

ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE KILKENNY

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RECORD 2022



The start of a journey: Leaving Cert Class 2022 on their first day in 2016



Dermot Ryan

Message from the President

because even though school will teach us many things the one lesson we all learn here is that sometimes “hanging out” is what it is all about. It is being in the company of our friends and families that enables us to grow; to mature; to develop, to become what we are supposed to be.

Hiems transiit - winter has passed. I have learned now that this is not, nor should it have ever been considered, a statement of fact - as if, once overcome, winter will not come back. No, each time we step into spring days we know that we are one day further from the last winter, but equally another day closer to the next. So *hiems transiit* is, then, more a statement of an attitude, a decision, a spirit that we all learn in this special place. It is a declaration that winter will not overcome nor shape my days because I know I have journeyed it before and emerged; and if I have done so once then I can do it again.

Hiems transiit - In St Kieran's College we know all too well that parents entrust to us their most precious gift, their most loved children, asking that we will help them to grow and mature into the young men they quickly become. It is our privilege to be given that task - to be entrusted with that responsibility. It is our joy to see it happen from the very moment the students start to settle in the school.

Throughout this academic year we have, as always, done that together. We have grown, advanced, learned and matured. We have played sport together. We have entered competitions and won; we have entered some and lost. There has been music and drama, poetry and song, there has been lessons learned and some not. Each year we simply edge this tradition along - we add our bit to the great history of this College. Here but for a short time we too can leave our mark.

Our design team have recently come though a stage 2a meeting with the Department of Education and Skills at which final approval for the design and build of our new school was approved. It is breathtakingly beautiful, a fitting addition to the already wonderful buildings that adorn our school campus. We will, in these weeks, be applying for planning permission and then, hopefully, go to tender for the works themselves. Along with the new buildings all the existing buildings will get a complete refurbishment too. It is a most exciting time to be part of the College community.

St Kieran's College continues to lie at the heart of the faith community of the Diocese of Ossory and now far beyond. It is wonderful to see the continued activity of the Diocesan Forum, the Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator and the Diocesan Faith Development office. In this past year two national faith initiatives have found a home here too with the College being the birth place of the MyFaith Programmes of Sacramental preparation now being used by parishes across the island of Ireland. In recent months too the Aspal Digital

Faith Development App and platform has emerged from the College, a collaboration of the Diocesan Faith Development team and St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth. This platform is intended to bring the highest quality faith formation and education to people throughout Ireland. A bright new possibility in which Ireland's oldest Catholic College continues to offer very new means of evangelisation for the world today.

The College Trustees, along with our Patron and Apostolic Administrator Bishop Denis Nulty, have worked with me in several significant projects helping to ensure our ability to control all that happens on the College Campus and to offer new exciting possibilities for other Kilkenny Schools in the western environs.

In this past year we lost two very esteemed teaching Colleagues in Ms Maureen Meany and Mr Tomás Ó Murchú - their wonderful time spent in the College, and the legacy that they left, is marked in these pages. Their memories populate our minds and hearts, sadly now with so many other fallen friends. That they smile on us from heaven - we trust.

I want to thank, most sincerely, the other members of the senior management team in St Kieran's College: Adrian Finan our Principal, Ken Maher and Liam Smith our Deputy Principals. I work closest with them and I know first hand their deep commitment to everything that is St Kieran's, an immense love for its past, an attentive care of those who are its present, and a great vision for its future. Their work ensures that the College will remain as strong today, and into tomorrow, as it has been in its proud past. It is relentless; it is all consuming; but it is fun and it is always a privilege. It is thanks to them and their wonderful colleagues on staff that we are able to care for, and nurture the young men who are entrusted to us. I am continually humbled by the immense ability of our staff to continually give more to our students; by way of encouragement and opportunity; to continually relentlessly pursue the highest standards of education, and to continue the deepest care for every individual student here.

We are most proud of our students and all they have achieved during this past year - individually and collectively. 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.

St Kieran's College is a special place - and its people make it so. Therefore, as always I have a deep 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 Denis our Patron, the Alumni Association and our past pupils and all those who make St Kieran's College.

Hiems venit, hiems non manet, hiems transiit.

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

Hiems venit - winter has come. It is impossible not to see the world in which we live this as one, in many respects, covered in the shadow of winter. We have endured the covid pandemic for over two years now and in recent months we have witnessed an unthinkable attack on the people of Ukraine. These certainly have been tough times. When you think education, schools - our school could not take any more, it turns out we had to.

Hiems venit - winter has come. Sadly, possibly the greatest tragedy to occur in our School's history happened this past academic year when young Harry Byrne died. The very tragic outcome of a very simple accident. Friends doing that most beautiful thing of simply “hanging out” - chatting - pucking the odd ball and being together. These are the simple moments that make school days so special. These are the most sacred of moments in the company of our best friends; being yourself.

Hiems manet - winter remains. In the days that followed it was heart-breaking to live with that hurt. To see the pain of Harry's beautiful family and friends - in school, in his club and in his parish community. To see that hurt and not to be able to stop it, fix it, or even for a moment to ease it. Sometimes you just have to sit with it and walk with it.

Hiems manet - winter remains. We gathered in Gowran to celebrate Harry's funeral Mass - a devastatingly sad occasion in which we tried to capture, as if it is ever possible, the beautiful life of a truly special child, a truly precious student. That day, and in the days that followed, it was often what was unsaid that mattered most. A presence, a hand held, a gentle touch, a simple smile, that didn't try to say it would be ok but rather one that said I'm with you in this.

Hiems manet - winter remains. The days that followed were no different. The pain didn't ease; the feeling of helplessness a constant companion. But we walked together literally and figuratively; we shared stories; we said prayers; we “hung out”



Adrian Finan

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.

Every year we teach our First Year students the prayer of St Kieran. Each one of our boys is precious to us and this prayer beautifully captures the hopes that we aspire to, both as a school community and for our students in their journey with us, so that they can fulfil their talents and become the best possible version of themselves.

Harry Byrne epitomised the characteristics of the student that we pray for in the St Kieran's prayer. As a second year student, Harry was only beginning his journey with us, striving to *grow each day here - in some new way*. Harry was indeed growing and learning and it was already very clear that he was determined to *reach as high as is possible*, looking forward in hope to *a future yet untold*. St Kieran would surely have been, as were we, very proud of Harry.

Harry's tragic death last November will forever be felt in all of our hearts, and yet, while all in our school community deeply mourn his loss, we cannot even begin to imagine the pain, grief and sadness that his family have endured. We, then, continue to keep the Byrne family very much in our prayers. I am also very conscious of the lasting impression that Harry left on his neighbours, friends and clubs in the

Message from the Principal

wider Gowran community and on his friends, teachers and all of the lives he touched in the St Kieran's College community. The fact that he left such a deep impression on so many is a testament to his personality and character. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis. On behalf of all of us here in the St Kieran's College community, I would like to sincerely thank all those who offered support and prayers at the time. We received an overwhelming outpouring of sympathy from schools, clubs and individuals, locally and nationally. Your words touched us deeply and meant so much to us. We are, and will be, forever grateful.

Our St Kieran's prayer invites us to *look back in thanks and always forward in hope*. While cognisant of the sorrow of Harry's loss, it is important to remember all that we can still be thankful for this year and all that we have to look forward to. Those things that made St Kieran's the school that Harry loved so much. The College Record affords us the opportunity to do just that. It gives us occasion to reflect on and enjoy the achievements and creativity of our pupils. Not everything can be covered here, but we hope you can see that the core teaching and learning process with which we are engaged is augmented by a wide range of activity, academic and otherwise, that is indicative of our aim to provide a broad, holistic education for our pupils. Be it in poetry, debating, music or sport, I never cease to be amazed at the calibre and talent of the students we have in the school and it is great to see the students participating again, having been so severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is a credit to my colleagues on staff that so much extra-curricular work takes place here - even a cursory glance through these pages tells a story of endeavour, creativity, achievement and we would hope a sense of pride in self and in the school as a whole. A special word of thanks to Ms Tina Lawlor and Mr Paul FitzGerald who have worked tirelessly on this production, and to all who have contributed articles and photos and helped to create, once more, a very special edition of this year's College Record.

In thanking my colleagues on staff for the tremendous amount of work they have put in during the year in both the curricular and extra-curricular spheres, I must also acknowledge our Patron Bishop Denis, our Trustees, our Board of Management, the Student Council, the Parents' Association and all our Parents for their ongoing support and commitment to the school - we greatly appreciate it. The component parts that make up our community here in St Kieran's are, of course, acutely aware that it is our pupils who are at the core of all that we do and it is they who enthuse us, in their collective endeavour and their engagement with this school's purpose and mission. Our ethos demands the pursuit of excellence, allowing all students to reach the fullness of their potential and encouraging the pursuit of perfecting individual gifts and talents. In doing so we

understand that each student is unique, with different talents, and our mission is to support each boy to find out what their talents are, and to become the best that they can be. Ours is a happy, inclusive, caring and respectful school environment where each student can become themselves. Each one of our boys is valued and encouraged and we are blessed that our staff, parents and all associated with our school, care so deeply for each individual.

We are very proud of our heritage as the Diocesan school of Ossory and in this regard and on behalf of all of us I would like to thank Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan for the ongoing and ceaseless work he undertakes on our behalf as President of the College and Chairperson of our Board of Management. We are particularly grateful for the immense support that Fr Dermot provided to all in our school community during the past year. I would like to especially acknowledge the central role of our Deputy Principals Mr Ken Maher and Mr Liam Smith in the management of the school, in the implementation of all the initiatives that have been undertaken here in recent years and in ensuring that the school functions as effectively as it does. I know that they would join with me in thanking Dermot for the continuous help and support he gives us all in the school.

I would like to wish Mr Michael Kelleher, who retired this year, the very best for his retirement after his thirty five years of service to St Kieran's. Michael has been instrumental in developing a vibrant Art department in the school and has helped so many students in so many untold ways. On behalf of all of my colleagues on staff and, indeed, the whole school community I would like to thank him for his commitment and contribution to St Kieran's - he will be missed.

This past year has seen the death of two former staff members, Ms Maureen Meany and Mr Tomás Ó Murchú. Both were synonymous with St Kieran's in so many ways and will be deeply missed. We will remember them and I know that our younger members of staff will take on the mantle and continue to build on the rich legacy of all of their predecessors. Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.

As the State Examinations draw closer, returning to their traditional format for the first time since 2019, I wish all of our Third and Sixth year students the very best in June, and I of course especially wish our Leaving Certificate class well as they proceed to pastures new in the years ahead - they move on with our good wishes and with our thanks for all they have contributed to the school community.

As always, this edition of the Record chronicles life in the College during the year just gone. As we recall the joy and sadness reflected in these pages, I wish you all a happy and safe summer and pray *with faith, trust and hope* that St Kieran guides us all for a bright *future yet untold*.

Mr Adrian Finan
Principal



St Kieran's College Staff 2021-2022

Back row l-r: Mr Larry Cotter, Mr Michael Connolly, Ms Jo Staunton, Mr Patrick Darmody, Mr Philip Walsh, Mr Evan Walsh, Mr Gerry Walsh, Ms Ciara Staunton, Mr Richie Windle, Ms Michaela O'Connell, Mr David McCormack, Mr Eamon Heffernan, Ms Mary Martin. Fifth row l-r: Mr Ken Archbold, Mr Michael Walsh, Ms Grace Farrell, Mr Tom Brennan, Mr Peter O'Sullivan, Mr Simon Reddy, Mr Fergal Brennan, Ms Chloe Corcoran, Ms Jean Fitzpatrick. Fourth row l-r: Mr Paul Fitzgerald, Mr Brian Dowling, Mr Conor Delaney, Ms Jennie Brennan, Mr Carl Lynch. Third row l-r: Mr Tom Hogan, Mr Gerry Buckley, Ms Bernie Boland, Ms Pauline Bergin, Mr Michael Shiel, Ms Jane Moran, Mr Richard Dunphy, Ms Aoife McQuaid, Ms Eadaoin Maher, Mr Jonjo Farrell, Mr David Hennessy. Second row l-r: Mr Sean Morrissey, Ms Hollie Hickey, Ms Jenny Grace, Mr PJ O'Neill, Mr Stephen Morgan, Mr Joe Kavanagh, Mr Lester Ryan. Front row l-r: Mr Ken Maher, Mr Adrian Finan, Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, Mr Liam Smith. Absent from photo: Ms Eilish Ahern, Ms Evelyn Allan, Mr Sean Flynn, Mr Paddy Kelly, Ms Sharon Keyes, Ms Anne Meany, Ms Tina Lawlor, Mr Enda Malone, Ms Loretta Mannion, Ms Jacqui Norton, Ms Olive O'Connor, Ms Jenny O'Dolan, Mr Martin O'Neill, Ms Orla Reynolds, Mr Richie Ruth, Ms Regina Ryan.

Board of Management 2021-2022



Members of the Board of Management 2021-2022

I-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). Missing from photo: Ms Hollie Hickey.

The Parents' Association



Presenting School T-shirts to our Leaving Certs

L-R: Ms Danielle Coonan (Chairperson), Oisín Meegan, Ms Eilish Tallis (Secretary), Patrick Langton, Ms Julie O'Brien (Treasurer), Conor Cody.

This year saw the forming of a new executive for the Parents' Association. As always, we are very grateful to those who volunteer on behalf of all parents to serve on the Parents' Association. At the AGM this year, we thanked the outgoing Chairperson Ms Cora Muldowney and Secretary, Ms Collette Walton for their years of service to the Parents' Association. They

have been replaced by Ms Danielle Coonan (Chairperson), Ms Eilish Tallis (Secretary) and Ms Julie O'Brien will remain as Treasurer of the Parents' Association. This year the parents decided to make a donation of a St Kieran's College T-shirt to every Leaving Certificate student. Covid times have been difficult for us all, but particularly difficult when facing State Examination

along with the uncertainty of what format the Leaving Certificate might take this year. Our Parents' Association made a presentation to some of the Leaving Cert students who accepted the T-shirts on behalf of the class of 2022. On behalf of all of our Leaving Certificate students, we would like to thank the Parents' Association for their generous donation to the lads, but more importantly, to all parents for their ongoing support for each and every one of our students throughout the school. We are blessed to have such support from the parents in our school community and we are very grateful to all parents and to their Association and its executive, Ms Danielle Coonan, Ms Eilish Tallis and Ms Julie O'Brien for all of their ongoing work. We look forward to our continued collaboration in the new academic year.

Student Council



Back row (l-r) Thomas Dillon, Jack Delaney, Pdraig Naddy, Brogan McAviney, Daire Mahon, Eoghan Whelan, Kevin Benny.
Front row (l-r) Michael Keating, Conor Marry, Joseph Langton, David Shephard, Alex Dooley, Robert McEvoy.

St Kieran's College Priests' Reunion 2022



Back Row: Fr Ollie Maher, Fr Lorcan Moran, Fr Benny O'Shea, Fr Willie Dalton, Fr Pat O'Farrell, Fr Tom Norris, Fr Dan Bollard. 4th Row: Fr Tom Coyle, Fr Liam Cassin, Fr Jim Murphy. 3rd Row: Fr Peter Muldowney, Fr Michael Ryan, Fr Larry Wallace, Fr Liam Barron. 2nd Row: Fr Johnny Condon, Fr Dan Cavanagh, Fr Tom O'Toole, Fr Peter Hoyne. Front Row: Fr Willie Purcell, Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan (College President), Bishop Denis Nulty (Patron and Apostolic Administrator), Fr Andy Dolan, Fr Eamonn O'Gorman.

This year the College is 240 years old; you cannot get to that age without establishing many rich traditions. Many of them we missed during covid but among the most prized, and most missed in its traditional format, was the annual reunion of men ordained from St Kieran's College to serve throughout the world. It was wonderful to be able to mark it this year even if it was largely virtually; this year although we were small in number we managed to welcome some guests - and that was good!

As tradition dictates on the first Tuesday after the 15th August, we gathered this year in smaller numbers in the College Chapel as many who would normally travel could not. Thankfully though, the priests of Ossory were joined by some old and most valued friends Fr Andy Dolan, Derry (Golden Jubilee) and Fr Benny O'Shea, England who was home on holidays for the celebration of the Reunion Mass. The Mass of the Reunion was led by Bishop

Denis Nulty, Apostolic Administrator of Ossory.

Bishop Denis reflected on the importance of reunion but also, significantly, on the big project, we all now face post-pandemic in placing the Eucharist once again at the heart of the week for our parishioners, for our families and for our friends. We were gathered, he noted, not merely for reunion but to be sent out! Mission, then, is at the heart of what we celebrate when we gather.

A very fitting aspect of this year's gathering was that it marked the first occasion that the newly restored College Organ was heard. Following months of dedicated and careful work by Derek Verso of the Fine Tuning Company the College Organ from 1850 was once again making beautiful music. As part of the restoration many of the original pipes were managed to be retrained and so these wooden pipes from the 1850's once again played their mellowed tones. In

researching the Organ we were able to source images of two extremely similar instruments both dated and signed by the builder in 1850. We think, then, that it is now possible to confirm that the organ was built by Bevington & Sons, London during the 1850's. Bevington was one of the most notable of 19th century organ-builders, and interestingly built many organs in the Kilkenny/ Ossory Diocese including both Cathedrals in Kilkenny, St Canice's Parish, Castlecomer Church in 1854 and St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin in 1862. The College Organ then stands in fine company.

It was wonderful to hear it being played again as we gathered for the reunion Mass. The Mass was live streamed with over 200 logging in to view it live. Those gathered did so safely and in a very enjoyable manner. We hope and pray that when we do so next year, we will again welcome, all who want to travel, back to a College that was once their home.

Obituaries

The passing of each of the teachers mentioned leaves a void in the lives of their families. In different ways they made a contribution to the lives of those who belong to the family of St Kieran's College. Thuig siad an sean-oidhreacht a bhain le Coláiste Chiaráin agus bhí siad bródúil as an oidhreacht sin. Leaba l measc na naomh go raibh acu.

MAUREEN MEANY

by MÓD

There was a big change in St Kieran's College in 1974 when two young single ladies were appointed as teachers. They were Mary Lyndon and Maureen Meany. If students thought that they might run rings round Miss Meany, they were in for a rude awakening. Maureen very quickly asserted her authority and was a femme formidable during all her years in the school. On the other hand, she was a most caring lady, looked after the underdog and had a great sense of humour. Parents knew her commitment to her work and respected her.

Maureen was a native of the parish of Ballyfoyle. As the oldest of a large family she was used to taking on responsibilities. Her secondary education was received as a boarder in Coláiste Bríde in Callan. She then studied Science and Biology in UCD. Biology was a new subject in St. Kieran's and Maureen had to operate from a makeshift lab for some years. This was the time when science was being promoted and Latin and Greek were losing their primacy.

After some years she decided to spend a few years in Africa. Her experience there gave her a broad outlook on life.

St Kieran's College has an extensive agricultural hinterland. Quite a number of parents wished to have Agricultural Science as an option. As there was a ban on the recruitment of staff at the time, Maureen undertook to take on the challenge. The course incorporated a lot of Biology, as well as practical farming. Maureen familiarised herself with that element of the course so thoroughly, that she was selected to act as a monitor of those that were assessing the on-farm project. The visit to the National Ploughing Match,



organised by Maureen, was one of the high points of the year. She also promoted the sowing of trees in the College grounds before there was any mention of climate change.

TOMÁS Ó MURCHÚ

by MÓD

Tomás Ó Murchú was a Cork City boy and did the Leaving Cert in the

diocesan college, Farrenferris. Like so many other young men of the 1960s, Tomás went on to Maynooth College. At that time Maynooth was confined to those who believed they had a calling to the priesthood.

The big influences on his studies there were An t-Athair Tomás Ó Fiaich, professor of History, an An t-Athair Pádraig Ó Fiannachta, Ollamh le Gaeilge. A year spent sharing a room with Gaeltacht born Kerry footballer



Mcheál Ó Sé, as well as months spent on Oileán Cléire during summer holidays, gave him the fluency of a native speaker of Gaeilge.

Tomás was a member of voluntary Irish enthusiasts who installed a system of running water on what was then a neglected island. Of course it should be remembered that St Kieran himself hailed from from Oileán Cléire.

After some years in Maynooth, Tomás decided not to continue there, and in 1969 he was appointed to the staff of St Kieran's College to teach Irish and History.

Generations of students have fond memories of Tomás as their teacher. He had a thorough knowledge of his subjects. He had an analytical mind and was adept at imparting that knowledge.

In the 1980s Tomas was one of those teachers who undertook the study of German. Tuition was funded by the late Fr Flavin, the Principal at that time.

Tomás with others, obtained a diploma from the Goethe Institute of German Studies and commenced teaching German in the school.

To immerse himself in German culture during the summer holidays, he and his wife Patricia, along with their four young children, set off to drive around Germany in their VW camper van. Some good stories emerged from that tour.

Tomás was an active member of the ASTI at local and national level. He was aware of the changing role of the lay teacher at that time.

The lay teacher was playing a more active role in the management of schools and needed to be remunerated accordingly.

Hurling always held pride of place in St Kieran's. Tomás saw that there was a substantial number of students who were not into competitive games. During free time he organised groups and introduced them to Chess. The game caught on.

Tomás himself would admit that some of the pupils could outplay him after some time.



Harry Byrne



When Harry arrived into St Kieran's College in August 2020 he was met by his Year head, Mr Windle, Chaplain, Mr Brennan and his form teacher Ms Hickey while also being introduced to his 5th year 'Cairdeas' leader, Ruaidhri Holden. On top of the often daunting task of starting a new school, Harry's year group were trying to deal with the new "normal" of wearing a mask to school. Despite having to wear the mask and not being in a class with any of his primary school friends, Harry's bubbly and fun personality immediately shone through resulting in him becoming an extremely popular member of the class of 1A4. Harry was a very enthusiastic, motivated and helpful student who would throw his hat at everything. During his time in the school, Harry wore the Kieran's jersey in both hurling and football, something he had huge pride in. When restrictions were lifted, at the beginning of 2nd year, Harry decided to join the Junior Choir. We were told by Harry and his friends that they joined solely due to their love of singing and that the possible trip to Tayto Park at the end of the year wasn't, at all, a contributing factor!! Harry we believe you!

Harry's form teacher, Ms Hickey, remembers how Harry was a bright, witty, tenacious young man, who was fiercely loyal to all those he considered a friend. His smile lit up every room and his laughter was infectious. Ms Hickey reminded us that it was a pleasure and a privilege to teach and guide Harry for the short time that she knew him. During her class, Ms Hickey remembers how Harry never missed an opportunity to help his classmates. He would often be seen jumping up to help those around him, who were struggling with the task at hand. Each and every one of us is better for having known Harry and his classmates are reminded every day to take the best

of Harry with them as they journey through life.

Harry was a member of the second year football team and his strongest attribute was his reading of the situation. At trials, Mr Morgan recalled how they divided lads into 3 groups to get started: goalies, defenders and attackers. The defenders group had a decent amount of lads, the attackers group was over flowing and naturally the goalies group had no one. We told the lads that we would sub attackers on and off but we also asked if anyone one would volunteer for goals. Harry had identified as an attacker but after a quick size up of the situation Harry's hand shot up and he volunteered for goals. He performed very well, good hands, solid kick out and was selected for the panel as a sub keeper. Mr Morgan and Mr Windle selected 3 keepers on the panel so when playing their first game against Good Counsel they asked the keepers would any of them fancy a run out field. Straight away Harry's hand shot up and on he went, wing forward. Happy out and delighted to be playing knowing full well he'd probably never have to play in goal after his time outfield.

At the time of Harry's death, Mr Morrissey and Harry's class, now, 2A4,

created a prayer. Throughout this past year, at every History class, a different student reads the prayer. It goes:

*"Dear God,
We pray for Harry and his family.
We pray that Harry is in a better place"*

As within all teams and communities, there are challenges. Harry's untimely death left the community of St Kieran's College mourning the loss of a classmate, school colleague but most of all, a great friend. During a time of grief, it is crucial for all members of a community to come together and encounter such a tragic event as one team. As teachers, we are very proud of each and everyone of our students, all of whom try to excel in both their classwork and extra-curricular activities. Harry epitomised everything that is great about our students and is sorely missed. Not a day goes by that we, as a school community, don't think of Harry and speak of him and know the void he has left in our lives. However, we do know that Harry is looking down on us, smiling, laughing and guiding his friends every step of the way. Harry was a caring, loving young man whose smile and sense of humour lit up every room he entered. We are better for having had the chance to know him. Rest in Peace, or dear friend, Harry.

Cuimhnimid lá i ndiaidh lae, mar dhlúthchomhphobal scoile Choláiste Naomh Chiaráin ar ár gcara Gaeil, Harry, a raibh siúlóid róghearr aige trí Ghleann na nDeor. Bíonn bród cumhachtach agus brón cionmhar ar achan mhac 's iníon máthar a raibh pribhléid acu aithne a chur ar Harry le linn a thurais fhuinniúil bhríomhar inár measc. Go ndéana Dia trócaire air. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh a anam dílis.

What Harry meant to me...

TB: 'Harry was always a great friend and was always considerate of people's feelings.'

CB: 'Harry and I, were good friends. I got to travel on the bus with him every day to school.'

CM: 'Harry was a funny, nice lad who would always make you laugh, no matter what. He was a great friend.'

LO'G: 'Harry was a great friend and a good classmate. He made everyone laugh.'

TB: 'Harry was one of my closest friends and I was devastated when we lost him. He was a really great friend.'

JW: 'Harry was more than just a classmate. Has was a friend who always made us feel happy.'

FM: 'Harry brought me happiness on tough days. He was a good friend and I really miss him in school.'

TW: 'Harry was the kindest & funniest person I have ever met. Every day he made me laugh with a funny joke or his laugh.'

MC: 'Harry was funny and nice. He was always happy and smart. He was a great friend.'

CH: 'Harry was a great friend to me. He always looked for fun and he was very funny.'



PS: 'Harry brought happiness to me every time he came into school.'

CP: 'Harry was such a nice, caring friend to everyone.'

BH: 'Harry was a very happy, funny and kind person who made everyone feel better about themselves. He was a great friend.'

HC 'Harry Byrne meant a lot of things to me. A close friend and classmate who I created a lot of memories with in the short time I knew him. I will always remember Harry.'

MD: 'Harry was a good friend.'

CO'N: 'I got to sit beside Harry in class and he was very funny.'

JB: 'Harry was a friend to me. I had a lot of fun with him at lunchtimes.'

CD: 'Harry meant happiness to me. Whenever I saw him I couldn't help but smile, as he was always smiling with that cheeky grin.'

RB: 'He was a friend to me.'

HK: 'Harry was a very good friend. He was a great listener. I knew him from when I was small and he remained the same, happy and funny.'

DR: 'Harry spoke to everyone and always gave a big smile to everyone.'

SW: 'Harry meant a lot of things to me. Whether it was a Monday morning or a Friday afternoon, he was always the same, laughing and making jokes. Whenever the class was tired o down about something, he would always find something to make us laugh.'

CC: 'He was very kind. I have many special memories with Harry.'

BMCD: 'Seeing Harry in the morning, at the back of the class smiling and laughing, made me happy.'

TS: 'Harry was my friend and everyone misses him and his laugh. I will never forget him.'

Retirements



MICHAEL KELLEHER

By Mary Martin

Michael Kelleher is an artist, sculptor and an exceptional teacher.

His commitment and dedication to encouraging art in every conceivable facet has been extraordinary. We think of the shine of the diamond to make everything look the very best.

His work with the green schools, swim safety, the running team, musicals are all part of a legacy of 35 years of extraordinary work, commitment and dedication.

Michael's work of art has been the painters, artists, cartoonists, animators, who he has encouraged, helped and fostered in their development of unique gifts.

His calm, kind gentlemanly approach to all his students made the study of art peaceful, enjoyable and created a different space for many of our students who treasured their time there.

As a colleague, the kind word, the easy smile, the words of praise, the relentless positivity has been a model for everyone in our school community.

Expectations of work, commitment and dedication were always emulated by his students.

The light in the art room above the theatre became legendary,

The light Michael shone on his students, fellow staff and all the community of St Kieran's shall not dim.

We wish him well with his next masterpiece.

"Surely he shall be considered part of the artifices of eternity with monument to an unaging intellect".

W.B Yeats



Visitors to St Kieran's 2021-2022



NAPD President visits 17th February 2022



Mr Ruth and Mr Finan making a presentation to Mr Paul Buchanan, who retired from De La Salle College, Belfast recently. Paul was the lead contact between St Kieran's College and De La Salle for over twenty years in a school exchange that many students from both schools have benefited from.



Mickey Harte speaks to Staff.



Mr Ryan and Senior Cycle Business students speaking to Central Bank Governor Gabriel Makhoulf prior to the main discussion.



Students engaged in an economic discussion with Central Bank Governor Gabriel Makhoulf.

Visit of the Archbishop of Dublin, Dermot Farrell

We were delighted to welcome back our former Patron and now Archbishop of Dublin Dermot Farrell to the chapel and to a formal reception to mark his time in Ossory. On the evening of Tuesday 9th November the priests of the Diocese gathered to formally mark his translation to Dublin when Bishop Denis as Apostolic Administrator welcomed Archbishop Farrell to the College Chapel. The Priests of Ossory presented Archbishop Farrell with gifts to mark his time in our Diocese: the Dictionary of Irish Biography, which was presented in a mahogany inlaid revolving bookcase handcrafted in Kilkenny by Liam Roberts and a glass top made by Joe Sheridan detailing the 42 parishes of Ossory.

Following the presentation the priests had dinner with Archbishop Dermot in the Lanigan room before evening prayer in St Patrick's Parish for which a great number of people attended from around the Diocese - many of whom had worked closely with Archbishop Dermot during his time in Ossory. It was a chance for all to give thanks, to celebrate friendships, and share stories. It was a chance, finally, to wish Archbishop Dermot well in the challenges of his new Ministry in Dublin. The evening ended by all who attended gathering back in St Kieran's College for refreshments and more importantly a relaxed opportunity to spend time together in conversation, laughter and in recalling such good memories.



Ordination Tree

The magnificent weeping ash tree that adorned the College front lawns has succumbed to Ash dieback and had to be removed. Each year many presumed the tree to be dying as it stood bare when everywhere else was flush with new life and colour but time and time again, true to its name on around the weekend that would have witnessed the College Ordinations it would spring to life. In a matter of days it too would be alive in green. Proudly standing tall as it has done for over 130 years.

In these past years however signs of ash dieback were noted and in this past winter the decision was taken to have it removed. The hope had been to fashion something from its wood before it was too bad, but once felled the extent of the internal damage was clearly visible.

It has been replaced by a mature weeping copper beech tree - so chosen to pick up some of the colour expected in the new school build, but also too for its habit of blooming, as it does, so late in the year. This tree, then, now in its new home picked up where the old ordination tree left off - only sharing its new leaves in mid April long after the rest of the College had sprung to life.

Visit of An tUachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, Larry McCarthy



On 26th August this year we were honoured to welcome the President of the GAA, Larry McCarthy, on a visit to the College. As the pandemic dictated what would have been a much more formal and whole school event was more subdued, but still most memorable. In what is presumably only the second visit of a sitting President of the GAA to St Kieran's the College, the President and management were delighted to welcome a friend from New York!

In addressing those gathered An tUachtarán Larry noted how gracious the College and Kilkenny GAA had been to New York GAA at the time of our Corporate Dinner in New York. A friendship was begun then well before the congress with elected Larry to his office.

It was a great honour for the College and its students to welcome the President and to present him with a framed stone fragment from the original College Walls from 1836. Following the visit and tour of the College, we were delighted to take the President to meet with the master craftsmen Des Byrne who created and maintains the replica, now used, Sam Maguire Cup and James Kelly who created and maintains the Liam McCarthy Cup.



College Chapel Organ

Our College Record last year carried sad images of an old organ receiving some care. The images required a considerable amount of faith as to imagine that those old bones could be brought back to life was a stretch for the mind.

Thankfully, however, that has been done. Under the careful hand of Derek Verso the College Organ, with many of its old pipes, has once again played music to adorn our prayer. Following months of extensive restoration work the organ played again for the first time at the Annual Priests Reunion in August last.

Research has shown that the organ was built by Bevington & Sons, London during the 1850's. Bevington as one for the most notable of 19th century organ-builders built many organs in the Kilkenny/Ossory Diocese - including both Cathedrals in Kilkenny, St Canice's Parish, Castlecomer Parish Church in 1854 and St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin in 1862.

It is wonderful to hear the mellow tones from those old pipes sound again at our prayer and a joy to see students, during the day, try their hand in learning a whole new skill.

Ossory Adult Faith Development

Where an age old faith meets modern tech and simple chats!

This past two years has been particularly challenging for people of faith. After all faith is transmitted from person to person: our parents to us; our grandparents to us; our teacher to us; our priest to us; our friends to us and, hopefully - us, on occasion, to others! In these past two years we have been asked, for good reason in this pandemic, not to come together and this has, among other things, challenged our ability to support each other in faith - and in particular in our faith formation. The Ossory Adult Faith Development Team, based at St Kieran's College, have always tried to innovate in ways to help support faith formation in our parishes, and these years, then, have offered time and the challenge for real innovation in the area of faith formation. A challenge to which we have responded: in this past year we have done so from the offices here in St Kieran's College in

three main ways: Aspal; MyFaith and in supporting the recent synodal journey of our church.

The first of these, Aspal, is a new digital platform developed in Ossory for faith formation. This App and digital platform allows people to deepen their faith from the comfort of their own home and at any time that is convenient for them. The past number of years has seen us all move to the digital space. Meetings which before necessitated us to come together have now seamlessly moved online. We think nothing of gathering with a group of people from all around the country, and often beyond, via one of the many platforms that facilitate this gathering. Using similar technology, which has been developed over the past two years the team at Aspal have built this online platform for faith formation. This past year the Aspal team, in collaboration with St Patrick's

Pontifical University, Maynooth, has offered courses on praying with the scriptures - lectio divina in which over 200 people from throughout the island of Ireland took part at a time and place to the users that best suited their lifestyle.

This collaboration has also seen a courses offered for lay leadership in liturgy and another for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

Another exciting collaboration between Aspal, Maynooth and the Irish Institute of Pastoral Studies (Mary Immaculate College) is bring to life a course that will bring before people the leading synodal minds in the Church at this time - including, from the Vatican, Sr Nathalie Becquart undersecretary to the synod of Bishops in Rome.

The Aspal team, though their deep collaboration with St Patrick's Pontifical University, have helped equip three cutting-edge technology suites at St





Kieran's College and on the campus in Maynooth and offering multiple opportunities for even more exciting digital faith formation projects into the months ahead. All of this was made possible thanks to the collaboration of a very talented team and the invaluable support of the Benefact Trust who have granted aided the development of the necessary technology with over €50,000 of support. The Faith Development Group secured further funding from, among others, the Koch Foundation in America ensuring that the necessary resources are in place to continue to deliver the highest quality digital faith formation to every parish in Ireland.

This past year has also seen the continued success of the MyFaith programme of Preparation for the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. This online and in person programme of preparation which was developed here in St Kieran's College and it is now being used by parishes across the island of Ireland with children from Cork to Donegal, Dublin to Claire - and many in-between, including Ossory, all using this new system.

Myfaith leads children, and their parents, through twenty modules of learning over the months before and

after they celebrate the Sacraments helping them to deepen their understanding of their faith. Short taught lessons with Muinteoir Shannon and Muinteoir Cormac help to explain key elements of the faith and the odd visit from Ichtus, our animated friendly fish, helps to ensure that these classes are lively and fun. This learning is then reinforced through challenges and games wherein the children test themselves on the material of each module. MyFaith invites the children and their families to join in the celebration of Masses each weekend and to complete simple, age appropriate, questions on the liturgies of each weekend. In so doing MyFaith encourages an active participation in the celebration of Mass for all the children and their families. There are leaders workbooks too, allowing the children to be brought together in their parishes to reflect on their programme of preparation at various stages on that journey.

Thirdly, and most recently, the Ossory Adult Faith Development Group has worked to support the Synodal Pathway in Ossory. Embracing Pope Francis' wish for the church that it become one in which all its members would walk together and have their voice heard.

In preparing for this the Adult Faith Development Group, by means of tweets, radio interviews, posters in parishes, letters to schools - primary and secondary - web posts and more, worked to create an awareness of what synodality was all about. That task was simple - to let people know that there would be opportunity to be heard and that in truth we, the Church, wanted to hear. The energy which those involved brought to these early weeks was both humbling and exiting - busy people really threw their shoulders to the wheel - be that in thinking about this or simply, in so many ways, making it happen. By the end of this preparatory phase, and as we approached Lent, the had identified the questions, planned and booked venues throughout the Diocese and done all we could to help encourage people to engage with this synodal journey. It was wonderful to know that even by then all parishes had been encouraged to simply pray the prayer to the Holy Spirit at every Mass - a simple way of our marking the fact that this was a journey towards God that we were on; a journey that we were on together.

Then over the course of Lent numerous listening sessions took place throughout the Diocese, with several such sessions being held in St Kieran's



College, in which trained facilitators asked questions and listened to the responses that emerged. These sessions were animated by the two base questions: Firstly, when I think of church what works well and is a source of joy today and why is that so? and secondly, when I think of church what doesn't work well and is a source of disappointment today and why is that so?

The sessions were, thankfully, as varied as the people who attended them. Some worked well and others struggled a little - but that was good as it reflected where we are; that was after all another way of our hearing what needed to be said. It was synodality being lived. Some venues had 10 or so

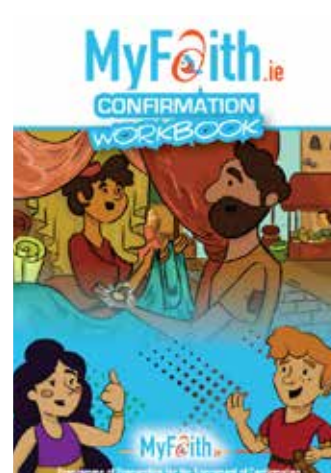
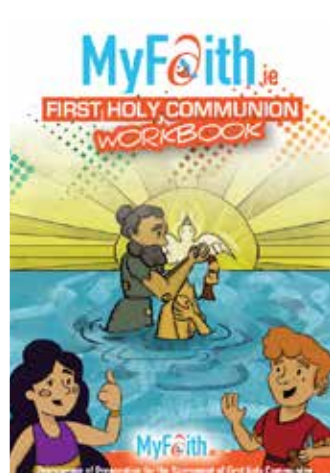
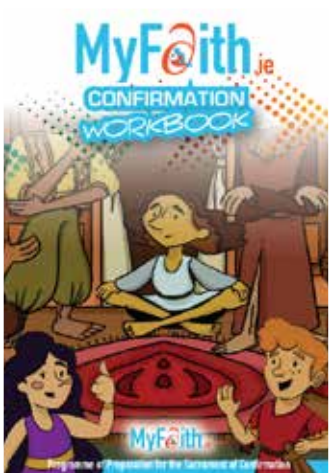
participants others had 60-100. Some finished early and others did not get done! Over those weeks many wrote letters, emails or took part in the online surveys which were shared as widely as possible and many of the children from out school took part in the synodal journey too - answering questions in their classes prompted by letters from Bishop Denis to their teachers - and some simple technology on the Diocesan Website.

Is synod done in Ossory - No! It has only started. Currently the work of collating these responses for a public sharing of them here at St Kieran's College in the coming weeks before

then, in time, sharing those with the Bishops Conference who in turn will bring that work to Rome. A synodal church is, thankfully a different one but one we have done well with in Ossory before - a synodal church is one in which we walk together, speaking with each other, and trusting that we will be heard.

As always the work of Faith Formation is only beginning. Each generation must learn anew. Each generation must be told of God's love in ways that are credible and effective. So the work faith formation will continue - we hope that the College and the Adult Faith Development Group in Ossory will continue to lead in ensuing that this happens.

MyFaith.ie



The Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator



Gemma Mulligan

It has been a great joy these past months, to gather together as the People of God in Ossory. We are in our diocese currently in a time of *sede-vacante* (a term for a diocese while without a Bishop occupying his chair). Some might expect that this is a time when much of the pastoral life a diocese would cease or certainly slow down. This has not been the situation in Ossory. Archbishop Dermot Farrell, before he took up his current role insisted that the pastoral life of the diocese of Ossory would continue. This gave great encouragement to all those in parishes, serving as members on Parish Pastoral Councils, Deanery Pastoral Councils and Pastoral Area Councils. Thankfully, even in a time of change, the passion and commitment shown in the diocese since the formation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, has continued to grow.

This commitment has allowed the members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council

to continue working towards the future shape of our diocese through planning and preparing for the time ahead while we await our new Bishop. Under the leadership of our Apostolic Administrator Bishop Denis Nulty, the re-energising of Pastoral Areas has brought the importance of good structures to the fore. The priests, religious, men and women in the diocese can work together, in a synodal way, designing new ways to implement and live out the vision and the strands of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan in Ossory.

The Pastoral work in the diocese is carried out by many groups and bodies. The Adult Faith Development group and The Coordinator of the Diocesan Forum, also based in St Kieran's College, help and support the strands of the Pastoral Plan to be more fully implemented in our parishes. Nourishing Faith is a strand of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan and this is greatly complemented by the work of Adult Faith Development. Programmes such as Myfaith, ie used for sacramental preparation, and training sessions for Ministers of the Word and Ministers of the Eucharist, help nourish the faith and support the work of faith renewal.

The members of the Diocesan Liturgy Group are working with parishes to help re-vitalise liturgical celebrations and are

developing ways to continue supporting parishes in music ministry.

The office of the Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator is in St Kieran's College and has been since 2016. The facilities for meetings and the beautifully refurbished College Chapel, have allowed in these early Post-Covid days, safe spaces for gathering. As well as the gathering of pastoral councils, and other diocesan groups, listening sessions were held in the college for those involved in the Synodal Pathway in Ossory. During these days, the final report from these sessions is being prepared and will be presented to the priests and people of the diocese before it is returned to Bishop Nulty. This report along with the reports from the other dioceses in Ireland will be presented to Pope Francis in October 2022.

As The Pastoral Areas in our diocese continue to become more established, training for the newly formed Pastoral Area Councils and planning for the year ahead will commence again in the Autumn. The Summer months brings with it Parish BBQs and family fun days as well as cemetery masses and liturgies for those doing exams. The many and varied groups which make up the lives of our parishes and our diocese continue to serve the people of God in Ossory, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Ossory Diocesan Forum

Helen Maher

St Kieran's College has hosted the Forum office since the inauguration of the Forum in 2004. Sr Helen Maher has led this important work in the College ensuing that the voices of all in the Diocese are heard. The Forum has been, and continues to be, a vital aspect of the life of the Diocese of Ossory and as such, it is essential to the life of the College in supporting that work.

The *raison d'être* of the Forum is expressed in its Constitution: "The vision at the heart of the Diocesan Forum has been one of enabling all the people of the Diocese, priests, religious, women and men, with the bishop, to respond to their baptismal call to be co-responsible for the life of the Church in the Diocese of Ossory."

In October 2021 the entire Church entered into a Synod. Pope Francis opened the Synod in Rome and every diocese across the whole world was called to enter this Synod at the local level. The vision of the Forum resonates completely with Pope Francis's dream of a synodal Church and the network of parish, deanery and diocesan pastoral councils that makes up the Forum network was well placed to engage in the synodal process at local level.

The Diocesan Pastoral Council established a Synod Group to work with the three diocesan delegates that Bishop Nulty had appointed to initiate the synodal process in Ossory. The Synod Group organised a diocese-wide consultation inviting people to express the dream they had for the Church and to consider what it would take to realise that dream. The feedback from these consultations will be shared with the people of the Diocese and will then go forward as the Ossory contribution to the Irish Bishops Conference to be forwarded to the international gathering of the Synod in Rome in October 2023.

The need to adapt to changes in Church and society has always shaped developments in the Forum. The coming year will see a significant transition as the Deanery Pastoral Councils will be replaced by Pastoral Area Councils in the thirteen Pastoral Areas of the Diocese. The Pastoral Areas were formed in 2019 but their taking root and becoming well-established was seriously hindered by Covid restrictions. It is felt that the flourishing of the Pastoral Areas is vital for the future of the Diocese in facilitating the synodal way of being Church that Pope Francis is calling us

to. Synodality is about journeying together. It is realising that the Holy Spirit can speak through anyone to help us walk forward together as the People of God. Synodality happens through listening to one another, priests and lay people together, in order to hear what God is saying to all of us. To listen in this way to each other we need well defined channels of communication. It is envisaged that the Pastoral Area Councils will provide such essential channels. These Councils will be made up of priests, women and men from each of the parishes in the Pastoral Area who, inspired by their faith, work together, taking responsibility for shaping the pastoral life of their own Pastoral Area.

The time seems right for the Diocese to put energy and creativity into ensuring that these Councils are well resourced and are offered appropriate training and on-going support. The challenge to all of us is to work and pray together, through the Pastoral Councils that make up the Forum, together we will be able to hear and respond to what the Spirit of God is asking of us as Church in Ossory at this time.

Grease The Musical



My Grease Experience - Adam Coyne

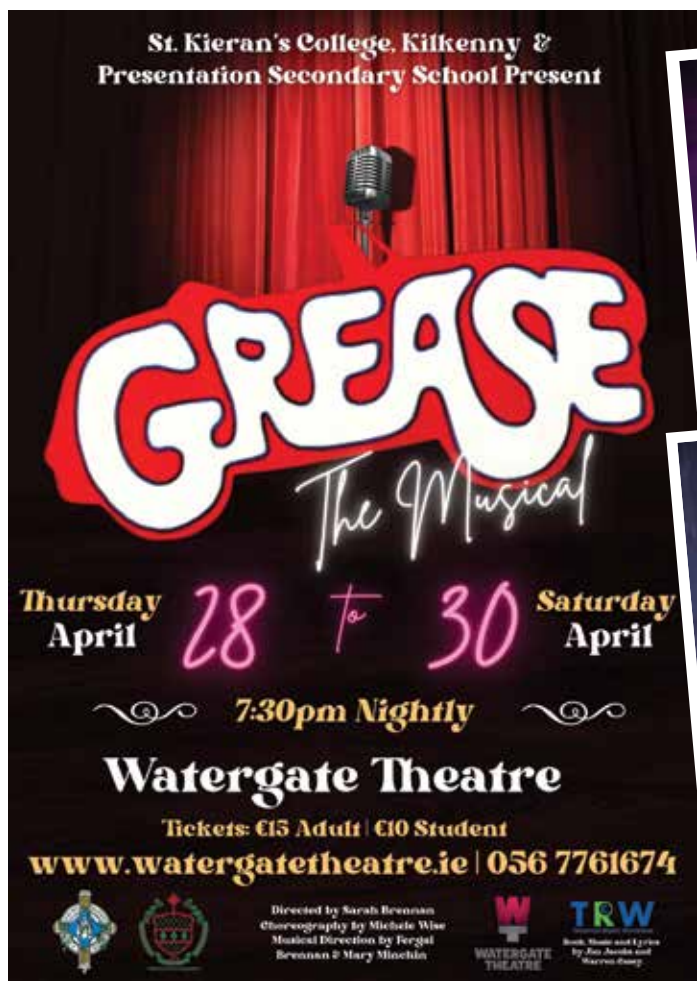
At the beginning of the year when I found out we were allowed to do a musical with presentation I wasn't too sure about doing it but I put my name down when I saw everyone else doing it. I told Mr Brennan I didn't want to do

any singing or acting but I wouldn't mind doing dancing in groups so I only expected to be in 1 or 2 dances. As the weeks went on I found myself picking up the dances well and enjoying them and as a result I was in a lot more dances than I expected.

At the beginning we only had

rehearsals on a Tuesday from 11-1 but closer to the show we were doing singing or dancing almost everyday and we done evening rehearsals as well. These rehearsals were very enjoyable because of Michelle our choreographer who done all the dancing with us and got us all involved.





I think the musical brought our year group a lot closer together because we spent lots of time with each other and people who we wouldn't normally be with in school.

A lot was going on behind the scenes by teachers making and buying stuff for the set and Jenny making sure we had all the right costumes. This Musical wouldn't be possible without all of them.

I really enjoyed my time in the musical and I would recommend it to all the upcoming 4th years as it was my favourite part about transition year.

My Grease Experience - Sean Bergin

On our first day of school we got our timetables. I saw that there was a space from 11-1 on Tuesday that had to be filled. We had a choice of 4 different activities, one being the musical. I thought the musical would be fun but I didn't want to do it if my friends weren't doing it. At first people didn't want to do it but in the end they decided they would give it a try and this turned out to be a great decision. At first I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know that it would turn out to be as serious and it was planning to be a massive show.

On our first day we were introduced to our dancing teacher Michelle. From word go we all got on very well with Michelle because she could have a laugh but could be serious when she needed to be. Mr Brennan was doing auditions with us and getting us to sing. I had never properly sang before and he made us step outside of our comfort zone. When I was picked for Kenickie I wasn't very happy at the time. I remember trying to swap roles with some lads because I didn't like the

song. Mr Brennan worked with all of us on our songs and made us way more comfortable singing them than we thought we would be. I also started to get lots of jobs in the school from Mr Brennan as a result of doing the musical which was a massive bonus. I ended up missing loads of class for the rest of the year which didn't go down well with my mother at first but she was still delighted I got involved.

When the acting came around we were introduced to our director Sarah and the girls playing main parts for Pres. It took us a while to get used to each other and we found it hard trying American accents. Over time we got better and after a while we started to see how big of a show this was going to be. There were times where we weren't trying hard enough and we had to be given out to. We didn't realise the work that was being done behind the scenes and the money that was going into the show. From here we put a lot more effort into the show by learning lines and dances at home. The show started coming together nicely and the better we got the more the lads and girls enjoyed it. I'm glad I got involved in the musical this year because it made my 4th year really enjoyable

We are all very grateful for our teachers and the work they put in throughout the year. Fergal Brennan, Michael Shiels, Michelle Wise, Sarah Brennan, Mary Michin and Jenny O Dolan all played huge parts in the production of the show and we appreciate the work they put in.

My Grease Experience - Ronan Hackett

When we found out we were doing a musical back in September lots of people were excited and over 30 lads put their names forward for the show. It was great that so many lads were interested. We were told that we were doing 'grease' with the Presentation Secondary School girls. It was great that both schools came together as it was a change in the normal school environment and gave different perspectives. Things were a bit slow to get going at first considering we signed up in September and didn't meet up with the girls until around November. Mr Brennan, Mr Shiel and Ms Minchin in the pres were organising auditions





at the start of the year. I knew I wanted to go for some sort of lead role so I put my name down for most of them. When I was told I was picked for the lead role as Danny Zuko I was shocked but also really excited at the same time. I knew being the lead role would require a lot of work and confidence but I was ready for that. We met our choreographer, Michelle and began the dancing. We rehearsed every Tuesday from 11-1 and as the production continued, we rehearsed on different days and we had night rehearsals also. It was

really good fun as some people had never danced before and Michelle was great craic and encouraged us all and made sure we got all the moves in the dances and that nobody was left behind. After Christmas we met with our director Sarah and we started the acting side of the show. She gave us all great confidence and gave us little pointers for things to do on stage. We gradually started bringing the singing, dancing and the acting together. As time went on people were getting a little bit worried as we were a bit

behind on time and it didn't help that both schools were on work experience at different times however everyone knuckled down and things started coming together. Every rehearsal was good fun as well as the serious side to it. Mr Ruth and Mr Dunphy began building the set along with Ms O'Connell doing lots of the artwork. Jenny started looking for costumes for everyone to wear. Lots of other teachers were also involved. I loved every minute of the musical and I think my favourite part was the dancing. The musical is a great opportunity for people to build their confidence and try something different. It really brought me out of my comfort zone and I enjoyed every bit of it. Doing this musical was a really brilliant experience and it was the highlight of my TY experience. It is something I will definitely remember forever and I have made lots of new friends.

Without Mr Brennan, Sarah, Michelle, Jenny, Mr Shiel and Ms Minchin, along with everyone else involved in the background this show would not have been possible and I would like to thank everyone who helped bring this musical to life.



Sarah Blanchfield, Sean Bergin, Ronan Hackett, Aoibhinn Morrissey

Charitable Events and Fundraising



CHARITY SOCCER

Well done to Mr Ruth, the St Kieran's College teachers soccer team and of course our friends in Kilkenny Garda station who provided the opposition for the Charity Soccer match this year. Over €800 was raised for St Luke's Hospital.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Well done to Ciabhán Maher, Isaac Okorafor, Tom Glennon, Paddy Grace, Ms O'Connell, Chaplain Mr Brennan and to all the 1st Year students who took time this week to write a Christmas Card with a message to those in Nursing Homes around Kilkenny.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Many thanks to all of our students who contributed to our Christmas Jumper fundraiser for Kilkenny Helping the Homeless - over €1000 raised. Well done to Mr Dunphy and our Chaplain Mr Brennan who organised this fundraiser for such a worthy cause.

HELPING THE HOMELESS

Jeff Neary, Joe Greene, Mr Brennan and Oisín Bateman helping the homeless in Dublin at Christmas



CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

Well done and thanks to all in the St Kieran's College community and to our Transition Year students for the fantastic show of support for this year's Christmas Shoe-box appeal. The response was huge and several thousand euro worth of goods was donated to this worthy cause.

St Kieran's Day





An Adopted Kieran's Man - My Time in Kieran's



By Jack Archbold

I am not a pure-blooded Kieran's man, I'm not from around here, my blood doesn't bleed black and amber, I don't carry around an ash wood extension of my soul called a Hurley stick. Nonetheless, I have been adopted as a Kieran's man like any other man whose fathers and forefathers roamed the halls before them. As students, we've all heard Fr Ryan's speeches about how Kieran's men are extraordinary or how we are more than the average man. He may mean this in relation to our grades, or our sports, or even our music, but I feel like there is something much more that sets us apart and that is *acceptance*. Once you walk through those front gates on your first day here, you are accepted into the culture and lifestyle of this great school. It doesn't matter what colour your blood is, what sport you play, if you choose to carry a guitar instead of a hurl, even if your only insert is in TV or Playstation, it's all welcome here. There is someone for everyone in St Kieran's and there is something for everyone too. As my time here draws to a close, I have grown to understand the meaning of the motto "Hiems Transiit". We have and will face many winters throughout our lives, but we do so, equipped with the knowledge, the wisdom and, above all, with the friendships that we have made along the way during our time here in St Kieran's.

My first day in the school was probably the same as it was for every one else starting off in a new school. I was part of a new group of students to this huge school. We were no longer the big boys of our primary school. We were now the youngest and smallest in our new Secondary School. I remember thinking that the school looked remarkably like Hogwarts as I was escorted in by my mother. The only stand out memory I have from that first day is one of my fellow class mates getting told off for chewing gum not five minutes into our first assembly. Good start to life in our new school for that guy! Like anything else in life, it took a bit of time to get used to my new surroundings, but as time went by, like everything in life, it got easier every day. We began to settle in together, as a class group, as a year group and we are very grateful to Ms Norton and our Cairdeas team for helping us to get settled in so quickly. The lads in the class soon found out that I had a dad who taught Science and PE in the school, but this soon became old news and we began to get to know each other a little more everyday.

In my opinion, my 13 year old self believed that I was in the best class 1A1. (for legal reasons I have to make it known that is strictly my opinion as some other classes may sue for fake news as there is no official best class, also I'm sure some teachers may be able to provide proof against my claim) Everyone that had the fortunate pleasure of being in 1A1 will have their own personal favourite moment. So much happened in those three years. But the truth is that we all had our favourite moments in our classes whether it was 1A1 or 1A4, we all had our favourite teacher, our favourite class, our favourite funny moment. I remember during those early days when getting to know each other with our Cairdeas leaders, we were asked about our likes and dislikes. I remember one lad in our group writing down "Fighting" as one of his likes! Thankfully, he never did get the opportunity to show us his love for this "hobby" of his as he realised over time that there was no place in our class for that type of carry on. It was like becoming part of a new family. Our class really began to gel together and I could see the same happening in the other class groups. This was thanks to those

around us who helped us to get settled in and allowed us to spend a lot of time together. In fact by the end of our time together in Third Year, I remember the class group sharing our favourite moments over the years. Lads told stories that I had since forgotten. What stood out in my memory as significant, wasn't even remembered by others and vice-versa. It taught me that we really did have much to share, so much to talk about and so many happy memories together. I remember walking out of that class with a heavy heart knowing that our time was coming to an end. But in a way, that's what makes these memories stand out all the more. Nothing lasts forever and the time came around for us to move on from Junior Cycle with many memories of those first three years together in St Kieran's College.

Prior to Covid, the way of judging a class group's seniority in the school was based upon your position on the Glass hall - the more years you have got under your belt the higher up the hall you went for your social area. Starting life in the senior cycle was a weird sensation. You suddenly handed more responsibility. This really was going to be the year that the school lets go of your hand and you begin to walk on your own two feet. You begin your transition from one of Kieran's boys to Kieran's men. Transition Year for me was initially quite overwhelming for me. The shake-up in the classes. Class make up was completely different. A few new faces appeared from the other class groups. Luckily enough, we had loads of opportunities to forge new friendships in our Transition Year. It really is when the year becomes a brotherhood rather than five separate classes. When in Junior Cycle, each class may have thought itself to be the best - yet this was all now suddenly forgotten. New students were introduced. We were now sitting beside lads that you might have only seen along the corridors. We had new faces to get to know and it was almost like starting over again. But any cold feet were quickly warmed up by our first excursion as a TY group - Surfing in Tramore! This was a fantastic introduction to Transition Year for the entire Year Group. The Surfing was great despite the fact that we couldn't do it! (Between the crashing waves knocking us over and just the general crashing

into each other, staying on our boards for any longer than three seconds was considered an achievement). Afterwards, we even got to try the Five-Star local cuisine in Dooleys chipper or a 99 from the shop up the road from the famous chipper. This Surfing really kicked off what would be a great year for us all in TY. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Moran for all of her hard work and commitment to making sure that TY was so worthwhile for us. Tramore though was not the only place on the TY list of destinations. Some highlights include, the collective cycle on the greenway, "the sleep in" in our sports hall or even my personal favourite the ploughing trip on my home turf in Carlow. TY was really a great time for us in the school. During this year, I grew closer to many of my great friends now. Unfortunately, we never got to see out our TY experience, as Covid finally arrived on our door step and in March 2020, we thought we were getting an extra week or off for our Easter holidays. It turned out we would never be TY students again after that and, while lucky to have experienced what we did, I do regret that we didn't get to finish so many other activities that had been planned for us.

We eventually returned to school the following September, but it wasn't the St Kieran's college we had come to know. It was something entirely new. The old status of seniority along the Glasshall was gone. Rather, we now had our own class group areas called "pods". With each restriction being explained in that first assembly the school really began to feel smaller. We had more limited space, less freedom, less activities and less contact with other year groups. Possibly the worst of the new rules was the curse that was placed upon all windows and doors to remain open. I'll never forget the morning of November 11th 2020. The windows were open for ventilation and although the heat was on, I felt as though I was sitting in a fridge! Leaving windows and doors open in the winter in Ireland - not even Covid could survive in these conditions! However, one shining light for me in what was an otherwise a very difficult time, was our togetherness as a Year group. During the latter months of 2020, the lads in school were the only people we could legally see outside our families due to a nationwide lockdown. So we all began to joke around more and appreciate each other's company as it was the only

company we had outside of our families that year. Even in those dark days, we could still have a laugh together.

Christmas of Fifth Year is when all of our work ethic was challenged. Welcome to Google classroom. (Insert Jurassic Park music here). No but seriously this was the worst "best time of our lives". We would often find ourselves logging into class from our beds, or find ourselves on a separate call with people in the same class. I mean not to brag but I did win the quadruple with Real Sociedad on "Football Manager". Unbelievable I know. Although it may have been a bad time for school work, I would go out on a limb to say that it was a good time for most. I mean we all still laugh at the great Dowlo incident during English or how some students magically didn't own a microphone despite owning an expensive phone. Despite being in lockdown, despite having to learn from a computer screen at home and despite all the odds being stacked against us, we still had a laugh together and we got through it as a class group - together! Looking back on it a year later it's hard to imagine how it happened; it's like a fever dream. Now that's it appears to be over, we are grateful to be able to return to school. (Now there's a sentence I never thought I'd write!)

Like the other lockdowns that came before it, this one eventually came to an end, we did return to Kieran's. It was a real mixed atmosphere as most people probably wanted to go back to school but would miss the freedom of a broken microphone during Irish or French class. The remaining weeks of Fifth Year were tough for all. The idea of a long summer break was the only thing that would drag us from our beds each morning. Amongst the hard slog of those weeks there were still some good times together. I remember the haircut that one lad received on the senior hurling pitch. The senior hurling pitch was our zone for break times and even though we were now more restricted, it didn't stop us having a laugh together.

And now, here we are, our final year in St Kieran's College. It is something that you feel you might never have to think about. You never feel that the end will come...and yet it does and it did... and here we are now, standing on the cusp of another new beginning. It's at times like these that we pause, we sit back and take some time to reflect on the journey that we have just been on. These final days of our Sixth Year we

thought were distant, like a horizon. We look back and remember those days when we felt small and young as First Years and although we now physically tower over our new First Years, I still feel as if it was only yesterday since we got here and perhaps we should still be there. It's like we arrived here six years ago and now I'm looking back wondering where did all of that time go? Will we ever get that time back? And of course, the answer is no. We never get to relive our past. As much as we might like to go back and sit in our First Year desks again, it is with a sense of nostalgia, that we move forward. So now everything moves fast as it's the last time you'll do it. Your last sports day, your last house exam or even your last time performing at the Christmas carol service which hit deep for me as I have gone to all of these since my brother's time here. It is a bitter sweet experience. On one hand you're finally growing up, those dreams of wild college nights are finally within grasp. Maybe you learned to drive. Maybe you met a nice girl or maybe you're happy because you can finally vote. Whatever it is you want to do now with your life is entirely up to you. There is a great sense of freedom about this. It is very exciting to have all these new experiences and to be treated more as an adult than a child. But once your age clock strikes 18 you can't return to how things were. That is what adds the bitterness to the sweet. You begin to reflect back on your time in Kieran's, you think back to a time when all that mattered was getting your homework done as fast as possible so you could go home on a Friday with the weekend clear for whatever you wanted to do until Sunday evening. How simple those times were!

Now, as our time comes to conclude here in St Kieran's and we too must say goodbye, we remember all of the good times we spent together in this special place. We have been lucky that since Covid restrictions have eased in recent weeks, we can now finished out our time here in relative normality. I don't think I'm ready to say goodbye yet. I don't know if I'm ready to leave this place behind. One thing I am certain of is that I am very grateful to my dad (Mr Archbold) for sending me here. I never got the choice six years ago. I remember arguing with him about losing my friends who I had thought were the best in the world. But like every argument between myself and my dad, he was right. Kieran's has been a place of extraordinary benefit

for me. I have improved in my grades, my sports and even in my music which before Kieran's was barely a part of my life and now it is up there with what I see as indispensable.

Despite the fact that part of me feels not ready to leave, deep down I know that I am. We are all ready. Ready to face the world and what it might throw at us. Ready, willing and able - because we have journeyed here together over the past six years, bit by bit and day by day, unknown to us, but gradually being given the tools to help us to reach our full potential and to be able to deal with whatever we face now in our lives. We have been busy over the past six years

becoming the "Kieran's men" that Fr Ryan talks about in his homilies. Most important of all, we did this together - as a class group, forming friendships which will never be broken. Friendships we have for life to help us through the winters the lay ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our many teachers over the last six years. None of us would be here about to face into our Leaving Cert exams if it was not for your continued efforts each year. I wish all of the teachers in St Kieran's the best of luck going forward and I hope you all maintain the high standards the school is so well known for. I would like to thank our Year Head,

Mr Ryan for journeying with us during these last few years and finally, to my classmates - I want to wish you all the very best in life. May God bless you and watch over you on your travels, your numerous adventures and journeys that you are now about to embark upon. I may have only been an adopted Kieran's boy at the start of these six years, but I'm happy to say that I've grown into my black and white stripes which will always be a part of who I am now and so much of that is down to the lads I met in the class of 2022. For that, I will forever be grateful. Best of luck to all and mind the gap!

The Leaving Cert Photo

There are not many aspects of life that went unaffected by Covid-19. In school, life became very different from the norm. Everything from the length of a class period to our extracurricular sports and activities would be affected. Unfortunately, even the simple act of taking a photograph was affected. Over the years, we have worked hard in the school to create, develop and protect our archive of photographs, documenting the life and times of our school. Every year we enjoy taking the Leaving Cert photo and compare it to the same photo taken on their first day, six years previous. The Leaving Cert photo has become a sort of institution in the school, almost a rite of passage which is placed proudly in its correct place on the walls of the school. It was a shame that due to Covid guidelines, we have been unable to take the traditional Leaving Cert photo over the past couple of years but we were delighted to be able to make a return to the tradition this year.



UCD Scholarships

Well done to Patrick Brennan, David Fleming, Cathal Kearney, Ivan Kelly, Jack McGurk, Peter Connellan and Ciaran Rice of our 2021 Leaving Cert Class who received UCD Entrance Academic Scholarships in 2021.



Sixth Year Signatures

<p> Cian Moore Harry Cody Conor Brett Darragh McEvelin Pádraig Lennon Jamie McGrath Daniel Bove Aaron Keathart Sean Moore Luke O'Connell Jimmy Kerrin Paul Mulligan Adam Walsh Darragh Kennedy Michael Whelan Niall O'Brien Robbie Cord Robert Kelly Maria Moses Liam Walsh Ros Dermody Patrick Kennedy Conor Booth Charlie Miller Julian Maher </p>	<p> James Gladney Liam Moloney Nick Doherty Oisín Cahill Tommy Phelan Liam Walsh Jack Doherty Brogan Mulholland Jack Archbold Pete Walsh Harry McHenry Charlie Fitzgerald Jimmy Conwell Kristian McHenry Cathal Quinn Luke Connellan Adam Bove Jack Doherty Jimmy O'Neill Conor Walton Simon Bove Nick Conway Dylan Burgess Sam McEvoy Connell Ruane Eoin Turner Alu Murphy Killian Carey Jack Kelly Jack Ball </p>	<p> Seán Langan Adam Langan Jack Ryan Artem Arlucov Coby Cummins Michael Horsham Matthew O'Neill Danesh Dwyer Joe Fitz Liam Connolly Cathal Murphy Peter Conroy Kevin Malloy James Kenny Josh O'Rourke Oisín O'Connor Helen Donohue Sean Fitz Cathal Foley Dermot Letcher Daire Moran Noel O'Brien Kaitheal Lawlor Borec Bergin Paddy Langston Adam O'Connor Eoghan Whelan Bill Dutton Konians Ferrantele Adam Walsh John Kenny Eoin O'Leary Eithne McEvoy Luke White Eamon Holland Ruaidhrí Holden Charlie Delahunty Patrick Breen </p>
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End of Year Awards 2021

FIRST YEAR AWARDS

Subject Awards:

French: CORMAC LEAHY.
 Gaeilge: HUGH KELLY.
 Geography: LARRY PHELAN.
 History: LEWIS KENNEALLY.
 Maths: CONOR AYLWARD/LIAM KEOGH.
 Religion: RONAN O'MAHONY.
 Science: DAVID TRAVERS.
 Spanish: HUGH KELLY.
 English: SAM MACKKEY.

Academic of the Year: HUGH KELLY.
 Student of the Year.

Certs of Merit: ROBBIE LYNCH, LIAM O'GORMAN, STEPHEN WALSH, JOE LANGTON, CODY O'NEILL, CIARAN HICKEY.

Student of the Year: (individual classes)

1A1: NEVIN BENNY. 1A2: LARRY PHELAN. 1A3: SAM MACKKEY. 1A4: HUGH KELLY.

Overall Student of the Year: DANIEL RYAN.

SECOND YEAR AWARDS

Subject Awards:

French: EOIN BRENNAN.
 Gaeilge: JAMES BRENNAN.
 Geography: RUARC SWEENEY.
 History: CHRIS GING.
 Maths: CHRIS GING.
 Music: BILL HAYES.
 PE: CONOR BROPHY.
 Religion: CAMERON McFARLANE.
 Science: SEAN MOLONEY.
 Spanish: MICHAEL LYNCH.
 Technical Graphics: DANIEL DEVEREUX.
 Art: DANIEL DEVEREUX.
 Business: SEAN MOLONEY.
 Construction Studies: EOIN DALTON.
 English: RUARC SWEENEY.

Academic of the Year: SEAN MOLONEY. Student of the Year.

Certs of Merit: LIAM DOYLE, CONOR FARRELL, JAMES BRENNAN, BILL O'SHEA, TOM WALSH, DAVID SHEPPARD, RUARC SWEENEY, DANIEL DEVEREUX, MATTHEW McAVINEY.

Student of the Year: CHRIS GING.

THIRD YEAR AWARDS

Subject Awards:

French: SEAN YOUNG.
 Gaeilge: RORY CONNELLAN.
 Geography: COLM FITZGERALD.
 History: ALEXIS FITZGERALD.
 Maths: TIMOTHY KELLY.
 Music: SEAN CAHILL.
 Religion: ALEXIS FITZGERALD.
 Science: SEAN YOUNG.
 Spanish: NOAH GILMORE.
 Technical Graphics: GAVIN McMAHON.
 Art: AIDEN CASHIN.
 Business: DARRAGH LAWLOR.
 Construction Studies: ADAM COYNE.
 English: JEFF NEARY.

Academic of the Year: DARRAGH LAWLOR. Student of the Year.

Certs of Merit: ALEXIS FITZGERALD, SEAN YOUNG, JAMES COMERFORD, JOHN HAYES, SAM LARKIN

Student of the Year: DARRAGH LAWLOR.

TY AWARDS

Certs of Merit:

LEON BROWNE, EDWRD DWYER, KYLE BYRNE, MICHAEL CULLEN, RORY FARRELL, DAVID MULROONEY.

Student of the Year: MIKEY RAGGETT.

5TH YEAR AWARDS

Subject Awards:
 French: LIAM WALSH.

Gaeilge: DYLAN DUGGAN.
 History: DANIEL BOWE.
 Maths: DYLAN DUGGAN.
 Music: CHARLIE DELAHUNTY.
 PE: LUKE DOYLE.
 Physics: FIONN McGARRY.
 Spanish: LUKE BURKE.
 Accounting: PADRAIG LENNON.
 AG.Science: NICK O'KEEFFE.
 Art: CONOR LYNCH.
 Biology: DAIRE MAHON.
 Business: PETER CONROY.
 Construction Studies: TOMMY PHELAN.
 DCG: RICHIE McEVOY.
 English: EOIN DEELY.

Academic of the Year: CHRISTIAN McINERNEY.

Certs of Merit: ADAM O'CONNOR, LIAM MOLONEY, EOIN DEELY, RICHIE McEVOY, AARON MOORE, LUKE MALONE

Student of the Year: DYLAN DUGGAN.

6TH YEAR AWARDS

ACADEMIC:

PATRICK BRENNAN.
SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS: JOHN CANNY. ROBBIE ENGLISH. (Special Achievement). MICHAEL McCARTHY. (President's Award).

SPORTS:

Cross Country Athlete: JOHN MULDOWNEY.
 Athlete: CATHAL O'REILLY.
 Soccer player of the year: JACK McGUIRK.
 Hurler of the year: PETER McDONALD.
 Sports Star of the year: SENAN FORRISTAL.
 White Medal: DENIS WALSH.

Certs. Of Merit:

JACK McGUIRK, IVAN KELLY, TOM BUCKLEY, ROBBIE ENGLISH, CRAIG CUMMINS.

Student of the Year: JJ RYAN.



First Year Student of the Year



Second Year Student of the Year



Third Year Student of the Year



Fourth Year Student of the Year



Fifth Year Student of the Year



Sixth Year Student of the Year



Sixth Year Students of the Year



Academic of the Year



President's Award



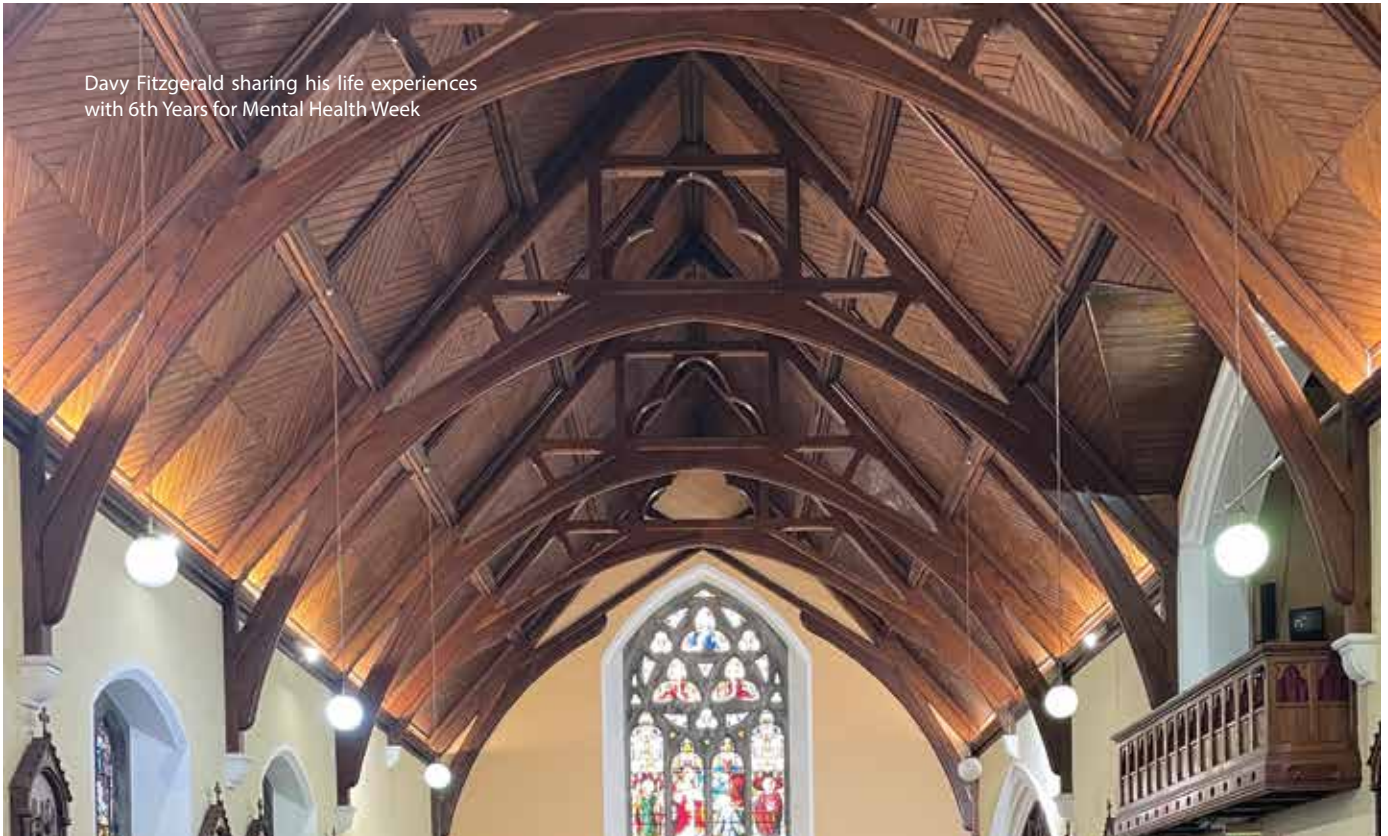
Special Achievement Award



Special Achievement Award



Sports Stars of the Year



Davy Fitzgerald sharing his life experiences with 6th Years for Mental Health Week

Pastoral Care at St Kieran's



2ND YEAR RETREAT

By Declan Herbert, Class 2A3

Our 2nd year school classes were delighted when we got word from Mr Brennan that he had planned a retreat for us on Thursday 10th March 2022. A full day out of classes with your classmates is a day that you can always look forward to.

Things were not looking good for us on the Wednesday prior to the retreat as the heavens had opened its flood gates. Woke up Thursday morning, one eye closed, hoping and the other eye waiting for the sun to shine through the gap in my curtains. And it did not let me down, a beautiful crisp morning, not a drop of rain in sight.

First class Thursday, we went to get signed in and of course Mr Morrissey had all our hearts in our mouths when he told us that the retreat had been postponed due to flooding. There was definitely a few seconds of absolute disgust and anger wandering through the air, until he decided to tell us that he was only joking. The classroom actually erupted with excitement.

Off we went, almost 120 or more of us including Mr Brennan, Mr Windle and Ms Grace by bus on our retreat to a little town in Co. Kilkenny called, Graiguenamanagh. Here there is an easy 7 km river and canal side walk along the River Barrow to the picturesque village of St Mullins.



To begin our retreat we first went to Duiske Abbey for Thursday morning's mass and blessing. We then started the river and canal walk which is definitely something I would recommend to anyone. You get to see some of the most beautiful scenery along this route not to mention the lovely Graiguenamanagh bridge overlooking the River Barrow, the Quay at Graiguenamanagh where there is a lot of colourful barges docked along the river bed, the Lower and the Upper Tinnahinch Lock on the Barrow Navigation, the mound of the Norman motte, the ancient medieval church ruin, the base of the ruined round tower, and an ancient cross in the grounds of the ruins of St Mullins' Monastery. Very impressive ecclesiastical history at St Mullins, all of which is surrounded by the Blackstairs Mountains on one side and Brandon Hill on the other.

I have to say the highlight of the day was the Mullichain Cafe at St Mullins, an old mill building, in a beautiful location on the banks of the River Barrow. They sell the most delicious hot chocolate and cookies I have ever tasted!

On behalf of all the 2nd year students at St Kieran's College, I would like to thank Mr Brennan and Mr Windle for organising this retreat. It was great for us all to get out and about in the open air and enjoy it all together as a school year... we are already looking forward to our next planned trip.

AMBER FLAG INITIATIVE

The Amber flag is an initiative by Pieta House which recognises the individual efforts of schools to create healthy, inclusive environments that support mental well-being. The amber flag enables schools across the country to raise awareness of the stigmas which exist across the country.

As part of this initiative, St Kieran's College amber flag team consists of 'Cairdeas' leaders but is indeed a whole school effort. The amber flag theme, along with the chaplain, Mr Brennan, are tasked with organising events and schemes to promote and improve mental well-being throughout the school. This year, the senior choir created a World Mental Health Day video shown on the school twitter account on the appropriate day - Sunday, October 10th, 2022. The choir sang the song 'You will be



1st Year Wellbeing Activities.



Back (l-r) Cillian McElwee, Mikey Barron. Front (l-r) Gearoid O'Shea, Ben McEvoy.

found' highlight that no matter how things seem, it will always get better. TY students also took part in coaching to 1st year students which proved to be a very beneficial exercise. As a focal point to our year, we had our annual 'Mental Health Week' where we organised a number of speakers and activities throughout the week to raise awareness for the importance of a positive mental health.

As a school, we are delighted to recently receive word that we have been yet again approved for our amber flag. We hope to organise more activities and events next year to improve mental health throughout the school.

CAIRDEAS

In May 2021, twenty-five 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 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



1st Years and their Grandparents at Mass during Catholic Schools week 2022.



5th Year Students Harry Shine, Mikey Ragget, Barry Dunne, Leon Browne, Rory Farrell and Cathal Keegan teaching in St Canice's Co-Ed for Catholic Schools week.



Fifth Year Students joining Bishop Denis Nulty in St Mary's Cathedral to deposit the relics of St Oliver Plunkett, Nano Nagle and Blessed Edmund Rice before the placement of the Altar Stone.



Cairdeas

Back row: L-R: Bill Smith, Barry Dunne, Pdraig Naddy, Ted Dunne, Bill Hughes, Killian Doyle. Third row: L-R: Rory Farrell, Leon Brown, Michael Cullen, Conor Dooley, Adam Walsh. Second Row: L-R: Conor Fitzmaurice, Ciaran Nolan, Mikey Raggett, Eoin Forde, Harry Shine. Front Row: L-R: Joe Kearns, Eoin Byrne, Cathal Keegan, Sean Adams, Johnny Keane, Jimmy Maher.

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 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.



Dublin Footballer Shane Carthy speaking to 5th Years for Mental Health Week

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2022

The eagerly anticipated and hugely important Mental Health Week took place from Monday 4th - Sunday 10th 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 4th, Fifth year students received a very informative talk from Dublin footballer, Shane Carthy on his struggles and how he overcame them to come out stronger.

On Wednesday, October 6th, first and second year students participated in a number of outdoor activities in teams incorporating all classes to take time out to get to know each other,



1st Year Mental Health Week Activities.

improving friendships and bonds within tier year groups in St Kieran's College.

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, 5th and 6th years received a talk from former All Ireland winning player and manager, Davy Fitzgerald. Davy spoke openly about the importance of resilience, persistence and self-belief throughout the challenges of life.

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



First Years' First Day.

2nd Year Friendship Day



Green Schools Committee Secure Another Green Flag

By Chris Ging

This year in Kieran's College marked the first proper Green Schools Committee since Covid - 19 started, it began in September when Mr Kelleher set up this year's committee. It was made up of volunteers who signed up from each year group and were then selected randomly by Mr Kelleher.

The first meeting was held over Zoom on September 21st with Mr Kelleher. Mr Kelleher then retired from teaching and the position was taken up by Miss O'Connell and Mr Shiel.

The next major event was the setting up of 'Energy Wardens'. These people were chosen with the plan to reduce energy usage in the school, the Committee members would select one Warden from each class in their years, the job of the wardens would be to switch off all the lights at the end of the day as well as during bright days and switch off the projectors at the end of the week. At the end of every month, a committee member would go to our caretaker Enda to get an energy reading so we could compare months to look for a drop in energy usage.

One of our best events of the year was our 'Low Energy Day' where everyone in the school made an effort to use as little electricity as possible, people were encouraged to walk to school when possible. As a result, we saw an 11.67% drop in energy usage compared to normal days.



Back Row: Chris Ging, Dan Rohan, Conor Aylward, Alexis Fitzgerald, James McEvoy. Second Row: Ms M. O'Connell, Andrew Holohan, Cillian Dunphy, Mr L. Cotter. Front Row: Darragh Roche, James Wallace

Following the February Break, the Green Schools job was given to Mr Cotter who held the first face-to-face meeting in March where we discussed the upcoming meeting with County Council Environmental Officer Bernadette Maloney who was reviewing our application for the Green Flag for our school.

Members from each of the Year groups met with Bernadette where we discussed what work we had done so

far, like the low energy day, and what work we would do in the future such as our new biodiversity garden. She liked our application and the work we were doing and wished us luck.

Then on May 30th, the school was given our third Green Flag with the comments that our submission was outstanding. There will be an official awards ceremony later in May but for now, the Committee are very happy to see their hard work pay off.

Safe Pass



Fifth Year

L to R; Joe Canny, Denis Dalton, Evan O'Neill, Jack Cody. Missing; Jamie Carter.



Transition Year

Back Row L to R; Kieran Walsh, Cormac Moore, Aaron Doyle. Front Row L to R; Sean Carrigan, Ben Little, James O'Connor. Missing; Oisín O'Reilly, Liam Holohan, Niall Farrell, Cathal McCormack, Edward Whelan, Joe Murray.

Career Guidance



DCU visit Leaving Cert students to discuss different course options



Dr Jonathan Lavelle (Kemmy Business School, UL) speaks to Leaving Cert students during the year



Past Pupil Shane Doyle speaks to current Leaving Cert students about career options in Engineering



Tony Woodcock speaking to Ag Science students

Mr Brian Dowling, Ms Eadaoin Maher, Guidance Department

We had informative talks during the year from the following 3rd level colleges – UCC., I.T. Carlow, DCU, UL, and NUIG. As Open days for colleges were mostly prohibited during the year, these talks gave the students a sense of what 3rd level colleges may be like.

The following guest speakers spoke about their own particular careers or courses. Zara from the Military Barracks spoke about life in the Defence Forces, we had Virginia Bohan from Solas speaking about apprenticeships, Tony Woodcock spoke about Agricultural Science to Mr Darmody's 5th and 6th Year Ag Science groups. Gerry Fitzpatrick (lecturer in WIT) spoke to 6th year students about a career in Psychology. Past pupil Shane Doyle spoke to 5th and 6th years about a career in Engineering. We also had talks over zoom during the year from the following; Engineering in DCU, Science in Maynooth, Business in UL, Music in DCU, Modubuild Engineering company and Arts Degrees in UCC.

Our TYs enjoyed four weeks of Work Experience and also carried out a Career Investigation during the year. Our TYs visited I.T. Carlow to see first-hand the experience of College.

The highlight of the year was the talk that Derek McGrath delivered to the 6th years. Derek spoke very

honestly and delivered some key messages to our 6th years in terms of remaining positive and to strive to be the best that they can be.

We would like to wish all our 6th years the very best in the upcoming Leaving Cert and all the best in their future careers.

CAREER SKILLS COMPETITION

Paul Mahon

Over the course of transition year I got the chance to undertake several work placements and write a reflection on each placement. After having completed my placement with Deputy John Paul Phelan, I decided to submit the report of work experience which I had to complete for TY to the Career Skills competition. In my report I reflected on what I had done over the week like working on the Competition

Amendment Bill and meeting the Taoiseach Micheál Martin. Also included in my report was an analysis of my view on the work that Deputy Phelan does. I surmised from my week that there is never a quiet moment in the life of a TD and we were overrun with everything from constituency issues to new legislation.

A few weeks after my placement I found out I had won an award for career skills and I was invited to the Department of Education and Skills to meet the Minister for Education, Norma Foley. I was delighted to find out I had won this award and really enjoyed the award ceremony and my prize of a new tablet. The highlight of the day for me was talking with the Minister and other award winners from across the country. Overall, this was an immensely enjoyable experience and it opened my eyes to all the career opportunities available to me.



Award recipients with Education Minister Norma Foley.



Paul Mahon receiving his Career Skills award.



Paul Mahon and Mr B. Dowling at the Career Skills awards.

Senior Debating 2021-2022



Ms Staunton, Ms McQuaid and the Senior Debating Team prior to the debate against St Anne's CC, Clare

This year saw the long overdue return of senior debating in St Kieran's College (with the participation in the prestigious Concern Debates. (and the performances in this year's Concern Debates did not disappoint.) Since the Concern Worldwide Debates Programme began in 1984 over 40,000 students have wrestled with issues ranging from sustainable development and climate change to terrorism, extreme poverty and the scourge of HIV and AIDS. St Kieran's College were pitted against some of the most renowned schools in the country throughout their Concern Debating endeavors. Every time the St Kieran's students took to the podium, they were compelling and captivating. The debating team consisted of sixth year students Nick O'Keefe, Conor Brett and Artem Alrukov who were joined by Rory Farrell and Leon Browne from fifth year.

In round 1, St Kieran's College opposed the motion 'Schools strikes

are an effective way of getting governments to act on Climate Change'. The students competed convincingly and were the victorious team on the day. In the following debate we opposed the motion that 'The challenges to ending world hunger are insurmountable'. Again, the Kieran's students performed admirably and were declared the victorious team on the day after what was a very challenging and enthralling debate. Our final debate saw the Kieran's students taking on a very experienced side in Ardscoil Mhuire in Co. Limerick. The school has a very rich and varied success at debating in the Concern competition so the students knew that they would be in for their biggest challenge yet. In this battle St Kieran's College proposed the motion 'It is simply wrong for billionaires like Bezos, Branson and Musk to 'joyride' to space with so many problems back on earth'. Again, the topic itself was extremely challenging, requiring all students

to complete significant amounts of research in order to understand the real core of the topic. The debate was extremely close in the end as all teachers commented upon, however Kieran's incurred their first loss as Ardscoil were awarded the victors.

In all it was wonderful to see the return of debating to St Kieran's College. While it was difficult to complete the debates in an online format, the quality of what the students produced was certainly nothing short of true class and we were extremely proud of their achievements as a school. We hope that by our participation in the debates, debaters will become active citizens and agents of change, seeking justice and human rights for all. We wish all students the very best and hope that they develop and use some of those key skills later when they leave us here. Well done and congratulations to all involved.



Senior Debating Team prior to their debate with Ardscoil Mhuire, Limerick.



5th Year student Leon Brown speaking in the debate against St Anne's CC, Clare..

Art 2021-2022

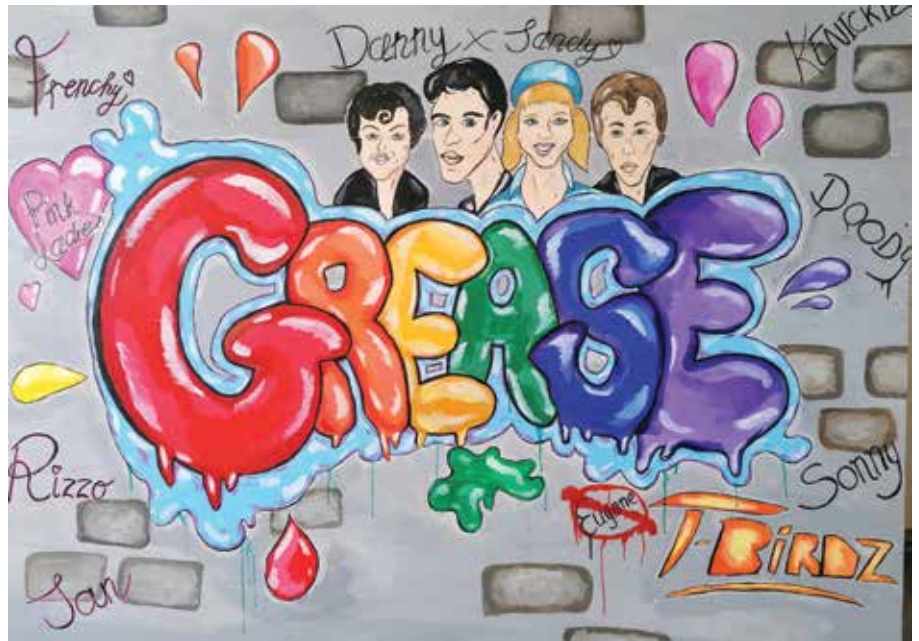


SET DESIGN FOR GREASE

By Ms O'Connell

The set design for the school play 'Grease' was a huge success! Students worked in teams to design, plan and paint each part of the set design. The finished design was bursting with colour, energy and the classic Grease animation style. Thank you to Jack Murphy, Bryce Cummins, Killian Butler, Ben Cummins, Bill Coogan, Sean Counihan, Mathew Mulligan, Noah Gilmore, Aidan Ryan and Colm Fitzgerald for all of your help. Special thanks to Sean Young for his dedication and exceptional hard work. It was a pleasure to work with such an excellent team of students.

'For this year's musical production of 'Grease', I heavily participated in the set design. I spent hours on a variety of different signs and props. Though it was hard work, it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience that I would gladly do again. I also participated in the ensemble for the musical, but the part that really stood out as the most enjoyable was the creativity and work that went on behind the scenes. Not only did I have a great time while doing this, I feel that I improved my



Adam Noonan, 5th year



Louis and Sonja

overall artistic ability and got the opportunity to try things that were both comfortable to me and also out of my comfort zone' Sean Young, 4th year

ART CLUB

Art Club runs each Monday at lunch time in the art room, it is a great place for students to get creative, learn new skills and have some fun. Thanks to all of the students who come each week and who make it so much fun.



2nd year puppets

BUTLER GALLERY

6th year students paid a visit to 'The Butler Gallery' recently where they were given an extensive tour of the permanent collection and a newly opened exhibition of contemporary paintings. After the tour, we did a walking tour of Kilkenny and learned about some of the iconic sculptures dotted around the city.



VISITING ARTIST: SONJA GUENTHER

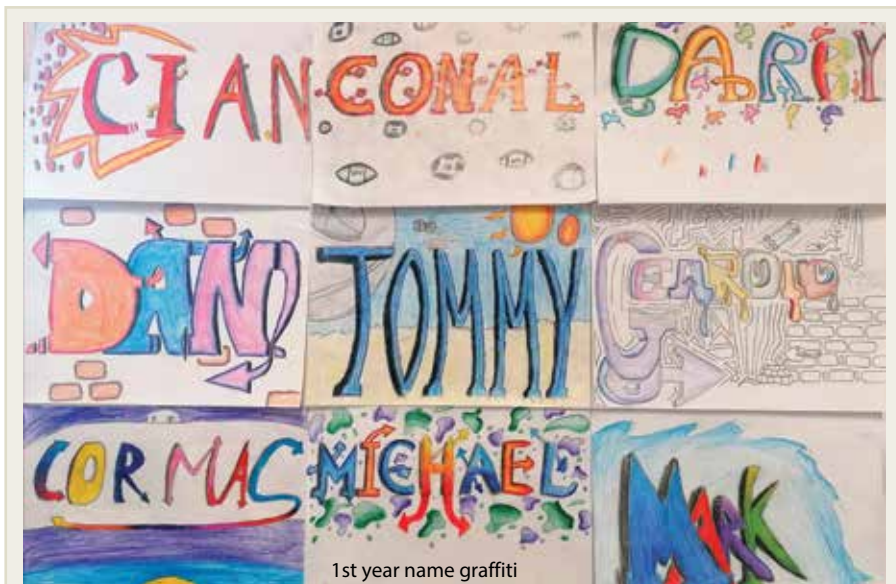
Louis Todd, 5th year

5th year students had the opportunity to work with local artist Sonja Guenther over a period of six weeks. During this time Sonja introduced students to her own practise as a ceramic artist. Influenced by Sonja's work and the local architecture of Kilkenny; students designed and made their own ceramic buildings. Students thoroughly enjoyed their experience with Sonja and learned a lot from it.

'Sonja Guenther specialises in ceramics based on architectural structures. She spent time with us walking us through the process she uses to achieve her unique style and helped us to create our own piece. Although this style of pottery had a very particular and at times tedious process, the variation of pieces throughout the class was huge. This was one of the most enjoyable aspects of the project. Each student's work was completely distinguishable and unique not only in design but in execution too. Working with an established artist was an interesting and insightful way of exploring a new and exciting form of art.'



5th year painting



1st year name graffiti



5th year painting



1st year self portrait



1st year entry to the Texaco Art Competition



Clay tile made by 2nd year pupil



1st year entry to the Texaco Art Competition

Business



Special Merit Social Enterprise Ronan Hackett St Kieran's.



Special Merit Entrepreneurial Spirit AgriSlurry St Kieran's.

MY STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR JOURNEY

By Joe Prendergast and Diarmuid Langton

Mr Fitzgerald told our class about the TY mini business project in September. The first thing we needed to do was brainstorm ideas for a mini business. We thought of an idea to help stop slurry hoses breaking from sucking to the bottom of the slurry pit. It was an attachment to the end of the slurry hose made out of metal with two squares cut out of the sides.

We had to sketch a few design ideas to come up with the best design. We showed it to our teacher and he thought it was good. We had to do some research online to find out if there was already a product like ours online. Luckily no one was selling this attachment.

We had to find parts online to assemble the product. We ordered the parts and built the idea. We had to cut out squares in the side of the cylinder with an angle grinder for our product to work. We needed to run some tests to see if it worked. The product was successful in the test runs.

Rosie from Kilkenny LEO came in to talk to us about our idea. She explained to us about what a business is and what to do. She said it would be a good idea to start a social media account and to make a 2 minute video that explained what our product was. We made this social media account called AgriSlurry.

We posted some photos and videos to show the viewers what our product was. We privately messaged Agriland to see if they were able to promote our product on their page. They said yes and a few days later our product was

on their page. We had to send our two minute video to the judges. The award ceremony was held online due to covid. We watched it on the projector in class. We were excited to see if our product would win an award. We were happy to see our product win the Entrepreneurial Spirit award.

MINI COMPANY

By Ronan Hackett

My young entrepreneur programme experience started in October 2021. Everyone in the year had to come up with an idea/initiative that hasn't been done before or else better an idea that has been done. Everyone in our class was trying to come up with ideas for many weeks. Mr O'Sullivan, our business teacher, organised a guest speaker called Rosie from the Local Enterprise Office to come in and speak to us.

She explained to us how the whole programme worked and what we had to do to enter and the details of the competition. After that talk people started knuckling down and coming up with ideas, creating posters and looking at manufacturers etc.

I decided to come up with a company called 'mhm clothing'. mhm clothing is my own mental health clothing brand trying to raise awareness for mental health. The idea of the brand came about because of my passion to help those experiencing mental health issues. I launched the brand to create an awareness and engagement around mental health and to encourage people to be aware when someone may need help and to reach out. mhm clothing will also donate at least 5% of every hoodie

sold to Jigsaw young people's mental health charity.

This is the idea/initiative I came up with but other people came up with plenty other ideas and sold various different products. Mr O'Sullivan was a great help along the way in business class twice a week and he organised a sale day in the school canteen for 1st to 3rd years in January of this year where we advertised our products and took orders.

To finish off my experience of the young entrepreneur programme there was a virtual awards ceremony where all the schools in Kilkenny selected certain projects from their school to go forward. I overall really enjoyed my young entrepreneur experience from start to finish and I was happy to finish with receiving 'social enterprise of the year' award.



Aaron McEvoy and Sean Hunt displaying the St Kieran's College Training Jersey for their TY Mini-Company.



Stephen Power Kellet at the TY Trade Fair selling NFL hats.

English

MACBETH

By Cathal Walsh

On the 8th of December St Kieran's College hosted an event along with St Brigid's of Callan in an attempt to improve our knowledge of "Macbeth" by William Shakespeare. Five people from both schools acted as characters from the play, giving a speech about the characters' thoughts throughout the story and speaking about key events from their side of things.

The idea of this was that two people pretending to be the same person would have completely different takes on the characters thoughts, emotions and actions. Bill Hughes, Louis Todd, David Williams, Conor Fitzmaurice and myself represented Kieran's for these speeches. Following each set of speeches the floor was open to questions that were asked to try and catch out the speaker or break their character.

Most students found it difficult to answer the opinion related questions, however, answering queries like this helped us see the play from different views which made "Macbeth" a lot more understandable. The two schools had completely opposite views towards the play which resulted in many heated debates between students in the audience. These disagreements helped us to understand the play from different perspectives as members from St Brigid's had equally relevant points as St Kieran's students did.

Overall our class feels that this reenactment of Macbeth organised by Mr O'Neill was crucial in grasping the full story of the play.

OTHELLO

By Kevin Benny

"Othello", the controversial yet extraordinary play written and created by William Shakespeare is one that some people believe to be too sadistic, too misogynistic and too gruesome to be shown to even a leaving cert class not having been taught since 2015. However, here we are now learning the full ins and outs of the play some or even many people did not recommend to be taught in a school. We were very fortunate to be able to go and see a live performance of this play "Othello"

even though we are still in the midst of a pandemic that has slowly become 'so last season' to some people. We had the opportunity to see this dark play in all its might in the Watergate Theatre, Kilkenny being played by the cast of the Cyclone Rep production company which was directed by Peadar Donohoe who also played the two-faced villain Iago.

The unique route taken in this play made the play twice as useful for us as LC students as it was not just a simple run through of the play but we also received detailed discussions of key features or moments in this play "Othello". We gained a deeper understanding of this Shakespearean masterpiece by discussing rather than just observing a performance. One very interesting topic that stayed with me after the play was the question producers raised - "Is the play Othello a racist play?". I really found this question engaging as I remember back in TY during the uproar of the pandemic there was also the creation of the BLM movement which made it that much more likely for a topic on racism to come up on our LC paper in June. During the discussion you could see the difference in thought of many people as there were mixed opinions. We think instinctively that this is most definitely a racist play as Othello is thought of as a "black ram" and a "barbary horse" which was uttered by the bitter Iago at the start of the play to rile Brabantio into a ticking time bomb ready to be fired at Othello for marrying his daughter, Desdemona. We can feel the racism through the use of gruesome animal imagery of natural black animals representing Othello who is a man of colour which should be enough evidence to call this play racist bit as some say, "there is more than what meets the eye". We think the play is racist as there are racist characters but that wouldn't make it a racist play but a play about racism. We discussed the fact that racism was not common back in Shakespeare's time so it isn't likely that Shakespeare wanted to be racist and mock people of colour with this play. If we consider the play to be racist, we would also have to say it is sexist in the misogynistic attitudes towards women, so the performance forced us to consider real issues within society. This statement brought a whole new meaning to the phrase "don't

judge a book by its cover" as if we take everything at eye view then we'll never understand its true meaning. There are some that forget that any person can be racist no matter their colour. I remember the BLM movement and how some people thought every cop in the USA was racist because of one cop. I really enjoyed this discussion because we got to see a bigger picture to this topic than what I expected to gain from it.

The discussions were very worthwhile but the acting of Peadar Donohoe who played our "honest Iago" and Marcus Bale who played Othello did a wonderful job portraying the different scenes in the play "Othello". We could really see how Othello changed from a hero to a villain and Iago being a villain to being an even worse person than we thought when he keeps pouring the poison in Othello's ear to destroy him completely from the inside out.

One aspect I would have changed would have been to feel a lot more of the villainous side of Iago as many people thought that Peadar Donohoe was holding back on the full brunt of Iago's true catastrophic mindset. It may sound a bit sadistic for me to say that I wanted to feel a lot more of the despair and darkness of the play but that is how one gets the full insight of the play. Another letdown may have been the fact that only Peadar Donohoe and Marcus Bale were the only actors on stage and the rest was seen on a screen because of COVID-19 regulations. More than half of the play was seen on a screen but the way they brought modernity of "fixed news" to highlight how racism is shown and evoked in the play was a very creative application for their very limited number of cast on stage and time.

After the coronavirus becomes a story of the past, the Cyclone Rep production has great potential in making their plays even better than what we experienced. They were of course not at their best but for the limited access they had for cast, they really showed their creativity, skill and knowledge of play productions to the best of their abilities without a doubt. Hopefully in the next year, they can produce a play with all their might without these frustrating and limiting covid regulations and show an even grander performance to the LC students in the future.

OTHELLO REVIEW

Aaron Moore – 6th Year

On the 18th of March 2022 the 6th year students of the school eagerly made their way down to the Watergate Theatre to see a staged production of our Leaving Cert Shakespearean play Othello. Considering there was significant uncertainty as to whether we would be able to avail of this opportunity in previous months, due to Covid 19, there was great excitement amongst the group as we made our way to the theatre. This was also the first time any of us had experienced a live performance of this kind, so the feeling of excitement was coupled with great anticipation and eagerness.

The play was produced and performed by The Cyclone Productions Company from Cork. The production company itself struggled with how to create an engaging production for the Leaving Cert class of 2022 as government advice in January of this year had advised them that live theatre performances seemed very unlikely. As this play was designed to be the first performed during the height of Covid and under strict government restrictions it was presented in a different dynamic. The theatre company combined live performances with actors on stage with pre-recorded clips recorded by other characters.

The idea was that this would have been easier for the production company to stream live into classrooms should the situation with the Covid crisis have warranted it.

The producers expertly blended together a mix of modern technology and the modern aspects of the timeless play. They set the play in the state of Louisiana deep in the American south where some racial tensions still exist today. The production company also showcased a number of different examples of the Black Lives Matters Campaign throughout the performance, again to highlight the importance of the racial issues in which Othello highlights. Othello has only reappeared on the Leaving Cert course again since 2015 so I felt that this was a very clever technique which was used by the producers – highlighting the very real relevance of the societal issues it raises. The play deals extensively with topical issues such as racial discrimination, sexism and misogyny towards women. The producers also created insightful open floor discussions on the various themes and topics presented and this allowed all of us the opportunity to engage and present our own opinions. I don't think I speak for just myself when I say this was very beneficial to me as it allowed us students to feel involved and gave us the chance to hear other people's views on certain topics. In all, it was an enjoyable day had by all, and an invaluable experience to have ahead of our coming Leaving Cert.

THE TRIAL OF FRIAR LAWRENCE AND THE NURSE

By Jude Delaney Dooley

One of the highlights of the year for 3A1 was the mock trial of Friar Lawrence

and the Nurse from "Romeo and Juliet". With the help of the girls from St Brigid's College in Callan a mock trial was held in the lecture theatre in Brigid's college.

The students were assigned roles to play such as Romeo, Juliet and Mercutio, other students also acted as members of the prosecution and the defence. Both sides had a lot of preparation to do on the background of their characters and the legal teams had to make their case.

When the trial began initially there were some problems to work out like the format of the trial but once a running order had been established we really sped up. Although some of the witnesses were unprepared for the ferocity of the cross-examination they encountered, the majority of participants were excellent.

When it was time for the jury to reach a verdict for the first trial they left the room to deliberate, but there was already a feeling by the members of the public that the prosecuting side had won. When they came back the chairperson announced the verdict "Guilty". Friar Lawrence was found guilty on counts of aiding in the suicide of 2 minors, staging a crime scene and facilitating marriage of two young people without their parents consent. That was the first case won but the second still had to be heard.

The second case was a bit more of the challenge but after our restless defence the nurse was only found guilty on counts of child neglect.

Hopefully this is the first of many mock trial wins for us.

French

The ability to speak in public is a very important skill both for life and career. The ability to do this in a foreign language is even more impressive. This is why we value the opportunity for our senior French students to compete in a French Debating Competition. With the help and guidance of their teacher, Ms Allan, students spend many weeks preparing their arguments, practising the pronunciation and the delivery of their speeches. They develop not only their linguistic and oral skills, but also their confidence. Every student who participates recognises the benefits, and importantly, has fun along the way too!



Public Speaking

By Cormac Leahy

On the 11th of March earlier this year, I was lucky enough to take part in a public speaking competition in St Kieran's College.

Second year students from Callan CBS, CBS Kilkenny, Mountrath Community School and St Brigid's Kilkenny competed. I think I can speak for everyone there when I say it was a highly enjoyable and worthwhile experience. There were so many interesting topics, many of which I knew absolutely nothing about prior to hearing the talks. I left the room with a newfound wealth of information about The Bermuda Triangle, Coco Chanel, ash dieback and much more.

My own talk was on the subject of 'Jimi Hendrix'. Jimi is my favourite musician and the guitarist I most admire and hope to emulate. I had a very positive response to my talk and the judges awarded me a prize for best delivery of a speech on the day.

Everyone brought something special to the table, either with an outlandish or original topic, or with a compelling, riveting delivery. An event like this is great for boosting confidence and self-esteem, and being able to give an effective talk is a skill you will value throughout your life.

The competition served as a wonderful opportunity for young people to share something they're passionate about and develop their speaking skills. I would encourage any student to take part if they get the opportunity.

by Killian Tallon

On the 11th of March 2022, St Kieran's College hosted a public speaking competition between them and four other schools. Those schools were CBS Kilkenny, CBS Callan, St Brigid's College and Mountrath Community School. The rules for it were simple, 3 minutes long, any topic you want and it has to be just the speaker, their voice and the audience. After the speaker was finished the audience were allowed to ask questions about the topic that was spoken about. There were three prizes, one for the best speaker, one for the



best topic and one for the best overall speaker and topic. There were three judges to decide who deserved which prize. These judges were Francis Cleere, Anne Wemyss and Christina Warener. The very first speaker was Jack Lennon who spoke about Liverpool. There were 20 speakers and topics ranging from "The Bermuda Triangle" to "How to give a Presentation" to "Eating Disorders". All of the topics were really interesting and all of the speakers were well spoken. The audience were kept engaged and

entertained. The very last topic of the day was the same theme as the first topic with Fionn Mahony speaking about Manchester United. Then the three judges conferred and decided which of the speakers deserved which prize. They decided that the best topic was Pat Walsh which is who Conor Alyward spoke about, the best speaker was Cormac Leahy who spoke about Jimi Hendrix, and the best overall was Aisling O'Shea who spoke about inequality in sport.

Geography



2A1 on a visit to the Kilkenny Flood Relief Scheme



6TH YEAR TRAMORE TRIP

Leaving cert geography trip took place in Tramore with Mr Shiel and Mr Morgan's classes. The project is worth 20% of a student's final grades. Students carried out activities like measuring the rate of longshore drift

and conducted a beach fabric as they attempted to investigate the impact of coastal deposition and transport of the coastal landscape.

The trips were blessed with fine weather making the investigation more enjoyable.



2ND YEAR GUEST SPEAKER

2a1 had the pleasure of attending a guest talk via zoom from Met Eireann forecaster Linda Hughes. Linda was very kind in giving her time to chat to the lads about all things weather and answered all their questions about formulating a forecast and being on TV.



An scannán Belfast le Kenneth Branagh

Bhí deis ag roinnt scoláirí breathnú ar an scannán 'Belfast' le Kenneth Branagh le déanaí sa phictiúrlann áitiúil. Bhí sé fiordheas do na scoláirí a bheith in ann sult a bhaint as turas scoile arís, i ndiaidh na bliana fada a bhí acu leis an víreas Corona. Seo a leanas a gcuid smaointe agus léirmheasanna ina leith.



David Mulrooney

Tharla an scéal 'Belfast' i rith na Trioblóidí i dTuaisceart na hÉireann. Tá an scéal faoin bhforéigean seicteach idir na Caitlicigh agus na Protastúnaigh. D'imigh daoine neamhchiontacha ar shlí na fírinne gach lá. Tá an scéal cosúil leis an bprós 'An Gnáthrud'. Sa phrós sin, bhí Jimmy mar ghnáthdhuine, fear céile agus athair ag siúl abhaile ó theach tábhairne agus an sínis nuair a thit sé ar an talamh. Tá an scannán beagáinín leadránach ach is maith liom an foréigean a tharlaíonn i rith an scéil.

Cathal Walsh

Ba mhaith liom an turas ach níor mhaith liom an scannán. Bhí an scannán dubh agus bán, mar sin bhí sé deacair orm féachaint air. Ach bhí 'Belfast' réadúil. Ba bhealach nua-foghlamtha í an phictiúrlann agus an-úsáideach do mo chuid scrúduithe. Bhí saol an bhuachalla óig an-bhrónach toisc gur oibrigh a dhaid i Sasana. Protastúnach ab ea an buachaill ach bhí a chuid cairde ina gCaitlicigh. Cuireann sé seo mearbhall air.

Harry Shine

Dé Máirt seo caite chuaigh mé féin agus mo chairde go dtí an phictiúrlann. I mo thuairim bhí an scannán go maith ach ní fhéachfainn arís air mar bhí sé leadránach uaireanta. Bhí an scannán i ndubh agus bán agus bhí sé i bhfad difriúil ó scannáin eile. Mholfainn an

scannán do dhaoine idir óg agus aosta mar foghlaimítear neart rudaí ón méid a tharla an tráth sin. Bhain mé taitneamh as an eispéiris seo mar bhí an-chraic go deo agam le mo chairde ar an aistear chun na pictiúrlainne.

Mikey Raggett

Ar an Máirt 5ú d'Aibreán, chuaigh mé féin agus mo chairde go dtí an phictiúrlann. D'fhéachamar ar an scannán 'Belfast' toisc go raibh nasc idir an scannán agus an gearrscéal a bhí ar bun againn 'An Gnáthrud'. Bhí an scannán bunaithe ar bhuachaill óg agus a theaghlach le linn na Trioblóidí i dTuaisceart Éireann. Shiúlamar go dtí an phictiúrlann ón scoil. Fuair eamar grán rósta, seacláid agus deoch nuair a shroicheadar ceann scríbe. Ceapaim gurghluais an scannán go mall. B'fhéarr liom dá mbeadh níos mó aicsin ann. É sin ráite, d'fhoghlaim mé a lán rudaí nua faoi na Trioblóidí i dTuaisceart Éireann. I mo thuairim b'fhiú an turas an t-airgead. Ní mholfainn an scannán do dhaoine eile, ach amháin dá mba mhian leo níos mó a fhoghlaim faoi na Trioblóidí.

Kevin O'Connor

Bhí an scannán 'Belfast' an-mhaith. Bhí sé greannmhar agus suimiúil. Tá an scannán suite i mBéal Feirste le linn na Trioblóidí. Is é Buddy an príomhcharachtar agus is buachaill óg, Protastúnach é. Tá Buddy ina chónaí lena dheartháir, a mháthair

agus a sheantuismitheoirí. Oibríonn athair Buddy i Sasana. Déanann drong sceimhlitheoirí iarracht a Dhaid a earcú nuair a fhilleann sé ar Éirinn, a bhuí leis seo caithfidh Buddy agus a theaghlach bogadh go Sasana.

Pádraig Naddy

Chonaic mé 'Belfast' sa phictiúrlann le déanaí. Bhí seanathair, seanmháthair, daid, mam agus beirt bhuachaillí. Chuaigh a n-athair go Sasana gach seachtain. D'ith mé grán rósta agus d'ól mé uisce. Shiúil mé féin agus mo chairde ón scoil go dtí an phictiúrlann. Cheannaigh mé uachtar reoite agus mé ag filleadh ar an scoil.

Oisín Mealy

Thaitin an scannán 'Belfast' liom de bharr an buachaill beag, greannmhar. Bhí an scannán suimiúil toisc gur fhoghlaim mé faoi na Trioblóidí i dTuaisceart na hÉireann. Shuigh mé ar chúl na pictiúrlainne agus bhí an chathaoir compordach. Bhí an scannán fada ach bhraith mé gur shleamhnaigh an t-am thart go tapa mar bhí an-lá go deo againn.

Páuric Kirwan

Chuaigh mé go dtí an phictiúrlann i gCill Chainnigh. Thosaigh mé ag siúl ar a haon a chlog ón scoil agus shroicheadar an áit ar a leathuair tar éis a haon. Bhí an scannán bunaithe ar Bhéal Feirste agus na Trioblóidí. Thaitin an scannán leis na buachaillí eile ar

fad sa rang, ach shíl mé go raibh sé leadránach.

Seán Keenan

Ar an Máirt, chuamar go dtí an phictiúrlann chun breathnú ar 'Belfast'. I mo thuairim bhí an scannán go maith. Rinne na haisteoirí léiriú den scoth ar na carachtair. An carachtar ab fhearr liom ná Pa. Ní léiríonn an scannán an foréigean a bhí ann i rith na Trioblóidí i dTuaisceart Éireann, ach bhí sé ceart go leor mar scannán. Mholfainn an scannán do mo chara.

Hugh Finnegan

Bhí a lán foréigin fhánaigh i mBéal Feirste ag an am sin. Bhí gnáthdhaoine ar an dá thaobh den choimhlint agus chónaigh siad ar shráid mheasctha, Protastúnaigh agus Caitlicigh. Ba é príomhthéama an scannáin ná teaghlach Protastúnach a bhí ina chónaí i mBéal Feirste agus buachaill óg an teaghlach, Buddy. Titeann Buddy i ngrá le cailín óg Caitliceach

sa scannán freisin. Shiúlamar go dtí an phictiúrlann agus d'fhéachamar ar an scannán ar feadh uaire agus daichead nóiméad. Fuaireamar grán rósta agus deoch nuair a shroicheadar an phictiúrlann. Cheap mé go raibh an scannán go maith.

Killian Doyle

Ar an Máirt chuaigh mé féin agus mo rang go dtí an phictiúrlann agus d'fhéachamar ar an scannán 'Belfast'. Bhí an scannán bunaithe ar saol na ndaoine i mBéal Feirste sna seachtóidí, nuair a bhí cogadh cathartha idir Caitlicigh agus Protastúnaigh. Clann Phrostastúnach a bhí iontu sa scannán, ach níor ghlac siad páirt sa chogadh cathartha. Chuir an cogadh seo an teaghlach i mbaol agus bhog siad go Sasana ach ní raibh Buddy ag iarraidh bogadh ann.

Josh Dennehy

'Belfast' a tugadh ar an scannán gur fhéachamar air le déanaí. Bhain

TRÁTH NA GCEIST

D'eagraigh Ms Moran Tráth na gCeist Boird ar líne do lucht na hIdirbhliana i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge i mbliana. Bhí foirne de cheathrar curtha le chéile aici agus cúpla babtha ceisteanna. Bhí duaiseanna ann do chách ar nós uibheacha Cásca freisin. Bhain na buachaillí taitneamh agus tairbhe as an lá

mé taitneamh as an scannán mar bhí sé greannmhar agus brónach (nuair a d'ímigh Daideo ar shlí na fírinne). Baineann an scannán leis an ngnáthshaol i mBéal Feirste tráth dá raibh.

Maths Competition

The Irish Junior Applied Maths Problem Solving Competition took place on the 10th of March. We had 3 teams competing in the competition-

Team 1: Christopher Ging, Darragh Lawlor, Jamie Peters, Daniel Devereux.

Team 2: Sean Moloney, Noah Gilmore, Ben Little, Ruairí Phelan.

Team 3: Rafal Palczynski, Alexis Fitzgerald, Sean Young, Shane Walsh

There was a maximum of two

transition years on a team and also two 3rd years.

We arrived at the school gates at 6 where we hopped on a bus and went to St Leo's in Carlow is where the competition was being held. It started at 7:30 after they showed us the toilets and fire exits. There were 6 rounds that were each 6 minutes long and then we had a break with crisps and tea and coffee. After the break there were two more rounds which were each 8 minutes long and were longer and

more difficult questions.

After the rounds were done, the scores were all calculated and then the top 3 teams went in a tie breaker round which was done off the team with the fastest and correctly answered questions wins.

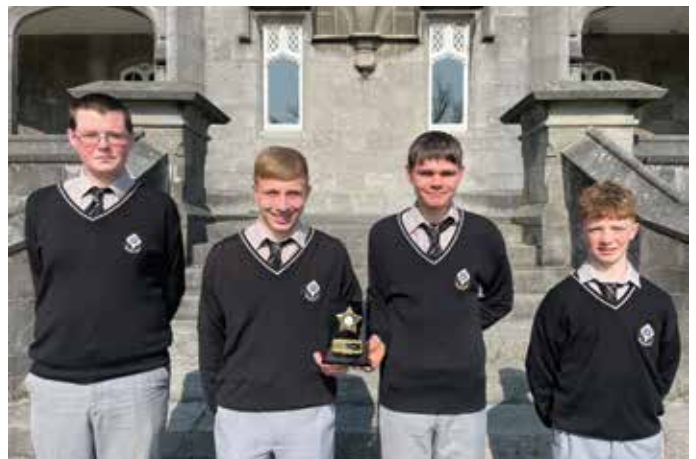
We only had one team in this tie breaker and that was team 1.

In the end they placed second, only by a couple of seconds.

Overall I enjoyed the night and would like to do it again.



Senior Maths - Dylan Duggan, Daire Mahon and David Mulrooney Regional Maths Winners.



Junior Maths - Chris Ging, Darragh Lawlor, Daniel Devereux and Jamie Peters Runners Up.

Music 2021-2022



Junior Choir

Mr F. Brennan and Mr G. Walsh)

With the lifting of some restrictions at the beginning of the school year, we were delighted to welcome back choir for all students. As word spread that rehearsals would be returning, we were delighted with the uptake by students and their willingness to sing in the school. Due to the majority of competitions not taking place due to uncertainty around restrictions, we had the opportunity to make choir an even more enjoyable and fun experience for the students, without the pressure of competitive events. The Senior Choir has a current assembly of 58 students while there are a total of 130 singers in our Junior Choir.

The Senior Choir were delighted to travel to Dublin on December 13th for a choral workshop with Dr Róisín Blunnie, head of music at DCU. We are grateful to Róisín for her time as we continued to prepare for upcoming performances. The choir stopped into Dundrum Shopping Centre on the way home, something that also went down well with the boys!

As a school, we were eager to have a Christmas Carol Service, which is something that has been a constant in the school calendar over the past number of years. We were delighted to produce 'Carols at the College' taking place outside on the front steps with lights, sound and fabulous decorations helping to create a festive atmosphere. The Senior Choir sang 'Mary did you know?' while the Junior Choir performed their version of 'Somewhere only we know'. We also had the Senior



Senior Choir

Chamber Choir singing 'Amazing Grace' with the Junior Chamber Choir performing 'Christmas Lights'. Both choirs then combined to perform their rendition of 'Mo Ghile Mear'. For some of the choir, this was the first time that some had sung in public, jumping straight in the deep end by performing in front of hundreds of people. We were very grateful for the support from school management with their help in organising such a fantastic event.

As well as singing at the St Kieran's Day Mass on Thursday, March 3rd, the Senior Choir were also invited to sing at the Donal Walsh Memorial Mass in Knock on May 5th. We were delighted to be asked to perform at the event by Donal's mam, Elma, someone who is very familiar with our school as she often visits to speak to students. The boys performed 'You Say' in front of thousands of people, again a huge highlight for lads who were sceptical about singing at the beginning of the year.

The Junior and Senior Choir are currently continuing their preparations

for the end of year Awards Nights in the Watergate Theatre. As the teachers involved in the choir, we wish to thank each and every student who has sung for us this year. We are very proud of the huge effort put in by all students across both choirs. We have some talented singers in our school and it is great to see so many students willing to widen their horizons in the various gifts and talents that they have.

JAZZ BAND

The jazzband had an eventful year with many performances in the school and beyond. This year they comprise of 15 members from all years in St Kieran's. Among the highlights was their memorable performance at the school Christmas concert which was held outdoors in December on The Steps of St Kieran's.

March was a busy month, competing in the Wesley Interschools Music Festival in Dublin against the best school jazzbands in the country as well as performing at The Cream of Kilkenny



Jazz Band

Cats Jazz Spectacular at the Watergate Theatre. To bring the curtain down on another school year, they will perform at the college awards night, also at The Watergate. They will be showcasing a piece composed by one of the band members; sixth year, Artem Arlukov.

TRAD BAND 2021/22

The school's traditional Irish music group welcomed new members this year with the addition of two first year musicians (Michael Tynan and Keelan Lynch) and a vocational school musician (Muriel Born).

Due to restrictions around covid, the school did not get a chance to perform in the local nursing homes that it annually visits and competitions were postponed for the year. However, the group did manage to perform for all first year students in the school during Seachtain na Gaeilge – an event brilliantly organised by Ms Farrell and the Irish department.

The band will perform for the school's awards night at the end of the year. We hope to have more opportunities to share the jigs and reels learned next year.



Back row (l-r): Mr R. Dunphy; Keelan Lynch; Charlie Delahunty; Leon Brown; Mr E. Heffernan; Mr G. Walsh. Front row (l-r): John Bergin; Adam Noonan; Liam Carrigan; Jimmy Cantwell; Joe Canny; Michael Tynan.

SENIOR CHOIR - THE DONAL WALSH #LIVELIFE FOUNDATION

This year the senior choir were invited to sing at the 9th anniversary of Donal Walsh in Knock, Co Mayo. The group departed Kilkenny on Wednesday 11th May and set sail for Galway city. After some down time in the "City of the Tribes" the lads went swimming in

salthill - with some even braving the diving boards.

We decided to break up the journey by staying overnight in Galway before completing the journey on Thursday morning (12th May) - the day of the performance. We stayed in Esker Village just outside Athenry.

The event was attended by schools from all around the country, with over 2,000 people in attendance. Liam





Carrigan on Uilleann pipes (3rd year) and Leon Brown (5th year) on piano performed during the registration of the event before the senior choir officially opened the day, singing "You Say" by Lauren Daigle. The choir, musicians and soloists received glowing reviews from many of the schools in attendance from all around the country.

MUSIC AND ME

By Charlie Fitzgerald

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.

Usually, all choirs would enter into the "Kilkenny Music Festival" but due to the pandemic they have not yet returned. I have had lots of success with the choir in school, when I was in second year we won the junior competition and to compete in a

competition as big as Wesley College is a great achievement.

This year we performed our Christmas carol service outdoor on the college steps. The junior choir performed "somewhere only we know" and we all performed "mo ghile mear" my gallant hero as a combined choir with over 100 pupils involved.

The senior choir is a choir for broken voices with ages usually ranging from Third Year onwards. This year we performed "you will be found" a song that promotes mental health, for mental health week.

I suppose with the pandemic it was hard to keep music going as far as choir is concerned due to regulations of COVID-19. 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. 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.

I have sang for many years now and the last 3 years I was lucky to be

part of the Jazz band where I could further my skills as a singer, singing a different type of style to my usual songs I would sing. 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 "viva la vida" in the watergate. The jazz band were lucky enough to return to 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. Of course it's important to be rewarded for good work and as a reward the music department goes on a trip at the end of the year, usually tayto park which is a fun day full of good crack. For us Sixth Years who have gotten involved with music, we will dearly miss the times we have performed together, from 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 O'Connor, Ms Fitzpatrick, Mr Brennan and Mr Walsh.

Science

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE TRIP

The 5th and 6th year agricultural science students attended a practical day in Kildalton College on Friday March 11th. Kildalton College is located in Piltown in south Kilkenny. It is a third level institute for agriculture, horticulture and equine courses. The aim of the trip was to fulfil requirements for the new agricultural science specification.

On arrival at the college, we were instructed to be very aware of biosecurity measures on the farm. These are measures to prevent disease entering the farm so we thoroughly washed and disinfected our footwear. On the farm, we were divided up into two groups and we got a detailed tour of the different enterprises i.e. beef, sheep, dairy, tillage, horses and horticulture. We were very impressed with the high standards and results achieved (milk yields and liveweight gains) in each of the enterprises.

On the tour, there was a big emphasis placed on conservation in agriculture. This is the wise management of natural resources on our planet. This can be achieved in



5th Year students visiting Kildalton College

agriculture by ensuring sustainable agricultural practices are adhered to. Examples of sustainable practices are;

- the use of low emission spreading systems (LESS), instead of splash plate slurry spreading,
- the use of protected urea,
- lowering the crude protein content of concentrates
- making maximum use of the economic breeding index (EBI)

The aim of these measures is to reduce carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane emissions into the atmosphere, which are greenhouse gases.

There are many more sustainable practices in agriculture. We deal with these in our individual investigative studies (IIS), where we explore a hypothesis through scientific investigations on our own enterprises at home. We type up our investigations, which include a literature review, our



Well done to Fifth Year student Conor Fitzmaurice on reaching the National Final of SciFest 2021. Conor is pictured receiving his plaque from Mr Hennessy.

investigative process, analysis of results obtained and finally conclusions in a scientific report. This report is worth 25% of our final grade in agricultural science.

Overall, the trip to Kildalton connected the theory in the classroom to agriculture on the ground and furthermore it showed us that agricultural science is a live subject.



Alexis Fitzgerald

Charlie Fitzgerald

Conor Fitzmaurice

Jake O'Brien and Luke Phelan

John Davis and John Hayes

Tomas Roche, Jeff Neary and Joe Hughes

MY BT YOUNG SCIENTIST EXPERIENCE 2022 (TY)

By Luke Phelan and Jake O'Brien

The BT Young Scientist exhibition is a competition in which students from different schools in Ireland compete to win overall categorised prizes using different science projects and ideas.

In the first three weeks we had to come up with our ideas that we would use in the competition. We then registered ourselves on the BT Young Scientist website and prepared our one page proposal form.

This one page proposal form decided whether we qualified for the

competition or not.

Results were sent out during the Halloween break to inform us if we got in or not. Each year there are roughly 3,000 entries and only 500 qualify for a final stage in the competition.

We then had 2 months to finalise our research, gather and then analyse the data. After research was completed we then displayed it on an appropriate form / document.

After final submissions, 3 rounds of online judging took place during the first week back from Christmas break. This consisted of interviews with 3 different judges who were experts and interested in the topic. Overall, it was a great experience and definitely

worthwhile competing in. We developed many skills in the process such as co-operation, communication and sharing.

The following titles were St Kieran's project that qualified:

- "Is hydrogen power usage within transport a part of the solution to the current global climate crisis?"
- "Does playing music to cows help produce more milk?"
- "Most efficient way to peel a boiled egg."
- "How did Covid-19 lockdown affect injuries within the GAA."
- "Does contactless payment affect our spending habits?"

SPHE

At St Kieran's College we have adapted the new short course curriculum for SPHE. As part of this short course, there is one Classroom Based Assessment (CBA) that is assessed in 3rd year SPHE classes.

Student voice is encouraged when planning for SPHE CBA's so this year, the 3rd year students decided that they would like to do their CBA project on something practical that would help incoming 1st year students to be better equipped and informed in the transition from Primary to Secondary School.

To this end, all 3rd year students compiled a booklet titled "Embracing Change: A Guide for 1st Year Students".

This booklet outlined practical and relevant information for 1st year students such as who their subject teachers will be, where their classrooms will be located, who to go to if they need any help or have any concerns, outlining various curricular activities within the school while also offering practical advice from the 3rd years students who not long ago were in the same situation.

The quality of the CBA work was very impressive and was a fair reflection on all the engagement the lads offered in class all year long.

Included in the picture are Chris Ging and Liam Doyle 3A1.



St Kieran's College would like to thank all in our school community for contributing so generously food, money and clothes to aid the people of Ukraine. We continue to remember all those that have been killed and displaced by the war in Ukraine.



Transition Year

THANK YOU MS MORAN

For the past four years Ms Jane Moran has been the Transition Year co-ordinator in St Kieran's College. Ms Moran has worked tirelessly to continue the development of the Transition Year programme. The Transition Year programme continues to evolve with each year group. TY now incorporates activities such as climbing Sliabh na mBan, River Walks, Dáil Trips, Road Safety courses and much more. Ms Moran has overseen a transition year programme which seeks to develop the educational and holistic development of our students.

Ms Moran has decided to call it a day as Transition Year co-ordinator, so we would like to thank her for her enormous contribution to the post over the past four years. Teachers perhaps forget the contribution we make to our students' lives, Ms Moran can look back on her time as TY co-ordinator with great pride in the job she has done and the positive role she has made to the students she has worked with. Take a bow Ms Moran.



BENNETTSBRIDGE WALK

This was our first activity for the year. We headed off towards the walk as soon as the roll was taken in the morning. We walked along the river all the way to Bennettsbridge.

The views of the river were brilliant. We arrived just in time for lunch so everyone ate at the Bennettsbridge hurling pitch, staying there for around an hour. Some of us pucked around for a bit while the others just took a break and talked with their friends.

We headed back into town where the school gave everyone an ice-cream of their choice. We then started the walk back to town full up from our

lunch and ready to go home. We made it back to the school for 4 O'clock just in time to catch buses and cars home, we had a great day meeting the lads following the summer break.

MY EXPERIENCE IN CASTLECOMER DISCOVERY PARK

By Dayo Kingston

We went to Castlecomer Discovery Park on the 6th of April and we did treetop walking, orienteering, archery and ziplining which were all very enjoyable experiences. We set off on the bus at

about 9.00am. It was raining when we got there but that didn't dampen our spirits. We split into groups and we set off to do our activities.

First my group did archery and we did a competition to see who could get the most points and me and my friends in our group didn't win. Then we did the Orienteering and we managed to find a few things on the map and we had an hour to do the Orienteering. We found most of them and we didn't find about three or four.

When we were done doing the Orienteering we had our lunch break for an hour and then we went back outside to do our remaining activities.



We did the treetop walk first and had to wear helmets and harnesses for safety reasons. The harnesses had hooks on them to attach to the ropes so we didn't fall and get injured. We practised using the hooks on a rope and then we set off. At first I was scared going on the metal rope but then I got used to it and I was walking across the course. The braver did the top section of the walk. Then we ended the trip with Ziplining which was great fun. I felt scared to go on it but when it was my turn I didn't think it was that much of a long way down. We then got on the bus and went home at 4.

Thanks to all the teachers involved in organising this trip for us.

MY DUNMORE EAST EXPERIENCE

By Cormac Moore

On the 3rd of May we went down to Dunmore East Adventure Centre. We left school at 8:30 and the two buses headed down to Waterford. We arrived at the adventure centre around 9:30 and went straight into the dressing rooms to get changed into our wetsuits. We went straight down to the Wibit Wipeout. The Wibit is Ireland's biggest inflatable water park in Ireland so although the water was freezing cold everyone raced into the water to get to the Wibit. After a while the water became almost warm after running around the Wibit and everyone enjoyed falling around into the water.

After we finished the Wibit we swapped over with the other group who were kayaking and paddleboarding. Half of us were on the boards with 6 to each board and the other half of us were kayaking. Everyone really enjoyed racing each other to the other beach we had to go to. Afterwards we got lunch and went to the park to eat it. We had a really great day at Dunmore East Adventure Centre.



KAYAKING

By Mark Fitzpatrick

The Kayaking trip was the highlight of the year for many. It happened in early September. We headed off to the river first thing in the morning with our teachers. We walked from the school to the Weir where we got our wetsuits and kayaks. We kayaked for a bit until we got to a section of the river with some rapids where we stayed, the teachers treated us to chocolate at this point!.





MY TAYTO PARK TRIP

By Aidan Cahill

During the first term of school we went on a trip to Tayto Park with the ty year group. First I went on the Viking voyage, I thought it was fun even though you got a bit wet. Then we did the rotator which is like a huge swing that swings you way up into the air while you spin slowly around on it. I really enjoyed the rotator because of how high you would swing.

After going on the rotator a few times we made our way over to the Cú Chulainn. However the line was still very long because everyone went to it first so we went on the air race ride. On this ride you sit in seats of 2 that then spin around on a huge wheel and the wheel is lifted into the air at an angle. I thought this ride wasn't great, you really are just spinning quickly and I felt a bit sick. After that the line for the Cú Chulainn was much smaller so we went on it.

The Cú Chulainn was easily my favourite ride in Tayto Park. We went on the Cú Chulainn a few times then went for food. Some of the lads headed off to the restaurant but me and John Hayes stayed back for a bit because we had got something to eat already. Then when we set off to find them we got a bit lost around the zoo part. We ended up going into the walk in the lemur enclosure. I thought that was really cool.

You could walk around their little woods and they were hopping around

We played around with a tennis ball in the Kayaks and went down the rapids for about half before heading off again. We had great fun on the way back tipping each other over and splashing each other. We got very lucky with the weather and the river wasn't very cold. We went down a few weirs on the way back to school which were good fun. We finished up at the Kayaking club in Castle Park and played a bit of water soccer with the goals in the river before drying off and heading back to the school. It was a savage day that I think everyone really enjoyed.

MEDIEVAL MILE MUSEUM MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

By Killian Butler

We went to the medieval mile museum to learn about the history of Kilkenny. We walked from St Kieran's to the medieval mile museum and joined a tour. The tour guide was excellent and she showed us many different artefacts that were left behind by Kilkenny's patrons. We were shown bones and tombs from the renaissance era.



We were also shown different sculptures from the medieval time. The tour lasted an hour and it finished at two o'clock. After the tour was finished we were allowed to go down the town for an hour for lunch. After that we headed back to class at two o'clock. I really enjoyed the medieval mile museum and learning more about the history of Kilkenny.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE TY QUIZ

The TY MFL Quiz was a multi language quiz that took place on the 9th of March in the canteen. The quiz was a joint collaboration between Presentation Kilkenny and St Kieran's college, hosted in St Kieran's. The quiz consisted of 10 rounds, with a mix of Spanish, French and general knowledge questions. Each team was made up of 3 students learning Spanish and 3 students learning French, 3 boys, and 3 girls.

We first had to decide who would be doing jobs on the day and who would be taking part. We had to decide who would be making the questions and who would be correcting the questions. After the 10 rounds were completed, the scorekeeper added up the final score.

There was only 1 point between the top 2 teams. The winners and runners-up received an Easter egg and voucher.

Overall it ran very smoothly and it was very enjoyable for everyone involved. Thanks to Ms Corcoran for organising the quiz.





CROKE PARK 26TH OF JANUARY 2022

by John Dermody



you and all came out when they were feeding them. Eventually we met back up with the rest of the lads and we went back to the main area. Where everyone else was we went on the rotator and Cú Chulainn once more before heading back for the bus.

TY BAKE SALE

By Killian Tallon

On the 6th of October, TY students from St Kieran's and Ms Moran organised a bake sale in aid of Make-A-Wish Ireland and Team Hope Ireland. The bake sale started early in the morning with a group of TY students organising the different cakes, brownies and cookies into different boxes for each year group. Then after they were organised, other TY students including me

went around the school to different classrooms bringing the different treats into classrooms for students to buy. The majority of students handed over €1 or €2 for a brownie or a cookie. Then for the 11 o'clock break we set up a stand in the TY corridor for students to buy them on their lunch break.

We spent time laying all of the different treats out on the table. And then the bell rang and we were mobbed with students buying things. Then we had to clean it all up to get the corridor back to normal.

At the end of the day we raised over €900 for Make-A-Wish Ireland and Team Hope Ireland.

It felt good to raise money for a cause that we all believed in. Huge thanks to everyone who donated cakes to the sale on the day.



We left St Kieran's at 8:30am to go up to Croke Park, we were all excited to see what the experience would be like, some of the lads had played there when younger at the GoGames. When we arrived we were told to go into the Museum, the tour guide then took us to start the tour. Firstly we walked where the team bus drops player off on match day, then we walked onto the pitch towards Hill 16, the tour guide then told us some interesting facts about The Stadium. Hde explained to us how all the stands have their names and he then proceeded to tell us about Croke Park and that there used to be running track around the pitch in its early years.

We then walked up to the Cusack Stand where the tour guide told us some more facts about Croke Park including stories about Bloody Sunday. That same day we were there, there was the launch for the Allianz Leagues, the GAA President was attending the launch so we were unable to meet him that day.

After that we walked down to the dressing rooms where we could see all the county jerseys hanging up and we could walk around it. We could also see where the players get warmed up on match days.

After that we were brought to the conference room where we were shown videos on how All-Ireland day preparations for the stewards and staff. After that we were done, we went out to our buses and headed to Liffey Valley for food for an hour, before our journey home after a very enjoyable day.

CROKE PARK TRIP

By Mark Fitzpatrick

The first TY trip after Christmas was to Croke Park. We got on the bus at 8 O'clock and headed off to Dublin. When we arrived at Croke Park they split up our group, each group went off with their own tour guide.

The first place we went to was the interactive room and tested out our skills. Then we went to the conference room and watched a video on the amount of work that different people put into getting Croke Park ready for matches particularly on All-Ireland Final day. After that we went on a small tour around the stadium going into the dressing rooms before going into the stands.

The tour guide then told us about different features of the stadium and some history of it, and how the stands got their names and the history of Hill 16.

Afterwards, we left the stadium and went to the Liffey Valley Shopping Centre for lunch. We then left for home and arrived back just on time for 4pm. It was a really interesting trip with many people learning about the history of the GAA and Croke Park, information we didn't know beforehand.



MY ICE SKATING EXPERIENCE

By Brian Murphy

My ice skating experience was an experience that many don't forget. There were many times where people fell but got up to continue ice skating. The track that we used while ice skating was a big loop with sharp turns and covers in brush areas. The track was located in Alpine Skate Trail, Cork and took around 2 hours one way to get there from St Kieran's College and we stopped in a local town there to go around and get some food while on the way there.

We went there on the 15th of December. One of the instructors said I did a superman as I was falling (arms out and legs in the air), he said it was the first time he saw someone do that. There were plenty of people falling as it was some peoples first time ice skating so many people fell, some got to go into a smaller ice track to get the stability right but not many people did this.

Some people forgot to bring a spare change of clothes and had to go home in wet clothes as they got very wet if they fell but many people did bring a spare change of clothes so they were fine. This is one of the TY trips that I found very enjoyable and I would do it again if given the opportunity to do it





TY ICE SKATING

By Conor Gorman

The TY Ice Skating trip was held on the 15th of December. It was held in Fota Wildlife Park in Cork. We went on a bus down to Fota. The bus ride down was very fun as lads were playing music on the speakers and we were singing along to a few of them. We stopped off in Youghal to get a bite to eat before getting there. When we got to Fota we were briefed by the instructors at the Ice Skating area and headed to put on our boots. We swapped our shoes and put on the ice skates.

From there we were told the rules again and then we went out onto the ice. The ice rink was different to the ice rink that was in Cillín Hill. This one was in the shape of a circuit. It started with a downwards slope, went around a bend and then it had an upwards slope which brought it back around to the start of the track. Most of us were holding onto the railings at the sides of the track but some lads were zooming around.

A lot of lads were trying to start skating without the help of the railings. Some of them were able to skate well but other lads slipped and fell on the ice. By the end of the skating I would say most of us had it figured out but some lads were still falling over. The



bus ride home was fun and we were all chatting about the day and how much fun ice skating was.

TY COMEDY/MAGIC WORKSHOP

By Darragh Treacy

The TY Comedy / Magic Workshop was lots of fun to experience first hand. The Magician showed us lots of tricks and was also very funny. Some examples of tricks he performed were; lighting money on fire and bringing it back later, guessing what page of a book someone randomly opened to, giving everyone a metal pipe to hold and one wouldn't ring but the others did, gave someone glasses that messed with your vision and had them try to grab a balloon that he was handing to them.

His workshop was also very funny with him working some comedy into his magic tricks. A couple examples of this is when he put a fake mouth on someone and opened it remotely while mocking them in various ways, he also had someone keep an eye on a box that would be important later and to make siren noises when anyone touched it and made fun of them while doing so. He taught us the basics of sleight of hand too, how a small motion can be masked using a big motion. Near the end he also gave us a small talk on how to be more confident in various situations. This workshop was very enjoyable and extremely funny.

TY MAGIC SHOW AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

By Conor Gorman

The magic show and public speaking talk was on for a total of 2 hours. The



public speaking part was about how to be confident in public, interviews and talking to people in public. He was telling us the important things about public speaking like expression, eye contact, strong voice and relaxation. He also told us tips and tricks on how to be more confident in interviews. He said when you enter the room, maintain eye contact with the interviewer, shake hands and most importantly be yourself. He told us not to act like a different person because that would be miss leading the interviewer. He explained to us that the interviewer can have their mind decided on a candidate in the first minute of an interview.

In the magic show he had multiple acts. Some of the best ones were where he swallowed a sword, had one of the teachers do head, shoulders, knees and toes whilst wearing a ventriloquist mask and had one of the students sing a song. He also showed us some smaller tricks that were all down to movement made up of big and small movements. He explained that by repeating a large move the eye won't comprehend a smaller move whilst still doing the larger move. He showed us how the tricks were performed and had a few students up to try to test them. I am probably safe to say that most of the students who were present at that talk/show went home and attempted to show those tricks to their family.

TY WORK EXPERIENCE

By David Fitz

The Transition Year Work Experience Programme in St Kieran's College is unlike most others as it involves four weeks of placement in two blocks of two weeks each, one in October



and one in February. This allows students some time to investigate and experience areas of work that might be of interest to them in the future and also to be more prepared when making decisions about subject choice for 5th year.

Following the pandemic of the last couple of years, the majority of employers were willing to take on students again, so most of us were able to secure positions which were both rewarding and helpful.

I was very lucky to work in a variety of places including The Book Centre, Meubles, St Canice's Co-Ed Primary School, Reddy's Architecture and the Atlantic Flight Training Academy. While all of these were really worthwhile, the most exciting was definitely the flight training as I got to spend time in a Boeing 737 cockpit simulator, taking off and landing the plane virtually in what felt like a big video game. I also co-piloted a small plane from Waterford to Shannon Airport and back. However, after all that, it is more likely that my subject choices have been influenced by my time spent in the primary school and the architect's office and I will certainly start checking out the entry requirements for these careers in the near future.

There is no doubt that experiencing life in the workplace is a very beneficial and valuable aspect of transition year. It encourages us to step out of our comfort zone, meet new people, try new things, learn and discover how to adapt to the workplace and prepare us for the next phase of life. For some, that phase has already begun, as part

time work and summer jobs have been offered to many following placement.

MY WORK EXPERIENCE

By Jake O'Brien

For my first work experience I went to the National Reptile Zoo in Kilkenny. Work in the zoo consisted of the cleaning of various different animal enclosures along with the feeding of many different animals. For the first 2 days I swept and mopped the floors of the zoo along with the cleaning of bins and windows.

For the next 2 days I got to help with the upkeep of different animals and make sure that they were all looked after to the highest of standards. On the final day I got to collect eggs from different enclosures which had to be stored in incubators. I also had to wash and clean different water containers in many tanks along with getting to move animals from one enclosure to the next.

For the second part of my work experience I decided to go to Kilkenny Kennels. Work here consisted of the cleaning, feeding and watering of all dogs and cats within the facility. For the first 2 days here I helped walk and give food and water to the dogs along with the cleaning of all different runs at different times throughout the day.

I also took many videos in the first couple of days which were then sent onto the owners in order to show owners how their dogs were getting on. The final 2 days consisted of dealing with customers and the receiving and logging of payments. I also helped

carry out different cleaning duties that had to be carried out. It was an interesting experience to see how a facility like this is run.

MY WORK EXPERIENCE

By Ross O'Neill

For my work experience I worked on a dairy farm. I arrived to the farm at 6 in the morning every day for the week. On Monday the first thing I did was feed the calves milk. It was difficult to keep the calves on the teats to drink the milk because for some of them it was their first time drinking milk from the teats so it took a bit of time for them to get used to this. Then I went to clean the cubicles and feed the cows and bulls.

After that we went and laid down new bedding for new calves. In the evening we went and fed the calves again one last time for the day. On Tuesday I arrived at the farm

at 6 o'clock again. I then went and fed the calves and straight after I fed the calves I went and cleaned the cubicles and fed the cows. I went and power washed the parlour then for about 2 hours.

We then went and looked for cows that could be calving soon and we brought them to a separate shed where all cows that are close to the calving go. Then at the end of the day I fed the calves and went home again. On Wednesday I did the same thing in the morning again. I went and fed the calves first thing when I got there and straight after that I went and cleaned the cubicles and fed the cows. After

that we went and changed cows to different fields and moved some into a shed. We had to remove the calves horns off and this took a long time to do. At the end of the day again we went and fed the calves.

On Thursdays I did the same thing in the morning that I did all week. Then we

had to go and get more straw bales to put in most of the sheds. We went then looking for cows that might be calving again then brought them all to a shed. I did the same thing in the afternoon again as well. Friday was very much like Thursday. We had most of the difficult jobs done so it was all small jobs that needed to be done.

GAA FUTURE LEADERS – TRANSITION YEAR 2021/22

Below is a summary of some of the modules the Future Leaders class participated in this year. It is a year-long course consisting of lessons and practical work. The students gained some valuable experience over a wide range of GAA related roles and areas. The end of year task involves running a blitz for the younger years putting the learnings into practice.

Performance Analysis – Sam Larkin

When doing Performance Analysis you have to keep track of the things in which your team needs to improve on like reducing fouls or delivering the ball into the forwards more. When watching the match you should have a sheet with different categories on it, these can be focusing on the team or the players themselves. The categories that were most commonly used this year were fouls, deliveries into the full forward line and puck outs. This category contains where the ball goes and if it is won or lost. Another part of performance analysis is watching other teams matches and seeing what their strong and weak points are and use this to your advantage when you play this team. When doing this you can change your team's tactics to take advantage of your knowledge on the other team's skills or improve on certain skills that can be used to play better than the other team. I went to many Senior hurling matches and filled out stats sheets for the managers

Nutrition – Patrick Purcell

In the nutrition module for GAA Future Leaders we learned how

athletes should prepare in the days and hours before a match and/or training. We learned what foods they should eat and how much water they should drink. We also learned how we could use these tips in our own preparation for matches and training. Things like diet plans, protein and carbohydrate use, water intake and how to plan your food for every week. We did food diaries in which we logged our food intake and what we were eating and drinking over a 3 day period to see if we incorporated anything we knew into our own diets. We then completed a PowerPoint on tips for other years using what we learned during this module.

Coaching – Stephen Power Kellett

In our coaching module I learned that to be a good coach I have to speak with authority and speak clear. I learned that to learn a skill you have to start off with the key points for it. Then progress it and make it a bit harder until it can be done at match pace or maybe make it easier so they can get the hang of it (STEP module). We then made a power point presentation showing a sample session where we introduced a new skill and showed how we would progress until the players are able to do it in a match. We then coached first years through this session. I enjoyed helping them improve their skills but it was challenging as some players have different strengths and weaknesses



and it is hard to watch/improve everybody.

Refereeing – Mark Fitzpatrick

In class we learned all the main rules in the game and how to put the rules into practice when you are refereeing a game yourself. David Hughes (pictured), an intercounty referee then came to talk to us in school and answer some questions. We found it very beneficial as he answered all our questions as best as he could, giving us a good look at what refereeing is like and how to get into the job. I then took charge of a game myself. It was a friendly match for a first year team. I realised that it is harder than it looks but after a few minutes I got the hang of it and the rest of the game ran smoothly. I found it enjoyable enough and found it a good experience.



First Year



1A1 - Back row (l-r); Eoin Healy, Rayan Oweka, James O'Reilly, Patrick Purcell, Jarlath Comerford, Alex Dooley. Third Row (l-r); Jake O'Neill, John Barton, Daniel Hayes Darwich, Sean Carroll, Ben McEvoy, Matthew Phelan. Second Row (l-r); Robert Brennan, Roman Connolly, Cillian O'Neill, Cian Dermody, Jack White, Joshua Varley, James Larkin. Front Row (l-r); Noah Power, Tom Glennon, Eldon Sheridan, Paddy Challoner, Eoin McDermott, Daire Hogan, Ben Leahy. Missing from photo; Dylan Dempsey, Sean Fitzmaurice, Aidan Keating, Keelan Lynch.



1A2 - Back row (l-r); Antoni Pawlowski, Michael Barron, Michael O'Neill Maher, Gearóid O'Shea. Fourth row (l-r); Augustas Milasius, Hugh Healy, Mark O'Neill, Theo Drennan, Matias Quaglia. Third row (l-r); Ruairí Hanrahan, Alex Canavan, Adam Butler, James Gannon, Orí Phelan, Kieran Bergin. Second row (l-r); Matthew Duggan, Alex O'Donoghue, Jayden Ryan, Aidan O'Connell, Ned Spelman, Ruairí Power. Front row (l-r); Chris Phelan, Cormac Monahan, Robert Butler, Eoin O'Gorman, Jack Mulcahy, Ben Fahey, Andrew Lawless. Missing from photo; Paddy Grace, Seán McBride.



1A3 - Back row (l-r); Michael Tynan, Ben Nevin, Cillian McElwee, Felix Fwamba. Third row (l-r); Alyn Hearne, Will O'Dwyer, Seán Curran, Harry Duffy, Cormac Neary, Seán Nulty, Paul Kirwan. Second row (l-r); Andrew Holohan, Tommy Doyle, Tomás Carroll, Tom Challoner, Harry McEvoy, Seán O'Mahoney, Rory Glynn, Jonathan Kennedy. Front row (l-r); Rian O'Hare, Ciabhan Maher, Cian O'Connor, Owen McCormack, Darragh Roche, Conall Doyle, Cillian Maher, Michéal O'Mahoney, Richard Forristal. Missing from photo; Dan Carroll, Jonathan Dunne.



1A4 - Back row (l-r); Oisín Barry, Conor Brennan, Jack Rhatigan, David Kolodziej. Third row (l-r); James Reddy, Alex Rochford, Cian Stapleton, Bruno Bialocerkiewicz, Tadhg Phelan, Charlie Gleeson. Second row (l-r); Seán Grace, Nicky Healy, Fionn Blanchfield, Tom Doherty, CJ Brennan, Jayden Maher, Oliver Phelan, James Ryan. Front row (l-r); Isaac Okorafor, Killian Drennan, Conor Marry, Ryan Minogue-Lee, Dan Rohan, Dara O'Neill, Darragh Drennan, Patrick Murphy, Conor Coone. Missing from photo; Cillian Dunphy, Jack O'Reilly, Paddy Cuddihy.

Second Year



2A1 - Back row (l-r) Hugh Whelan, David Travers, Tom Gladney, Kieran Carter, Martin Brennan, Cian Walsh, Kieran Timmons, Evan Davy. Second row (l-r) Eoghan Phelan, Brian Healy, Conor McEvoy, Tadhg Byrne, M.J Banville, Euan Wall, Cormac Dowling, Cormac Leahy, Nevin Benny. Front row (l-r) Diarmuid Behan, Robert McEvoy, Ben Drennan, Oisín Farrell, Luke Browne, Liam Keogh, Eoin Walpole, Daniel Tallis, Daniel Patterson. Missing from photo: James Holohan, Rory O'Connor, Liam O'Dwyer, Cathal Russell.



2A2 - Back row (l-r) Jake Mullen, Jack Walsh, Mark Pozharsky, Conor Aylward, Louis Ragget, Harry Burke. Second Row (l-r) Larry Phelan, David Barcoe, Luke Lawlor, Killian Ryan, Lewis Kenealy, Ciaran Hickey, Cian Holohan-White, Eoin Ryan, Elijah Lynch. Front row (l-r) Owen Shine, Rian Shefflin, Scott Hennessy, Cian Doherty, Ivin Sony, James Murphy, T.J Comerford, Micheal O'Shea, Tom Murphy, Peter Kealy. Missing from photo: Ted Donohoe, Charlie Greene, David Quinn, Liam Ireland Wall.



2A3 - Back row (l-r) Conor Millea, Eoghan Cahill, Daniel Smith, Phillip Carrigan, Conor Holohan, Ronan O'Mahony, Conor Gibbons, Charlie Carroll. Second row (l-r) James Wallace, Conor Dillon, James O'Mara, Dean Herbert, Louis Lawlor, Mark Doheny, Cillian Bowe, Cathal Rossiter, Robbie Lynch. Front row (l-r) Andrew Comerford, James O'Brien, Timmy Corr, Sam Mackey, Cormac Holden, Dan MacEaney, Joe Power, Joseph Langton. Missing from photo: Jack Dooley, Rory Moore, Aaron Fox, Tadhg O'Gorman.



2A4 - Back row (l-r) Joseph Butler, Ciaran Coone, Tiernan Shefflin, Harry Conroy, Hugh Kelly, Stephen Walsh, Matthew Cahill, Bill McDermott, Conor Heffernan. Second row (l-r) Daniel Ryan, Paddy Savage, James Walsh, Mark Dalton, Tom Boyle, Cody O'Neill, Fionn Mahony, Tadhg Bergin. Front row (l-r) Cormac Meggan, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hickey, Conor Hanrahan, Rikard Burke, Ciaran Power, Liam O'Gorman, Conor Dowling. Missing from photo: Evan Bourke, Cayden Byrne, Sean Morrissey.

Third Year



3A1 - Back Row (l-r), Finn Conway, Jack Holohan, Chris Ging, Drew O'Keeffe. Third row (l-r): Louis Fitzgerald, Seán Moloney, Chris Delaney, Ruairí Phelan, Pierce Costello, Marc Bergin, Robbie Wallace. Second row (l-r): Dylan Muldowney, Odhran O'Keeffe, Seán Rossiter, Theo Petrani, David Moore, Ross Gormley, Bill Hayes, Alex O'Farrell. Front row (l-r): Daniel Murphy, Stephen Butler, Jude Dooley-Delaney, Liam Doyle, Noah Manogue, Mikey Keating, David Ring. Missing from photo: Charlie Larkin, Philip O'Mahony, James O'Neill.



3A2 - Back Row (l-r): Ed Lauhoff, Darragh Coverdale, Evan Murphy, John Fitzpatrick, Jack Holden, David Langton. Third row (l-r): Shane Shortall, Darragh Doyle, James Cody, John Bergin, Frank McCluskey. Second row (l-r): Ruarc Sweeney, Patrick Bergin, Mikey Lynch, Matthew McAviney, David Kenyi, James O' Neill. Front Row (l-r): Jake Maher, Daniel Tallis, Jack Hennessy, Cian Byrne, Oisín Marry, Ruairí McEvoy, Luke Gamble. Missing from photo: Jim Conlon, Allen Corr-Larkin, Kian Kealy, Alex Preston .



3A3 - Back Row (l-r): Sam Hayes, Cian Phelan, Conor Brophy, Páidí Egan, Harry Cody, Noah Walsh Brennan, Jack Dooley. Third row (l-r): Seán Quigley, Thomas O'Shea, Mikey Rohan, Josh Lawlor, Michael Kenneally, Dillon Cummins, William Nugent, Shane Walsh. Second row (l-r): Joe Connelly, Eoin Brennan, Patrick Kerwick, Matthew Rowe, Dara Behan, Cameron Macfarlane, Conor Murphy. Front Row (l-r): Eimhin O'Hare, Thomas Langton, Tony Butler, Gregg Ruane, Danny Gargan, James Conway, Hugh Hennessy. Missing from photo: Odhran Moore.



3A4 - Back Row (l-r): Tom Walsh, Conor Dalton, Seán Shefflin, Tadhg Ahern, Jack McCormack, Jake Byrne. Third row (l-r): Enda Kavanagh, Briain Wilson, James Brennan, Seamus Murphy, Danny McDonald, Rafal Palczynski, Jamie Tallon. Second row (l-r): Liam Carrigan, Dawid Palczynski, Conor Farrell, Conor Hoyne, Tim Brennan, David Sheppard, Ruairi Walsh. Front Row (l-r): Eoghan O'Brien, Johnny Leahy, Harry Madigan, Mark Reddy, Bill O'Shea, Daniel Ring, Quinn O'Neill. Missing from photo: Eoin Dalton, Danny Carey, Charlie Grace.

Transition Year



4A - Back row (l-r): Cormac Burke, James Hughes, Killian Tallon, Sean Hunt, Cathal Hickey, Tom Cleere, Kealan Gray. Second row (l-r): Pat Purcell, Conor Mulhall, Niall Farrell, James O'Connor, Ronan O'Brien, Richard Nolan, Charlie Bibby, Ben Crow. Front row (l-r): Josh Owens, Edward Whelan, Sean Carrigan, Warren McGuinness, Oisín Bateman, Conor Doyle, Aaron Russel, Jamie Peters, Cian Farrell. Missing from photo: Oisín O'Reilly, Darragh Lawlor, Patrick Bourke, Liam Holohan.



4B - Back row (l-r): Noah Gilmore, Cormac Moore, Edward McDermott, Ben Phelan, Joe Greene. Third Row: Jack Murphy, Harry Boyle, Ben Cummins, Sean Counihan, Robert Murphy, Charlie Cleere, Rory Connellan. Second row (l-r): Cian Kelly, David Hogan, Paddy Walsh, Fred Odano, Aidan Cashin, Paul Mahon, James Comerford. Front row (l-r): Sean Bergin, Rory Glynn, Paucir Curran, Mark McPhillips, Colm Fitzgerald, Luke Hanrahan, Sean Cahill. Missing from photo: Thomas Brennan, David Butler, Joseph Murray.



4C - Back Row (l-r): Andy O'Connor, Alex Reynolds, Eoin O'Neill, Gavin McMahon, Harry Lanigan, Max Coffey, Joe Hughes. Second row (l-r): Aaron Dowling, Sam Larkin, Stephen Power Kellet, Christian Connick, Bill Coogan, Eoghan Dowling, Ryan Cody. Front row (l-r): Sean Brett, Charlie Fitzgerald, Jack Johnson, James Brennan, Mark Fitzpatrick, Tomas Roche, Jeff Neary, Tommy O'Keefe. Missing from photo: Ciallan Brennan, Jamie O'Brien, Jake Stanley Dunphy, Robin Carey, Guy Watts, Cathal McCormack, Luke O'Donnell, Patrick Fleming.



4D- Back row (l-r): Finn Drennan, Ned Langton, Joseph Mcinerny, Ronan Hackett, Conor O'Gorman, Aidan Ryan, Aaron Doyle, Donal Kealy. Second row (l-r): Conor Gamble, Tom McPhillips, James Brennan Smyth, David Fitzpatrick, John Dermody, Sean Roberts, Eoghan Bennet, Cian O'Reilly, Ben Little. Front row (l-r): Jacob Cassin, Adam Coyne, Joey Dalton, Cathal Buckley, Sean Casey, Josh Tallis, Killian Butler, Matthew Mulligan. Missing from photo: James Comerford, Lee Greene, Stephen Manogue, Eoin O'Connor, James Patchell.



4E - Back row (l-r): Joseph Prendergast, Kieran Walsh, Luke Phelan, Aaron McEvoy, Luke McBride, John Davis, Brian Gladney, Brian Murphy. Second row (l-r): Dayo Kingston, Aidan Cahill, Andy Murphy, Jacob Breslin, Rory Smithwick, Timmy Kelly, Alexis Fitzgerald, Sean Young, Nathan Ryan. Front row (l-r): Dean O'Brien, Ross O'Neill, Jake O'Brien, Timmy Brennan, Darragh Treacy, Aaron Coogan, Diarmuid Langton, Calum Meaghar, James Hickey. Missing from photo: Bryce Cummins, John Hayes, Eamonn Maher.

Fifth Year



Back row (l-r); Josh Dennehy, Eoin Egan, Stephen Sokiri, Adam Walsh, Mark McGeeney. Middle row (l-r); Oisin Mealy, Kieran Brennan, Tom Lodge, Mick Carroll, Cathal Keegan, Oran Lavery. Front row (l-r); Aaron Maher, Bill Nolan, Aaron Heffernan Barcoe, Shane Gleeson, Adam Fomin.



Back row (l-r); Seán Byrne, Ted Dunne, Killian Doyle, James O'Shea. Third row (l-r); Sean Óg Hetherington, Barry Dunne, Pauric Kirwan, Andrew McEvoy, Ciarán Nolan. Second row (l-r); Mark MacEaney, Michael Butler, Diarmuid Greene, Dáire Phelan, Seán Adams. Front row (l-r); Darren Coffey, Edward Dwyer, Jack Foley, James Larkin, Ben Irwin Walker.



Back row (l-r); Pierce Ryan, Pádraig Naddy, Kyle Byrne, Shane Glynn, Brian Whelan. Middle row (l-r); Alex McDonald, Dylan O'Shea, Ben Murphy, Billy Dowling, Louie Jamieson Eyre. Front row (l-r); Billy Keogh, David Mulrooney, Seán Keenan, Donagh Murphy, Ben Moore.



Back row (l-r); Evan O'Neill, Matthew Kelleher, Louis Todd, Harry O'Grady . Third row (l-r); Martin Brennan, Michael Cullen, Cathal Walsh, Mark Holohan, Eoin Forde. Second row (l-r); Tadhg Blanchfield, Thomas Dillon, William Wallace, Conor Fitzmaurice, Leonard Farrell. Front row(l-r); David Williams, Jimmy Maher, Joe Kearns, Dylan Pratt-Stapleton, Conor Molloy, Fionn Cody



Back row (l-r); Conor Kavanagh, Michael Raggett, Denis Dalton, Konrad Palczynski. Third row (l-r); Joe Canny, Zach Lawlor, Hugh Finnegan, Sam Kane, Killian Corcoran. Second row (l-r); Chris Kealy, James McEvoy, Bill Smith, Eoin Byrne, Dylan Teehan. Front row (l-r); Patrick Foley, Micheál Harrison, Darragh Ruane, Kevin O'Connor, Eoin Cahill



Back Row (l-r); Conor Dooley, Ben Whitty, Bill Hughes, Jack Cody, Adam Ankudovich. Middle Row (l-r); Dualtach O'Flaherty, Leon Brown, Rory Farrell, Anthony Ireland-Wall, Jack Guiry, Damien Cuddihy. Front Row (l-r); Harry Shine, Johnny Keane, Jack Murphy, Felix Buckenham, Billy Egan. Missing from photo; Jack Aylmer, Matthew Banville, James Carter, Oisín Doyle, Matthew Durnan, Brian Kerwick, Frank Noukeu, Robin Lanigan, Adam Noonan, Padraig O'Mahoney, Robert Ring, Sammy Rochford, Niall Shorthall.

Sixth Year



Back row (l-r): Cian Moore, Jacob Newman, Mario Moses, Emmet Nolan, Richard McEvoy, Eibhan McEvoy, Dáire Mahon. Middle row (l-r): Josh Casserly, Josh O' Rourke, Kevin Benny, Oisín Meegan, Aaron Dorney, Ruaidhrí Holden, Brogan McAviney, James Gladney. Front row (l-r): Luke Burke, Dillon Lawless, Eamon Holland, Fionn McGarry, James Carroll, Luke Doyle, Sean Fitzpatrick.



Back row (l-r): Dylan Duggan, Tommy Phelan, Conor Walton, Jack Ryan, Eoin Turner, Nicholas Conway. Third row (l-r): Jimmy Lennon, Sam McEvoy, Adam Langan, Artem Arlukov, Sean Lanigan, Alan Dunphy, David Parle. Second row (l-r): Jimmy O' Neill, Shane Fennelly, Conor Cody, Ben Canavan, Killian Carey, Matthew O' Neill. Front row (l-r): Adam Bowe, Jack Dennehy, Coby Cummins, Conall Ruane, Nicholas O' Keeffe, Michael Ibrahim, Simon Bowe.



Back row (l-r): Julian Maher, Éimhín Cassin, Jack Delaney, Jack Forristal, Charlie Miller, Jimmy Cantwell. Third row (l-r): Charlie Fitzgerald, Liam Moloney, Harry McIntyre, Liam Walsh, Jack Archbold. Second row (l-r): Luke Connellan, Christian McInerney, Oisín Cahill, Cathal Quinn, Sean Dowling. Front row (l-r): Ben Higgins, Nicholas Doheny, Conor Booth, Pete Walsh, Alex Sheridan.



Back row (l-r): Charlie Delahunty, Joe Fitzpatrick. Third row (l-r): Patrick Langton, Eoghan Whelan, Naoise Dempsey, Adam O' Connor, John Kenny, James Kenny. Second row (l-r): Eoghan Phelan, Kevin Molloy, Conor Lynch, Adam Walsh, Peter Conroy, Eoin Deely, Patryk Bogusz. Front row (l-r): Darragh Dwyer, Jack Butler, Ronan Fernando, Luke Wallace, Bill Dalton, John Madigan, Edmar Basilio.



Back row (l-r): Darragh McMullen, Darragh Kennedy, Adam Walsh, Daniel Bowe. Third row (l-r): Will Lanigan, Larry Cody, Jamie McGrath, Luke Dunne, Paul Mulligan. Second Row (l-r): Aaron Korthout, Ros Dermody, Niall O' Brien, Robert Kelly, Michael Whelan. Front row (l-r): Pádraig Lennon, Conor Brett, Sean Moore, Liam Walsh, Patrick Kennedy.



Back row (l-r) Oisín O' Connor, Kelan Donohue, Liam Connolly, Cathal Murphy, Samba Batchilly, Luke Malone. Front row (l-r) Noel O'Brien, Cathal Foley, Boru Bergin, Craig Shelley, Mathew Lawlor, Aaron Wemyss.

Junior Sports Day



Senior Sports Day



Swimming

by Brogan McAviney

The bright lights of the National Aquatic Centre shine overhead. Immense noise fills the arena, each school roaring their relay team onwards. It's the third of four legs, and James is fast approaching the wall to finish his part of the relay. I'm moments away from my turn, the final leg, the anchor as we call it. I can hear Oisín, Paddy and Matthew behind me, roaring at me even before my dive.

It's in these moments when common senses fade to black and your mind enters a new realm, a different mode. The background becomes blurry, the cheering bounces through your head, the nervous energy charges every muscle in your body. It's the moments like these that I swim for, the moments like these that I live for. You think of the crest on your cap, the boys who stand behind you, the man in the water giving his everything to get back to the wall and release you. James touches and I explode off the block.

It's been an incredible year for swimming in St Kieran's College. Covid has hidden the influx of some fine swimmers in the last 3 years across the board, and this year that build up of talent has finally spilled over into promising success. We've won medals in Leinster Championships, broken Irish Junior Records, represented Leinster and finished 3rd overall in Leinster. But the success is not unfounded.

Swimming is a gruelling yet shy sport. We train long hours in the shadows, rising hours before the sun rises. It takes commitment, dedication and grit: 12 hours in the pool a week, sometimes with over 4 hours of gym on top of that. This includes all ages, all of the current team have been doing this since before first year.

I've been involved with the A Squad in Kilkenny Swim Club for 7 years now, a squad of which 6 St Kieran's students are currently training with. And I've come to realise that there's something different in the people that do this sport. They're incredible individuals, no one athlete is the same, yet each is driven by an unrelenting and insatiable desire to be better. There's a remarkable hunger to improve, not unlike the ethos preached here in the



St Kieran's College Swim Team

Back l to r: Brogan McAviney, James Larkin,. Front l to r: Matthew McAviney, Oisín Marry, Paddy Cuddihy.. Absent from photo: Dan Rohan.



National Surf Lifesaving Championships with Matthew, Brogan and Oisín finishing in 4th overall Senior Team.



Brogan McAviney and Paddy Cuddihy at the NAC representing St Kieran's College and Leinster in the 2022 Interprovincial Championships



Brogan McAviney captained Leinster swim team in the interprovincial championships, and has earned a place on the National Squad for Surf Lifesaving.



St Kieran's College Swim Team at the National Aquatic Centre for the Post Primary Schools Leinster Swim Meet.

school. It's why I love the sport. I'm immensely proud of my teammates on the Swim Team here in Kieran's. I'd stand behind any one of them and I'd trust their resilience with my life.

We have two first years on the team, Paddy Cuddihy and Dan Rohan, two young men with a work ethic to be reckoned with. Paddy has won 3 Leinster silver medals for the school already in his first year, and represented Leinster at Interprovincial level. Unfortunately Dan was injured for the Leinsters but I've no doubt he has a promising future ahead of him. It's a pleasure to watch these boys swim and they're living proof of the exciting times ahead for Swimming in Kieran's.

In the Intermediate category, we were represented by 2 Junior Cert Students, Oisín Marry and Matthew McAviney. I've competed with these two men on the national stage on multiple occasions and you won't find a more reliable pair of teammates. The duo are fast making a name for themselves in Surf Lifesaving, they're the face of Kilkenny's future in the sport. They both have another year in the Intermediate age category and I'm expecting to see the two of them on

the 100m butterfly podium together at Leinsters next year.

The team is completed by 5th Year student, James Larkin and myself. James is a phenomenal worker and his perseverance is unmatched. I've trained with James since 2nd year and no intensity of training can topple him. This year was very exciting for me as the captain of the team. It was the first year I have raced with a St Kieran's Swim Team cap and t-shirt, and also the first year I've raced with a school relay team. I won three Leinster medals and I was honoured to be named as captain of Team Leinster for the Interprovincial Championships. It was an incredible experience and I was proud to swim the final leg of our Irish Junior Record breaking relay team in the 4x50m freestyle.

In team awards we ranked 3rd overall Men's Senior Team in Leinster, a truly remarkable feat for a team with 5 swimmers in total and only 2 up to the correct age. Similarly remarkable was our 4th place finish in the 4x50m Senior Freestyle relay, where our team included a first year and a third year, 5 and 3 years below age respectively.

Our team members are also excelling in non-school aquatic events.

Matthew made his debut on the senior stage at the Irish Open this year, while I made 3 Senior finals in the 50, 100 and 200 butterfly, placing 6th nationally in all 3. Paddy, Matthew and I are all qualified for the National Age Group Championships in Dublin this summer. Matthew, Oisín and I represented Kilkenny in the National Surf Lifesaving Championships in Limerick last February, where we finished 4th overall Senior Team, I won my first two Senior Titles and Matthew won his first National Medal. I am currently training with the Irish National Squad for Surf Lifesaving. In December I won my first two Senior medals in swimming at the short course national championships.

Talented sports people walk the Glass Hall every day, from the iconic hurlers to the stellar soccer players. From the cross country stars to the volleyball prodigies, or from orienteering internationals to taekwondo champions. It's a privilege for us to have so many gifted athletes from so many different disciplines in the same building. I'm proud to help bring swimming to the front of that list.

Golf

SENIOR GOLF

By Louis Todd

On the 14th of March, our senior golf team competed in the first round of the Senior College Championship. We travelled to Millicent Golf Club Kildare, who played host to all the teams in the region. Our four person team was paired with players from Bagenalstown and Castlecomer. It was a tough format against some of the country's best teams and we unfortunately missed out on the second round, but we look forward to returning and competing next year.

JUNIOR GOLF

By Conor Brophy

Thomas Langton, Eoin Brennan and myself had a great day representing St Kieran's College in the Golf Ireland Leinster Schools competition in the Heath Golf Club in Portlaoise. Mr McCormack accompanied us on the day, our tee time was 11am, we played some good golf and we really enjoyed the experience but unfortunately we came up just short on the day. We look forward to next year with preparations underway already!



Junior Golf Team: Conor Brophy, Eoin Brennan, Thomas Langton



Senior Golf Team: Sean Keenan, James O'Shea, James McEvoy, Louis Todd, Pádraig Kirwan.

Badminton

The 2021/2022 academic year saw the return of Badminton to St Kieran's College. Students got the opportunity to take part in the Kilkenny Inter-schools Badminton Competition which was held in the Watershed and hosted a range of schools from around Kilkenny over two separate day competitions. St Kieran's college were fortunate to have a wide range of teams competing over the two days from division 1 to 3 in both junior and senior, some of whom it was their first opportunity to play badminton for the school.

Mark McPhillips

Badminton this year was a bit strange, to say the least. With COVID restricting easing off, it was great to see a school sporting event in full flow. For some students, it was their first time picking up a badminton racket in over a year, maybe even more for others. The competition involved many local Kilkenny schools which made the day very enjoyable. St Kieran's secured two second place wins in both division 2 and 3. Division 1 had an underwhelming performance. However, it was an enjoyable day and we had a bit of fun. Hopefully we can have a better year next year.

Michael John (MJ) Banville

On the 28th of February 2022 the U14 badminton tournament was held in the Watershed Kilkenny. I was representing St Kieran's college team alongside my class mates. We had two teams, a division 1 and a division 2 team. With some good performances by both our teams against Kilkenny college and Scoil Aireagail our division 1 team ended up finishing second, losing out on first place to Kilkenny College. Overall I found this to be a fun experience, not only because we came second but I also enjoy playing badminton and I was with my friends while doing it. We would like to thank Mr Dunphy for his work in preparing us for the tournaments as well as for guiding us throughout the tournaments which we took part in. Hopefully next year will see the return of many more competitions with more wins for the St Kieran's College badminton teams.



Back row (l-r); Mark McPhillips, Matthew Mulligan, Oisín Farrell, Michael John (MJ) Banville, Thomas James (TJ) Comerford, Daniel Patterson, Rory Connellan and Ronan O'Brien. Front row (l-r); Nevin Benny, Marc Doheny, Joseph Langton and Ivin Sony.



Max Coffee, Jacob Cassin, Cian Farrell and John Dermody.



Ronan O'Brien, Charlie Cleere, Mark McPhillips and Matthew Mulligan.



Ross Gormley, Daniel Murphy, Kian Kealy and Stephen Butler.

Boxing

Transition Year student Jack Johnson is a Leinster Youth Boxing Champion, Jack also won the Junior 1 category (52kg) Barum International Boxing Cup in Devon in November.



Aidan O'Connell

1st Year Student student Aidan O'Connell, a member of Paulstown Boxing Club, won the 65 kg All Ireland Boxing Final to become National Champion in December in Dublin



Cian Stapleton

stopping his opponent in the second round. Meanwhile fellow 1st year student Cian Stapleton won the National Juvenile Championships Boy 3 52kg title in Dublin in April.



Jack Johnson

Basketball

St Kieran's College entered first and second year teams into the South East league again this year. They played against teams from Callan, Castlecomer, Carlow and two Clonmel teams. They played some brilliant and exciting games that went right down to the wire, with both teams narrowly missing out on qualification for the finals. It was a credit to many players who had never played a basketball game before that they were so competitive and able to win a few games too. The teams trained every Friday after school under the excellent guidance of Lawrence 'Puff' Summers. It was great to see many lads put on a St Kieran's jersey for the first time. Well done to all the lads.



Handball

By Cathal Buckley

The first competition was in December. It was the 2020 All Irelands that were put off due to Covid. Conor Doyle won the Boys U14 singles All Ireland final against Diarmuid O'Connell from

Cork and Cathal Buckley and John Hayes were the Boys U14 doubles runners up against Tomas O'Connor/Cian Dunning from Cork. In March the 2022 All Ireland Finals were on. Conor Doyle won the Boys U16 singles against

Tomas O'Connor from Cork while Cathal Buckley and John Hayes won the Boys U16 Doubles against Cian Dunning/Diarmuid O'Connell from Cork. Well done to Conor, Cathal and John on their achievements this year.



Equestrian

The annual St Kieran's College Equestrian Event could not take place in September 2021, as Covid 19 restrictions kept a grip on the country. Although events were few and far between this year, one glorious Sunday in November saw the school's equestrian team back in action. On Sunday 7th November 2021 St Kieran's College Equestrian Team took part in The White Cup, in Warrington Topflight Equestrian Centre, which also saw the inaugural Tiggy Hancock Cup take place, with all proceeds going to Tiggy's Trust. St Kieran's College Black Team made it through to the Jump-off comfortably in an event that saw 40 teams battle it out. Unfortunately, the team's hopes were dashed when they fell at the last fence. However, they redeemed themselves in flying fashion in the Open Individual Competition, taking home a clean sweep of 1st (Paddy Fleming, Coppengagh Tom Sparrow), 3rd (Daniel Ring, Magneto Cruise Control), 4th (Ted Donohoe, Blessington Mayfly Master) and 5th (Pierce Costello, Don't Bother To Knock), in a field of 32 competitors. Chef d'équip: Ms J Brennan and Ms H Hickey.



Daniel Ring - Magneto Cruise Control.



Paddy Fleming - Coppengagh Tom Sparrow.



3rd Year student, James Brennan, who represented Ireland and won the Nations Youth Cup Championships in Holland in September. He also came 4th overall in the National U16 Individual Jump-Off in the RDS in July and jumped for Ireland in the European Championships in August.



Pierce Costelloe - Don't Bother To Knock.



Ted Donohoe - Blessington Mayfly Master.

Individual Achievements



RAGGETT BROTHERS

The Raggett brothers, Mikey and Louis. Louis finished 2nd in the National Irish Athletics Indoor Combined Event U-16 in Athlone and Evergreen FC/Shamrocks star Mikey captained the Irish FAI Schools team. Well done lads, great achievements all round.



EOGHAN WHELAN

6th Year student Eoghan Whelan who represented Ireland in the European Youth Orienteering Championships and who was also selected for the World Championships which took place in Turkey last September.

NOAH GILMORE

Well done to Transition Year student Noah Gilmore who won Gold in Leinster Irish Athletics Long Jump with Kilkenny City Harriers.



KEVIN O'CONNOR



Freestyle kayaking involves performing tricks such as a front-flip or a cartwheel in a natural or man-made feature called a hole or a wave, there are many different moves each with their own unique names and points given

for scoring the move. The average freestyle competition consists of three rounds. Preliminaries, Semi's and finals. Only 10 paddlers will make it into the semi's and only 5 of them will make it to finals.

During each round paddlers will receive 3, 45 second rides attempting to score as many points as possible with some top rides having over 1250 points in one ride. With the top 2 scores being added together except in finals when only your best ride will count.

Freestyle competitions have many different categories which can be subdivided into gender and age. K1 (Double blade): Senior men, senior women, junior men and junior women. C1 (single blade): Senior men and senior women.

Squirt boats (thin slice boat) and OC1 (short open canoe) boats only have one category each as very few people compete in these classes.

Freestyle boats are far shorter than traditional river kayaks which allows for a greater range of motion while attempting to perform tricks.

Every 2 years the freestyle world championships is held at a preselected venue with a freestyle feature, this competition will be taking place in Nottingham for 2022. The European championships is another international event which I competed in in 2021. Euros occur every 2 years as well. I have been selected to compete in the 2022 world championships in Nottingham.

Athletics



Back row (l-r) Tom Lodge, Alex Sheridan, Jack Delaney, Naoise Dempsey, Brogan McAvinney, Eoghan Whelan, Noah Gilmore. Front row (l-r) Matthew McAvinney, Ruairi McEvoy, Chris Delaney, Oisín Marry, Matias Quaglia, Davis Williams, Aidan Cashin. Missing from Photo: Daire Mahon, Paul Mahon

South Leinster Athletics:

Alex Sheridan gold senior 100m, bronze senior 200m; Tom Lodge gold senior 1500m; David Williams silver senior 1500m; Daragh Mahon gold senior high jump; Ruairi McEvoy bronze U16 Mile; Chris Delaney silver u16 200m; Matias Quaglia gold minor 100m, gold minor long jump; Aidan Cashin silver inter 2k walk; Paul Mahon gold inter 2k walk; Jack Delaney, Eoghan Whelan, Daragh Mahon and Brogan McAvinney Silver in 4x400m senior relay.

CROSS COUNTRY

Lunchtime training in the Castle Park commenced this year in October after a year's break due to Covid. The run unfortunately was without the powerhouse and enthusiastic Mr O'Keeffe, who has left a lifetime legacy behind him. We have tremendous gratitude to him for all that he has achieved in cross country running in St Kieran's College over the years and wish Mr O'Keeffe the very best of luck in his retirement.

The lunchtime run on Mondays and Wednesdays is an incremental run which intensifies over the season in preparation for the inter-schools competitions. All students are welcome to run regardless of fitness level.

The annual Michael Brannigan Memorial was held for First Years on Friday, December 3rd. Healthy pre-match rivalry was clearly evident for the inter-class competition. The winner was Michael Tynan with Paddy Cuddihy and Jack Rattigan coming second and third respectively. 1A3 were victorious for the team prize.

The South Leinster School Cross Country Championship was held in Carlow GAA Pitches. St Kieran's took home four medals on the day. Our intermediate and senior teams were victorious in first place and our minor team came second. Impressive finishes were Dan Carroll in 5th position in the



Minor Team - 2nd in South Leinster, 2nd in Leinster and 6th in All-Ireland

Back row (l-r): Mr P. Darmody, Dan Carroll, Jack Rhattigan, Cillian Dunphy, Ben Nevin, Mikey Barron, Paddy Cuddihy, Mr G. Walsh. Front row (l-r): Tom Glennon, Jake O'Neill, Tomás Caroll, Eoin McDermott, Eoin O'Gorman, Paddy Challoner, Jonathan Kennedy. Missing from photo: Dara O'Neill, Mícheál O'Mahoney, Tom Challoner



Junior Team

Back row (l-r) Mr P. Darmody, Cathal Rossiter, Michael Tynan, Sean Carroll, Mr G. Walsh. Front row (l-r) Cormac Holden, Luke Brown, Oisín Farrell, Ned Spelman. Missing from photo: Dan MacEneaney



Senior - 1st in South Leinster

Back row (l-r) Mr P. Darmody, Jack Delaney, Tom Lodge, Brogan McAviney, Eoghan Whelan, Mr G. Walsh. Front row (l-r) Jack Archbold, David Williams, Paul Mahon, Conor Brett, Dylan Pratt Stapleton.

minors. Kealan Gray, Ruairi McEvoy and Charlie Fitzgerald finished 7th, 10th and 11th in the intermediate race respectively.

In the senior race, our four scorers were in the first fifteen i.e. David Williams, Tom Lodge, Brogan McAviney and Eoghan Whelan in 3rd, 5th, 7th and 15th respectively, which allowed the boys to comfortably take their title. History for the college was made in Carlow when our second intermediate team was rewarded third place.

Four teams qualified for the Leinster Championship in Santry Demesne in mid- February. The day threw everything at us weather wise. It was real cross country weather. The minors put in a solid performance securing team siver. David Williams secured a very impressive 7th position, which allowed him to qualify for the All Ireland as an individual. Unfortunately, the intermediate and senior teams did not qualify.



Intermediate Team - 1st and 3rd in South Leinster
 Back row (l-r) Mr P. Darmody, Luke Phelan, Aidan Cashin, Noah Walsh Brennan, Jack Holohan, Mr G. Walsh.
 Second row (l-r) Conor Gibbons, Chris Delaney, Sean Maloney, Louis Fitzgerald, Charlie Fitzgerald.
 Front row (l-r) Ruairi McEvoy, Matthew McAviney, Oisin Marry, Seán Rossiter. Missing from photo: Kealan Gray, Timmy Brennan, Eoin Brennan

The All Ireland in Mallusk Playing Fields in Antrim on March 12th saw our minors and David Williams line out in the black and white hoops. In this prestigious race, our minors gave it everything despite half the team decimated with illness. We called on our fantastic subs Jake O’ Neill, Eoin McDermott and Tom Glennon to step

up to the challenge and that they did in wet rough terrain. Dan Carroll ran a brilliant race finishing 9th. However, the minors came up short on the day but they have left a mark for next year. David Williams had a mighty race finishing 16th and we look forward to more achievements from all our runners next year.

MICHAEL BRANNIGAN RUN

Congrats to Michael Tynan who won the First Year Michael Brannigan Memorial Mile Cross Country Run around the school campus. Michael just edged Paddy Cuddihy and Jack Rhatigan in a very close contest. Everyone in First Year took part - great fun! Thanks to Mr Darmody for organising.



Matias Quaglia

TRACK & FIELD

Well done to Paul Mahon and Aidan Cashin both (TY) who won Gold and Silver in the 2k Race Walk and to Matias Quaglia (1st Year) who won Gold in the Long Jump in the Irish Athletic Schools South Leinster Championships in IT Carlow recently.



Paul Mahon and Aidan Cashin.

Soccer

1ST YEAR SOCCER

By Noah Power

Leinster Cup

In the first round of the cup, we beat St Mary's CBS of Portlaoise 6-1, in Portlaoise. This was our first match our team had played, everyone played great and linked up well even though we weren't used to playing together. They had a few good players but St Kieran's defended well and the midfield and attackers were exceptional.

In the second round of the cup, we faced Firhouse C.C from Tallaght. We had heard that this team had a lot of good players and were doing well so far in the cup. We didn't know what to expect from this team but everyone went out and played like the last game. In the end we beat them well, the final score was 12-0. Everyone was proud and happy with this win as we hadn't expected to have that good a win. The match was played on the grass pitch in the Watershed.

The third game in the cup was a lot tougher than any of our other games, this was due to weather conditions and the other team had a very strong side. This game was against St Joseph's Rochfortbridge. We went 1-0 up in the first few minutes but they equalised from a brilliant free kick. We scored another goal late in the second half to beat them 2-1. The weather was extremely bad but every player battled on to the end, this was a big match for us and we were delighted to win. This game was played on the Astro pitch in the Watershed.

In the fourth round we lost to Wexford CBS in their pitch. We lost 4-2, it was a tough match and they were a good team. We came back level 2-2 but we were unlucky on the day. It was a great achievement to reach the last 8 of an all-Leinster competition and had some great wins and days out along the way.

Carlow/kilkenny league

We played Johnstown in our first league match, it was a tough match and took us until the second half to score our first goal and then scored our second goal soon after. Johnstown had a few big players and a few decent



Back row (l-r): Mr M. Shiel, Daniel Hayes, Gearoid O Shea, Michael Barron, Jayden Maher, Jack Rhatigan, Cillian O Neill, Cillian Dunphy, Ben McEvoy, Conor Brennan. Front row (l-r) : Rayan Oweka, Rory Glynn, Cillian Maher, Ben Fahey, Conal Doyle, Isaac Okorafor, Jack Mulcahy, Noah Power, Rian O Hare, Cian Dermody. Missing from photo: Paddy Grace and Aidan Keating.

soccer players. This game was played on the grass pitch in the Watershed.

Our next match was against Kilkenny CBS, we drew 1-1 but were very unlucky not to win that day. We still topped the group and played in a league semi-final against Gaelcholaiste, Carlow recently. We won 9-0 and played very well as a team that day. We are now into the league final which will be played in the next couple of weeks.

UNDER 15 (MINOR) SOCCER

by Ruairi Phelan {captain}

This year we had a strong team and we won our league and had a great experience but unfortunately, we lost in the cup.

The first game that we played this year was away against Tyndall College Carlow, this was in November and was a cup game. We won against them 2-3 even though we had not completed all of the trials for the team and did not have the team fully selected.

Our next game was in December against St Mary's Academy CBS Carlow. This was a home league match, they were a good team and beat us 3-2 despite us being two goals ahead of them at one point, we thought we had the match won and we stopped performing at our best and let them

back into the game.

We had another match in December where we played Tullow CS, this time we won by a fine margin and scored six goals without conceding, this was also an away cup match. Some top-class goals on the day from the likes of Mikey Rohan and Kieran Timmons.

Then after our Christmas break, in January we played a league match against Presentation College Carlow, we won against them pretty well and scored five goals while they scored only two. In this game, we had great performances from Bill McDermott, Hugh Whelan and Dara Behan.

Soon after that, we played against Tullow CS for a second time but this time in the league. We had a good win again this time giving a lot of our squad a run.

Next, we played our last cup match against Wexford CBS and lost. We played very well against the eventual winners and only went down by one goal. An excellent performance from Ciaran Power in the goals kept us in it. This allowed us to focus on the upcoming league final which we found out was against St Mary's Academy CBS Carlow who had beaten us before in our first league match, they had also won the league four years in a row previously and were going for the fifth so we knew it was not going to be an easy match.

On the day of the match we toggled out and prepared for the event, it was two-all at halftime and was a very close game as we expected. We kept trying and scored two goals in a row without conceding, they then came back with one goal with very little time remaining. Top class performances again from Rob McEvoy who was solid all year as well as Hugh Whelan at centre back. Ciaran was brilliant in the goals and pulled off some excellent saves which kept us ahead. After the referee blew the whistle for full time we all ran and celebrated with the trophy. I was nervous but the speech went well thank god.

Overall I had a great experience playing with the minor soccer team and I had great fun throughout the year. I would recommend for anyone who plays soccer to try out for the team.

U17 SOCCER

by Charlie Fitzgerald TY

We started our campaign with a defeat on a wet day in Scanlon park against Carlow CBS in the league. We bounced back in the cup competition away to Grennan college. Noah Gilmore with an excellent solo goal gave us the platform to win.

Our next match was away to Colaiste Chill Mhantain. It was a cracker of a game in which we hit the post, the crossbar and even a disallowed goal but we just could not equalise and that was the end of our cup campaign unfortunately.

After the Easter break, we travelled to Carlow town for a must win game in order to reach the league final. Pres Carlow provided a hostile atmosphere but with goals thanks Noah, David Fitzpatrick and Jacob we progressed to the final.

We are eagerly awaiting the final against Carlow CBS in the coming weeks. I'd like to thank Mr O'Sullivan and Mr Morrissey for they're efforts this year.



Back row (l-r): Mr C. Delaney, Louis Raggett, Hugh Whelan, Bill McDermott, Jamie Tallon, Rafael Palcynski, Lewis Kenealy, Mr P. Kelly. Middle row (l-r): Aaron Fox, Conor Farrell, Mikey Rohan, Kieran Timmons, Charlie Green, Hugh Kelly, Dara Behan. Front row (l-r): Dean Herbert, Danny Carey, Pierce Costello, Ruairi Phelan (Captain), Thomas Langton, Ciaran Power, Rob McEvoy .



Back row (l-r): Mr P O'Sullivan and Mr S. Morrissey. Middle row (l-r): Josh Owens, Jacob Cassin, Cian Kelly, Oisín O'Reilly, Charlie Cleere, Mark McPhillips, Noah Gilmore. Front row (l-r): Jake O'Brien, James Brennan Smyth, David Fitzpatrick, Dean O'Brien, Frank Noukeu. Missing: Charlie Fitzgerald, Luke O'Donnell, Joe Greene, Eoghan Bennett, Christian Connick, Joseph McInerney.

Football

2ND YEAR FOOTBALL REPORT 2021-2022

by Bill McDermott

We started with trials for the second-year football team in mid-September with every class getting a chance to try out for a place on the final panel with Mr Windle and Mr Morgan. We had a few training sessions before we played our first challenge match against Good Counsel in New Ross. Mr Windle told us that Good Counsel were an A division side while we were a B division side and that we would find it hard to beat Good Council. Luckily, we scored 6 or 7 goals in the first half and that allowed us to ease off in the second half. In the second half we scored more points than goals so Mr Windle was very happy with us, especially the full forward line.

Our first league match was at home against Carlow CBS. Our match against Good Counsel really stood to us here and we easily defeated the Carlow team. Our next league game was away to Bunclody in Wexford. Mr Windle was not at this match, so Mr Morgan had to do all the organising, but he was helped by Mr Nolan. We scored lots of goals and this made Mr Morgan very happy, but he was not too happy when I scored an own goal. We stopped off in McDonald's on the way home, which we were delighted with!

Our knockout game was due to be played after Christmas against Athy but it took them ages to ring Mr Windle to organise the match. We trained on Friday evenings after school in preparation for this match. Unfortunately, we lost two starting players on our team to injury in the weeks before the match so we had to change our team around. Athy were a strong team and played some good football and at half time were losing by 5 points having played against the wind. In the second half we had the wind, and some supporters came out to watch the match at lunchtime and this had a big impact on our performance. With a few minutes to go I thought we had won the game when Kieran Timmons slotted home a peno to give us the lead. Unfortunately, Athy won the kickout, ran the field and



First Year Football Team.



Second Year Football Team

Back row (l-r): Conor Heffernan, David Barcoe, Hugh Whelan, Eoghan Cahill, Bill McDermott, Louis Raggett. Third row (l-r): Mr S. Morgan, Larry Phelan, Philip Carrigan, Cian Walsh, Charlie Green, Euan Wall, Robbie Lynch, Mick O'Dwyer, Mr R. Windle. Second row (l-r): James Holohan, Daniel Smith, Dean Herbert, Conor Millea, Diarmuid Beehan, Kieran Timmins, Conor McEvoy. Front row (l-r): Cian Doherty, Conor Dillon, Timmy Corr, Jack Walsh, Jake Mullen, Fionn Mahoney, James O'Brien, Scott Hennessy. Missing from picture: Luke Lawlor, Hugh Kelly, Joe Power and Daniel Ryan.

scored a goal with the last kick of the game to win the match by one point.

This was very disappointing, but I think I can say for all of us involved that we really enjoyed playing Gaelic football and I'm looking forward to playing it again in the next few years.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL 2021/2022

By Sean Bergin

The first match took place against Portlaoise CBS at home in St Kieran's. This was our first match as a team and we had no challenge matches prior to the game.

The weather was terrible on this day which resulted in both teams struggling to get scores. This was a very scrappy game and finished 0:07 to 0:07.

The second game of the year took place in Carlow town hurling club against Carlow CBS. We needed a win to potentially top the group. We took an early lead and from here the scores kept coming. It was like men against boys. The game ended 9:13 to 0:03 which basically guaranteed us to top our group. This put us into a south Leinster semi-final.

The semi-final took place in St Kieran's College against Wexford CBS. We knew that this Wexford side would be up for the game and would be a massive challenge. It was neck and neck throughout the game but we pulled through in the end. The game finished 4:13 to 4:06 with a massive 2-10 from Sean Hunt. This put us into a South Leinster Final which we later found out to be against Bunclody.

The South Leinster Final took place in Eir Óg, Carlow against Bunclody. We

were very familiar with this Bunclody team because we played them 2 years ago in the South Leinster Final which was also in Eir Óg. Bunclody were looking to get revenge and were going to give it everything for this match. The weather was very bad for the final and there was a very strong wind in it. Both teams were struggling with scores but in the second half the subs brought on made a massive difference and the game ended 3:06 to 3:03. Our captain Oisín O'Reilly who had a great performance lifted the trophy and we became South Leinster champions.

As we go to print we are awaiting the Leinster Final, where we will take on the winners of Terenure College and Ardee C.S.



Junior Football Team

Back row (l-r): Rory Connellan, Joe Greene, Killian Tallon, Ed McDermott. Fourth row (l-r): Jake Byrne, David Langton, Bobby Murphy, Eoin O'Neill, Sean Roberts, Charlie Bibby, Evan Murphy. Third row (l-r): Ed Lauhoff, Ruarc Sweeney, Christian Connick, Cian O'Reilly, Harry Boyle, Cathal Hickey, Noah Gilmore. Second row (l-r): Mr P. Fitzgerald, Aaron McEvoy, James O'Neill, Ned Langton, Jamie Tallon, Sean Casey, Sean Deely, Mark Fitzpatrick, Harry Lanigan, Mr E. Walsh. Front row (l-r): Jeff Neary, Oisín Bateman, Noah Manogue, Conor Doyle, Sean Hunt, Oisín O'Reilly (C), Michael Keating, Tom McPhillips, Chris Delaney, Sean Bergin. Missing from photo: Tom Cleere, Sean Carrigan, Joe Hughes, Ben Crowe, Eoin Bennett.



First Year Hurling Blitz



Hurling

FIRST YEAR HURLING

by Cian Dermody

Our first day hurling with the school was a blitz involving other schools from Kilkenny like CBS, Callan, Abbey CS, Johnstown and Castlecomer. Our year was divided into different teams who either played in the school pitches, O'Loughlin Gaels or Palmerstown (Dicksboro). Everyone was excited to play for the school. Some teams won and some didn't so it wasn't a bad day out.



We then had a first year class league where each class played against each other over a couple of weeks at lunch time. This was great fun and each class had a different teacher managing them, Mr Delaney, Mr Morrissey, Mr O'Sullivan and Mr Shiel. 1A2 and 1A3 ended up playing in the final where we got time off class to play with the other classes watching. 1A3 won a thrilling match.

First year panels for the year were then made after a few weeks of trials and another blitz. Three panels altogether were made with over 80 players. The first year team then had tough matches against St Peter's of Wexford, CBS and

Good Counsel winning two of the games. We saw great improvement after a few weeks of training and are focusing on more tournaments and a shield final coming up. Thanks to our teachers Mr McCormack, Mr Brennan and Mr Morrissey for the coaching and organising of training sessions and matches.

SECOND YEAR HURLING

Second year hurling started with over 100 students appearing for trials in late December and early January. There





Second Year Hurling

were a number of league matches with wins over St Peters and Good Counsel getting us to a league final against city rivals CBS. In what was a very good game in great March conditions we ran out winners delivering the first silverware for us after no schools hurling last year.

The win put us into the championship semi-final and we continued the league form with a good win over St Peters in New Ross. Again conditions were perfect for hurling and in what was a very tough game we eventually ran out easy winners. We continue to train hard as we await the result of the other semi final.

Although the hurling year has dragged on we are really enjoying the hurling this year. It is great to get back hurling together in school. We are looking forward to the final and hope we can retain the Dr Barry Cup. Thanks to Mr Farrell and Mr Ryan for their efforts this year.

JUNIOR B HURLING

Trials for the U16B team began after the conclusion of the 16A campaign. Huge interest was reflected in the numbers that turned out for trials during several lunchtimes. Two 30 man squads were assembled for the first game against near rivals Kilkenny CBS. St Kieran's, consisting of a black team and a white team, won both games comprehensively on the day. Next up, St Kieran's' White team played Abbey Community College running out winners with Noah Manogue, Michael Lynch and Chris Delaney best on show. Well done to all involved and best of luck in the remaining games in 2022.



Junior B Hurling



Junior B Hurling



Junior A Hurling

Back row (l-r): James Hughes; Ed McDermott (vice-captain); Ben Phelan; Seán Roberts; Evan Murphy; John Fitzpatrick; Harry Boyle; Ross O'Neill. Third row (l-r): Aaron McEvoy; Ed Lauhoff; Rory Connellan; Bobby Murphy; Conor Brophy; Timmy Kelly; James O'Neill; Conor Hoyne. Second row (l-r): Mr Tom Hogan; Conor Dalton; Tom McPhillips; Seán Hunt; Conor Doyle; Seán Casey; Cathal Buckley; Seán Bergin; Mr David Hennessy. Front row (l-r): Cathal Hickey; Tomás Roche; Jim Conlon; Mikey Rohan; Jeff Neary (Captain); Stephen Manogue; Jacob Breslain; Oisín Bateman; Mr Conor Ryan. Missing: Ciallin Brennan; Seán Carrigan; Tom Cleere; Joe Hughes; Noah Manogue.

JUNIOR HURLING 2021-2022

by Bobby Murphy and Ben Phelan TY

We started off the junior hurling in September with trials for the panel for the 2021/2022 season. 80 students trialled for the panel for a period of 3 weeks. As part of the trials we played St Flannan's from Clare in a challenge match where we travelled to Borris-in-Ossory. It was a tight match but we came out on top beating them by 2 points. The final panel was then picked where Mr Hogan and Mr Hennessy picked a panel of 36 students. We then trained twice a week in preparation for the league which was starting soon after. Our first league game was against St Peter's from Wexford which was played in St Peter's. It was a competitive match but we won comfortably in the end. Our next game was against CBS in Kieran's and we knew we had to be at our best to beat them. It was a very tough game as we knew it would be but thankfully we pulled away and beat them by a few points. Following our 2 wins, we were sat top of the table heading into our final game vs Good Counsel from New Ross in Kieran's. On a windy and rainy day we managed to beat them by a big margin. As we were



top of the table after playing everyone, we were into the league final but there was a long wait until the final so we had plenty of time to prepare. Over the Christmas break we played a very strong CBC team from Cork in Kieran's in a challenge match. We played the match over 3 thirds and overall we won the game. After this game the league final was soon coming so we trained hard and prepared for CBS in the league final on Thursday the 3rd of March. The match was in the James Stephens Gaa Club, Kells Road. Match day came around and we were all extremely fired up and ready for the challenge ahead of us. We were very nervous at the start and CBS took

advantage and scored an early goal. However, we turned it around and got on top for the majority of the match and beat them 3-16 to 2-9.

Team: Stephen Manogue, Conor Brophy, Seán Roberts, Bobby Murphy, Timmy Kelly, Evan Murphy, Tom McPhillips, Jeff Neary (Captain), Rory Connellan, Ben Phelan, Ed McDermott, Tomás Roche, Aaron McEvoy, Ciallin Brennan, Seán Hunt.

Scorers: Aaron McEvoy (1-08, 0-5F), Ed McDermott (2-03), Ben Phelan (0-2), Seán Hunt and Tom McPhillips (0-1 each).

Subs: Ed Lauhoff, Seán Bergin, Cathal Hickey (used), Tom Cleere, Oisín Bateman, Conor Doyle, Seán Casey, Joe

Hughes, Harry Boyle, John Fitzpatrick, Conor Hoyne, Jim Conlon, Noah Manogue, Conor Dalton, Mikey Rohan, Cathal Buckley, Jacob Breslin, James Hughes, Ross O'Neill, James O'Neill, Seán Carrigan

As League winners we were straight through to the Leinster semi-final. We would face Good Counsel in Good Counsel. We knew it would be much tougher than the last time we played them because they had home advantage. We arrived down to a very hostile atmosphere in Good Counsel where they had their whole school out supporting them. The first half was probably the hardest half of hurling we played all year. It was a very tight game at half time. However, after a few minutes into the second half we got a very important goal and some good scores and started to pull away. The final score was 4-13 to 0-9. We were then into the Leinster Final vs CBS again after they beat St Peter's in the semi-final. There were 10 days until the match. As each day went by we were getting more and more excited for our last and most important game of the year. The match was on Wednesday the 23rd of March in Larchfield. There was a big crowd at the match from both schools. CBS started off the better as they got an early goal but we came back and got a few unanswered points and took the lead. After that it was point for point until we got a goal late into the first half to extend our lead. At half time we were 4 points up and in the second half we got a few early scores and never really looked in doubt as we won 1-20 to 1-12 and were crowned Leinster Champions.

Team: Stephen Manogue, Conor Brophy, Seán Roberts, Bobby Murphy, Timmy Kelly, Evan Murphy, Tom McPhillips, Jeff Neary (Captain), Rory Connellan, Ben Phelan, Ed McDermott, Tomás Roche, Aaron McEvoy, Ciallin Brennan, Seán Hunt.

Scorers: Aaron McEvoy (1-12, 0-10F), Ed McDermott (0-03), Timmy Kelly (0-02), Jeff Neary (0-02), Seán Hunt (0-01).

Subs: Ed Lauhoff, Seán Bergin, Oisín Bateman, Cathal Hickey, Conor Doyle (used), Tom Cleere, Seán Casey, Joe Hughes, Harry Boyle, John Fitzpatrick, Conor Hoyne, Jim Conlon, Conor Dalton, Mikey Rohan, Cathal Buckley, Jacob Breslin, James Hughes, Ross O'Neill, James O'Neill, Seán Carrigan





Senior Hurling

Back row (l-r): Eibhan McEvoy, Ben Whitty, Ted Dunne, Bill Hughes, Matthew Kelleher, Paddy Langton. Fourth row (l-r): Sam McEvoy, Adam O'Connor, Tommy Phelan, Rob Ring, Anthony Ireland Wall, Killian Doyle, Ruairdhi Holden, Mr M. Walsh. Third row (l-r): Richie McEvoy, Jack Forristal, Luke Connellan, Pdraig Naddy, Mark Holohan, Niall Shortall, Alan Dunphy, Cathal Keegan. Second row (l-r): Mr R. Ruth, Mikey Raggett, Johnny Keane, Killian Carey, Jimmy Lennon, Donagh Murphy, James Carroll, Sean Moore, Alex Sheridan, Mr B. Dowling. Front row (l-r): Joe Fitzpatrick, Pdraig Lennon, Harry Shine, Jack Butler, Conor Cody, Mick Doheny, Conor Walton, Naoise Dempsey.

SENIOR HURLING 2021/2022

By Pdraig Lennon

The 2021/2022 senior hurling season started with trials in early September. Following the absence of schools hurling last year the lads were more determined than ever to hurl for the school and this was shown with over one hundred lads putting themselves forwards for trials. The trials were of an exceptional quality and a provisional panel was picked for two league matches against St Peters and Good Counsel. With the Kilkenny club championships still underway a significant number of players were unavailable for these fixtures. Despite this the team still produced strong performances against quality opposition who we also happened to draw in the group stage of the Leinster championship.

With club championships drawing to a close following the league, challenge matches were arranged against Munster opposition in the form of Thurles CBS, De La Salle Waterford and CBC Cork, all teams with serious ambitions for the sacred Harty Cup which gave us an ideal preparation for the championship opener against St Peters at home and Good Counsel away.

After a comfortable twelve point win on a score line of 2-20 to 2-08 against Peters in front of a large home crowd we turned our focus to a much steeper task down in New Ross. Good Counsel have always been our closest rivals at this age since first year and this year was no different. In front of a hostile home crowd and testing conditions underfoot nothing could separate the sides with the game finishing 0-16 to 2-10. In a physical

contest with Adam O'Connor, Naoise Dempsey, Killian Doyle and Ben Whitty the standout performers, both sides progressed onto the semi-final stages after Christmas.

The Christmas break was well spent with training and return fixtures versus CBC and Thurles CBS. After a final challenge match against the Kilkenny u20s and lads like Richie Mcevoy and Alex Sheridan impressing in particular, we felt we were in a great place prior to our Leinster Semi Final against Dublin South. However a poor first half performance and a late goal appeared to have ended our year prematurely with the game finishing 2-13 to 1-13. Fortunately we were given a lifeline due to the fact that Dublin South could not progress to All Ireland Series as they were a combination of schools. The group only had a week to pick themselves up after such a

disappointment before a playoff against our city neighbours and bitter rivals Kilkenny CBS in St John's Park.

A strong home support and a much improved performance with goals from Anthony Ireland Wall and Donagh Murphy helped us to a vital victory on a scoreline of 2-18 to 1-10 and set up an All-Ireland quarter final meeting with Connacht finalists Gort in Cappamore, County Limerick. An impressive first half performance against a gale force wind by backs Jack Butler Sean Moore and Conor Cody powered us to an All-Ireland Semi-final against Harty Cup champions St Joseph's Tulla. The game finished 1-13 to 1-10. After seeing massive underdogs Tulla cause upset after upset throughout the year we were under no illusions regarding the challenge in front of us. We produced our most complete performance of the year in almost perfect conditions in Nenagh with Luke Connellan's goal created by man of the match James Carroll followed by a couple of Ted Dunne points and Harry Shine and Donagh Murphy goals in quick succession after a cagey first half, The final score was 3-16 to 1-11. This match also marked the return from injury of Páidí Lennon and in particular Paddy Langton after a 7 month lay-off which was a massive positive for the group. An All-Ireland Final against Limerick City school Ard Scoil Ris awaited us in Croke Park on St Patrick's Day.

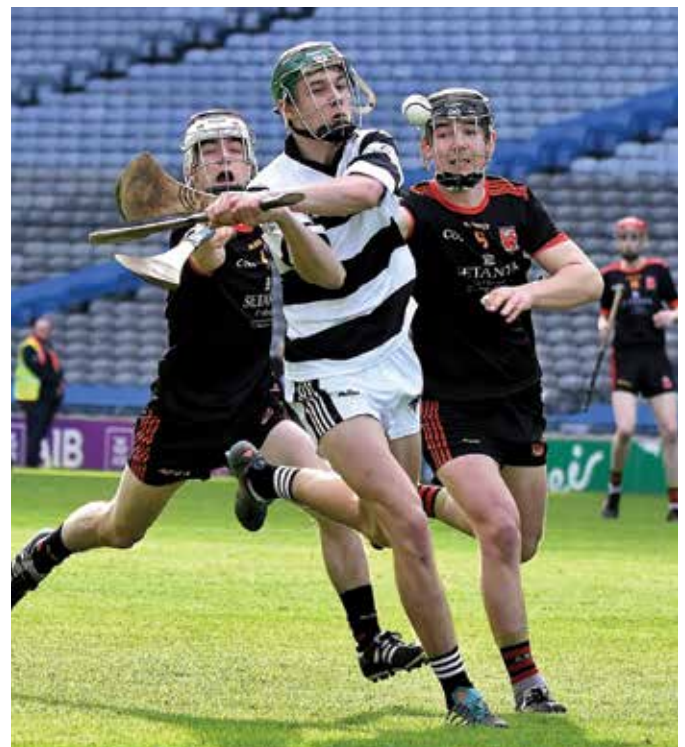
After all the long, hard hours training on the pitch and in the gym at lunchtimes, Friday afternoons and during holidays throughout the year a great bond had been formed within the group. We couldn't wait to take on the challenge before us and bring home a 24th Croke Cup back to the school. A nervy start was understandable given the occasion but the team worked their way into the game with a crucial penalty save by Alan Dunphy and Joe Fitzpatrick providing great leadership from centre back with two inspirational points from distance one after the other. Ard Scoil Ris finished the half well and lead by 5 points at the break. A much improved start to the second half by Kieran's meant the game truly was in the melting pot as it entered the home straight, however an Ard Scoil Ris goal against the run of play with five minutes to go took the sting out of our comeback and meant the Croke Cup would be heading to Limerick City for the first time, 1-17 to 0-15 the final score.

Despite the disappointing result, playing in an All-Ireland Final in Croke Park has been a lifelong dream for all our players and will be an experience which will stand to us for the rest of our lives. The huge crowd made up of students, family and St Kieran's College alumni who travelled to the capital to support the team on the day was greatly appreciated. On behalf of the

panel, special thanks must go to our management team of Mr Dowling, Mr Walsh and Mr Ruth. Mr Dowling and Mr Ruth have been extremely influential in our hurling development since 3rd year. Mr Walsh came in this year with great experience from coaching previous Croke Cup winning teams and also his background in Strength and Conditioning. The training was always of the highest quality with an unbelievable attention to detail. Finally while the year didn't finish as planned for us in terms of silverware, the journey, friendships and bond developed amongst the group and with the supporters cannot be understated and will not be forgotten.

Senior Hurling Panel 2021/2022:
Alan Dunphy, Sean Moore, Adam O'Connor, Jack Butler, Páidí Lennon, Paddy Langton, Richie Mcevoy, Joe Fitzpatrick, Conor Cody, James Carroll, Killian Doyle, Luke Connellan, Ted Dunne, Anthony Ireland Wall, Ben Whitty, Harry Shine, Donagh Murphy, Pádraig Naddy, Alex Sheridan, Naoise Dempsey, Nick Doheny, Killian Carey, Tommy Phelan, Niall Shorthall, Mikey Raggett, Matty Kelleher, Rob Ring, Jimmy Lennon, Eibhan Mcevoy, Mark Holohan, Jack Forristal, Johnny Keane, Conor Walton, Cathal Keegan, Sam Mcevoy, Ruaidhri Holden, Bill Hughes.

(Pictures courtesy of Willie Dempsey)







Leaving Cert Class 2022

