrell. Front row (l-r): Eoin Delaney, Alan Hayes, Caolan O'Chleirigh, Alex Lalor, Mark Dowling, Cathal Phelan, Sean Lynch.



Back row (l-r): Tom O Keeffe, Terry O'Neill, Cian Costello, John Fitzpatrick, Ray Lahart. Third row (l-r): Kevin Brennan, Bill Brennan, Noel Whelan, Alex Milchev, Sean Morrissey. Second row (l-r): David Ryan, Jack Brett, Bill O'Neill, David Shivgalum, Jason Barcoe, Shane Keown. Front row (l-r): Brian Slattery, Conor Phelan, Fintan O Sullivan, Patrick Gallagher, Mark Doyle, Michael Cotter, Shane Joyce.



## Fifth Year Class Photos



Back row (l-r): Karlos Mitirkas, Lorcan O'Loughlin, Shane Leahy, Ben Leydon, Ally Rafter, Jack Byrne, Brendan Cullen. Second row (l-r): Josh Haines, Danny Duku, Sean Sinnott, John Rice, David Walsh, Kieran Freeman. Front row (l-r): Shane Walsh, Jamie Cashin, Karl Cummins, Paul Farrell, John Lynch, Ben Moylan, Brian Mahon.



Back row (l-r): Cian Smith, Cathal Darmody, Stephen Farrell, Michael Comerford, Sean Burke. Third row (l-r): Philip Cooney, Stephen Clancy, Brian Cody, Nicholas Dunphy, Ger Dunne. Second row (l-r): Michael Fitzgerald, Ian Martin, Ciaran Fennelly, Shane Comerford, Maciej Szeliga, Paul White, Gregory Tennyson. Front row (l-r): Michael Cross, Conor Comerford, Dylan Cullen, Dean Byrne, Dion Fitzpatrick, Konrad Cwiklowski.





Back row (l-r): Aaron Doyle, Liam Fennelly, Luke O'Connor, Dylan Drennan, Darragh Hennessy, Rowlands Stafeckis. Second row (l-r): Seamus McGrath, Conor Lowe, William Bergin, William Carrigan, James Tynan, Kieran Condon. Front row (l-r): Kevin Hennessy, Shane O'Brien, Daniel Function, Micheal McDonald, Paddy Reade, Damien Lis.



Back row (l-r): Micheal Shiel, Billy Hanlon, James Maher, Peter Prendergast, Kevin Blanchfield, Kacper Pawlowski. Second row (l-r): Conor O'Carroll, Jack Drew, Dion Guilfoyle, Brendan Hyland, Conor Brennan, Tom Phelan. Front row (l-r): Joe Mullen, James Mullen, Carlo Pesce, Robert Hennessy, Conor Murphy, Gavin Brennan.



# Sixth Year Class Photos



Back row (l-r): Diarmuid Hickey, Conor Wall, Graham English, Colin Corcoran, Eoin Gough. Third row (l-r): Alex Helizon, Lucas Hartman, James Tyrrell, Brian Butler, Eamon Treacy, David Predergast. Second row (l-r): Jason Carroll, Iam Dunphy, Bill Lahart, John Murphy, Maurice O'Neill. Front row (l-r): Aidan Byrne, Mike Nikandrov, Padraig Walsh, Ciaran Breen, Kevin Maher, Cormac Everard.



Back row (l-r): Mark Shortall, Pijus Timas, Jack Naughton, Conor Mahon, John Mulholland, Ciaran O'Carroll. Third row (l-r): James Burke, Craig Murphy, Peter McPhilips, Daniel Howe, Cathal O'Neill. Second row (l-r): Conor Quinlan, Cathal Minnock, Donal Murphy, Nathan Cahill, Michael O'Neill, Conor Evans. Front row (l-r): Niall Treacy, James Callanan, David Maher, Liam Elvidge, Jack Cotter, Patrick Tynan.





Back row (l-r): Peter Treacy, Brendan Neary, Killian Cantwell, Eoin Curis, Michael Kenny, Vincent Teehan. Third row (l-r): Alan O'Beirne, Ronan Leahy, William Dooley, Patrick Hickey, Sean O'Callaghan. Second row (l-r): Anthony Patchell, Gearoid Kennedy, Shane Butler, David Burke, Chris Bolger, Dylan Walsh. Front row (l-r): Keith Reynolds, Pavel Kravcena, Brian Mullaly, Cian Morton, Cormac Connolly, Emmet Nugent, Robert Malone.



Back row (l-r): Conor McMullen, Conor Byrne, Conor Coughlin, Paddy Mullen. Fourth row (l-r): Jimmy Lynch, James Deasy, Hugh Lane, Adam Ryan, James Rafter. Third row (l-r): Keith Phelan, Eoin Barry, Calvin Delaney, Shane Nolan, David Walsh, Robbie Holohan. Second row (l-r): Sean Mullholland, Eoin Cooney, Eoin Shortall, Shane Parsons, Michael Comerford, Jamie Maher. Front row (l-r): Thomas Kehoe, Andrew Tyrrell, Jack Dowling, Cormac Ryan, Luke Tennyson, Michael Lennon, Simon Rafter.







# Sports Day

Sports Day this year was held on September 21st. Most schools have their sports day later in the year but the tradition in Kieran's is to have it early in the first term. A great day was had by all. Huge competition could be seen in all the activities, none more so than the tug of war! We look forward with great anticipation to next year's Sports Day.





# Chess

Bill Cuddihy and Eoin Minnock

On October 26th St Kierans College u14 and u16 chess teams travelled to St Benildus College in Dublin for the first round of the Leinster championship. The u14 team played well but lost 4-1 to a strong St Benildus team. The u16s won 5-0. They were back out again on December 14th to play Gonzaga College and Castleknock College. This time all of the teams travelled to Dublin. All of the teams lost to eventual All-Ireland champions in all age groups. The u16s and u19s beat Castleknock 5-0 and 3-2. These were very important results to give both teams a chance of reaching the Leinster semi-finals. The final game was a home game against Adamstown on the 8 of February. The u16s won 4-1 but narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-final. The u19s lost to Castleknock in the Leinster championship semi-final. A good year for the St Kierans chess teams. Thanks to Mr O'Neill for letting us use his room on Tuesday lunchtime and to Ms Ahern for accompanying us on the trips to matches.



# Swimming

Once again David Prendergas represented Ireland to great success in swimming. He travelled to Sunderland in November with the Irish Team to Represent Irish school in the WISE Schools Championship. WISE is a competition held every year between Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England. The teams are made up of secondary school students divided into three different age groups, Junior, Intermediate and Senior.

At the competition David swam in three individual events as well as a relay. He won silver in the 100m freestyle and 100m back crawl. He came in third to get the bronze medal in the 200m freestyle. In the last event of the competition the Men's Senior 4x100m freestyle David who was last into the water went on to win the event. This result confirmed Ireland as being the most improved team at the competition.

# Handball

St Kieran's College once again had a very successful year in handball. Throughout the years we have had a very good record in handball and this year was no different. Nine of our students competed in a number of competitions throughout the year. Eoin Brennan and Conor Condon in First Year were new additions to the group. The other competitors were Brian Mahon, Brendan Hyland, Dylan Walsh, Dion Burke, Sean Carey, Jack Crehan and Colin McKenna.



Back row (l-r): Dion Burke (U-16 Singles), Conor Condon (First Year Doubles). Second row (l-r): Ger Dunne, Brian Mahon, Sean Carey (U17 Singles). Front row (l-r): Ryan Scanlon (First Year Singles), Eoin Brennan (First Year Singles), Michael Carey (U15 Doubles), Jack Crehan (U15 Doubles).

# Golf

The school Golf team had a very successful campaign this year. The lads competed in the quarter-finals of Leinster Inter-Schools Matchplay Championships which they qualified for following a thrilling victory over Borris CS last January in Kilkenny Golf Club. The team consisting of Niall Treacy, Brian Crowdle, Gearoid Kennedy and Kevin Maher overcame a stiff challenge from the Borris team to win 1 up overall after the 2 fourball matches. After a successful league campaign before Christmas, where the Kieran's lads qualified from a group containing Kilkenny College, Kilkenny CBS, Colaiste Pobal Osrai and Scoil Airgeal, this was the 1st knockout round of the year. This latest victory qualifies the team for the last 8 in Leinster against the winners of Naas CBS and Gaelcholaiste Cheatharlach to be played before the midterm break in February. This was an outstanding achievement by the team (which also includes Jack Condon) congratulations to them and their manager Ms Ann Wemyss on another successful year.



Senior Golf Team 2012-2013 Keni Maher, Gearoid Kennedy, Ms Anne Wemyss, Brian Crowdle and Niall Treacy.



Colum Prenderville  
Basketball



### COLUM PRENDERVILLE

During the October Mid Term break Colum travelled to St Vincents Gym Glasnevin Co Dublin to try out for the Irish U15 Basketball Squad. There were 120 other players who also tried out for places. Colum excelled over the try outs and made the Irish Team. Well done Colum and good luck in all your future matches with the Irish team.

### ALAN HAYES

Congratulations to Transition Year student, Alan Hayes, who was recently selected as the No Name Club's National Host of the Year for 2013 at a gala event held in the Lyrath Hotel in Kilkenny.

Alan was selected from over 1,500 youth members from all over the country in a process that involved a private interview a number of weeks ago, followed by a public interview on stage in the Lyrath at the gala event hosted by Damien Tiernan of RTE. Alan

Alan Hayes  
No Name Club National Host



also had to perform a party piece, he sang a song that he wrote himself.

This is an annual award ceremony held by the No Name Club. The last Kilkenny winner was back in 2006 when Richard Ryan, also a student of St Kieran's College carried away the title.

### JASON O'KEEFFE

World Amateur Champion in Junior Advanced Self Defence (competition was held in Buffalo USA)  
3rd National Black belt League for musical demonstration

### KEVIN KEHOE

Boxing National Senior Cadet Champion 2013  
4 Leinster Titles 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013  
3 National Titles 2011, 2012, 2013

### KILLIAN CANTWELL

Killian Cantwell one of our Sixth Year students represented the Republic of

Jason O'Keeffe  
Self Defence



Ireland Schools team against Wales in the U-18 Centenary Shield clash which was held at the Oscar Traynor Complex in Dublin. Killian plays his club football with UCD AFC, he has represented the school with great distinction over the years.

### STEPHEN BATEMAN

Stephen represented Ireland at the International Snooker Championships in Pontins, Prestatyn in North Wales. The team was drawn first against England and then against Wales. The lads unfortunately lost their first round of matches 8-4 but the luck was with them for the second round as they won 8-4. The following day Ireland played Scotland and England again. Following great performances at these two matches Ireland finished third. Stephen was the player to take most away from the competition as he won 12 of the 18 games he played. Well done Stephen

Kevin Kehoe  
Boxing



Killian Cantwell  
Soccer



Stephen Bateman  
Snooker







## Equestrian

Conor Drennan

St Kieran's College equestrian events commenced on the 7th October with Kilkenny College hosting the White Cup in Warrington Equestrian Centre. The lads had one team competing which consisted of Cian Drennan, John Dillion, Hugh McOwen and Jimmy Callanan. The team finished in sixth place after two challenging rounds and a speed round. Their next event was on the 13th October, Colaiste Bridh hosted this event in Barnadown. Again we had one team competing, this time on the team was Cian Drennan, Victor Costello, Hugh Mc Owen and Jimmy Callanan, another successful day was had as the lads came third.

On the 18th November we hosted our own event in Warrington Equestrian Centre. We had two teams in the open event and one in the novice competition. Unfortunately the lads were not placed in any of the team events but in the individual competition Eric Mahon came fourth and Jimmy Callanan came sixth. St Kierans would like to thank all our sponsors, parents and teachers for their help and support on the day.

Our last event was the All Ireland Inter schools Hunter Trials which was held in Ballinaboola, New Ross on the 16th March. The event was hosted by St Marys School New Ross. While we were not successful on the day a great time was had by all who participated.

We had a few new additions to the Equestrian club in Kierans this year, Hugh Mc Owen, John Dillion and Eamon Morrissey. We would also like to thank all the students who were involved in all the equestrian events throughout the year, Cian Drennan, Victor Costello, Paddy Vaughan, Paul Holden, Paddy Maher, Eric Mahon, Paddy Parle, Tommy Kehoe and Jimmy Callanan.

I really enjoyed attending all the competitions and taking the photography of the lads during the events. A special thanks to Fr Ryan and the teachers who helped us throughout the year. We look forward to next year and meeting the new recruits to the club!



# Tetrathlon

Cian Drennan

Tetrathlon involves four disciplines, running, horse riding, shooting and swimming. Training commenced in February traveling to Athy every second weekend for training and eventually selection. 2012 was a very successful year for me personally starting with winning the Pony Club Hunter Trial Championships with my team mates in April. I represented Ireland in the UK Pony Club Tetrathlon which took place in Milton Keynes, UK. Our team came second against teams from Scotland, England and Wales. Our next event was the national Tetrathlon Championships which was held in Crecora Limerick on the 11th and 12th of August where there was pressure on us to defend our title which we did. Our sights were now set on an invitation to the UK Pony Club International Tetrathlon Championships at Intermediate level which took place in Hartpury Gloucestershire in August 2012. I rode a challenging technical cross country course, I did a personal best in my swim which earned me a second position overall - the early mornings had paid off! To our delight the Warrington team were declared winners of the championships at intermediate level, a huge achievement.

I now look forward to representing Ireland at the Internationals which will take place this coming August, hopefully we will have another successful year.

Conor Mahon

Last summer I captained the Irish Tetrathlon Team at the English Tetrathlon Championship in Hartpury. After spending the summer training, up to 40 Irish athletes competed at the championships. The shooting began on the Tuesday morning where I shot a score of 860 points. The swimming phase was next and went really well for me, as I swam a personal best of twelve lengths. The next day was the cross country. It was one of the biggest courses I had ever jumped but I got a clear round. The run was the last event and most competitors least favourite! A run of 10.15 was good enough to secure me seventh place out of a total of 120 athletes. Our team eventually placed second with the girls team winning the competition. I would like to thank everyone who helped out with the team and personally I would like to thank the teachers who organise and participate in the lunch time run which helped me with my training.







Above: Intermediate U-17 Cross Country Team, DCU Invitation Title, South Leinster Title, Leinster Title. Back row (l-r): Mr Tom Hogan (Mentor), Michael Ryan, Peter Lynch, Thomas Allen, Cormac Buggy, Mr John O'Keeffe (Mentor). Front row (l-r): Colum Prenderville, Gary Tynan, Jack Keoghane, Tom O'Keeffe.



Left: Junior U-15 Team. Back row (l-r): Jack Manning, Kevin Kehoe, Eamon Fennelly, Kevin Mc Quillan. Front row (l-r): Bill Cody, Conal Whelan, Peter Whelan, Luke Fitzpatrick, John Nolan.

Bottom left: Senior U-19 Team. Conor Quinlan, Luke O'Connor, Sean O'Callaghan, Conor Mahon, Sean O'Neill, John Murphy.

Bottom right: Minor U-14 Team. Back row (l-r): John Dillion, James Phelan, Michael O'Shaughnessy, Conor McCree, Eric Oyat. Front row (l-r): Sean Richardson, Conor Drennan, David O'Carroll, Mark Nolan, Evan Clarke.





# Cross Country

Cross Country running demands commitment and perseverance. It attracts students from every year who avail of the opportunity to train during their lunch break. The runners escape to the beautiful surroundings of the Castle Park for the sessions. The atmosphere is relaxed and great camaraderie develops over the season. The focus is always on team running, whereby the older more mature runners constantly encourage the younger athletes. The First Years are carefully introduced to the demands of long distance running.

The competitions began this year with the Michael Brannigan Memorial Races in December. This is an event for our own students to test their fitness levels and is always a wake-up call. John Murphy was impressive in the senior event. Cormac Buggy and Peter Lynch battled it out for the honours in the intermediate race as did Luke

Fitzpatrick and Kevin Kehoe at junior level. The main event of course was the First Year inter- class run. Over a hundred First Years raced and first home was John Nolan. The team prize went to class 1A4. Mentors and athletes alike felt there was a real need for race practice before the South Leinster Championship.

In the New Year we began the inter school season with the DCU Invitation. It was a useful exercise with the Intermediate Team winning the U17 title, led home by Cormac Buggy. All of us up in Dublin that day were impressed with the standard. We suspected that there would be no titles won easily this year. We were much more focused for the South Leinster Championship and challenged for the four available titles. All four teams qualified for the Leinsters, with the Intermediate team doing so in style with three of our runners among the top five finishers,

Cormac Buggy, Peter Lynch and Jack Keoghan.

Santry Demesne, Dublin was the venue for the Leinster Championship. Once again it was the Intermediate team who were competitive and they saw off St Aidan's CBS and Blackrock College to clinch the title. In addition the U14 team also secured qualification for the All-Irelands, by finishing third in their race.

Training then intensified for the All-Ireland Championship, which was held in the University of Ulster Jordanstown. This necessitated an over- night stay in Northern Ireland. We had a wonderful weekend in Belfast, visiting the Titanic Centre and other attractions. On the athletic course, our best was not good enough as we were out of the titles and medals. All of the students left the race course with their heads held high, proud that they had competed in an All Ireland.





# Athletics



The track and field year as always started off with the South Leinster championships, in Scanlon park during May. The team this year was made up of minor, junior, u-16, inter and senior athletes.

There was great success across all age groups, and events, with the following athletes winning medals; Jesse Dillon First Year, claimed bronze in the minor 500m, and qualified for

Leinster. Jack manning Second Year, claimed silver in the 100m and gold in the 200m, and a silver in the 4 x 100m relay along with Eamon Fennelly, Luke Fitzpatrick and Kevin McQuillan. Luke Fitzpatrick claimed silver in the 800m and qualified for the Leinster championships.

At Inter level, Third Years, Peter Lynch (gold), Micheal Ryan (bronze) and Cormac Buggy (silver) all qualified

for Leinster, in the 1500m steeplechase, 1500m and mile respectively. Donagh Mahon Transition Year, won the inter high jump and qualified for Leinster.

At Senior level, Luke O'Connor Fifth Year (silver), John Murphy Sixth Year (gold) and Nicholas Dunphy Fifth Year (silver) qualified for Leinster and will be competing May 18th, in the 3000m, 5000m and 3000m walk respectively. We wish them every success.



Minor & Junior South Leinster Athletics

Back row (l-r): Eamon Fennelly, Kevin McQuillan, Micheal OShaughnessey. Middle row (l-r): Conor Drennan, Luke Fitzpatrick, Peter Mullen, Conor McGree, Bill Cody. Front row (l-r): David O'Carroll, Eric Oyat, John Murphy, Jessie Dihlon.





## Heineken Cup Visit

The Heineken Cup this year was won by Leinster. The Leinster Rugby Club decided to allow the Cup to travel to schools around the country to promote the game of rugby and to give students the opportunity to view the cup.

## Rugby

### LEINSTER 19

Diarmaid Hickey played second row on the Leinster 19's team which beat Northampton Saints in Franklin's Gardens to win the Bective Memorial Trophy and reached the under 19's interprovincial finals in September.

### KILKENNY 1ST XV

Diarmaid Hickey also played 6 for the Kilkenny First XV who won Leinster Division 2 this year, gaining promotion and their first league win in 11 years. Kilkenny won with 6 points to spare with many former students of St Kieran's college in the squad.

### KILKENNY U17

Kilkenny U17's won the Leinster Division 1 league in beating Tullamore 23-5 in Portlaoise RFC with many school students on the team.

### KILKENNY U15

Kilkenny U15's also won the Leinster Division 1 league beating Tullow 34-15 in New Ross RFC. Again many college students were members of this winning team.





# First Year Soccer

Alexander Pawliczek

We played our first match against Thomastown at their grounds. Even though it was a friendly we won by a big margin. The total score was 11-0. It was a confidence building match for us that gave us an amazing morale boost to all of our team. Our next game was another game away this time out side of the Kilkenny County and all the way to Leixlip, Co. Kildare. It was a tough match and unfortunately we lost 1-0 in a very hard match to Celbridge. Our next match was finally at home. Tullow came here all the way from Carlow. They controlled the ball from the first minutes and the first goal come in the first couple of minutes. Eoin Wall got a goal back but Tullow added another one in order to claim a win. The final score was 2-1 to Tullow. But later came better results.

Next match was away in Carlow against Presentation Carlow. Eoin Wall started the game on fire scoring 2 goals. When the match was very tense Eddie O'Niell scored with an amazing header from a Sean Ryan cross. We managed a win here. Next up was a match away in Bennetsbridge against Tullow again. If we could win we were through into the Leinster Final, if we lost we were out. We won confidently 5-0 with amazing strike from Ethan Butler from around 30 yards out right underneath the crossbar. Nice impressive showcase from Eoin Brennan who came on from the bench scoring 2 goals and Harry Murphy setting up 2 for Eoin Brennan. Our next match was all the way in Dublin. We played against Tallaght. After going so far we needed to win this one. And we did. We won 3-1 with Eoin Wall scoring 2 goals. But at the start of the match Sam Hickey got injured picking up a nasty eye injury. Our lovely road ended in Bunclody against Gorey. Even though we conceded 2 goal in the end of the first half we lost our morale. Sam came on the next half and scored a goal we lost It was a very successful season as we reached a Leinster semi finals.

Thanks to the school, teachers and our trainers for all their support.



Back row (l-r): Mr Archbold (Trainer), Ian Walsh, Jesse Roberts, Sam Hickey, Eoghan Moylan, Diarmuid Phelan, Jonathan Tshimbalanga. Third row (l-r): David O' Carroll, Conor O'Keeffe, Conor Rowe, Sean Ryan, Kyran O'Sullivan, Mr Heffernan (Trainer). Second row (l-r): Eoin Wall, Eoin Keneally, Harry Murphy, Sean Minogue, Ned Kirwan, Alex Pawliczek, Robert Dowling. Front row (l-r): David Griffin, Ethan Butler, Eoin Brennan, Eddie O'Neill, John Hynes, Jason O'Keeffe, David Barron.







## U17 Soccer

This year was an exciting year with school soccer in St Kieran's College. The boys found themselves in the Carlow/Kilkenny league final this year.

Their first match was against Carlow CBS in Carlow. It was a wet and windy day and the Kieran's boys were ready to give it their all despite being short several of their key players as their work experience was on the same week. It started off as a tough game but within 15 minutes Kieran's were up by 1-0 all thanks to Darby Fwamba. Captain for the day was Eoin Delaney and he sure was a true motivator to the team. The final score was a devastating 7-1 to Carlow CBS. The Kieran's coaches informed the players that they have nothing to be ashamed of and a few hard training sessions will surely get them in tip top shape for the next match.

The students and coaches dedicated a lot of time and effort in to their team in the hope of achieving a Carlow/Kilkenny medal this year. The next stage was against Tullow and this match was also played in Carlow. Team striker Paddy Gallagher was testing his long range shots from outside the box but failed in many attempts. With twenty minutes to go Paddy was clear



on goal and scored a cracker bottom corner. The goal keeper Brian Busher kept the team in the game as he was a solid keeper throughout the game. It finished 1-0 to Kieran's. This meant that they finished 2nd in the group and had to face Carlow CBS once more in the play off to become Carlow/Kilkenny champions.

The Kieran's team were sure it was going to be a tough game especially since they were defeated 7-1 in their last meeting with Carlow CBS. The game was played in Scanlon Park AstroTurf Kilkenny and it was a massive turn around this time round.

Kieran's had true spirit and it showed when David Shore scored an unbelievable goal from outside the box. The score at half time was 1-0 to Kieran's. As the game went on the sides were level and the final score was 2-2. The Kieran's captain for the final

was Alan Hayes and he continued to encourage the team throughout the game showing true captain character. Extra time was then played and within the first two minutes Alan placed a perfect ball over the top to Ben Hickey in which he buried in top corner. The game surely looked to be in favour of the Kieran's side until a corner kick for Carlow was taking and their sticker finished with no mercy. It was all level with two minutes to go in extra time until an absolutely devastating un-goal was scored by Billy Ryan in which Carlow CBS won the game 4-3. The game was truly magnificent. The players were in shock and heartbroken but at the end of the day the better team was Carlow CBS!

The players would just like to say a massive thank you to Mr Morgan and Mr Reddy for their commitment to the team.



# Junior Gaelic Football



The junior football team in St Kieran's got off to a flying start in November 2012 beating Tullow, Carlow by 4-12 to 0-9 points in Tullow. Following a bye in the next round the team were beaten in the last group game by Portlaoise CBS on a score line of 2-12 to 1-6. This left the team as runners up in-group 2.

Next up was a South Leinster semi-final away to the winners of group 1, Coláiste Íosagáin from Portarlinton. A fantastic game of football ensued which saw the teams play out a draw, on a scoreline of 1-12 to 1-12. St Kieran's were missing their star midfielder, Liam Blanchfield for the replay and struggled to reach the heights of the drawn game with Colaiste Iosagain winning by 5 points in the end. Well done to all involved.

Back row (l-r): Eoin Walsh, Peter O'Sullivan, Philip Dreeling, Sean Farrell, Gary Tynan, Liam Blanchfield, Richie Leahy, Daniel O'Connor, Robbie O'Flynn. Third row (l-r): Mr Windle (Mentor), Jimmy Brennan, Mark Ryan, Aaron Casey, Dylan O'Shea, Jason Byrne, Jason Cleere, Billy Ryan. Second Row: Joe Cuddihy, Jake McDonald, Mark Dowling, Alan Hayes, Sean O'Neill, Bill O'Neill, Michael Cotter, Mr McCormack (Mentor). Front row (l-r): Jody Dwyer, Conor Phelan, Niall Walsh, Kevin Brennan, Sean Morrissey, Hugh Corkery, Luke Dowling, Joe Connolly.



## Football Blitz

Kilkenny County Board organised a football blitz for Transition Year students this year. This was the inaugural year of the blitz and it turned out to be an outstanding success. The blitz was held in St Kierans College with teams from around the country traveling to us on the day. After many tough matches and a fantastic final St Kierans were victorious. Hopefully we will be able to retain our winning status next year.



# Juvenile Gaelic Football

The juvenile Gaelic team started off in early November with a number of hard fought trials with everyone looking for a place on the panel of 30. After the panel was chosen it was arranged for us to train 3 times a week on Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Training was tough with most trainings in the rain.

Our first match was against Portlaoise CBS. It was an away game. Portlaoise started strong and caught us by surprise with 4 very early goals. As the game progressed we slowly fought our way back into the game but the final whistle came too early and we lost narrowly by 2 points.

For our next game we took on Athy. We knew the importance of this game as we knew it was all over if we lost. We went out strong and at half time we had built up a sizable lead. We started the second half the same way as the first half and soon we had them out of our sights.

For our final league game we took on Portarlinton CBS. The prize for the winner was a place in the league semi-final. The game started slowly and by

half time we led by 1 point. We went out in the second half and in the space of 5 minutes we had slotted in 3 goals. We held this lead for the rest of the game and won by 5 points.

Since we had placed second in the league we were given an away South Leinster semi final against FCJ Bunclody. As the game progressed we

slowly built up a lead. In the second half we had a 4 point lead but due to a late Bunclody surge we were narrowly defeated and were knocked out of the championship. Bunclody went on to be defeated in the leinster final by a point. We had a good season and would like to thank Mr Connolly and Mr Fitzgerald for all their help.



Back row (l-r): Mr Fitzgerald, Jack Keoghan, Jack Manning, Eamonn Fennelly, Andrew Parsons, Mr Connolly. Third row (l-r): Eoghan Moylan, Luke Fitzpatrick, Kevin Kehoe, Evan Walsh, Padraic Mullen, Sam Hickey, Conor McGree, Victor Costello, Sean Ryan, James Bergin, Jesse Roberts, Dylan Aylward. Second row (l-r): Ciaran Lennon, Ted Drea, David O'Carroll, Mark Nolan, Ryan Poyntz, Andy Walsh, Ben Whelan. Front row (l-r): Evan Shefflin, Ben Lawlor, Kevin Murphy, Michael Carey, Dylan Simpson, Nathan Donohue, Conor O'Keeffe. Missing from photo: John Dooley, Robert Butler.



"hard fought"  
"went out strong"  
"good season"







## U14 Blitz

Kilkenny County Board each year organises an U-14 hurling blitz to promote the game of hurling. Schools from all over the county are invited to attend. This year the event was held in three venues St Kierans College, Palmerstown and O'Loughlin Gales. Ten teams took part with over one hundred and fifty U-14s involved from all over the county.

From a St Kieran's perspective, this year the blitz was organised by Mr O Keeffe and Mr Windle. All pitches in the school were used for the games and warm ups with youngsters from all parts of the county enjoying the facilities. The weather held up for most of the day and overall the blitz was a great experience for all involved.

Many thanks to the co-ordinators Mr O Keeffe and Mr Windle, whose hard work and organisational skills ensured a successful day.





# Hurling



## SENIOR HURLING

Eoin Gough

This year's Senior Hurling season began with trials in October under the new management team of Mr Smith, Mr Maher and Mr Flood. Mr Smith and Mr Maher had managed this team to a Leinster Juvenile Title back in 2009 and everyone was really excited to get to work. Once the squad was finalised Mr Flood wasted no time in setting out gym, running, and nutrition programmes to allow us to perform to our maximum ability. The League got under way in no time at all with matches against Colaiste Eoin, St Peter's College, and Dublin North. These games gave the panel members a chance to compete for starting places ahead of the championship. As well as the League there were challenge matches against teams such as W.I.T, Ardscoil Ris, Colasite na Deise, Lismore, Good Counsel and the

Tipperary Minors. There was a tough training regime to get everyone ready for Birr CS on the 2nd of February in Ratheniska, where, after a slow start we dominated the second half running out 4-17 to 0-09 winners.

Two weeks later we beat Castlecomer CS in difficult conditions in Freshford on a scoreline of 1-08 to 0-06, setting us up for a Leinster Final against Kilkenny CBS on March 3rd in Nowlan Park. The whole panel upped the ante in training before the final and we felt confident we could cause an upset. Unfortunately we didn't do ourselves justice on the day, missing some goal chances which made the difference in the end as CBS won 2-09 to 1-07. This left us playing Templemore in an All-Ireland quarter final in Johnstown on 16th March.

On St Kieran's Day the whole panel headed to the Aspire Sports Performance Centre in Clara, Offaly for some training and team bonding, with

Cormac Ryan impressing everyone on the punching bag and Vinny Teehan impressing nobody on the obstacle course!

A massive effort was put into training in the two weeks before the Templemore match to keep the season alive. That effort was rewarded with a 4-11 to 2-08 victory to send us into the All-Ireland semi-final against Dungarvan Colleges on 26th of March in the WIT Sports Campus.

Preparation for the semi-final could not have gone any better but on the day Dungarvan Colleges were just too strong, proving that goals win matches with a winning tally of 5-08 to our 1-10.

On behalf of the whole squad I would like to thank Mr. Smith, Mr. Maher and Mr. Flood for the time and effort they put in throughout the year and for making it a great experience for all involved.

### Senior Hurling Panel 2013

Back row (l-r): Darren Mullen, James Tyrrell, William Allen, Tadhg O'Dwyer, Alexander Rafter, Ciaran Breen. Fourth row (l-r): Kevin Blanchfield, Colin Corcoran, Eoin Walsh, Eoin Curtis, Liam Blanchfield, Stephen Farrell, Mr Ger Flood (Trainer). Third row (l-r): Patrick Mullen, Michael O'Neill, Gearoid Kennedy, Vincent Teehan, Ricci Drennan, Michael Kenny, Jason Barcoe. Second row (l-r): Mr Ken Maher (Trainer), Cormac Connolly, Shane Parsons, Graham English, Jack Cotter, Paul White, Alan O'Beirne, Sean Morrissey, James Deasy, Mr Liam Smith (Trainer). Front row (l-r): Cormac Ryan, Conor Murphy, Luke Tennyson, James Maher, Eoin Gough (Captain), Jason Cleere, Chris Bolger, Patrick Hickey, Kieran Freeman. Absent from Photo: Josh Haines, Simon Rafter.





## SPECIAL THANKS

The management of the senior hurling team would like to thank a few Transition Years who gave up so much of their free time this year to ensure that the lads were well prepared for all their matches. Jimmy Brennan, Niall Walsh and Robert O'Flynn worked tirelessly all year to look after the needs of the team.

They turned up to challenge matches in the middle of winter whether they were at weekends or during the school holidays. They were on the sideline for all the matches making sure that the water bottles were filled, huris were available and that the ice bucket was always ready to go. The team and management would have had a much more difficult job if it hadn't been for these lads, so thank you again for all your hard work

## JUNIOR HURLING

Our season began in mid September at home to Birr Community School, scores were hard to come by with poor conditions and a heavy ball on the day but Kieran's came out on top comfortably. Next match was away to Colaiste Mhuire in Johnstown but once again Kieran's came out on winners. Then Kieran's faced Good Counsel in the last round of the league battling for top spot. Unfortunately Good Counsel were the better team on the day but St Kieran's came close with a goal in the last minute in the second half. We came to the championship where we drew St Peters in the semi final. St Peters were impressive but could not take their scores but St Kieran's did and won well.

By surprise Good Counsel beat CBS Kilkenny in the other semi final. The final was set for Thomaston on October 24th 2012, St Kieran's vs Good Counsel. Good Counsel took an early lead and Kieran's fought back well in the second but fell short by a single point. We would like to thank Mr Ruth and Mr McCormack for training us throughout the year.

## U16B

Interest in the U16 B this year was overwhelming with over 60 students attending trials that began in early November. St Kieran's had two teams involved in the competition comprising



U-16 B Hurling Winners

Back row (l-r): Patrick Kennedy, Aidan Nolan, Sean Farrell, Tom Whitty, Philip Dreeling, Kevin Brennan, Mr Michael Rice (Trainer). Third row (l-r): Ms Eileen Hanrick (trainer), Eamonn Hennessy, William Spencer, Gary Tynan, Jonathan Barron, Richie Leahy, Mr Lester Ryan (trainer). Second row (l-r): John Fitzpatrick, Jack McHugh, Patrick Gannon, Luke Dowling, Hugh Corkery, Cillian Walsh. Front row (l-r): Lyndon Brannigan, Sean Carey, Patrick Ryan, Billy Hanlon (captain), Eamon Egan, Noel Whelan, Brian Kirwan. Missing from photo: Greg Aylward.



Junior Panel 2012-2013

Back row (l-r): Noel Whelan, Edward Moylan, Billy Hanlon, Evan Carroll, Tadhg O'Dwyer. Third row (Back): Joe Cuddihy, Eoin Walsh, Jason Byrne, Liam Blanchfield, Edmund Delaney, Tommy Walsh, Aidan Byrne. Second row (l-r): Mr Ruth, Michael Cody, Richie Leahy, Daniel O'Connor, Billy Ryan, Patrick Gannon, Brian Crowdle, Joe Connelly, Mr McCormack. Front row (l-r): Eamonn Egan, Eamonn Hennessy, Jason Barcoe, Sean Morrissey (Captain), Jason Cleere, Gavin Costigan, Niall Walsh, Darren Mullen. Missing From photo: Cillian Walsh, Eoghan Kearney, Ray Lahart, Jack Keogh.

of 25 different players on each panel. The St Kieran's B team first played CastleComer CS in a strongly contested affair that eventually lead to a St Kieran's win. The C panel started with a great win over a physical Ballyhale side. Next up for the C's were the CBS with the CBS coming out on top of a game full of great skill and determination. This result meant the St Kieran's C's were out of the competition. However, this did not take from the side who fought right to the end before finally going down to a very good Callan team. Meanwhile the B team took on Colaiste Mhuire of Johnstown, a win in this game would guarantee a final place. This was an evenly contested

encounter with goals from Sean Carey, Patrick Ryan and Tom Whitty eventually putting some light between the teams and setting up an exciting final against Callan CBS.

Final Day arrived on the 12th of the 12th 2012 in Thomastown. It was a tough day for hurling and Callan started the brighter with a few chances on goal. The backs however held tight forcing the Callan forwards out the field. Philip Dreeling and Billy Hanlon were behind some excellent tackling and hard work that eventually lead to a great goal from full forward Tom Whitty. Tom, who was outstanding in the final, scored another two goals in the first half that also saw a goal from Eamonn



Hennessy after great work from Sean Carey. Although Callan CBS came back strong in the second half St Kieran's held on to the lead finishing winners on a score line of 5-9 to 1-8. Billy Hanlon accepted the trophy on behalf of the deserving winners. It was great to see the interest in competition this year and thank you to Mr Rice, Ms Hanrick and Mr Ryan for their efforts.

## U14 HURLING

John Dooley and Jack Manning

The season started in early January with over 200 hundred students trying out to make the panel. We played a number of challenge matches to prepare for the league campaign. Our first league match was an away trip to an Offaly School, we started slow but we soon got our stride and eased out winners. Our second game of the league was against St Peters of Wexford. This was a strong and physical match in the wet and windy conditions. We then played Dublin north as a home match, as the game progressed the score was close but Kieran's marginally pulled it off with a win. Castlecomer decided to bring two teams to Kierans for a day of challenge matches. Both Kieran's teams however defeated Comer easily. Having topped the group we played good counsel in the semi final in Thomastown. The game was a close fought battle with Kieran's just getting passed the line and now progressed into the league final against Dublin South. In the

final we were caught on the hop and left in despair. We were defeated by stronger opponents. This was great motivation knowing that we still ha a chance to win something this year. We played St Peters in the championship for a place in the Leinster final. The training we did as a team was tough with all players fighting for a place on the starting team. We played Good Counsel in the final and we got off to a great start and we built up a sizable lead at half time. However we knew that they would be coming out like dogs out of a trap after half time to try and beat us. They second half was hard and the gap between us was closing down, it was the last minute of the game and we were up by a point. The referee blew his whistle and we won the match by a point. This was some outstanding performance by a fantastic Kierans team and we thoroughly enjoyed our win.

## JUVENILE HURLING

Mr Tom Hogan and Mr Philip Walsh

After a series of trials attended by over 150 students in December and January a panel of 34 was finalised to prepare for this year's campaign. There was a separate league and championship. Our league began in Mount Bolus against an Offaly Schools combination in February. We won this game by 1-08 to 0-6. Our next game was at home versus Saint Peter's early in March. This was a real battle and we just edged out a very determined Wexford outfit by a few points.



"real battle"  
"train hard"  
"great credit"



Next up was Castlecomer Community School. We played an A and a B game and managed to win both. Dublin North visited us after the St Patrick's weekend. They had won all their games and proved formidable opposition. Our lads rose to the occasion and we had a great win against a bigger and stronger Dublin team. We had topped our group and qualified for the league semi-final against Good Counsel, New Ross. This match was played in Thomastown in mid April and we edged out Good Counsel by two points in a very tight game. We had a feeling that we might be meeting again in the championship. Our league final versus Dublin South in Athy was our worst performance of the year. We played poorly but were still level at half time. As the second half wore on the Dublin lads got better and we were eventually beaten on a scorline of 4-12 to 4-03.

The panel met after this defeat and decided to train hard and give the championship a good go. We had a bye into the championship semi-final because we had topped our group in the league. On May 1st in New Ross we met St Peter's for the second time this year in the semi-final. It was a warm sunny day and the nicest day we had all year for hurling. We lead by 5 points with ten minutes to go but St Peter's narrowed the gap to just a goal with a few minutes remaining. Our backs played heroically to hold out by that goal. SKC 2-09; St Peter's 1-09. It was now back to Thomastown to meet Good Counsel again in the Leinster final. The final was played on Friday May 10th. Great credit is due to all thirty-four members of the panel who trained hard and were rewarded with a Leinster championship medal.

Michael Carey (Young Irelands), Shane Donohoe (James Stephens), Patrick Bolger (Clara), Evan Walsh (Graigie-Ballycallan), Sam Hickey (James Stephens), Martin Keoghan (Tullaroan) Captain, Shane Dawson (Freshford), Victor Costello (Dunamaggin), Pádraic Mullen (Danesfort), Robert Butler (James Stephens), Adrian Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Naimul Hossain (James Stephens), Brian O'Hanrahan (Thomastown), Eoghan Moylan (Dicksboro), Nathan Donohoe (James Stephens), Adam Power (Thomastown), Sean Ryan (Graigie-Ballycallan), Kevin Kehoe (Clara), Jack Manning (St Martin's), Tommy Ronan (Graigie-Ballycallan), Ciarán Lennon (Carrickshock), John Dooley (Tullaroan), Dylan Aylward (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Andrew Parsons (James Stephens), Diarmuid Phelan (Danesfort), Ted Drea (Young Irelands), James Phelan (Lisdowney), James Tennyson (Rower Inistioge), Eamon Fennelly (James Stephens), Evan Shefflin (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Luke Fitzpatrick (Dunamaggin), Jesse Roberts (Graigie-Ballycallan), Dylan Simpson (Tullaroan), Ryan Scanlon (James Stephens)

Many thanks to our Transition Year students, and, especially, Robert O'Flynn for their help both at training and at matches. DJ Carey came in and gave the panel a great coaching session before the championship and, for that, we thank him most sincerely. We thank Mr Archbold and Mr Quane for their expert help at matches. We thank Mr O'Keeffe and Ms Moran for organising buses for the Leinster Final and all the teachers who supported the team on the day.



## Robert O'Flynn

The teams I helped this year were the Senior, Junior and Juvenile hurlers and the Junior and Juvenile football teams. The only GAA teams I didn't help were the Junior B teams and they won!! This made Mr Rice, Ms Hanrick and Mr Ryan happy!

It was a most enjoyable year I had great craic with all the players from each team, it was really interesting to see how all the different managers worked with their teams and I learned a lot.

All the managers had delegated jobs to me to have completed before training, for example Mr Maher was my person of contact for the senior hurlers. It was my job to get the water filled, have the bibs ready for the game and collect all of them afterwards. Sometimes the lads would give me their hurls to get them fixed. It was great to be working with the senior hurlers and you never know I could be shouting for some of them in Croke Park in years to come! They put in huge amounts of work to be as good as they are.

The teachers were good fun too. They put in a huge amount of hours to make sure that the boys are ready for championship hurling. Match day with the seniors was amazing, it started hours before the game with Mr Maher and Mr Smith in the teachers lock up. Everything was planned to a detail, my job was to get the ice, fill the water bottles, check the Lucodzade, make sure the fig rolls were packed! and carry whatever else was needed to the bus. The Junior and Juvenile matches were a lot easier as they were during the school day and the teachers used to let me miss class to get everything ready.

Overall, I had a fantastic year and put in a massive effort. I'd like to thank all the teachers involved with all the teams in the school, that's nearly the whole staff so I'm not going to name them all individually. Normally when you finish Transition Year this job is passed back to the incoming group however I'll be hoping that because I did such a good job that they would keep me on for next year!!







### LEINSTER JUVENILE CHAMPIONS 2013

Back row (l-r): Mr Tom Hogan (Trainer), Robert Butler, Jack Manning, Kevin Kehoe, Sam Hickey, Naimul Hossain, John Power, Mr Ken Archbold (Physio). Third row (l-r): Mr Philip Walsh (Trainer), Andrew Parsons, James Phelan, Luke Fitzpatrick, Shane Dawson, Eoghan Moylan, Ted Drea, Claran Lennon, Eamon Fennelly, Diarmaid Phelan, Adam Mullan. Second row (l-r): Evan Shefflin, Ryan Scanlon, Jesse Roberts, Brian O'Hanrahan, Adam Ronan, Patrick Mullan, Victor Costello, Dylan Simpson, Tommy Ronan, Dylan Alwyard. Front row (l-r): Shane Donohue, Patrick Bolger, Michael Carey, Martin Keogh, Nathan Donohue, Sean Ryan, James Tennyson, Enda Keneally.







