



# ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE KILKENNY

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RECORD 2014





The start of a journey: First Year Class 2014 on their first day





Dermot Ryan

A walk through the famed Glasshall of St Kieran's College brings into sharp relief the impact of so many students and staff, clerical and lay, who down through the years have become part of the history of this hallowed institution and whose presence even still reverberates in every aspect of college life. Now, as in the past, students are offered an excellent academic education and also a formation for living which enables them to realise their full potential and bring the values which are esteemed in St Kieran's to bear on their community, chosen career, and ultimately on society.

While past and present achievements of St Kieran's and its students are viewed with pride, there is an awareness of the need to continually build on what has already been realised in a two hundred and thirty one year history of forming leaders for Ireland and beyond. The challenges faced by today's young people, our leaders of tomorrow, demand a certain vision that encourages excellence, rewards ability and creativity, and inspires qualities of leadership, commitment and maturity.

This current edition of the College Record detailing life in St Kieran's during the past year bears testimony to the response of students and staff to the ideals and vision outlined above. 2013/14 was a year of remarkable accomplishments in every field. In the Leaving Certificate more than one in four students achieved over 500 points, eight more than 580, and two the maximum 600. In hurling we won a 19th Senior Colleges' Hurling All-Ireland and a Leinster Juvenile Hurling title. We were Gold, Silver and Bronze winners in

...the wonderful past, the lively present and the promising future, is possible thanks to those who give of their time and energy to St Kieran's...

the National Athletics Championship in the 200m, high-jump and 3k walk respectively and moreover many of our students continue to represent Ireland in areas such as snooker, pool, walking, running, basketball, high-jump, boxing, tetraathlon and many other pursuits. Two further All-Irelands were also brought to St Kieran's this year with excellent wins in the All-Ireland Agricultural Science Quiz and the All-Ireland Business Quiz. Celebrating academic and sporting honours is an important part of recognising the gifts and talents of our students which are evident in so many other areas too. Exemplifying the ethos of the College some students this year raised over €6000, prompted by the experience of a friend and fellow student who has successfully battled serious illness this past 12 months, and furthermore we have seen another launch his CD, again in support of others in charity. In my role as Chairperson of the Board of Management it is wonderful to see our students exemplify an ethos we cherish so greatly.

With regard to the wider college campus the continuation of St Kieran's relationship with the NUIM was deepened by presence of forty-nine full time students beginning their Maynooth First Arts Degree here on campus and the ongoing presence of over 320 part-time students continuing their education is indeed a positive for us all.

Educational outreach facilities also extend to the Diocese with twenty-three students participating in the Certificate in Theology which prepares them to return to their parishes better equipped to engage with the needs of the Church at that level today. The mission of St Kieran's has always extended beyond its gates to a community that continually faces the challenge of growing in faith. The work of the Adult Faith Development Office ensures that the requirements of parish communities are identified and met through constant reflection and a proactive response to the need for resources and support at many different levels. Providing office space for the diocesan vocations' office and the diocesan forum also ties us, St Kieran's, to the heart of the life and potential of

the local church in Ossory as it seeks to implement pastoral structures and plans going forward. We are also happy to host the diocesan and Kilkenny archives both of which continue to catalogue and build a collection of items of historical significance.

As President of St Kieran's it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the considerable financial investment that enables so much to happen here and provides badly needed resources for our students in these tightened economic times. This year, thanks to the Department of Education and Skills and the support of the College Trustees €248,580 has been invested to preserve, upgrade and develop our campus and to ensure that it is ready to best serve our future.

All of this, the wonderful past, the lively present and the promising future, is possible thanks only to those who give of their time and energy to St Kieran's. I am obviously grateful for the immense contribution of my predecessor, Kieron, in his long years of work here. His tireless dedication to and passion for the College and its grounds has further enriched this already wonderful place. I am also especially conscious of, and want to sincerely thank, Mr John Curtis, Principal and Mr Adrian Finan, Deputy Principal, for their commitment to St Kieran's which is to be experienced on a daily basis. Their wisdom and counsel has, on so many occasions, helped me to settle smoothly into a new role here this past year. I am both professionally, and more importantly personally, grateful to them for all they do for St Kieran's and its family. And what a family it is... the staff, the students and their Council, the parents and their Association, my colleagues on the Board of Management, fellow Trustees and Bishop Séamus Freeman our Patron, all of whom by their dedication to the place, show that St Kieran's is not simply a College like any other, but that it is truly something special. May we continue to work together building, in light of the Gospel, on our past to serve an ever brighter future...

Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan  
President  
St Kieran's College



John Curtis

## Message from the Principal

The history of St Kieran's College is marked by continuity and change and this year sees the appointment of Rev Dr Dermot Ryan as our new President and continues the tradition that maintains St Kieran's College as central to the life of the diocese of Ossory for over two hundred years. We should never underestimate what that tradition has entailed and the sense of service it has engendered – at a time when we embrace the fact that there is a great variety in the education provision that parents have on offer, all of us associated with St Kieran's can be thankful of the central involvement of our Patron, Bishop Freeman, and the diocese with this school.

Mgr Kennedy has had an involvement with the College since 1963 when he was a pupil here, since 1984 he has been Administrator and member of the Board of Management and in 2004 he was appointed President and Chairman of the Board of Management, as well as continuing on in his role as Administrator. He has made an invaluable contribution to the school over the years and, as has been evident especially in the most recent editions of the Record, he has been responsible for innovative change and has made a lasting imprint on all aspects of life on this campus. On a personal level I would like to thank him for the assistance he has afforded me

since I became Principal of the school and all of us wish Mgr Kennedy well in his pastures new.

I would like to thank and congratulate all of those who have had any involvement with the production of the Record – I think you will agree with me that it is a great reflection on our school, both in the quality of its presentation and in the manner in which it continues to be a celebration of all of our endeavour, the achievements of our pupils and the engagement of our teachers. I would like to thank all of my colleagues on staff in this regard and to once again acknowledge their curricular and extra-curricular contribution to the success of the school. Collectively, and especially in light of national initiatives and reform of the Junior Certificate, we have always been engaged in reflection on our teaching methodologies and providing the best education we can for our pupils and will continue to do so in the context of the changes that lie ahead.

I would like to thank Fr Ryan, who of course was our Chaplain since 2011 and is himself a past-pupil of the school, for the work he has already engaged in in the provision of canteen facilities for us and the installation of a camera system on campus, initiatives which have already been of great benefit to the school community. On

both ventures, our Deputy Principal and my colleague Mr Adrian Finan has put in tremendous work, as on all matters to do with St Kieran's, and I would like to thank him for his leading contribution to the school and his vision in our preparing for the future. We wish Fr Ryan well in the years ahead and all of us in the school community look forward to working with him in his charting the course of this historic College.

The nature of the Catholic voluntary secondary sector in the country is such that so much depends on the goodwill of people who serve on Boards of Management and Parents' Associations and I would like to thank all who served in any such capacity during the year, especially those who finished their tenure on the outgoing Board of Management, the three- year term of which expired in October. Our thanks, too, to those who represented the pupils' voice on the Student Council and, at a time of year when we especially wish our Third and Sixth Year pupils well with their approaching exams, I would like to thank all of our students for their hard work and contribution to the school during the year – they were, as always, a pleasure to deal with and, ultimately, they are the reason behind all of our endeavours.

Mr John Curtis M.A., M.ED





#### ST KIERAN'S STAFF 2013/2014

Back row (l-r): Mr Ger Flood, Mr Liam Smith, Mr Carl Lynch, Mr Michael Forrest, Mr Ken Maher. Seventh row (l-r): Mr Michael Kelleher, Mr Philip Walsh, Mr Simon Reddy, Mr Michael Rice, Mr Martin O'Neill. Sixth row (l-r): Mr Ken Archbold, Ms Rebecca Kearns, Mr Larry Cotter, Ms Pauline Bergin, Ms Ann Wemyss, Mr Ger Buckley. Fifth row (l-r): Mr Michael Walsh, Ms Sharon Keyes, Mr Eamonn Heffernan, Ms Bernie Dowling, Ms Bernie Boland, Ms Jean Fitzpatrick, Mr Stephen Morgan. Fourth row (l-r): Ms Orla Reynolds, Ms Jacqui Norton, Ms Eileen Hanrick, Ms Eilish Ahern, Mr John O'Keeffe. Third row (l-r): Ms Aisling Phelan, Mr Richie Windle, Ms Christine Warner, Mr Paul Fitzgerald, Mr Tom Hogan. Second row (l-r): Ms Mary Martin, Ms Debbie Ghanem, Mr Niall Connelly, Mr John Quane. Front row (l-r): Mr Adrian Finan, Mr Dermot Ryan, Mr John Curtis. Missing from photo: Mr Patrick Darmody, Mr Joe Kavanagh, Ms Loretto Manion, Mr Don O'Connor, Mr Richie Ruth, Mr Lester Ryan.

## Student Council 2013-2014

### Michael Ryan and Patrick Kennedy

Each year the Student Council is made up of representatives from every class group in the school. Students are placed on the Student Council through a series of class elections. The student council meets on a regular basis to discuss and contemplate issues arising in student life here in St Kieran's.

We act as representatives and a voice for students in school affairs and report to the Board of Management and the Principal with our findings. Every year we try to fix these issues and do our best to make life in the school as enjoyable and productive as possible.

This year we saw the introduction of the school canteen after an agreement between the Parent's Council, School Staff and Student Council.

Also, the Student Council has plans for wifi in the school canteen and bicycle parking which hopefully will be



Back row (l-r): Patrick Kennedy, Nicholas Dunphy, Alex Lalor, Billy Hanlon, Sean Comerford, Willie Bergin, Finnán Phelan. Middle row (l-r): Michael Ryan, Eoin Brennan, James Drea, Conor Condon, Gary Moore, Sean Keyes. Front row (l-r): Eoin Cody, James Dowling, Nathan Connolly, Paul Healy, Bill Cody, Adam Power. Missing from Photo: Ethan Kerwick, Evan Walsh, John Hession, Nicholas Kelly Kavanagh.

ratified in the new school year.

We would like to thank the school authorities for their continued support

of the student council and especially Mr Kavanagh who organises the meetings and the election of students.



Two magnificent tapestries of St Kieran and the College Crest which adorn room 10 in the school, a gift of Mgr Kennedy on his departure.

## Mgr Kieron Kennedy

It was perhaps fitting that 2013 saw the appointment of a new President, Administrator and Chairperson to the Board of Management in Dr Ryan, because it marked a full half-century since his predecessor, Mgr Kieron Kennedy, began his association with the College, entering this school as he did as a day-boy in September 1963. After studies in Maynooth and Rome and appointments that included Westminster in London, the then Fr Kennedy returned to Ossory and was appointed Administrator to St Kieran's College in 1984 and also became a member of the school Board of Management. In succeeding Mgr Cassin as President in 2004 he continued in his role of Administrator, became resident in the College and also became Chairperson of the School Board of Management. It has been a long association and one that has seen

great service to St Kieran's College.

Over the years Mgr Kennedy has engaged in numerous projects to improve facilities in the school on behalf of the Trustees and regularly working in conjunction with the Department of Education and Skills. The construction of the new gymnasium which opened in 2001 is an example of this and the last decade especially has seen extensive engagement in improving the fabric of the school. Much improvement work in areas such as water, heating and electrics may have gone relatively unnoticed, but the building of a new toilet block, improvements in roofing and flooring and the general refurbishment of classrooms are evident for all to see. He worked with a group from the school staff, then led by Billy Bolster and Adrian Finan, to improve the school grounds and sports facilities and over the years

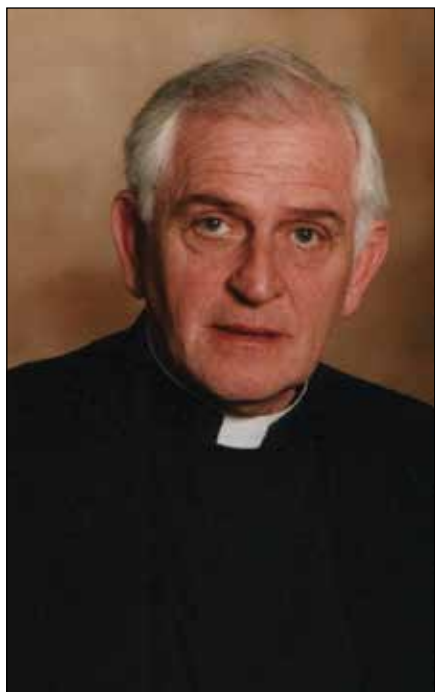
this had led to extensive upgrading of what we can provide for our pupils and is a testament to his commitment to and vision for the school.

In his time as President of the College he has had ongoing responsibility for the involvement of NUIM Maynooth with St Kieran's and has overseen such as the very successful venture with the Waterford Institute of Technology as well as welcoming the various diocesan activities that have been centred on campus – these would include such as the Diocesan Forum, Adult Faith, Development and the Vocation Office.

We know that everyone involved in the St Kieran's College community would wish Mgr Kennedy well in his new posting in the Cathedral and it is certain that his immense contribution to the St Kieran's College story over a long number of years will leave a lasting legacy.







## Rev. Seamus Henry

This year a former staff member of St Kieran's College Secondary School and a priest of the diocese Fr Seamus Henry died.

Mr Art Anglin, retired from the school staff, recalls Seamus and working with him.

Fr Seamus was a very respected colleague of mine on the staff of St Kieran's, while his parents were neighbours on the College Road. He taught the Physics/Chemistry course to the Leaving Cert class in St Kieran's, very successfully.

Another colleague of Fr Henry, during his days in St Kieran's was Mons. Michael Ryan who gave a wonderful sermon at Seamus' funeral and from this I quote: "from his home in St Mary's Parish, in Wellington Square, Seamus was blessed with the example of faith from his parents and the priests of his parish and the faith communities that he was part of in CBS Primary School and St Kieran's College".

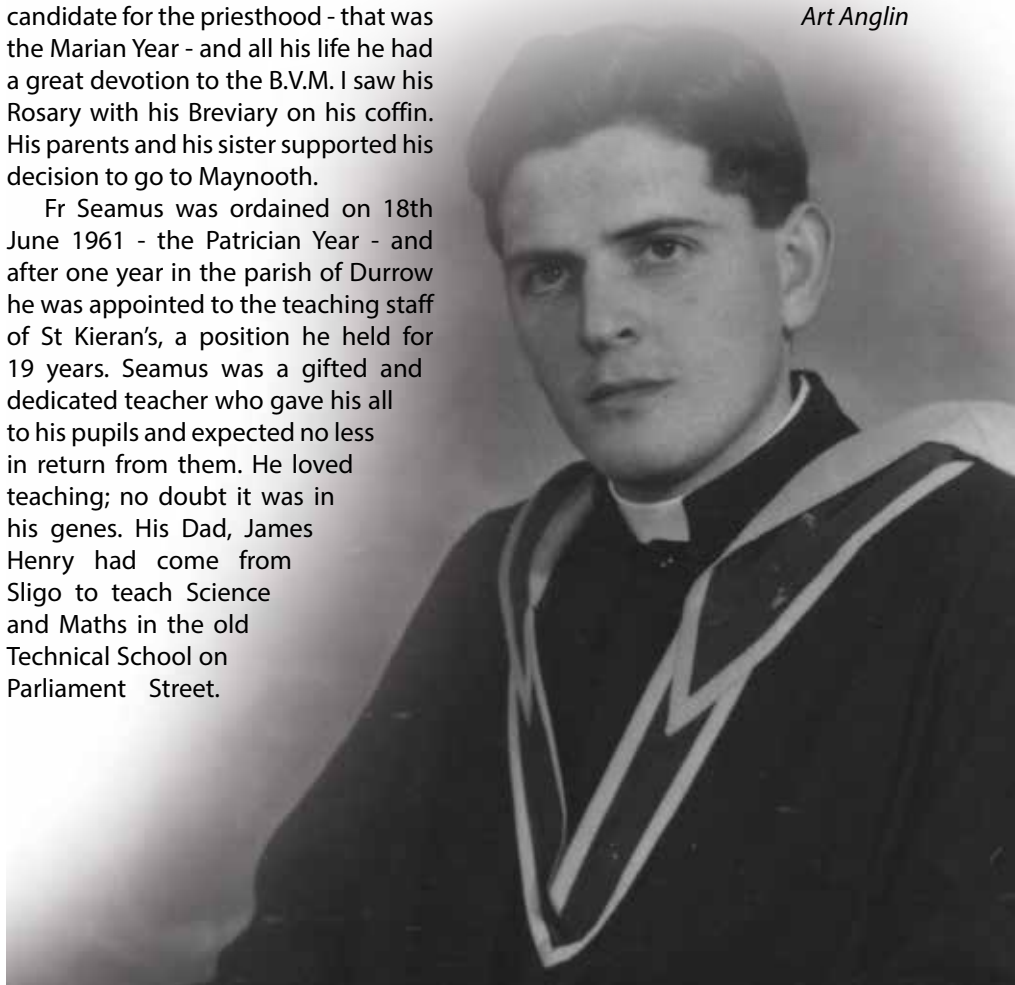
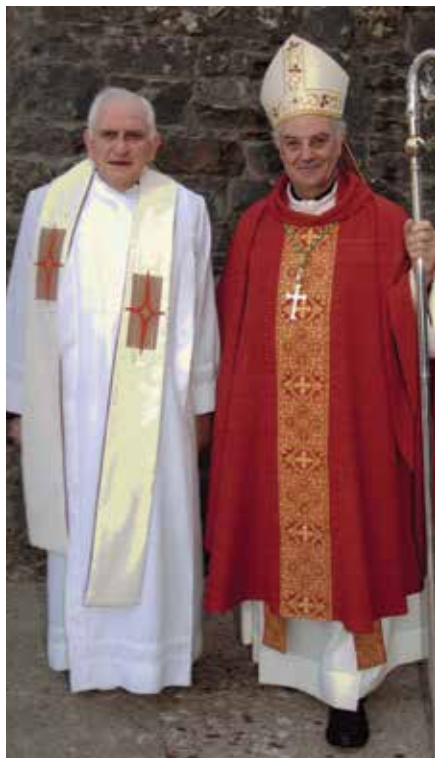
Most noticeably Seamus was blessed with a fine intellect and as a result he could have taken any course in the university in 1954 but after prayer and reflection he offered himself as a candidate for the priesthood - that was the Marian Year - and all his life he had a great devotion to the B.V.M. I saw his Rosary with his Breviary on his coffin. His parents and his sister supported his decision to go to Maynooth.

Fr Seamus was ordained on 18th June 1961 - the Patrician Year - and after one year in the parish of Durrow he was appointed to the teaching staff of St Kieran's, a position he held for 19 years. Seamus was a gifted and dedicated teacher who gave his all to his pupils and expected no less in return from them. He loved teaching; no doubt it was in his genes. His Dad, James Henry had come from Sligo to teach Science and Maths in the old Technical School on Parliament Street.

Later he was headmaster of the new City Vocational School when it opened in 1940, continuing in that position until he retired in 1955. He continued as a part time teacher well in to the 1970s.

Fr Seamus was happy to move from teaching back into parish ministry in 1982 when he moved to Ballyragget and his mother, who had been living on her own in College Road, moved with him. He moved to Freshford in 1987 and spent 24 years as Parish Priest there. He was a man of simple tastes both as teacher and as priest, gifted but unassuming. He spent his retirement in Freshford until he died of ill-health in 25th February 2014. Seamus is remembered fondly by many - parishioners and old school colleagues. His great contribution to the school and diocese is a testimony to the man he was.

*Art Anglin*





St Kieran's College Jubilarians' Reunion 2013 Back (l-r): Very Rev. Willie Hennessy, Castletown, Co. Laois (Pearl); Very Rev. John Cairns, Nottingham (Silver); Very Rev. Ollie Maher, Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny (Silver); Very Rev. John Meredith, Cardiff (Silver); Very Rev. Willie Dalton, Callan, Co. Kilkenny (Ruby). Middle (l-r): Very Rev. Declan Boland, Derry (Ruby); Canon Brian Flynn P.P., Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny (Golden); Mgr Michael J. Conway, Motherwell (Golden); Very Rev. Terence Boylan, Shrewsbury (Golden); Very Rev. Jackie Robinson, Borris-in-Ossory, Co. Laois (Ruby). Front (l-r): Very Rev. Joseph F. Phelan, Nottingham (Golden); Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, President, St Kieran's College; Most Rev. Seamus Freeman, SAC, Bishop of Ossory; Very Rev. Patrick O'Rafferty, Sacramento (Diamond); Very Rev. Seamus Hester, Arundel & Brighton (Golden).

## College Reunion

Each year on the first Tuesday after the 15th August the grounds of St Kieran's are awash with colour as we are home to the annual College Reunion. It is a wonderful occasion for which many, who were ordained from St Kieran's, return from all parts of the world. While all who studied here are most welcome, and thankfully many return every year, special attention is paid to the Jubilarians and on Tuesday 20th August 2013 it was no different.

The celebrations found their focus in the concelebrated Mass in the College Chapel at which Bishop Seamus Freeman presided. This mass was followed by the traditional reunion photo for all celebrating a Jubilee and a reception in the College sitting room. It was wonderful to see so many old friends come together to recall fondly moments, days and years spent in the College and laughs were shared as old exploits were remembered.

The College then hosted a celebratory dinner in the ref. and the conversations continued well into the evening. As the meal concluded Fr Dermot, as President of St Kieran's, explained to those gathered some of what was happening in the College today and how it was proudly and consciously continuing the tradition first started in 1782, and continued by those gathered. He reflected on some of the incredible results that the St Kieran's

students achieved in this year's Leaving Certificate, but the achievements, he noted, did not stop there as he drew attention to many of the diverse accomplishments of the students of St Kieran's on and off the field of play; a fact, that suggested, the commitment and energy of the great staff of the School and College to continuing the proud St Kieran's tradition. Most of all he noted that the thing which makes St Kieran's proudest is what its students achieve after they leave these hallowed grounds and looking around he reflected that the College is most proud when it has the opportunity to celebrate with men "like those gathered tonight who generously, winningly and dedicatedly each and every day continue the mission of St Kieran's in helping, serving, educating and caring for the people of God". Concluding the formal part of the evening he reminded all those gathered that there was for them always, and at any time, a bed and a welcome in St Kieran's when they were passing through town since, after all, it was and remains the home of Kieran's men.

The evening then continued with several of those who were staying over, and some who just dropped in, returning to the College sitting room to share a few drinks and more than a few memories. We are already looking forward to next year!



# A St Kieran's Reunion for the class of 1963 to 1968

Mick McGrath

On August 30th last thirty-three representatives of the class of 1963 to 1968 held a reunion to mark the 50th anniversary of our entering the gates of St Kieran's College for the first time. This was from a total number of eighty-five who would have spent any time with that particular group. An informal committee has been kept together since we originally held a 25th reunion and this has been helped in more recent years by an annual golf day for those of us who suffer from that challenge!

The day was a great success in providing the opportunity to catch up and renew friendships, particularly with those we rarely now meet as people move around the world. There is always something of a common bond amongst past pupils and this is particularly true from a boarding school. Not all of us recall history with the same view but to have the opportunity to air those differing takes on the particular episodes and people influencing our teenage years in the "revolutionary" '60s made for a very worthwhile event!

The social side of things was book-ended by a round of golf in Callan for those so inclined, organised by incoming Club Captain Martin Maher from our own year, and a really good meal and refreshments after the gathering in the Club House Hotel under proprietor Jim Brennan, who was a pupil from the year before us. In between many of us attended Mass in the Cathedral, where seven of our classmates no longer with us were remembered. This Mass was celebrated

by Rev. Kieron Kennedy also from our year who has recently taken charge there. This was followed by a visit to the College.

The visit to SKC proved to be a very definite highlight of our day. We received a very warm and generous reception from both the newly appointed College President Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan and the school Principal Mr John Curtis. Our only regret was that in our timetable we did not allow sufficient time to avail of the full hospitality offered by both.

If we needed an example of the march of time, the past 50 years had moved us from seeing a College President who would have appeared to be at least 50 years our senior to one who is probably 25 years younger than any of us. Time has also seen a move from the College we knew with a student body of around 250 pupils, of which over 80% were boarders, to a day school with treble the student population and no Seminary which would, as we recalled, have been as an integral part of our experience.

The talking point for the night, however, were the few words spoken by Dermot as College President which we all found to be truly inspirational. To hear a vision and ethos for SKC delivered with such conviction and clarity left us in no doubt that St Kieran's was very seriously intent on equipping its students to achieve their full potential in their careers and in society generally and it would not allow any obstacle to stop it doing so.

It was good to celebrate and recall time spent there. It was wonderful to be back amongst old friends.



College staff - back row (l-r): Ms Ann Meany, Mr Kevin Healion, Mr Frank Murphy, Mr Pat Drennan, Mr John Kirwan, Ms Martina Lawlor. Front row (l-r): Sr Helen Maher, Ms Mary Lennon, Ms Breda Lacey, Ms Dorota Lacek. Missing from photo: Karen O'Mahony.

## Dorota Lacek



Since 2008 Dorota Lacek has been on the staff here in St Kieran's College. Dorota was in Ireland just over a year when she applied to work here in the College. Having previously worked in the Newpark Hotel and in the St John of God Convent she came to St Kieran's in November 2008. Very quickly after her arrival Dorota became part of the family here and her friendly smile and always happy demeanour brightened up the front of the College where she worked. Dorota brought her considerable skills to bear while here in St Kieran's and as a qualified dressmaker she was always able to lend a hand on tricky needle repairs.

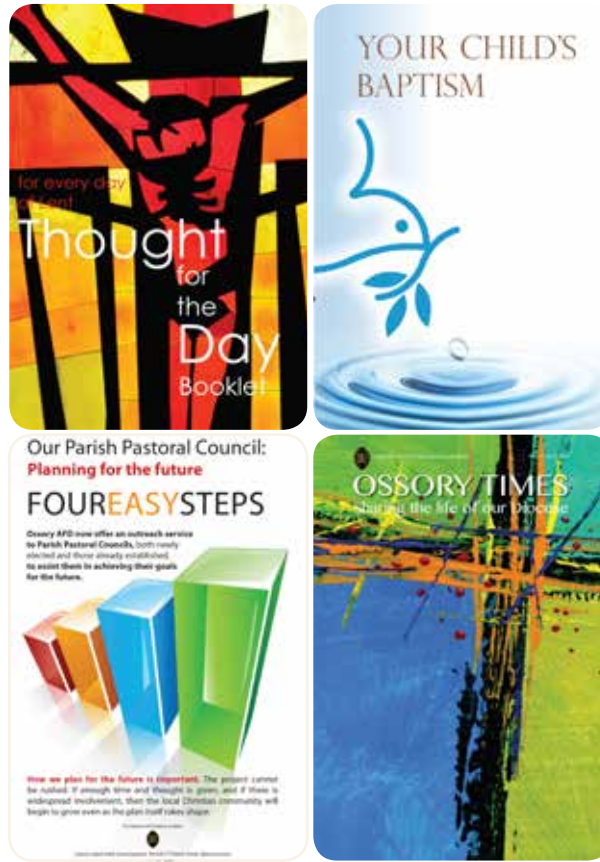
Dorota will be sadly missed here in the College as she returns to her native Poland. We wish her well and thank her for all that she did and all that she brought to St Kieran's College!

**ST KIERAN'S LECTURE  
U8 HURLING & CAMOGIE BLITZ**





## One of the many diocesan groups located within St Kieran's College is the Adult Faith Development Group



## Ossory Adult Faith Development

The members of this group; Olivia Maher, Declan Murphy, Derek Dooley, Michael Hogan, Eadaoin Maher, Kieran O'Shea and Dermot Ryan meet in the College to plan the group's activities during the year. St Kieran's is also the home to the group's offices and to Martina Lawlor, Secretary to AFD. This is a busy office and its work is most suitably resonate with the mission of St Kieran's. They work to support, encourage and educate people in their faith. Through ongoing sustained initiatives and various singular projects this group offers to parishes and groups around the diocese much by way of resources and supports. This past year has, like those before it, been a busy one for the AFD group.

The ongoing work of the group continues and this year once again saw the Group offer training for the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist thanks to the collaboration of Fr Oliver Maher and Ken Maher. Over three nights, in three locations, people from all the parishes of the diocese came together to understand the history of the Eucharist, the nature of service for a christian and the role of ministers in the Mass to help prepare them to serve in their respective communities following commissioning on Holy Thursday.

The group also continues to work to train Parish Pastoral Councils, with six parishes availing of support and training this year. Recently, in an

exciting development the diocesan forum sourced six people from the three deaneries who are, during the summer, to be trained by Derek Dooley to carry out this work in various parishes thereby making possible the offering of this support to more parishes in the coming years. It is wonderful to have people stepping forward to take this on - we are very fortunate in Ossory!

The Advent and Lenten texts were once again a phenomenal success with over 2000 people signing up to receive daily reminders, lines of scripture or simply a challenging thought as they journeyed through these seasons of faith. However, Advent and Lent saw new initiatives also this year. The Faith Development Group felt that having

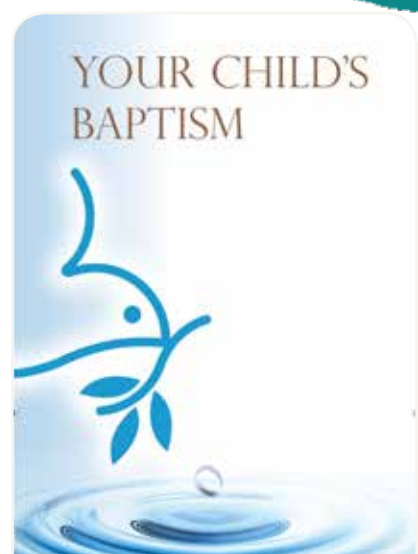
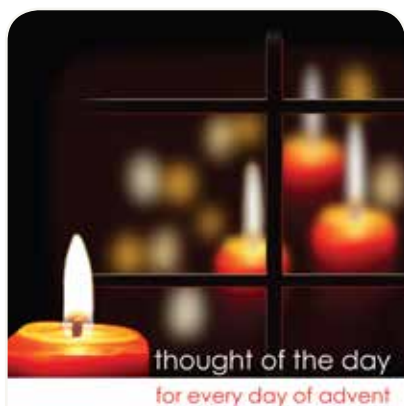
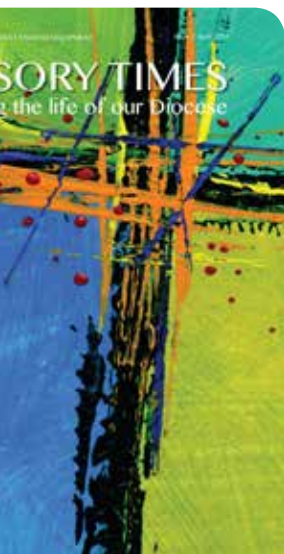
offered the scripture booklets and CDs for the past three years that it was opportune to try something different. And this year the group offered single page scripture reflection sheets each week in all the parishes. These sheets which, were given out free at weekend Masses, invited people to reflect some more on the Gospel of the day. Coupled with this the group offered a small pocket sized booklet which acted as a day-by-day companion to the scriptures and the Advent and Lenten journey. Over 1500 copies of these booklets were taken by people throughout the diocese - and even beyond as comments to the office suggested.

Notably the group took as their focus for this year, at the suggestion of Fr John Lalor in Camross, the Sacrament of Baptism. John requested resources that might help parishes offer something to parents who approach to celebrate the sacrament. With this in mind, with the help of Mgr Liam Bergin, the group first produced a new booklet to offer something that explains, in an easy fashion, the sacrament itself and the symbolism and significance of many of the rites we perform during its celebration. Later in the year and as a development on this the AFD group decided that it would work to produce a DVD which could compliment these booklets in parishes of the diocese. This DVD, which was released after Easter, is about 15 minutes long and it explores some basic questions about baptism its origin, meaning and celebration. A student of the St Kieran's with exceptional ability in film and production Nathaniel McDonald along with the Faith Development office worked to produce a very fine DVD that is a wonderful new venture in production for the AFD group, the first maybe of more to come!

Along with this the ordinary work of the group continues each day. The *Ossory Times*, which is produced here in the College, is now at the end of its second year, and is still going strong. The magazine offers an insight into the life of our diocese and a look into the activities of the various parishes. It stands as testimony to the great energy and work carried out by priests and people here in Ossory in the furtherance of the mission of the Gospel.

Most recently the group had worked hard to arrange a St Kieran lecture, workshops and a hurling blitz to take place here in the grounds of the College in early May. The group had been in contact with Malala Yousafzai to come and speak about faith, education and hope. Unfortunately, after a long period of work and arranging this was to prove impossible for that weekend as Malala had exams on the horizon and rather than disappoint hundreds of kids who had signed up for the blitz it was still held. It was a wonderful sight with over 50 clubs of hurling and camogie in the grounds of St Kieran's on May 10th. The grounds awash with colour as the children battled it out on the fields of play for the pride of their parishes. Medals were presented by and autographs had from Brian Cody, Angela Downey, Michael Rice, Lester Ryan and Tommy Walsh. The day was wet and cold but not that the competitors even noticed! The St Kieran Lecture is something the group is keen to host in the future - so watch this space.

Faith Development continues to grow and it is hoped that next year will be even better... if you have any ideas or suggestion please let us know we would be delighted to try match them.



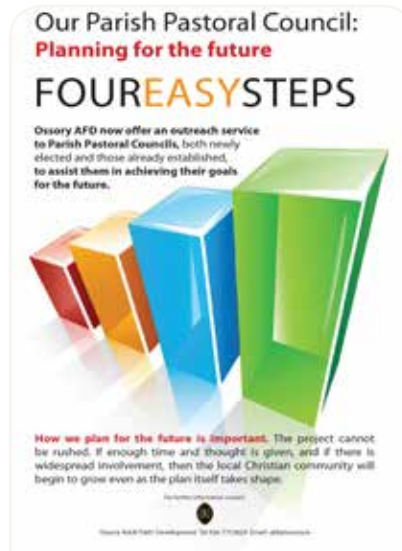
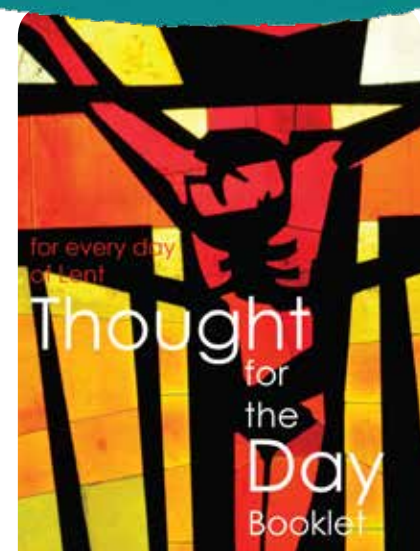




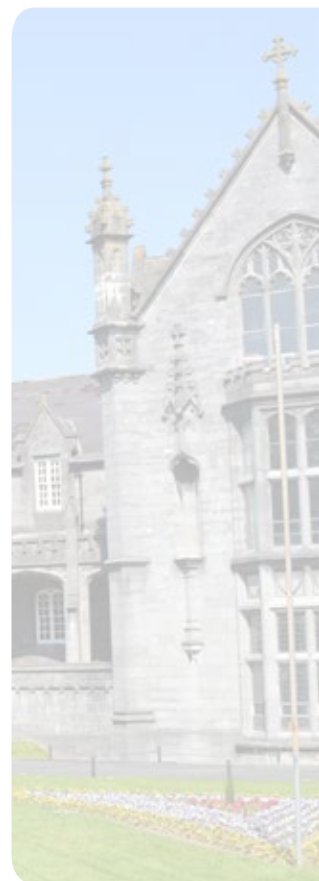
Kilkenny greets Angela Downey, Michael Rice and Lester Ryan present medals.



## Ossory Adult Faith Development





ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE  
KILKENNY

## A Diploma in Catholic Education

**An exciting development took place recently in St Kieran's and it offers much by way of hope for the support of Catholic education in the diocese in the years ahead.**

Continuing its proud tradition in education and supporting learning, St Kieran's College is about to embark on a joint education initiative the Association of Catholic Education from the renowned American University of Notre Dame and St Patrick's College, Maynooth in running a special programme for teachers next year. The Diploma, which is a Level 8 Course, aims to equip and support both primary and post-primary school teachers in exploring and understanding the special ethos which underpins Catholic schools; a task so clearly resonant with the aims of St Kieran's. By increasing awareness of

the faith and how it should shape the role of the educator, this new course will enable participants to contribute more actively to the Catholic school ethos.

Welcoming the launch of the Diploma, Fr Dermot Ryan, President of St Kieran's said "We are fortunate to have so many great teachers in all our schools in Kilkenny and in supporting them we are very excited about this innovation and we hope to inspire them towards a greater understanding of the history and theology on which Catholic education is founded. It is important that Catholic school teachers be aware of their particular role and responsibilities and so the course is designed to promote a deeper sense of spirituality and how that finds meaningful expression in the day-to-day school experience".

While the course is intended for those who currently hold a teaching position, it is also suitable for mature students who want to pursue further study, for H.Dip students, or for those currently seeking a teaching position.

It may also be of interest to anyone thinking of a role in management and who wishes to gain a better insight into the Catholic school ethos. Course Director Mr Ken Maher said "the Diploma in Catholic Education will provide a very practical resource for all teachers and will assist in their on-going vocational development. Critically, it will also ensure the ready supply of well-informed staff for the Catholic school sector".

The Course comprises six modules and will run for one night per week over one academic year. Four of the modules will be conducted during a two-week residential summer school at the Parknasilla Resort and Spa in Kerry. Three retreats will be offered during the year together with a number of social events. Topics to be covered include Foundations of Catholic Education, Spirituality of the Catholic Teacher, Catholic School Teaching and Educational Leadership, Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Theology, Learning From Jesus the Teacher, and Christian Discipleship.

It is truly an exciting initiative for the College and the diocese and it is wonderful to have it here in St Kieran's College.



# The Ossory Diocesan Forum



Sr. Helen Maher, SJG  
Forum Coordinator

The Ossory Diocesan Forum was launched in 2005.

The vision of the Forum sees the Church as “the people of God in Ossory”. It consists of a network of pastoral councils at Parish, Deanery and Diocesan levels. These pastoral councils are made up of lay people, priests and religious who work together to shape the life of the Church in their own area. 2013 marked the end of a four- year term for the Deanery and Diocesan Pastoral Councils. Following an evaluation process, the need for a Diocesan Pastoral Plan emerged as a priority. The development of such a plan is the focus of the Forum this year.

The beginning of the next four-year term saw some new members joining the groups, replacing those who had served two terms. The Pastoral Councils, at all levels, continue to be a vital part of the life of the Diocese.

The importance of pastoral councils was underlined by Pope Francis, speaking in Assisi in October 2013 when he said: “How needed pastoral councils are!... This is fundamental!”

Since 2005 the coordinating office of the Forum has been located in St Kieran’s College.

Contact 056 7789714 or email: [diocesanforum@ossory.ie](mailto:diocesanforum@ossory.ie)

# Certificate in Theological Studies

Noreen McDonnell

St Kieran’s College provides the perfect hallowed setting for the Certificate in Theological Studies which is conducted annually by Ossory’s Adult Faith Development team in association with St Patrick’s College, Maynooth.

Running over one academic year and comprising two night-time lectures per week, it is designed to appeal to people who may be active in Parish ministry, to those who are preparing for a role in Parish work, or for anyone who is merely curious about the provenance, nature and construct of the Catholic faith.

The lecture series ranges over diverse topics such as Moral Theology, Church History, Old Testament, New Testament, Sacraments and Liturgy, and Ecclesiology and presents a useful foundational course in the essential aspects of theology. Each module encapsulates a wide-ranging and informative overview of its subject and provides a useful framework within which to pursue additional study.

The Course is as versatile as it is stimulating and uniquely, participants enjoy the scope and flexibility to pursue their studies with the intensity appropriate to their individual interests and objectives. Experienced and enthusiastic lecturers, who combine both academic and practical expertise, ensure that classes are well-structured and comprehensive. Importantly, they strike the right balance between teaching and encouraging lively discourse and debate thus promoting

an informal and convivial environment in which to interact, and to receive and assimilate knowledge.

Previous Course participants from various disciplines have successfully undertaken the Certificate in Theological Studies. Each has approached the Course from varying perspectives and with different personal requirements. Some have been motivated by a sense of inquisitiveness about their faith and a desire to learn more about the anatomy and evolution of the Catholic faith. Others were propelled to achieve insight and heighten understanding into the theological foundations which underpin the Church whilst many were anxious to trace the historical development of the faith and to assess its position in its contemporary context. There were those who were driven to understand the dynamics of their faith in the Parish and pastoral senses and yet more were seeking simply to enrich the personal experience of their faith journey and to deepen their spiritual awareness.

The Certificate in Theological Studies is a compelling, illuminating and life-enhancing feature of the St Kieran’s College calendar. For those who are seeking to expand the meaningfulness and understanding of their Catholic faith and to transform the manner in which they experience the living Church, it is indeed a bountiful reservoir.



Professor Salvador Ryan lecturing at the Certificate in Theological Studies.

Further details regarding the Certificate in Theological Studies may be acquired from Adult Faith Development at St Kieran’s College 056 7753624 and from the course director Declan Murphy, 087 9081470.

# Kilkenny Campus NUI Maynooth



**The Kilkenny Campus of NUI Maynooth is located in a wing of St Kieran's College and provides flexible inter-disciplinary third level programmes for mature students (those aged 21 and over), and a full time First Arts programme for students coming directly from Leaving Certificate.**

The Kilkenny Campus was established in 1997 under the auspices of the Department of Adult and Community Education at NUI Maynooth. Since that Department was founded nearly 40 years ago, Ireland has undergone profound change in the social, economic and educational spheres. The pace of change has increased in recent years, beyond what anyone could have imagined.

Kilkenny Campus was established to create a space for learning that

places the learners themselves at the centre, with the aim of providing a learning environment that is flexible, supportive and friendly and where students have a sense of ownership and confidence that they can achieve whatever learning goals they set themselves.

Now, more than ever, the founding principles of the Campus have renewed resonance and importance for the task of responding to the educational needs of learners into the future. These principles include exploring ways to widen participation in lifelong learning; adopting new and flexible delivery methods and engaging in dialogue with local and regional stakeholders to ensure that the Campus is responsive to the educational needs of the city and the region.

The part time BA in Local Studies and BA in Community Studies has long been a key programme offering many local people the opportunity to study for a degree in their area in the evenings at their own pace. The Campus programme also includes a number of other Certificates and Diplomas in areas such as Creative Writing for Publication, Addiction Studies, Psychology and Performance 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 *teag* (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 offered an MEd in Adult and Community Education.

The Campus also offers a Return to Learning Certificate in association with the Kilkenny Jobs Club and the Father McGrath Centre which is funded by the Department of Social Protection. This programme has allowed people who have been out of education for a long time to get back into education and gives them the skills and confidence to navigate their pathway through future studies.

Through its Kilkenny Campus, there is also a Memorandum of Understanding with the Crafts Council of Ireland (which is also based in Kilkenny) and NUI Maynooth. Under this collaboration, NUI Maynooth is accrediting two long established training programmes run by the Crafts Council in Goldsmithing and Jewellery Making and in Ceramics.



# First Arts Comes to Kilkenny Campus September 2013

In September of 2013 the Campus welcomed the first cohort of students on the new full time First Arts programme. This has offered students coming directly from Leaving Certificate and Mature Students alike, the opportunity to take the first year of the NUI Maynooth Bachelor of Arts on the Kilkenny Campus, with progression on to the main NUI Maynooth Campus for Years two and three. As this pioneering group of First Arts students have come to the end of their first year their feedback has been very positive, and everyone at the Campus has enjoyed the experience of interacting with a younger group of students, and the energy and vibrancy that they, and the additional academic and support staff have brought with them.

Recruitment is ongoing for the next intake in September 2014 through the CAO (course code MH901). Students can choose three from a range of Arts Subjects which reflects some of the most popular on offer on the main Campus. In 2013 these included: English, Sociology, Medieval Irish and Celtic Studies, History, Geography, Anthropology, Nua Ghaeilge, Philosophy, Theology and Economics.

The Theology option is offered by St Patrick's Pontifical University

and the Subject Leader this year was Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, President of St Kieran's College. On successful completion of the first year at Kilkenny Campus, students will transfer to the main campus to complete the BA Arts Joint Honours (MH101) or St Patrick's College Maynooth (BA TH: MU001 if continuing with Theology).

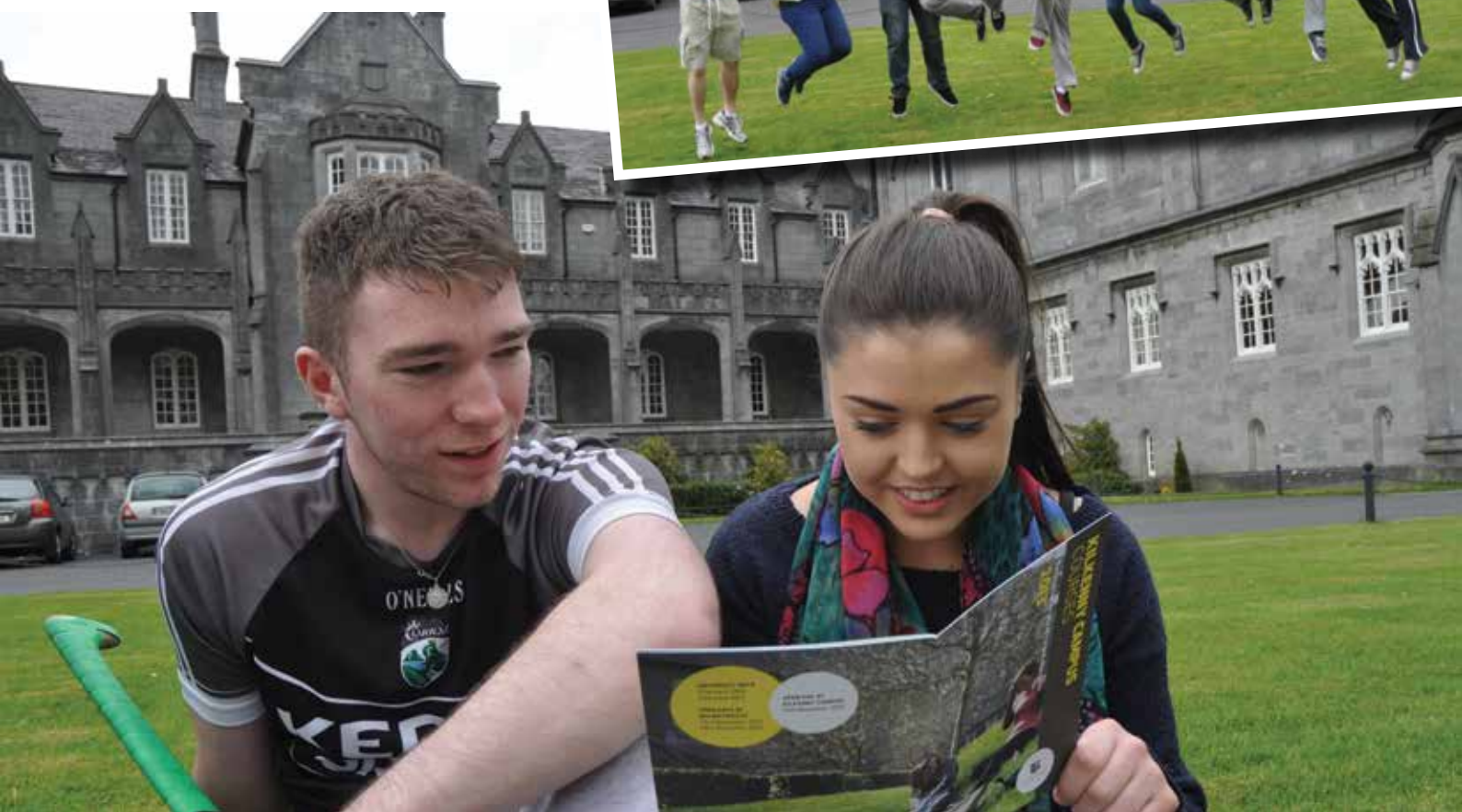
Since their arrival at the Campus the First Arts students have enjoyed an interesting and diverse introduction to University and have benefitted greatly from the smaller class sizes; student focused learning environment and the vibrant campus community. They themselves have commented that:

"we are eased into college life in a friendly environment and we get to know everyone really well", and "Smaller classes are better, the lecturers know your name"

Along with the normal aspects of academic learning the first years have participated in a range of extracurricular activities such as:

- Interdisciplinary field trip to MacDonagh Junction
- Student Seminar Evening
- Shave or Dye
- Movember
- Energy Debate with the Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency and Cllr Malcolm Noonan
- A trip to the Gaeltacht
- Cíorcal Comhrá
- Movie Nights
- Weekly soccer games
- Lecture Series
- Career Planning Sessions

Anyone wishing to find out more about the First Arts or any of the programmes available on the Campus can contact us on: tel: 056 777 5910/0872630999 or email [kilkenny.campus@nuim.ie](mailto:kilkenny.campus@nuim.ie). You can also visit our website at <http://kilkenny.nuim.ie>.



# School Awards 2013

## SUBJECT AWARDS

<b>Mathematics:</b>	Junior - Conor Purcell	Senior - Diarmuid Hickey
<b>Gaeilge:</b>	Junior - Peter Scarrif-Lalor	Senior - Diarmuid Hickey
<b>English:</b>	Junior - Liam Wallace	Senior - Kevin Maher
<b>Business:</b>	Junior - Conor Purcell	Senior - John Murphy
<b>Languages:</b>	Junior - Patrick Ryan	Senior - Cormac Everard
<b>Technical Graphics:</b>	Junior - Roman Hartmann	Senior - Mihails Nikandrov
<b>Technology:</b>	Mihails Nikandrov	
<b>Science:</b>	Junior - Diarmuid Minnock	Senior - Cormac Everard
<b>History:</b>	Eamon Egan	
<b>Geography:</b>	Peter Scarrif-Lalor	
<b>Art:</b>	Junior - William Spencer	Senior - Calvin Delaney
<b>Music:</b>	Junior - Patrick Kennedy	Senior - Cormac Everard
<b>Frank Muldowney Award Best Junior Certificate 2013:</b>		Robert Dunne

## ACADEMIC OF THE YEAR AWARDS

<b>First Year</b>	Niall Doheny
<b>Second Year</b>	Eamon Fennelly
<b>Third Year</b>	Michael Ryan
<b>Fifth Year</b>	Conor O'Carroll
<b>Sixth Year</b>	Cormac Everard

## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

<b>LCVP Student of the Year:</b>	Liam Elvidge
<b>Debating:</b>	Conor Quinlan
<b>Chess:</b>	Eoin Minnock
<b>Music:</b>	Niall Brennan
<b>No Name Club Host:</b>	Alan Hayes

## SPORTS AWARDS

<b>Snooker</b>	Stephen Bateman
<b>Boxing</b>	Kevin Kehoe
<b>Tetrathlon</b>	Cian Drennan and Conor Mahon
<b>Self Defence</b>	Jason O'Keeffe
<b>Badminton</b>	Ciaran Walsh, Thomas Comerford, Ciaran Brennan, Ciaran Fitzpatrick
<b>Chess</b>	Eoin Minnock, Aravind Menon and Donovan Ashcroft
<b>Basketball</b>	Colum Prendiville
<b>Golf</b>	Brian Crowdle
<b>Junior Cross Country</b>	David O'Carroll
<b>Senior Cross Country</b>	Conor Quinlan
<b>Soccer Player U13</b>	Conor O'Keeffe
<b>Soccer Player U15</b>	Sam Hickey

<b>Irish Schools International</b>	Killian Cantwell
<b>Gaelic Football player of the year</b>	Niall Walsh
<b>Juvenile Hurler of the year</b>	Martin Keoghan
<b>Junior Hurler of the year</b>	Jason Byrne
<b>Senior Hurler of the year</b>	Stephen Farrell

## AWARDS OF MERIT - STUDENT OF THE YEAR

<b>First Year</b>	Conor Drennan, Michael O'Shaughnessy, Niall Doheny, John Dillon, Evan Clarke, Ben Lanigan, Sean Grace, Dan Blanchfield
<b>Second Year</b>	Colum Prendiville, Peter Walsh, Denis Carrigan, Michael Carey, Eoin Rudkins
<b>Third Year</b>	Bill Whelan, Patrick Ryan, Peter Scarrif-Lalor, Eamon Egan, Liam Wallace, Patric Kennedy, Sean Carey
<b>Transition Year</b>	Alan Hayes, Vladyslav Medvensky, Sean Lynch, Noel Whelan, John Fitzpatrick, Bill O'Neill
<b>Fifth Year</b>	Ciaran Fennelly, Nicholas Dunphy, Kieran Freeman, Ben Moylan, Kacper Pawlowski
<b>Sixth Year</b>	Eoin Gough, Graham English, Mihails Nikandrov, John Murphy, Ciaran Breen, Cormac Everard, Peter McPhillips

## STUDENT OF THE YEAR

<b>First Year</b>	John Nolan
<b>Second Year</b>	Martin Keoghan
<b>Third Year</b>	Edward Moylan
<b>Patrick Kilroy Award</b>	Robert O'Flynn
<b>Fifth Year</b>	Ian Martin
<b>Sixth Year</b>	James Tyrrell



## Academic Award Winners



Back row (l-r): Mr Eddie Keher (Guest Speaker), Ms Joan Mahon (Parents' Association), Mr Adrian Finan (Deputy Principal), Mr Niall Connolly (Organiser), Ms Jean Fitzpatrick (Organiser), Mr John Curtis (Principal). Front row (l-r): Conor O'Carroll, Robert Dunne, Cormac Everard, Niall Doheny, Eamon Fennelly, Michael Ryan.

## Sports Award Winners



Back row (l-r): Mr Adrian Finan (Deputy Principal), Ms Joan Mahon (Parents' Association), Mr Eddie Keher (Guest Speaker), Conor O'Keeffe, Sam Hickey, Mr John Curtis (Principal), Mr Niall Connolly. Front row (l-r): Jason Byrne, Conor Quinlan, David Prendergast, Stephen Farrell, Martin Keogh, Alan Hayes, Niall Walsh.

# Sixth Year Signatures

Josh Haines  
 Shane Comerford  
 Gavin Brennan  
 Dylan Cullen  
 Maciej Szaliga  
 Łucis Mitrikas  
 Cian Smith  
 Ian Martin  
 Shane Leahy  
 Seamus McGrath  
 Brendan Hyland  
 KARA Cummins  
 Paul Farrell

John Lynch  
 Vinny Tether  
 Jack Byrne  
 Bill Corgan  
 Sean Burke  
 Kasper Penczkowski  
 David  
 WZK  
 Robbie Hennessey  
 Conor Comerford  
 Conor Lowe  
 Brian O'Connell

Ben Doyle  
 Kevin Blonchfield  
 Ger Dune  
 Darragh Hennessy  
 John Rice  
 Conor Murphy  
 Dean Byrne  
 Michael Coors  
 Dylan Dune  
 Dion Fitzgerald  
 Rados  
 Stalceci  
 Kevin Hennessey  
 Lorcan O'Loughlin  
 Luke O'Connor  
 Brendan Cullen  
 Peter Prendergast  
 Paul White  
 Mateusz Adamowski  
 Alex Pyle  
 Michael Brennan  
 Michael Fitzgerald  
 William Bargin  
 Nicholas Dunphy  
 Billy Hanton  
 Sam Phelan  
 Benjamin Moylan  
 James Mullar  
 Conor Brennan  
 Kieran Freeman  
 Michael McDonnell  
 Kieran London  
 Jos Mullar  
 Jim Giffey  
 Brian Cooy  
 James Tynan  
 Paddy Reade  
 Cathal Reemady  
 Stephen Farrell  
 Eoin Gough  
 Brian Mahon  
 Cian Fennelly  
 Shane O'Brien  
 Seán Juvett  
 Conor O'Connell  
 Shane Walsh  
 Jamie Coshin  
 Greg Tennyson  
 Philip Conroy  
 James Maher  
 Neil Tray  
 Daniel Duku



# My time in St Kieran's



Conor O'Carroll, Sixth Year

In my time here in St Kieran's I have had to write a lot of different pieces for English class but I never came across a piece that was more difficult to write than this one. How could I possibly fit our six years here into just a few pages?

I suppose I could start with the question: Why did I decide to go to Kieran's in the first place? There were a lot of schools that were closer to my home and would have been an easier commute, but for some reason I picked Kieran's. I suppose it was the great facilities and the strong hurling tradition that were the deciding factors for me. Whatever the reason I certainly choose wisely when I decided to come here.

We've seen a lot of changes in the school during our time here. We have seen the departure of a few familiar faces amongst the teaching staff with both Mr Bolster and Ms Meany retiring in our first few years. We have also witnessed the replacement of the "chicken roll queue" with the new school canteen. Along with the many changes we have experienced and with the development of the hurling pitches, our facilities were second to none in Kilkenny.

It is, however, the stories and experiences that we shared here together that will be most memorable for me. When I think back to first year

I remember things like playing wall ball together. We used to pass every lunchtime beating the ball off the wall. Looking back on it now we probably weren't the best players in the world and as a result we had three or four bloody noses, a few broken windows and several lost sliotars. In second year I remember when one lad, who I won't mention by name, in a desperate attempt to retrieve his sliotar climbed out the window onto the roof. Another lad, however, shut the window behind him and he was left stranded on the roof with the rest of the school spectating. We all got quite a good laugh out of it but I doubt he'll remember it as fondly!

Onto third year and the Junior Cert. Surprisingly, my clearest memory is not of the exams themselves but of the soccer games we used to have in between them. Every day of the exams someone would bring in a ball and we would play soccer to pass the time between exams. The matches got quite intense and in hindsight they probably weren't the best preparation for exams but we got our Junior Certificates and rolled onwards.

Then came fourth year and a welcome change of pace to the stresses of the Junior Cert. One day we climbed Slieve na mBan during a class trip. We had just reached the top and were turning around when someone had the bright idea of seeing who could get to the bottom the fastest. We all set off sprinting down the side of the hill and ended up rolling most of the way down. Luckily, the ground was quite soft and no one was hurt. It only took us about five minutes to go

down in comparison to the hour and a half ascent.

St Kieran's day is another memorable experience for me in my time here. I have very fond memories of all the activities that I took part in throughout the years. It is truly a great occasion for all and everyone has a great day whether they go paint balling, quading, playing soccer, golf or whatever.

In my six years here the school has won three Colleges All-Ireland Hurling titles. All were special but this year's title was especially sweet as we got one over our local rivals, Kilkenny CBS. Just to see the support at the match made us proud to be from St Kieran's. With our victory we are proud to continue the strong hurling tradition within the school. It's memories like these and getting the opportunity to play in such a great final that I will cherish most from my time here.

It seems like only yesterday we were walking through the daunting front gates of the school on our first day as frightened first years. Shortly we will be walking out the now familiar gates as proud St Kieran's men. In our time here we have made friends and shared experiences that will last us a lifetime. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers and staff in the school for all that they have done for us and for making our time here a very, very enjoyable one. I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish all of my classmates the very best in your upcoming Leaving Certificate Examinations and in your lives that follow.



"Trying to look our best for the class picture before we go..."

## RETREATS

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

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

In Second and Third Year, students visit the Castletown Retreat Centre, Co Laois and go on a walking retreat from Duiske Abbet in Graiguenamanagh, Co Kilkenny to the picturesque village of St Mullins, Co Carlow. This gives class groups a chance to bond and to allow

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

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

In Fifth Year the students get the opportunity to re-visit Castletown, three years on for a little more time out, discussion and prayer. Finally, in Sixth Year students receive a retreat with a difference. The retreat is held in the school theatre. The theme for the day is "Life After the Leaving Cert" and three guest speakers meet the lads to give them their experience of life after the Leaving. The class of 2014 met Caimin



## TRANSITION YEAR RETREAT TO GLENDALOUGH MAY 2014

Joe Sinnott

It is coming near the end of the year and every year around this time the Transition Year students are brought on a retreat. The retreat is a way of celebrating Transition Year and is a great opportunity for the fourth year students to focus on themselves. It is an opportunity to focus prayer on a certain person or thing in a student's life.

Glendalough is a beautiful and tranquil location. When we arrived we were brought to the lake where we each individually blessed ourselves in the waters of Glendalough. The day's procession began as we blessed ourselves and we were reminded of the year we've had.

We started our walk up along the side of the lake until we stopped at a certain vantage point. From this point we were able to see the small cave where Saint Kevin decided to live. We were told about St Kevin. We were told about the way he lived in solitude. He loved nature and decided to completely embrace it.

We continued our walk up the side of the lake and then further on past the lake and up the mountain. We eventually crossed the stream and made our way back down on the other side of the lake. On our way down we stopped and the Day ended with the distribution of Eucharist. Finally, we blessed ourselves and the retreat was over.

I thought the retreat was a great idea and was a brilliant experience for all of us.







## Pastoral Care in St Kieran's

Browne, past pupil who is currently studying in Dublin, Br Sean Donoghue, Capuchin Friar and Kilkenny hurling legend DJ Carey. An opportunity to pray and a good lunch in Langtons helps the lads to enjoy this day, while focusing them on the Leaving and their future lives beyond the gates of St Kieran's.

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

### LITURGIES

Throughout the school year we hold many prayerful liturgies. In September we celebrate our Opening of the School Year mass which welcomes our new First Year students to the school as well as all teachers, staff and students for another school year. During November we remember our deceased loved ones and friends which quickly leads up into Advent when we prepare for the birth of Christ with class prayers.

Before Christmas exams we gather for a Christmas Carol Service. 2013 saw the introduction of Carols in the College chapel, an occasion which we hope to repeat in 2014. A whole school liturgy is celebrated every year for the feast of St Kieran in St Mary's Cathedral as part of St Kieran's Day. Lenten preparations consist of reflections and prayers for all classes, with pieces of scripture presented on the TV screens around the school. The end of the school year is marked by the celebration of mass for all students with special prayers for those sitting exams. The final school duty for every Leaving Cert student is to attend the Graduation Mass at the very end of the school where we bid

farewell Leaving Certs and pray for a safe, healthy and successful future for all. Our liturgies are an integral part of life in St Kieran's College as it is through our liturgical prayer that we get the opportunity to express our faith and celebrate the important events and moments in our lives together.

### CAIRDEAS

Each year a group of our Fifth Year students take part in the Cairdeas programme. This programme has been set up in the school to help first years to settle into their new school environment. The Cairdeas team agree at the beginning of the year to help initiate our First Years. Each Fifth







Year was assigned approximately ten students to look after. They met each of their students on their first day and at regular intervals throughout the year particularly during the first term. The beginning of secondary school can be difficult for First Years with so many new subjects and new faces to get used to. The Cairdeas team aim to help first years with any concerns they may have at this challenging time and indeed, throughout the year the Cairdeas team are present in the school to assist with the needs of their assigned First Year group if necessary.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

From 26th January - 2nd February 2014, we celebrated Catholic Schools Week. In celebrating Catholic schools as places of faith and learning we



Liam Blanchfield and Kevin Brennan tell us about their experience of teaching primary students:

For Catholic Schools Week a group of Fifth Year students were asked by Mr Maher if we would be interested in going to teach a Religion class in two local primary schools, St Patrick's De La Salle and St John of God. We were delighted to have the opportunity to take part in this activity. We were divided into pairs teaching 4th, 5th and 6th class. We were asked to teach the class for an hour about a religious topic and to explain to the students about Catholic School's Week. Our pairs got to choose the topic we were going to teach the class which meant we would all have different ideas. We were all nervous the day we were teaching as we have never had this experience before of teaching a class. Thankfully the classes responded enthusiastically and seemed to enjoy the experience. It was a useful exercise for us as it helped us to gain some insight into life as a primary school teacher and we also found it an interesting way to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. All of the lads involved enjoyed teaching the classes and it might even encourage some of us to go on to become teachers in the future!







are acknowledging that Catholic education is not closed or self-absorbed. It is open to the world and to new ideas. This year, Catholic Schools Week gives us an opportunity in our homes, schools and parishes to affirm Catholic schools as places of faith and learning.

We marked Catholic Schools Week

with a number of reminders around our school. Inspirational quotes and messages could be found on the television screens and in strategic places in our corridors. Some of these were inspirational thoughts about life from famous people. Others were quotes from some of the other world religions. Some were taken from

our own sacred text, inspirational quotations from both the Old and the New Testaments. In our busy daily routines, these quotes serve to remind our students and staff about what's important in our lives.

During Catholic Schools Week, some of the Fifth Year students also got the opportunity to teach Religion in the local primary schools. This has become an annual project between the schools. It is used as a way of creating awareness of the importance of our identity as a Catholic School while also promoting the values of the Gospel through the teaching of Religious Education to the young people in the local primary schools. This year twelve Fifth Year students from St Kieran's taught six Religion classes ranging from Fourth class to Sixth class. Both students and teachers found it an enjoyable experience. We would like to thank the principals and teachers of the St John of God and St Patrick's De La Salle Primary Schools for facilitating this project again this year.

## MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

During Lent, four Transition Year students from St Kieran's College trained to become Ministers of the Eucharist. All were commissioned in the parishes on Holy Thursday night and have been commissioned to serve as ministers in St Kieran's College during their remaining years here in the school. We are very grateful to the lads for volunteering to live out their faith through their ministry. We'd also like to thank our out-going Sixth Year Ministers of the Eucharist, Cian Smith and Nicholas Dunphy, for all of their service at school liturgies over the past two years.

Our four new Ministers of the Eucharist are: Bill Whelan, Alan Mooney, Patrick Kennedy, Benjamin Scarrif-Lalor.



## JOHN PAUL II AWARDS



The John Paul II Award is a new award being offered to students in St Kieran's College. The Award was created to commemorate the late Pope John Paul II who was so committed to young people and who had such belief and confidence in them.

Students are required to work for a Gold, Silver or Bronze award. The tasks and work carried out ranges from eight weeks for the bronze award to twenty weeks for the Gold Award. Upon completion of the Gold Award, students can also choose to work for the Papal Cross which involves a further twenty-six weeks of work. The work involved for all levels is divided into Parish and Community work. Students choose a way of getting involved in both areas and are monitored each week by a facilitator. At the end of the process, all successful students receive their award in a diocesan ceremony, which takes place in St Mary's Cathedral.

Through participating in this Award it is hoped that students will grow in their understanding that faith is something to be lived. We would like to congratulate all of our students who participated in the award last year and received their medals. We also continue to encourage those who are currently involved in the programme. This year's participants included: Alan Mooney, Peter Scarif-Lalor, Eamon Forristal, Eamonn Egan, Patrick Kennedy, Michael Ryan, Evan Carroll, Liam Wallace, Edward Moylan, Danny Kehoe, Paddy Gannon and Bill Whelan. Keep up the good work!

Finally, we'd like to acknowledge the work of Nicholas Dunphy who recently received the Papal Cross Award. Well done Nicholas. Here Nicholas reflects on his experience of the Papal Cross Award:

## FOLLOWING HIS FOOTSTEPS TOWARDS A PAPAL CROSS

Nicholas Dunphy

The Pope John Paul II Award was launched by the Papal Nuncio to Ireland, His Excellency Most Rev Dr Giuseppe Lazzarotto, on 7th November 2006 in the Diocese of Derry, Ireland. Through the Pope John Paul II Award, young people are encouraged to take an active part in the life of the Church, in the life of community and society and also we become more aware of the teachings and role of the Catholic Church in the world. This enables us to engage at a deep level with Christ at mass and at home. It allows young people to understand that religion and faith is not just for learning, nor is it a list of rules, but that it is also for living.

In my fourth year in school in St Kieran's College the JP II awards were introduced to the Diocese of Ossory. I was delighted to take part in the Gold Award which consisted of Parish Involvement and Social Awareness. With the help and guidance of Fr Kieran O'Shea I got involved in the Mass. I did offertory collecting, reading, cleaning the church and helped people prepare the confirmation class through the confirmation programme. For the Social component of the award I volunteered in the St Patrick's Centre in Kilkenny. This involved working with patients at every level – from helping out at mealtimes to cleaning and social interaction.

When I was offered the opportunity to take on the Papal Cross I jumped at the opportunity and was delighted to go for it. I went to my local Parish Priest Fr Lorcan Moran who was a great help. He asked me to train as a Eucharistic Minister and I had previously been thinking of it after the gold award. I was delighted to do the course. Another student from St Kieran's College also attended the same Eucharistic Minister training course; as a result we now act as the Eucharistic Ministers for the school and for the parish of Ballycallan. I also became a "Cairde" to help some of the First Years to settle into their new school. There are many other ways in which young people can get involved in the life of their parish, school and local community.

I am extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to participate in JP II Awards as the experience has helped me to realise the importance of one's responsibility in the community.





## TRIP TO LOURDES

Jack P. Kavanagh Fifth Year

Last year, ten Transition Year students from St Kieran's College travelled to Lourdes as part of the diocesan pilgrimage for five days from May 22nd - 27th. We helped with the movement of the assisted pilgrims to and from the various ceremonies throughout the trip. We were joined in the youth group by students from other schools in the diocese.

Our work consisted of being up early every morning, to be in the hospital at 8.00am in order to bring the assisted pilgrims to and from the ceremonies throughout the day. This is was the routine throughout the five days and we found this to be very enjoyable despite the hard work.

I found the trip to be a moving experience. The assisted pilgrims were all very interesting, some having travelled every year for fifteen years! My favourite aspect of the pilgrimage was my experience of the Lourdes Holy Baths. Every day we encountered new experiences and challenges.

All told, we had a great trip and would recommend all Transition Year students to apply for it. This year another ten students will represent St Kieran's on the trip and I'm sure they'll find it as memorable a journey.

### SKC – PRAYER FOR EXAMS

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

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

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

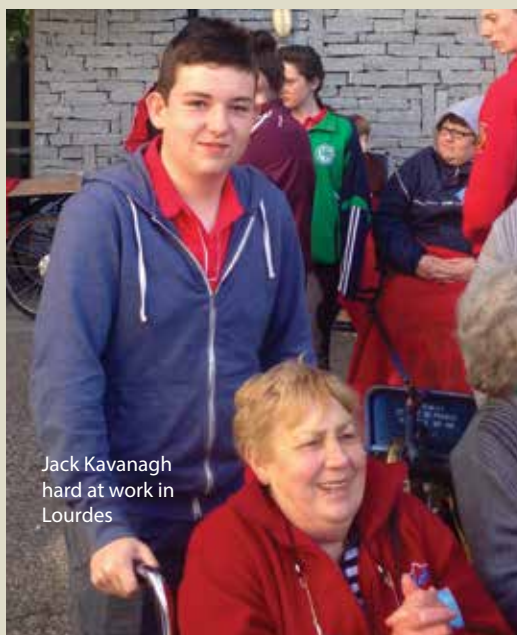
*Open my heart to believe that with you all things are possible and because you have created me I am worth much more than all the exams in the world.*

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

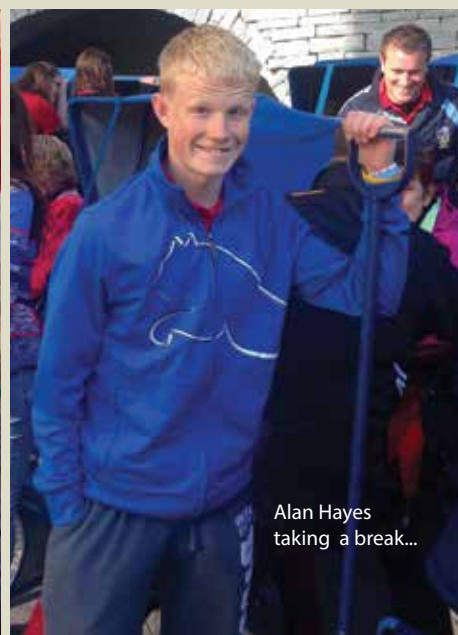
Amen



Lourdes team 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



Jack Kavanagh  
hard at work in  
Lourdes



Alan Hayes  
taking a break...





## MY EXPERIENCE OF THE CHOIR

Patrick Kennedy Fourth Year

The Junior choir was my first experience of singing in St Kieran's College. I was no stranger to the world of music so joining the choir was a must. In time I moved up to the Senior Choir. Being a member of the senior choir means rehearsals twice a week for thirty minutes during lunchtime. This commitment and sacrifice is a small price to pay for such an invaluable opportunity. However, as we near performances, some finishing touches may demand extra time. The choir attends many events throughout the year including all religious services in the school, fundraising events, the annual Kilkenny Music Festival and the school's Awards night. This year saw the introduction of a successful and enjoyable Christmas Carol Concert was held in the school chapel where both choirs entertained a full house. All these occasions act as milestones throughout the year and give the choir an opportunity to showcase talent, unveil practice and a target to work towards.

The choir itself is made up of students, usually from Third to Sixth Year, under the direction Ms Phelan who works consistently hard throughout the year. The number in the choir can fluctuate during the year due to other commitments such as sport, studies or other activities. It is important to note that we are not a "manifold meeting of masterly musicians", rather, just a group who are joined by a common interest in singing. Participation in the choir has many favourable benefits; a deeper understanding and knowledge of music, teamwork, singing skills, discipline, confidence building and the social aspect. For the instrumentalist among us, there is also a chance to provide accompaniment for our choirs and add to the solemnity of our services.

The ending of another year is greeted with mixed emotions. Sadly we lose valuable Sixth Year members. However as an appreciation of all our work both choirs are treated to a trip away which ends the year on a high note. Preparations are currently being made for the Leaving Certificate Graduation Mass. I look forward to more years singing in our school choir.



## Impressions of First Year

Alex McCluskey 1A4

My first day in Kieran's College was last August and I was really anxious about what the school was going to be like but after my first day I found out that I was worried about nothing and that the teachers are nice and so is everyone in my class. The biggest difference I would have to say about secondary school is the amount of subjects that there are to choose from. There is only around two or three new ones in first year but in second year you get a lot more to choose from. I really like the "Ref"... That's what we call the canteen. You can buy food and drinks there for really good prices. The student council and the parents committee are working hard to bring new things to the ref as well as the rest of the school. You get a full hour of lunch unlike half an hour in primary and most of us just pucker around or go to the ref. There are nine subjects a day except on Wednesday and Friday when you get off one class earlier. I think Kieran's is a really good school and I have really enjoyed my first year here so far and I'm looking forward to Second Year.

Tommy Farrell 1A2

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

Sean Keyes 1A3

On the first day of my first year in St Kieran's College I was very nervous, it seemed to be very different to primary school and I wasn't sure if I would fit in, those nerves vanished quickly however, thanks to our year head Mr Smith and the Cairdeas students. On that first day they directed us to hall thirty three which was where our lockers were and this was also to be our social area for the year. Mr Smith kept us updated on all upcoming events, like hurling matches and trips. I enjoyed trying out all the subjects which are available; like Science, Tech Graphics and Spanish. First Year went by very fast and was very enjoyable, I am looking forward to the rest of my time here in St Kieran's College.



## Weddings at St Kieran's College



Bishop Seamus Freeman has granted permission for the celebration of marriages of past pupils in College Chapel.

Set in the magnificent grounds of St Kieran's the College Chapel, which seats c. 180 people, is an ideal location for the celebration of marriage.

Any past-pupil thinking of celebrating their marriage here are invited to contact the College Office.

Tel: 056 7721086

Email: [admin@stkieranscollege.ie](mailto:admin@stkieranscollege.ie)









# St Kieran's Day 2014

Evan Shefflin 3A2

This year Mr Morgan along with Mr Fitzgerald and Ms Carroll brought a group of first, second and third year students to the Kilkenny activity centre on the Orchard road for splat ball and the Hell's Kitchen assault course. We left school at 11am after mass in the cathedral and we walked to the Kilkenny activity centre. When we got there we were split into four different teams with a mixture of first, second and third years on each team. We then got suited up into our gear for splat ball which included overalls and a face mask for safety. Splat ball is like paintball only it's not as sore when you're hit. Half of the team were given shotguns with a pouch of ammo while the other half had a pistol. Two teams then faced off against each other in games like capture the flag and team death match! At the end of splat ball we played a game of team death match. Everyone was put in pairs and the last two standing won the game.

We then moved onto the assault course. This proved to be very difficult as we had to walk, run and dive through mud and water. We then split into our four teams again and were tied to each other. We then had to run the assault course again as a group.

At the end of the assault course we all got to go on the big water slide which was very enjoyable. Thanks to Mr Morgan, Mr Fitzgerald and Ms Carroll for planning this action packed and enjoyable day.







## Gaisce President's Award

On Friday the 9th May we left St Kieran's College at 9 o'clock full of excitement as we knew two action packed days lay ahead of us.



The bus dropped us in Leighlinbridge where the instructors from "Go with the Flow" River Adventures awaited us with canoes and equipment, on the banks of the barrow. We were divided into groups of two or three people per canoe. At first almost everyone found it difficult to keep their canoe in a straight line with some boats even capsizing! We had to raft up and regroup many times as we paddled downstream as far as Goresbridge where Mr Ruth and Ms Hanrick awaited us with lunch. We set sail again and journeyed down river towards Borris. In Borris we camped overnight in the Scouts Den, playing football, cards and watching films.

The next morning, Saturday, we made our breakfast and lunches before heading back down to the Barrow through the forests of the Kavanagh Estate. The second day was far more challenging as we battled through strong rapids, high wind and heavy rain! It took longer than expected before we arrived in Graiguenamanagh, tired and weary where our lunches awaited.

We were happy to see Mr Ruth and Ms Hanrick with our dry gear but not before everyone had great fun jumping into the river off the well-known diving platforms in Graiguenamanagh. We then headed back to St Kieran's, everyone exhausted but proud to have canoed over 25km on the river Barrow. Overall it was a great trip enjoyed by all.

In total over 60 Transition Year pupils completed the Gaisce President's Award in St Kieran's College this year.

As part of the Gaisce programme in St Kieran's College  
40 students spent an adventure weekend canoeing  
down the river Barrow.



# Danny Egars and the No Name Club

I first found out about the No Name Club when Shane Doyle came in to Mr O'Neill's class in late September at the start of this academic year. Shane told our class about the No Name Club and to be honest I had no idea what it was! He told us that it is a youth club with a difference - the No Name promotes a positive place to go away from pub culture in Ireland today. The club is made up of nearly 3000 people nationwide from Fourth Year to Sixth Year, but in the Kilkenny club it is only the Fourth Years from the town schools who form its membership. In the No Name Club we do a great deal of activities. This past year a few of my friends and I organised a disco with the help of No Name Club. The club gives us the opportunity to help causes such as, but not limited to, the Special Olympics and the Irish Cancer Society.

In October last Shane told us about the youth awards which take place in the Lyrath Hotel in February each year. He asked if anyone would like to take part and I put my name forward. For the awards we had to do interviews explaining why we went to the No Name club what we do when there and what we like about it. The leaders of the No Name then had to choose who would represent Kilkenny in the South Leinster leg of the competition. I thankfully got the call to go forward and around November,



Danny Egars

in a hotel in Carlow, the female hostess from Kilkenny and I had to go up to be interviewed. In the lead up to this we prepared our CVs so that the interviewer could know a bit about us. The interviews lasted 15 minutes and after it each host or hostess had to perform on stage. This, as you can imagine, was fairly nerve racking! There were a variety of talents on display from banjo playing to karate moves. Not knowing what to do I finally decided to rap; it is something that I always liked and so I taught it would be worth a try: I rapped otherside by Macklemore. My performance went well and thankfully I

got through to the national awards sadly my fellow hostess wasn't so lucky.

I was obviously very nervous coming up to the final performing in the front of 1,500 people. In preparation for the final there was an hour long interview in Portlaoise. During which we were asked questions about the history of the No Name club, our lives and what kind of people we are, and hope to be.

When the big day finally came around we were under orders to be there early for soundchecks etc... The hosts and hostess came on stage and all performed, I again performed Macklemore Otherside. When it was all over, I had to wait for the judge's decision. We all had dinner while the judges made their decision. They called out the hostess first who was from Mayo. Finally they called out the host and my name was called... in the shock of it all I nearly forgot my own name! I couldn't believe it. Since then I have so many opportunities among them notably was as an interview with the Irish Examiner about the youth of Ireland.

I am so glad I went for No Name and for any of the Third Years going in to Fourth next year all I can say is, go for it lads it's a great experience. After all St Kieran's had the host last year too... in Alan Hayes - might we go for three in a row!

## Alan Hayes

Recently Alan Hayes, a Fifth Year student, was interviewed on the Late Late Show, TV3, 2fm and KCLR. Alan, along with his mother Angela, was asked to share their story of bereavement following the deaths of his father and brother by suicide. Anyone who was fortunate enough to hear any of the interviews couldn't help but be moved by the honesty, openness, and courage displayed by both Angela and Alan in telling their story. It must have been a difficult thing to do. There is, however, no doubt but that in doing so they have helped countless people throughout the country who also suffered bereavement in any way. Since the show the response has been incredible with good wishes flooding in from all over the country. The message from the Hayes family that talking is always best and that it is possible to pull through has proved an inspirational one for so many people.

As part of the many interviews, Alan sang a song he composed for his mother during this terribly difficult time. This beautiful song Survivor was a part of our end of year Awards night last year when Alan sang it, in a moving performance, for the school community.

In the midst of this great pain and loss there is also some great hope: during his interview with Ryan Tubridy on 2FM, Alan was informed of an offer to record this and other songs in Windmill Lane studios. It is a wonderful and well-deserved opportunity for Alan who is immensely talented. Alan has since recorded the song, which will soon be released on iTunes with the proceeds going to charity. We all look forward to purchasing a copy. Well done to Alan!





## Carol Service 2013

On the night of the 10th December, a group of students, their parents, families, teachers and friends gathered in the Chapel of St Kieran's College for a festive evening of Christmas Carols. Fifty-four students in total from both the Senior and Junior choirs in the school performed a range of carols from the well loved "O Come All Ye Faithful" to the more intricate "Christmas Lullaby". The candlelit chapel provided a very intimate setting for this atmospheric evening. The students put on a

great performance, singing the carols beautifully under the expert guidance of their choir teacher, Ms Aisling Phelan. Texts from Scripture, prayers and poetry were also recited to compliment the carols and also helped to heighten the prayerful atmosphere. The College Chapel served as an ideal location for this Carol Service with its excellent acoustics. The Students and Staff of St Kieran's can look forward to more prayer services in the Chapel in the future.



# Choir Carol Singing – Alzheimer's Association



Well done to Ms Aisling Phelan and the St Kieran's College Junior and Senior Choirs who raised funds for the Kilkenny Alzheimer's Association in December with a day of carol singing at the Town Hall. The choirs have now raised over €2,500 for Kilkenny Alzheimer's since 2012.

James Nugent and Patrick Kennedy, members of the St Kieran's College Senior Choir with music teacher Ms Aisling Phelan presenting a cheque for €790 to Ruth O'Gorman of Kilkenny Alzheimer's Society.





## Storm Damage



## Concern Fast 2013

This year's annual Concern Fast took place on November 28th with over 60 students from Second and Third Year taking part. The Fast helps the aid organisation Concern raise funds for the distribution of both emergency and development aid to the people of the world that are in the most desperate need of help. This year as part of their CSPE project, 2A3 invited Liam Barnard from Concern to talk to them about their aid work in Africa. Liam showed the class some of the aid work that he had taken part in as well as showing the class how something like malnutrition can be cured quickly thanks to the aid raised by the Irish people



through methods like the Concern Fast. The class then decided to take on the role of promoting the Fast throughout Second Year and designed posters to be displayed around the Second Year social area. The response from both the Second Year and Third Year groups this year was outstanding with both groups

raising a combined total of €1,890. A massive thank you must go to all the students who took the time and effort to take part and to everybody who gave so generously to this worthy cause. A special thank you also to both Ms Jane Moran and Mr Stephen Morgan for all their work. Well done everybody.



Hi Boys,  
 Congratulations on completing  
 your school year.

As this was our first year in the  
 college, we want to say a big thank  
 you for making our year so enjoyable.  
 You are all a pleasure to cater for and  
 we have had great fun cooking for  
 you. Your manners, good nature and  
 willingness to help were exemplary and  
 for that we are grateful. You all are a  
 credit to your families and your school.

We hope you enjoyed our menu  
 and for next year remember if you  
 would like to see something included  
 on it please talk to the student council  
 as they have kept in contact with us  
 throughout the year.

Best wishes for the summer and see  
 you all in September.

Happy Holidays,  
 Katie, Rita, Angela, Liam, Lucy &  
 Karen.

St Kierans College Canteen is  
 professionally run by Katie Gordon and  
 staff on site. It provides nourishment  
 and social contact for students (and  
 staff) and is, not surprisingly, a central  
 part of school life. Meals and snacks are  
 served at morning break time, lunch  
 and before study period. The menu this  
 year included lasagne, curry, bangers &  
 mash, sausage rolls, home-made soups  
 and treats, chicken rolls, Panini, and a  
 selection of specials (Vol-au-vents, meat  
 balls, pasta bake, fish, chicken kiev, etc.).



We are continually trying to promote excellence in  
 education here in St Kieran's and coupled with this we  
 always strive for excellence on the field of sport or in  
 all areas that we compete. It was only logical therefore  
 that we would look to nutrition to complete the picture.  
 With so many of our students coming from around

the Diocese the school day can be long. This year,  
 therefore, we were delighted to pilot a student canteen.  
 It has been an amazing success. Students and Staff pack  
 the College refectory each day from 1-2. In fact it has  
 already become an established part of the College and  
 will certainly continue next year!



# Belfast Exchange Trip



On Friday 25th October St Kieran's College welcomed a group of players and coaches from De La Salle College, Belfast. It was the latest exchange trip of a long standing sporting and cultural tradition between the schools which stretches back to 1994.

After their initial welcome and before being introduced to their host families, the De La Salle students took part in a 'BATA BEAG' tournament in the school sports hall. It was their first experience of the game and it was one that they enjoyed immensely.

The focal point of the weekend for the De La Salle team was two challenge games played on Saturday and Sunday morning against two St Kieran's selections. The games were notable for the high quality hurling displayed by both sides in spite of tricky weather conditions and the competitive nature of the games.

Other activities enjoyed by the De La Salle boys during the weekend were bowling at the KBowl, swimming at the Watershed Sports Centre, indoor soccer in the St Kieran's College Gym, a coaching session with Kilkenny hurler and St Kieran's teacher Lester Ryan, a tour of Nowlan Park given by Kilkenny hurler and St Kieran's teacher Michael Rice and a walking history tour of Kilkenny given by Mr Pat Tynan.

Special thanks goes to Mr Richie Ruth, Mr Ger Flood and all the teachers who assisted with the organisation and running of the weekend, the St Kieran's students who participated in the games on Saturday and Sunday and the management of both schools for their continued support of the exchange programme. De La Salle teacher and coach Paul Buchanan was highly complimentary of the host families and the way in which they welcomed the De La Salle students into their homes. A huge thank you is extended to these families for being such warm and generous hosts for the weekend. Many new friendships were made between both students and teachers.





# A student's view on the return trip

David O'Carroll Second Year

This year's annual trip to Belfast started off with a visit from De La Salle College in November 2013. I was one of the lucky few to be pulled out of the hat to host two De La Salle students for a weekend in November. This in itself was a great event for us to meet and

socialise with students from the other end of the country and play hurling and show them the sights of Kilkenny. The real pay back was when we had the opportunity to make the return trip to Belfast with a friend of our choice.

Mr Ruth who brilliantly organises this trip every year and his able assistant Mr Flood joined 22 boys on the long journey to Belfast on Friday 28th February 2014. The journey up was part and parcel of the weekend. It was broken by a pit stop at Apple Green.

When we arrived at De La Salle we were greeted by our host students and Mr Buchanan. We toured the school and our first activity was in the exercise gym where we tried out the spin cycle and rowing machines. We then played a hurling match with mixed teams which helped to level the playing

fields. A great match was had by all. Later that evening our host families collected us and gave us a lovely meal before retiring for bed absolutely exhausted.

The following morning we all met again at the school at 9am for an action packed day. First up, we played Antrim U14 development squads on the University of Queens campus. This was a match displaying high skills throughout. Our slightly older team helped us to over power them in the end. This set us up nicely for the fun filled activities scheduled for the day. We played bubble ball – another new game – great fun. This was followed by lunch in a top notch restaurant in Belfast city. I'm glad we weren't paying the bill! Shopping was the next activity on the list. We manage to do a lot of damage, getting presents for family members and our host families. It was back to Queens to watch the colleges Fitzgibbon Final. This was a cracker of a game between CIT and WIT. WIT prevailed in the end backboned by many Kilkenny hurlers and captained by Eoin Murphy (Kilkenny senior goalie). A trip to the cinema was on for anyone who had the energy to do so before retiring to bed drained.

As quick as a flash we were into the final day of our trip. Again we had a full schedule of activities, starting with early morning Mass. It was onto the state of the art Lisburn leisure

centre for a crazy hour of fun on the water rides and slides. It was then followed by a trip to McDonalds for a bite to eat and a quick trip back to the O'Neill's outlet to spend anything that was left. We then set out on a history tour of Belfast visiting the Falls Road and Shankill Road – the two streets at the centre of the troubles. At the end of the tour there was a quiz with spot prizes of De La Salle jerseys. I was lucky enough to win one, a great keep sake from the trip. In the afternoon we played a soccer match and finished off the day with a session on the Olympic grade trampolines. All too sudden it was coming to an end. We thanked the host families for their warm hospitality and made our way to the school for our return journey. Again a long journey was broken by a lunch stop at Apple Green. We now knew the weekend was over it had gone like a flash but the memories of this adventure will last forever. Great thanks must go to Mr Ruth and Mr Flood.

On behalf of St Kieran's College we wish to especially thank Mr Paul Buchanan and his colleagues in De La Salle College, Belfast for their hard work in continuing to promote this wonderful relationship between our two schools and to compliment La Salle on the outstanding calibre of the young men that represented your school in Kilkenny again this year.



# Science Trip to the House of Waterford Crystal



## Mould room

The mould room is where our tour started, the moulds are made from beach and pear wood and normally last for about 7-10 days this is the start of the long process. Very little has changed in this craft over the centuries.

## Blowing Department

This is the room where you will see red-hot molten crystal take shape, in a miracle of light, heat and skill. Our craftsmen are meticulous and you can watch as they transform glowing balls of molten crystal into elegant shapes with skills that have made two hundred years of perfection clearly visible in every piece.

## Hand Marking

In this room the glass is marked with a grid the pens used for the marking has the same ink that you would find in your home printer the ink has to be somewhat water resistant but not water proof as the marks will need to be washed off later on in the process. The workers here would have to learn off all the patterns.

## Cutting Department

There are two types of cutting wedge cutting and flat cutting, the cutting wheels are tipped with diamond to cut the crystal. The cutters would have to rely on their own skill to judge how much pressure to put on the crystal, too much pressure will cause the crystal to crack.

## Sculpting & Engraving:

The master sculptors work 3 dimensionally using his skill to sculpt the desired shape from one solid block of crystal. This can sometimes take a couple of months to complete.

A type of copper wheel engraving is called 'Intaglio' this means reverse. The deeper the engraving the more prominent it becomes it can take hours sometimes even days to finish.

## WIT SCIENCE SHOW

A number of schools from surrounding areas assembled in the WIT auditorium for an interactive science show organised for science week. We were presented with a number of interesting and thought provoking scientific experiments a long with a presentation regarding SciFest, a competition to be held in various IT colleges around the country.



Agricultural Science Quiz Winners: Conor Brennan, Brian Cody and Greg Tennyson with Patrick Darmody.

## Agricultural Science

The All-Ireland Final of the IASTA (Irish Agricultural Science Teachers Association) table quiz was held in the Springhill Hotel on Wednesday March 26th. Questions came from the Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science Course. Topics asked were based on animal and plant physiology, microbiology, genetics, soil science, ecology, botany, zoology, crop and animal husbandry. It was an opportunity to get all these topics revised for the practical and theory exam. Thirty teams from all over the country competed in the final.

Two teams from St Kieran's College qualified for the final. Conor Murphy, Tom Phelan and Michael Fitzgerald came fifth in the competition. Conor Brennan, Brian Cody and Greg Tennyson were victorious on the night, scoring an impressive 59 points out of 64. They hold the title of being All-Ireland Agricultural Science Quiz Champions. This is the 2nd time in three years that St Kieran's College has captured this title and great credit is also due to their teacher Mr Patrick Warmody. Well done to all involved.



## Trip to Moorepark



The Fifth Year agricultural science class went on their annual farm visit to the Moorepark Dairy Research Centre in Fermoy on Thursday, March 6th. Moorepark is one of the world's leading dairy research centres and specialises in pasture based systems of milk production. The purpose of the trip was to fulfill the practical requirements for agricultural science.

Moorepark is a 100 hectare experimental farm. It is a dairy farm used by Teagasc to test out the latest farm innovations. The dairy herd comprises of 300 cows which are a

mixture of Jerseys, Norwegian Reds and Holstein Friesians.

On our tour around the farm we were informed about electricity use and technology on the farm. Practices that could be implemented on dairy farms to improve electricity efficiency involve installing a plate cooler to cool milk efficiently and installing a solenoid valve which only pumps water when it is needed which cuts down on energy use.

We were also informed about robotic milking. There is a high initial set up cost estimated at €140,000

for one robot that will milk 65 cows. However, the robotic milking system increases milk output, optimises milking frequency, reduces labour and makes the prospect of increasing herd size easier also.

In addition we got information on virtual fence technology, grassland management, reseeding, nutrition, breeding, diseases, calf rearing and dairy expansion post 2015 milk quota abolition. Overall, the trip was a very worthwhile experience as we got to take pictures and gather information for our projects.

## Rotary Youth Leadership

Well done to Transition Year student Alan Mooney who was selected to represent St Kieran's College at the County Finals of the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards.

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 students applied from St Kieran's College this year. Each student had to firstly fill in a form, in which they outlined details of their personal achievements, experience, leadership, planning



and organisation skills. They were then interviewed for approximately 20 minutes and whichever person impressed the interviewers most would progress to the county finals, where there will be another interview.

We extend our thanks to Karen Hennessy, Chairperson of the Crafts Council of Ireland and Jimmy Connolly,

Operations Manager of St Canice's Credit Union for conducting the interviews in the school. We also congratulate each of the students involved; Michael Ryan, Patrick Kennedy, Liam Walsh, Conor Byrne and of course our eventual winner, Alan Mooney. We wish Alan the very best of luck in the County Final.



# Spanish Trip 2014 ¡Vaya viaje!

This year 30 students from St Kieran's were given the opportunity to spend one week in Ávila, Spain. The idea sparked a great level of interest among the students, until a mere idea finally materialised into a reality at 5am on Sunday 16th February when we departed the college grounds for Dublin Airport.



## Vladyslav Medvensky Fifth Year

On our arrival, we were introduced to our host families by Adolfo, who had met us at Barajas earlier that day. The warm Spanish hospitality was already felt by the students when their families started giving them 'besos' (kisses), which I am sure no one saw coming! However everything got better and later that evening we were given a quick tour of the city of Ávila.

The following morning was our first day of classes at Letras Castellanas where we were divided into several small groups. Each class focused on obtaining confidence in spoken Spanish while also allowing us to learn more about Spanish culture and customs, which I am sure everyone enjoyed. The classes lasted from nine until two and each afternoon an activity or excursion was organised for the students.

On Tuesday the trip to Segovia truly amazed us by its architectural heritage, especially the Roman built aqueduct along with the old Alcázar (castle) ;and already the week started to fly before our eyes. We had gone up the walls of Ávila, prepared paella and visited the lively city of Salamanca where without a doubt students would want to spend a year studying as part of Erasmus if they ever get the chance!

Before we knew it, it was already



Front row (l-r): Ms Ghanem, Cian Burke, Michael O' Shaughnessy, Rory O' Keeffe, Edward O'Neill, Seán Manogue, Richard Phelan, Ms Ahern. Second Row (l-r): Conor Hackett, Conor Fennelly, Jimmy Brennan, Conor Browne, Ben Moylan, Jack Brett, Matt Kenny. Third Row (l-r): Bill Brennan, Niall Brennan, Dillon Dooley, Ronan Lynch, Oisín Gough, Robert Dunne. Back row: Michael Brennan, Seán O'Neill, Cian Costello, Bill O'Neill, Tom O'Keeffe, Edmond Delaney, Vlad Medvensky. Missing from photo: Joe Cashin, Bill Whelan, Evan Carroll, Dylan O'Shea and Alex Milchev.

Friday - the day that nearly everyone had anticipated, that is a trip to the home of Real Madrid (Estadio Santiago Bernabéu). A self-directed tour, students were able to walk around at their own pace, provided of course that they return on time for the bus. The tour consisted of seeing a panoramic view of the stadium, the trophy rooms, the VIP hospitality areas, the pitch, the player's tunnel, the changing rooms, the press room and finally the merchandise in the Real Madrid store at the very end. We returned to Ávila later that evening to spend our

final night with our host families, and in a couple of hours Saturday 22nd February had finally come. After saying our last farewells to our host families we departed Ávila at 7am that day and were heading to the city centre of Madrid where a tour was awaiting on us. That morning we all saw and witnessed the beauty that Madrid had to offer: La Plaza de España, Palacio Real, La Plaza Mayor, La Puerta del Sol, El Oso y el Madroño, Palacio Correos and El Museo del Prado. The city was truly amazing and without a doubt we now know why madrileños say



# English



English Poetry Writing Workshops.

## POETRY WORKSHOP

This year eight students from St Kieran's, along with other students from Coláiste Pobail Osraí and Presentation Secondary School, took part in a poetry workshop given by poet and publisher, Seamus Cashman. The workshop, which had three sessions, was a big success and some great poetry was produced. Some of this poetry will be submitted to "Rhyme Rag", a poetry website for young people run by the Kilkenny Arts Office.

## KCLR SHORT STORY COMPETITION

In April 2013, Mr Cotter's English classes wrote entries for a young people's short story competition run by local radio station, KCLR96FM. The entries had to be a short story of no more than three hundred words. The stories chosen would be produced and broadcast on KCLR96FM, in a special slot. Five students from St Kieran's College were among the winners who had their short stories chosen. Two are in Transition Year; Alan Mooney and Jody Dwyer, and three are past pupils; Jimmy Lynch, Graham English and Stephen Colfer. The stories were recorded with a narrator and voice actors in December 2013. Some students from St Kieran's got the opportunity to be involved in the production and were voice actors. The five

stories; Alan Mooney's "Tied to the Tracks", Jody Dwyer's "The Worst Day of My Life", Jimmy Lynch's "The Oilman's Golden Rule", Graham English's "Only a Butcher" and Stephen Colfer's "Bingo", were broadcast during May 2014 along with the other short stories. The lads all feel very proud and privileged to be broadcast authors.

## POETRY ALOUD

The annual 'Poetry Aloud Day' took place in the College Theatre on October 15th with schools from Kilkenny, Carlow and Wexford taking part. It was a day of fun, happiness and sadness for some. The St Kieran's lads recited two poems, 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening' by Robert Frost and 'Lion King' by Joseph Woods. Special congratulations go to Jamie Reid from St Kieran's who qualified for the All-Ireland semi finals later in the year. Well done to everybody who participated.



Jamie Reid.



Poetry Aloud

'de Madrid al cielo' to every person who visits the city!

That evening we arrived back to Kilkenny at 8pm where our parents had been anxiously waiting for us. Everyone truly loved the experience. As for me it was an amazing experience; one that I will most certainly look back at with fond memories, and even though it happened a couple of months ago, I really miss Spain and wish I was still there!

On the behalf of all the students who went on the trip, I would like to give a sincere thanks to Ms Ahern, Ms Ghanem and Mr Curtis for making such an unforgettable trip possible, and hope that it will be organised for years to come for other students to enjoy!

¡Quisiera agradecer a mis profesores por su paciencia y entusiasmo y sin duda el viaje a Ávila valió la pena!



# Debating 2014

The Concern Debates have been running for over 20 years. Since its inception over 45,000 students have taken part and over 130 schools participate annually. The debates aim to promote a deeper understanding and awareness of global issues. Students also develop excellent skills in research, presentation and debating. St Kieran's College students have been taking part in the Concern debates for they also develop excellent skills in research, presentation and debating. St Kieran's College students have been taking part in the Concern debates for the past number of years.

This year the debating season started with a friendly Transition Year debate against the girls from St Brigid's College Callan. The team consisted of Liam Wallace (Captain), Alan Mooney, Conor Byrne and Daniel Egars. It was a unanimous victory for St Kieran's.

The senior debating season then started with a panel of students from Transition, fifth and sixth year; Liam Wallace, Conor Byrne, Michael Ryan, Edward Moylan, Alex Lalor, Nicholas Dunphy and Benjamin Moylan.

The first debate was against St Brigid's in Callan, with St Kieran's opposing the motion "Foreign Aid is a Luxury Ireland Cannot Afford". After a great debate the St Kieran's team of Benjamin Moylan (Captain), Nicholas Dunphy, Liam Wallace and Alex Lalor were victors on the night.

The next debate was in Room 10 against the Presentation Secondary School, with the motion "Young



Concern Debates (l-r): Back Row; Alan Mooney, Michael Ryan, Patrick Kennedy, Caoloan Ó Chleirigh, Conor Lalor. Front row (l-r): Liam Wallace, Nicholas Dunphy, Alex Lalor, Benjamin Moylan.

People in Ireland are building a better World. The St Kieran's team fought well for young people but the ladies of the Presentation came out winners. Another loss came against Castlecomer where a re-freshened team of Liam Wallace (captain), Michael Ryan, Conor Byrne and Edward Moylan opposed the motion "GM Foods are Essential in the Fight against World Hunger".

The most exciting debate of the year came at the end of January when St Kieran's came up against the CBS. The motion was "Social Media improves our understanding of Major Events". Benjamin Moylan (Captain), Nicholas Dunphy, Alex Lalor, and Liam Wallace argued in favor of the motion and in what a very close debate was the judges had to give CBS the victory considering they still had a chance of progressing further in the competition.

A big thanks has to go to Mr O'Neill



Alex Lalor.

and Mrs Moran who once again led the team and gave great advice to the team members. The team is also grateful to Patrick Kennedy who acted as Timekeeper in all of the debates taking place in St Kieran's. We look forward to a successful year next with new members joining the team.



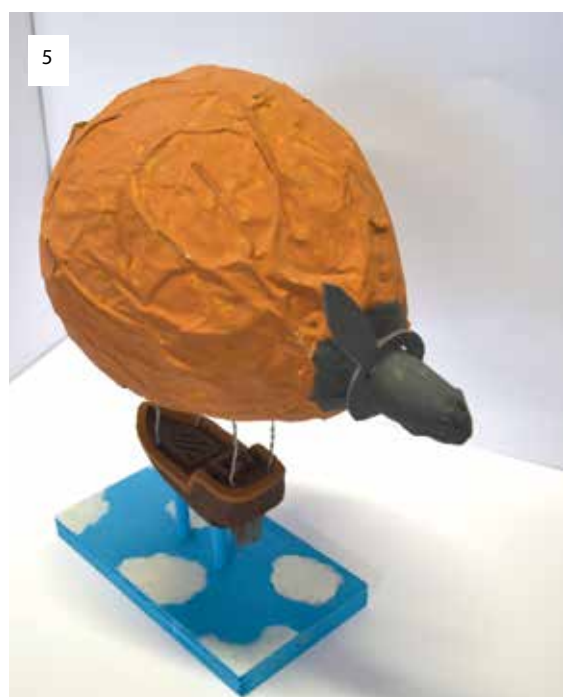




# Art

## St Kieran's

### 2014



- 1 Gary Moore Third Year  
'Wings'
- 2 Donal Brophy Third Year  
'Winner'
- 3 Denis Carrigan Third Year  
'Moving Parts'
- 4 Robert Fitzgerald Third Year  
'The Hand'
- 5 Peter Walsh Third Year  
'Steampunk Airship'
- 6 Conall Whelan Third Year  
'Breaking Wave'



# ALL-IRELAND BUSINESS STUDIES QUIZ WINNERS



## Ciaran Lennon

This year two teams from St Kieran's College participated in the CIMA/BSTAI Business Studies Schools Quiz. One team was selected from Mr Connolly's Business Studies class and it included Eamon Fennelly, Cathal McCauley, Cian Burke and myself. The other team was selected from Mr Fitzgerald's class and it included Jack Manning, David Busher, Peter Mullen and Eoin Minnock.

Firstly we went to WIT for the South-East Finals in November. The questions weren't too hard and our team came first with a score of 67 out of 80. The other team from St Kieran's came third with a score of 53 out of 80. Mr Fitzgerald's class got a prize of €25 iTunes voucher, while we took home the top prize of €75 for iTunes and some Waterford Glass! This was the third year in a row that Mr Connolly's team claimed the South East title. By finishing in the top three on the night both teams qualified for the All-Ireland Finals which eventually took place in the LIT Campus in Thurles.

Irish International rugby player Sean O'Brien was the quizmaster at the All-Irelands in Thurles. The questions included a mixture of Business Studies questions and general knowledge and everybody found the questions difficult. After five rounds there were five teams within two points of each other and our team was joint third, trailing by two points. Our team did well in some rounds in the second half, even getting full marks in two rounds out of five. At the end of the ten rounds there was a tie-breaker between three teams all on 62 points and we were one of them!

It was hotly contested with one team dropping out on the third question. Eventually on question eight we pulled ahead. The question asked: from what language typhoon and bungalow originate, and luckily we guessed Hindu correctly. Unfortunately for our opponents they got it wrong and we won! The prize was an iPad mini which was presented by Sean O'Brien and we were certainly thrilled with them. Unfortunately for the other team from St Kieran's they came 15th out of 24, but it was a great day for all! Thanks to Mr Connolly and Mr FitzGerald for all their help during the year. It was great to bring yet another All-Ireland title to the school this year.



Business Quiz Winners - South East BSTAI-CIMA Quiz.



Business Studies - All-Ireland Quiz Winners - Cian Burke, Eamonn Fennelly, Cathal McCauley and Ciaran Lennon with Mr Niall Connolly.



WIT/BSTAI Awards: Back row (l-r): Mr Niall Connolly, Thomas Maher, Paddy Ryan, James Mullally, Diarmuid Minnock, Edward Moylan, Ronan O'Connor, Conor Purcell, Jack Condron, Thomas Allen, Robert Kerwick, Gavin Doheny, Eamonn Egan, Peter Lynch, Mr Paul Fitzgerald. Front row (l-r): Liam Wallace, Brandon Rochford Freaney, WIT Representative, Michael Ryan, Victor Costello, Killian Fitzpatrick, Stephen Carolan, Christopher Keane, Robert Freeman.

## BSTAI/WIT Business Studies Awards - October 2013

Twenty-one students from St Kieran's College attended the BSTAI/WIT Awards ceremony in Waterford Institute of Technology on Tuesday Oct 8th. This is an annual event held to recognise the achievement of all students from the South East who achieved As in their Junior Cert Business exam. There was over 300 students from 50 schools at the event of which the St Kieran's College group was the largest. Congratulations to all of the students involved and to Mr Connolly and Mr FitzGerald on this excellent achievement.



## CSPE

Our CSPE action project for the Junior cert was based the KSPCA which was founded in 1882 in Kilkenny. The aim of the KSPCA is to prevent cruelty towards animals. As with all animal welfare groups there's constant demand for spaces, but the KSPCA, in conjunction with the Garda, deals with a larger amount of cruelty prosecution cases than other organisations. The KSPCA is staffed by volunteers and relies entirely on donations for funding. The KSPCA raises an average 30,000 Euros a year. The KSPCA is a non-profit animal rescue and welfare organisation.

The centre is designed to provide veterinary care and rehabilitation to animals that have been subjected to cruelty or neglect. The national animal centre is truly a centre for all animals and is currently capable of holding up to fifty canines, fifty felines and fifty equines. In winter more cattle, horses and sheep are neglected where as dogs and cats are mostly likely to be abandoned around April. Halloween is where people let off lots of fireworks which animals hate the noise so go mad. The dogs, cats and horses are a monthly problem; the most unusual animal was a snake. Animals have to have proper food, suitable bedding and have to be kept clean. The penalties are that if someone neglects an animal are bans from owning animals, prison sentences and large fines. Most of these penalties are not strong enough for certain crimes. When the KSPCA thinks someone is neglecting an animal they have surveillance on the area and speak to the neighbours and the guards before they go to the actual house.

### Trip to the OCO, David Griffin

We visited the Ombudsman for Children's Office as part of our CSPE action project. We took a bus up to Dublin and made our way to the office.



The building was unlike anything we expected. It was modern and colourful, with a beanbag seating area and advanced recording stations that utilised Mac computers and Blue Snowball microphones that would be left untouched for the moment. We were introduced to our guides for the day and they led us into a room that resembled a movie theatre, with a projector at the back of the room and comfortable seating. Our guide gave us an informative presentation that covered everything from the Ombudsman for Children Emily Logan's life to what the OCO does. We had already prepared questions to ask concerning the OCO and it was at this point that the guides provided us with some answers. We learned a lot about things such as what the word 'ombudsman' means, what powers the OCO has, who appointed the Ombudsman for Children in Ireland and discussed whether the government does enough to help children with problems or not.

Afterwards we were allowed to practise our speeches that we had prepared using the computers and microphones. We were separated into groups and each group was called in individually to record their pieces. Some had prepared interesting points and our guides seemed impressed with our efforts. After everyone had had their speeches recorded, we presented our guides with a box of chocolates and a card as a thank you gift. To end the day we went back into the cinema room and viewed a short film that

showed off the work of the OCO. The movie told the story of Mark, a 13 year old boy who suffers with progressive disability, and how he was helped by the OCO when the government refused to care for his condition. It gave everyone a great insight into the wonderful work done by the OCO.

We were all hungry by this point so we went to a nearby Burger King and ate before boarding the bus and heading back to the school after a thoroughly enjoyable day.

### 2A2

As part of our CSPE action project our class, 2A2 had a guest speaker from a solicitor. Kate Hedigan was the solicitor's name. She has her own company called Law Ed and that she goes to schools teaching kids about the law and courts. She told us lots of interesting facts such as that the fine for illegal download could be up to €20,000 per song!!! She also told us that it could take a year and a half for a case to come to court. Kate explained to us the difference told us the difference between theft, burglary, and robbery. She told us there were only fourteen prisons in Ireland and she's been to all of them. She told us that women's prisons have ensembles and showers and toilets and are different from men's. They have many ways to get drugs into the prisons and that it's a big problem in Irish prisons. There is a lot of paperwork being a solicitor and she told us that was one of the most frustrating things about her job.



# Music Department News 2013-2014

A large number of First Year students auditioned for our Junior Choir in September. The successful candidates joined the Second Year choir members to take part in many different events throughout the year such as our evening Carol Service in the College Chapel, carol singing for Kilkenny Alzheimer's Association at the Town Hall, the Kilkenny Music Festival, the St Kieran's day celebrations in St Mary's Cathedral and the annual school Award's Night in the Watergate Theatre.

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.

Jazz Band with Eamon Cahill has again been a success this year and students and staff alike are very grateful to Eamon for his unwavering dedication and commitment to his instrumental students and ensemble.

The Senior Choir increased in numbers again this year and was very busy rehearsing up to three times a week at lunchtimes and after school in preparation for a variety of events including the Beginning of Year Masses, Carols in the Chapel at Christmas, carol singing at the Town Hall for Kilkenny Alzheimer's Association, the Kilkenny Music Festival, the St Kieran's Day celebrations, Leaving Cert Graduation and the annual Award's Night in the Watergate Theatre.

Fifth and Sixth Year music students travelled to the National Concert Hall in Dublin for a performance and analysis of Symphonie Fantastique by Hector Berlioz in February. This was a wonderful experience as students had the opportunity to see and hear one of their Leaving Cert set works performed live by the National Symphony Orchestra.

Junior and Senior Choirs braved the elements in December for a day of Carol Singing at the Town Hall in aid of Kilkenny Alzheimer's Association. This was our second year collecting for this worthy cause, and with the help of a team of TY collectors the choirs have managed to raise in excess of €2,500 over the 2 years. This really enjoyable



**Junior Choir** Back row (l-r): Dan Blanchfield, Tom Kennedy, Conor Dermody, Erick Oyat, John Dillon, Evan Doyle. Third Row (L-R): Glen Gormley, Eoin Brennan, James English, Gavyn Blanchfield, Nathan Connolly. Second Row (L-R): Joey Walsh, Daniel Cotter, Joe Breen, Blaise Wall, Jason Egars, Cameron Mullan, Aisling Phelan (conductor). Front Row (L-R): Ross Ellis, Cian Russell, Seán Richardson, Michael Prendergast, Bailey Byrne, Matthew Comerford, Adam Byrne, Michael Burke.



**Senior Choir** Back Row (l-r): Ian Martin, Patrick Kennedy, Alex Milchev, Alan Mooney, Conor Lalor, James Nugent, Daniel Harty. Middle Row (L-R): Ciarán Fennelly, Ryan Poyntz, Jack Byrne, Ben Moylan, Kieran Lucey, Cormac Lehnen, Alex Lalor. Front Row (L-R): Paul Farrell, Conor Phelan, Joe Cashin, Conor Archbold, Ben Whelan, Aisling Phelan (conductor).



Jazz Band

day was made all the more special for everyone involved knowing that this money was going to a very worthwhile local cause. Well done to all.

The relationship between St Kieran's College and Kilkenny Alzheimer's Association continued to strengthen this year as two of our Transition Year students spent time singing and performing in the Day Centre. Music is extremely beneficial to people who suffer from alzheimers

and the talent, time and effort of Jack McHugh and James Nugent were very much appreciated by all at the Kilkenny Day Centre.

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 very tough category and received positive feedback from the adjudicator for their 2-part rendition of "Over the Rainbow".

The Senior Choir were Very Highly Commended in the Ann P. Smithwick Cup for a strong performance of "Lean on Me" and again received very positive feedback. Both choirs have worked exceptionally hard all year and deserve high praise for their commitment and progress.

St Kieran's students achieved great success overall in this year's Kilkenny Music Festival:

- Eddie Gray Memorial Cup - Senior Choir, Very Highly Commended.
- AIB Cup (Junior Brass) - 1st Eoghan Moylan, 2nd Year; 3rd Mark Nolan, 2nd Year.
- Tom Manning Cup (Junior Saxophone) - 1st Tommy Farrell, 1st Year.
- Teresa Ann Murphy Memorial Cup (Voice) - 1st Ciaran Fennelly, 6th Year; 2nd Ally Rafter, 6th Year.
- Gregg Flannery Memorial Cup (U17 Clarinet) - 2nd Niall Brennan, TY.

Hearty congratulations to Sixth year Ciarán Fennelly who was awarded the overall Kilkenny Music Festival Award for Individual Performance at the Gala Concert in the Watergate Theatre.

A group of our traditional musicians proved very popular during Seachtain na Gaeilge as they performed a number of tunes for First and Second Year music classes. This was a fantastic opportunity for the music students to experience a live performance of traditional instruments such as the uilleann pipes, traditional flute, button accordion and mandolin, and also to hear the different dance types that were studied in class. Many thanks to musicians Darragh O'Connor, Liam Costello, Nicholas Dunphy, Jack McHugh and Conor Archbold.

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, voice, piano, clarinet, trumpet, tenor horn and violin. Well done to all.

Many thanks to our two choir accompanists this year – Patrick Kennedy (TY) and Ciarán Fennelly (Sixth Year) - for their tireless work with soloists and choirs throughout the year.



### Background

The reason behind running this disco was to raise funds for a cause that means a lot to me and the lads. Our classmate Evan Swan was diagnosed with cancer in January of 2013 and in his recovery spent a lot of time in the Ronald McDonald House in Crumlin while waiting to move into the main hospital for treatment.

The mission of RMHC, Ireland, is to provide a Ronald McDonald House in order to support families whose children are seriously ill in hospital.

The Ronald McDonald House provides accommodation and a caring and supportive environment for families whose children are seriously ill and are hospitalised or undergoing medical treatment at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin 12. In October of last year classmates Danny Egars, Eamon Forristal, Joe Sinnott, Greg Morrissey, Chris Keane and Danny Kehoe came up with the idea of running a disco for Kilkenny teens to raise much needed funds for this charity organisation that relies on donations to run.

### The Event

After a lot of organising and some help from the No Name Club Kilkenny the disco went ahead on the 17th January in The Hub. At first we hoped for roughly 500 people but we were blown away by an attendance of over 1000 people. After costs we were delighted to learn that we made €7,200, €1,000 of which went to the Aislinn centre, presented to them by a Loreto group who helped us on the night. The remainder of the money was donated to the Ronald McDonald House for which they were hugely grateful.

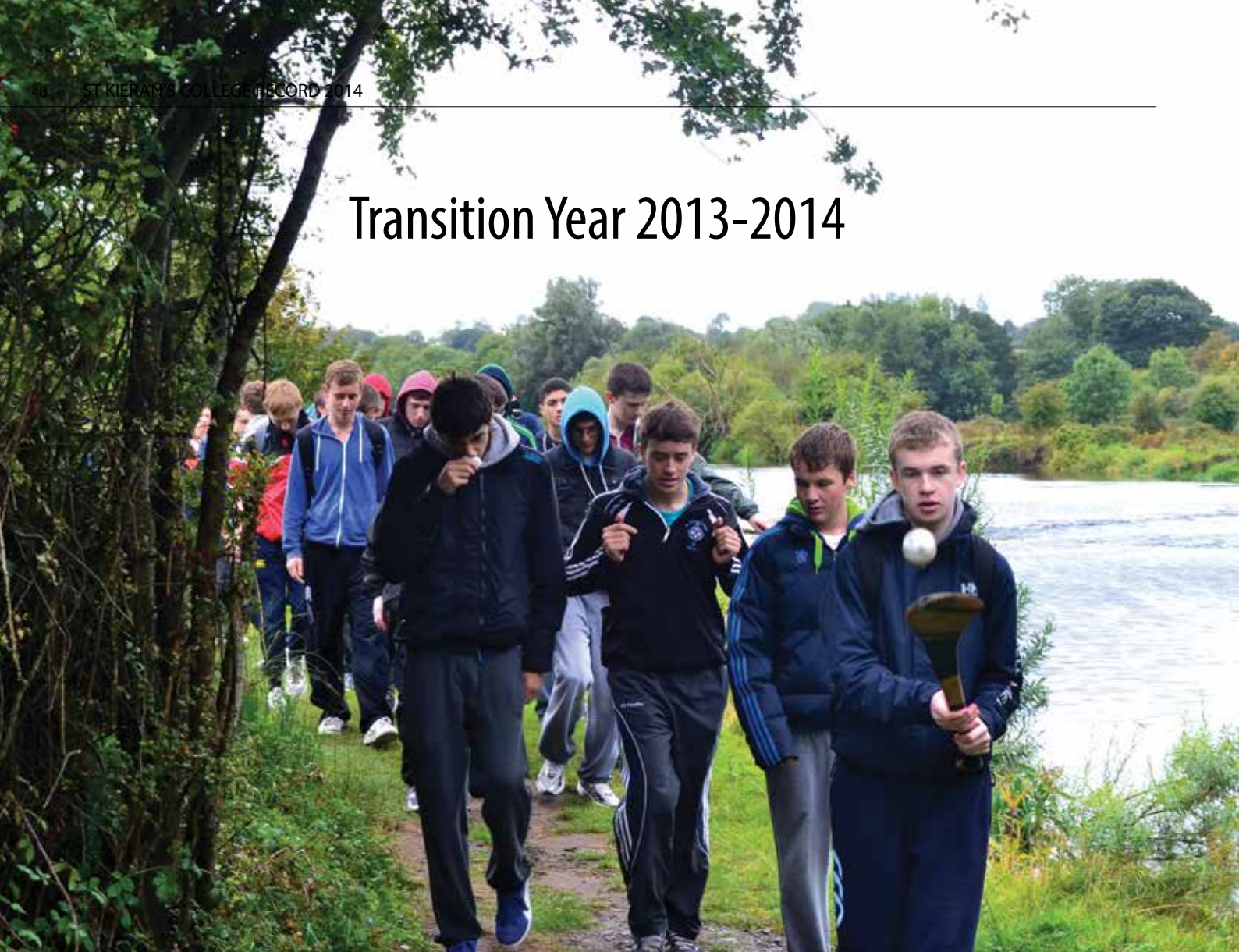
### Effects

We later learned from Evan that the money we raised was put towards the new play room for the kids to enjoy during their stay at the House and hopefully make their stay a small bit easier. We were also given the chance to attend the YSI speak out in Kilkenny where we got great feedback from our presentation to the judges, we also attended the YSI Annual Showcase in Citywest Hotel in May. Finally, we competed in the Young Entrepreneur Awards where we won a Social Enterprise award. However, it was knowing that the money would make a difference in a sick child's life was the greatest thing we got out of the running of the disco.





# Transition Year 2013-2014



## Michael Ryan

My name is Michael Ryan and I was commissioned by TY Co-Ordinator Mr O'Neill at the start of the academic year to become the Transition Year editor with a primary responsibility of reporting on Transition Year activities along with a host of other sporting and extra-curricular events – a post which I was greatly honoured to accept. The aim of this section is to give those who are not familiar with Transition Year a flavour of what it is like and also to reminisce on what a great year it was with the many activities and opportunities that were presented to us as students.

Transition Year is a school year like no other. It offers many opportunities away from the highly structured environment of the class room to develop maturity and develop a sense of independent decision making. The year bonds classes together as a whole and presents a well-deserved break from the stresses that exams bring.

Being the Transition Year editor

enabled me to witness a wide variety of events that I would usually never be in a position to attend and allowed me to leave my mark on the year as a whole on behalf of the year. For this I am extremely grateful to the Transition Year co-ordinator Mr O'Neill.

## Soar Workshop

On the 14th of January TY students enjoyed a very special day in the College Theatre. A group known as 'SOAR' came to St Kieran's and gave a workshop all about building our self-esteem, emotional intelligence and positive body image. 'SOAR' is a for benefit foundation and believes that every young person should have the opportunity to fulfill their potential and have the self-belief to discover and follow their dream.

The organisation was set up by Tony Griffin and Karl Swan, who were inspired by Jim Stynes, an Irish born Australian Rules footballer who set up the Reach foundation for teenagers in Australia before his untimely death from cancer. Tony, himself a former

Clare All-Star and Karl, a successful businessman, guided us through three different sessions, each concentrating on different aspects of discontent in our lives. The workshops highlighted that we all have the credentials to fulfil our potential and that we can 'dare to dream'.

The talk was completely different from anything we had ever done before because we were invited to interact with the speakers and learn from and about each other in a way that we never would have in a normal situation. At the end of the talk we all stood around in a circle and took turns suggesting ways our year could improve as a group. It taught us to just be ourselves and live to our potential. It was one of the more enjoyable experiences of the year and we would wholeheartedly recommend 'SOAR' to all young people in schools today.

## Sean Byrne Memorial Mile

On Wednesday March 5th all Transition Year students made their way to the Watershed track where





we met Kilkenny City Harriers trainer Sean Lynch for the annual inter school mile competition amongst Kilkenny schools. The winning school is decided based on the aggregate times of the top six runners from each school. For some the aim was to complete the event while others were aiming for specific times. Cormac Buggy won the St Kieran's event while St Kieran's were also victorious in the inter schools competition. Many thanks to Mr O'Keefe, Mr Hogan and Sean Lynch of Kilkenny City Harriers for organising this entertaining competition.



### **Sliabh na mBan Climb**

One of the first events of our Transition Year was the arduous trek up the Sliabh na mBan mountain. The 721 meter undulating climb in tempestuous weather conditions was made all the more compelling when it was announced that there was a prize for the first student to reach the summit. Unfortunately, due to the weather conditions no spectacular views could be seen from the top but everyone was more than relieved when the strenuous ascent was completed. On our return journey we took a detour through Ahenny to see the historic high crosses of Ahenny. This was a welcomed addition to what was a thoroughly enjoyable day out.



### **Road Safety Seminars and Quiz**

With many Transition Year students almost reaching the beginning of their driving careers the serious topic of road safety was conveyed to us throughout the year. A road safety presentation by car safety expert Michael Gleeson was the first of such events. Each class got their chance to go out to the small trailer attached to the back of his jeep in the school car park. The remains of a crashed car were presented to us inside the trailer and this truly embedded in our minds the impact carelessness on the road can have. Michael gave us a gruesome step by step account of how accidents happen and highlighted how vulnerable we are as road users.





He instructed on aspects such as how a seat belt is to be worn properly and highlighted the importance items such as air bags and head rests in the car.

A similar presentation was also held in the Watergate Theatre later on in the year in conjunction with the Kilkenny Local Authorities and an Garda Síochána. Guest of honour, Kilkenny Senior hurling manager Brian Cody, delivered a passionate speech along with members of the Kilkenny County Council all pleading for us to exercise safety and caution on the roads. The Gardaí told us some fatal car crash stories that they had witnessed first hand and illustrated the catastrophic effects that road accidents have on families. They also showed raw footage of crashes which really "struck a chord" with all present and will no doubt ensure that we will all be that more vigilant on the roads in the future.

The final road safety event of the year was the inter-schools road safety quiz which was also organised by an Garda Síochána and Kilkenny Local Authorities. St Kieran's entered four teams into this event. Those who had completed their driving theory tests had a major advantage as all questions originated from the RSA Rules of the Road book. Competition wise, the first St Kieran's team finished just outside of the top three but everyone was a winner on the day as we continued to expand our knowledge of safety on the roads.

### Transition Year Work Experience

Work experience is a major part of Transition Year in St Kieran's and enables students to gauge what life will be like after we finish our education. Four weeks were allocated during the school year to work experience and all students had the responsibility to organise a placement for themselves. This in particular was of great benefit to us as it enhanced our confidence and communication skills. Students went to places such as primary schools, pharmacies and local book shops and some were lucky enough to venture to places like the army at the Curragh or major hospitals in Dublin. All students were required to keep a diary of their work experience and make a presentation on their placement when they arrived back in school. On behalf of all transition years I would like to thank Mr Connolly who was of great

help to us organising our placements and dealing with any problems or difficulties that we faced.

### PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

A small number of TY and agricultural science students accompanied by Mr Darmody made the trip to Ratheniska in Laois for the annual Ploughing championships. All students had the freedom to meander through in excess of 1,000 stalls, checking out the latest gadgets and equipment, watching presentations and meeting famous faces. There were endless things to do and see. A very enjoyable day was had by all.

### River walk to Bennetsbridge

In September, all Transition Year students undertook a lengthy 22km walk out and back to Bennetsbridge along the picturesque Nore Valley river walk. The aim of the trek was not only to complete the distance but also to bond the year as a whole for the year ahead. Though the weather conditions were quiet horrendous an entertaining outing was had by all. Needless to say however, we were more than delighted to see the sight of St Kieran's after six hours of walking!

### Gaisce

The President's Award or Gaisce is a personal achievement award that was organised by the late Patrick Hilary during his term in office. The award is open to people between the ages of fifteen and twenty five. People attempting to achieve the award must complete four challenges over the course of the year. These are community work, a new physical activity, learning a new skill and participating in an adventure.

The adventure is arguably the most enjoyable of the four challenges and involves an over night stay. Usually long hikes or cycles are organised but this year it was decided that we would row in excess of twenty kilometres along the river Barrow. On Friday morning May 9th, forty students boarded a bus a headed to Leighlinbridge. There we met representative from 'Go with the Flow', an adventure company that specialises on kayaking and canoeing on the river Barrow. They supplied us with the necessary equipment for our trip down the river to St Mullin's.



Our trip was broken up when we stopped in Goresbridge to have our lunch. One of the rules in the Gaisce adventure trip is that people must make their own food. Some also decided to cool off during their lunch with a brisk swim in the river.

The highlight of our trip on the river was no doubt shooting the rapids. It proved to a major challenge to stay in the boat during these stages and to navigate through the rocks. Many students were unlucky and fell into the river at this stage. This added greatly to the enjoyment of the trip.

Many thanks to Ms Hanrick and Mr Ruth who worked tirelessly during their free time organising the trip and ensuring that all our needs such as accommodation and food were satisfied. The Gaisce was a great experience and a highly regarded achievement on things such as a CV.

I would encourage all future Transition Years to participate in this programme.





### Tag Rugby Day

The annual tag rugby day which is organised by St Kieran's and also involves the Loreto, Presentation and Callan Secondary School, acts as a fundraiser for the St Kieran's students who travel as pilgrims to Lourdes. It is always one of the highlights of the year and this year was no different with in excess of 300 transition year students assembling on the grounds of Kilkenny Rugby Club. When we arrived, we were assigned into our teams and introduced to the rules of tag rugby. Teams usually consisted of six boys and six girls and they all contested in four round-robin matches. Teams that won all their matches progressed onto the prestigious cup competition while the losing teams played in the plate and shield competitions. An hour's break at one o'clock presented all the students a much needed rest and a







chance for the boys to showcase their kicking skills amid a female audience. All matches were hotly contested but this did not deter from the great enjoyment that was being had by all. The day was yet another resounding success and raised much needed funds for the Lourdes fund. We would like to thank everyone who organised the day including Mr Fitzgerald, Mr Flood, Mr O'Neill, all the teachers from other schools and of course Kilkenny Rugby Club for the use of their outstanding facilities.



### Trip to Dundrum

On the final school day before the Christmas holidays, all transition years made the trip to Dundrum Shopping Centre on the suburbs of Dublin to sample the festive spirit and avail of the chance to partake in some Christmas shopping. The atmosphere on the bus was great with everybody on holiday high, and we

were already exhausted by the time we got to Dublin. Having arrived at 11, students meandered their way through the vast amount of shops and also managed to get a bite to eat. After an exhausting few hours, we filled the buses at around three o'clock and travelled home to Kilkenny. This







was a truly fantastic outing that was enjoyed by all.

### Lourdes

Every year, ten students from TY are chosen to travel as pilgrims on the annual pilgrimage of the Diocese of Ossory to Lourdes. They, along with students from other schools, go out to the region in the south of France as volunteers to primarily help pilgrims who are less fortunate than themselves. Firstly, the students interested filled out a questionnaire focusing on reasons why they should be chosen and the skills and talents that they could bring to the trip. The majority of students were chosen through an interview process. After the ten students were chosen, fundraising began in earnest by carry through events such as cake sales, raffles and bag packing. The pilgrimage will take place from May 22nd to May 27th and the boys will predominantly be pushing wheelchairs, helping in the hospitals and entertaining other pilgrims.

### Collecting for Charities

Throughout the year, Transition Year students went downtown collecting for charities such as Enable Ireland, IWA AND the Irish Heart Foundation. This is one of the major positives of Transition year as it enabled us to give something back to our communities

and also highlighted that TY is not all about going on trips, participating in various programmes and enjoying ourselves.

### Rape Crisis Talks

On separate afternoons for all the different TY classes, a presentation was made by two women from the Kilkenny Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre. These women described their work and the various cases that they encounter on a day to day basis. They also presented to us the legal aspect associated with this issue and how serious it is. We were then given a few scenarios and asked what we would do in the particular situations. This was a very interesting discussion and we would like to thank the two women for giving us this thought provoking talk.

### Cinema

At two o'clock on Tuesday November 29th all of the TY students headed down to the cinema as a break from the rigours of classes. There were a host of films on offer but it was decided that we would watch the latest movie "Gravity". It was a very relaxing afternoon, on which was enjoyed very much by all.

### Science Trip to Waterford

To celebrate science week in November, all Transition Year students ventured to Waterford Crystal and WIT. The morning was spent in Waterford Crystal and involved watching things such as the cutting, moulding, blowing and sculpting of glass. It was interesting to see how the glass was processed from start to finish and how the end product was produced. The afternoon was spent at a highly interesting and interactive science show in the auditorium of WIT. We were presented with a number of abstract ideas and series of compelling experiments were carried out. This was a particularly nice day out and it was interesting to see

the things that we had learned in class, applied outside the classroom.

### Wednesday Afternoon Activities

The Wednesday afternoon activities are a customary part of Transition Year in St Kieran's and predominantly involve learning new skills and participating in activities. This year, all students were offered the chance to learn Chinese which is becoming an increasingly valuable asset to have in today's world. Chinese classes were held on Wednesday afternoons. Other valuable skills such as cooking, life saving and core exercises were partaken in on Wednesday afternoons and all proved to be extremely entertaining.

### Table Quiz in Loreto

On Tuesday May 15th a quiz was organised between Loreto, CBS and ourselves.

### Charity

On Friday 17th January, a disco was held in The Hub, Cillin Hill, for the young people of Kilkenny. This event was organised by a number of Transition Year students in St Kieran's College, who wanted to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House, which provides accommodation for families who have seriously ill children in Crumlin Hospital. Families can stay for a few days, several weeks or even months. The houses provide a great support to families to be close to their child when their child is sick. This fundraiser was close to the hearts of these Transition Year students as a classmate and close friend of theirs is currently recovering from cancer.

The lads organised the whole event in co-operation with Shane Doyle of the No-Name Club. The night was a great success with €6,200 raised for Ronald McDonald House and a further €1,000 raised for the Aislinn centre. Well done lads.



Transition Year students from St Kieran's College who organised the fundraiser in Cillin Hill (l-r): Joe Sinnott, Chris Keane, Eamon Forristal, Danny Kehoe, Greg Morrissey, Danny Egars.



# First Year Class Photos



Back row (l-r): Ethan Kerwick, Harry Kealy, Martin O'Connell, Eric Kearney, Conor Foley, Killian Egan, Jason Kelly. Third row (l-r): Sean Burke, Darragh O'Keeffe, Tim Corkery, Liam Fennelly, Cameron Taylor-Mullan, Daire O'Neill. Second row (l-r): John Doyle, Jack Callan-Roche, Eoin DeBuitlear, Aaron Brennan, Eddie Dunne, Luke Phelan, Harry Kavanagh. Front row (l-r): Barry Lennon, Thomas Rice, Paul Hayes, Shane Walsh, Simon O'Dwyer, Eoin O'Connor, Tom Bolger.



Back row (l-r): Conor Byrne, Tom Kennedy, Danny Coyne, Jacob Vuchieri. Third row (l-r): Jamie Young, Sean Ware, Eamonn Mahon, Darragh Cprcoran, David Blanchfield, James Dowling, Padraig Holohan. Second row (l-r): Jim Keogh, Tom O'Dwyer, Jack Carrigan, Finn Lanigan, Dylan Crehan, Syzmon Lucaziak, Alex Duggan. Front row (l-r): Luke Gannon, James Kearney, Dylan Carey, Evan MacDonald, David Rainey, Tommy Farrell, Michael Prendergast, Edward Ilban.





Back row (l-r): Conor Darmody, Gary Anderson, Conor Hoban, Krystian Pawloski, Adam O'Brien, Barry Lennon. Third row (l-r): James English, Alex Moore, Adam Fitzpatrick, George Murphy, Padraic O'Neill, Sean Keyes. Second row (l-r): Ben Powell, Mark Twomney, Eoin Walsh, Bob Cody, Gavyn Blanchfield, Glen Gormley, Sean O'Neill, Jamie Reid. Front row (l-r): Cathal Jordan, Brian Kearney, John Shorthall, Ross Ellis, Jack Kehoe, Jack Kenny, Padraig Robinson, Jody Frayne.



Back row (l-r): Ruari Breen, Eoin Cody, Alex McCluskey, Paul Cody, Dillon Wall, Shaun Comerford Liston, Kryzstof Gruca. Third row (l-r): Aaron O'Brien, Conor Doyle, James Kelly Trant, Sean Comerford, Jake Bourke, Jack Brennan. Second row (l-r): Ciaran Shorthall, Michael O'Keeffe, Troy Walsh, Aaron Varley, Shane Smith, Michael Comerford, Phillip Hayde. Front row (l-r): Cathal Ryan, Alan Thompson, Sean O'Connell, Jamie Slattery, Paraic Barragry, Adam Byrne, Aeden Moylan, Jordan Grant.



## Second Year Class Photos



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



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





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



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



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



# Third Year Class Photos



Back row (l-r): Daniel Young, Jack Manning, Kevin Kehoe, Kieran Conway, Killian Teh Bohmer, Damien Skrzypek. Third row (l-r): Andrew Parsons, Ciarán Dalton, Patrick Parle, Eric Mahon, Peter Mullan, Tommy Walton, Eoghan Twomey. Second row (l-r): Eamon Fennelly, Peter Walsh, David Busher, Dean Gleeson, Jack Crehan, Naimul Hossain. Front row (l-r): Conall Whelan, John Farrell, Shane Dawson, Padraig Healy, Jack Tynan, Tom Lawlor.



Back row: (l-r): Callum Malone, Jack Connolly, Dara Keane, Barry Cleere, Ciarán Doyle, Robbie Kirwan. Third row (l-r): Conor Hackett, Conor Dyson, Rory Lodge, Bill Cuddihy, Tom Comerford, Michael Larkin. Second row (l-r): Peter Lyster, Dylan Smithwick, Luke Fitzpatrick, Evaldas Gerulaitis, Patrick Bolger, John Burns. Front row (l-r): Evan Walsh, Simon Cullen, Ben Lawlor, Leroy Slattery, Jack Beale, Cian Burke, Eoin Minnock, Shane Donohue.





Back row (l-r): Aironas Miliauskas, Liam Rafter, Colum Prenderville, Adam Grogan. Fourth row (l-r): John Dooley, Brian O'Hanrahan, Jason Maher, Noel Leahy, George Murphy. Third row (l-r): Ciarán Lennon, Gary Moore, Eoin Rudkins, Martin Keoghan, Kevin Fennelly. Second row (l-r): Gavin Delaney, James Tennysen, Patrick Lawry, Michael Carey, Even Shefflin. Front row (l-r): Lorcan Whelan, Kieran Neville, Kevin Murphy, Damien Smialek, Enda Kennelly, Andy Walsh.



Back row (l-r): Robert Fitzgerald, Denis Carrigan, Fintan Fleming, Dylan Alyward, Jack Smith, Cathal McAuley, Callum O'Dwyer. Third row (l-r): Adam Flynn, Finnán Phelan, Donal Brophy, James Bergin, Kevin McQuillan, Pádraigh Lennon. Second row (l-r): David McNerney, Adrian Mullen, Leon Duffy, Padraig Buggy, Brandon Maloney, Ian Clifford, Brian Hennessy. Front row (l-r): Leon Butler, Eamon McPhilips, Sean Walsh, Michael Rafter, Jim Nugent, Luke Frayne, Alex Johnston.



# Transition Year Class Photos



Back row (l-r): Tadhg o dywer, Christopher Keane, Marc Leahy, David Kelly, Peter Scarrif-Lawlor. Third row (l-r): Evan Swan, Eamon Byrne, Shane Byrne, Eamon Forristal, Daniel Kehoe, Eamon Egan. Second row (l-r): Brian O'Neill, Daniel Egars, Joe Sinnott, Gregory Morrissey, Niall Holligan. Front row (l-r): Patrick Doyle, Danny Fahy, Sean Hennessey, Victor Costello, Nathan Donohoe.



Back row (l-r): Tommy Walsh, Conor Purcell, Ed Moylan, Tom Murphy, Joseph Connolly, Cormac Buggy. Third row (l-r): Jack Condren, Evan Tully, Ronan o Connor, Tom Phelan, Kevin O'Sullivan, Dion Bourke. Second row (l-r): Paddy Gannon, Conor Byrne, Owen Kelly, Timothy Howes, Tom Maher, Evan Carrol. Front row (l-r): Eric Whelan, Shane O'Shaughnessy, John Gillman, Bill Whelan, Abban Bohanna, Nicholas Kelly, Darragh Phelan.





Back row (l-r): Aidan Nolan, John Hession, Tyler Lennon, Liam Walsh. Third row (l-r): William Spencer, Pierce James Dalton, Michael Harrold, Conor O'Neill. Second row (l-r): Matthew Stefanski, Briana Power, Padraig Roberts, Gareth Grahem, Thomas Dorney. Front row (l-r): Matthew Powell, Conor Rafter, Dylan Dunphy-Wallace, Stephen Carolan, Robert Freeman, Tommy Byrne.



Back row (l-r): Joe Cuddihy, Cian Drennan, James Mullally, Michael Cody, Ben Lawlor, Shane Stapelton. Third row (l-r): Luke Gannon, Oisín Gough, Edmond Delaney, Robert o Dywer, Liam Wallace, Sean Carey, Jack McHugh. Second row (l-r): David Dunne, Robert Kerwick, Hugh Corkery, Noah Canty, Niall Delaney, Cormac Lennon, James Drea, Richie Stapleton. Front row (l-r): Kevin Shaughnessy, Maurice Walsh, Ciaran Brown, Diarmuid Minnock, Gavin Doheny, Adam McIlroy, Robbie Power, Dylan Collins.



# Fifth Year Class Photos



Back row (l-r): Ray Lahart, Ben Conroy, Sean Comerford, Darby Fwamba. Third row (l-r): Sean Morrissey, Daniel O'Connor, Alan Harrison, Declan McCarthy, Tom O'Keeffe, Jack Keoghan. Second row (l-r): Eamonn Hennessy, Jason Byrne, David Shivgulam, Jimmy Brennan, Shane Joyce, Jonathan Barron. Front row (l-r): Billy Ryan, Daniel Harty, Mark Dowling, Jack Brett, Marco Perrozzi, Sean Lynch.



Back row (l-r): David Shore, Ronan Tynan, Eoin Walsh, Sean Farrell. Liam Blanchfield, Robert O'Flynn. Third row (l-r): John O'Meara, Neil Grogan, Richard Keoghan, Jake McDonald, Jack Kavanagh, Conor Aylward, Darragh O'Connor. Second row (l-r): Alex Lalor, Robbie Donnelly, James Campion, Philip Dreeling, Conor Browne, Jack Teehan, Darren Mullen, Niall Walsh. Front row (l-r): Richie Leahy, Kevin Murphy, Colin Corrway, Dylan O'Shea, Kevin Brennan, Ben Hickey, Cathal Phelan.





Back row (l-r): Vladyslav Medvensky, Nathanael MacDonald, Greg Aylward, Diarmuid O'Brien, Harry Bruton. Third row (l-r): Dillon Dooley, Eoin Holligan, Aaron Casey, Niall Brennan, Bill O'Neill, Sean Cuddihy. Second row (l-r): Jake Murray, Lyndon Brannigan, Mark Ryan, Noel Whelan, Robert Dunne, Shane Maher. Front row (l-r): Fintan O'Sullivan, Jack Larkin, Ronan Lynch, Michael Cotter, Alan Hayes.



Back row (l-r): Padraic Dunphy, Gary Tynan, Donagh Mahon, James Lahart, Alexander Milchev, Sean Brennan. Third row (l-r): Tom Cuddihy, Liam Costello, Sean O'Neill, Conor Fennelly, Brian Busher. Second row (l-r): Wade Porteus, Micheál Shiel, Luke Dowling, Peter O'Sullivan, Garry Kehoe, John Fitzpatrick. Front row (l-r): Bill Brennan, Jason Cleere, Shane O'Gorman, Shane Howe-Tyrell, Arron Healy, Jason Barcoe. Missing from photos: Patrick Gallagher, Rocco Pesce, David Jordan, Dean Malone, Caolan O'Chleirigh, Terry O'Neill, Gavin Costigan, Cian Costello, Eoin Delaney, Mark Doyle, Eoghan Kearney, Shane Keoghan, Conor Phelan, David Ryan, Brian Slattery, Richard Teehan, Patrick Clifford, Donovan Ashcraft, Caine Curran.



## Sixth Year Class Photos



Back row (l-r): Stephen Farrell, Eoin Gough, Vincent Teehan, Cathal Dermody. Third row (l-r): Michael Brennan, Conor Lowe, Greg Tennyson, Conor O'Carroll, Cian Smith. Second row (l-r): William Bergin, Jack Byrne, Kieran Freeman, Alexander Rafter, Ben Moylan. Front row (l-r): Conor Murphy, Paul White, Sean Sinnott, Shane O'Brien, Robbie Hennessy.



Back row (l-r): Kevin Blanchfield, Brendan Hyland, Ben Leydon, Billy Hanlon, Luke O'Connor. Second row (l-r): Darragh Hennessy, Ger Dunne, Peter Pendergast, Brian Cody, Michael McDonald. Front Row: James Mullan, Shane Walsh, Bill Carrigan, James Tynan, Patrick Reade





Back row (l-r): Brendan Cullen, Conor Brennan, Dean Byrne, Joe Mullan. Third row (l-r): Phillip Cooney, Shane Leahy, Dion Guilfoyle, Conor Comerford, Kacper Pawlowski. Second row (l-r): Brian O Carroll, Kieran Condon, Lorcan Quinn O Loughlin, Seamus McGrath, Karolis Mitrikas. Front row (l-r): David Walsh, Jamie Cashin, Michael Fitzgerald, Tom Phelan, Niochlas Dunphy, Brian Mahon.



Back row (l-r): Sean Burke, Dylan Drennan, Josh Haines, Damian Lis, Maciej Szeliga. Second row (l-r): John Lynch, Kevin Hennessy, Jack Drew, Daniel Duku, Mateusz Dobrowolski. Front row (l-r): Dylan Cullen, Gavin Brennan, Niall Teacy, Michael Cross, Karl Cummins, Rolands Stafeckis.



# Sports Day











## Basketball

Congratulations to St Kieran's College Third Year student Colum Prendiville on being selected on the Irish U16 Basketball Team. The team, made up of players from North and South, will compete in the European Championships next August in Macedonia. Colum has played for the local Kilkenny Stars Club for the past seven years and has been very lucky to have had some excellent coaches along the way. The club is run by a very dedicated bunch of volunteers without whom Colum could not have made it this far.

The international trials were initially held in October 2012 throughout Ireland and a squad of 24 was selected. This squad underwent intensive training in 2013 and was reduced to 12 players in early January. Colum has already played for Ireland in three International friendlies in London last summer and was also lucky enough to be selected to go on a week long training camp in Greece last August which was attended by players of the same age from all over Europe. Colum is currently playing with the club U16 and U18 teams in the south east league. Third year student Adam Grogan is also playing with the club. These teams have been together since they were U10 and have developed into a fine team and are now competing with teams from the basketball strongholds in Cork and Dublin.

A number of training sessions are planned over the coming months. There will be a break for the Junior Cert and training will resume at the end of June and will continue right up to the Championships. Colum puts in hours of skills practice in his own spare time and also has a fitness program to adhere to. Colum also plays hurling with the Graigue-Ballycallon club so it will be a busy summer ahead. We wish Colum the very best of luck over the coming months. It is a great achievement for the school to have somebody representing their country.



## Pool

Congratulations to St Kieran's College Transition Year student Morgan Thomas, who will represent Ireland in Pool at the upcoming European Championships in Malta. Morgan started playing Pool on the Irish circuit in 2012, and in 2013 he qualified to take part as a junior (U18) individual in the World Championships which were held in Blackpool. He won his first round against the Scottish National Champion and went on to make the last 32. This year, through the ranking Irish competitions, he has qualified to take a place on the Irish Junior Team for the European Championships, which are on in February in Malta. He will be representing his country and wearing the Irish waistcoat and will also play in the individual competition.

We are all very proud of Morgan's achievements to date and we wish him the very best of luck at the European Championships in Malta.



## Snooker

The season started off well for Stephen Bateman when he won the Regional Southeast ranking event in Newbridge. He was beaten in the final of the next regional event. In the U19 National Tournament he finished third in the rankings which means he has qualified for the home internationals and so will be heading off to Wales in August. Stephen finished fourth in the U21s and qualified for the European U21 Championships in Romania. He won four out of five matches in the group stages and finished second in the group and was beaten in the knockout stages by Dominik Scherbural from Austria. He won his first ever Men's title also this year - the National Handicap Open and he has also qualified for the World U21 Championships in Dubai in the summer.



# Orienteering



Orienteering Leinsters: Fionn Whelan – 6th in the 1st Year Boys; Conal Whelan – 3rd in 3rd Year Boys; Jack Crehan – 11th in 3rd Year Boys; Peter Mullan – 10th in 3rd Year Boys.



# Archery

First Year student and talented Archer, Gavyn Blanchfield contested his first official Junior Competition, the All-Ireland Indoor 3D Championships, in Waterford on December 28th last.

Gavyn has had a very busy and successful year in Archery. In July, he won gold in the European Championships in the mountainous forest area of Sopron, Hungary beating the best under 13 (cubs) that Europe had to offer in the Bare Bow Compound Division. There were over 400 highly qualified archery enthusiasts in action.

The following is an account in the Kilkenny People Newspaper of the event in Hungary:

"A Brilliant young local lad who has just won European Gold could also lay claim to the title King of Courage. For as he competed with some of the best in the world at archery, 12 year old Gavyn Blanchfield of Cootes Lane, Kilkenny, fell and dislocated his shoulder.

Lesser beings would have had little option but to bow out, but, showing amazing bravery and a determination to drive through the pain barrier, he refused to surrender. He was tended to by two Irish team doctors and he eventually went on to win his competition by 112 points."

Gavyn was, as a result of this, honoured with a ceremony at City Hall, hosted by Mayor of Kilkenny Martin Brett. As well as his parents, Gavyn was accompanied by his coach Jim Waters.

On his return from Hungary he won gold in the All-Ireland Championships in Co. Meath and then the following week he won gold in the Northern Ireland Championships held in Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.

Gavyn has broken all the Irish records in his class and holds 3 current permanent records with the Irish Field Archery Federation (IFAF). He is a member of the Kilkenny based Warbow Ireland, who use the forest on the Ballycallan road to host shoots. Gavyn is also a member of the Kilkenny Archers who are part of Archery Ireland (IAAA) who are the national governing body of Archery in Ireland. They hold high hopes for Gavyn representing Ireland in the future in the Olympics, as his standard of scoring is so high for his age.

The sport of Archery requires great concentration and discipline and is great for development in young people. Gavyn is therefore a real inspiration to his peers in St Kieran's College. We certainly wish Gavyn the very best of luck as his sporting career progresses.



Well done to the U14 and U16 chess teams who both competed in the Leinster Chess Championships in Gonzaga College, Dublin on Saturday the 1st March. The school has achieved great success in both the Leinster and All-Ireland Championships in recent times, winning on many occasions.

The U16 team were defeated in the semi-final by St Benildus College, a tough opposition losing 4-1 while the U14 team also lost to St Benildus College at the semi final stage of the Championship. This led to both teams being put in the 3rd/4th place playoff with both teams being drawn against Gonzaga B. The U14 team were unfortunate losing 3-2 and thereby finishing 4th but the U16 team were more successful in overcoming Gonzaga B's challenge to finish in 3rd place.

Many thanks to all those who helped out with the team this year especially Mr O'Neill and Ms Ahern, and the players for their commitment during the year.

U14 team: Ian Clifford, Jack Crehan, Tom Kennedy, Jesse Dillon, Fionn Whelan, Conor Archbold and Shanly Sebastian.

U16 team: Eoin Minnock, Donovan Ashcraft, Diarmaid Minnock, John Nolan and Cormac Buggy.

## Chess



U14 Team - fourth In Leinster 2014.



U16 Team John Nolan, Donovan Ashcraft, Eoin Minnock, Diarmaid Minnock, Cormac Buggy and Brandon Ashcraft - third In Leinster 2014.

## Badminton



Back row (l-r): U14 Team: Liam Hoban, Liam Fennelly, Liam Brennan Smith and Conor Kealy. Front row (l-r): U16 A Team: Ciaran Brennan, Thomas Comerford, Jack Nolan and Eamon Fennelly.

The Badminton County Finals took place in January in the Watershed, Kilkenny and St Kieran's had a number of teams participating. The U14 team of Liam Brennan Smith, Liam Hoban, Conor Kealy and Liam Fennelly enjoyed a great day winning the U14 Title and qualified to represent Kilkenny at the Leinster championships in February.

The U16A team was narrowly defeated 4-2 by Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown in the final. The team consisted of Ciaran Brennan, Eamon Fennelly, Thomas Comerford and Jack Nolan. The U16B team of Naimul Hussein, Ciaran Walsh, Adam McElroy and Ciaran Fitzpatrick also deserve special mention as they were unluckily defeated in the semi finals. The 'A' team progressed to represent Kilkenny at the Leinster Finals where they captured the Division 3 Title following victories over Kilucan, Westmeath, Birr CS and Terenure College, Dublin in the final. Well done top all the lads who competed so successfully this year.



# All-Ireland Bowling Success for St Kieran's College

On Wednesday, 6th November 2013 the St Kieran's College Bowling team of Darragh Phelan, John Hession, Robert Kerwick and Niall Holligan together with team mentor Mr John Quane, travelled to the Leisureplex bowling alley in Stillorgan, Dublin for the All-Ireland Secondary Schools Ten-Pin Bowling Finals. Schools from all over the country were represented on the day with teams of four players each. This was the first time that St Kieran's have entered a team into this competition, which has been running since 1963. Each school was given a total of two rounds of bowling. The school with the combined highest score would win. After the two rounds, the St Kieran's team had a combined score of 846 which placed them in second, earning them the All-Ireland silver medal position losing out narrowly to St Benildus College, Dublin. Congratulations to everyone involved in this outstanding achievement and thank you to the K-Bowl in Kilkenny who subsequently treated the lads to an afternoon of bowling with refreshments to celebrate their victory.

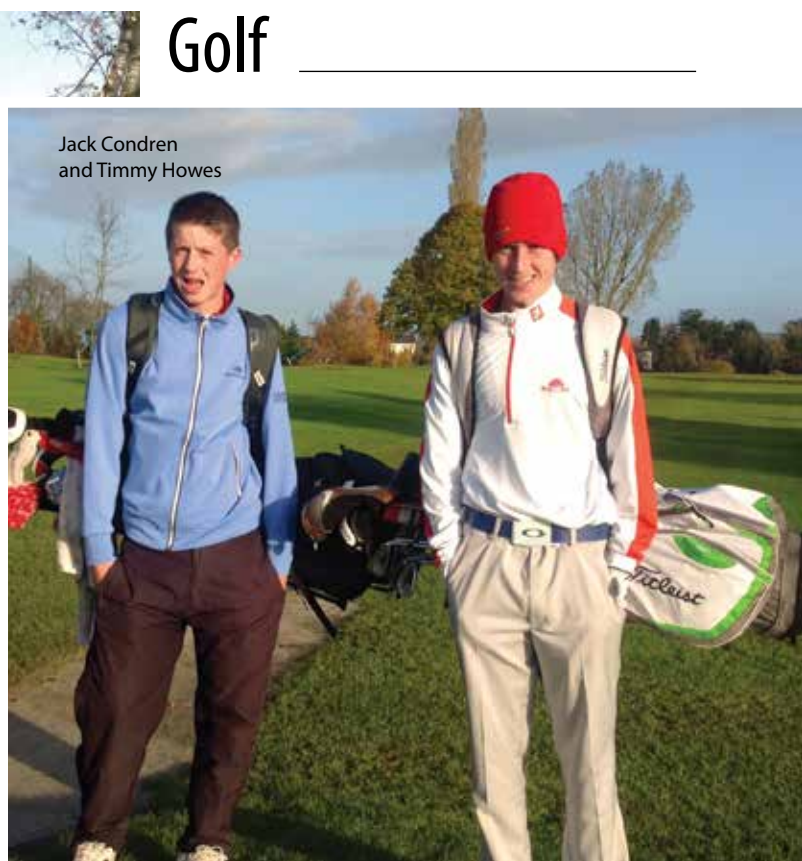


Bowling team  
Robert Kerwick,  
John Hession,  
Niall Holligan,  
Darragh Phelan.

## Golf



Morgan Walsh  
and Brian Crowdle



Jack Condren  
and Timmy Howes



# Equestrian



The equestrian events started on the 6th October with Kilkenny College hosting their annual leg of the White Cup. St Kieran's had two teams entered with both teams jumping strongly but unfortunately neither of them jumped into the placings.

On the 19th November we hosted our own very successful event in Warrington Equestrian Centre. This was a great day for all involved where we entered two teams. Both teams performed excellently with the black team qualifying for the jump off. The team was just outside the times in a jump off to be in with a chance of winning.

A team consisting of Victor Costello Hugh McOwen and Eamon Morrissey went on to compete in the All Ireland Hunter Trial Championships where they finished up very well.







Our last event of the year was the All Ireland Interschool's Showjumping Championships that were held in the Wexford show grounds. A team consisting of Cian Drennan, Victor Costello, Diarmuid O'Brien and Hugh McOwen finished the year on a high finishing in sixth place.

We would like to thank all the students who were involved in all the equestrian events throughout the year. We would like to thank all parents and teachers who have helped so much throughout the year. We look forward to next year's events and welcoming any newcomers to our team.





# Cross Country



## DCU INVITATIONAL

The Schools Cross Country season began in earnest at the DCU Invitational races in Glasnevin in January. There was tough opposition this year with 98 schools invited to compete.

The minor, junior and intermediate boys ran well but sadly finished outside the medal positions. Peter Lynch had an outstanding race finishing 2nd in the intermediate boys race.

The senior team were the star performers on the day winning the Mickey Flynn cup finishing 1st beating a strong St.Aidans side. Cormac Buggy led the team home finishing 4th. He was closely followed by Luke O Connor, Tom O Keefe and Sean O'Neill in the first bunch of runners to win team gold.

## South Leinster

The competitive Cross Country season began in picturesque surroundings at Rockwell College with all runners having the same aim of qualifying for the Leinster Championships.

The Minor boys ran a brilliant race finishing in 1st place. Adam

Fitzpatrick led the team home finishing 2nd and was followed by Eoin Walsh in 3rd place. Eamonn Mahon and James Kearney also helped bring the team to victory both running strongly.

The Junior boys finished in 3rd to win the bronze medal. David O'Carroll and Jessie Dillon had great races both finishing inside the top 8. James Phelan and Sean Richardson also pushed the team on to come 3rd.

The Intermediate boys lead by Peter Lynch in first position and Michael Ryan in sixth finished in second position finished second behind a strong Knockbeg College team in what was an uber-competitive race. Luke Fitzpatrick and James Nugent also were scorers on the team.

The senior team produced the performance of the day with four runners in the top ten to clinch the title in scintillating fashion. Cormac Buggy (3) , Tom O'Keefe (4), Sean O'Neill (11) and Luke O'Connor (12) were the top runners for St Kieran's in this race.

## Leinsters

All of the Kieran's teams that were competing in the south Leinsters qualified for the Leinster Cross Country in Santry Demesne on the 12th February. The minor boy's team – the first





Minor (U14) Back row (l-r): Paul Cody, Dylan Crehan, Jim Kehoe, Tom Bolger. Front row (l-r): James Kearney, Eoin De Buitlair, Adam Fitzpatrick, Eoin Walsh, Eamon Mahon.



Junior (U15) Back row (l-r): Evan Clarke, Jessie Dihlon, Mark Nolan. Front row (l-r): Conor Drennan, James Phelan, David O'Carroll.



Intermediate and Senior Cross Country Back row (l-r): Aidan Nolan, Cormac Buggy, Sean O'Neill. Second Row (l-r): Michael Ryan, Luke Fitzpatrick, John Nolan, Bill Cody. Front Row (l-r): Peter Lynch, Tom O'Keeffe, Luke O'Connor, Peter O'Sullivan.

of four Kieran's teams, opened up proceedings with Adam Fitzpatrick running a heroic race to come 2nd. Eoin Walsh, James Kearney and Dylan Crehan were close behind which secured a team silver and qualification to the All Irelands.

Next up for the College was the junior boy's team led by David O'Carroll. David had a great run finishing inside the top 15 to gain individual qualification for the all Irelands. The team who were 3rd in South Leinsters put in a gutsy performance but were short of a podium finish.

The intermediate team who

placed 2nd in the South Leinsters knew that it would be a tough ask to get into the top three but they didn't go down without a fight. Peter Lynch gave the team a great boost by finishing 2nd but like juniors, the team were just short of the medals and finished fifth.

The seniors were up against serious competition from the North Leinster Schools in the last race of the day. Tom O'Keeffe stood up to the challenge earning himself a place on the all Ireland start line in the process with a marvellous top 15 finish. The team finished a few points outside the medals places.

## ALL IRELANDS

The Minor Boys Cross Country team who finished second in the Leinsters three weeks previous, were competing in Aviva All Ireland Schools Cross Country championships in Cork IT on the 8th of March. Captain Adam Fitzpatrick led by example when tackling the challenging 2,500 metre course. He got a great start and kept within touching distance of the leaders to finish a fantastic 4th. Eoin Walsh also ran an exceptional race to finish closely behind in 11th. James Kearney and Dylan Crehan, two new cross country runners, ran strongly throughout to finish 27th and 38th respectively in their first All Irelands. With the first four scoring for the team – St Kieran's were in with a great chance of a medal and were rewarded with team silver. The team were backed up with good performances from Eamonn Mahon 60th, Tom Bolger 79th, Jim Kehoe 84th and Paul Cody 94th.

St Kieran's had athletes running in the three other boys races with David O'Carroll (Junior), Peter Lynch (Intermediate) and Tom O'Keeffe (Senior) all qualifying as individuals. David O'Carroll finished a brave 36th in a highly competitive race. Peter Lynch ran a great race to finish in 4th position in the 5,000 metre race. This in turn earned him a place on the Schools International Cross Country Team, giving him the opportunity to run on the Irish team in Bolton on 22nd March.

Tom O'Keeffe had a great run despite a sore ankle to come in 37th in the Senior Boys 6,000 meters.



Peter Lynch



# All-Ireland Track & Field Championships 2013

The 2013 All Ireland Schools Track and Field Championships were held at Tullamore Harrier's stadium on Saturday the 6th of June. Three athletes represented St Kieran's at this year's championships, Nicholas Dunphy (Senior 3000m walk), Jack Manning (Junior 200m sprint), and Donagh Mahon (Intermediate High Jump). The athletes had qualified for the championships following success at the South Leinster Championships and then at the Leinster Championships. With the standard of competition increasing at each stage it was an outstanding achievement by each of the three lads to qualify for the All-Ireland Championships and for each it was their first time to compete at this level.

On the day the lads were excited, but focused. Nicholas was the first to compete. He was delighted with his race finishing 3rd with a new PB of 15:44 minutes. "The fact that the first three were all from Leinster made it all the more special", he says. Next was Jack, a seasoned athlete, who crossed the line in 23.60 seconds, taking the gold and like Nicholas a new PB. Jack was only 0.4 seconds outside the championship record. Then it was the turn of Donagh. Determined to add to the St Kieran's medal tally, he won bronze with a height of 1.85 metres.

It was a great day and a fantastic achievement by the St Kieran's College athletes, all going home with well-deserved medals.

After the All Ireland Donagh was selected to compete for Leinster in the schools' interprovincial Tailteann Games. He won the competition with a jump of 1.91 metres. Consequently Donagh was then honoured to represent Ireland at the annual SIAB Schools International in which he won bronze with a height of 1.91 metres. This was Donagh's first year in athletics and it will definitely be one to remember.

2013 was a great year for all the St Kieran's College athletes in all competitions. We have no doubt we can achieve the same if not more in the year ahead. Well done to all the lads on their wonderful achievements.



All-Ireland Athletics (Held in Tullamore on June 1st) - Jack Manning KCH: Gold in the 200 metres (Junior Boys); Nicholas Dunphy: Bronze in the 3K Walk (Senior Boys); Donagh Mahon (Intermediate Boys): Silver in the High Jump.



## MICHAEL RYAN MAKES NATIONAL SQUAD

Transition Year student Michael Ryan reached the standard to get onto the National Triathlon Squad. Triathlon is an olympic sport that involves swimming, cycling and running. Each year Triathlon Ireland holds trials to get onto the national squad which comprises of a swimming and running time trial. Times are combined from the two trial trials and a certain combined time must be achieved. To date, over 160 athletes have applied to get onto the squad but only a mere 11 have reached the standard.

Now on the squad, Michael will attempt to qualify for international for international races this year and will go on a series of training camps, all while competing in domestic races. Well done

## PETER LYNCH REPRESENTS IRELAND AT INTERNATIONALS

Transition Year student Peter Lynch was rewarded as a result of his fine domestic performances with a place on the Irish Schools team for the Schools International event in Bolton, England. The Irish Schools team is picked on an annual basis for an international race between England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and comprises of the top eight runners in the country.

Peter wasn't fazed by the high standard however and produced a stunning run over a challenging 5500m course. After an extremely fast start, Peter began to pick off the places and eventually finished in a highly commendable ninth position, and was the second Irish runner home. To cap off a great performance, the Irish team also claimed the silver medals.

Well done to Peter on this fantastic achievement!



# Donagh Mahon



I took up athletics in February 2013 with Gowran AC. The first event I tried was the high jump. Since taking it up I have progressed well thanks to coaching from Liam Kealy and Paddy O'Dwyer and help from many others.

My first season in athletics was somewhat of a trial run and I did not expect to accomplish what I did. I won medals at the juvenile (U17) and junior (U20) levels at Leinster and National Championships. The highlight of the year was being selected for the SIAB schools international. I got to compete on the Irish Schools Team against England, Scotland and Wales. On the day, I jumped 1.91 m to win bronze. My first year ended on a good note with a silver medal at the All Ireland Championships (U17) and a personal best of 1.94 m.

Things have gotten even better this year. In my second competition of 2014, the Athletics Ireland Open, I jumped 2.08 m to smash my PB and set a new Irish Youths Indoor Record. Three weeks later I headed across the water to take on the best of the British athletes at the U20 English Championships. I jumped another personal best of 2.09 m, taking the silver medal and breaking my own Irish Record.

Next was the Leinster Indoor Championships (U18) in which I jumped 2.06 m setting a new Championship Best Performance, previously held by past pupil Adrian O'Dwyer. There was one last big competition of the indoor season, the All Ireland Championships (U18). It was my last chance to reach my goal of 2.10 m in the indoors. Thankfully I managed to pull it off, setting a new championship best performance and breaking my own Irish record once again. I finished off the indoor season ranked 7th in the world youth indoor rankings.

My second year in athletics has started off well and hopefully the success will continue into the outdoors as I look forward to the European Youth Olympic Trials in Azerbaijan, giving me a chance to qualify for the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China later on in the year.

I'll continue to jump for fun and hopefully do justice to Gowran AC, St Kieran's College and Ireland. I am extremely grateful to all those who have helped me get to where I am.

## All-Ireland Schools Athletic Championships

The following have qualified for the All-Ireland schools athletic championships

- Michael Ryan 2nd in the 1,500mts (intermediate)
- Peter Lynch 2nd in the steeplechase (intermediate)
- Brendan Hyland 2nd in the Javlin (senior)
- Nicholas Dunphy 2nd in the walk (senior)
- Donagh Mahon 2nd in the high jump (senior)

Michael Ryan and Peter Lynch will represent Leinster in the Tailteann Games and Donagh Mahon is unable to compete in the All Ireland as he is competing in a Junior Olympics qualifying event in Azerbaijan at the same time. St Kieran's won the senior boys overall prize in South Leinster.



# Schools Track & Field

The inter-schools track and field season began in earnest on Wednesday last at the Watershed track with athletes in schools from Kilkenny, Carlow, Kildare, Wexford, Laois and Offaly all vying for qualification to the Leinster Championships in Santry, Dublin next week. St Kieran's, under the tutelage of Mr Quane had athletes entered in the majority of events but with the high standard on show, it was clear that a high quality performance would be required if they were to progress to the next round.

Minor and junior athletes were first in action, all fairing well in what was for many their first competitive outing in track and field. Tristian Pwloski discovered a new talent in winning the shot put event while Eamon Mahon and Adam Fitzpatrick both performed well in the high jump, javelin and 800m respectively to qualify for the Leinster Championships with podium positions.

It was in the older age categories however where St Kieran's College really shone collecting a host of medals in a variety of events, amid blustery conditions which proved to be extremely testing. Peter Lynch (2000m steeplechase), Michael Ryan (1500m), Jack Manning (400m), Brendan Hyland (Javelin) and Donagh Mahon (High Jump & Long Jump) all claimed gold medals in their events. Other star performers on the day were Cormac Buggy, Tom O'Keefe and Luke O'Connor who placed 2nd, 3rd and 4th in a gruelling 5000m race, Luke Fitzpatrick who was 3rd in the mile race and the Senior 4x100m relay team who took home bronze.

The focus will now turn to the Leinster Championships in the national stadium in Santry where the standard will increase another notch and places will be on the line for the All Irelands which will take place in the beginning of June







First Year soccer team.

## Soccer





# Football

## JUVENILE GAELIC FOOTBALL VOYAGE 2014

Eoghan Moylan 2A2

The Juvenile Gaelic Football panel started off in early November with a number of hard fought trials with everyone looking for a place on the panel for the year ahead. The panel was picked and we trained three times a week in the muck (great for the mothers and the washing machines) and the rain.

Our first match came around and we were raring to go. It was an away game against the favourites, Portlaoise C.B.S. The weather was nothing short of atrocious, as we battled through the wind and the rain,(more washing) which was nonstop throughout the match, however, we rallied to score two late goals and secure a four point win.

Athy were next up. The minute the referee threw up the ball to start the game, all of their players ran back behind the ball. In spite of this, we ran out comfortable winners. Our final group game was against Portarlinton away. This would decide who would top the group and play the second placed team in group two in the South Leinster Semi Final. Even though we

grabbed an early goal, we failed to score for the rest of the game, and lost on a score line of 0-8 to 1-0. There was massive disappointment in the dressing room after the game, but we believed we could beat them on another day in the championship

We trained hard the following week and it paid dividends, as we beat Enniscorthy well and in doing so, set up a South Leinster Final with our old enemies, Portarlinton. We started off brightly and took an early lead, but struggled to keep a foothold in the game. We gave it our all, but unfortunately we came up against a better team in Portarlinton, and the year had a disappointing end for us.

On behalf of the panel I would like to thank Mr Connolly and Mr Fitzgerald for all their time and commitment during the year. We enjoyed the rough, tumble, the muck and rain of gaelic football 2013/2014 – God bless the mothers!

## U16 FOOTBALL

S. Morgan and R. Windle

The U16 football championship was run on a league basis with St Kieran's college drawn in a group with Heywood College, Begnalstown and

Portarlinton. Training had gone very well in the weeks running up to the first game and confidence was high for our opening game against Heywood College which was played on the Birchfield. This was the proverbially game of two halves as a strong wind blowing towards the top goals had a strong influence on the game. St Kieran's played with the aid of the wind in the first half and registered a goal with the first attack of the game. However Heywood College regrouped quickly and played with most of their team behind the ball for the remainder of the half frustrating the Kieran's attacks on a number of occasions. In the second half the game became more open as Heywood began to push forward a bit more but were unable to breach the St Kieran's rearguard. St Kieran's used this extra space very well and scored two further goals. With time running out concentration was lost and that allowed Heywood to score a goal. Two further quick, long range points meant that Heywood managed to capture a draw in the dying moments on a score of 1-8 to 3-2. Best performers on the day were Tommy Walsh, Niall Walsh, Conor Byrne, Michael Cody and Joe Connolly.

After the disappointment of drawing the first game, Bagnalstown



U14 Football

Back row (l-r): Fergus Byrne, Diarmuid Phelan, Ross Whelan, Michael O'Shaughnessy, Rory Cleere, Conor McGree, Eoghan Moylan. Fourth row (l-r): David Griffin, Ryan Scanlon, Jesse Roberts, Killian Egan, George Murphy, Conor Hoban, Sean Minogue. Third Row: Mr Fitzgerald, Daragh O'Keeffe, Daire O'Neill, David O Carroll, Ned Kirwan, Evan Shefflin. Second row (l-r): Thomas Dunphy, Darragh Corcoran, Eoin Brennan, Liam Brennan Smith, Mark Nolan, Matthew Russell, Mr Connolly. Front row (l-r): Eoin Keneally, Ciaran Brennan, Eoin Cody, Rory Lodge, Tommy Ronan, Conor O'Keeffe, Jack Brennan.





U16 Football

Back row (l-r): Ed Moylan, Colum Prenderville, Joe Cuddihy, Tomm Whitty, James Mulally, Michael Cody, William Spencer. Middle row (l-r): Jody Dwyer, Martin Keoghan, Shane Byrne, Aiden Nolan, Brian Power, Darren Mullen, Connor O'Neill. Second row (l-r): Stephen Morgan, Evan Carroll, Brion Kirwin, Connor Byrne, Sean Carey, Niall Walsh, Niall Delaney, Richie Windle. Front row (l-r): Lyndon Brannigan, Tommy Walsh, Hugh Corkery, Joe Connolly, Paudric Mullen, Vactor Costello, Shane Dawson.

provided the next opposition. After a draw in the first game, nothing less than a win would do if we were to stand any chance of qualifying for the knock outs. The team was very focused and took to the task at hand with ruthless efficiency and hunger. From the throw in Tom Whitty gathered the ball and delivered it towards Brian Crowdle who neatly dispatched the ball over the bar. The game continued in this trend with St Kieran's dominant all over the field and ran out easy winners on a score of 5-14 to 2-6 with great performances

from Edward Moylan, Brian Crowdle Evan Carroll, Tom Whitty and Lyndon Brannigan.

Our final group game with table toppers Portarlinton proved to be a winner takes all game with the winners progressing to the semi finals and loser's going out of the competition. This proved to be a very tough game of football with both sides matching each other all over the field. Portarlinton began strongly but could never pull away from a dogged St Kieran's team whom pushed them to

the very limits. As the game came into the closing stages St Kieran's began to push forward in numbers trying to find the goal that would tie the game, this however left ample space and opportunity for Portarlinton to counter attack with devastating effect as the hit 1-3 without reply to leave 9 point gap between the sides at the end of the game on a score of 2-9 to 3-15. Best on the day were Martin Keoghan, Conor O'Neill, Niall Walsh, Michael Cody and Joe Connolly.



TY Football Blitz

On a sunny Friday the 16th May St Kieran's college TY students took part in the Kilkenny County Blitzes. Schools involved included Castlecomer, Scoil Mhuire and Callan CBS. A great day was had by all with St Kieran's white team beating Scoil Mhuire in the final.



# Hurling Blitzes



At the beginning and end of the school year inter-school hurling blitzes are held for First and Second Year students with the key aim of participation in sport and being part of the school community. The First Year blitz is held during the first term as it allows the boys a chance to interact with their new class mates while at the same time getting a chance to represent the school wearing the black and white for the first time. This year 112 first years got involved in playing the games while the remainder of the year took part as managers and selectors.

Towards the end of the school year a similar blitz open to all First and Second year students takes place again with the key aim of participation. Games take place all across the city with St Kieran's College hosting three rounds. This year an outstanding 10 teams took part with many other students acting as umpires, linesmen and selectors during the day.

To round off the hurling year, First year students take part in the Good Counsel hurling tournament in New Ross.

Thanks to all teachers, helpers and mentors and Kilkenny Co Board for their assistance during the year to facilitate these important events in the schools hurling calendar.









# 1st Year Hurling League 2013/2014



The First Year League began in the middle of September with the games going ahead at lunchtimes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, concluding with a dramatic final played on Friday November 29th.

This year a total of 110 students took part making up 7 teams of 15 a side. Each team played each other once during the league stages, with 2 games taking place each day on Fennessy's Field and the Callan Road Field. The games were very well refereed by Transition Year students Tyler Lennon and Peter Lynch and on occasion by Fifth Year student Richie Leahy. We are very grateful to these lads for their help and participation and they certainly added to the atmosphere of the league.

After many great clashes we

eventually reached the final. The Principal, Mr Curtis, agreed that following the enthusiasm shown by the First Years during lunchtimes since September, it would be appropriate for the final to be played during last class on Friday November 27th with all First Years permitted to attend. This generated a fantastic atmosphere for what turned out to be a thrilling final. In the end Team F won out by a single point, defeating Team A on a scoreline of 4 goals and a point to 3 goals and 3 points.

We wish to thank Mr Forrest and Mr Darmody for organising all of the games and the Kilkenny GAA County Board for offering to present plaques to the winning team and medals to the runners up. Well done to all involved.







## Juvenile Hurling 2014

The First Year league organised by Mr Dermody and Mr Forrest and the second year league organised by Mr O'Keeffe gave all students the chance to prepare for the Juvenile hurling trials which began in November. There was unprecedented interest shown by a huge number of very talented hurlers. After much time spent trialing, a panel was finalised just before the Christmas holidays and it included three third year students. Training commenced

immediately after the Christmas break. The league started in February and we had wins over Good Counsel and Birr Community School. We then faced a very strong Dublin South in our own pitch. After a great contest we came away with a win. The following week, however, we played very poorly against Dublin North in Carlow and lost by two points in the league semi-final. Dublin South hammered Dublin North in the league final.

Lesson learned, we prepared for the championship with renewed determination. On April 30th we faced St Peter's College Wexford in Kennedy Park New Ross in the Dr. Barry Cup semi-final. After a nail biting game we edged past a very determined Wexford outfit by two points 1-12 to 2-7.

St John's Park, home of O'Loughlin Gaels, was the venue for the final against our near neighbours CBS. The game was played on Thursday 8th



Juvenile Team 2014

Back row (l-r): Ross Whelan; James Phelan; Conor Condon; Rory O'Keeffe; Eoghan Moylan; Killian Egan; Jesse Roberts. Fourth row: (l-r): Ciarán Hogan; Diarmuid Phelan; Daragh Corcoran; Luke Murphy; Ian Walsh; Rory Cleere; Eoin O'Shea. Third row: (l-r): Robert O'Flynn; Philip Walsh (Trainer); Cian Dawson; Adam Tallis; Rory Lodge; Conor O'Keeffe; Mark Nolan; Tom Hogan (Trainer); Maurice Walshe. Second row (l-r): Shane Murphy; Eoin Cody; Ciaran Brennan; Jack Brennan; David O'Carroll; Cathal Power; Ned Kirwan; Eoin Wall; Adam Power. Front row (l-r): Eoin Kenneally; David Blanchfield; Aaron Brennan; Adrian Mullen (captain); Ryan Scanlon; Tommy Ronan; Evan Shefflin.





May. A very strong wind blew from the town end which made playing conditions tricky for the players. We won the toss and decided to play against the wind in the first half and defend as best we could. The whole team were magnificent as both backs and forwards fought for every ball. We were in a good position at half-time 1-4 to 0-2 ahead. We scored the first point of the second half and then got a lucky goal which knocked the confidence of the CBS boys. With the assistance of the wind we dominated the rest of the game. We ran out convincing winners 3-16 to 0-3. It was our best performance of the year. Great credit is due to all members of the panel who were led by inspiring captain Adrian Mullen.

Ciarán Brennan (St Martin's), Tommy Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Luke Murphy (James Stephens), Mark Nolan (Dicksboro), James Phelan (Lisdowney) Adrian Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks) Captain, Jesse Roberts (Graigue-Ballycallan), Eoin O'Shea (O'Loughlin Gaels), Killian Egan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Eoghan Moylan (Dicksboro), Diarmuid Phelan (Danesfort), Ryan Scanlon (James Stephens), Eoin Wall (O'Loughlin Gaels),



Ross Whelan (James Stephens), Conor O'Keeffe (Danesfort), Cathal Power (Freshford), Eoin Kenneally (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Cian Dawson (Freshford), David Blanchfield (Bennetsbridge), Ian Walsh (Dunamaggin), Ciarán Hogan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Ned Kirwan (Thomastown), Evan Shefflin (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Rory Cleere (Bennetsbridge), Rory Lodge (Dunamaggin), Aaron Brennan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Adam Tallis (Tullaroan), David O'Carroll (Lisdowney), Jack Brennan (Young Irelands, Gowran), Conor Condon (Danesfort), Rory O'Keeffe (Clara), Eoin Cody (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Adam

Fitzpatrick (Dunamaggin), Shane Murphy (James Stephens), Darragh Corcoran (Ballyhale Shamrocks).

Many thanks to our Transition Year students, and, especially, Maurice Walshe for their help both at training and at matches. Thanks for a second year to Robert O'Flynn from Fifth Year who showed great professionalism in assisting at training and at matches. A special word of thanks to Mr John Quane for lending his first aid expertise. Hopefully, the juvenile final was a fitting farewell for Mr Quane as he retires in June. Tom Hogan/Philip Walsh



# Junior Hurling



U16 Hurling

Back row (l-r) Edward Moylan, Colum Prendiville, Joe Cuddihy, Tom Whitty, James Mullally, Michael Cody. Third row (l-r) Mr Lester Ryan (Trainer, Evan Carroll, Martin Keogh, Oisín Gough, Shane Byrne, Tom Murphy, Aidan Nolan, Mr Richie Ruth (Trainer). Second row (l-r) Dylan Alyward, Lyndon Brannigan, Brion Kirwan, Conor Byrne, Sean Carey, Darren Mullen, Joe Connolly. Front row (l-r) Shane Donohoe, Shane Dawson, Hugh Corkery, Tommy Walsh (Captain), Victor Costello, Padraic Mullen, Niall Walsh, Paddy Bolger. Missing from photo: Dylan Jordon, Edmond Delaney, Paddy Brennan, Patrick Kennedy, Patrick Ryan

## UNDER 16

Trials for the junior team started very quickly after the summer break. Almost 100 students turned out for trials, which ran for over two weeks. The first outing was a home match against Coláiste Eoin. Kieran's enjoyed a good win here with Tommy Walsh, Michael Cody and Sean Carey showing great individual displays. Next up was an away game against last year's winners Good Counsel. Conditions were very tough but goals from an impressive full forward line of Tom Whitty, Ed Delaney and Sean Carey ensured a comfortable win. This good run continued into the Borris VS game when Kieran's overcame a very strong Carlow side. Kieran's topped the group only to lose narrowly in the semi final against St Peter's of Wexford. Kieran's fought hard on the day with Darren Mullen, Shane Byrne and Niall Walsh turning in great performances. Hard luck and well done to all involved

## UNDER 16B

This year again saw great interest in the U16B competition with St Kieran's entering two teams in the competition, with over 25 players on each panel. Both teams had a great run in the competition with wins over Castlecomer CS, Johnstown and Kilkenny Schools. This meant Kieran's had two teams to reach the semi final stages. The C's lost out narrowly

to Johnstown, which avoided an All Kieran's final. The B's were hoping to avenge the C's defeat when playing Johnstown in the final.

The final was played in tough conditions in St Kieran's College. Kieran's started the brighter and took a four point lead in at half time thanks mainly to Joe Connolly who had a great game on the day. Kieran's looked to have the game won when deep into injury time Johnstown scored a goal to level the game. The replay was played in Johnstown the following Monday. Both teams performed excellently in

what was again a very tough day for hurling. James Mullally at full back was excellent on the day and did not deserve to be on the losing side after battling so bravely. Johnstown however disavowed their victory and the Kieran's players would have learned an awful lot from the competition. Many will now hopefully go on to represent Kieran's at senior level in the next two years. 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.







## Senior Hurling 2014

Liam Smith

The season 2013/2014 Senior Hurling began on the 8th of October. Trials lasted three weeks before a provisional panel was selected to play in the first league game. At that time, many clubs were still involved in minor county championships so some players were unavailable. Nonetheless, we chose thirty three players to represent St Kieran's college.

Each player that was selected was assessed and their results recorded in order to monitor their progress throughout the year. These fitness tests allowed us to develop individual programmes that best suited the player's needs. Training was scheduled for Monday lunch in the gym as a recovery session from their weekend

games with two outdoor sessions on Wednesday and Friday.

Our league campaign began against Birr CS in SKC on October 16th. In wet and windy conditions, Birr proved to be a stern test eventually winning 3-18 to 2-13. Kieran's showed great character against a very physical Birr side. In contrast, our second league game in Castlecomer against Castlecomer CS was played in summer like conditions. Thanks to opportunistic goals from debutant Robbie Donnelly, we beat Castlecomer 3-19 to 2-09. Shane Walsh gave a man of the match performance from corner back scoring a memorable point in the second half. Weather was to the fore again in our last league game against Dublin North in the DCU Sports Complex. Both teams had to contend with a

strong wind but Josh Haines' first half goal and a strong turnout from many Kieran's past pupils kept Kieran's in command throughout winning 1-14 to 0-11. Colaiste Eoin provided the opposition in the league semi final played at windy Monasterevin. The game was tight throughout. However, once Bill Carrigan quietened Colaiste Eoin's best attacker, Kieran's were able to keep their noses in front throughout the second half despite the concession of two penalties. Robbie Donnelly's accuracy from frees proving the difference in a scoreline of 0-18 to 2-11.

The League Final was played in Nowlan Park on December 11th against Kilkenny CBS. In all the league campaign thus far, 34 players had seen game time which showed the strength in depth of the Kieran's panel. Billy



Ryan scored the crucial goal before half time. Once Jason Cleere nullified the CBS's main threat, Kieran's ran out comfortable winners 1-16 to 1-14 to claim League trophy.

With the league completed, focus now shifted to the championship. The panel was finalised and preparations were made to organise quality challenge matches during the Christmas period. We played Ard Scoil Ris from Limerick in Golden on December 28th. Kieran's dominated the first half and were comfortable throughout. This proved to be a marker for the rest of the year as the boys were growing in confidence having played the best in Munster. Twenty six players played that day so places were still up for grabs. Connaught's best were next to play us on January 5th. This was a tight and tense game with both sides playing a movement based game. St Brigid's, Loughrea demonstrated that they would be in the shake up for the Croke Cup. Rochestown from Cork were next to visit St Kieran's. In a disappointing contest, we ran out easy winners with Daniel O'Connor scoring 2-6. In our final challenge

game on January 25th, we welcomed the Tipperary minor team for the second year in a row. Past pupil William Maher had initiated the game many years before and the new Tipp minor manager, Liam Cahill was excited to continue this tradition. In wet wintry condition, we eased to victory in the second half. Again, twenty-seven players were used over the sixty minutes. All in all, the winter proved fruitful for our player's development and indeed a headache when picking the team.

All focus now shifted to Castlecomer CS who had defeated Borris VS in the preliminary round of the Leinster championship. The game was played in terrible conditions in Freshford. The backs put in a massive performance with Jack Keoghan to the fore while Sean Morrissey pulled the strings in attack. We ran out winners on a scoreline of 1-10 to 0-3. Every game was adding to our belief that we were serious contenders. Niall Walsh grabbed his opportunity that day at corner forward. The semi final pitted us against Colaiste Eoin again in Fenagh, Co. Carlow. A strong wind was at our

backs in the first half which saw us lead at half time. However, it was the second half performance that proved how good a team we were. Tommy Walsh, Jack Keoghan and Darren Mullen held strong in the second half while the forwards tagged on crucial scores to see us win 2-16 to 0-13. A re match with the CBS awaited us in the Leinster Final. Preparations went well for the Leinster final. However, Sean Morrissey was a big loss in the week leading up to the final but the boys grouped together well. The final itself was not one to remember. Kilkenny CBS played to their best while we never got going, nor did we get the rub of the green. Posts were hit and passes were missed which could have changed the game but alas we were beaten for the first time this year on a scoreline of 0-13 to 2-13.

A quarter final beckoned for us against the beaten Connaught finalists, St Brigid's of Loughrea. In what proved to be a brilliant game played in Birr, there was nothing between the teams in normal time. Brigid's reminded us of their forwards ability and raced into an interval lead. Tadgh O'Dwyer's goal





before half time gave us a lifeline. The words at half time inspired the boys in the second half. We attacked en masse and the scores followed. However, with time nearly up and a point down, Jason Cleere surged forward and was fouled. Conor Murphy calmly pointed the resultant free and the game was heading for extra time. Losing a man at the start of extra time to a red card ended the match as a contest. Conor O'Carroll's goal and Billy Ryan's point eased Kieran's to a 4-22 to 2-22 victory and an All Ireland semi final against Ard Scoil Ris.

Having played Ard Scoil earlier in the year and our two recent victories against them in All Ireland Finals, we were chomping at the bit for the game to begin. The game was played at Templemore on March 22nd. Templemore's groundsman welcomed St Kieran's enthusiastically, informing us that his dad and uncle had won an All-Ireland with us in the 60's. Although we were underdogs, the boys put in a massive first half against the wind. We were dominant at the back. James Maher and Kevin Blanchfield's runs from midfield which were ably supported by the half forward line of Brian Cody, Liam Blanchfield and Jason Byrne were causing havoc in the Ard Scoil ranks. Although a point down

at half time, our dominance showed in the second half as Conor O'Carroll, Tadgh O'Dwyer and Robbie Donnelly found the back of the net. Eoin Walsh capped off a dominant display by the backs scoring a point from half way. We won 4-10 to 1-12.

A repeat of the league and Leinster final was set up as Kilkenny CBS won through their semi final. An all Kilkenny final was moved from Semple Stadium to Nowlan Park on April 5th. Training went well in the weeks leading up to the final. The boys were very relaxed. Billy Hanlon, Bill Carrigan, Sean Morrissey were making steady recoveries from injuries and illness that added to the scrap for places. Before the game, the warm up went well in O'Loughlin's. The boys were focused. Our support played their part too with their banners and singing. Players spoke inspirational words in the dressing room and the buzz was electric. As coaches, we didn't have to say much. Although the final didn't start as we had planned, the boys remained relaxed and were ready to take their chance when the time came. Five points down at minute eleven looked bad but we were creating chances and had struck four wides at that stage. However, the whole match changed when Conor O'Carroll picked out Brian Cody's run and Brian finished

to the net. Conor Murphy added a point and suddenly we were only a point down. Confidence began to grow. We were dominant at half back and full back line. Tadgh O'Dwyer was causing problems in the corner. Going in level at half time was immense considering we hadn't really played yet. The half time break was calm but the boy's focus remained the same-work till you drop and someone else will take over. Again, our second half start was poor but Tadgh's goal from Liam Blanchfield's pass showed that our chances would come. In the last twenty minutes, we outscored, outclassed and out hurled the CBS. Substitute's Sean Morrissey and Robbie Donnelly contributed seven points alone. The full back line of Michael Cody and the Tullaroan twosome were in total command. James Maher at center back sniffed out any CBS threat and enabled Jason Cleere and Eoin Walsh to supply ball to the forwards. Cleere capped off a memorable day for him with a point from half back. Kevin Blanchfield showed boundless energy at midfield with Darren Mullen mopping up. Liam Blanchfield (the most fouled player in the championship!) was causing havoc on CBS's left side. Morrissey and Billy Ryan continued the sterling work of Jason Byrne and Brian Cody.



Senior Hurling Team

Back row (l-r): Billy Hanlon, Ally Rafter, Joe Cuddihy, Eoin Walsh, Daniel O'Connor, Brian Cody, Ray Lahart, Conor O'Carroll, Michael Cody. Third row (l-r): Robert O'Flynn, Shane Walsh, Kieran Freeman, Bill Carrigan, Richie Leahy, Billy Ryan, Paul White, Edmond Delaney, Robbie Donnelly, Niall Walsh, Conor Murphy, Mr Ger Flood (trainer). Second row (l-r): Mr Liam Smith (trainer), Josh Haines, Dylan O'Shea, Jason Barcoe, Conor Browne, Tadgh O'Dwyer, Gavin Costigan, Tommy Walsh, Gary Tynan, Mr Ken Maher (trainer). Front row: (l-r): Jack Keogh, Jason Byrne, Kevin Blanchfield, Jason Cleere, James Maher (captain), Darren Mullen, Liam Blanchfield, Sean Morrissey.





Conor Murphy had run himself to a standstill and Robbie Donnelly never let up. O'Carroll was a constant threat at fourteen while the slick Tadhg O'Dwyer finished off the scoring with a point from the sideline.

The Croke Cup was coming home for a record nineteenth time. Celebrations could begin. James Maher lifted the new Croke Cup just like his father had done in 1990. It was a massive success for the Maher and Dillon families.

On reflection, it was a year of great triumph and satisfaction. All

Ireland League success was important gave the boys the confidence to believe they could win an All Ireland. However, more importantly, many players demonstrated that they could compete and felt comfortable at this level. They have now given themselves a platform and opportunity for future representation outside of St Kieran's with their clubs, county and beyond.

Our achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of the whole panel. Every one of the thirty-five enabled our success this

year. I would like to pay tribute to Mr Maher and Mr Flood for their unending support and the courage of their convictions. It wasn't always easy but we got there playing the game in the best traditions of St Kieran's College!

The boys of 2014 take their place alongside many of the greats of the past. Next year, we begin anew with an aspiration to emulate the team of 2014 and the eighteen others who have found All Ireland success.











St Kieran's College, Leaving Cert Class 2014





St Kieran's College All-Ireland Senior Hurling Champions 2014