



ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE KILKENNY

www.stkieranscollege.ie

RECORD 2020



The start of a journey: First Year Class 2019-2020 on their first day.



Dermot Ryan

Message from the President

Was it ideal? No! Was it impressive? Yes! We are living through a pandemic and I am rightly proud of how: so many teachers carried their students each day; so many students engaged; parents did so much to support education; a management team, who above all else, tried to keep the lines of communication open with all the partners of education so that all knew what we knew - and when we knew it.

In spite of the abnormal nature of those strange months, a great normality was maintained. I was delighted, then, to see that we managed to acknowledge, and celebrate, the gifts and talents of our students in a week of our virtual awards ceremonies as the year wound to a close.

Since March not only has education continued but thankfully so also has many other aspects of the College life: the Design Team has successfully taken the new school build through a Pre-Stage 1 meeting with the Department of Education and Skills and are currently working towards the very significant Stage 2a meeting in the months ahead. Negotiations have continued to finalise the gifting, on College Lands in the Western Environs, of a new location for the City Vocational School and Coláiste Pobail Osraí. Much work has been done and more is to come.

St Kieran's College continues to lie at the heart of the Diocese of Ossory as an ever expanding pastoral centre for the people of our Diocese. It is wonderful, then, to see the continued diocesan activity here: the Diocesan Forum, the Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator, the Diocesan Faith Development office, and the Diocesan Retreat team all work from the College innovating and adapting so that they too can continue to help animate the life of our Diocese.

This past year has seen the Trustees, along with Bishop Dermot Farrell as our Patron, draft and approve a new Deed of Trust for the College as well as taking significant steps to ensure that the charity that is the College is best equipped to continue to fulfil its mission. Work has concluded on the renovations of the College Chapel with work soon to begin on restoring the Chapel Organ. An immense amount of work was undertaken to digitally catalogue the vast holdings of the College Archives and Archives of the President's Office - two new purposely renovated spaces now house these collections safely.

I welcome again this year the addition of some new Trustees, in the persons of Cathal Fitzgerald, a past pupil, and Sinead Fitzmaurice, we again have added great people to help guide and direct the College. I greatly look forward to continuing to work with them and with an already greatly strengthened group of Trustees. Sadly too, however, this year saw the death of Mgr Jim Cassin a former President of the College. A man who gave over 29 years of his life to St Kieran's College and many more to education in our Diocese and far beyond. As a friend of the College, and gladly I say of mine, his loss was sorely felt. It was wonderful that

some of our pupils in Thomastown gave a small - (as restrictions allowed) - guard of honour to recognised his immense contribution. This past year also saw the death of a great poet and much loved Deputy Principal Mr Peadar Bairéad - an icon of education, writing and a beloved, and esteemed, former colleague. We honoured his passing too as a guard of honour stood and welcome his remains through the College grounds. We said goodbye to Mr Pat Drennan, as he retired as school caretaker, who for over 23 years was a friendly face and a welcome chat as he looked after the school and its grounds. We welcome then Mr Enda Malone who takes up the role of caretaker of this iconic College in the strangest of times and with the greatest of energy. We are blessed by the people who populate these grounds.

Wonderful work continues with our Alumni Association - who sadly this year could not hold their summer reunion. There was great success too with our now annual corporate networking event in Dublin and a stand out event this past year in New York City. The Alumni Association and these events play a vital role in widening our footprint and in deepening the awareness of all that St Kieran's College and its pupils, past and present, can achieve.

Each day I work closest with the other members of the senior management team; those whose commitment, vision and guiding hands steer this great College from its proud past through, at times a choppy present, to an ever brighter future. I thank Adrian Finan as our Principal, Ken Maher and Liam Smith as our Deputy Principals. Their love for, and selfless commitment to, this College, its pupils, your families and the countless things that this College hopes to achieve is both humbling and inspiring. These past months have shown that there is truly no end to their commitment to the College and its people, and no limit to their ability to give. Through their care, along with a wonderful staff, we, in whatever time we find ourselves, continue to relentlessly pursue the highest standards of education and the deepest care for every individual student.

We are rightly proud of our students and all they do and of all they have achieved this year. Guiding them is our honour, coaching them is our privilege, encouraging them is a simple task and enjoying the fruits of those gifts is our joy.

We have, therefore, a real debt of gratitude to the students and their Council, the parents and their Association, the School and College staff, my colleagues on the Board of Management, the Trustees, Bishop Dermot our Patron, the Alumni Association and our past pupils and all those who make St Kieran's College the special place that it continues to be.

We pray that normality will return and we know that with this, as in previous trials, the winter will pass. *Hiems Transiit.*

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

There is a phrase often incorrectly attributed to Charles Darwin but most likely to have emerged from a reading of Darwin's "On the Origin of Species" by Leon C. Megginson, a business professor of Louisiana State University. Megginson observed that Darwin's theory suggests that: it is not the most intellectual of the species that survives; it is not the strongest that survives; it is the one that is able to adapt to and to adjust to the changing environment in which it finds itself that survives. In a College that has seen the Great Famine come, traumatise our people, and then go, and the Spanish Flu do likewise, and so many other tremendous moments in the history of our country and world - the ability to adapt has surely been learned here.

I recall clearly standing on the glass hall on Thursday March 12th when the then Taoiseach Leo Varadkar announced that Irish schools would close with effect from 6pm that evening. In my wisdom I could see a clear logic; in closing schools then the Government, and the National Public Health Emergency Team, were cleverly buying five weeks of school closures for the cost of three: three weeks until Easter and those two Easter weeks - surely enough time to assess, understand and reopen our schools as we either defeated or learned to live with this virus.

As we now know schools remained shut for the remainder of the academic year. This Record, published November 2020, is to document the truncated academic year that was 2019-2020 - the current year will have its own at year end.

Education is one of the few areas yet to be transformed by the technological revolution that has changed so much of our everyday world. The best of education remains, for now, classrooms, teachers, students, parents, books and the spoken word. In spite of that - adapt we did! It was humbling to observe students and teachers do so much to take the education experience online: Google classroom; Zoom; Zoho Showtime and so many other truly innovative approaches to continue the learning and teaching. Was it perfect? No!



Adrian Finan

Message from the Principal

and compassion was especially evidenced at a time when we so much wanted to reach out and yet were required to stay physically apart. Their commitment to your sons has been inspirational. I want to thank our parents for their support and commitment to ensuring an excellent standard of teaching and learning in a much changed environment, while somehow managing to balance all of the other commitments and challenges posed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

I'd like to acknowledge my colleagues in management here in the school. In Mr Liam Smith and Mr Ken Maher our Deputy Principals and Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan our College President and Chair of the Board of Management, I work alongside three of the most passionate and hard working people imaginable. Their selfless contribution and tireless commitment was never more needed and evident than during the period of school closure and I thank each of you on behalf of our whole school community. Together we are absolutely dedicated to ensuring that the educational experience for our students is literally second to none. Dermot continues to engage with the Department of Education and Skills around the imminent redevelopment of our facilities, a project that will position this school for a prosperous and vibrant future. For this, and so much more, we are extremely grateful.

I am conscious too of former members of the management team in St Kieran's, those who did so much to give to us a College of this calibre. This past year saw the deaths of Mgr Jim Cassin, former President of St Kieran's, and Mr Peadar Bairéad, former Deputy Principal, their immense contribution to this College will long be remembered.

I would like to congratulate the Student Council for being such an effective voice throughout the year and to the Parents' Association for again engaging with management in such a constructive and supportive manner. Our school, as the diocesan school for Ossory under the patronage of Bishop Dermot Farrell, would not be the school that it is without this level of commitment and spirit of volunteerism that exists to serve as Trustees, on Boards of Management, Parents Associations and Student Councils. I would like to thank all who served in any such capacity during the year.

A special mention to the Junior and Leaving Certificate classes of 2020. They endured much uncertainty, yet throughout, they remained positive,

diligent to their studies and committed to each other. Our Sixth Year students completed a Leaving Certificate that was very different in format but which, nonetheless, represented a comprehensive assessment of their consistent hard work over their time in St Kieran's College. We wish them all every blessing on their journey in the years ahead and we hope that they will always take pride in their school and their achievements here with us. We still hope to mark their time here in St Kieran's in a suitable way when it is safe to do so.

I hope you enjoy this year's Record and prior to the closing of the school we were enjoying another very productive and successful year. The annual College Record aims to capture the essence of what makes St Kieran's College what it is. We value a broad education that allows all of our students to thrive and as you read through these pages you will get some idea of the talent, enthusiasm and all-round ability of the student body. We take pride in all of our students and we strive to encourage and inspire them to realise the fullness of their potential. This publication is a tribute to their school year. I would like to thank and congratulate my colleagues on staff for the time and effort which they put in, to ensure that the educational experience enjoyed by our students is so rich and varied. All of the endeavour, academic and otherwise, evidenced in this publication and which gives the school its unique identity, is testament to the capacity of my colleagues to engage with our students. For this commitment and dedication, we are very grateful.

I would like to thank all of those involved in the production of the Record, in particular Ms Eadaoin Maher and Ms Tina Lawlor for the countless hours and energy they give to providing such a fitting testament to the school year in St Kieran's College.

As we adapt our lives to deal with the changes the pandemic is having on our homes, schools and workplaces we remember that the priority is to stay safe and take care. Together we will overcome the ongoing current crisis and lessen its impact on our school life. *Mar a deir an seanfhocal, "Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine".*

I wish all members of our school community every good health and happiness and pray that St Kieran guides us all safely through the challenges that lie ahead.

Mr Adrian Finan
Principal

The publication of the annual College Record ordinarily marks the end of yet another academic year and affords us the opportunity to reflect on the successes that have been achieved and to acknowledge the contribution of students, teachers and parents to all aspects of life in the school over the past twelve months. This year, however, the Record is dominated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on all of our lives and the disruption caused to the school year in particular. In truth, it was a school year like no other.

In recent months we were forced to change the way we work and learn. The sudden shift to online teaching and learning following the closing of schools on March 12th posed challenges for all members of our school community. Along with the demands that are associated with day-to-day school life, students and teachers had to re-invent themselves and become competent in remote learning. This was no easy feat but with determination, flexibility and a commendable work ethic, remote learning swiftly became the new normal and students and teachers embraced the challenge with a confidence and energy that ensured quality teaching and learning continued during the period of school closure.

I want to commend the students for their understanding and cooperation. I was very heartened to see how our students adapted to the new reality and continued to work so well with their teachers as they studied at home. I also convey thanks to our teaching staff for their tireless work inside their classrooms and then from their homes, whose supports extended beyond the realm of teaching and learning and whose care

St Kieran's College Staff 2019-2020



Back row (l-r): Ms Grace Farrell, Mr Simon Reddy, Mr Philip Walsh, Mr Michael Kelleher, Mr Patrick Darmody, Ms Ann Meany. Sixth Row: Mr Michael Walsh, Ms Bernie Boland, Mr Gerry Walsh, Mr Tom Brennan, Mr Dean Ray, Mr Fergal Brennan, Mr Seán Morrissey. Fifth Row: Mr Pat Drennan, Mr Paddy Kelly, Mr David McCormack, Mr Evan Walsh, Mr Richie Windle, Mr Joe Kavanagh, Mr Eamonn Heffernan, Mr Jonjo Farrell, Mr Lester Ryan. Fourth Row: Ms Evelyn Allan, Ms Bernie Dowling, Ms Eilish Ahern, Mr Paul Fitzgerald, Ms Pauline Bergin, Ms Hollie Hickey, Ms Jean Fitzpatrick, Mr John O'Keeffe. Third Row: Ms Jo Staunton, Mr Martin O'Neill, Mr Stephen Morgan, Ms Jacqui Norton, Ms Regina Mulcahy, Ms Jenny O'Dolan, Ms Orla Reynolds, Ms Debbie Ghanem, Ms Olive O'Connor, Ms Anne Wemyss. Second Row: Mr David Hennessy, Mr Carl Lynch, Mr Ger Buckley, Ms Mary Martin, Ms Martina Lawlor, Mr Michael Connolly, Mr Tom Hogan, Mr Niall Connolly, Mr Larry Cotter. Front Row: Mr Ken Maher (Deputy Principal), Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan (President), Mr Adrian Finan (Principal), Mr Liam Smith (Deputy Principal). Absent from photo: Mr Ken Archbold, Ms Sharon Keyes, Ms Eadaoin Maher, Ms Loretta Mannion.

The Student Council 2019-2020

The Student Council is the students voice in the school. We are a democratically elected group. Five Sixth years run the Council with two representatives elected by other years. We meet fortnightly to discuss events in the school. This year we have:

- Developed a weights room with supervision at lunchtime
- Raised awareness around many topical issues including the LGBT community
- Being involved in the review of school policies and practices
- Created food hampers for the local SVP for Christmas.
- Presented to the Parents' Association

We enjoy continuing to serve the student body. We thank our Senior Members of the Student Council for their leadership and guidance and we wish them well with their Leaving Cert Results and in their future studies and careers. We look forward to resuming our work in the new academic year and wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.



Student Council Executive (l-r) Darragh Hackett, Thomas Nugent, Theo Yordanov, Liam Healy, Anish Lal

Board of Management 2020



Members of the Board of Management 2020

L-R: Mr Michael Hogan, Ms Yvonne O'Dwyer, Ms Jacqui Norton, Mr Richie Mulrooney, Ms Gemma Mulligan, Rev Dr Dermot Ryan (Chairperson), Mr Paul Muldowney, Mr Adrian Finan (Secretary). Absent from photo: Ms Hollie Hickey

The Parents' Association Executive

"It's going to be hard, but hard does not mean it will be impossible" In a way this statement encapsulates how the year 2020 will be remembered. When the new Parents' Association Executive began its work in September 2019, we were full of exciting and innovative plans for the year ahead. With the fantastic support of our fellow parents we were all brimming full of ideas and energy. Little did we know the effect 'Covid' was about to have.

Upon reflection though, perhaps 2020 could be remembered for the many positive things that happened when we were faced with the Covid crisis. We remember how quickly the students, staff, management and parents adapted to the new reality of online learning in what would become a very different academic year. We remember the support offered to the students, educationally and pastorally, as they tried to adjust to online platforms. Online classrooms were quickly established, allowing for a continuity in learning.

However, perhaps the most positive aspect of the crisis was in how the students responded. They had to adapt



St Kieran's College Parents' Association

L-R: Ms Collette Walton (Secretary), Ms Cora Muldowney (Chairperson), Ms Liz Fogarty (Treasurer).

quickly to the new online format of education, day after day, logging on and continuing to submit their work, studying from home, their daily routines thrown out of sync.

We think of how difficult this transition must have been for them all and yet how they managed to prepare themselves for their exams. Well done to all students who worked so hard to keep going during those challenging times.

Well done to all of the Leaving Cert Class of 2020. It was certainly a difficult year for you but we trust you are looking forward to exciting times ahead. We would like to wish all teachers, parents and their families a safe and healthy year ahead.

We look forward to a time when we can return to "normality" and hope that we can regroup as a Parents' Association with renewed energy in the not too distant future. For now, take care.

St Kieran's College Priests' Reunion 2019



Bishop Dermot Farrell and Fr Dermot Ryan (College President) welcome priests from Ossory, and around the world, who were ordained from St Kieran's College, at the annual reunion.

Every year on the first Tuesday after the 15th August St Kieran's College hosts its reunion for those men ordained from the College and now serving around Ireland and, in fact, in parishes and various ministries throughout the world. This date is fixed to allow these Priests to make plans and advance arrangements to be at the College on that day. It is a wonderful tradition and always a most rewarding and enjoyable gathering for which some 50-60 men attend each year.

This past August, as we know too well, the usual was not possible, the normal now a new abnormal, and many proud traditions, even those as well established as the College Reunion, impossible. These past pupils of the College could not be invited, or welcomed, back to the buildings they once called home.

Thankfully, as we know the ability to adapt, in a new and strange environment, is one of the most important characteristics for survival and so on Tuesday 18th August -

the first after the 15th - the College Reunion did take place and the College President Fr Dermot Ryan was able to welcome many past pupils home; albeit now just in a new way. Restrictions at that time allowed most priests of the Diocese of Ossory to gather safely, and socially distanced, for the celebration of the Reunion Mass in the College Chapel and technology allowed that this be streamed to the homes and parishes of so many past pupils scattered throughout the country and beyond. We felt that it was important that the tradition be continued and that those men who had intended to travel could be remembered in prayer in the College Chapel which lies at the heart of the College.

The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Dermot Farrell, was streamed on the College website and nearly 250 people joined in live - online - that evening.

Reflecting on the situation Bishop Dermot reminded those who attended, in person or via the medium

of the internet, just how it was that the ministry of the church had continued during this pandemic and how many Priests, parishes and people, had found innovative ways to continue to minister and share God with people. They like we who were gathered for this reunion had to adapt in order to continue.

Music for the celebration was provided not by the usual choirs of Danesfort and St Canices but by a single cantor and pianist - and a wonderful, albeit, somewhat strange celebration was had; the names of Jubilarians read and, like any more traditional reunion - memories were shared!

We hope for a more traditional reunion next year when many familiar faces will return; but we know now, already, that no matter where we find ourselves and how things are, we will reunite; memories will be shared, stories will be told, and our prayers will continue.

Mr Peadar Barrett

Ms Anne Wemyss
(Guidance Counsellor)

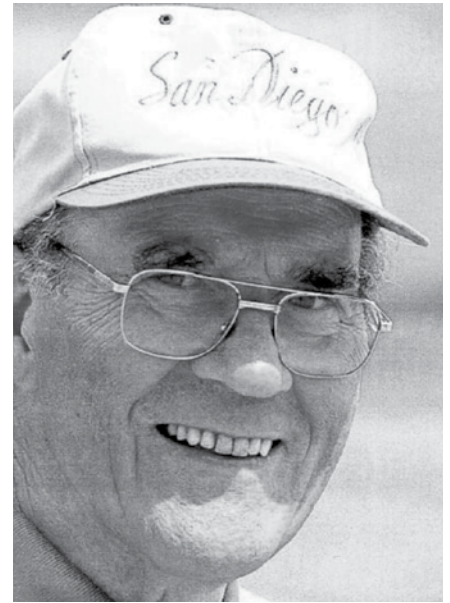
I was very fortunate to join the staff of St Kieran's College while Peadar Barrett was Deputy Principal. I remember him as a true gentleman and a true scholar. His distinguished presence ensured the respect of colleagues and students alike. His calm demeanour encouraged a positive response even in the most challenging situations. I have no memory of him ever raising his voice or losing his temper which speaks volumes about his leadership style given the position he held.

Peadar was a talented linguist and his love for the Irish language in particular, was evident from his

teaching and writing. He inspired many students during his time as an Irish teacher, many of whom continued to read his poetry publications and his weekly column in the Kilkenny People after his retirement.

Presently there are four teachers on the staff who worked with Peadar, Ms Jean Fitzpatrick, Mr Niall Connolly, Mr Michael Kelleher and I. All of us share fond memories of his warm personality, his encouragement, and his unique wit. His after dinner speeches every year on St Kieran's Day were legendary.

It was a privilege as a young teacher starting out on my career to be mentored by such an inspirational leader. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*



St Kieran's Prayer

That I may,
reach as high as is possible;
believe with all my being;
learn with all my power;
give with all my heart;
and pray with all my soul.

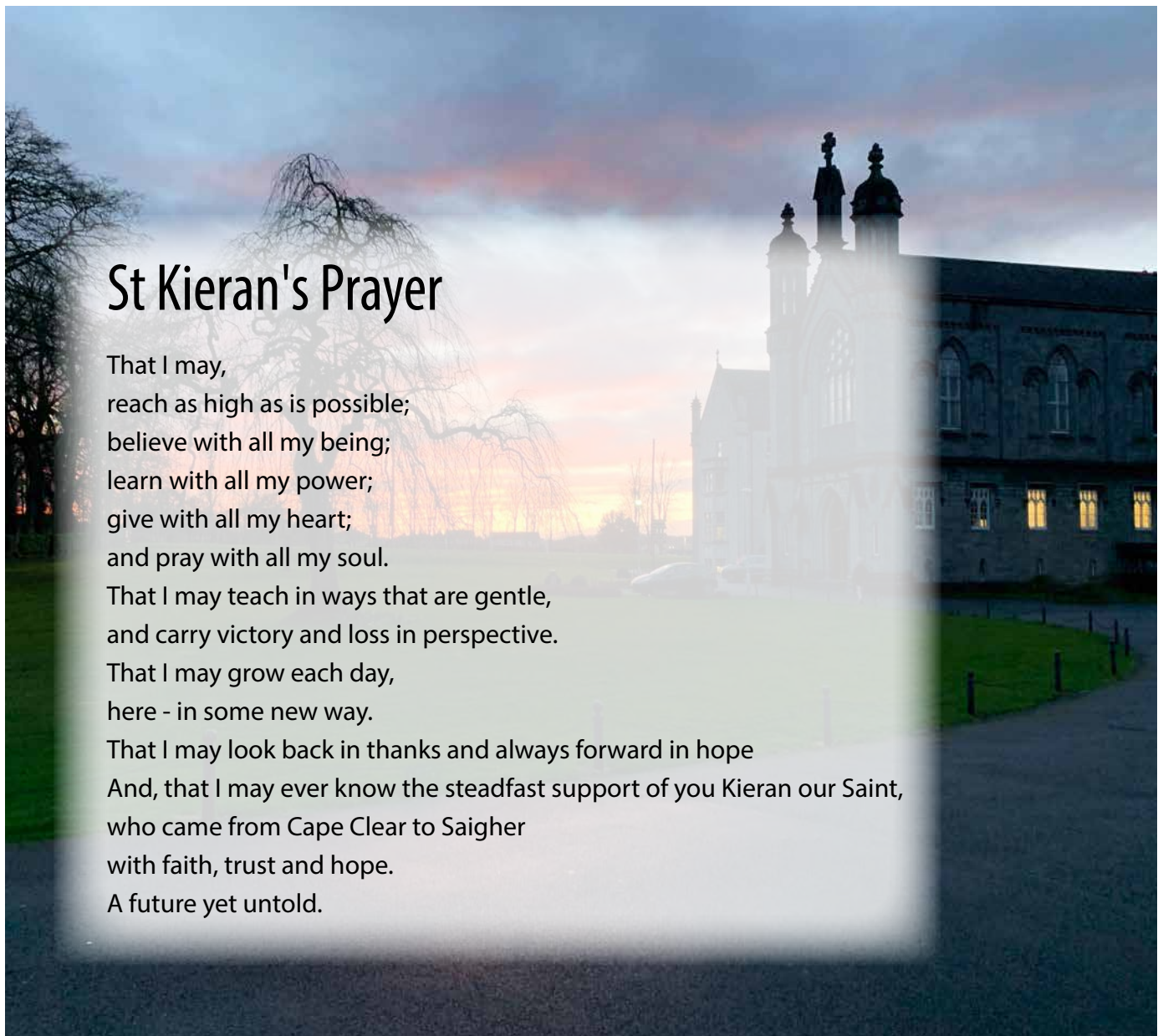
That I may teach in ways that are gentle,
and carry victory and loss in perspective.

That I may grow each day,
here - in some new way.

That I may look back in thanks and always forward in hope

And, that I may ever know the steadfast support of you Kieran our Saint,
who came from Cape Clear to Saigher
with faith, trust and hope.

A future yet untold.





The news of the death of Mgr Jim Cassin was greeted with great sadness by his family, many friends and colleagues in the Diocese of Ossory and here in St Kieran's College. Since his Ordination in 1972 Mgr Jim has been a faithful servant of the people of our Diocese and, thanks to his national roles, the Church in Ireland and given his many years of service here in St Kieran's College by the College community past and present.

Having received his secondary school education at St Kieran's College and also undertaken his seminary formation here, Jim undertook his postgraduate studies in Rome. Mgr

Mgr Jim Cassin

Jim then first served in the parish of Hartlepool, in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle in England before returning in 1975 to the teaching staff at St Kieran's College. In 1987 Jim was appointed Dean of the Seminary before being appointed as President of St Kieran's College in 1994. While serving as the College President Mgr Jim also worked to establish, and direct, the CREIDIM Adult Religious Education centre for the Diocese of Ossory. His love of St Kieran's and his ceaseless dedication to the College was clearly evident throughout all the years and Jim remained as a Trustee of the College for many years after he moved to Maynooth.

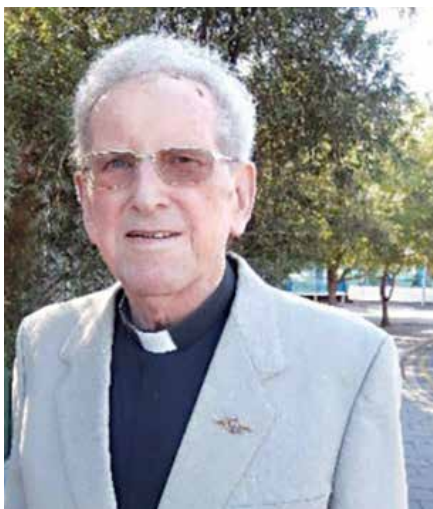
Jim served as President of the Association of Managers of Catholic Secondary Schools and the Joint Managerial Body representing all voluntary secondary schools in Ireland from 2000 to 2003.. From 2004 until his retirement, on grounds of ill health, Mgr Jim was the Executive Secretary of the Educational Secretariat of the Irish

Episcopal Conference. Mgr Jim was widely regarded as having excellent insight into the Irish Education system and was for many years one of the leading voices in Ireland in Education. Mgr Jim had a wide circle of friends from his various appointments – friendships that lasted a lifetime. Mgr Jim will be sadly missed by all those who knew and loved him.

Speaking at Jim's Funeral Mass in his native Thomastown Bishop Dermot Farrell recognised that Jim "combined a good intellect with great humility and benevolence, a way with people and good sense of humour. He created unity; he was a builder of community around himself, a reconciler. Jim, never wanted to offend; indeed, he never wanted to make a decision that would offend anyone. His presence in the Diocese went beyond any particular task" such was his immense contribution and easy way with people. Jim, then, was a Kieran's man, servant of others, in so many ways – *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.*

Fr Sean McGearty

Based on the homily by Fr Kevin Taylor JCL and tribute by Fr Maurice Shinnick.



Sean Francis McGearty was born in Ballivor, Co Meath, Ireland on January 15 1934, the fourth of eight children born to Patrick and Mary McGearty.

After completing his Leaving Certificate Sean studied for the priesthood at St Kieran's College in Kilkenny for six years. On June 8 1958 he was ordained to the priesthood in St Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny. For the next 61 years Fr Sean worked tirelessly in the vineyard of the Lord. Most of those

years were spent in the Archdiocese of Adelaide, with a ten-year period where he worked in Tullamore, Ireland.

On November 5 1958 he departed Dublin bound for London. The next morning, he boarded the P&O Himalaya with five other Irish priests en route to Australia and New Zealand.

Arriving in Adelaide on December 2 1958 Fr Sean was met by Fr Leonard Faulkner (later to be Archbishop of Adelaide). They became lifelong friends. Speaking of his arrival here in Adelaide he often remarked that he could have been mistaken for Charlie Chaplin. There he was fresh off the boat, dressed in an ill-fitting black suit and overcoat (on one of our hot 100 degrees summer days),

carrying an umbrella (which could have been mistaken for a walking stick) and wearing a hat. At his side was a box which contained his books and chattels. Then, he would add, 'I shuffled or waddled off into ministry'.

Fr Sean was the last of the Irish missionary priests to serve in the Archdiocese. Fr Sean died on December 20 2019, and was repatriated to Ballivor for the celebration of the funeral Mass and burial on January 22 2020.

"There will always be a link between the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Meath because of the life and ministry of this good and generous minister of the Gospel."

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam. (May his soul be on the right side of God.)



Ms Gen Traynor, carer and distant cousin of Fr Sean McGearty, on a recent visit to St Kieran's College.

Pat Drennan Retires



Pat Drennan came to St Kieran's in 1997 for two weeks and ended up staying for 23 years. Over the years, Pat developed very good relationships with both staff and students alike. He would often be seen walking around the school in the morning with the bolt cutters to rescue a student who may have forgotten his locker keys.

Pat had a great interest in hurling and enjoyed working in St Kieran's, chatting to the many future stars about a topic he was so interested in. He also loved music and took an interest in the school choir, supporting them at various competitions over the years. Unfortunately, Pat could never be persuaded to join the staff choir



although he was well able to sing a few tunes himself. Pat was due to retire in May 2019 but the school was shutdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic on 12th March which sent Pat into an early retirement of sorts.

We are grateful to Pat for all of his work over the years and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

St Kieran's College Alumni Association

Our Alumni continued the work of re-establishing connections with Past Pupils of the College and with each other. Various events and occasions were held throughout the year for many of our Past Pupils culminating in our June 21st event. Following feedback and consultation with the different year groups, we brought forward the event to the second last weekend in June. The day began with competitive day's golf at Gowran Golf Club where a great number of past pupils battled it out for the honours. The weather obliged, as it always seems to do and hours were easily passed as many men chatted and strolled easily around the course. The clubhouse too was a location of much laughter and the odd surprise as "old" faces were recognised and many stories told. The afternoon saw many past pupils assemble in the College grounds as they received tours of the School and College by students of the College today. A key element of these tours was the ability of men to find their own face on the College walls among the many that look down from the archive photos.

The evening then was a celebration of those memories as over 100 alumni

gathered for the reunion dinner in the St Kieran's College Refectory. Food and drinks were served by Langton's of Kilkenny. Classes of 2009, 1989, 1979 and 1969 were all well represented and their tables provided much of the stories and enjoyment of the evening. Eddie Keher made a presentation to the alumni of 1969 with any stories being told. A slideshow of photos from each era played in the background. Given that the College was thankfully again the winner of the Croke Cup this year there was an opportunity for former team mates - and Colleges All-Ireland winners too - to have their team pictures taken once more with the Croke Cup. In fact, all three Croke Cups were there on the night - making this a very special picture. The chats and laughs went on well into the evening and some were even rumoured to have continued elsewhere.

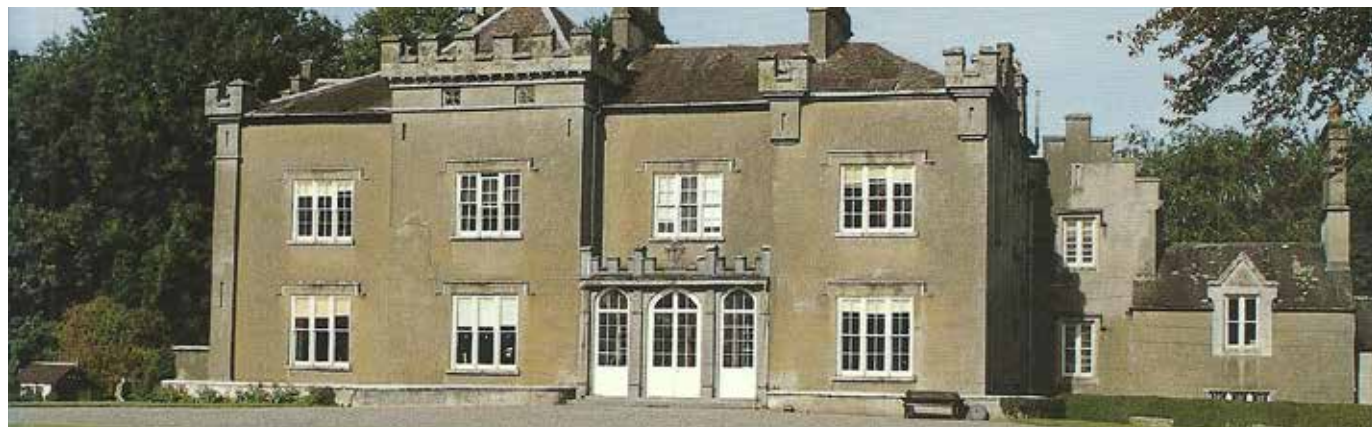
The Alumni Association was well under way to organising the next event for the classes of 2010, 1990 and 1980 before the Covid 19 pandemic. Indeed, Noel Maher, Damien Casey and JJ Drennan had contacted nearly all of the graduating class. A Christmas event in Kilkenny saw many old faces

re connect again. Gerry O'Keeffe was likewise busy reconnecting with the class of 1980. We all look forward to welcoming our Past Pupils back to the College when time allows.

The next gathering of the Alumni will take place in June this 2021 with the classes of 2011, 1991, 1981 and 1971 joining the classes above - so make sure that you book early and as always keep an eye on the College website for this and all other Alumni Association events throughout 2020/2021.

The Alumni Association is an opportunity not only for people to come together to share memories, but it is also an opportunity for past pupils to network today. Much work is done by the Alumni Association committee to ensure that this and other events are a great success and sincere thanks must be given to them. Under the guidance of the committee of Eddie Keher, Diarmuid Healy, Billy Fitzpatrick, Pat Gannon, Cathal Fitzgerald, Dermot Ryan, Liam Smith, Brian Roche and Martin Tynan, have given the Association great time and commitment to have it so firmly rooted.

Kilkenny Archives



John Kirwan, Archivist

Kilkenny Archives, which was founded in 1995, has been open to the public since it set up its office, storage and reading room, on the Campus of St Kieran's College in 2010. We are very grateful to the President and Trustees of SKC for this vital support.

Since late March we have more or less been in lockdown yet life continues behind the scenes. Enquiries keep arriving about our current holdings while more excitedly we have acquired new material. And there is the possibility of new gifts of archival material.

The last important 'Big House' archival collection of papers to remain with the creating family namely the Toler-Aylwards of Shankill, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny, has been purchased by Kilkenny Archives Ltd.

Ms. N. Toler-Aylward, the owner, anxious to ensure the future of the papers has just sold the collection privately to us on very favourable terms. This is not the first time that she and her Family has acted so generously in favour of a Kilkenny cultural institution. Back in 1990 when she and her sisters, the late Miss Maura Toler-Aylward (died 2003) and Mrs J. Doud, sold Shankill Castle with some of the land to the Cope Family of Castledermot, they gifted a very important collection of period costumes to The Kilkenny Archaeological Society. This contained many unique and valuable items of clothing worthy of been in the national collection at the National Museum, Dublin. Kilkenny is very lucky to have acquired this important archival collection which was valued by Fonsie Mealy of Castlecomer.

The history of the Toler-Aylward family in Kilkenny is as old as Shankill Castle itself. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries Shankill belonged to the Butlers of Paulstown Castle, a junior branch of the House of Ormond, and it was they who built the first castle or tower-house on this site, as far as we know. It is probable that parts of the existing basement of the present house or castle date from this period.

In 1708 Shankill and its estate passed to Elizabeth Butler, the daughter of Sir Richard Butler of Paulstown, baronet, and a grand-daughter of Sir Walter Butler who was governor of Kilkenny City when Cromwell paid the city an unwelcome visit in 1650. Elizabeth married Peter Aylward whose family held lands at Aylwardstown, Glenmore. After the defeat of the Confederation of Kilkenny, Peter like so many Old Irish or Old English Roman Catholic landowners were ordered to Connacht. To avoid the loss of his patrimony Peter conformed to the Church of Ireland and was thus able to retain ownership of his lands despite the Penal Laws which in the first quarter of the eighteenth-century were most severe. Catholics could own land by inheritance but they could not easily purchase new lands.

The Aylwards played a leading role in the life of Kilkenny during the succeeding centuries being High Sheriffs of the county on several occasions. Peter's son, Nicholas Aylward was a member of the Irish House of Commons for nearly thirty years. In the early years of the twentieth-century SKC has had many Aylwards as students and one as a very successful president.

Shankill Castle as it exists to-day is largely the work of Peter Aylward, who rebuilt the old Butler tower-house in the second decade of the eighteenth-century. This is clear from various mural stones inscribed with his name or initials and those of his wife. One such stone inserted into the garden wall bears the inscription 'Peter Aylward Esqr. A. S. 1713 : E.B. The very fine coat-of-arms which survives over the entrance doorway pertains to Peter's son Nicholas and his wife Catherine Keating who married in 1719. Building went on during the succeeding century.

In 1884 James Kearney Aylward died without issue so the Castle and the estate passed to his nephew, Hector Toler-Aylward, who oddly enough married back into the Butlers as his bride was Emily Butler the only child of James Butler of Verona, Monkstown, Co. Dublin, who was and this should come as no surprise his second cousin, their grandmothers being the daughters and co-heiresses of James Kearney of Blanchville (known as Hart's Tower by my father and his generation), Gowran.

The first Hector Toler-Aylward of Shankill Castle died in 1918 when the property passed to the elder of his two sons, another Hector who with his brother Victor saw action during the Great War. Happily both sons survived. Hector missed one of the great battles of the war due to illness which probably saved his life. It will take a year at least to fully catalogue, file and box this collection which includes estate papers, farm accounts, wills, marriage settlements, photographs and even maps.

St Kieran's College Archives

They say that the past builds the future - and this is something of which we are acutely aware of in St Kieran's College. Those of us who are here today merely build upon the legacy of those who went before us. History is, then, important. One of the tasks undertaken during the first lockdown necessitated by Covid-19 was the complete cataloguing of the archives at St Kieran's College. The College houses two archives - the College archives and the archives of the office of the President. In total these contain nearly 4000 files - each of which are themselves files containing many documents grouped by their affinity. These files date back to the 15th Century and as of May 2020 are now completely up to date and fully catalogued with the ability to be digitally searched.

Much work was undertaken for a number of years by the Kilkenny Archive Society through the person of John Kirwan to begin the great work on these archives and this allowed the remaining work to be undertaken in this past year. Two purposely refurbished, and refitted, rooms now house these two collections in the College - ensuring that tomorrow will always be able to know what yesterday gave it.



Sadly Campus closed during lockdown.

Ongoing works at St Kieran's 2019/2020



The refurbished Art Room.



The refurbished College Chapel.



Shakespeare in the Quad during Arts Week.

NEW YORK EVENT, METROPOLITAN CLUB, MANHATTAN

Leadership in Sport Lessons for Business

St Kieran's College Corporate Networking Events 2019/2020



The now annual Leadership in Sport Lessons for Business corporate networking events are now a staple on the College and corporate Ireland's calendars. The unique collaboration with Kilkenny GAA has been working extremely well for these past years allowing both organisations the opportunity to showcase their wonderful institutions.

This past year saw the GAA announce that the Super 11's competition to showcase Hurling was to be played in New York in November and with this the decision was taken to bring our corporate networking event there too. A hectic few months of planning with the College, the County Board, some key friends in New York - among them Keith McCorry and Ollie Holden and others - saw the realisation of a wonderful evening in New York City.

The formula for New York events, we were told, is very different to how we have conducted them in Ireland but following many discussions it was felt that as an educational institution - in the first instance - that this should remain the driving, and shaping, factor of any event associated with the College. Quickly the team from the County Board and the College worked to establish a network of connections and the evening began to take shape.

The Leadership in Sport Lessons for Business event took place in the wonderful surroundings of the Metropolitan Club in Manhattan



DUBLIN EVENT, INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, DUBLIN



on November 11th. The evenings proceedings were opened by the College President Dr Dermot Ryan who reminded those who gathered in the packed to capacity room, that while there does exist the average Irish man - he is not to be found in St Kieran's

among its pupils or alumni nor as any part of a Kilkenny Team.

A star studded stage of guests entertained and educated those in attendance with wonderful stories from sport and business.

The keynote speakers Mr Brian

Cody, as a proud past pupil, and Mr Brian Kelly, the Dick Corbett Head Football Coach at Notre Dame University in South Bend Indiana, sat easily together on stage exchanging insights, jokes, and thoughts on what makes and sustains success.



Theirs a unique perspective having such long and successful traditions with their respective sports at the highest of levels. Tommy Walsh led a panel discussion with Henry Shefflin, Ann and Angela Downey, Eoin Larkin, Richie Hogan and Cillian Buckely and they captivated a room that was packed with many familiar Irish faces of sport and business, as well as some of New York's most successful business friends.

The evening ended with all agreeing that the format - so novel in the New York Corporate scene - was to be repeated and was one not to be missed.

Not long home from there when the College President Dr Dermot Ryan, Mr Brian Cody and a number of students had to head to Dublin to launch this years Dublin event with Mr Leo Cullen of Leinster Rugby - a cold but memorable day for the young students as they joked with Leo about their perspective on the key element of success.

The Dublin event, then too, a wonderful occasion held in the Intercontinental Hotel on Friday 7th February where Fr Dermot opened the afternoon contextualising the evening before handing over to Mr Pat Kenny, of Newstalk, who MC'd the afternoon. As keynote speakers Mr Brian Cody, Mr Leo Cullen and Vodafone's Anne O'Leary provided excellent insights into the secrets of their successes and the importance of building the right team for every challenge. Once again the afternoon was stolen by the panel discussion led by Tommy Walsh when he interviewed Aidan Fogarty - the now famous dancing star! - JJ Delaney and Eddie Brennan.

These events are not merely an opportunity for corporate networking they have become a key element of the calendar of our Alumni and an opportunity for learning and sharing insights. With an event unlikely to happen in this current academic year - an opportunity then to take-stock, re-think and reimagine so that the next event when it happens - might be even better!



Adult Faith Development

The Adult Faith Development Group here at St Kieran's College works to develop the faith of the people of our Diocese - this past year under the direction of Bishop Dermot Pastoral Areas have been established as parishes have come to realise that collaboration and working together we can do so much more. The Faith Development group had planned a marquee event for May of this past year to celebrate, explore and breath life into these emerging new groups. Sadly however this, along with so many other planned activities for parishes and the Diocese, were not to happen.

The one question in these pandemic months - has been how can we come together - given that coming together is such an integral aspect of our faith.

Many have Zoomed as a means to overcome this obstacle. I am not even sure it is legitimate to use as a verb the name of a company, which just a number of months ago we had not even heard about. But now, just a short time later, to zoom is not only an activity, it is a common one.

We have, then, in parishes invaded that virtual and digital world so as to bring to life our daily activities - far from Pastoral Areas we met online and in

new ways. We have met in small groups of the Diocese, national groups, held meetings of Boards of Management, met with committees and councils and maybe even met friends in far flung countries in this digital space so that our work, our friendships and our journeys of faith can continue. It is, for now, the 'norm' - that is to say normal even though it is anything but...

This past year, by reason of chance timing rather than any prophetic design, the Adult Faith Development group had moved into a more virtual space. There was a growing realisation that the more traditional medium of printed materials was not reaching new audiences, and as the mandate we are all given "go therefore and make disciples..." involves more than speaking to the already convinced, the Faith development Group moved to a new means of delivery.

During Lent, and at the height, then, of the first wave of the pandemic, the Faith Development Group continued the traditional texts, tweets, and short daily website videos but we also moved for the first time in a real way to eBooks for our daily lenten reflections and for our Sunday scripture booklets. It was notable that these reached a new audience, in a new way, given

the situation we happened to now find ourselves journeying through. A journey that brought new questions of old reliables too.

The *Ossory Times* too, a production of the Faith Development Group, published its first fully digital edition in April of this year. This edition, the 23rd for the *Ossory Times*, was distributed via the College and Diocesan websites, the College and Diocesan Twitter accounts and the Diocesan Facebook page. A small number (10) were printed for archival purposes but - marking the way the year developed - the digital edition was the only version that many people could access.

Many traditional aspects of the life of our faith in Ossory were lost to this pandemic. The annual Diocesan Blitz here at the College fell fowl to the pandemic - often times this would have been the first opportunity those children had to hurl in their club colours. Teaching them of the honour in hurling for the pride of the Parish. The planned Faith Development Pilgrimage to Rome which was due to take place in August an obvious victim to the pandemic times.

Coming together was hard, and often impossible, in these pandemic months.





Music Ministry



Ministers of the Word



Praying the Scriptures



Educating our Parishes

The question, then, remained throughout the year - how, with all this going on, could we as a community of faith, come together, in a real way, now that we had to stay apart. Our traditional, and base fundamental form of gathering for the Celebration of Eucharist was, by necessity, taken. But immediately, in response, parishes started to innovate - webcams, that may have been dusty, parish radios and facebook live became the new way of our being Church. Prompted by the Faith Development Group and thanks to the generosity of KCLR96fm our Sunday celebrations reached the homes of people all over Kilkenny, Carlow and beyond - these celebration led each weekend by our own Bishop Dermot and Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare and Leighlin. Community Radio Kilkenny City also afforded another option for those in the city environs. It was reassuring that we - now apart - could come together, support each other, pray and be simply together.

When we emerge from this, and we will, questions must be asked. What is the life of our parishes? What is the work of our communities of faith? What did we have to stop in these days... and was it missed? If it was, what did we do; and if it wasn't what is that saying? What will we have to change - because change is what we've always had to do.

Prompting for innovation, and our seeing with new eyes, in 2012 Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini wondered why has the Church often remained 200 years behind the times. "Why has it not been shaken up? Are we afraid? Fear instead of courage? Nevertheless, faith is the foundation of the church. Faith, trust, courage.... Only love", he noted, "conquers tiredness".

Pope Francis too, in addressing the Roman Curia just this past Christmas, 2019, reminded them not to fear change as it is the nature of the missionary church. Recalling the words of Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, in his book *Il Gattopardo* Pope Francis reminded them that, "Everything needs to change, so everything can stay the same".

Recognising the difficulty we face, Pope Francis also recently observed in *Fratelli Tutti* "the pain, uncertainty and fear, and the realisation of our own limitations, brought on by the pandemic have only made it all the more urgent that we rethink our



styles of life, our relationships, the organisation of our societies, and, above all, the meaning of our existence" (#33). This rethinking, then, must call us in Church to continue to explore new ways of communicating the Love

of God for one another - the Faith Development Group must continue to be at the forefront of this change here in Ossory. We must continue this change, prompted not only by dramatic shifts in the world around

us, not only by promptings of the prophets in our midst, but also from a simple desire to bring, ironically, the unchanging message of God in new, engaging and novel ways to a people now listening with different ears.



Viewing of The Two Popes

The Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Plan



Gemma Mulligan

Laudato Si' Praised be, an encyclical letter of Pope Francis on care for our common home was first published in 2015. This year 2020 marks its 5th year anniversary. Trocaire's Laudato Si' project is working with parishes and dioceses in Ireland over the next two years in particular to help spread the message of Laudato Si' and to mobilise parishes in embedding Laudato Si' in their various ministries.

Strand eight of The Pastoral Plan for Ossory Diocese is outreach and the aim of this strand is to develop parishes' vocation of witness in the wider society of Justice, Peace and Care for the earth. We in Ossory, continue to play our part and "replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity, and wastefulness with a spirit of sharing..." (LS9) A Laudato Si' regional day was held in March and 200 people from the three dioceses of Ossory, Kildare and Leighlin and Ferns attended. The



emphasis of the conference was on the implementation of Laudato Si' in our parishes and communities.

There were inputs from Prof. John Sweeney "From Climate Science to Climate Justice" Dr. Lorna Gold "Introduction to Laudato Si'", Padraig Fogarty "Biodiversity breakdown in Ireland-how can we respond?" and Fr. Dermot Lane-"Ecology and Spirituality in Laudato Si'". The afternoon allowed an opportunity for participants to attend two workshops where they could explore more deeply ways of implementing Laudato Si' practically in their homes and parishes. Those who attended the day also explored the marketplace where various groups, organisations and green schools including students from St.Kierans' College, displayed their work and highlighted how they are working hard to protect our common home.

Two second year students from Loreto Kilkenny, Ruby Woods and Medha Trehan, youth activists from Loreto Green schools team spoke of their experience attending the Dail Climate Youth Parliament in November 2019. Ruby and Medha were part of the 157 young people aged between 10 and 17 years from all over Ireland who came to the Dail last November to discuss the climate crisis and to look at possible solutions.

Pope Francis reminds us that the climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. God created the world and entrusted it to us, his vision of Church invites us all to share responsibility in its mission and that is true also for the care of the earth. 'All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.' (LS 14)

The Ossory Diocesan Forum

When the Pastoral Councils that make up the Diocesan Forum met last September a major item on the agenda was the newly formed Pastoral Areas.

Adjacent parishes had been grouped in threes and fours to enable them to work together by sharing resources in addressing the pastoral life of the Area. While each parish retained its identity, parishes were encouraged to ask what could be done more effectively by working co-operatively with the other parishes in their Area. The first task the Pastoral Areas were asked to undertake was the scheduling of weekend parish Mass times to take into account changed circumstances in the Diocese. A new Mass schedule was drawn up to

come into effect on the first Sunday of Advent.

The Diocesan Pastoral Council is very aware of the need to co-operate closely with the Council of Priests in addressing the pastoral needs of the Diocese. In November the first joint meeting of both councils was held. The opportunity to consider how we could best work together was valued by all and we agreed to continue to meet regularly. A second joint meeting was held in February focussed on how we could best support the development of the newly established Pastoral Areas. It is intended that these joint meetings will take place at regular intervals.

The restrictions introduced by the

Covid 19 pandemic in March naturally impacted on the Forum. The Diocesan Pastoral Council began meeting by zoom in May and, given the importance of regular meetings, we are grateful to have the zoom facility while restrictions on coming together for meetings continue.

Established in 2004, the Diocesan Forum with its office in St Kieran's College, is mandated by its Constitution to do an evaluation of its functioning every four years and consider if changes are necessary to ensure that the Forum structure continues to best serve the pastoral needs of the Diocese. Planning for the next evaluation will begin in the new term after the summer break.

Our School Musical – Grease



Below listed the full cast, chorus and crew of Grease The Musical

Cast: Sandy Dombrowski - Lucy McGrath, Danny Zuko - Charlie Delahunty, Betty Rizzo - Emma O'Brien, Kenickie - Liam Walsh, Frenchie - Caroline Barron, Doody - Kevin Benny, Jan - Amy Fennely, Roger - Dylan Gordon, Marty - Sasha O'Hara, Sonny Latierra - Liam Moloney, Patty Simcox - Róisín Oakman, Eugene Florczyk - Alan Dunphy, Ms Lynch - Ellie O'Neill, Vince Fontaine - Nicholas O'Keeffe, Cha-Cha Di Gregorio - Niamh Brickell, Teen Angel - Charlie Fitzgerald, Johnny Casino - Oisín Meegan, Bobby - Harry McIntyre, Mickey - Aaron Moore, Chad - Brogan McAvinney.

Male Chorus: Artem Arlukovs, Samba Batchilly, Luke Burke, Jack Butler, Oisín Cahill, Jimmy Cantwell, Nicky Conway, Nick Doheny, Alan Dunphy, Jack Forristal, Ruaidhri Holden, Padraig Lennon, Eibhan McEvoy, Oisín Meegan, Emmet Nolan, Noel O'Brien, Jimmy O'Neill, Craig Shelly, Adam Walsh.

Female Chorus: Aoife Brennan, Orla Buckley, Chloe Foley-Doyle, Lucy Fitzpatrick, Tara Fogarty, Eve Gibbs, Ella Gittens, Tara Holohan, Sarah Hudson, Niamh Kennedy, Laura Maher, Niamh McEvoy, Saoirse McGuinness, Louise McInerney, Kate Molloy, Faith Morris, Isolde Morrissey, Sarah O Gorman, Ciara O'Dwyer, Hannah Sharpe, Ellie Smith, Jessie Smith, Ciara Walsh.

Stage Crew: Róisín Bay Ben Canavan, Jack Delaney, Aaron Dorney, Shane Fennelly, Annika Kilkenny, Aoibhinn Malzard, Kaley Power, Jasmine Smithwick, Luke Wallace.

St Kieran's College in association with the Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny were delighted to introduce their production of Grease, which was scheduled to be performed from April 30th to May 2nd 2020 in the Watergate Theatre. This school musical involved a joint production between Transition Year cohorts in both schools. School musicals were performed on an annual basis between St Kieran's College and the Presentation Secondary School through the mid-nineties, with the last production between the two schools being staged 21 years ago in 1999. School musicals began in the school in 1987 under the guidance of Fr Richard Scriven and Ms Veronica McCarron.

This musical is about American high schoolers, featuring music in the rock 'n roll style of the 1950s and is the basis for the 1978 film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. Sandy Dumbrowski, the new girl in town, and Danny Zuko, the school's coolest

greaser, have a secret summertime romance - but when they get back to school, everything is different. Sandy attempts to navigate the tricky Rydell High School social waters and catch Danny's attention again, but Danny is chiefly concerned with maintaining his tough-guy reputation. In the end, the Pink Ladies help Sandy figure out how to win back the leader of the Burger Palace Boys.

Transition Year students of 2019-2020 rehearsed rigorously this academic year and had made huge progress in creating what was promised to be an unforgettable performance of Grease. Students exercised their skills in many areas such as acting, singing and dancing, as well as art and technology by those who were designing our set. It was wonderful to see our students so united in delivering such talent to this thrilling show. We are so proud of their huge effort and commitment that all students put in to prepare for a fine

performance.

This school musical was being directed by Mr Fergal Brennan (St Kieran's College), Ms Regina Mulcahy (St Kieran's College), Ms Laura Carroll (Presentation Secondary School), Mr Stephen Murphy (Presentation Secondary School) and Mr Niall O' Riordan (Presentation Secondary School). A warm thank you to Ms Michelle Wise from Dance Wise Studio's who choreographed our dance routines. A huge cohort of teachers from both St Kieran's College and the Presentation Secondary School signed up to help with the success of this magnificent show and we sincerely thank them for their enthusiasm and commitment.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic the musical had to be postponed, but we hope to revisit the school musical in the not too distant future when health guidelines allow.

Grease by Charlie Delahunty #Danny Zuko

When I heard that I was playing Danny Zuko in the school production of Grease, it really hit me that I would have to perform in front of a daunting number of people, at the Watergate theatre. I was quite frightened, but ready!

Following the cast selection, we worked alongside the Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny. We started off mainly working on the dance routines with the determined Michelle Wise, for each song in the musical. Easy we thought. Michelle had us on our toes. We worked very hard every Tuesday morning, well, most Tuesday mornings!.

Our acting practice took place on many afternoons in Ms Mulcahy's room. All of the lads that had a major part in the musical would take part in the acting, it was new to all of us at first and most of us found it hard to put on an American accent and to act tough, however we got the hang of it as the weeks went on.

After the Christmas holidays, the preparation for the musical increased ten-fold. I had to practice the songs I was singing and the overwhelming pressure of the dances increased. We did not have much time for school classes as the musical was becoming the priority. Time was flying by. Before we knew it, we were getting professional pictures to advertise for the musical in the Kilkenny People, smiling ear to ear.

Christmas had arrived and we were asked to come in over the holidays, there were a few grunts, however, most people showed up in the end. Yet again, we were worked to the bone. We also had an acting session with Mr Brennan where we had great crack and for the first time, I saw the musical coming together. The nerves were starting to kick in.

We got back to school after the break and all systems were go, to get the musical in tip-top shape for the performance dates in late April, early May. Costume sizes were taken, after school acting had started and the rush had begun! Although the Corona Virus was hitting hard in certain countries around the world, we kept hoping for the best. However, when the first case arrived in the east of Ireland, we were sceptical as to what was going to happen. We were told by one of the Vice principles that there was a good possibility of school closing temporarily, however we continued with preparation for the musical.

One day after school, I headed over to Presentation Secondary School to work on a scene, I walked in the doors of the school and it was sheer mayhem as the news had been announced that the schools were closing. I took it lightly as I believed schools would re-open in two weeks as said, however little did I know that that would be our last rehearsal for the Musical Grease. The preparation that took place over the past 8-9 months was savage fun, however I hope it happens in the not too distant future, after all the show must go on!

SKC Truck and Tractor Run

The annual St Kieran's College Truck and Tractor Run took place on January 26th from Cillín Hill. Preparations began in early September by the TY student volunteers. Tommy Phelan, Nick Doheny, Liam Walsh, Guy Watts, Jimmy O'Neill and David Parle set about arranging insurance, posters, banners, Garda clearance, County Council certs in order for the Run to take place. Many a morning the boys were to be seen outside the Mart handing out posters to the local farmers. The boys can be very proud of a job well done.

Over fifty tractors and trucks took to the roads in aid of St Patrick's Special school on the Kells Road. Vintage and brand new tractors were the big attraction with many calling to Cillín Hill to see the vehicles on show. The Run was led by the TY organising committee and took the participants out the Dublin Road to Gowran returning via Bennetsbridge and the Sion Road back to Cillín Hill. Refreshments were available all day from our TY organisers and friends



of St Kieran's College. On conclusion of the run, a raffle took place for the wonderful spot prizes available. These prizes were kindly donated from many local business'. Great credit must go to

the boys on organising another very successful run.

Over €2000 was raised for St Patrick's Special school and the creation of a new sensory playground.



Charitable Events and Fundraising

Over the past couple of months, a host of fundraising activities have taken place in the school. Mr Dowling led the way with the now annual Christmas Shoe-Box Appeal which was a huge success. TY students held a coffee morning in aid of Pieta House. The Student Council collected a great amount of food for their Christmas Hamper Appeal in aid of the local St Vincent de Paul Society. A new fundraising initiative saw the arrival of the local Gardaí to the school to play a charity Soccer match against the teachers. Students came out to watch the game which proved to be a very entertaining and enjoyable spectacle, raising over €1200 for the local branch of Focus Ireland helping the homeless in our community this Christmas. Congrats to Mr Cotter for organising and to all teachers and local Gardaí involved. Our carol services this year are in aid of the Mother of Fair Love and Focus Ireland.



L-R: Ciarán Brennan, Conor Kelly, Cian Kenny, Brian Dowling, Ann Dowling, David Fogarty, Padraic Moylan.

Star Hurley



Star Hurley have been making hurls on the top of Patrick Street for 23 years. St Kieran's College have ordered hurls from Star Hurley throughout their history.

To mark the retirement of Brian and the move away from the corner of Patrick Street and the Kells Road, St Kieran's presented a jersey with the number 23 recognising their 23 years in Patrick Street and the 23 All Ireland Colleges Titles of St Kieran's College.

Our time in St Kieran's College has come to an end...



By Stephen Barron

It's hard to believe that our time in St Kieran's College has come to an end in such an abrupt and unusual fashion on a Thursday afternoon in the middle of March. As we sit in our homes during this period of isolation we are given the opportunity to break away from our Netflix binge watching and our DIY house improvements that all us Sixth Year students have fallen victim to and to reflect on the last six years of our lives, a moment to reflect on how St Kieran's college has not only shaped us into the men that we all are slowly but surely turning into, but how it has given us friendships and memories

that we will all cherish for future years to come.

For most of us, our first memory of St Kieran's College will be our first day walking through that famous front arch in our new uniforms into what in our minds was a whole new world. There was the usual sense of fear and anxiety in all of us, as we worried about not being in the same class as anyone we knew or how we were going to manage getting from class to class on time in this huge building. However, these fears only lasted a couple of days and the excitement of what the coming school year held excited us all.

Our survival skills were tested straight away on many occasions. The race to the lockers as the bell went for the start of school was a fight for survival. The odd elbow into the ribs might be received from an anonymous donor. For some, the biggest challenge of their first few years in the school was the fight for the famous chicken roll. The brave little first years that we were, tried to race the longest serving residents of the school and only the bravest souls were capable of standing up to the men that we knew to be the bearded beasts of the Glass hall!

For most lads there was no better way to pass lunchtime than with a game of wallball. There was no maximum number of players that could play the game and I think that's

what made it so entertaining. Some mild injuries would occur from time to time but there was no love lost between any of the students because of it. If hurling isn't your thing, we were always encouraged to take part in plenty of other activities from the very start such as the lunchtime runs, choir, chess, soccer etc. The First Year hurling leagues run by Mr Forrest and Mr Darmody every Tuesday and Thursday at lunch were the highlight for the majority of First Years. It was a great way to showcase some of your talent for the game to some very important managerial faces in the hurling world in the school such as Mr Tom Hogan and Mr Philip Walsh. It was also a great way to build up a healthy competitiveness between classmates, as many of them wanted to be on the winning side, which made for some very entertaining games.

One of the stand out memories of First Year for me personally comes from the Halloween exams. In Hall 33, 120 students were undertaking the last minute cramming of famous dates in History, memorising poetry quotations. Looking back on those moments we all laugh at how serious we all took those exams, but in a way they prepared you for the pressures of the more important exams in life.

The shackles came off in second year as they do for everyone who goes

through it. We were no longer the young lads who needed to set a good impression and we weren't doing our Junior Cert either. We were free! (or at least we thought so!) Some lads went a bit rogue with the freedom, as I remember some students constantly taking the batteries out of one of the teachers' projector remotes! The teachers' response was amusing. We all felt like kings of the '79 building as it was only ourselves and the First Years that had social areas here. In our heads we had already made it!

For me all my attention was fixed on sport. I was luckily enough to be involved in our very talented soccer team who won an All-Ireland along with many other titles. Our manager, Mr Carl Lynch, claims it was his impeccable managerial knowledge that got us to where we were, but I believe it was just the raw talent that was in the squad. The away games were our favourites. I remember the craic on the bus journeys with all the boys to the matches was great and if you were given the opportunity to showcase your DJ skills on the speaker. You had to make sure you didn't blow it or you might never get an opportunity again as the bus was full of harsh musical critics! When we win titles and competitions in whatever sporting event or academic competition it is, we never really get time to reflect back on how big an achievement it was. Looking back on my time spent in St Kieran's, that All-Ireland soccer title we won is definitely one of my proudest achievements and it's one that I'm sure none of my teammates or I will ever forget. It's a shame we never stuck at the soccer!

With our so-called mischievous year behind us, it was now time for us to knuckle down. Mr Finan nailed his desired attitude from us for the year on day one. We were no longer waltzing our way through the school year like we have done for the past two years. The thought of all the information that had to be stored in our tiny heads was quite daunting. The Junior Certificate was our first (and unfortunately our last) set of official state exams. Most students knew that the exams were not that overly important at the time but they were a very good way for preparing us for the hustle and bustle of the Leaving Certificate that we never got a chance to sit.

Apart from the added pressure of the Junior Certificate the year remained the same as any other. We all still laughed and joked together, and one of the students started his own confectionery business from his locker which was officially shut down after only two attempts from both Mr Rice and Mr Smith. The year flew by and before we knew it we were walking out of our final state exam with our ties wrapped around our heads ready to go mad for summer, not knowing that it would be the last state exam we would sit.

The transitioning phase between Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle was up next. Transition Year was a real opportunity for a student to try new things and a time to try and figure out what they might want to pursue in life once they reach their final year of secondary level education. It was a time to definitely 'get out of your comfort zone' which Mr O'Neill tried to demonstrate to us on numerous occasions through his planned public speaking assignments. Funny how a few of the more unwilling students would always find jobs to do around the school at those times! I'd say if you couldn't find me in the classroom, you'd find me out lining the hurling field with a few of the other students. Let's just say there were a lot more hands helping than was actually needed. Many of the lads took part in Gaisce and enrichment programs which really opened them up to new, different and really fulfilling experiences. For enrichment, I went over the St John of God Primary School once a week for two hours. It was a brilliant and worthwhile experience, but I soon realized that primary teaching was most definitely not for me!

One of the big events of Transition Year was High School Musical. Many of the current Sixth Year students from St Kierans and Loreto Secondary School took part in, thanks to the trojan work of Mr Brennan, Ms Mulcahy and many others. The musical wasn't cost free production however so one of the fundraisers involved was a sponsored sleep-in in the school gym. Now I don't know how often you've seen tired teachers trying to get 100 or so 16 year old boys to sleep, but we certainly gave them a challenge. You know the phrase "just ignore them and they'll stop"..... Well we didn't stop and it was probably

one of the funniest school experiences I've ever had. I'm sure the teachers enjoyed it too! The musical was an ongoing event for the whole year and a lot of students were involved in it. Some of the students even created a little home for themselves underneath the theatre stage! Unfortunately, they had forgotten to seek planning permission for their new home and subsequently, it was shut down!

Another big event that took place while we were in Transition Year was the inaugural "St Kierans College Truck & Tractor Run" in aid of the Irish cancer society and Embrace Farm. This event wouldn't have been possible without the work of Liam Healy, Darren Cuddihy, Stephen Keogh and Laurence Mahon. Liam would argue that some put in more of an effort than others, but that's an argument we'll leave for them to sort out. They really embraced the stepping out of their comfort zone and it was a massive achievement for the lads. A lot was achieved in the school during our Transition Year - from new breed entrepreneurs, Junior Applied Maths winners, Leinster running championships, Junior Leinster and All-Ireland hurling champions to name a few. It was definitely a stand out year for me and for so many of us.

The beginning of Fifth Year was a real shock to the system. There was no opportunity to ease ourselves back into the swing of things, as we were hit with a mountain of work to do straight away as the Leaving Cert was no longer a thought that we could shove to the back of our minds. Now, it was our new reality. It was the finishing line we were all aiming for. I suppose I didn't really mind all of the work we had to put in because I really enjoyed the subjects that I had chosen to study. We were always reminded by the teachers of the school that small bits of work consistently over a long period of time will help you achieve greatly when it comes to your Leaving Cert and I'm grateful that I took that advice on board as the constant work over the last two years will hopefully stand to us all. Although Fifth Year was tough, we grew in our relationships with the teachers. Because of this, we felt that they respected us more now and thought of us as young men who were willing to go that extra mile for. They were prepared to help us with any problems that we had, just like they

would for us when we were younger, but now that we were senior students, our relationship with them had grown and we on more of a par with our teachers.

However, despite our newfound maturity, we were still boys who loved to rebel, and that we certainly did. On the Friday of the last set of summer exams, the majority of our year was going to kick off the start of summer by attending a concert in Dublin. Personal appearance is crucial for such an event in the life of a 17 year old. The bus for the concert in Dublin was leaving soon after our final exam so naturally, loads of us got our hair cut on the Thursday beforehand. Not a good idea! To say we caused a stir would be putting it mildly! Wouldn't be making that mistake again!

It is safe to say that our experience of Sixth Year didn't run as expected. We didn't get to experience a lot of the enjoyable occasions associated with finishing school, especially our graduation ceremony. I suppose I have always taken my time in St Kieran's for granted. Fr Ryan, President of St Kieran's, always uses the phrase "Kieran's men" and at times, we have joked about this. But now, looking back on the last six years of my life, I probably wouldn't be the person I am today if it wasn't for the constant reminder echoed by all of our teachers that "you can achieve

anything you want to achieve in life if you work hard and put your mind to it". I'll have to come back for Kieran's Day next year to hear another one of Fr Ryan's anecdotes and this time truly appreciate what it means to be a "Kieran's Man" – something not to be taken for granted.

Then on the afternoon of 12th March it all ended. At 4pm that day, none of us realised that it would probably be the last time we get to see our classmates all together as one group again. Perhaps we could say the same of our teachers, as we parted company. No matter what our experiences of the past six years were like for us all individually over the past six years, it's certain that for us all, there will be much that we will miss about our school days and that feeling is compounded by the sudden and abrupt end that brought our days in school to a halt. We all have made memories and friends here that we will never forget. There are just a few things that I won't miss about leaving the school. I won't miss trying to avoid Mr Finan or Mr Maher in the morning for being late because of the bus or even the sound of Mr Smith shouting up the hall "Where's your tie?" But overall, I think all of us will miss the place, the people we met there, our friends, teachers and our memories.

The things we achieved as a

year group will never be forgotten by so many of us - Hurling, Soccer and Running All-Irelands. Choir and Maths competitions, and of course our academic successes along the way. None of which would have been achieved had it not been for our teachers. If it wasn't for their hard work and constant encouragement since our very first day in First Year, we wouldn't have become the "Kieran's Men" that we are today. The support from all the staff at St Kieran's college really gave every student an opportunity to thrive and they have been even more supportive through this unusual and uncertain time that all of us Sixth years are facing. I'd like to finish up by thanking all of our teachers for everything they've done for us over the last six years. Without your constant efforts and support, we would not be where we are today. I'd especially like to thank our Year Head, Mr Fitzgerald, for all of his help and support over the last few years and particularly over these past few challenging weeks. School has been a rollercoaster of a ride for our year group. It's a period of our lives that we won't forget for many reasons, but I know that I for one, will look back fondly on my time spent in St Kieran's. I want to wish everyone the best of luck for the future. Mind the Gap...

'Lockdown', from a student's perspective

By Colm Fitzgerald 2nd Year

On the 12th of March 2020, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar announced the closure of all Irish schools until the 29th of March. Most people, including myself were unaware, or just ignorant to the severity of the situation we were in. This came at first as a pleasant surprise to us, as it was an opportunity to get away from school, however, over the next few weeks this view did not last, and for many reasons.

On the 27th of March, Ireland went into lockdown, and life has not been the same since. The social part of our everyday life and culture was completely taken away from us, which is a thing we are known for.

We were no longer able to do such a simple thing as see our friends. Schoolwork moved onto the internet. On Google Classroom, we were given assignments and homework, while this was a good solution to move forward in our education, for me it was a step backwards. I was no longer in a learning environment and I found it difficult to stay motivated. I no longer had the motivation that I did in school. I always completed my schoolwork, but it became boring.

The most discussed part of this lockdown, besides the global pandemic, was the cancellation of all sporting events. It was a normality for me to watch a soccer match or a basketball game whenever they were

on the T.V, or watch the highlights on social media, but with no sports to watch or even play, the boredom began to sink in. Thankfully, sports leagues are planning restarts which is also a sign of how well many countries are coping with the global pandemic, which is all thanks to the bravery of all frontline healthcare workers.

But there is something that we should take away from this experience, as there are few signs at the moment of our lives returning to 'normality', we should realise how blessed we are to have the freedom to move and play without restrictions, and also being able to visit those close to us as we wish. It should also make us more appreciative of our well-being.

Leaving Cert Class 2020

Unfortunately this year, we were unable to take our traditional Leaving Cert Class Photo due to the national school shutdown upon the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic. During lockdown, we asked



Adam Barcoe



Liam Barron



Stephen Barron



Ciaran Brennan



Fintan Brennan



Mark Brennan



Conor Brett



Bill Bryan



Kieran Buckley



Cormac Burns



Kevin Burns



Jason Butler



Adam Byrne



Luke Campion



Jack Canavan



Leo Capasso



James Carrigan



Oisín Carroll



James Casey



Daire Cassin



Gerard Coffey



Dylan Comerford



Peter Connellan



David Conway



Joseph Cowhig



Darren Cuddihy



Zac Cummins



David Delahunty



Luke Dermody



Peter Donohoe



Oisín Doyle



Rian Edwards



Oisín Egan



David Fitzgerald



Kevin Fitzpatrick



David Fogarty



Diarmuid Galway



Conor Gleeson



Dara Glynn



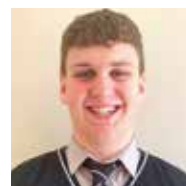
Mark Gormley



Vincent Gorniki



Eoin Guilfoyle



Darragh Hackett



Padraig Hally



Jamie Harkin



Liam Healy



Jake Hickey



Rian Houston



Bill Kavanagh



Harry Kealy



Padraig Kehoe



David Kelleher



Conor B. Kelly



Conor T. Kelly



James Kennedy



Cian Kenny



Stephen Keoghan



Ben King



James Kirby

all Leaving Cert students, to submit a photo of themselves from their own home. The following pages make up our Leaving Cert Class Photo for 2020 - different from the norm but nonetheless, a unique photo in a unique year. This Leaving Cert Photo for the class of 2020 will be placed alongside all of the many other class photos that adorn the walls of St Kieran's College giving this class their place in our long tradition and history. Congratulations to the class of 2020. We wish you all every success in your future ventures.



Anish Madan Lal



Ronan Lavelle



Cian Leahy



Tomás Leahy



Michael Lewis



Daniel Lynch



Darragh Maher



Lawrence Mahon



Shay McEvoy



Jack McGrath



Aidan McGree



Michael McInerney



Sean McInerney



Sean McKee



James McOwan



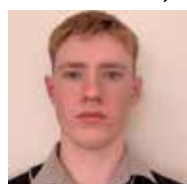
Ryan Metzger



Eoin Morgan



Colin Morrissey



Luke Morrissey



Padraic Moylan



Ciaran Mullen



Ciaran Murphy



Jack Murphy



Colm Nolan



Thomas Nugent



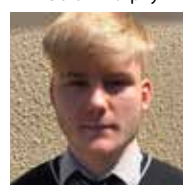
Aod O'Connor



Luke O'Dwyer



Steven O'Keeffe



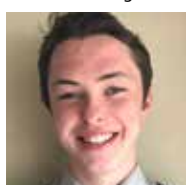
Adam O'Shea



Conor O'Shea



Patrick O'Shea



David O'Sullivan



Jamie Owens



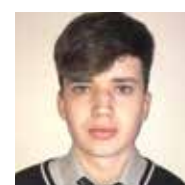
Jamie Phelan



Patrick Phelan



Darragh Quinlan



David Rainey



Nobin Rebi



Niall Reid



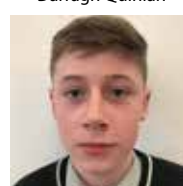
Nikita Rjabkvos



Diarmuid Rowe



Killian Rudkins



Brandon Ryan



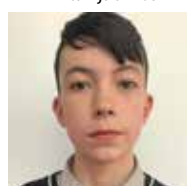
Jim Ryan



Jack Sheridan



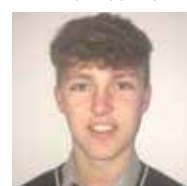
James Shirley



William Slattery



Ross Ten Bohmer



Ian Wallace



Brandon Walsh



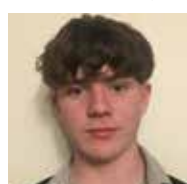
Harry Walsh



Jason Walsh



Stephen Walsh



Kieran Walshe



Robert Wemyss



Luke Whelan



Conor Whitty



Theo Yordanov

School Awards 2019

SUBJECT AWARDS

Subject	Junior	Senior
Mathematics	Dylan Duggan	Fionn Whelan
Gaeilge	Liam Moloney	Luke Gannon
English	Conor Lynch	Mark Twomey
Religion	Kevin Molloy	
Business	Richie McEvoy	Martin O'Connell
Technology	Jamie McGrath	Adam O'Brien
Tech Graphics / DCG	Liam Moloney	Liam Fennelly
History	Nick O'Keeffe	Eoin Walsh
Geography	Ben Higgins	James Kearney
Spanish	Dylan Gordon	Eoin Walsh
French	Joseph Lawlor	Luke Gannon
Science	Daire Mahon	
Physical Sciences		Krystan Pawlowski
Biology		Sean Comerford
Agricultural Science		Jason Kelly
Home Economics		Michael Burke
Art	Oisin Keyes	Barry Lennon
Music	Charlie Fitzgerald	Luke Gannon, Tom Kennedy, Alex McCluskey

ACADEMICS OF THE YEAR

First Year	Darragh Lawlor
Second Year	David Williams
Third Year	Dylan Duggan
Fourth Year	Senan Forristal (The Frank Muldowney Award for Best Junior Cert 2018)
Fifth Year	Anish Lal
Sixth Year	Fionn Whelan

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

First Year	Sean Young
Second Year	Adam Walsh
Third Year	Dylan Duggan
Fourth Year	Andrew Brennan Smyth
Fifth Year	Theo Yordanov
Sixth Year	Killian Egan

AWARDS OF MERIT

First Year	Sean Bergin, Mark Fitzpatrick, Mark McPhilips, Tom McPhilips, Darragh Lawlor
Second Year	David Mulrooney, Andrew McEvoy, Barry Dunne, Rory Farrell, David Williams
Third Year	Charlie Delahunty, Daire Mahon, Luke Dunne, Liam Moloney, Richie McEvoy, Kevin Benny
Fourth Year	Cathal Mulhall, JJ Ryan, John Canny, Matthew Treacy, DJ Delaney, Patrick Brennan, Craig Cummins

Fifth Year	Joseph Cowhig, Kieran Buckley, Jason Butler, Bill Kavanagh, Ciaran Brennan, Liam Healy, Eoin Morgan
Sixth Year	Sean Comerford, Pdraig O'Neill, Eamon Mahon, Martin O'Connell, Fionn Whelan

SPORTS AWARDS

Ice Hockey	Jamie O'Brien, Coby Cummins, Byrce Cummins, Adam Fomin, Oscar Fomin
Volleyball	Killian Tallon & Noah Gilmore
Badminton	Patrick Phelan, Nobin Rebi, Andrew Devereux, Peter McDonald
Orienteering	Eoghan Whelan
Equestrian	Ciaran Byrne, Tim Brennan, David Parle, David Fleming
Swimming	Brogan McAviney, Robbie English
Canoeing	Senan Forristal & Kevin O'Connor
Cross Country	Junior - Tom Lodge Senior - Shay McEvoy
Soccer	U13 - Tom McPhilips U15 - Cillian Kelly U17 - Oisin Carroll U19 - Tom Bolger
Handball	Conor Doyle
Gaelic Footballer of the Year	Eoin Delahunty
Juvenile Hurler of the Year	Harry Shine
Junior Hurler of the Year	Peter McDonald
Senior Hurler of the Year	Eoin Cody
Sports Star of the Year	Shay McEvoy

STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2019



Recognising the outstanding contribution of these students to St Kieran's College

Back Row: L-r Mr Niall Connolly, Mr Jackie Tyrrell (Guest of Honour), Ms Pamela McCluskey (Chairperson of the Parents' Association), Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan (President), Mr Liam Smith (Deputy Principal), Ms Jean Fitzpatrick, Mr Adrian Finan (Principal), Mr Ken Maher (Deputy Principal). Front Row: L-r Dylan Duggan (Third Year), Adam Walsh (Second Year), Theo Yordanov (Fifth Year), Killian Egan (Sixth Year), Seán Young (First Year), Andrew Brennan-Smyth (Transition Year).

PRESIDENT'S AWARD 2019



Robbie English, recipient of the President's Award, being pictured beside Awards Night Guest of Honour Mr Jackie Tyrrell.

SPORTS AWARDS 2019



Recognising the outstanding sporting achievements of these students

Back Row: L-r Mr Niall Connolly, Mr Jackie Tyrrell (Guest of Honour), Ms Jean Fitzpatrick, Mr Liam Smith (Deputy Principal), Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan (President), Ms Pamela McCluskey (Chairperson of the Parents' Association), Mr Adrian Finan (Principal), Mr Ken Maher (Deputy Principal). Front Row: L-r Harry Shine, Eoin Cody, Shay McEvoy, Peter McDonald, Padraic O'Neill.

ACADEMIC AWARDS 2019



Recognising the outstanding academic excellence of these students

Back Row: L-r Mr Ken Maher (Deputy Principal), Mr Adrian Finan (Principal), Ms Pamela McCluskey (Chairperson of the Parents' Association), Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan (President), Mr Liam Smith (Deputy Principal), Ms Jean Fitzpatrick, Mr Jackie Tyrrell (Guest of Honour), Mr Niall Connolly. Front Row: L-r Dylan Duggan (Third Year), David Williams (Second Year), Darragh Lawlor (First Year), Fionn Whelan (Sixth Year), Anish Lal (Fifth Year), Senan Forristal (Transition Year).

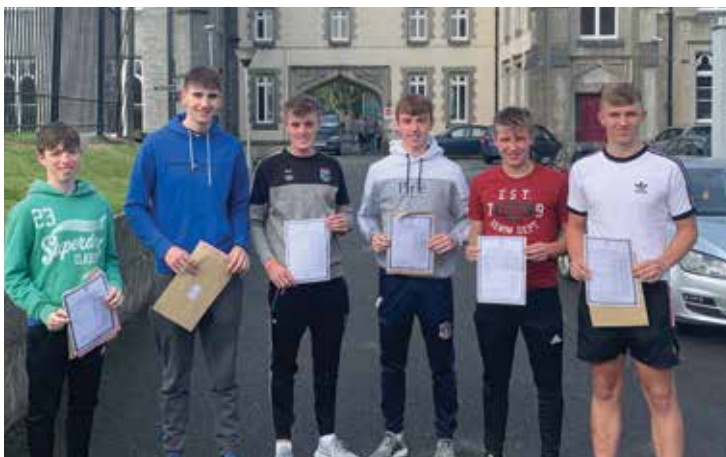


Past Pupil Fionn Whelan (LC 2019 - 625 points) who obtained maximum points. Pictured with Mr Finan, (Principal) and Dr Dermot Ryan (President). Fionn was awarded the prestigious Ad Astra Scholarship at UCD where he is studying Engineering.

Leaving Cert Results Day

The Leaving Cert class of 2019 performed exceptionally well with over 20% obtaining more than 500 points and more than 50% of the class achieving 400 points or more.

Pictured are some of the Leaving Cert class of 2019 receiving their results on August 13th 2019. Well done to all involved.



Scholarships



Above: UCD Entrance Scholarship Awards for excellence in the Leaving Cert. L-R: Killian Egan, Danny Coyne, Fionn Whelan, Eamon Mahon, Seán Comerford, Eamonn Fennelly, Conor Hoban.

Left: Fionn Whelan and Mr Adrian Finan (Principal) at the UCD Ad Astra Awards 2019.

Below left: Padraic O'Neill at the DCU Entrance Scholarship Awards for academic excellence in the Leaving Certificate.

Below: President's Award - Gold for Jack
Past Pupil Jack Kavanagh received the prestigious Gold Gaisce Award from President Michael D Higgins on 5th December 2019. Jack began his Gaisce journey as a TY student in St Kieran's and continued the award through the school as a past pupil. Mr Gerry Walsh served as his PAL in the school over the past year to assist him in obtaining this award.





St Kieran's Day Mass 2019

Pastoral Care at St Kieran's



Grandparents' Mass



Distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday



Care for our Common Home Trocaire Conference
4th March 2020

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2019

The eagerly anticipated and hugely important Mental Health Week took place from Monday 7th - Friday 11th of October in St Kieran's College. Over the past number of years, the Pastoral Care team have made an attempt to increase awareness of this week due to the huge importance that a positive mental health has in our lives. The Chaplain along with the Guidance Counsellors organise an event for each year group to partake in throughout the week. During Mental Health Week, the school walls are also decorated with positive mental health slogans for all our students to see.

On Monday, October 7th, First year students participated in a number of outdoor activities in teams incorporating all classes to take time out to get to know each other, improving friendships and bonds within their first few weeks in St Kieran's College.

Wednesday, October 9th proved to be a very busy day of talks for our senior years. Former Olympian and 2008 Olympic silver medalist, Kenneth Egan spoke about aiming to be the best you can be to all fifth year students. Later in the afternoon, Former Waterford manager and current Sunday Game analyst, Derek McGrath spoke to both Transition Year and Sixth year students about a number of topics including work ethic based on continual improvement, respect, characters, detail and improvement, to name a few.

On Thursday, October 10th, second year students participated in a similar afternoon to that of first years with a number of outdoor activities including hurling, soccer, rounders, gaelic



On Monday, December 17th, we were delighted to welcome Bishop Dermot Farrell to our school to meet our Sixth Year students. Bishop Farrell spoke with students about their time in St Kieran's and their goals and ambitions for the future. This was followed by a Question and Answer session with some very interesting questions being asked. Bishop Dermot, our school patron, spent this time with our Leaving Cert students so that they might get to know the Bishop of Ossory a little better and to give our students the opportunity to discuss their futures with him. We thank Bishop Farrell for giving up his time to visit the school.

football and relay racing to develop a number of characteristics including team work.

To finish off the week, 3rd years received a talk from Elma Walsh, mother of Donal Walsh from Tralee, Co. Kerry. Donal who fund raised tirelessly while battling Cancer has now had the Donal Walsh #Livelife Foundation set up by his family primarily in order to promote his anti-suicide #Livelife message. This message of living life to the fullest and appreciating everything you have around you continues to be highlighted by both Elma and her husband.

To conclude, 6th years had a final talk from Roy Nunn. Roy, who has a physical disability, explains how he still participates fully in sports despite not having all his limbs. Roy strongly reminded the students that they can achieve anything, the only obstacle

being their own mind-set and attitude.

Well done and thanks to all speakers and those who contributed to a very special and successful week.

CAIRDEAS

In May 2019, twenty-four students applied to take part in the Cairdeas programme. The group met with Mr Brennan for some training prior to the first years entering St Kieran's College.

The Cairdeas Programme aims to provide support for our 1st Year students – individually and as a group, to help them settle in, make progress and to achieve their full potential within St. Kieran's College. Each year approximately twenty-five to thirty of our fifth year students take part in the Cairdeas programme. Each fifth year is assigned approximately five students to look after. They meet each



Cairdeas

Back Row: Senan Forristal, Finnian Shefflin, Luke Bateman, Eoin Crowley, Daniel Smithwick. Middle Row: JJ Ryan, Tom Carroll, Oisín Doyle, Matthew Treacy, Cathal Mulhall, Peter Holohan, Mr Fergal Brennan (Chaplain). Front Row: John Canny, Oisín Quirke, John Muldowney, Andrew Brennan-Smyth, Andrew Devereux, Eoin Delahunty.



On 28th January 2020, Bishop Dermot Farrell hosted a diocesan Public Speaking Competition in St Mary's Cathedral for students from all over the diocese. Students from all over the diocese, from a wide range of schools travelled to the Cathedral to put their Religious Education knowledge and public speaking skills to the test. Representing St Kieran's College on the night were: (l-r) Mr Sean Morrissey, Mr Fergal Brennan, Conor Lynch, Bishop Dermot Farrell, Dylan Duggan, Patrick Kennedy, Mr Evan Walsh.



Advent Prayer Service in the College Chapel



Blessing our gifts and talents.



Well done to our Ministers of the Eucharist helped to distribute ashes on Ash Wednesday and holy communion at our school liturgies throughout the year. L-R: Nick Doheny, Bill Kavanagh, Nobin Rebi, Darren Cuddihy, Vincent Gornicki.

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.

Mentors will provide individual and group support from the initial stages of the first year's life within St. Kieran's College. They will be selected and given training to ensure that they have the skills necessary to support young people who might be daunted by some of the obstacles they face during their transition from Primary to Secondary school. The Cairdeas Programme encourages 5th Year students to play a responsible role in the school community and to ensure that new students are secure in the knowledge that there are always older pupils available and willing to help them.

The process of recruiting students with similar skills has already begun for next year. Students are currently participating in online training with Mr Brennan to ensure that they are ready to cater for incoming First Years in September. Any student who is interested in the programme is now expected to answer a series of questions based on why they may be suitable to fulfill the role of a friend to our incoming first years. The students interested will then be interviewed by Mr. Brennan. Overall, this is an excellent initiative with the sole focus of aiding first years to settle in our school.

FIRST YEAR RETREAT

On Friday, September 27th, five weeks after starting in St. Kieran's College, we had our First Year retreat. This was held on a Friday and it was great to get a day off school work. In the morning all 120 of us went to the theatre and Ms Norton (our year head) spoke to us about how well we all appeared to be settling into life in secondary school. We discussed the importance of friendship and we spoke about the importance of looking out for each other. We played a few games that helped us to get to know lads in the other classes, that we might not have known that well before. When we were finished up in the theatre our Fifth Year Cairdeas leaders walked with us across town to K bowl. We had a great time

in K Bowl where we had a bowling competition and played on the arcade games. This day was great craic overall and was one of the highlights of our year.

SECOND YEAR RETREAT

by Jeff Neary (2A3)

On October 7th 2019, all Second Year students from St Kieran's College went on their school retreat. Buses brought us from the school to Duiske Abbey, Graignamanagh where mass was held for us. After Mass, we headed for a long walk down the River Barrow where we saw lots of boats and nature in general. The views were stunning.

The teachers who organised and accompanied us on our retreat were Mr Brennan, Mr Walsh, Mr Farrell, Mr Morrissey, Ms O'Connor & Mr Dooley. After our long walk by the river we all stopped for lunch in the local shop. The retreat felt like such a good way for all the Second Year students and our teachers to bond and get to know each other a little bit better. On route home from the retreat, we stopped off at St Mullins GAA pitch where we pucked the ball which we all love to do. We also played a crossbar challenge which I didn't win!!!! It was a very enjoyable day. Thanks to all involved.

THIRD YEAR RETREAT

By Billy Dowling (3A4)

It was on the 3rd of December a Tuesday when we, as Third Years, were walking up the steps toward the theatre not knowing what to expect.

As we entered the theatre Mr Brennan told us where to sit. After about five minutes waiting a woman named Michelle stood up. She told us that her and her colleagues work for a group called Tobar Nua. Tobar Nua is made up of Catholics and other Christians working together who are interested in helping young people become aware of the value of a faith based life. Tobar Nua has been working with secondary schools for over ten years through day retreats hosted in secondary schools around the country.

Then the four retreats leaders told us about a crazy story that happened in each of their lives. The stories were very interesting as there were many twists in them. One of the leaders



Mass for Grandparents



Mass for Grandparents

called Elijah, who was a fan favourite, had a story about him going to India and waking up with a massive tarantula on his forehead!! The stories and impressions that the leaders did make every student laugh.

Next Michelle split the 120 students into groups of 6, making 20 groups, for a quiz. The quiz was based on general knowledge. As rounds went on our chance of winning declined rapidly. The top two teams went to sudden death and one team came out on top.

Lastly we did a few fun activities for a small prize. These activities included stacking cards and shaking a bottle to see who could get the beads out first. As expected our group came near last again. The retreat shortly ended after the prizes for the winners of the activities were given out. My favourite

part of the retreat was the activities as each activity was fun, different and unique. It was a great day overall.

GRANDPARENTS VISIT

A mass was celebrated on Wednesday 30th January for all the First Year students and their grandparents. Afterwards, the grandparents were invited to the school for some refreshments and a chat. This is a wonderful way to acknowledge the importance of the role that grandparents play in the lives of our students. This event was a welcome new development in our school calendar and we hope to continue this in the years to come as it was such an enriching experience for grandparents, students and everyone involved.



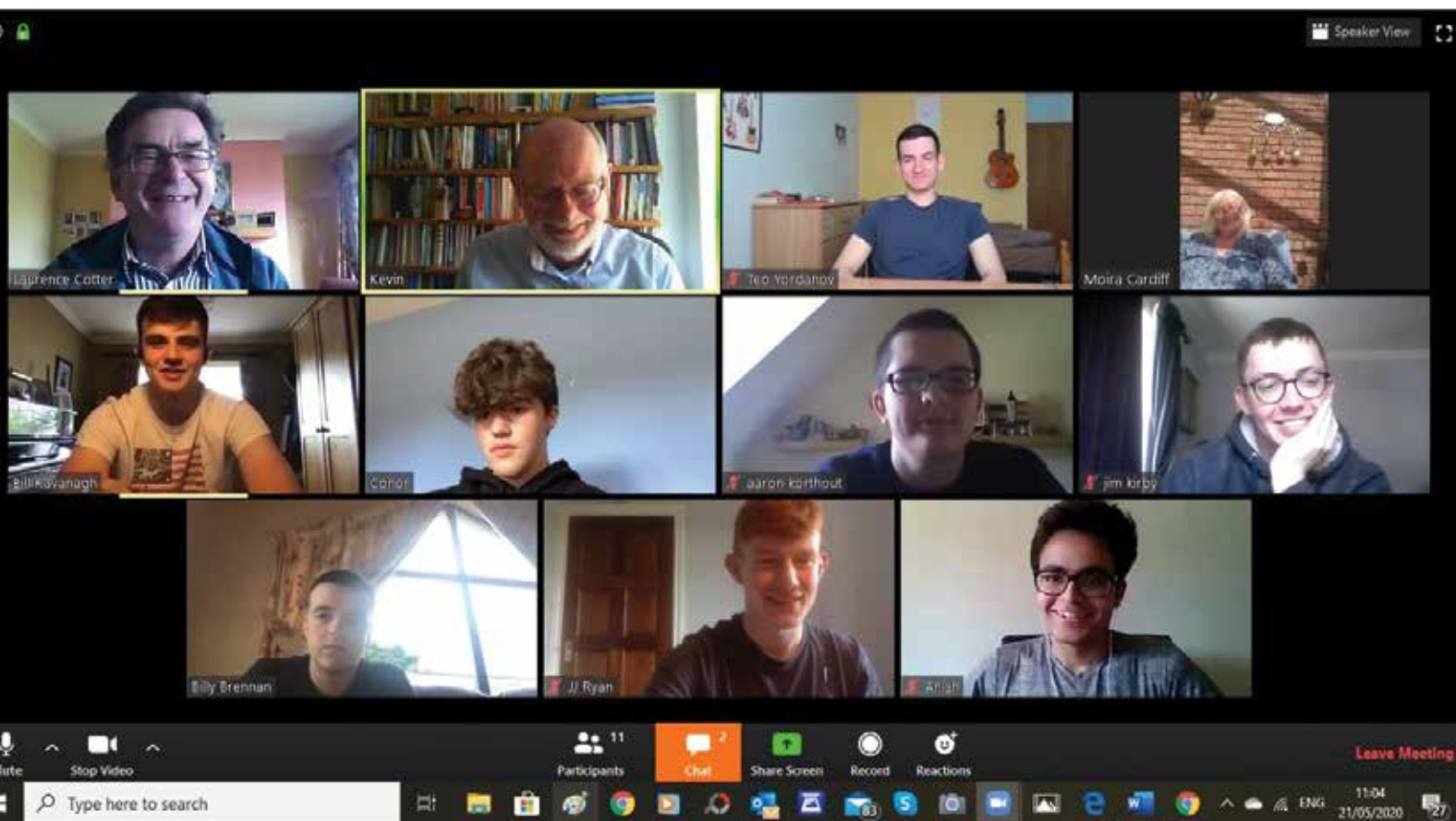
On 4th March 2020, students from St Kieran's College visited the Dolmen Hotel in Carlow to visit the annual Trocaire Conference, Care for our Common Home, an exhibition about our common duty to care for our environment and to care for our Earth, this year focusing on the Gift of our Common Home and our collective human responsibility to care for our environment. A number of St Kieran's College students who had previously prepared projects on global awareness issues attended the event with Ms Gemma Mulligan and Bishop Dermot Farrell. The students were grateful for the opportunity to meet like minded students from other schools and to express their opinions on issue related to caring for our Earth. L-r: Liam Moloney, Emmett Nolan, Liam Walsh, Kevin Benny, Bishop Dermot Farrell, Nick Doheny, Adam O'Connor.

St Kieran's Day





Creative Writing Workshop



The workshop continued on Zoom during the school shutdown.

Poet and Writer Kevin McDermott visited the school during 2019-2020 for a series of creative writing workshops. Unfortunately, like so many other activities, the March shutdown put an end to the workshops, but Mr Cotter organised a way of continuing the workshops through the Zoom platform. Thanks to Kevin McDermott for his work with the lads and to Mr Cotter for organising this workshop and ensuring that the lads saw it through to the end. Well done to all of the students involved. Below is a sample of some of their work:

THE MUD COLLECTOR

By Anish Lal

Inside I am the equal of anyone on this earth, but on the outside, I am a mud collector near the banks of the Ganges. I collect mud for sculptors who carve magnificent statues of gods that tower to terrific heights. It feels satisfying to be part of that, to know that without me those statues would be just a figment of the mind. But the mud I provide can bring thoughts into the real world and create something tangible, something that lives on forever.

I am thankful to the Ganges; it has given me so much and yet it also takes so much away. Just a little more than a

month ago, with tears, rolling down my cheeks, dripping into the river, and my nose all stuffy, I dropped my father's ashes into the water, never to be seen again. Maybe I will see him in another life. Maybe he is already around me or maybe he has become something beyond life. Let's see where the Ganges takes him.

Today, it is especially muddy due to the pouring rain last night. I am up early to collect the best and freshest of mud. There is fierce competition in the mud business and the statue market seems to be booming as the festival of lights [Diwali] draws near. So, I have to deliver my mud quickly. My boy does that for me. He carries sacks of mud on

his fragile spine so we can eat the next day. I know a school bag would look better on his back, but what looks even better is food on a plate.

The rising sun of Banaras looks so beautiful every morning, with the bright temples reflecting on the river, their spires pointing at me, stabbing me almost. The colors seem to refract and bring about all these vibrant patterns that warp to all shapes imaginable. This is when I am most alive. This is the high life, even the wealthiest men do not wake to such a beautiful face.

I am now in the waters for my daily routine, I am done with brushing my teeth and I am about to spit into the holy Ganges, I have performed this

step a thousand times before, ever since my own father brought me here to deliver the mud to the sculptors. But today as I bend down and force the saliva out of my mouth, I catch first the glimpse of my own reflection and then see the blackness of the Ganges. I have never noticed it before. The Ganges, as far as I can see to the horizon, looks like a sea of black.

It is said that the Ganges flows from the Bun of Shiva the destroyer. I don't think he will be pleased to see it in such a state; a sea of black.

I pause and look around me and see people going about their daily business. Ramesh the garbage man is throwing litres of waste into the river, Shanti the river side psychic bathes five of her tiny toddlers and the foam of the soap creates a spectrum of colors that go with the flow of the river. All around me I see people doing their everyday tasks, but, I have never noticed all the damage that is being done to the river. It is not as clear as it used to be when I swam along its banks as a child, without a worry in the world.

It takes me time to compose myself. The dark river is filled with tiny particles of god knows what and floating fish surround me.

I do not know what to do. I want my son to swim in clear waters, but now it seems far from it. We have polluted the river and I am not sure if we can go back.

Worried, I swallow the minty paste and quickly wash my face, but today the water burns my eyes and I cry the same way I cried a little more than a month ago. But I cannot stop crying now. All these years I saw this goddess, this goddess losing her shine and all I did was take part in the destruction. The tears will not stop. This is no way to give back to the river who has given so much since the dawn of time.

If the almighty is all-powerful, surely, he must have foreseen such devastating destruction. And if not, why should I believe in his unconditional love for us and the Earth? I suppose that most people are to blame and not just the people leading us. But, all of us, collectively, have played a part in this. I am just a simple mud collector at the banks of a sacred river and I do not have the means to promote such awareness, but I can spread some of it in the community and I am sure you can, too. This pollution has now

become rampant throughout the world and I think it is good practice to prevent it. There is nothing wrong with preserving the earth for years to come. I, too, want the people of tomorrow to make dazzling discoveries and sculpt statues that tower to staggering heights.

Regards, Sheru, your local mud collector.

THE TABBY CAT

By Bill Kavanagh

In summer the tabby cat
Observes from the trees.
In winter she walks alone
Through the wet, muddy landscape
Like a tiger in the savannah,
Past the tyre-swing that blows in the wind.
She notes the absence of bikes, go-karts, footballs.
She feels the cold wind
That would cut the face of any child
Who dared to venture out.
But no one ventures out.
And the silent world belongs to her.

SOMETHING ELSE

By Bill Kavanagh

Slowly I am turning into something else
Remembering the bad things I should forget,
Forgetting the good things I should remember,
Watching an empty world through my window.
Getting ready to move on to the next chapter,
Trying to stay true to my old self.
It is hard to stay the same when everything
You know is going away.
I know I cannot stay in the same spot,
I have to keep moving,
Though more and more of myself
I am losing.

THE SONG OF THE SELF

By Billy Brennan

At times, my song is very quiet,
A mumble of words, a phrase or two,
A long, slow drone
In the distant background.
Sometimes it is a crescendo,
A rise of noise

Like waves crashing,
Until I cannot hear myself
My thoughts, my feelings.
Drowned in the sea of sound
I wait for the water to be still.
Then a soft symphony absorbs me.
It is warm and comfortable.
I like this song
Until it drops –
Then I cannot wait for it to end.

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

By Conor Lynch

I do not forgive you,
I cannot forgive you.
I do have it in me to forgive you, and I wish I could forgive you,
But there are things set in stone, so inexcusable, so irreversible
That it is not my choice to forgive you.
When you say you are sorry, I understand you.
When you ask for forgiveness, I feel what you say.
But I am unable and unwilling to alleviate your weight.
When forgiving means disconnecting from the past,
When forgiving means abandoning who I am,
In such a case, I will not forgive you.
But maybe one day you will find yourself fortunate.
Maybe one day, at some point in the future, I will forget.

I DO NOT FORGIVE YOU

By Aaron Korthout

I do not forgive you
For the world you have created,
For the world that you leave behind to my generation
I do not forgive you
For leaving us to deal with the problems you created
For destroying the only home we will ever have.
I do not forgive you
For belittling us when we call out
Your incompetence, your inability to act,
Your lack of capacity to protect those under your rule.
I do not forgive you
For mocking us when we stand up to you,
And call us 'children who don't

understand'.
 We understand.
 I do not forgive you
 For saying that it is not as bad as we say
 it is,
 For the pandemic we are stuck in,
 For the loss of our forests, our skies,
 and our seas.
 I do not forgive you
 For electing incompetent people
 Who are destroying our world
 And who profit from the suffering of
 those below them.
 I do not forgive you.

I DO NOT FORGIVE YOU

By Jim Kirby

The tears stream down her face,
 But you, do you simply not care?
 The snide comments you cruelly
 remark,
 The looks, the fear you instill in her.
 She goes home, breaking more and
 more each day.
 The pain you think you can bring on
 her
 A symbol of character and betrayal.
 How can you treat her like this?
 You will never see her cry,
 For the tears you wish for do not come.
 Instead, the demons come
 And they tear at her,
 Ripping out chunks and morsels of her
 self-belief,
 Until there is no more, just the shell,
 A shell which the demons decide
 Is better off dead. And that is what you
 want, isn't it?
 First, they kill her from the inside,
 Then they consume her from the
 outside.

The demons are there but you,
 You simply do not care.
 A bandit steals,
 And you steal her life,
 And for that, I do not forgive you.

THE HYMN TO THE PLANET

By JJ Ryan

People line the streets of Europe
 Together, yet so far apart.
 They sing for the people
 Who risk their lives
 To keep us safe and give us heart.
 Their song is a hymn to all.
 The people know this is not forever.
 The planet hangs on to every word,
 Waiting, waiting, waiting.
 Gone are the days of togetherness,
 Fun and normality.
 Now we are confined to small spaces
 In a large world,
 We do it for those around us,
 And those we hope to meet again.
 Now when we sing, for all to hear,
 The hymn of the planet
 Goes on and on.

NEVER

By John Canny

It is wise to forgive and forget -
 Revenge wastes time,
 Corrupts the soul.
 Revenge is a hindrance to both
 advancement
 And salvation, the enemy of both
 civilization and religion.
 Forgiveness, however, is a funny
 business.
 Holding onto blame is letting the past
 infect the present,

To forgive is to reclaim your power,
 Maybe turn the other cheek.
 How many cheeks will have to be
 turned?
 To forgive is to set yourself free
 But will there be any freedom to return
 to?
 This grudge is my prison,
 And I am not sure if I want to be free
 anymore.
 Forgive and forget, they say.
 Forgive and forget.
 Excuse and fail to remember the past -
 Never.

PEACE

By Theo Yordanov

This is the best time of the day -
 Sun beams down,
 Eyes shut, nothing to say.
 Silence, broken by a piercing shrill,
 I am awoken.
 The wind blows, yet I stay still.
 When I close my eyes, time seems to
 cease,
 Nighttime comes -
 The world at peace.

SUMMER DAYS

By Theo Yordanov

This is the best time of the day
 Sun beams down
 Eyes shut, nothing to say.
 Silence broken by a piercing shrill,
 I am awoken.
 The wind blows yet I stay still.
 When I close my eyes, time seems to
 cease,
 Night time comes.
 The world is at peace.



Rory Farrell - Poetry Aloud All-Ireland Finalist

Poetry Aloud

On 14th October, St Kieran's College hosted the regional final of Poetry Aloud, a national poetry speaking competition. Junior Cycle students participated for St Kieran's and Rory Farrell (3rd Year) qualified for the National Semi-Final. Rory went on to perform very well in the Semi-Final and was selected to qualify for the All-Ireland Final which was held in the National Library of Ireland. Rory read "When You Are Old" by W.B. Yeats and "In Lieu of Carols" by Frank Ormsby.

Having reached the last 30 from over 1500 students, this truly was a fantastic achievement. Well done to Mr Cotter and to Rory for all of their hard work.

Development Education Writing Workshop



Development Education Writing project with Kevin McDermot and Poetry Aloud

L-r: Anish Lal, Eoin Turner, Aaron Korthout, Conor Lynch, Kevin Molloy, Vinny O'Grady, David Flemming, Kevin McDermott (Writer in Residence), Moira Cardiff (Poetry Aloud), JJ Ryan, John Canny, Darragh Hackett, Michael McInerney, Jim Kirby, Aidan McGree, Bill Kavanagh, Theo Yordanov, Mr Martin O'Neill

A group of students from Transition Year, Fifth Year, and Sixth Year took part in a Development Education Writing Workshop with writer-in-residence Kevin McDermott. The course which was organised by Poetry Ireland Writers in Schools scheme promoted writing in a series of focused workshops.

Using prompts and ideas developed in conversation with Kevin, the student writers produced a wide range of poems and stories. Development issues were explored as part of World Wise Global Schools, Ireland's Global Citizenship Education programme for post-primary schools.

Three workshops took place in February and March before the lockdown. In order to complete our work the students and Kevin took part in a virtual writing workshop in May. This initiative was the first of its kind and we were joined by Moira Cardiff of Poetry Ireland.

Public Speaking Competition



Second Year Public Speaking Competition

This year marked the beginning of a new initiative launched by the English Department inspired by changes to the Junior Certificate curriculum. Mr O'Neill organised a public speaking competition for all local schools, hosted by St Kieran's College in the MacDonagh Theatre. The competition is aimed at improving the presentation and public speaking skills of students which also serves to assist students in preparing for their Second Year CBA (Classroom Based Assessment), an important component of the new Junior Cycle English curriculum. The competition was a great success and many thanks to Mr O'Neill for organising, to Mr Cotter for his support and to the judges Ms Christina Warner, Ms Maureen Meaney and Mr Francis Cleere. We look forward to when we get the opportunity to host this competition again.



Winners of the Second Year Public Speaking Competition - Sam Deegan, Ava Quirke and Alexis Fitzgerald.

An Ghaeilge 2019/2020

Bhí bliain iontach ghnóthach againn ó thoabh na Gaeilge de i mbliana. Cuireadh fáilte roimh mhúinteoir nua sa Roinn Gaeilge, Iníon Ní Fhearail agus a bhuí léi bunaíodh an 'Cumann Gaelach' sa scoil. Eagraíodh neart gníomhachtaí spraoíúla trí mheán na Gaeilge do na scoláirí ag am lóin gach mí. Ghlac na scoláirí sa Chéad, Dara agus Tríú Bliain páirt i ngníomhachtaí ar nós Tóraíocht Taisce, Tráth na gCeist, cóisir Oíche Shamhna, cluichí teanga agus scannáin Ghaelacha.

Ón 1-12 Márta, bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge á cheiliúradh ag scoláirí Choláiste Naomh Chiaráin. Eagraíodh seisiún ceoil thraidisiúnta don Chéad Bhliain in Amharclann Mhic Dhonncha agus chas An tUasal G. Breathnach agus a bhanna ceoil roinnt port spleodrach. Mo cheol thú! Mo cheol sibh! Reáchtáladh comórtas póstaí agus Tráth na gCeist agus thar aon rud eile, cuireadh an Ghaeilge chun cinn! Ar an drochuair, dúnadh na scoileanna áitiúla roimh chríoch Sheachtain na Gaeilge, is mór an trua é. Beidh tuilleadh le ceiliúradh againn uile agus muid ar ais ar scoil an bhliain seo chugainn.

I mbliana cuireadh tús le cairdeas nua idir scoláirí Choláiste Naomh Chiaráin agus scoláirí mheánscoil FCJ, Bun Clóidí. Scríobh agus sheol na scoláirí litreacha pinn dá gcairde nua i gContae Loch Garman. Tá súil againn an cairdeas nua seo a neartú tríd síos na blianta.

Anuas ar na himeachtaí thuasluaite, bhí cigireacht sa Roinn Gaeilge ag tús na bliana seo. Tugadh moladh mór do mhúinteoirí na Roinne Gaeilge as an obair uile atá ar bun acu sa scoil ar son na scoláirí. Luadh sa tuarascáil go raibh an Ghaeilge á gcur chun cinn ag na múinteoirí, ní hamháin sa seomra ranga ach sna gníomhaíochtaí seach-churaclaim atá ar fáil sa scoil fosta.



Irish Club



Seachtain na Gaeilge



Trad Band Seachtain na Gaeilge

Geography



The Leaving cert geography trips took place on Tuesday October 1st and Thursday October 3rd in Tramore with Ms Mulcahy and Mr Morgan's classes. The project is worth 20% of a student's final grade and so is an important day for Sixth Year students. The lads carried

out activities like measuring longshore drift and beach fabric as they attempted to investigate the impact of deposition on a coastal landscape. The Tuesday trip was blessed with fine weather while the Thursday trip was much more difficult. Although the lads

had to contend with more unsettled weather it did allow the students to collect a wide range of results. Fantastic work was carried out on both days by both classes, thanks to all the students and teachers who made both trips possible.



History

First Year History Trip



First Year History Trip



First Year History Trip



Second Year History Trip



Second Year History Trip



Second Year History Trip



Second Year History Trip



Maths 2019-2020

Shortly after the resumption of the school year Maths week was in full swing. A range of competitive activities were organised for each year group and for the teachers. One of the highlights of the week was the much anticipated First Year mathematical treasure hunt which involved the First Years having to solve a series of mathematical sums to reach their treasure.

As usual, the beginning of the new year after Christmas brought the annual Irish Applied Maths Junior and Senior team quiz competitions. In the Junior Competition, there were over 40 teams present with each team intending on winning outright. After two hours of intense problem solving, a team consisting of Daire Mahon, Jamie McGrath, David Mulrooney and David Williams narrowly missed out on the top spot after a tie-break.

The senior competition was held the following week and similar to the Junior competition it was going to be another competitive night of action. A team of Luke Hennessy, Eoin Morgan and David Delahunty finished in 2nd place on the night after another tie break.

Well done to all involved.



Junior maths: (l-r) Daire Mahon, David Mulrooney, David Williams and Jamie McGrath.



Winners of First Year Maths Week Treasure Hunt 14th October 2019. Left to right: Tom Walsh, Jack McCormack and Charlie Grace.

French

Bill Kavanagh, Stephen Walsh, Eoghan Whelan and Conor Lynch participated in the French Debating competition in Dublin organised by the Alliance Française in October. They performed with flair and confidence on the topic of the Leaving Cert. Congratulations to Conor Lynch who won Best Speaker on the night.

We would like to thank Ms Allan for all her help and support in our preparations for the competition.



Bill Kavanagh, Stephen Walsh, Eoghan Whelan and Conor Lynch ont participé aux Joutes Oratoires organisées par l'Alliance Française à Dublin en Octobre. Ils ont parlé au sujet du Leaving Cert avec talent et confiance! Conor Lynch a gagné le titre de "Meilleur Orateur".

Music



Junior Choir

By Bill Kavanagh

Music has been a big part of my life over the past six years here in St Kieran's College. In First Year I was nervous about getting involved in music, but I was given a lot of help and support from the music department and lots of opportunities to learn. When I first came to school I started singing with the junior choir, which had twenty boys from First and Second Year. However six years later, the number of boys who have an interest in singing has increased dramatically. The Junior choir has now split into two, a First Year choir and a Second Year choir.

Once again we entered the Kilkenny Music Festival, the first year choir sang *Dona Nobis Pacem* and the second year choir sang "What a Wonderful World". Out of five entries from the school we had three second places for the First Year choir, Senior Choir and the Chamber Choir.

Both choirs also sang in the Christmas carol service and the Kieran's day mass.

The senior choir is a choir for broken voices with ages usually ranging from Third Year onwards. The senior choir rehearses in room 32 every Monday and Wednesday during lunch.

The Senior choir sang a variety of songs at the Christmas carol service and fundraised €3,265 for Focus Ireland carol singing in the town hall with the junior choirs also. The Senior choir performed in the Kilkenny Music

Festival and for the very first time in the Wesley College Music Festival singing "Down by the Sally Gardens". In Fifth Year, I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to join our chamber choir of five. Five members of the senior choir, one person from each section. This year we sang "Run to You" in the Kilkenny Music Festival and the Wesley College Music festival.

The music in St Kieran's College does not stop at singing but students also have the opportunities to play and learn instruments, such as guitar, saxophone, drums etc. Students who play instruments have the opportunity to join bands such as Mr Walsh's Trad Band. These trad players have shown their magnificent sound during the year on a number of occasions. Their



Chamber Choir



Senior Choir

instruments include fiddles, flutes, tin whistles, the bodhrán, the uilleann pipes, guitar and piano. They played at Archersrath nursing home on a number of occasions this year playing a variety of tunes. They played the "Marino Waltz" and the "Kesh jig" for the Christmas carol service in the cathedral, they also played at the Alzheimer's society in Kilkenny on a number of occasions.

I have played piano for many years now and this year I was lucky to be part of the Jazz band where I could further my skills as a player. I played with so many wonderful musicians of so many different instruments such as guitar, drums, saxophone, trumpets, clarinets and a trombone. Under the direction of Eamon Cahill, we performed the song "Jumpin at the Woodside" in the Lyrath hotel at Christmas and then at

Jazz Band

... AND ALL THAT JAZZ

St Kierans College Jazzband had an eventful year and jazz music continues to flourish in the school even during the Covid 19 crisis. Eamon Cahill, who teaches Saxophone, Trumpet, Clarinet and Trombone at the school has show great versatility to continue a full weekly timetable with all his students using the latest technology to give live video music lessons online. It provides continuity, focus and structure for students who may have more time on their hands than usual. The venture has been lauded by parents who struggle daily to maintain normality for their families. However Eamon is looking forward to seeing every one again and hitting the stage in due course with some live performances.

The school jazzband had a memorable appearance at The Cream of Kilkenny Cats Jazz Spectacular at the Lyrath Estate Hotel performing Jumpin' At The Woodside by Count Basie and the classic Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas with Charlie Fitzgerald displaying his unique vocal talents. The Jazzband also took part in this year's Wesley College Interschools Music Festival in Dublin. They combined forces with Loreto Jazzband to put in a great performance. The day was complete with a visit to Dundrum Shopping Centre and it was



the Wesley College music festival with the Loreto jazz band.

Over the past six years, the music department has helped me to develop confidence and has been an excellent way to balance school life. For us Sixth Years who have gotten involved with music, we will dearly miss the times we have performed together, from High School Musical

and school masses, the award nights, carol services and competitions and so much more, which have all been amazing experiences. None of these would have been possible for us without the constant support and help from so many of our music teachers, especially Ms Fitzpatrick, Ms O'Connor, Mr Brennan and Mr Walsh.



a thoroughly unforgettable day for all involved.

Many of Eamon's students also achieved their grade certificates from the Royal Irish Academy of Music this year, of whom Eamon is immensely proud.

Eamon would like to thank all the staff and management for all

their constant support. Thanks to the generosity of the school an instrument bank has been set up to allow students access to a Saxophone, Clarinet, Trumpet or trombone for one year, free of charge. This gives students an excellent and affordable opportunity to try their hand at a musical instrument.

Good times ahead !

Trad Band 2019-2020



Back row l-r: Adam Noonan, Luke Phelan, Joseph Canny, Charlie Delahunty, DJ Delaney. Front row l-r: John Bergin, JJ Ryan, John Canny, Leon Brown, Jimmy Cantwell, Matthew Rowe, Liam Carrigan.

The school's traditional Irish music group had a very successful year performing around the county to residents at nursing homes and day centres as well as other events. We were delighted to welcome some very musical and enthusiastic First Years to the band this year with the addition of John Bergin, Liam Carrigan, Ruairi Phelan and Matthew Rowe to our ensemble.

The musicians met every Tuesday to practice a variety of reels, polkas, jigs and hornpipes and prepare for both the local and school events that we were invited to perform at.

The band entertained residents at Archersrath nursing home and visitors to the Kilkenny Alzheimer's day centre in early December for their Christmas party. These are both places where the group have played before and are always welcomed.

In addition to school masses and the annual carol service, the band were asked to play at Rothe house for the beginning of a mental health awareness campaign. We also gave First Years a taste of some ceoil traidisiúnta as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge.

The main focus of the group this year was on the Kilkenny music festival for our first involvement in the competition. The musicians worked very hard in perfecting an eight minute recital but unfortunately the competition was cancelled due to the

closure of schools the day before the competition in March.

The St Kieran's College trad band are hoping to continue to bring music to both the St Kieran's College and local communities next year and are looking forward to our debut in the Kilkenny music festival 2021.

Members: 1st year - John Bergin, Liam Carrigan, Ruairi Phelan and Matthew Rowe. 2nd year - Luke Phelan. 3rd year - Leon Browne, Joe Canny and Adam Noonan. TY - Jimmy Cantwell, Charlie Delahunty. 5th year - John Canny, DJ Delaney and JJ Ryan.



BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2020



L-R: Killian Carey, Nick Doheny, Charlie Delahunty.

By Luke Connellan & Richard McEvoy (Transition Year)

St Kieran's College were strongly represented at the annual BT Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS in January with three teams qualifying from Transition Year. The following report was written by two of the TY students, Luke Connellan and Richard McEvoy who represented the school at the exhibition:

Immediately after the Christmas holidays, we attended the BT Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS from the 8th to the 11th of January. This year, three groups were accepted into the exhibition: Richard McEvoy, Luke Connellan and Oisín O'Connor studied the common injuries among adolescents in Gaelic Games compared to other sports; Pádraig Lennon, Jack Butler and Conor Booth examined statistics in Intercounty and school hurling games and the effect on the outcome of matches; Charlie Delahunty, Nick Doheny and Killian Carey researched whether or not organic food production is better for the environment.

We stayed for three nights in the Clayton Hotel near the RDS. The days were long and busy from 9am to 5:30pm. On Wednesday we attended the opening ceremony where Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, was the guest of honour. Each group was judged on three separate occasions by highly qualified judges. As well as being judged we were very busy in explaining our projects and our findings to the vast numbers of visitors to the exhibition, people from all over the country and beyond, from all demographics in society. Generally, all passers-by were very interested in our projects and we were delighted to get the opportunity to explain our work in detail. At night there was evening entertainment in the RDS for students participating in the exhibition.

Although we didn't win any of the big prizes on offer this year, we were delighted that we were all invited to showcase our projects at further exhibitions in University Of Limerick and Dublin City University, to present our sport based projects to the experts there. The other group got invited to present their environmental project in the Convention Centre. We were tired by the time the exhibition was over on Saturday but it was a great experience that we have learned much from. We would like to say a special word of thanks to our Science Teacher Mr. Hennessy for all of his guidance and assistance in preparation for the exhibition and for accompanying us to the RDS.



L-R: Oisín O'Connor, Richard McEvoy, Luke Connellan



L-R: Jack Butler, Conor Booth, Pádraig Lennon.

Career Guidance 2019-2020

by Brian Dowling

We had many Guest Speakers that visited the school during the year to speak to our students. Past Pupil, Barry Hogan and his work Colleague Donal Higgins spoke to the lads about their company called Prochem which was of interest to all the budding young Engineers in the school. Virginia Boland made her annual visit to the school to talk to the students about apprenticeship's in early March. Martin Stapleton from CDS Architectural Metalwork spoke to students about running a successful business, tough times during the recession, how to become an apprentice and what employers are looking for from their employees. Speaker also visited from IT Carlow, UCD, WIT, UCC, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth and DCU to name a few.

Students were also given the opportunity this year to visit some places of interest for their careers. In November, a large number of senior students signed up for a campus tour of UCD and received an informative talk from a UCD representative about all of the courses available there. Our lads also received a campus tour from a current UCD student, giving the students a good insight into what life is like on a university campus. In recent years, a large proportion of students from St Kieran's College have ended up furthering their studies in UCD, so this was a very worthwhile and beneficial day trip. Students who are interested in Sports Science visited IT Carlow for an informative day on all things related to those courses.

While there, students also had the opportunity to participate in practical classes and spent some time in the company of former St Kieran's College students, Richie Leahy, Jason Cleere and Liam Blanchfield who are all currently part of the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Panel. We are very grateful to these players for their time as our students learned a lot from the Questions and Answers session.

All students had the opportunity to attend the Careers Fair held in Hotel Kilkenny during October which offers students a one-stop shop of stalls from colleges all over the country with lots of information available.



Despite this being a short year and students were afforded many due to the impact of the Corona opportunities to work on their Career prior to school shutdown in March and Third Level options.



Deirdre Holden visited the school in January to talk to the students about Study Techniques



John Power from WIT, 30th January 2020.

A DAY IN MY LIFE: LIVING UNDER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

By Aaron Dorney

Since the outbreak of covid 19 it has impacted my daily routine massively. As per usual, on a Monday to Friday I would attend school from 9-4 and then have activities after school such as hurling, soccer and gym training. Since all non essential businesses have closed down and the state has issued a global lockdown, I am unable to attend school, after school activities or have social gatherings with friends or family. As you are aloud to be within a 2k distance of your home, I still have the freedom to be able to do running in my local gaa club pitch and practice sports while not in contact with anyone.

In my house the pandemic's rules and regulations issued have not been taken lightly. We have had to cut off contact with family members and friends and take precaution when we are outside. As both my parents work with the HSE, we all have to be very careful which is why they wear masks in work and have to sanitise before coming back into the house.

At the moment in Ireland, the number of cases of covid 19 have reached almost 20,000 which has led to 1,159 people dying. Over the last few days we have seen a decrease in cases and deaths which has proved that quarantine has been beneficial.

I feel that on a positive note on the current pandemic, there has been a decrease in fossil fuel emissions which is a big help to the global warming effect that has occurred over recent years. Also it has put some fear into people to be more cautious of cleanliness and to look after they're well being. I feel also that people have become more innovative with they're time to think at home which we can see on social media with new challenges being set and tasks that people might not have got the chance to do in everyday life.

My hopes for the future are that the cases and death rates of the covid 19 virus will decrease and that people will stay in isolation until the pandemic has been resolved globally. I hope to be back out hurling soon, to be able to be in contact with family and friends and to also not be living with precaution and fear for too much longer.

A DAY IN MY LIFE: LIVING UNDER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

By: Brogan McAviney

Since the start of this pandemic, my routine has changed drastically.

My daily routine wasn't like most. I woke up at just before five in the morning to travel to a pool where I would train for two hours before setting out for a day of school and all the rest. I trained 5 mornings a week and 4 evenings a week between pool and gym sessions for swimming. There wasn't a single day of the week that I didn't train in the Watershed.

How things have changed....

Now I wake up at ten-ish usually, sometimes half eight or anywhere in between. I lie in bed for a while before forcing myself up. Most mornings I get breakfast, and then either do a gym set or wait an hour and then go for a run. I tell myself I'll do something else later in the day but that rarely happens. I come back, get a shower and do a few jobs around the house. Around this time I'll get lunch and either head outside to puck a ball and shoot some hoops or go lie in my room for a while. I often go for a cycle in the evenings to get away from the house. After a while, I return home for dinner and usually head to my room to play video games with lads for a few hours. I finish up anywhere between 11 and 1 and then I go to bed.

My lifestyle has changed for the worse. The discipline my normal routine gave me is gone and it's a struggle to keep healthy. It's very tempting to snack when I'm home. I miss my old life a lot. I haven't been in a cold pool or the freezing river for over a month. That for me, is a killer. It's made me realise how much I love the water. It's the first thing I'll do once these restrictions are loosened. I miss my friends. I don't like phone calls, or texting all that much. I like to talk to people in person. With the weather, I know that I'd be making plans to get out constantly during this time but now I can't.

I've dealt with it well for a while but now it's getting to me and I'm feeling myself struggle. Despite this it is my belief that a positive attitude is the best cure that we have for these restrictions at the moment. I remain hopeful and optimistic. I choose not to dwell on the bad news and the facts but rather to think about what I'll do after all this and to remember that it will end.



Editors of TY pages



Eimhin Cassin



Aaron Moore

TY Review 2020

MANY THANKS TO EIMHIN CASSIN AND AARON MOORE FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN PUTTING THE FOLLOWING TY PAGES TOGETHER. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THEM.





The academic year 2019-2020 was certainly an unusual one and it affected Transition Year students as much as it did for all students in the school.

We were lucky, in that by March we had completed many TY activities such as work experience, visiting speakers, charity fundraising, enrichment, surfing, practice for the musical, mountain walks, river walks, cycling, climbing and so much more.

However, our experience of Transition Year was brought to a sudden and unexpected halt when the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar announced that all schools were to close on March the 12th. Little did we know then, that Thursday 12th March would be our final day in Transition Year.

We were looking forward to staging of our school musical Grease, our TY retreat to Glendalough and our end of year activity trip away in Carlingford. We had so much to do and little did we appreciate what we had until it was gone. Nonetheless, we managed to carry on our TY experiences through the many classes and activities which

were organised for us at home through our Google Classroom. Our parents really enjoyed our cooking challenges!

We are grateful to all the teachers who kept us occupied throughout the shutdown. Despite the abrupt ending, we still carry many great memories of times spent together in Transition Year. Thanks to Ms Moran and Mr M Connolly for co-ordinating the year for us.

A REFLECTION ON TRANSITION YEAR 2019-2020

Mr Michael Connolly

The 2019/2020 school year here in St. Kieran's College was certainly unlike any other we have witnessed as a school community. The global Covid-19 pandemic has transformed the way in which learning and teaching are provided in our new virtual learning environments. However, it had an even deeper impact on Transition Year, curtailing so many rich experiences for the students.

When St Kieran's College closed on the 12th March, out TY students





had engaged in workshops, speaker presentations, charity collections, community based activities and enjoyed trips to places like Croke Park, Castlecomer Discovery Park, ice skating, walking trips to name a few. The pandemic soon put an end to this and the various trips that had been planned for the remainder of the school year, including our end of year school trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre, could unfortunately not happen.

When the lockdown came, the challenge from a teaching perspective, was to ensure that Transition Year students could access and engage in content and resources to maintain the structure and stability that they would normally encounter if they were in school. In order to achieve this, we created a TY Google Classroom portal through which, excellent resources, assignments and competitions could be uploaded. The supports of our pastoral care and guidance team were also made available to students through this platform with many guidance initiatives being added to the





group on a daily basis by Ms Wemyss and Mr Dowling, the Career Guidance Counsellors in the school.

Mindfulness classes were conducted by our Chaplain Mr Fergal Brennan to maintain student (and teacher!) mental wellbeing during this surreal time. Physical exercise routines and tips were made accessible by one of our PE teachers, Mr T. Brennan to support in student's physical and mental wellbeing. Cooking competitions that outlaid cooking/baking demonstrations and recipes to students were made available by Ms Farrell. Mr Morrissey offered

relevant and interesting historical and educational material in his Social Studies class.

Mr E. Walsh complimented business curriculum supports with a marketing project that challenged entrepreneurial skills. Competitive music competitions were created by Ms O'Connor that showcased the musical talents of many of our TYs. Mr Cotter offered 'Reading for Pleasure' classes that could be accessed through the Zoom online platform. Finally, as TY co-ordinator, it was my role, in conjunction with Mr Ryan as Year Head, to ensure that TY students

engaged in their Google Classroom and participated in the online activities provided.

Each week we held an online competition which allowed students to demonstrate their reflections at that time of year, reflections on their new reality in lockdown taking into account the new reality of living under Covid-19 restrictions.

Although it was greatly disappointing to see the year come to such a disappointing ending, we are grateful for all that we did get done in reality and inspired by all that could be done when people pooled together





their resourcefulness to provide such an enriched learning environment online. On my and Ms Moran's behalf, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of my colleagues

on the staff of St Kieran's College who pulled together to make this Transition Year such a good experience for the lads. Thanks to all TY parents who got involved in such a meaningful way,

particularly when learning from home and of course to all of our TY students (now in Fifth Year) - thank you for your participation in what was a truly unique Transition Year experience.



Sports Day 2019

Our annual Sports Day took place on Friday 20th September 2019. The rain held off, the clouds parted and sun came out for what turned out to be a great day of fun and activity for everyone in the school community. This is a very important day in the school calendar to promote an active lifestyle, to spend time with friends and for the wellbeing of all. Well done to the PE department for organising the day and to all teachers involved. We are very grateful to our friends in the Watershed for allowing us to hold our Sports Day there and for the use of their fantastic facilities.





Individual & International Sports



Senan Forristal Liffey Descent Winner U18

Once again, this year saw many fine achievements from St Kieran's College students who excelled in their chosen individual sport, with some students going on to represent Ireland.

In Cross Country Running, Leaving Cert student, Shay McEvoy was

selected for the Irish U20s team for the European Championships in Portugal in early December. The Irish put in a fantastic performance and were narrowly beaten to a place on the podium. Well done to Shay who had such a key part to play. We wish Shay



Brogan McAiney - U18 National Swimming Champion in 50 & 100m Free / 200m Fly & 200m Free.

well in America, where he will continue his studies and running career. Also in Cross Country Running, Third Year student, David Williams qualified to run for Ireland in the prestigious SIAB's (Schools International Athletic Board) event, but unfortunately the



Irish Ice-Hockey (L-R): Jamie O'Brien, Coby Cummins, Oscar Fomin, Adam Fomin, Bryce Cummins represented Ireland in Chicago.



Adam Fomin v Chicago Vikings.



Shay McEvoy (Third from the Right) European Cross Country U20 Lisbon 8th December 2019.



David Williams selected to represent Ireland in the Schools International Athletic Board.

Coronavirus outbreak caused this International race to be cancelled in March of this year. David is a very promising young athlete who comes from a running background and we are likely to see more from this young man. In Swimming, Brogan McAviney had some outstanding success in recent times, particularly in the National Finals held in Dublin's Aquatic Centre last summer. Brogan is a well known local talent and has now made his mark on the National scene with medals in the 50m, 100m and 200m in a variety of styles. In Canoeing and Kayaking, Senan Forristal from the Thomastown Paddlers Club won the

Liffey Descent. Started back in 1959 as an inter-club event, the illustrious Liffey Descent kayaking race now attracts paddlers from many parts of the world and is a major event on the international calendar. The race course consists of 10 Weirs and 1 portage. It starts within the grounds of the world famous K Club in Straffan, Co. Kildare and finishes 32 kilometres later at the Garda Boat Club, Islandbridge, Dublin. Senan won the U18 category for the second year running, a major achievement that gives testament to Senan's strength, endurance skills and talent. Finally, a number of St Kieran's College students represented Ireland

in Ice-hockey earlier this year. Just before the shutdown in March, the Irish Men's Senior and U18 Ice-Hockey Teams travelled to Chicago to take part in a series of games. The U18's played three games against Brother Rice High School, St Rita's High School and the Chicago Vikings. The trip was a great success both on and off the ice, and the lads were delighted to meet Kendall Coyne Schofield, a US Ice-Hockey Olympian and to have experienced coaching from world class players. Well done to all of the lads on these wonderful achievements. We wish you all continued success.

Basketball

Both First and Second Year Basketball teams were enjoying a successful season prior to their season being cut short due to Covid 19.

Both teams trained each week in the gym under the watchful eyes of Mr Tom Brennan and Mr Lawrence "Puff" Somers.

We hope to see a successful return to Basketball competition when the new school year resumes in September.



First Year Basketball

Back row l-r: Harry Cody, Odhran Moore, Evan Murphy, Cameron Power, Sean Maloney. Front row l-r: Cian Byrne, Thomas Langton, Sean Deely, Shane Walsh, Jake Maher.



Second Year Basketball

Back row l-r: Colm Fitzgerald, Max Coffey, Jacob Breslin, Fred Odano, Charlie Bibby, Killian Tallon, Charlie Cleere, Edward McDermott. Front row l-r: Jamie Peters, Stephen Manogue, Aaron Russell, Aaron Coogan, Joseph McNerney, John Hayes

Handball



Leinster U15 Handball Double Champions (l-r): Cathal Buckley and John Hayes.

Badminton



Leinster Final Runners-Up
l-r: Andrew Devereux, Patrick Phelan, Joesph Cowhig, Nobin Rebi.



St Kieran's College Event, Topflight Equestrian Centre, Warrington

St Kieran's College held their annual leg of the TRI Equestrian sponsored Interschools Showjumping Competition in Warrington on Sunday September 29th.

The Novice Team competition started off the day with 16 teams competing.

The main event was the TRI Equestrian Open Team Competition. In what was a very competitive jump off between Borris Vocational School, St Kieran's College (White Team), Wesley College and Gorey Community School. Borris Vocational School were triumphant on the day.

The strongly contested Open Individual competition saw Claire Kavanagh, Borris Vocational School and Clonagoose Daniel Dubh take first prize in a time of 34.82 sec. Chloe Hughes Kennedy, Presentation Secondary School took second place on 38.24 sec and David Parle, St Kieran's College taking third place with 38.81 sec.

Robin Carey and Ciarán Byrne had both qualified for the 1.10 Final in April, but unfortunately due to restrictions the final did not take place.

St Kieran's College would like to thank the Moloney Family (Warrington Topflight Equestrian Centre), as well as all the teachers, students, parents and sponsors (Gain Animal Nutrition, Red Mills, Euro Farm, CF Pharma, Ballyquirke Limousins & Sport Horses & Foulkstown Feeds) who helped with the running of the event leading up to and on the day.

The members of the St Kieran's College Equestrian Teams are Paddy Flemming, Daniel Ring, Pierce Costello, John Dermody, Ciarán Byrne, David Flemming, Robin Carey and David Parle.

A huge thank you to Ms Hollie Hickey and all the teachers, students and parents who worked so hard to make this such a successful event.



Cross Country Season 2019-2020



Back Row: Tom Lodge, Eoin Morgan, Shay McEvoy, Brogan McAviney, William Fox, Eoin Deely, Jack Archbold, Kevin Burns. Middle Row: Mr Patrick Darmody, Cathal Kearney, Senan Forristal, John Muldowney, Conor Brett, Cathal O'Reilly, David Williams, Mr John O'Keeffe. Front Row: Paul Mahon, Christopher Delaney, Ruairi McEvoy, Oisín Marry, Noah Manogue, Tomas Langton, Darragh Coverdale, Matthew McAviney, Bill Hayes. Absent from photo: Eoghan Whelan, Joe Kearns.

Lunchtime training in the Castle Park resumed for the new academic year in the last week in August. All students and staff were welcome to run regardless of their athleticism.

The opening event of the Cross Country calendar was the Michael Brannigan Memorial run. This inter-class competition for First Years was won by Ruairi McEvoy, followed home in 2nd and 3rd places respectively by Oisín Marry and Darragh Coverdale, all from the victorious 1A2 class.

The South Leinster Championship was held in Carlow Town at the end of January. We won all four team titles for boys, which is a considerable achievement. The Intermediate and Senior Teams particularly had a memorable day, each with four runners in the top ten finishers in their respective races. Charlie Fitzgerald in the U15 event, Brogan McAviney in the U17 race and Kevin Burns in the U19's had outstanding performances, running with real gusto.

Again this year in February, Santry

Demesne in Dublin, provided the venue for the Leinster's.

Arguably, we had our best ever Leinster Championship, winning two of the four available team titles. The U14 and U17 teams were crowned champions. Sensationally, the Senior team with a great score of 56 was pipped for the team title by Belvedere College who won gold on a score of 55 points. We had passionately defended the 'Best School in Leinster' title, which we had won last year.

Three teams represented the College in the Schools All-Ireland Championship on the 7th March, a few days before the Covid-19 restrictions were introduced. We had to be content with two team bronzes in the Inter and Senior races. David Williams who ran fabulously in the U17 race qualified for Irish Team selection in the prestigious SIAB competition, which sadly was cancelled later in the month. The drama though, of the Senior event, will be etched forever on all of us who witnessed the final lap of that race.

Shay McEvoy going into the lead for the first time with a few hundred metres to go... single-minded intent... running on empty... staggering over the line... suffice to say the determined McEvoy had his podium finish.

In conclusion we would like to acknowledge and thank all students who turn up for the lunch times runs each week and give so much to cross-country in our school. We would also like to thank their parents for their continued support throughout the year. We thank Shay and the other sixth year Cross Country athletes, Kevin Burns and Eoin Morgan in particular, for their wonderful contribution not only to running, but to sport in the College, we will be sorry to see them leave and wish them well.

Finally a special word of thanks to Mr O'Keeffe and Mr Darmody for organising and participating in the lunchtime run each week and for their ongoing dedication and commitment to the continued tradition of cross-country in St Kierans College.

CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2020 SEASON

Minor Team: Ruairi McEvoy, Oisín Marry, Darragh Coverdale, Tomas Langton, Ruarc Sweeney, Bill Hayes, Louis Fitzgerald, Matthew McAviney, Noah Manogue

Team Achievements: South Leinster Champions/ Leinster Champions

Junior Team: Sean Bergin, Charlie Fitzgerald, Kealan Gray, Luke Phelan, Sean Young, Jimmy Brennan, Aidan Cashin, Cian Farrell, Oisín O'Reilly

Team Achievements: South Leinster Champions

Inter Team: David Williams, Brogan McAviney, Tom Lodge, Jack Archbold, Conor Brett, Eoin Dealy, Paul Mahon, Eoghan Whelan, Joe Kearns

Team Achievements: South Leinster Champions/ Leinster Champions/3rd All-Ireland

Senior Team: Shay McEvoy, Kevin Burns, Cathal O'Reilly, John Muldowney, Senan Forristal, Eoin Morgan, Will Fox, Cathal Kearney

Team Achievements: South Leinster Champions/2nd Leinster/3rd All-Ireland

Cross Country Individuals and Achievements 2020 Season

Junior CC Athlete: Charlie Fitzgerald

Senior CC Athlete: Shay McEvoy

Special Award: David Williams

David qualified to run for Ireland in the prestigious SIAB's (Schools International Athletic Board) event, but the Coronavirus outbreak caused this international race to be cancelled in March of this year.



Intermediate Leinster



Junior South Leinster Champions



Minor Leinster Champions



Shay McEvoy



Senior Cross Country Leinster Champions

Juvenile Football 2019-2020



The Juvenile Footballers had another very successful year on the playing fields during the 2019/2020 season. Trials began in earnest on the third week back to school as no time was wasted in preparations for the championship. This year's goal was to go one step further than last year and win the South Lenister Final. When the groups were drawn St Kieran's were paired with a difficult fixture list containing two away games to Portarlinton and St Mary's Carlow with only one home game to Athy. First up was our trip to Portarlinton where frosty conditions and a strong wind made football very difficult to play. However we adapted best and we built up a sizeable lead thanks to the aid of a strong wind. Resolute defending and super fitness levels ensured our first win of the campaign. Athy were next up to visit us at home and after a competitive game we secured our second win, ensuring that we had qualified for the knockout phases. The final group game was against reigning champions St Mary's Carlow in a top of the table contest. The winners would go forward to the

semi-finals with a home draw in their favour. This was a really tough game with great individual performances from the strong St Mary's side but it was the more refined teamwork and economical use of the ball in front of goal that won the day for us with the second half introduction of Paddy Walsh proving to be hugely influential in the outcome of the game.

With a home semi-final to look forward to we returned to the training grounds of the Birchfield to prepare for a tough game against Enniscorthy. The semi-final was a tight affair but we managed to keep the Wexford boys from raising the green flag at crucial times during the game. The speed of transition from defence to attack caught them unprepared as our pacey forwards did untold damage for much of the game. With victory secured thought turned to a south Lenister final against one of Ireland's biggest secondary schools - FCJ Bunclody. To gain victory here required a huge effort from the entire panel of players whose dedication to training and learning was immense.

The final was played in the Eire Og grounds in Carlow town on a wet and blustery November day. We elected to play against the wind in the first half with the message to players being very simple - do not concede a goal. With Mr. Windle's inspiring words of "They shalt not pass" ringing in their ears, the team took to the field in a determined manner and executed the game plan to perfection with FCJ unable to break down the steadfast

St Kierans College rear-guard to raise a major. This ensured a very keenly contested second half and it certainly proved to be so. A new mantra was delivered to the team of "Attack! Attack! Attack!" and to that end the St Kierans boys rose to the occasion delivering a crucial green flag from the penalty spot after very brave play by Ben Phelan. FCJ did not wilt however and had some fine individual performances, but once again the superior team work of our team won through on a score of 1-7 to 1-5.

As a result of our win we were granted a place in the Lenister final to be played before Christmas. However due to poor organisation by the Dublin schools their championship was way behind. This left us and the North Lenister champions in limbo as we awaited fixtures to come through. By February midterm there was still no sign of a Lenister final fixture, very much to the annoyance of both players and mentors. The reluctance of the North Lenister champions to agree upon and set a fixture that was reasonable was very frustrating. The school in question claimed to only be available to play in May, smack bang in the middle of Juvenile hurling season and were very uncooperative in trying to play the game despite several options being presented to them.

Now one can only assume as to what the outcome of the dispute would have been, but I have no doubt that had the game been played, then St Kierans would finally have become Lenister Football Champions. It was such a pity that this fine team did not get their chance to play in the final. Thank you so much to the players, their clubs and parents for their dedication and support at training and games.

Panel:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. James Hughes - Bennettsbridge | 20. Stephen Power Kelt - James Stephens |
| 2. Jeff Neary - Grauige-Ballycallan | 21. Sean Bergin - James Stephens |
| 3. Rory Connellan - Thomastown | 22. Sean Hunt - Muckalee |
| 4. Cathal Hickey - St. Lachtain's | 23. Cathal Buckley - Dunnamaggin |
| 5. Harry Boyle - Clara | 24. Diarmuid Langton - Young Irelands |
| 6. Joe Hughes - Bennettsbridge | 25. Adam Coyne - Tullaroan |
| 7. Thomas Brennan - Clough/Ballacolla | 26. James Brennan Smith - Dicksborough |
| 8. Tim Kelly - Bennettsbridge | 27. Tom Cleerre - Ballyhale Shamrocks |
| 9. Bobby Murphy - Durrow Harps | 28. Joey Dalton - Dicksborough |
| 10. Paddy Walsh - Bennettsbridge | 29. Fred Odano - O'Loughlin Gaels |
| 11. Ben Phelan - Young Irelands | 30. Eoghan Bennett - O'Loughlin Gaels |
| 12. Andy Murphy - James Stephens | 31. Noah Gilmore - Dunnamaggin |
| 13. Ned Langton - Clara | 32. Sean Carrigan - Clara |
| 14. Tom McPhillips (cpt) - Dicksborough | 33. Conor Doyle - Windgap |
| 15. Aaron McEvoy - Grauige-Ballycallan | 34. John Hayes - Dunnamaggin |
| 16. Killian Tallon - Dunnamaggin | 35. Kieran Walsh - Danesfort |
| 17. Edward McDermott - James Stephens | 36. Cian Kelly - Clara |
| 18. Thomas Roche - John Locks | 37. Rory Glynn - Clara |
| 19. Ross O'Neill - O'Loughlin Gaels | 38. Sean Roberts (inj) - Grauige - Ballycallan |

Soccer

David Fitzpatrick 2A2

Last years under 15 school soccer team was managed by Mr Kelly and Mr McCormack. We trained every Tuesday and prepared for our first game. We started the season well, winning 4-0 in the Watershed. We then went on an unbeaten run of five games until we lost our first game to CBS Carlow. That didn't matter too much as we had already made it to the Leinster League Final. We were playing Carlow CBS again and we had a chance to beat them. Unfortunately we lost a well fought game 4-2. Our season was then brought to an end because the schools closed.



First Year Hurling

Once again, there were many opportunities this year for First Years to show off their hurling skills. Soon after they arrived in the school, First Years were treated to a First Year Hurling Blitz organised by the Kilkenny County Board. These hurling blitz days are held early in the school year, during the brighter days and the usually better weather, to encourage all students in to get out, get to know each other, get involved and enjoy the fresh air. We usually have another blitz towards the end of the year but unfortunately that naturally didn't happen this year with school closures due to Covid-19.

The First Year hurling league was a great success this year. Each class group was divided into teams that battled it out during lunch hour for the glory of the bragging rights! We were also invited to a hurling blitz in Good



1st Year Class League Winners

Counsel College in New Ross to face opposition with our friends and rivals there in what has become an annual First Year Hurling Blitz. This year St Kieran's came out on top in what was a very enjoyable day. We would like to

thank all of our teachers for taking the time to provide us with opportunities to get involved in hurling this year, particularly Mr Hennessy, Mr Evan Walsh and Mr Farrell. We look forward to when hurling returns!

First Year Blitz



Junior Hurling 2019



Trials for this year's St Kieran's College Junior hurling team began on the second week back with over one hundred students trying out. After winning the Leinster final last year the team were looking forward to trying to retain this title and hoping to go one step further and claim All-Ireland glory.

Our first match was at home to St Peter's College in St Kieran's. There was a very strong wind in our favour in the first half which allowed us to gain a big lead early on in which Peters were unable to pull back. We were delighted to get our campaign off to a winning start. We then played Good Counsel down in New Ross in our second game. We knew Good Counsel had a star studded team and in was going to be a very tough battle. On the day we were very disappointed with our own performance and Good Counsel ran out convincing winners with a scoreline of 2.17 to 0.11. This was a very tough defeat as we knew we could not afford to lose another match if we were to reach the Leinster Final.

Our next outing was against CBS Kilkenny in SKC. This was a very physical encounter in which both teams battled for supremacy in the first half. At half time we up three points. The second half was a similar contest but the deciding score came from Alex Sheridan when he took on the CBS defence and scored a cracking goal to seal victory. Our final group game, which was effectively a Leinster semi-final, was against Borris VS in Carlow. We hit our stride early on in the game and ended up with six goals



to our name with Harry Shine, Ben Whitty, Killian Carey and Nick Doheny among the scorers. This victory set up a Leinster Final versus Good Counsel.

The Leinster final took place in Thomastown. It was the day we all had been looking forward to and had trained so hard for. Good Counsel were hot favourites and we knew we had to be on top form to win this. We played with a very strong breeze in the

first half and we managed to gain the upper hand with a well taken goal from corner forward Padraig Naddy. Harry Shine also had a day to remember with twelve points from twelve from dead balls in a highly impressive performance. At half time we went in seven points up but we knew with the breeze against us we had it all to do. Another Naddy goal in the last quarter sealed the victory. In the second half

we had many star performances. Our full back line of Adam O Connor, Sean Moore and Paddy Langton were rock solid. Joe Fitzpatrick took control at centre back and Killian Doyle really grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck by stopping any of Good Counsels forward momentum. Our attack worked tirelessly and Ben Whitty and Alex Sheridan made huge impacts when coming on. In the end we ran out 2-21 to 16 point victors.

This set up an eagerly awaited All Ireland Final versus Presentation College, Athenry. This was a fiercely contested battle. We won the All-Ireland by the narrowest of margins and there were jubilant scenes between players, teachers and family members. Dara Mason put in a man of the match performance from wing back. Unfortunately, due to an appeal by Presentation Athenry, the game was ordered to be replayed and a late goal from Athenry gave them the victory. This St Kieran's team wore the jersey with pride throughout the campaign and we have no doubt we will see plenty more of this team in the coming years. Thanks to our mentors Mr. Ruth, Mr. Dowling and Conor Ryan for all their hard work throughout the campaign.



Senior Hurling 2020



Back row l-r: Shaun O'Keeffe, Ciaran Mullen, David Fogarty, Conor Fitzpatrick, Tom Carroll, Dara Mason, Jack Sheridan, Stephen Keoghan, Jack Doyle, Conor Brett, Tomás Leahy, Darren Cuddihy, Cian Kenny, Diarmuid Galway, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Padraic Foley, Harry Shine, Darragh Maher Front row l-r: Liam Barron, Kieran Buckley, Andy Hickey, Conor Kelly, Ciaran Rice, Denis Walsh, Eoin Guillfoyle, Peter McDonald, Peter O'Donohue, Killian Rudkins, Padraig Moylan, Harry Walsh, Jamie Harkin, Ciaran Brennan, Oisín Eagan, Oisín Carroll.

The hurling league started in October with a visit to Castleknock to play Dublin North. The local championships were in full swing and a lot of players were not available. Despite that we put in a great effort and lost out by a couple of points against a strong combined team. A couple of weeks later we had a terrific win against St Peter's from Wexford on the school pitch. There were no league semi-finals and the top two teams qualified for the final. Unfortunately, we lost out on scoring average.

The Leinster championship was just around the corner and we needed to prepare. Our two most experienced college

players Ciarán Brennan and Conor Kelly were appointed joint captains for the new campaign. We managed to train on the pitch three times per week with the team doing a gym session at lunchtime on Mondays. We travelled to LIT in the shadow of Thomond Park in November to play their Freshers team. It was a great learning experience for our younger players and we won narrowly in the end. The following week we had another good win against Middleton CBS.

Our championship was based on a round robin with two teams qualifying for the semi-finals and we were in a group with Dublin North, St Peter's and Coláiste Eoin, Stillorgan.



Padraic Moylan



Peter Donohoe

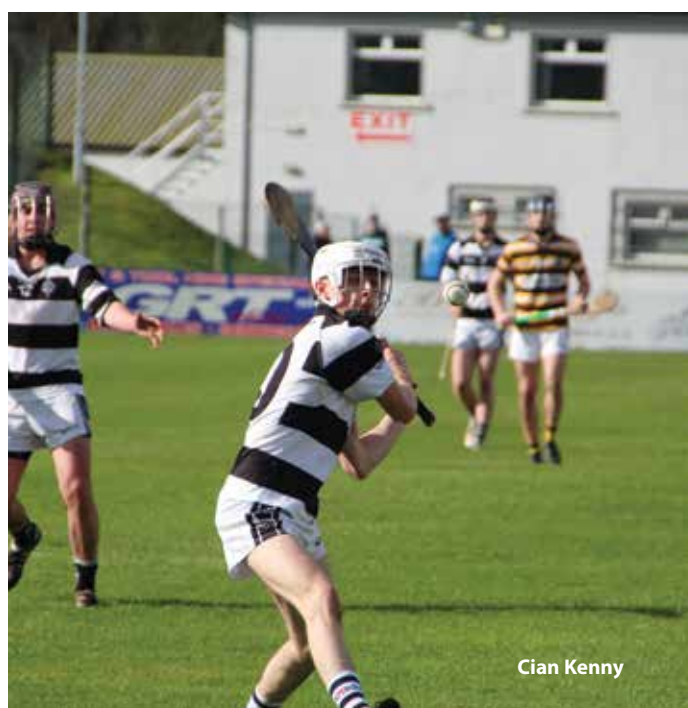
We headed to Kilbarrack in Dublin on December 17th to face Dublin North on a very tight pitch. A great effort was put in by the whole team and we won two vital points on a scoreline of 1-16 to 1-14. After the Christmas exams the lads turned their attention to training during the holidays, including St Stephen's Day and New Year's Eve. Our first Wednesday back on January 8th we faced St Peter's in the second round out in James Stephen's grounds on the kells Road. We won by five points, 0-15 to 0-10 on a soft pitch. The following Wednesday we faced Coláiste Eoin in the last round. This game was played

on a back pitch at the Laois Centre of Excellence in Portlaoise. After a poor first half we found ourselves 11 points down. Great credit must be given to the players who turned things around in the second half and we were unlucky not to win. We had to settle for a 1-13 to 2-10 draw. We had qualified for the Leinster semi-final against Good Counsel, New Ross.

As part of our preparations we had two very good challenge games against CBC from Cork and the Kilkenny U-20s. On Saturday February 8th we faced Good Counsel in the Carlow Centre of Excellence in Fenagh. The pitch was

in excellent condition but there was a gale force wind blowing straight down the field. We played against the gale in the first half and the team performed excellently to go in at half time a point up. Good Counsel came out stronger against the wind but some great point scoring by Conor Kelly and a smashing goal by Cian Kenny sealed the victory 1-15 to 0-13. We were delighted to be in the Leinster final against Coláiste Eoin.

Dr Cullen Park in Carlow was the venue for the Leinster Final. It was a 11.30 start and again there was a strong wind blowing. Unfortunately we were



Cian Kenny



Denis Walsh



David Fogarty



missing two of our more experienced players, Ciarán Brennan and Eoin Guilfoyle through injury. Playing against the wind in the first half, we performed very well and were happy to be level at half time. The second half saw us go three points up but Coláiste Eoin levelled. We continued to go a point or two ahead until they finally equalised in the 29th minute. Disaster struck as they scored a goal with time almost up. Despite a great push in injury time we could only manage a point and we had to congratulate a very strong Coláiste Eoin on their first Senior Leinster victory.

We had two weeks to prepare for an All Ireland quarter final against the Harty champions, St Flannan's of Ennis. The Covid-19 virus was looming in the background but our full attention was on the game. We had to travel to Mallow on Saturday March 7th to face St Flannan's. More gales !! There was an absolute storm blowing down the pitch. One of the locals told us beforehand that the wind was usually worth 7 points ! We lost the toss and it took us a while to get to grips with the conditions. We had a couple of goal chances but we had to settle for a 5 point lead at half time, 0-8 to 0-3. Despite playing into the gale the lads shut up shop and defended heroically and it took Flannan's 20 minutes to draw level. We were finding scores hard

to come by, but a couple of points from Cian Kenny kept our noses in front until the last few minutes. Then they scored a point from play followed by two frees to win 0-14 to 0-11. We lost but our lads went down fighting as is the habit of all St Kieran's teams. That local wasn't far off with his prediction about the value of the wind!!

Our hurling year was over but little did we think that the school would be closing for the year on the following Thursday March 12th or that it would be the last time anyone would hurl for many months to come. Even though we won no silverware this year the panel of 36 players put in the very same effort as those who have gone before.

A special word of thanks to all the 6th years who are leaving us after representing the school with commitment, hard work and pride over the past six years. They have been very successful on the sports field, winning numerous Leinster and All Ireland titles in both hurling and soccer. We wish them well in their future academic and hurling careers. They are (in alphabetical order): Liam Barron, Ciarán Brennan, Conor Brett, Kieran Buckley, Oisín Carroll, Darren Cuddihy, Peter Donohoe, Oisín Egan, Kevin Fitzpatrick, David Fogarty, David Galway, Eoin Guilfoyle, Jamie Harkin, Conor Kelly, Cian Kenny, Stephen

Keoghan, Tomás Leahy, Darragh Maher, Pádraic Moylan, Ciarán Mullen, Aod O'Connor, Killian Rudkins, Jack Sheridan, Harry Walsh.

The senior hurling panel for 2019-20 was (in alphabetical order): Liam Barron, Ciarán Brennan (Joint Captain), Patrick Brennan, Conor Brett, Kieran Buckley, Oisín Carroll, Tom Carroll, Darren Cuddihy, Peter Donohoe, Jack Doyle, Oisín Egan, Conor Fitzpatrick, Kevin Fitzpatrick, David Fogarty, Pádraic Foley, David Galway, Eoin Guilfoyle, Jamie Harkin, Andy Hickey, Conor Kelly (Joint Captain), Cian Kenny, Stephen Keoghan, Tomás Leahy, Darragh Maher, Dara Mason, Peter McDonald, Pádraic Moylan, Ciarán Mullen, Aod O'Connor, Shaun O'keeffe, Ciarán Rice, Killian Rudkins, Jack Sheridan, Harry Shine, Denis Walsh, Harry Walsh.

The team mentors Mr. Tom Hogan, Mr Philip Walsh and Mr. Michael Walsh would like to thank our Transition Year students who helped out at all training sessions and games during the year. They are Ború Bergin, Jack Butler, Larry Cody, Cathal Foley, Jamie McGrath, Emmet Nolan and Tommy Phelan. The players and mentors would like to acknowledge the support of Conor Ryan whose ready smile and friendliness make training and matches more enjoyable for everyone. A special word of thanks to Grace McCormack (physio) for her help in preparing the team during the year. Thanks and appreciation are also extended to our teaching colleagues, staff and management for their support during the year.





Leaving Cert Class of 2020 on their first day in St Kieran's College in 2014.

