

ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE KILKENNY

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RECORD 2021



The start of a journey: Leaving Cert Class 2021 on their first day in 2015



Dermot Ryan

Message from the President

evident on the pitches and at breaks, traditional State Exams are for this year not traditional but assessments continue, for many months post Christmas meeting up was not possible but staying apart was not permitted either! Online classes, sports within our years, education in and out of the classroom took place, and laughter and fun still as integral a part of each day as we journeyed, together, through this pandemic year.

The College as a centre for the Diocese of Ossory continued its virtual and digital offerings with many new initiatives finding seed here. The Faith Development Group continued to innovate to find ways of making faith gatherings possible and catechetical gatherings real. Parishes from all over Ireland are benefiting from the online MyFaith.ie programme of preparation for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation with literally thousands of children logging in each day - a new generation engaged in a new way with their faith. Emerging now too, from the College is a new means of Adult Catechesis - Aspal - a response to this pandemic time. The College then, through these and so much more, continues to remain at the heart of its service to the Church and Diocesan community.

The Design Team for the New School Build and complete school refurbishment has been busily working away and is now ready for its Stage 2a meeting with the Department and following this a planning application. Contracts have been signed on the exchange of lands to allow the relocation of the City Vocational School from the grounds of St Kieran's. Historic days all contributing to the future of this great College.

Our School Patron has changed too, with the translation to Dublin of, now, Archbishop Dermot Farrell and, as we await a new Bishop, the appointment of Bishop Denis Nulty as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese. We wish Archbishop Dermot well in his new ministry, his continuation to, and support of, St Kieran's College was greatly appreciated by all in the College community. Dublin have in him a very fine leader. We welcome Bishop Denis who joined us for the celebration of St Kieran's day this year and who, in his fine words, has already captured some of the essence of this special place - a place where no human is limited.

The Trustees of St Kieran's College and its Board of Management have been as busy and active as always - technology has ensured that we continued to meet to plan and to guide this immense College. Work has begun on the restoration of the College Organ and over the summer months that work will be completed bringing that sacred sound, to animate our prayer, back into the heart of our College community.

This summer sees the retirement of a good number of our much loved colleagues. We see Ms Anne Wemyss, Ms Ann O'Shea, Mr Niall Connolly, Mr John O'Keeffe and

Ms Bernie Dowling. Their individual contributions are well known - but for their immense contribution to academics, the breadth of their co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, their legacy of immense sporting successes, their deep pastoral care of students, and their contribution to, and support of, their colleagues will be sadly missed. Would that any of us can say we gave our all to this fine institution in the service of the students in our care? That they can, I thank them for their contribution to the environment that tells the young men of tomorrow that, in every way, no human is limited!

As President of the College I work closest with its Management and in doing so I see, at first hand, what it takes to avail of each and every opportunity to improve, to excel, to grow and to develop this fine school community. Its rigorous academic, competitive, and yet caring, nature demands a relentless pursuit of its founding ideals. In Adrian Finan, our Principal, and Ken Maher and Liam Smith our Deputy Principals, we are blessed to have men willing to do whatever is necessary for our students, staff and families on every occasion. Their passion for St Kieran's and all it entails is inspiring in its energy, it is humbling in its commitment and it is breathtaking in its endless nature. I thank them, whole heartedly, for all they have done, and continue to do, to enable our students to work from the belief that in our God-given nature - truly no human is limited.

In pandemic enforced days, without its students, the College is a very different place. Your energy, your laughter, your hunger for learning and your relentlessly competitive nature makes it so that our present and our future is every bit as bright as our past. You set the bar for the one to follow, you define the culture into which they will step, you created the atmosphere from which they will feed - you have made and continue to make the College an academic institution like no other where each of us not only believe, but function from the ideal that no human is limited.

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

Yes, this has been a different and, at times, difficult year. but we have shown in so many ways not what is not possible but what is. We have functioned from the belief that we can do, we will achieve, we are to become the best versions of ourselves. With Kipchoge we too say no human is limited. *Hiems Transiit.*

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

No human is limited. This is the philosophy that drives Eliud Kipchoge in his running and in life. I wrote about Kipchoge in the College Record in 2017 when he had by mere seconds failed to run under two hours for the marathon. A feat he has since achieved when in Vienna on 12th October 2019 he ran a 1hr 59mins 40 seconds to be the only person to ever break two hours for the marathon - a feat many thought impossible. No human is limited - words worth remembering. This past year Kipchoge was beaten into 8th position at the London marathon - something as small as a blocked ear from 15km the reason for the upset.

Arguably, this past year we have been limited, in so many ways. Something small, and unseen, has brought to the fore the brittle nature of our human condition. We have had limits on who we can see, where we can go, how we can work, what we can do and how we can educate. As we prepared to return, the language of pods and bubbles, close contacts, and isolation rooms, had to quickly become the norm to ensure that our schools could re-open. Walls were knocked, rooms rearranged, one way systems put in place, pitches and areas assigned to each year group as every conceivable precaution was taken not only in St Kieran's College but in every school throughout the country and world to ensure that education, in its proper setting, could take place. No human is limited - as I see first hand the dedication and selfless commitment of families, students, teachers, staff, and management ensuring that not only education was possible - but the very best of education - not in the midst of, but in spite of, the pandemic. Truly no human is limited as science and the human spirit has shown in these past months.

Life then, has been found in new ways for so much of what we do and that is very evident here throughout this past academic year. Transition Year was without its many wonderful road trips, but it was not without its fun. Competitive sport was not possible but the competitive edge was still clearly



Adrian Finan

The publication of the College Record over the years has always been an occasion for celebration and each edition chronicles the main events and activities in the life of the College during the academic year just gone. The 2021 edition is no different. The 2020/2021 academic year was very different, however, to any other and this is no doubt reflected in the pages of this year's Record. Public health guidelines dictated that so much of what makes our school special could not take place this year. Although so many of the images and stories of victories and defeats, extra and co-curricular activities, trips, tours, debates, quizzes and so much more that would normally adorn these pages are absent this year, we can justifiably look back with great pride and celebrate the way our whole school community has responded to the many challenges and obstacles presented by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid-19 continues to impact on all of our lives. We have all had concerns about health and safety, both personal and family. We have all had concerns over the wellbeing of students, colleagues and friends – these have weighed on us all. I am aware that some in our school community have had to deal with personal grief; my thoughts are with those of you who have suffered bereavement during this time. We equally think of those who are unwell and dealing with the burden of illness. We are a school both in, and for, our community. This crisis has shown just what a strong community we are and will continue to be. I am sure that I speak for us all when I say that I am enormously proud of how our teachers, students and their families have navigated the difficult and uncharted waters of isolation, social distancing, transitioning to teaching and learning from home, and refraining from social and sporting activities for so many months. It is tough when we are denied what we are accustomed to – going to school or work, socialising with friends, embracing grandparents, gathering as faith communities, visiting the sick in hospital, being there for the bereaved. We are learning that life is tough but that we need to persevere and be resilient. Sacrifices must be made in the interest of the common good.

Message from the Principal

Since March 2020 our school has moved, relatively smoothly, between periods of in-school teaching and learning to remote online teaching and learning. The coronavirus crisis has forced us to look at new technological solutions to ensure education could continue and the implementation of Google Classroom across the school has been one undoubted success to come out of this whole experience. I congratulate our teachers, students and parents for all their efforts in ensuring that our students continued to receive the best possible education throughout these challenging and unprecedented times.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding co-operation and resilience of our students. I have witnessed first-hand how our students have complied impeccably with Covid protocols to ensure a safe learning and working environment for all this year. I am incredibly impressed with how our students have adapted to such challenging circumstances, all the while continuing to engage so well with their school work. I am sure parents played a key role in support here and for that I, and all of my colleagues, are very grateful. I know many of you will have been juggling work and family commitments and I know that can't have been easy. A special word of thanks also to my colleagues on the teaching staff for their exceptional dedication and commitment to all of our students. Our teachers have demonstrated once more, particularly through their willingness to learn and adapt at this time, their commitment to the highest standards of education and care for every individual student.

I wish to thank, in a special way, my four colleagues on the teaching staff – Ms Anne Wemyss, Mr Niall Connolly, Ms Bernadette Dowling and Mr John O'Keeffe - who retire after a combined 129 years of service to St Kieran's College. For how they have cared for and generously shared their talents with the boys, instilled an appetite for learning, a concern for others and a curiosity about life. For how they have delivered much more than the subjects they taught and were exceptionally generous with their own time in the extra-curricular arena. We are most grateful. I would also like to thank Ms Ann O'Shea for her support and care for our students and to wish her well in her retirement as an SNA in the school.

This year saw the departure of Bishop Dermot Farrell to take up his new appointment as Archbishop of Dublin. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Archbishop Dermot for his work as Patron of our school over the last number of years and we wish him well in his new role. We welcome Bishop Denis Nulty, Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Ossory, as the new Patron of St Kieran's College. We also thank him for leading the celebration of Mass, albeit virtually, on the feast of St Kieran in March this year. I would also like to thank our Trustees, our Board of Management, the Parents' Association and Student Council for their ongoing support and commitment to the school. It is the amalgam of the work of all those in our school community that makes St Kieran's College so special and I acknowledge and commend all those whose contribution and generosity

ensure that we face the future with confidence and optimism. I especially thank my colleagues in school management, Mr Ken Maher and Mr Liam Smith as past pupils theirs is a labour of love for everything that is the College - for their energy for the work, deep appreciation of our past and vision for its future - I thank them. We look forward to an imminent announcement in relation to our new school build, a project that will ensure this school enjoys a progressive and dynamic future. For his ongoing work on this project and for his support to all of us in the school, I would like to especially thank the College President and the Chair of our Board of Management, Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan.

Thank you again to all who have contributed articles and photos and helped to create a very special edition of this year's College Record, one that records a unique year. In particular I commend Ms Eadaoin Maher and Ms Tina Lawlor for the countless hours they give each year in ensuring that the Record continues to be a publication of which we can all be very proud.

To all students due to sit their State Examinations we wish you every success. It is unfortunate that our Third Year students will not sit their examinations in June as planned but their work over the course of the last three years will be recognised in due course with certification. I was incredibly impressed with how our Third Year students took the news that the examinations were cancelled and how they have continued to engage so well with their studies.

I would like to say something directly to the Leaving Certificate students, the class of 2021. You have been magnificent. You have experienced a senior cycle like no other before. You have endured much uncertainty, yet have kept positive and committed to each other and to the College. You have kept the faith, lived the tradition, and have left a strong legacy. Whenever this year is talked about, and it will be frequently, the dignity, character and loyalty of our Sixth Years will be acknowledged. I would like to compliment you all on your commitment to your studies throughout and thank you all for your co-operation and understanding during the last two years. You provided wonderful leadership to the student body during this pandemic and you have been a pleasure to deal with. I am very proud of you all and I hope that the upcoming Accredited Grades/State Examinations go well for you all. A very special mention to Robbie English. We are extremely proud of Robbie's achievements during his time with us and congratulate him on successfully completing his Leaving Certificate. We know that Robbie is a proud St Kieran's man and it has been a privilege for us all, students and staff, to share your journey with us over the last six years. To Robbie and all of the class of 2021, I wish you every success and blessing for the future.

Finally, in wishing all members of the school community a happy and safe summer, we continue to pray that St Kieran will guide us in the future, as we inch closer to much better days ahead. *Hiems Transiit*

Mr Adrian Finan
Principal



St Kieran's College Staff 2020-2021

Back row (l-r): Mr Aidan O'Sullivan, Mr Larry Cotter, Mr Peter O'Sullivan, Mr Evan Walsh, Mr Richie Windle, Mr David McCormack, Mr Michael Walsh, Mr Conor Delaney. Eighth row (l-r): Ms Grace Farrell, Ms Ann Meany, Mr Enda Malone, Mr Simon Reddy, Ms Olive O'Connor, Mr Michael Connolly. Seventh row (l-r): Mr Richard Dunphy, Mr Joe Kavanagh, Ms Jo Staunton. Sixth row (l-r): Mr Emmet Byrne, Mr Tom Hogan, Mr Brian Dowling. Fifth row (l-r): Mr Lester Ryan, Mr Sean Morrissey, Mr Fergal Brennan, Mr Philip Walsh, Mr Gerry Walsh. Fourth row (l-r): Mr Martin O'Neill, Ms Eilish Ahern, Ms Michaela O'Connell, Ms Bernice Boland, Ms Eadaoin Maher, Ms Ciara Staunton. Third row (l-r): Mr Jonjo Farrell, Mr Richie Ruth, Mr Paul Fitzgerald, Mr Brian Brennan, Ms Mary Martin, Ms Jacqui Norton, Ms Orla Reynolds, Mr David Hennessy, Mr Stephen Morgan. Second row (l-r): Mr Carl Lynch, Mr Ger Buckley, Ms Martina Lawlor, Ms Hollie Hickey, Ms Pauline Bergin, Ms Jane Moran, Ms Jean Fitzpatrick, Ms Anne Wemyss. Front row (l-r): Mr Paddy Kelly, Ms Sharon Keyes, Mr Ken Maher (Deputy Principal), Mr Adrian Finan (Principal), Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan (President), Mr Liam Smith (Deputy Principal), Mr John O'Keeffe, Mr Niall Connolly. Absent from Photo: Ms Evelyn Allan, Mr Ken Archbold, Mr Tom Brennan, Mr Patrick Darmody, Ms Bernice Dowling, Ms Debbie Ghanem, Mr Eamonn Heffernan, Mr Michael Kelleher, Ms Loretta Mannion, Ms Regina Ryan.

Board of Management 2021



Members of the Board of Management 2021

(pictured 2020, most meetings were virtual throughout the pandemic, yet the Board remain very active).

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

The Parents' Association

Naturally, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, it has been a quiet year for the Parents' Association. Nonetheless, we still managed to hold our AGM online last October at which, Mr Martin Murphy, Dietician Consultant with St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny gave a very informative talk to parents about how best to look after the nutritional needs of our sons while going to school, or at home during lockdown, throughout this pandemic. Martin gave parents tips on how to make lunch boxes more nutritious and how to ensure that our son's well being is looked after. We are very grateful to Martin for spending time with us at our AGM and would recommend him to anyone seeking reliable information on all things related to diet, food, nutrition and well being.

We would like to take this opportunity, to thank everyone for contributing to the Parents' Association this year. As a result, we are very lucky in St Kieran's College, as a Parents' Association, for the year that is in it, to be in a position to sponsor a Polo Shirt for our outgoing Leaving Cert Students. We were delighted to present these Polo Shirts to the Leaving Cert representatives on the Student Council. This has been a very difficult and challenging year for our Leaving Cert Students and we, as parents, are delighted to be able to offer something small as they depart their secondary education and move



Parents' Association Donates St Kieran's College Polo Shirts to Leaving Cert Class of 2021

Back row (l-r): Michael McCarthy, Ciaran Rice, John Canny. Front row (l-r): Andy Hickey, Ms Cora Muldowney (Chairperson, Parents' Association), Patrick Brennan.

on to the next chapter of their lives. We wish them all well in their Leaving Certificate and on their journeys that lie ahead.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all students in all other year groups the very best in their summer exams. It has been a challenging time for all students and for their parents. We wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable summer and hope that the next academic year will see the resumption of some level of normality. At the moment, we are now certainly full of hope, that we are over the worst of this pandemic.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Parents' Association Executive, Ms Collette

Walton (Secretary) and Ms Julie O'Brien (Treasurer) for all of their hard work and assistance in relation to the Parents' Association. I want to take this opportunity to thank the teachers and management of St Kieran's College for all that they do for our sons on a daily basis. We are truly grateful for all of their efforts during lockdown and for all that they continue to do. I would also like to thank all of the parents in the St Kieran's College Community for your continued support. We look forward to a return to when we can meet in person; hopefully next year. In the meantime, I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable and relaxing summer.

St Kieran's College Priests' Reunion 2020



2020 St Kieran's College Priests' Reunion

Fourth row (l-r) V Rev Pat Guilfoyle, V Rev Dan Bollard, V Rev Dan Carroll, V Rev Roderick Whearty. Third row (l-r): V Rev Tom Coyle, V Rev Tom O'Toole, V Rev Larry Wallace, V Rev Jim Murphy. Third row (l-r): V Rev Eamonn O'Gorman, V Rev Liam Barron, V Rev Willie Dalton, Rt Rev Michael Ryan, V Rev Pat O'Farrell. First row (l-r): V Rev Lorcan Moran, V Rev Sean O'Connor, Rev Dr Dermot Ryan (College President), Bishop Dermot Farrell, V Rev Tom Norris, Rt Rev Dan Cavanagh.

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

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

In a College that has seen the Great Famine come and go and the Spanish 'Flu and so many other tremendous moments in our history - the ability to adapt to situations has obviously been at the centre of the history of the College, and it was no different this past

year. On Tuesday 18th August - the first after the 15th - the College Reunion did take place and the College President Fr Dermot Ryan was able to welcome many past pupils home; *albeit*, now just in a new way. Restrictions at that time allowed most priests of the Diocese of Ossory to gather safely, and socially distanced, for the celebration of the Reunion Mass in the College Chapel and technology allowed that this be streamed to the homes and parishes of so many past pupils scattered throughout the country and beyond. We felt that it was important that the tradition be continued and that those men who had intended to travel could be remembered in prayer in the College Chapel which lies, figuratively and literally, at the heart of the College.

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

Reflecting on the situation Bishop Dermot reminded those who attended, in person or via the medium of the internet, just how it was that the ministry of the Church had continued

during this pandemic and how many priests, parishes and people, had found innovate ways to continue to minister and share God with people. They, like we, who were gathered for this reunion had to adapt in order to continue.

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

We hope for a more traditional reunion in these months ahead as vaccinations might allow us to gather; but we know now, already, that no matter where we find ourselves and how things are, we will reunite; memories will be shared, stories will be told, and our prayers will continue on August 17th 2021 - the first Tuesday after the 15th August - some traditions are unbreakable even in pandemic times.

Archbishop Dermot Farrell

On 2nd February 2021 Bishop Dermot was appointed as Archbishop of Dublin, and thereby ceased to be Patron of St Kieran's College - on that day he wrote to the priests and people of Ossory.



Today my appointment as Bishop of the Archdiocese of Dublin by Pope Francis will be announced publicly at 11.00 am. I am anxious that, as your Bishop, you would first hear this announcement from me, rather than from elsewhere. I did not seek out this new pastoral assignment, but allowed myself to be called, and accompanied. Notwithstanding that, I have had a few sleepless nights since I learned of the appointment from the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Okolo.

For the last three years I have been Bishop of Ossory, and I have been exceedingly happy and fulfilled among you, my brothers in the priesthood, and among the people of Ossory. I came as a 'stranger' among you, and I remember the warmth of your welcome and that of the people. The anxieties I had about moving from Meath quickly melted away. You offered your support in so many ways, overlooked my mistakes and limitations, and always assured me of your kindness and carried me and my ministry in your prayer. I thank you and, through you I thank the people. In consequence, I will leave a part of my heart here in Ossory whose pastoral care was entrusted to me.

I have always been impressed by the unity of and fraternity among the priests in the Diocese. There is an Old Testament story which is pertinent: it tells us of the battle between Joshua and Amalek (Exodus 17:8-16). The Amalekites had come up against the Moses. As Joshua fought the Amalekites, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill with Moses. When Moses held up his hands, the Israelites would prevail, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites prevailed. When Moses's hands grew tired, Aaron and Hur took a stone and put it under Moses and he sat on it and then Aaron and Hur held up Moses's hands so Israel would prevail. There were times when you held up my arms when I grew tired. As you know, there are times in ministry when we cannot do without the support of others. A fortiori, in a time of great cultural and societal change we need the support of our communal life. If offers a vision of how a community can work together despite the understandable differences that can exist (see 1 Cor 11:19); then what we do-our work-is not only for the Church, but our service is for the wider communities among

whom we are called to labour.

There is a second point in the story of Joshua and Amalek which is truly relevant for my pastoral ministry, namely persistence, and especially persistence in prayer. As long as Moses intercedes for the people, Israel is victorious. The diocese has faced many issues down the years. None more so than this year which has been one of epic proportions. I know it has been incredibly stressful for priests and people. Our persistence in prayer together is vital to overcoming this crisis.

Our diocese, in common with every diocese in Western Europe, has been for years now-facing deep and lasting change. That situation is not going to change, and it cannot be wished away. However, we are not helpless in the face of the future. I am confident that the Church will provide a good shepherd, and that you may not have to wait as long as you did before I was named. I pray that as I embrace this new mission, I will have your blessing. I assure you of an enduring place in my prayer. I humbly and sincerely ask for a place in yours.

With kind regards,



Fr William Treacy



Fr Willie Treacy is a native of Killasmeestia, and a proud past-pupil of St Kieran's College. Not long after his ordination, on June 18th 1944, Father Treacy volunteered for a temporary assignment in Seattle as they were experiencing a clergy shortage while priests served as military chaplains during World War II.

After arriving in Seattle March 23, 1945, what was supposed to be a five-year assignment turned into a lifelong ministry to people of the Archdiocese of Seattle and beyond.

Father Treacy served as director of the Catholic Information Center in downtown Seattle from 1958 to 1966. During that time, he also stepped into the world of local television to help cultivate interfaith understanding, and co-founded an interfaith retreat center near Mount Vernon that quickly drew people from around the world.

In November 1978, Father Treacy started a daily Mass in downtown Seattle at Plymouth Church that continues more than 40 years later. The 12:10 p.m. Mass draws 30 to 40 people a day and well over 100 on holy days, he said. Father Treacy still celebrates Mass there a few times a year, and finds it inspiring.

Beyond his more public ventures, Father Willie served as pastor and parochial vicar at many parishes, and participated in Engaged Encounters for two decades, estimating he helped 2,000 couples prepare for marriage in the church.

Other assignments included Vice Chancellor for the Archdiocese, Chaplain at Holy Names Academy in Seattle for nearly 12 years and Archdiocesan Chaplain for the Legion of Mary for a decade. He also worked with the Knights of Columbus in the 1950s and '60s to place weekly advertisements in

newspapers across the state, explaining what Catholics believe and offering more information.

In 1966 Father Willie along with a good friend Rabbi Levine purchased a 300-acre farm between Arlington and Mount Vernon for use as an interfaith center dedicated to creating peace and unity in the human family. They named it Camp Brotherhood.

The center's programs drew more than 4,000 people a year from all over the Northwest and around the globe. Another of his immense contributions to faith, interfaith dialogue and the ultimate betterment of humanity.

In 2019 Fr Willie celebrated his 100th birthday and now in 2021 he still proudly claims his St Kieran's College heritage. He wrote to Fr Ryan, as College President, as the pandemic started and included this copy of a picture of himself sporting, proudly, his black and white half-zip.

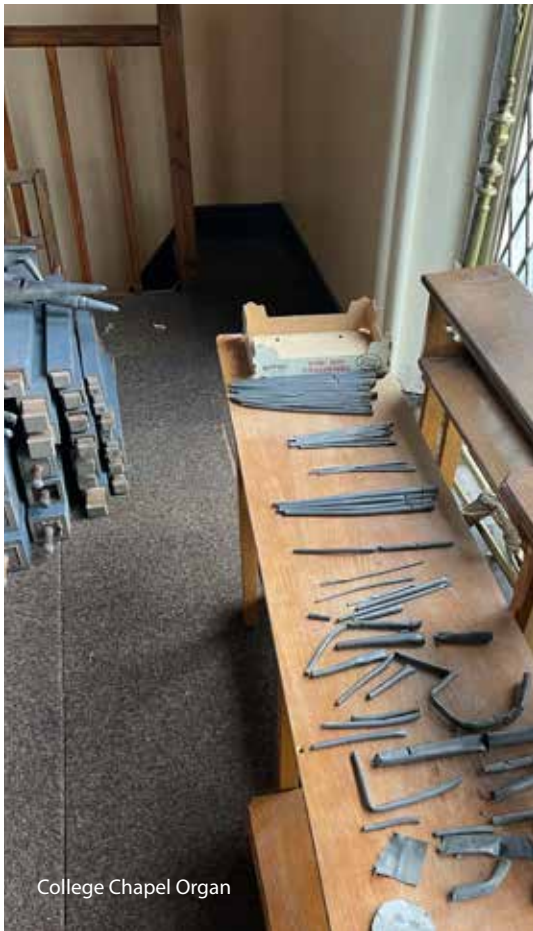
Our past pupils are ambassadors for the College throughout the world - Fr Willie, for length of service alone - not to mention his countless wonderful contributions to the lives of the people he has met in those years - makes him surely to be considered among our finest.

Wedding in St Kieran's Chapel

The wedding took place of Jamie Quane, past pupil, and son of former teacher John Quane, to Morgane Alcarz, in the College Chapel, May 2021, the first wedding in the College Chapel.



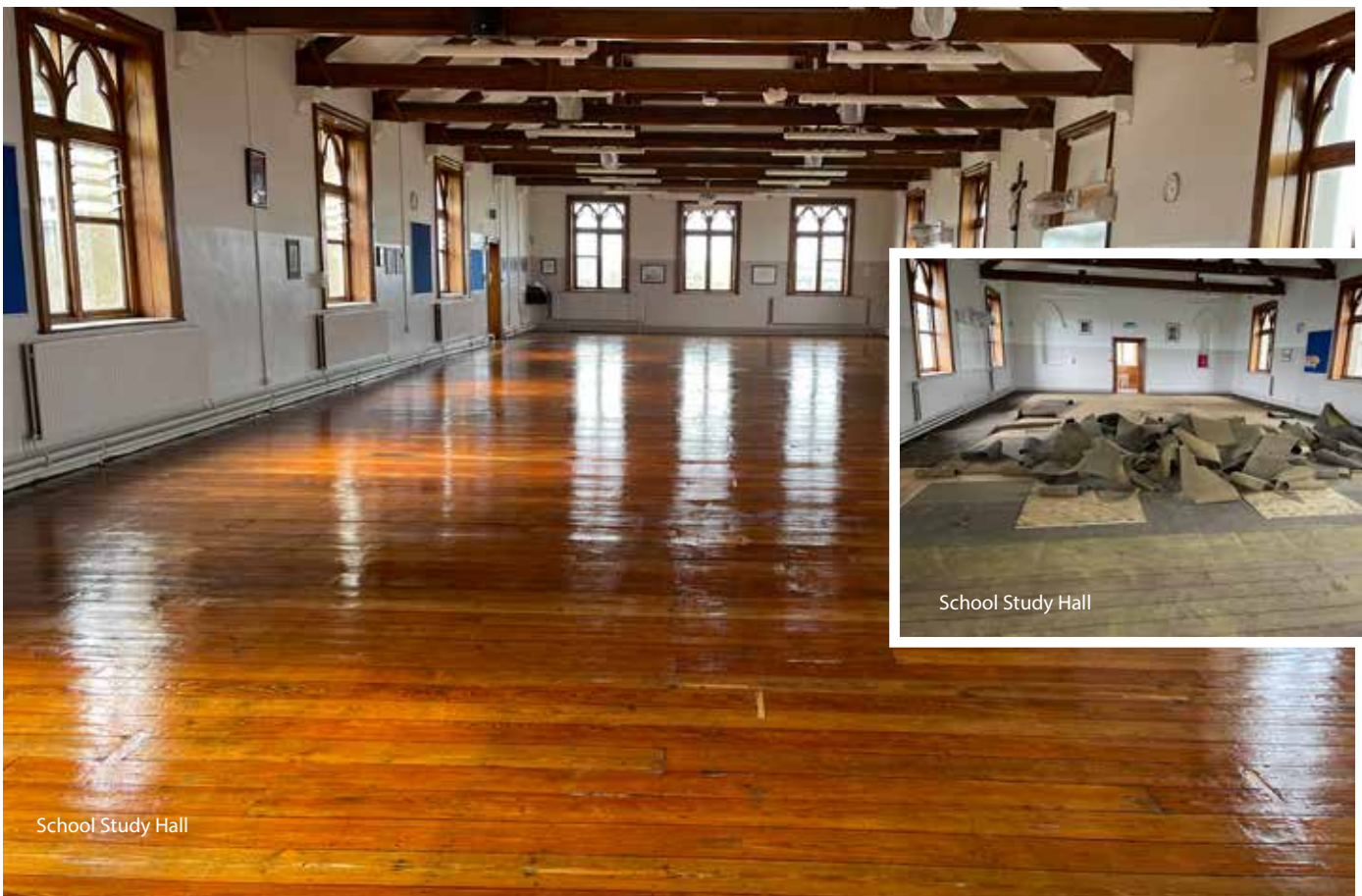
Ongoing works at St Kieran's 2020/2021



College Chapel Organ



College Chapel Organ



School Study Hall



School Study Hall

Kilkenny Archives



John Kirwan, Archivist

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

It has been a very quiet year for the Archive. But, the last important 'Big House' archival collection of papers to remain with the creating family namely the Toler-Aylwards of Shankill, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny, has been purchased by Kilkenny Archives.

This has been made entirely possibly through the generosity, not only of the surviving Toler-Aylward family members, but also by a very generous gift of a husband and wife team, who have a very long connection with Kilkenny and its cultural life.

The history of the Toler-Aylward family in Kilkenny is as old as Shankill Castle itself. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries Shankill belonged to the Butlers of Paulstown Castle, a junior branch of the House of Ormond, and it was they who built the first castle or tower-house on the site. In 1708 Shankill and its estate passed to Elizabeth Butler, the daughter of Sir Richard Butler of Paulstown, baronet and a grand-daughter of Sir Walter Butler who was governor of Kilkenny City when Cromwell paid the city an un-welcome visit in 1650. Elizabeth married Peter Aylward a Kilkenny

landowner. After the defeat of the Confederation of Kilkenny, Peter, like so many Irish or Old English Roman Catholic landowners was ordered to Connacht. To avoid the loss of his patrimony Peter conformed to the Protestant Church of Ireland and was thus able to retain ownership of his lands despite the Penal Laws which in the first quarter of the eighteenth-century were most severe. Catholics could own land by inheritance but they could not easily purchase new lands. Education too was forbidden to them within the country.

The Aylwards played a leading role in the life of Kilkenny during the succeeding centuries being High Sheriffs of the county on several occasions. Peter's son, Nicholas Aylward, was a member of the Irish House of Commons for nearly thirty years.

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

During the course of the late eighteenth-century and right through

the succeeding century the castle was further enlarged and improved. The impressive castellated gateway was originally commissioned from Kilkenny architect Daniel Robertson for nearby Dunleckney Manor but it was erected at Shankill instead and decorated with the Aylward arms. The College Road castellated entrance to St Kieran's Campus has a similar history having been relocated from Jenkinstown Park, home of the Bryans.

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

The first Hector Toler-Aylward of Shankill Castle died in 1918 when the property devolved to the elder of his two sons, another Hector who with his brother Victor had seen action during the Great War. Happily both sons survived. Hector missed one of the great battles of the war due to illness which probably saved his life. It will take at least six months to fully catalogue the collection. The papers represent the period c. 1770 to the 1990s.

Ossory Adult Faith Development

The Adult Faith Development Group has from its very beginning worked from the presupposition that we need to offer ever new, and creative, ways to help people deepen their understanding of their faith. Whilst always using the more traditional forms of helping people come to know a God who loves them - through lectures, one-off talks, weekends of reflection and retreat nights the group has continually also tried to move into a more modern means of communications - the online and digital space. This past year - with thanks to the pandemic - has seen the Faith Development Group move ever more into this latter space.

In April of this past year the first fully digital edition of the Ossory Times was produced and distributed via email/website/Twitter and Facebook. We had been in this space before but now, given the restrictions of the pandemic, we had to opt to fully commit to this space. While so much was possible other things were not - sadly once more the annual Diocesan Blitz here at the College fell fowl to

the pandemic - a weekend that would have been the first opportunity for those children had to hurl in their club colours, was again sacrificed to the pandemic restrictions. Fingers crossed this will make a welcome return next year. The planned Faith Development Pilgrimage to Rome which was due to take place in August last year, and then in August this year, was again postponed.

At the request of the Faith Development Group and thanks to the generosity of KCLR96fm our Sunday celebrations of Eucharist reached the homes of tens of thousands of people all over Kilkenny, Carlow and beyond - these celebrations led each weekend by Bishop Dermot and Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare and Leighlin, and in recent months with the translation to Dublin of Archbishop Dermot - the College President, and Director of the Faith Development Group Fr Dermot Ryan has stepped in to celebrate on alternate weekends. Many of our parishes have developed new websites to host very new webcams as Parish Councils and Priests of our

Diocese do much to help ensure that they can stay connected with their parishioners - a most welcome and encouraging sign.

The MyFaith programme of preparation has been a phenomenal success over these pandemic months. Literally thousands of children from parishes all around Ireland have engaged in online, highly interactive, games and videos teaching them about their faith. New Year's Day itself saw over 500 children log into the system to engage with the content - a new generation and a new means of engaging with them about matters of faith. Imagine if faith is also fun!! What are the possibilities? This programme of preparation, not designed for the pandemic, but much of which was perfectly suitable for remote learning for children, and their parents, has provided a wonderful means by which they can deepen their understanding of, and love for, God as they prepare to celebrate the Sacraments.

In trying to support parishes prepare Parents of those children who are on the journey toward the



Sacramental Preparation Evening with Mgr Liam Bergin, Bishop Denis Nulty, Apostolic Administrator and Fr Dermot Ryan.

The College "studio" - home to many and varied initiatives.



celebration of the Sacraments later this year the Faith Development Group organised and hosted a webinar on the importance of Sacramental Preparation. Our own Mgr Liam Bergin, who is currently lecturing in Boston College, was generous with his time and led parents on a wonderful evening of reflection, in the company of Bishop Denis Nulty during Lent of this year. Technology makes all things possible and on that night well over 2000 parents joined us as part of their journey of preparation - helping them to understand a little more about the preparation needed for Sacraments but also to get a sense of how special these celebrations will be for their children. The questions alone on that night reflected how engaged and engaging the evening was for people. It is good that we can and still do come together - just, for now, in new ways!

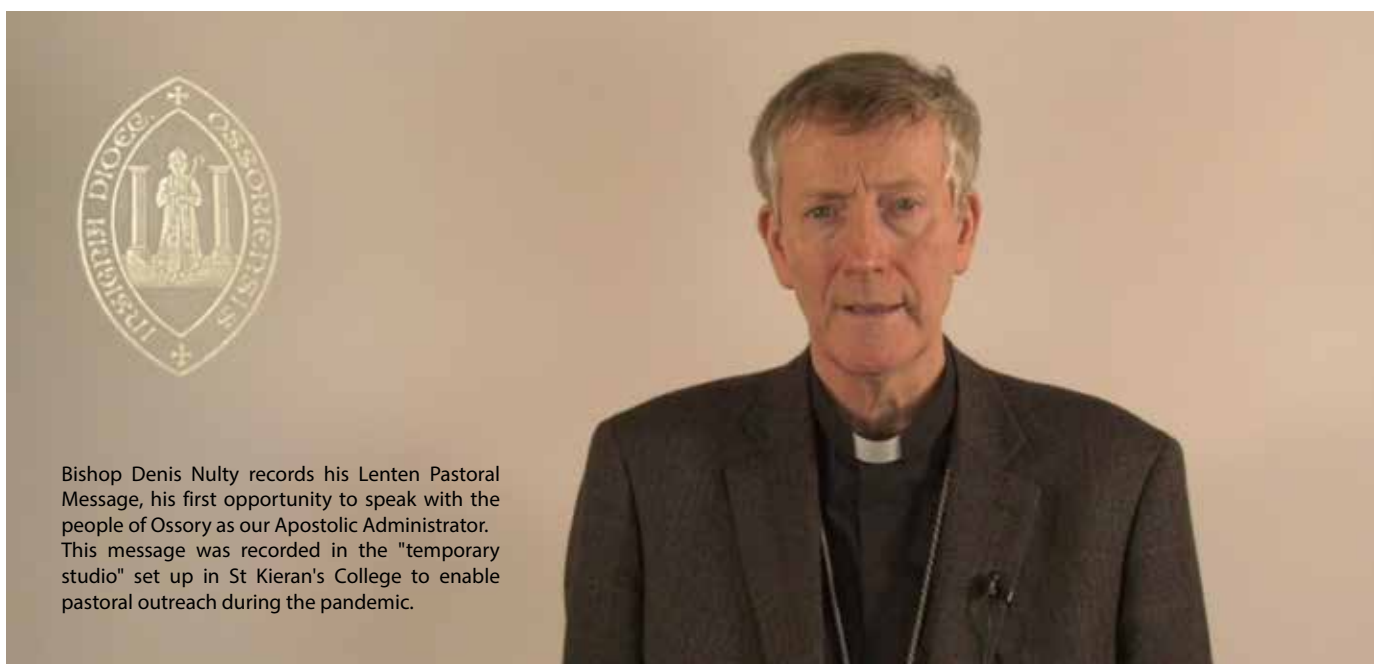
In another exciting departure of this past year, the Faith Development Group are exploring the establishment of a partnership with St Patrick's College Maynooth to deliver digital catechesis to parishes and Diocese throughout Ireland. The programme, currently being developed, was the subject of a submission to the Koch Foundation in America for financial support to make it possible; and, thanks to their support, and that of the College and the Faith Development Group, the App for this exciting programme is currently in production. We have seen the prototype and it is exciting. Imagine a course, or in fact many courses, of faith formation with the highest standard of people delivering top theological content to any parish or diocese throughout the island of Ireland. People, by means of this programme being developed, will be afforded the ability to undertake, at a time and in a place most suitable to them, one of the many programmes of preparation. Helping people to prepare for ministries in our parishes, roles in our Dioceses or simply to come to a deeper understanding of their faith... Faith Development is coming to a new space. A welcome one, and dare we say it a timely one!

When restrictions allow the more traditional aspects of our faith will, surely, make a welcome return but it is the task of any group, and the Faith Development Group among



The Chrism Mass Reflection with Fr Billy Swan

them to be ready now to live in a new way. The pandemic has asked many questions of how we function - some of the answers offer really hopeful possibilities for new life for our faith.



Bishop Denis Nulty records his Lenten Pastoral Message, his first opportunity to speak with the people of Ossory as our Apostolic Administrator. This message was recorded in the "temporary studio" set up in St Kieran's College to enable pastoral outreach during the pandemic.

MyFaith.ie



In the early days of the Pandemic Bishop Dermot Farrell, launched a new national parish-based programme of preparation for the celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation at St Kieran's College. With all the uncertainty around Sacraments during these pandemic months and so as to enable parishes to help support children in the journey of preparation, this announcement was a welcome reassurance that the Sacraments can, and will, be celebrated in parishes when, in accordance with guidelines, it is possible. Every step available is being taken to support parents, the children preparing and parishes on this journey.

Preparing for these celebrations is key and in launching this programme Bishop Farrell ensured that children can continue to ready themselves for the Sacraments and deepen their understanding of their faith. Underlining the need for effective preparation Bishop Farrell noted that "much has changed in our parishes and church life and yet much remains the same. One of the key elements of a really fruitful and joyful celebration of the Sacraments is an effective programme of preparation. I am delighted, then, to support a programme of preparation, developed here in the Diocese of Ossory, as a

means to ensure that children can be well prepared to celebrate these Sacraments in our parishes later in this school year.

Under the leadership of Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, the team that wrote the programme sought to develop an innovative parish-based preparation programme that would permit children and their families to journey together towards the celebration of the Sacraments in the context of their parish communities.

Commenting on the programme, Fr Ryan noted that "this online and interactive programme 'walks' children through the steps necessary to understand, appreciate, celebrate effectively, and then live the Sacraments. We introduce them to "Ich Thus", a most important fish, who will guide those preparing for Communion and Confirmation, in different ways, to the same result. Online video modules, online interactive games/challenges and quizzes to reinforce learning, downloadable resources; moments of prayer; an appreciation of the journey towards celebrating the Sacraments are the key elements of what we hope will be a significant support to parishes in their efforts to help children on their faith journey".

The programme of preparation contains short taught classes helping

the children understand key points of each module; there are then games, quizzes and challenges to reinforce learnings along with a short video in each module for parents to help them understand the key points of every step of the journey. This programme is in effect a real journey with each step being necessary to unlock the next part module of the journey. Parish leaders, with the aid of this preparation programme, can lead children through modules which are released as the year progresses. Mirroring life itself, the life-long journey towards a nourishing and fruitful engagement with Sacraments starts now. The programme was made available to parishes at MyFaith.ie

Over these pandemic months. in spite of the uncertainty about when we would be in a position to celebrate the Sacraments several thousand children have been preparing by means of the MyFaith.ie programme - in parishes right throughout Ireland this programme has been made available. St Kieran's College is then, at the centre of supporting parishes at this time of uncertainty. The MyFaith programme was not merely designed for pandemic times but was an attempt to update the means by which we engage children about their faith. A new generation being informed about their faith in a new way! The possibilities are endless.

The Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Plan



OSSORY DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN

Gemma Mulligan

Pope Francis' 'Urbi et Orbi' message on Easter Sunday 2020 was watched and listened to by millions of people around the world. There were no crowds gathered outside in St Peter's square and the streets were empty and silent. The worldwide coronavirus pandemic had changed everything. As the images of Pope Francis from an almost empty Basilica were transmitted he spoke of the "the contagion of hope" that is transmitted from heart to heart. In a time of great uncertainty and for many a time of great despair and darkness, Pope Francis reminded us of the message of the Gospel, Hope. During the early days of the pandemic he offered encouragement to the world. "We have realised that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the

same time important and needed, all of us in a row together, each of us in need of comforting the other "in the same address he said that this was "a time of choosing". In choosing how to respond to the crisis, we saw incredible acts of solidarity, kindness and generosity all around the world. As we learned to live with this 'new normal' we became less fearful and realised the possibilities. Instead of believing it couldn't be done, people asked the question 'What can we do?' In communities all around the world, in our country and in our towns and villages we saw amazing generosity and creativity. The hope that Pope Francis spoke of became very real.

In our parishes in Ossory and in dioceses all across the country similar stories emerged. While initially there was a huge challenge in maintaining a sense of connection and belonging for parishioners and in some places the celebration of liturgy all but stopped, there soon came some very successful endeavours. Parishes exploited technology to its maximum to connect with parishioners and those beyond the parish lines. Local radio mass allowed those who do not have internet access in particular, to participate in Sunday worship from their own homes. The use of technology was a new development

for many parishes reaching out through live streaming, websites and social media. Parish texts, What's App groups and parish face book pages are now all part of how parishes communicate. Priests together with their Parish Pastoral Councils and teams of volunteers have worked hard in making sure that the church buildings are sanitised and safe places to visit and to pray. The way we have lived and the way we have practiced our faith has changed significantly during this pandemic and some of those changes have been difficult, some are greatly welcome.

When Bishop Dermot Farrell took up his position as Archbishop of Dublin at the beginning of this year, he was clear in saying that, as we in Ossory await a new Bishop, the pastoral life in the diocese must continue. As restrictions are lifted in these days and weeks we look forward in hope to coming together once more in our parish communities and pastoral areas, working together sharing ideas and resources, taking with us all we have learned and experienced during this past year. The message from Pope Francis reminding us that "we are all on the one boat" should encourage us to continue in the one mission to bring new life to the diocese with our Diocesan Pastoral Plan under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Ossory Diocesan Forum

Helen Maher

On 10 March 2021, the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference announced a new Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland leading to the holding of a National Synodal Assembly within the next five years. They describe this Synodal Pathway as a way of "listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church in an Ireland faced with rapid transformation." The Bishops envisage the next two years as a period of prayer, listening and discernment, involving a nationwide consultative conversation on the theme of a synodal understanding of church.

The Ossory Diocesan Forum would seem to be well placed to engage in such a consultative process. The founding inspiration of the Forum was very much a desire to make it possible for the priests and people of the diocese to walk together to build an effective, collaborative church. This is expressed in the Forum Constitution:

"Since its establishment in 2004, 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."

The Diocesan Forum is the pastoral framework of our Diocese. In the last few months the consultative nature of the Forum was very much in evidence. This year marks the end of the latest four-year term of office of the Pastoral Councils that make up the Forum at parish, deanery and diocesan level. The Constitution requires that an evaluation is done every four years to ensure that these pastoral structures are reviewed and adapted so that they continue to be effective channels of communication and mission throughout the Diocese. We began this evaluation in February this year with the Deanery Pastoral Councils. Undaunted by Covid restrictions, the deanery groups held their evaluation meetings by zoom. Shortly before the Covid restrictions were imposed the diocese had seen the establishment of Pastoral Areas, that is the grouping of parishes in threes or fours to facilitate them working collaboratively and sharing resources. It was suggested

to the deanery groups that the deanery pastoral councils might now be replaced by Pastoral Area Councils. The consensus from the three deanery groups was that this was the way forward but as the Pastoral Areas had not had a chance to become well established, the present deanery structures should be held in place for the coming year. This was a decision with important consequences for the pastoral life of the Diocese that was come to because the structure of the Deanery Pastoral Council made consultation with a widely representative group of people possible.

Each time the Forum has been evaluated, in 2007, in 2013, in 2017 and again this year, while recognising weaknesses in how our structures are operating, the basic value of having such a framework for communication and dialogue was strongly affirmed. We hope that the existence of our Forum network will facilitate the people of the diocese in responding wholeheartedly to the Bishops' invitation to walk the synodal pathway in our own Diocese and with the wider Irish church in the coming years.



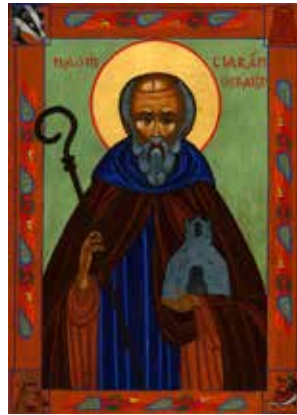
Bishop Nulty
Homily for
St Kieran's Day

Bishop Denis Nulty's Homily St Kieran's Day - College Chapel March 5th 2021

Scarcely a parish in Ireland is without one or more dedications to saints, in the form of churches perhaps long since in ruins, holy wells or monasteries. Kilkenny City has a particular affinity with St Canice, celebrated on October 11th, but Ossory Diocese as an entirety celebrates St Kieran on this day. It is said the Kieran was born in Cape Clear, Co. Cork. It's great to see the Kilkenny and Laois people welcoming for once such a generous gift from Cork! Dates and details have been lost in time, because as I mentioned earlier Kieran predates Patrick. Ossory is Ireland's oldest Bishopric. Today is a sacred day and in every respect we stand on holy ground. It's so good in these challenging pandemic times, we mark the feast day and celebrate the traditions associated with St Kieran as best we can.

March 5th was the date originally offered as the end date of the current lockdown. The previous end date offered was St Brigid's Day on February 1st and we know the latest one is April 5th, Easter Monday. What a strange experience this pandemic has been for all of us, but particularly I think of you the students. Learning remotely isn't easy, your parents, your teachers but most all yourselves deserve huge credit for engaging with online learning and tuition. I thank Adrian and the staff for going beyond the call of duty to make your experience as good as possible. The staff cannot guarantee a good wifi connection into your home but they have endeavoured to keep in contact with you in every way possible. On St Kieran's day I hugely acknowledge not only the staff of St Kieran's but the staff in all our schools, Secondary and Primary across Ossory.

I am told, normally here in the College, St Kieran's Day would be a day of activities and no class. Sadly so different this year. You miss the opportunities for paint balling, soccer, canoeing, orienteering, hill walking, cinema, tennis, many pursuits that form characters and make memories



that last a lifetime. Sometimes we learn more about ourselves and our comfort zones on days like this than any other day in the college term. Last year you managed to celebrate the feast day just a week before the first lockdown. I would encourage you to still mark the feast day at home in some safe way in your back garden, doing something that allows you to enjoy the beautiful Spring day we are blessed with.

St Kieran's is the oldest Diocesan College in the country founded in 1782. Its history has seen the Irish famine, An Ghorta Mhor, the Spanish 'Flu, the two World Wars and much more. This pandemic too will pass. The College is of itself a landmark protected building but it's you, the students and the staff that give this building its life, its character. History will record you are the group who lived through these times. You were the group who were innovative with remote learning techniques. You were the group who lived through a different two year Senior cycle and perhaps a very different Leaving Cert examination, but came out the other side more resilient and stronger in character than any previous year of graduates. You were the group who made huge sacrifices because you love your grans and grandads too much to

put them in any danger of catching the virus. You'll have the years to celebrate, but just not this year, at least not in the usual 'normal' way.

It's often said to me what will this 'new normal' look like? None of us honestly know. Covid-19 pandemic has robbed you young people of so much in your formative years, these very important years in your development. I have no doubt but as Kieran's men you will look out for one another. As Fr Dermot who is passionate about all things St Kieran's would say to me "Kieran's men are confident that our past carries us". In other words we all stand on the shoulders of those gone before us. Some were and are renowned hurlers; others have achieved greatness in the arts and theatre; more still excelled in music, a band, an orchestra while others academically have pursued the third level course that has opened up a world of endless possibilities. All because we do our best and those before us did their best. Nothing more, nothing less. Remember your jersey, your motto 'Hiems transiit' (winter passes) coming from the Song of Solomon and so will this pandemic, this time will too pass, let's ensure we live the words enunciated in the Hurler's Prayer:

*Grant me O Lord, a hurler's skill,
With strength of arm and speed of limb
Unerring eye for the flying ball
And courage to match whate'er befall
May my stroke be steady and my aim be true
My actions manly and my misses few
No matter what way the game may go
May I rest in friendship with every foe
When the final whistle for me has blown
And I stand at last before God's judgement throne
May the great referee when he calls my name
Say, you hurled like a man; you played the game.*



St Kieran's Day 2021

St Kieran's Day 2021 was held on the feast day this year, 5th of March. Bishop Denis Nulty, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Ossory, and, as a result, our school Patron, celebrated the Mass for us in the College Chapel. For the first time the Mass was streamed to our school community as we couldn't attend in person. However, students and teachers were able to participate in the Mass through readings, prayer and music. Bishop Nulty preached a very moving homily for the times we are in and parts of that homily are included for you to enjoy.



Bishop Denis Nulty, Patron of St Kieran's College.

Retirements

MS ANNE WEMYSS

By Jean Fitzpatrick

Although tinged with a double shot of sadness, it is my pleasure and privilege to pay tribute to two of my dearest friends and colleagues, Ms Anne Wemyss and Mr Niall Connolly on the occasion of their retirement. Between us we have clocked up over one hundred years of our lives here and share an endless amount of stories and memories from starting out as new, young teachers full of enthusiasm and energy, to growing together and experiencing many periods of change in education while also forging strong bonds both professionally and personally. We have come a long way together!

My friendship with Anne began on my very first day in St Kieran's College when, daunted by the vastness of the place and the many unknown faces, I was delighted to find someone with whom I had a connection. Anne, like me, was a past pupil of Loreto and her sister had been in my class so we found common ground and ever since Anne has been a loyal friend and colleague always there to offer a helping hand and some sound advice.

Anne was appointed to the staff of St Kieran's College in September 1983 and has worked in various roles throughout her career. As a young teacher her area of excellence was linguistics and for many years she taught French and Irish. Her love of languages was further displayed when she was one of a number of teachers who took on the study of German, subsequently introducing it to the school curriculum and teaching it to Leaving Certificate level. Her flair for languages was further enhanced by her love of travel and she took part in many of the school tours abroad. There are many interesting stories of those exciting trips to various destinations, from Paris to Prague, Barcelona to Russia. I did try to find out more here but I'm afraid it was a case of 'what happens in Rome stays in Rome'...

In 1987, Anne was one of a handful of teachers to pioneer the new Transition Year course in Ireland becoming Programme Coordinator for



Anne with one of her many golf teams.



Former colleagues Denis Philpott, Jim Carew and Nicky Cashin with Anne.



Jackie O'Reilly, Jean Fitzpatrick with Pastoral Care: Anne Wemyss with school Chaplain Mr Fergal Anne.



Staff night out in times past.

a time and leaving her unique mark on a very important stage in the growth and development of students. Around this time Anne took a career break and spent a year in Germany. On her return, she was appointed Year Head in the Junior Cycle, a role she held for six years and one which shaped many of her future endeavours. In what was, back then, no doubt a male dominated world, she became a strong female voice earning the respect of both students and colleagues and paving the way for a more gender balanced environment.

Despite her busy schedule, Anne found time to get involved in many extra-curricular activities. For many years she participated in the staff choir and even though she never complained about our repertoire, I have a feeling she might have preferred a bit of Van Morrison or Bob Marley. She was also a central player on the Staff Volleyball Team handling the pressure well when the going got tough!

Continuing with sport, Anne spent the best part of twenty years managing the St Kieran's College Golf Teams. A keen golfer herself, there were many proud moments over the years, one of the highlights no doubt in 2018 when the senior golf team claimed the Leinster title and were runners up in the All-Ireland, a remarkable achievement and one for the records.

Back in the day job Anne's interests

were broadening and, never one to stand still, she took the initiative in latter years to change direction and become a Career Guidance Counsellor. Looking back now, it was a natural route for her to take as her caring nature and sensitivity to others were unquestionable. She has remained a valued member of the Pastoral Care team to date and a true professional in her dealings with the Mental Health issues which have become more challenging in recent years. I know many students will not forget her support and kindness to them in times of need. Always a positive voice and epitomising the integrity and dedication of the teaching profession, we will miss the energy you brought to the room. On behalf of the school community sincere congratulations on your career Anne and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

I know I speak for everyone in the St Kieran's College community when I say it has been a pleasure to know and work with you.

MR NIALL CONNOLLY

By Jean Fitzpatrick

Niall was appointed as a Business and Accounting teacher in November 1983 and had a very successful career which spanned over thirty eight years. During that time he established himself as an

outstanding teacher who played a central role in all areas of school life. A true gentleman on all counts, his kind and obliging nature endeared him to all members of the school community. It is no surprise then that he was part of the staff induction team welcoming and supporting new teachers and helping them settle in.

When Transition Year was first introduced in 1987, Niall was very much to the fore and his involvement continued to grow over the years, from participating in the early stages of the Gaisce Awards to coordinating the Transition Year programme, organising the bi-annual work experience and interviewing the TY students formally at the end of the school year. He also encouraged initiative and cultivated teamwork in the entrepreneurial endeavours of Transition Year pupils, culminating each year in the student enterprise awards.

The success of many of his Junior Cycle Business students in achieving an A grade in their Junior Certificate exam was acknowledged annually by the BSTAI at an awards ceremony in the South East and it is testimony to Niall and the Business Department that so many pupils were recipients over the years. Many of his senior students also excelled and it was a proud moment when the senior St Kieran's College Business Quiz Team were crowned All-Ireland Champions in 2014.



Niall on his way to class.



Niall in his early days with former colleagues.



2000 Junior Team



Juvenile Football 1989



BSTAI Awards 2016

Niall's love of sport has always been evident and he found plenty of opportunities to demonstrate his skills both as a player and a manager. He starred on the staff volleyball team where he displayed a strong competitive edge and a determination to win. In fact, he took it so seriously, one might think he was trying out for the Olympics! The staff soccer team was also lucky to have him when they took on the Leaving Certs at lunchtimes as he was strong and fearless even in the face of injury.

As a hurling manager, Niall enjoyed much success with fellow teachers Mr Philip Walsh and Mr Ken Archbold both at Junior and Senior levels respectively. However, it was his commitment to the Gaelic football teams over many years that Niall's name is most synonymous. In 1989, the Under 14 team had great success winning the Leinster B final for the first time. They went on to play in the A final the following year and this was a major achievement for any St Kieran's College Football Team. His perseverance in a sport which, in a county like Kilkenny, can often fall into the shadow of Hurling, is commendable, and will not be forgotten.

Although working in different subject departments, our paths crossed regularly and we took part in many school activities together. Niall was a member of the staff choir, comfortably leading the tenor section and often performing confidently as a soloist. He brought this love of Music to many of our social gatherings and often led our singsongs with some of his favourites... 'On the Sunny Side of the Street' and 'Black is the Colour' to name but a few. From what I remember there were also some serious dance moves to accompany these tunes, but we won't go there. Let's just say it was acceptable in the 80s!

He joined the organising committee of the St Kieran's College Awards ceremony in 2003, an event which grew to become one of the highlights of the school calendar. While these occasions were often fraught with some stress and nervous tension, Niall was always cool, calm and collected, a steadying influence amongst all of the chaos backstage.

A proud Johnstown man, Niall has spent most of his life living in "The

Village" and has been deeply involved in the James Stephens GAA Club. Although a 'Boro woman myself, I don't think he ever held it against me, except perhaps that one time...Going forward I know he will be devoting more time to The Village and I have no doubt that I will bump into him on the sideline of some local game in the not too distant future.

Niall is also looking forward to spending time with his family and friends who have always been the centre of his world. So on behalf of the school community, sincere congratulations on your career Niall and best wishes to you and Meabh for the next chapter.

I know I speak for everyone in the St Kieran's College community when I say it has been a pleasure to know and work with you.

MR JOHN O'KEEFFE

By Martin O' Neill:

John O'Keeffe came to work in St Kieran's College in 1998. He was employed as a History, Geography and Religion teacher with some English as well. He has promoted all the subjects, but he has contributed so much more than simply as a subject teacher.

His running team for both teachers and students has run on Mondays and Wednesdays for more than 20 years. They have won an array of All-Ireland, Leinster and Invitational medals and silverware. John worked long and hard in promoting Gaelic games in the school. He coached many students to all levels, including the senior hurling team. During Transition Year he has led the walks for which he is so justly famous such as to Glendalough, Bennettsbridge and Slievenamon.



Cross Country Running Teams with Mr John O'Keeffe and Mr Tom Hogan.



Best Overall Cross Country School in Leinster 2019.



John's son Tom O'Keeffe also ran Cross Country for the school.



One of the many Cross Country Teams under John's guidance.



Juvenile Hurling 2004 (10).

He has been a Year Head to five separate groups over the past 15 years and so has given guidance advice and support to some 700 young men. John is a hard worker who always puts everything into the task in hand. If he was doing it, he was doing it well. He always gave everything in his power to help the cause and we can be particularly grateful for his involvement in the behind the scenes organisation of events such as the Open Night and the Awards Night. In 2016, John spearheaded the school's commemoration of the 1916 Rising. As always, no stone was left unturned resulting in a very moving and powerful tribute 100 years on.

John has achieved much during his 23 years in St Kieran's. I will always remember him giving one end of his walking stick to a student and literally pulling him up the waterfall across the mountain in Glendalough. I think many young men will remember his kindness and patience as a Year Head with them during the crucial developmental years between the ages of 12 and 15. Students of a certain vintage will remember Mr O'Keeffe and the painful paintball battlefield. They were also surprised to see him fully committed in that arena as well!

Gentlemen, we expect you to become students not just pupils. We expect honour, hard work, diligence, and your level best in everything. This is John O'Keeffe's mantra which he lived, the students emulated him because



Mr John O'Keeffe with Mr Patrick Darmody at Cross Country in Clongowes.

he did everything that he expected his students to do.

John spent 11 years in O'Connell CBS in Dublin as a learning support teacher. He spent a year in Zimbabwe during the conflict in Matabeleland. We in St Kieran's have been blessed to have such a colleague and friend.

By Tom Hogan:

John O'Keeffe resurrected Cross Country running in St Kieran's during the 1998-99 academic school year. And what a resurrection it was! Lunchtime runs, with the students down to the Castle Park, took place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (rain, hail, sleet or snow), and so began the climb to the summit of schools' Cross Country running in Ireland. Multiple South Leinster, Leinster and All-Ireland titles have been won under John's guidance over the years in addition to

Best Overall team awards on numerous occasions. We had great days out in places like Santry, DCU, Carlow and Roscrea while we overnighted in Sligo and Belfast to be fresh for All-Ireland performances. For John, it's all about team and that is why he finds Cross Country attractive. The eighth man's finishing place was as important as the first man in. Whether you were a serious runner or just wanted to get fit, John treated everybody the same. He only asked for honesty of effort and hard work from his athletes and it was an easy request to understand coming from John, because John's own work ethic in the school is based on those same principles.

John also spent many years training hurling teams in St Kieran's College and had huge success, winning Leinster titles with Juvenile, Junior and Senior Teams in the company of Mr Adrian

Finan, Mr Pat Murphy and Mr David McCormack.

John was instrumental in organising our Open Night each September for incoming First Years and their parents. Transition Year students were put through their paces on how to do a guided tour of the College. He was a constant presence at the back door of the Watergate Theatre on Awards Night organising students and ensuring they were suitably attired to go on stage.

We will all miss John's energy and enthusiasm around the school. To the students John was a teacher, a mentor, a Year Head and a confidant. To his colleagues here in St Kieran's, John was and will always remain a true friend. It can be truly said of John that he has left St Kieran's College and the people who pass through it in a better place than he found it.

Our school owes John a huge debt of gratitude and we all wish him many years of good health and happiness in his retirement ahead.

MS BERNIE DOWLING

By Valerie O'Shea



Ms Bernie Dowling

August 2021 sees the retirement from the teaching staff of Ms Bernie Dowling. Bernie came to St Kieran's College in 1993 to teach History, Geography and Maths.

Originally from Bruff, Co. Limerick, Bernie went to school in the local convent. From there, she progressed to U.C.C. where she studied Gaeilge, Maths, Geography and Sociology.

She completed the B.A. and H.D.E. and went on to gain experience teaching in various schools, before, in 1984, securing a permanent full-time position in the Loreto Secondary School in Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.

Bernie enjoyed her time in Dublin, especially the vibrant music scene, and so it was that on one of her many nights out, she met a young man from Johnstown, Dick Dowling.

As anyone who has ever fallen for a farmer will know, a farmer comes as part of a package and you have to accept the lot, road frontage and all. Four years and three children later, it was time to leave the Big Smoke.

After 11 happy years in Dublin, Bernie moved to the family farm in Kilkenny. In 1993 Bernie began her career in St Kieran's College, under the direction of Fr Nicholas Flavin RIP. Bernie brought her enjoyment of music to St Kieran's helping out backstage on the many musical productions in the 90's, and Bernie was also a member of the staff choir.

Having an interest in Special Education, Bernie decided in the year 2000, to complete a Diploma in Special Education in Mary Immaculate College in Limerick and has been using the qualification ever since when working with students with Special Educational Needs.

Bernie and Dick had three boys, whom they are both very proud of - an engineer, a teacher and a school principal, who recently treated them to a present of a cruise. This is how they came to discover the delights of cruising, travelling all around the Mediterranean; Italy, Spain, Corsica, France and Sardinia.

Dick might not know it yet, but there are many more cruises on the horizon!

In recent years, Bernie has developed an extracurricular interest in farming. Bernie is a dab hand at rolling and topping fields, so much so that Dick bought her, her very own Ford 7840 tractor.

Bernie is always up for a laugh and has always been a loyal and dependable friend, a listening ear to those who need it, and a source of sound advice to anyone who asks.

She will be missed in the staffroom of St Kieran's College, and we wish her all the very best in the next stage of her life.

MS ANN O'SHEA

By Pauline Bergin



Ms Ann O'Shea

One of our Special Needs Assistants Ms Ann O'Shea is retiring this year. Ann joined the staff of St Kieran's College in 2015. During her time here she has supported many students with additional needs not only in the classroom but in all aspects of school life. Before coming to St Kieran's, Ann worked in St Coleman's National School Clara. Through her work with both schools, she has seen two students through their full education, from Junior Infants all the way to completing their Leaving Certificate. She has made a huge impact, not only on these students' educational experiences, but on their overall school life. Ann has strived over the years to ensure that all students that she has worked with have been able to have a complete school life experience and have been able to access all parts of the curriculum both in and out of the classroom.

Ann has been a great colleague and friend to me over the years. She has given her time, not only to the students, but also to the staff choir which performed at school events and carol services throughout the years. I have great memories of working with Ann on St Kieran's Days and on Sports Days where all the students are included, supported and encouraged.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Ann all the very best for a long and happy retirement.

End of Year Awards 2020

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our traditional End of Year Awards ceremony could not go ahead. However, like so many other events, we moved to an online version of our Awards Night to acknowledge the gifts, talents and achievements of our students in academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular areas of school life. The following are some of the students who were awarded at the end of the academic year 2019-2020:

SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR
U13



Darragh Doyle



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Sports Awards

SENIOR HURLING
Senior Hurler of the Year
2020



Conor Kelly



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Sports Awards

SPORTS STAR OF THE YEAR
2020



Cian Kenny



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Sports Awards

The White Medal
Academic & Extra-Curricular Excellence



Ciarán Brennan



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Academic & Extracurricular Awards

President's Award



Shay McEvoy




St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

President's Award

1ST YEAR JOINT STUDENTS OF THE YEAR 2020




Thomas Walsh **Seán Moloney**



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Student of the Year Awards

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR
2nd Year
2020



Alexis Fitzgerald



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Student of the Year Awards

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR
3rd Year
2020



David Williams



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Student of the Year Awards

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR
The Paddy Kilroy Award
Transition Year
2020



Liam Moloney



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Student of the Year Awards

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR
5th Year
2020




JJ Ryan




St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Student of the Year Awards

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR
6th Year
2020



Liam Healy



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Student of the Year Awards

SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR
U15



Robert Murphy



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Sports Awards

SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR
U17




Fionn McGarry



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Sports Awards

SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR
U19



Jim Ryan



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Sports Awards

CROSS COUNTRY
Junior Athlete of the Year




Charlie Fitzgerald




St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Sports Awards

CROSS COUNTRY
Senior Athlete of the Year



Shay McEvoy



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Sports Awards

GAELIC FOOTBALL
PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Alfie Sheehy Trophy




Tom McPhillips




St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Sports Awards

JUVENILE HURLING
Juvenile Hurler of the Year
2020



Tim Kelly



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Sports Awards

JUNIOR HURLING
Junior Hurler of the Year
2020



Killian Doyle



St Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Sports Awards

“All good things must come to an end” - Chaucer



By Patrick Brennan

In what has been a far cry from the traditional end of term as a St Kieran's College student, I am honoured to represent the entire Sixth Year cohort in a reflection of the past six years of our lives. It is not often you get to take a break from cramming for class tests and mountains of revision work, but as I sit here thinking of all the memories I have now come to cherish so much, I am delighted to be able to do so.

The thoughts of First Year brought with it an abundance of nerves, excitement, and a fear of what is to come. Thankfully, we were welcomed in with open arms and any fears or doubts we had about the coming years were well and truly diminished by Mr O'Keeffe. He introduced us to Hall 33, our first place of residence in the school. Sighs of relief were audible when we heard this, as it meant our contact with the “dangerous” Sixth Years was going to be limited. Once we had all gotten into the rhythm of things as secondary school students, our first set of Halloween exams lurked around the corner. At the time, this was the big one. A real do or die attitude was shown by each and every student, eager to show their academic prowess. Those who came to school early got the edge over others, as they raced for a good seat in the classroom to protect their ‘wandering eyes’. When I

look back at how stressed we were for these tests, I can only smile and laugh, knowing what I know now.

Another vivid memory that I have is that of the start of year mass, where the famous photo of all our hurls outside the church door went viral. I remember the passionate and uplifting homily, delivered by Fr Dermot Ryan, President of St Kieran's, about what it means to be a Kieran's man. I am lucky to have heard many of these motivating speeches from him, ranging from meaningful analogies to religious anecdotes. St Kieran's Day, which falls on the nearest Friday to the 5th of March, was another time where we got to experience these homilies, accompanied by our schools talented choirs and musicians. However, the fun really got underway afterwards where there was an infinite number of activities provided by the teachers where we could bond with our classmates. The variety was something else. From the military-style splat-balling and assault courses all the way to soccer in the Watershed. Of course, who could forget when each year Mr O'Keeffe transformed his class into the Ally Pally for some darts and DVDs?

The History trip was our first real taste of an excursion as Kieran's students and it did not disappoint. We were taken to the National heritage park in Ferrycarrig and even the rain couldn't dampen our moods. A standout highlight was getting to taste some ham cooked through the stone age Fulacht Fia we heard Mr Morgan speak so much about, and it was easy to understand why. First Year was filled with many more miniature day trips, such as the hurling blitzes held all around the city. It was a chance for all students to try their hand at hurling, with the lucky ones getting to make the trek out to John's Park or Palmerstown for the day. As a means of creating friendships amongst us First Years, Mr Forrest developed a Round-Robin series of First Year matches held at lunch breaks twice a week. The structure was all too similar to the recently adapted Inter-county provincial competitions. A coincidence? I think not.

With a year of experience under our belts, we returned with an

increased level of confidence (albeit an unmerited one) and a more casual approach to the coming year. People were beginning to find their niche, with the school providing for each students' interests. Those who initially joined the choir as way of escaping class, realised that they actually have an innate singing ability, the Math heads were scouted out to compete in quizzes, and Mr Ryan and Mr Farrell were familiarising themselves with the star hurlers of our year. Athletics and Equestrian teams were also around to bring even more success to the school. Memories I have from the annual sports day have all morphed into one combined memory as if it were a single day in the past. A perfect start to each year, Kieran's pupils flooded the gates of the Watershed to unleash their inner Mo Farah or Usain Bolt, or any other mainstream athlete for that matter, as sports day had it all; Javelin, High Jump, Long Jump, Shot Put, you name it, it was there. And then of course came the titanic battle each year, the ‘Teachers versus Students’ Tug-o-War. A gruelling, unforgiving competition which squeezed every last drop of might out of us, in an attempt to earn bragging rights for the year. The scenes were easily comparable to a boat crew frantically rowing harder and harder to fight the relentless pull of the ocean waters, with their captain and other crew members urging them to pull harder. A more relaxed approach was taken to exams throughout all of Second Year, but come the end of the year, we all felt there was trouble brewing.

As we walked under the arch for our Third academic year, there was a different feeling to it, a ‘calm before the storm’ feeling, almost. 8:50 greeted us with an assembly in the Study Hall with Mr Finan, where he enlightened us on what is expected of us for the coming year. It was there and then we realised we were about to put the first tough year in in St Kieran's. Classes were more intense, teachers were upping the homework, and there was an overall more serious approach to everything. House exams were only the warm-up. As we started preparing for our mocks, “Léigh anois go cúramach, ar

do scrúdpháipéar, na treoracha agus na ceisteanna a ghabhann le Cuid A" started to echo around the Glasshall as we all tried to hone our listening skills for our Irish, French, and Spanish exams. The mocks came and went with the blink of an eye and it wasn't long until it was time for the real thing. June 6th came and it was at this precise moment that we realised the unimportance of all those house exams we sweated over in First Year. The phones in the box, the Transition Year student walking you to the toilet, lunch breaks at the park, all things we had never before experienced in our time here. On the 20th of June, when the Technology exam drew to a close, so too did our Junior Cycle, and the feeling of euphoria (mixed in with a lot of relief), was unbelievable. However, some lads who got their pre-ball skin fades before the exams were finished had to hold in their euphoria for a small bit longer!

The foot was immediately taken off the gas by all when we returned for our Transition Year. The tone was set straight away with a trip to Tramore within the first week. The relaxing sounds of the sea mirrored what was to be expected of the year to come. The trips kept coming, from Croke Park to climbing Sliabh na mBan to cycling the Greenway. We were offered many modules which allowed us to try our hand at many different things ranging from Yoga to getting our ECDL Certificate. "Volume off please" still swirls around my mind from time to time, an iconic line used many a time by Mr Hogan in those computer rooms. Thankfully, the school agreed to host another performance like the High School Musical production, but this time it took the form of a "Greatest Showman" themed variety show. Hours and hours of practice were put in by singers, dancers, and many more in order to make it a performance to remember. For this, many lads had to swallow their pride and get dolled up with all sorts of makeup, myself included. In the end it was all worth it though! Special thanks are in order for Mr Fergal Brennan and Ms Regina Ryan whose trojan work with us and the Presentation Secondary School ultimately led to a brilliant show. As the year was ending, we had two big trips left before we were brought back to earth by the looming Leaving

Certificate. Firstly, we made our way to Mount Mellory for the Gaisce trip. We dropped our stuff at the local hostel that we were staying at and got ready for the hike. The hike was tough on the legs, and the warm weather didn't help matters, but the view from the top was worth every drop of sweat. When we got back to camp, we relaxed for a period before heading to evening vespers in the church. When we returned to the hostel we were famished, but the teachers delivered with a feast of burgers, chips, and chicken nuggets. After a few games of wall ball and five-a-side soccer, we all settled around the fire and as you would expect of any proper campfire, a guitar materialised seemingly out of thin air. The sing-along was in full swing, with Ed Sheeran and Bradley Cooper completely and utterly being put to shame by us, when we had to retire for the night. A small walk the morning after ended that trip, and all focus was on the last trip of the year was to Derg Isle. We all arrived there for our last couple of days as TYs expecting a nice leisurely outing, but we were truly mistaken! It began with a military-style competition to earn your place in an indoor bed. The team who could deconstruct a wooden tractor and reconstruct it after running a lap with each of its many heavy components would earn a place on a nice mattress and blankets, the loser with nothing to show for only a sore back and hanging shoulders. Thankfully, the rest of the trip was a lot more relaxing. We hit the water and went canoeing. It was inevitable that with a bunch of young lads there would be attempts at turning each other's boats over, but this just added to the fun of it all. Unfortunately, the morning after brought our TY experience to a halt, a sad moment to say the least.

With no time at all we were back in the Study Hall at assembly, being braced for the two-year cycle ahead. We all knew deep down that this is where the real work begins, but nobody wanted to leave TY behind. After the cobwebs were blown off in the first term, we were well and truly underway, studying again and setting ourselves up for the exams that we were all afraid to mention. Everything was falling back into place, then the announcement on March 12th came and spiralled us all into completely

uncharted territory. "Long Easter holidays, lushhhhh" reverberated around the Glasshall, oblivious to the fact that it would be much more than just a long Easter break. Once this became apparent, Mr Finan, Mr Maher, Mr Smith and Fr Ryan sprung into action, putting plans in place as fast as humanly possible to ensure we lost out on as little education as possible. 'Google classroom' 'Adobe Scan' and 'Zoom' are now household phrases that we had never heard of before in our lives, but are all now a staple in our education for this past year. The memories from Fifth Year are limited to classroom jokes and trips to various universities and ITs, but this has only made the return to school that bit more satisfying.

As we returned for our final year as St Kieran's College students, we were met with changes upon changes to the layout of the school and the traditional timetables. This was all of course carefully elaborated and arranged for our safety and for the safety of our teachers. Not a single stone was left unturned in these plans, a true sign of how much our school cares about us. Yes, we had to make sacrifices in the process, but I think it's fair to say that it has worked out pretty well. The questions may have gone from "Is that a two-blade?" and "Where's your tie?" to "Masks on lads" and "Open those windows", but it's still Kieran's to me. So, as I conclude this reflection, I am trying to rack my brain to decide on what I'll miss the most. Maybe it's the pucks with the lads at break time, or the jokes we have in class, or even maybe seeing what the craic is in the metropolis that is the school bathrooms, there's honestly too many to choose from. One thing I can say with full confidence however, is that we have all experienced a six-year spell that has undoubtedly shaped each and every one of us into a better person, and we can now carry this with us into our future endeavours, whatever they may be. Our time here will be sorely, sorely missed, but in the words of Geoffrey Chaucer, "All good things must come to an end".

First Year Class of 2021



M.J. Banville, 1A1



Diarmuid Behan, 1A1



Nevin Benny, 1A1



Martin Brennan, 1A1



Luke Browne, 1A1



Tadhg Byrne, 1A1



Kieran Carter, 1A1



Evan Davy, 1A1



Cormac Dowling, 1A1



Ben Drennan, 1A1



Osin Farrell, 1A1



Thomas Gladney, 1A1



Brian Healy, 1A1



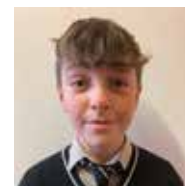
James Holohan, 1A1



Liam Keogh, 1A1



Cormac Leahy, 1A1



Conor McEvoy, 1A1



Robert McEvoy, 1A1



Rory O'Connor, 1A1



Liam O'Dwyer, 1A1



Daniel Patterson, 1A1



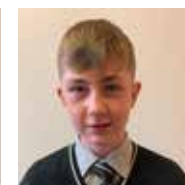
Eoghan Phelan, 1A1



Cathal Russell, 1A1



Daniel Tallis, 1A1



Kieran Timmons, 1A1



David Travers, 1A1



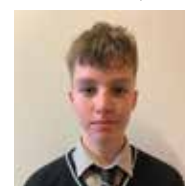
Euan Wall, 1A1



Eoin Walpole, 1A1



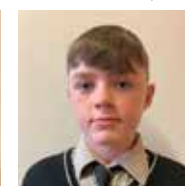
Cian Walsh, 1A1



Hugh Whelan, 1A1



Conor Aylward, 1A2



David Barcoe, 1A2



Harry Bourke, 1A2



T.J. Comerford, 1A2



Cian Doherty, 1A2



Ted Donohoe, 1A2



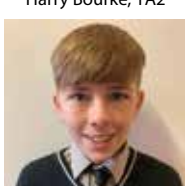
Daryl Drennan-Smyth, 1A2



Charlie Greene, 1A2



Scott Hennessy, 1A2



Ciarán Hickey, 1A2



Cian Holohan-White, 1A2



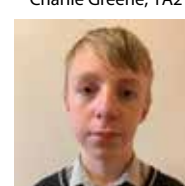
Liam Ireland-Wall, 1A2



Peter Kealy, 1A2



Lewis Kenealy, 1A2



Luke Lawlor, 1A2



Elijah Lynch, 1A2



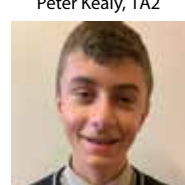
Jake Mullen, 1A2



James Murphy, 1A2



Thomas Murphy, 1A2



Cathal O'Dwyer, 1A2



Michael O'Shea, 1A2



Larry Phelan, 1A2



Mark Pozharskiy, 1A2



David Quinn, 1A2



Louis Raggett, 1A2



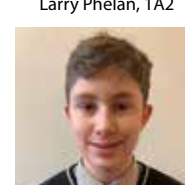
Eoin Ryan, 1A2



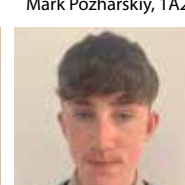
Killian Ryan, 1A2



Rian Shefflin, 1A2



Owen Shine, 1A2



Jack Walsh, 1A2

First Year Class of 2021



Cillian Bowe, 1A3



Eoghan Cahill, 1A3



Philip Carrigan, 1A3



Charlie Carroll, 1A3



Andrew Comerford, 1A3



Timmy Corr, 1A3



Conor Dillon, 1A3



Marc Doheny, 1A3



Jack Dooley, 1A3



Aaron Fox, 1A3



Conor Gibbons, 1A3



Ronan Hanrahan, 1A3



Dean Herbert, 1A3



Cormac Holden, 1A3



Conor Holohan, 1A3



Joseph Langton, 1A3



Louis Lawlor, 1A3



Robbie Lynch, 1A3



Daniel McEneaney, 1A3



Sam Mackey, 1A3



Conor Millea, 1A3



Rory Moore, 1A3



James O'Brien, 1A3



Tadhg O'Gorman, 1A3



Ronan O'Mahony, 1A3



James O'Mara, 1A3



Joseph Power, 1A3



Cathal Rossiter, 1A3



Daniel Smith, 1A3



James Wallace, 1A3



Tadhg Bergin, 1A4



Evan Bourke, 1A4



Thomas Boyle, 1A4



Rickard Burke, 1A4



Joseph Butler, 1A4



Cayden Byrne, 1A4



Harry Byrne, 1A4



Matthew Cahill, 1A4



Harry Conroy, 1A4



Ciarán Coone, 1A4



Mark Dalton, 1A4



Conor Dowling, 1A4



Conor Hanrahan, 1A4



Conor Heffernan, 1A4



Brian Hickey, 1A4



Hugh Kelly, 1A4



Fionn Mahony, 1A4



Bill McDermott, 1A4



Cormac Meegan, 1A4



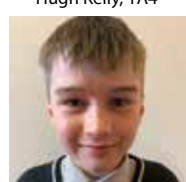
Sean Morrissey, 1A4



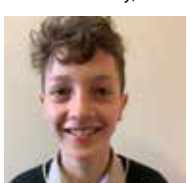
Liam O'Gorman, 1A4



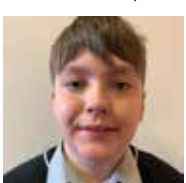
Cody O'Neill, 1A4



Ciarán Power, 1A4



Daniel Ryan, 1A4



Paddy Savage, 1A4



Tiarnan Shefflin, 1A4



Stephen Walsh, 1A4



Tommy Walsh, 1A4



James Walshe, 1A4

Second Year Class of 2021



Marc Bergin, 2A1



Stephen Butler, 2A1



Finn Conway, 2A1



Pierce Costello, 2A1



Christopher Delaney, 2A1



Jude Dooley-Delaney, 2A1



Liam Doyle, 2A1



Louis Fitzgerald, 2A1



Christopher Ging, 2A1



Ross Gormley, 2A1



Bill Hayes, 2A1



Jack Holohan, 2A1



Michael Keating, 2A1



Charlie Larkin, 2A1



Noah Manogue, 2A1



Sean Moloney, 2A1



David Moore, 2A1



Dylan Muldowney, 2A1



Daniel Murphy, 2A1



Alex O'Farrell, 2A1



Drew O'Keeffe, 2A1



Odhran O'Keeffe, 2A1



Philip O'Mahony, 2A1



James O'Neill, 2A1



Theo Patrani, 2A1



Ruari Phelan, 2A1



David Ring, 2A1



Sean Rossiter, 2A1



Robert Todd, 2A1



Robert Wallace, 2A1



John Bergin, 2A2



Patrick Bergin, 2A2



Cian Byrne, 2A2



James Cody, 2A2



Jim Conlon, 2A2



Allen Corr Larkin, 2A2



Daragh Coverdale, 2A2



Sean Deely, 2A2



Daniel Devereux, 2A2



Darragh Doyle, 2A2



John Fitzpatrick, 2A2



Luke Gamble, 2A2



Jack Hennessy, 2A2



Jack Holden, 2A2



Kian Kealy, 2A2



David Kenyi, 2A2



David Langton, 2A2



Ed Lauhoff, 2A2



Michael Lynch, 2A2



Jake Maher, 2A2



Oisín Marry, 2A2



Matthew McAviney, 2A2



Frank McCluskey, 2A2



Ruairi McEvoy, 2A2



Evan Murphy, 2A2



James O'Neill, 2A2



Alex Preston, 2A2



Shane Shortall, 2A2



Ruarc Sweeney, 2A2



Daniel Tallis, 2A2

Second Year Class of 2021



Dara Behan, 2A3



Eoin Brennan, 2A3



Conor Brophy, 2A3



Tony Butler, 2A3



Harry Cody, 2A3



Joe Connolly, 2A3



James Conway, 2A3



Dillon Cummins, 2A3



Jack Dooley, 2A3



Paidi Egan, 2A3



Daniel Gargan, 2A3



Samuel Hayes, 2A3



Hugh Hennessy, 2A3



Michael Kenneally, 2A3



Patrick Kerwick, 2A3



Thomas Langton, 2A3



Joshua Lawlor, 2A3



Cameron MacFarlane, 2A3



Odhran Moore, 2A3



Conor Murphy, 2A3



William Nugent, 2A3



Eimhin O'Hare, 2A3



Thomas O'Shea, 2A3



Cian Phelan, 2A3



Sean Quigley, 2A3



Michael Rohan, 2A3



Matthew Rowe, 2A3



Gregg Ruane, 2A3



Shane Walsh, 2A3



Noah Walsh-Brennan, 2A3



Tadhg Ahern, 2A4



James Brennan, 2A4



Timothy Brennan, 2A4



Jake Byrne, 2A4



Daniel Carey, 2A4



Liam Carrigan, 2A4



Conor Dalton, 2A4



Eoin Dalton, 2A4



Conor Farrell, 2A4



Charlie Grace, 2A4



Conor Hoynes, 2A4



Enda Kavanagh, 2A4



Johnny Leahy, 2A4



Harry Madigan, 2A4



Jack McCormack, 2A4



Danny McDonald, 2A4



Seamus Murphy, 2A4



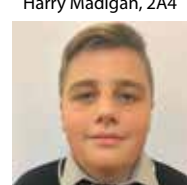
Eoghan O'Brien, 2A4



Quinn O'Neill, 2A4



Bill O'Shea, 2A4



Dawid Palcynski, 2A4



Rafal Palcynski, 2A4



Mark Reddy, 2A4



Daniel Ring, 2A4



Sean Shefflin, 2A4



David Sheppard, 2A4



Jamie Tallon, 2A4



Ruairi Walsh, 2A4



Tom Walsh, 2A4



Brian Wilson, 2A4

Third Year Class of 2021



Charlie Bibby, 3A1



Jacob Breslin, 3A1



Seán Brett, 3A1



Cormac Burke, 3A1



Ryan Cody, 3A1



Aaron Coogan, 3A1



Bill Coogan, 3A1



Ben Crow, 3A1



John Davis, 3A1



Aaron Dowling, 3A1



Eoghan Dowling, 3A1



Alexis Fitzgerald, 3A1



Kealan Gray, 3A1



John Hayes, 3A1



Cathal Hickey, 3A1



James Hickey, 3A1



James Hughes, 3A1



Joseph Hughes, 3A1



Harry Lanigan, 3A1



Darragh Lawlor, 3A1



Eamonn Maher, 3A1



Conor Hulhall, 3A1



Dean O'Brien, 3A1



Tommy O'Keeffe, 3A1



Jamie Peters, 3A1



Alex Reynolds, 3A1



Aaron Russell, 3A1



Rory Smithwick, 3A1



Darragh Treacy, 3A1



Guy Watts, 3A1



Sean Bergin, 3A2



Cathal Buckley, 3A2



Jacob Cassin, 3A2



Charlie Cleere, 3A2



James L. Comerford, 3A2



Rory Connellan, 3A2



Sean Counihan, 3A2



Pauric Curran, 3A2



John Dermody, 3A2



Finn Drennan, 3A2



Colm Fitzgerald, 3A2



David Fitzpatrick, 3A2



Noah Gilmore, 3A2



Joe Greene, 3A2



Ronan Hackett, 3A2



Ned Langton, 3A2



Ben Little, 3A2



Edward McDermott, 3A2



Joseph McInerney, 3A2



Tom McPhillips, 3A2



Cormac Moore, 3A2



Jack Murphy, 3A2



Robert Murphy, 3A2



Eoin O'Connor, 3A2



Connor O'Gorman, 3A2



Fred Odano, 3A2



Sean Roberts, 3A2



Liam Russell, 3A2



Joshua Tallis, 3A2



Paddy Walsh, 3A2

Third Year Class of 2021



Patrick Bourke, 3A3



Ciallin Brennan, 3A3



James Brennan, 3A3



Thomas Cleere, 3A3



Max Coffey, 3A3



Cian Farrell, 3A3



Niall Farrell, 3A3



Charlie Fitzgerald, 3A3



Brian Gladney, 3A3



Sean Hunt, 3A3



Jack Johnson, 3A3



Dayo Kingston, 3A3



Diarmuid Langton, 3A3



Sam Larkin, 3A3



Luke McBride, 3A3



Warren McGuinness, 3A3



Gavin McMahon, 3A3



Calum Meagher, 3A3



Andy Murphy, 3A3



Brian Murphy, 3A3



Jeff Neary, 3A3



Richard Nolan, 3A3



Andrew O'Connor, 3A3



Jake O'Brien, 3A3



James O'Connor, 3A3



Eoin O'Neill, 3A3



Josh Owens, 3A3



Luke Phelan, 3A3



Edward Whelan, 3A3



Sean Young, 3A3



Eoghan Bennett, 3A4



Harry Boyle, 3A4



Thomas Brennan, 3A4



James Brennan-Smyth, 3A4



David Butler, 3A4



Killian Butler, 3A4



Sean Cahill, 3A4



Sean Casey, 3A4



Aidan Cashin, 3A4



James J. Comerford, 3A4



Adam Coyne, 3A4



Ben Cummins, 3A4



Joey Dalton, 3A4



Aaron Doyle, 3A4



Conor Gamble, 3A4



Rory Glynn, 3A4



Lee Greene, 3A4



Luke Hanrahan, 3A4



David Hogan, 3A4



Donal Kealy, 3A4



Cian Kelly, 3A4



Paul Mahon, 3A4



Stephen Manogue, 3A4



Mark McPhillips, 3A4



Matthew Mulligan, 3A4



Joseph Murray, 3A4



Cian O'Reilly, 3A4



James Pachell, 3A4



Ben Phelan, 3A4



Aidan Ryan, 3A4

Third Year Class of 2021



Oisín Bateman, 3A5



Martin Brennan, 3A5



Timmy Brennan, 3A5



Robert Brown, 3A5



Aidan Cahill, 3A5



Robin Carey, 3A5



Sean Carrigan, 3A5



Christian Connick, 3A5



Bryce Cummins, 3A5



Conor Doyle, 3A5



Mark Fitzpatrick, 3A5



Patrick Fleming, 3A5



Liam Holohan, 3A5



Timothy Kelly, 3A5



Aaron McCallister, 3A5



Cathal McCormack, 3A5



Aaron McEvoy, 3A5



Jamie O'Brien, 3A5



Ronan O'Brien, 3A5



Luke O'Donnell, 3A5



Ross O'Neill, 3A5



Oisín O'Reilly, 3A5



Stephen Power-Kellett, 3A5



Joseph Prendergast, 3A5



Patrick Purcell, 3A5



Tomás Roche, 3A5



Nathan Ryan, 3A5



Jake Stanley Dunphy, 3A5



Killian Tallon, 3A5



Kieran Walsh, 3A5

Transition Year Class of 2021



Tadhg Blanchfield, TYA



Leon Brown, TYA



Michael Butler, TYA



Jamie Carter, TYA



James Cash, TYA



Jack Cody, TYA



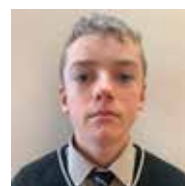
Damien Cuddihy, TYA



Thomas Dillon, TYA



Barry Dunne, TYA



Edward Dwyer, TYA



Rory Farrell, TYA



Patrick Foley, TYA



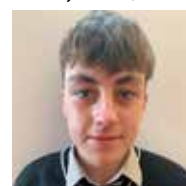
Eoin Forde, TYA



Michael Harrison, TYA



Aaron Heffernan Barcoe, TYA



Mark Holohan, TYA



Sam Kane, TYA



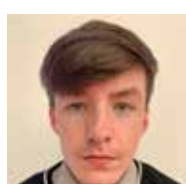
Frank Kanko, TYA



Brian Kerwick, TYA



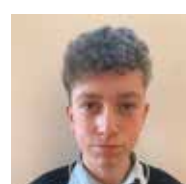
Oran Lavery, TYA



Aaron Maher, TYA



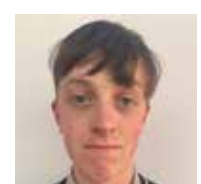
James Maher, TYA



Andrew McEvoy, TYA



Conor Molloy, TYA



Jack Murphy, TYA

Transition Year Class of 2021



Evan O'Neill, TYA



Sammy Rochford, TYA



Adam Walsh, TYA



Sean Adams, TYB



Matthew Banville, TYB



Felix Buckenham, TYB



Joe Canny, TYB



Michael Carroll, TYB



Josh Dennehy, TYB



Conor Dooley, TYB



Billy Egan, TYB



Hugh Finnegan, TYB



Shane Glynn, TYB



Conor Kavanagh, TYB



Chris Kealy, TYB



Cathal Keegan, TYB



Matthew Kelleher, TYB



Pauri Kirwan, TYB



James Larkin, TYB



Mark McGeeney, TYB



Ben Murphy, TYB



Pdraig Naddy, TYB



Adam Noonan, TYB



Dualtach O'Flaherty, TYB



Dylan O'Shea, TYB



Konrad Palczynski, TYB



Robert Ring, TYB



Darragh Ruane, TYB



Harry Shine, TYB



Bill Smith, TYB



Dylan Teehan, TYB



Ben Whitty, TYB



Adam Ankudovich, TYC



Kieran Brennan, TYC



Eoin Byrne, TYC



Kyle Byrne, TYC



Fionn Cody, TYC



Michael Corcoran, TYC



Michael Cullen, TYC



Billy Dowling, TYC



Oisín Doyle, TYC



Eoin Egan, TYC



Leonard Farrell, TYC



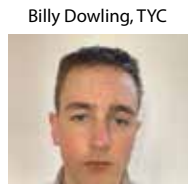
Conor Fitzmaurice, TYC



Adam Fomin, TYC



Shane Gleeson, TYC



Sean Og Hetherington, TYC



Ben Irwin-Walker, TYC



Louis Jamieson Eyre, TYC



John Keane, TYC



Joe Kearns, TYC



Zach Lawlor, TYC



Mark MacEneaney, TYC



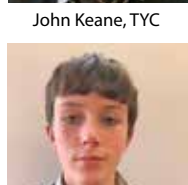
Alex McDonald, TYC



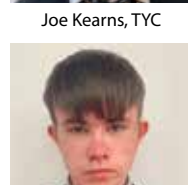
James McEvoy, TYC



Ben Moore, TYC



Bill Nolan, TYC



Pdraig O'Mahony, TYC



Dylan Pratt-Stapleton, TYC



Quinn Rogers Van De Keere, TYC

Transition Year Class of 2021



William Wallace, TYC



David Williams, TYC



Jack Aylmer, TYD



Sean Byrne, TYD



Eoin Cahill, TYD



Darren Coffey, TYD



Denis Dalton, TYD



Killian Doyle, TYD



Ted Dunne, TYD



Matthew Durnan, TYD



Jack Foley, TYD



Diarmuid Greene, TYD



Bill Hughes, TYD



Anthony-Wall Ireland, TYD



Sean Keenan, TYD



Billy Keogh, TYD



Robin Lanigan, TYD



Tom Lodge, TYD



Oisín Meally, TYD



David Mulrooney, TYD



Ciaran Nolan, TYD



Kevin O'Connor, TYD



Harry O'Grady, TYD



James O'Shea, TYD



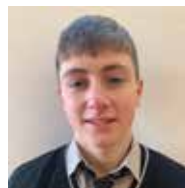
Daire Phelan, TYD



Michael Raggett, TYD



Pierce Ryan, TYD



Niall Shortall, TYD



Stephen Sokiri, TYD



Louis Todd, TYD



Cathal Walsh, TYD



Brian Whelan, TYD

Fifth Year Class of 2021



Jack Archbold



Artem Arlukov



Edmar Basilio



Samba Batchilly



Kevin Benny



Boru Bergin



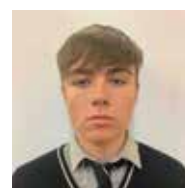
Patryk Bogusz



Conor Booth



Adam Bowe



Daniel Bowe



Simon Bowe



Joseph Brennan-Duffy



Conor Brett



Luke Burke



Jack Butler



Oisín Cahill



Ben Canavan



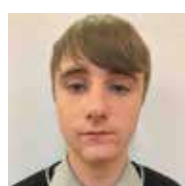
Jimmy Cantwell



Killian Carey



James Carroll



Josh Casserly



Eimhin Cassin



Conor Cody



Larry Cody



Luke Connellan

Fifth Year Class of 2021



Liam Connolly



Peter Conroy



Nikki Conway



Robbie Cord



Coby Cummins



Bill Dalton



Eoin Deely



Charlie Delahunty



Jack Delaney



Naoise Dempsey



Jack Dennehy



Ben Dermody



Ross Dermody



Nick Doheny



Kelan Donohue



Aaron Dorney



Jack Dowling



Sean Dowling



Luke Doyle



Dylan Duggan



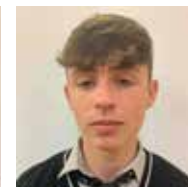
Luke Dunne



Alan Dunphy



Darragh Dwyer



Shane Fennelly



Ronan Fernando



Charlie Fitzgerald



Joe Fitzpatrick



Sean Fitzpatrick



Cathal Foely



Jack Forristal



James Gladney



Conor Gleeson



Dylan Gordon



Ben Higgins



Ruaidhri Holden



Eamon Og Holland



Michael Ibrahim



Sean Keane



Robert Kelly



Darragh Kennedy



Patrick Kennedy



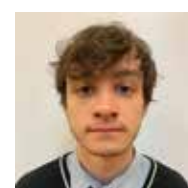
James D. Kenny



James E. Kenny



John Kenny



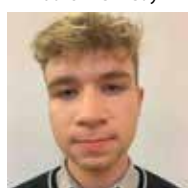
Oisin Keyes



Stephen King-Kohler



Aaron Korthout



Adam Langan



Patrick Langton



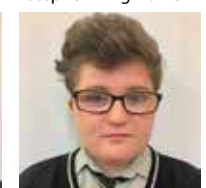
Sean Lanigan



Will Lanigan



Dillon Lawless



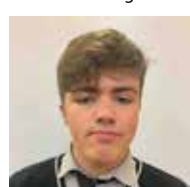
Matthew Lawlor



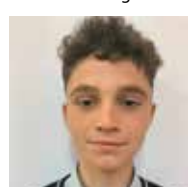
Jimmy Lennon



Pdraig Lennon



Conor Lynch



John Madigan



Julian Maher



Daire Mahon



Luke Malone

Fifth Year Class of 2021



Moses Mario



Brogan McAviney



Eibhan McEvoy



Richard McEvoy



Sam McEvoy



Fionn McGarry



Jamie McGrath



Christian McInerney



Harry McIntyre



Darragh McMullen



Oisín Meegan



Charlie Miller



Kevin Molloy



Liam Moloney



Aaron Moore



Cian Moore



Sean Moore



Paul Mulligan



Cathal Murphy



Jacob Newman



Emmet Nolan



Niall O'Brien



Noel O'Brien



Adam O'Connor



Oisín O'Connor



Nicholas O'Keeffe



Jimmy O'Neill



Matthew O'Neill



Josh O'Rourke



David Parle



Eoghan Phelan



Tommy Phelan



Philip Prendergast



Cathal Quinn



Shaun Rafter



Cathal Redmond-Brett



Conall Ruane



Jack Ryan



Craig Shelley



Alex Sheridan



Darragh Slattery



Brendan Staunton



Eoin Turner



Luke Wallace



Adam Walsh



Liam James Walsh



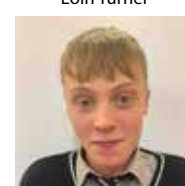
Liam John Walsh



Pete Walsh



Adam Walsh



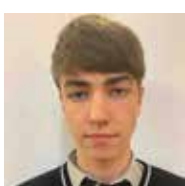
Conor Walton



Charlie Watts



Aaron Wemyss



Eoghan Whelan



Michael Whelan

Sixth Year Class of 2021



Oliver Baros



Tomás Barron



Brian Barry



Luke Bateman



Conor Beale



Marko Bistrovic



Billy Brennan



Padraigh Brennan



Patrick Brennan



Andrew Brennan-Smyth



Cormac Brogan



Tom Buckley



George Burghlelea



Huzaifah Butt



Ciaran Byrne



Dan Cahill



John Canny



Dylan Carroll



Eoin Carroll



Ronan Carroll



Tom Carroll



Daragh Casey



Richard Cash



Jamie Chisholm



Gavin Cleere



Jack Cleere



Jack Clifford



Eoin Crowley



Craig Cummins



Eoin Dalton



Eoin Delahunty



D.J. Delaney



Josh Dempsey



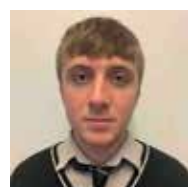
Andrew Devereux



Edmond Dowling



Jack Doyle



Oisín Doyle



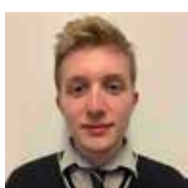
Tommy Doyle



Oisín Drennan



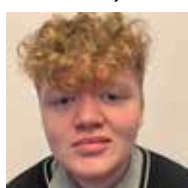
Robbie English



Brian Fahy



Conor Farrell



Alexis Fitzgerald



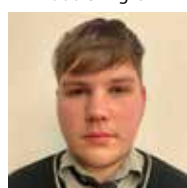
Conor Fitzgerald



David Fleming



Pádraic Foley



Oscar Fomin



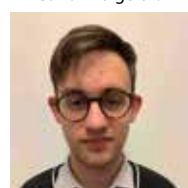
Senan Forristal



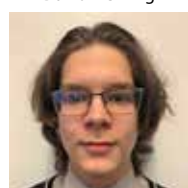
William Fox



J.P. Gamble



Dominik Gorney



Tomasz Gruca



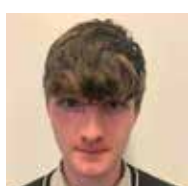
Luke Hennessy



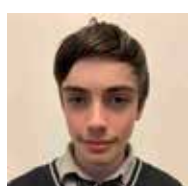
Andy Hickey



Luke Holohan



Peter Holohan



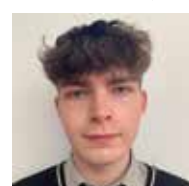
David Hoyne-Casey



Daniel Hughes



Cathal Kearney



Kieran Keech

Sixth Year Class of 2021



Ciaran Keher-Murtagh



Myles Kehoe



Ivan Kelly



Aidan Kenny



Dylan Kenny



Anish Kodukula



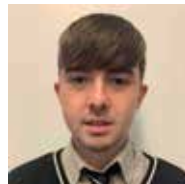
Keith Lanigan



Jay Maguire



Jake Malone



Dara Mason



Mark McBride



Sean McBride



Michael McCarthy



Ivan McCauley



Brian McDonald



Luke McDonald



Peter McDonald



Jack McGuirk



Luke McNena



Michael Molloy



John Muldowney



Cathal Mulhall



Nicholas Mullins



Daniel Murphy



Harry Murphy



Charlie Nolan



Conor Nolan



Killian Norton



Eoin O'Brien



Vinny O'Grady



Shaun O'Keeffe



Cathal O'Reilly



Liam O'Reilly



Oisín Quirke



Cormac Rafter



Ciaran Rice



Oisín Ronan



John Ruane



Sebastian Ruianu



JJ. Ryan



Finnian Shefflin



Matthew Shortall



Daniel Smithwick



Eoin Southgate



Matthew Treacy



Aaron Tully



Robert Vasilachi



Adam Walsh-Brennan



Darragh Walsh



David Walsh



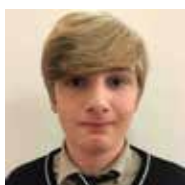
Denis Walsh



Jack Walton



Niall Ward



Conor Whearty



Mohammad Zeb

Sixth Year Signatures

Jack Clifford
 Eoin Carroll
 Matthew Shortall
 Conor Nolan
 Will Fox
 Matthew Treacy
 Eoin Dalton
 Shaun O'Keefe
 Michael Molloy
 David Walsh
 Liam O'Reilly
 Disin Ronan
 Robbie English
 Cormac Rafter
 Cathal O'Reilly
 Osear Fomh
 Tomas Gruca
 Vincent O'Grady
 Cianan Keher-Murtagh
 Jack Doyle
 Marko Bistrevic
 Edmund Dowling
 George Burgheta
 Jack McGuirk
 Robert Vasilachi
 John Muldowney
 Luke Bateman
 Kieran Keech
 Brian McDonald
 Daragh Walsh
 Cathal Mulhall
 Gormac Bryan
 TOMAZIARH IZEPH.
 Tommy DeJ
 Tom Buckley
 Andrew Devereux
 Jake Malone
 Aidan Kenny
 Billy Brennan
 Peter McDonald
 Daniel Smithwick
 Eoin Crowley
 Cathal Kearney
 Daragh Casey
 Dylan Kenny
 Oisín Quirke
 Dominik Gorny
 Luke Hichan
 Nicholas Mullins
 Richard Cash
 Charles Nolan
 Alanis Fite Gerald
 John Canny
 Craig Cummins
 Daniel Murphy
 Hyles Kehoe
 Sebby Ruicani
 Luke McAnena
 Harry Murphy
 Eoin O'Brien
 Paddy Tully
 Mark McBride
 Keith Tanigan
 Andrew Brennan Smyth
 Jack Cleare
 David Hoynes Casey
 DJ Delaney
 Gavin Deane
 John Ruane
 Dylan Carroll
 Dan Cahill
 Pdraigh Brennan
 Seamus Forstaf.
 Killian Norbon
 Paul Flaherty
 Tom Carroll
 Eoin Delahy
 Oisín Doyle
 Niall Ward
 Luke Hennessy
 Jamie Chisholm
 Brian Fahy
 Mick Conboy
 Peter Robinson
 Ivan McCauley
 Ivan Kelly
 Conor Fitzpatrick
 Adam McKeown
 Pdraic Foley
 Peter Carroll
 Pdraic Foley

Scholarships



Student Council 2021-2022

The student council is a voice for the students in the school. Each year we are elected by our peers to represent them. Five Sixth Years run the council with two representatives from each of the other Year Groups. We meet every fortnight with Mr Smith and Mr Kavanagh to discuss new and old events in the school and any matters arising.

Our work is varied throughout the year. We review new and existing school policies and make suggestions, we meet with the Parents' Association and the Management Team, and we also do our best to help our school community and the wider local community in whatever way we can.

Given that this was an unusual year due to Covid-19, we were not stopped from doing our part. This year we:

- Reviewed policies to improve student Mental Health
- Held two soccer days for student Wellbeing
- Collected food to make food hampers for our local St Vincent de Paul



Sixth Year Executive Members
(l-r): Michael McCarthy, Andy Hickey, Patrick Brennan, Ciaraán Rice, John Canny.

- Sent Christmas Cards to the residents of nursing homes in Kilkenny
 - Raised funds for our local Alzheimer's Day-Care Centre
 - Kept student life as close to normal as was possible, in line with Covid regulations
- It was a great experience and we are grateful to all those who helped us throughout the year.

New School Website and School Prospectus



The school shutdown presented an ideal opportunity to revisit our school website. Thanks to local web designer, Karol Ryan, our new, revitalised website was launched this year in February. Our school website is an essential tool for communicating with parents, students and the wider community, giving news, updates and lots of information on the daily running of the school. One striking new feature of the website is the sweeping footage, recorded by local producers "Barefoot Productions". John and Dave did a wonderful job of getting a birds eye view of the College Campus and mixing in old school footage with the new.

This year also saw the introduction of an updated version of our School Prospectus. This prospectus give prospective students and their parents a good flavour of what St Kieran's College is all about. Coupled with the website, one can find information on the history of the school, the curricula covered, important information on the admissions process and lots more. Special thanks to Ms Martina Lawlor, College Secretary, who gives so generously of her time to assist the school in publishing such wonderful productions, like the school prospectus this year, which add so greatly to the life of our school.

Many thanks to all involved in the production of the new website and prospectus.

We trust that these will be highly useful resources to all in the St Kieran's College community going forward. Visit: www.stkieranscollege.ie





Pastoral Care at St Kieran's





Cairdeas Leaders 2020 - 2021

Back row (l-r): Jack Delaney, Peter Conroy, Cian Moore, Aaron Moore, Brogan McAviney, Charlie Delahunty, James Gladney, Charlie Fitzgerald, Harry McIntyre. Third row (l-r): Oisín Cahill, Jimmy Cantwell. Second row (l-r): Liam Moloney, Ruaidhri Holden, James Kenny. Front row (l-r): Ben Higgins, Richard McEvoy, Cathal Quinn, Paul Mulligan, Kevin Benny. Absent from photo: Liam Walsh.

CAIRDEAS

In April 2020, twenty-four students applied to take part in the Cairdeas programme. The group met with Mr Brennan for some training prior to the First Years entering St Kieran's College. Due to the school closures at that time, the incoming 'Cairdeas' completed their training online in anticipation of First Year induction.

The Cairdeas Programme aims to provide support for our First 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 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 Fifth 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 into our school during these difficult times for all students.

THE 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 in the area of Mental Health.

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 team, along with the chaplain, Mr Brennan, are tasked with organising events and schemes to promote and improve mental well-being throughout the school. Despite school closures, the amber flag team still managed to organise events both in school, and then virtually during lockdown. The students created a World Mental Health Day video shown on the school twitter account on October 10th, 2020. Events during lockdown included steps challenge to improve exercise during online learning as well as skills challenges where students could exhibit their skills, outside of school learning. TY students also took part in coaching to First Year students which proved to be a very beneficial exercise. 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.

CHRISTMAS 2020

Like all celebrations this year, Christmas too was affected by the Covid pandemic. Nevertheless, this did not deter us from entering into the spirit of Christmas, through decoration, prayer and song. Thanks to the creativity of those involved, we found ways to prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Christ. Extra Christmas trees were decorated so that all students in each pod could view them. Our traditional Carol Service from the College Chapel was recorded and shared online. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Dermot Farrell to pray with us during the carol service.

Some of the musical pieces were performed and recorded outdoors. First Years sent Christmas Cards to those in nursing homes, which at that time had also been so deeply affected by the pandemic. Many thanks to Shane Gleeson and Killian Corcoran who helped to decorated the Christmas Trees and to all involved in making Christmas this year, a very special one.





MY FIRST YEAR IN KIERAN'S

Robbie Lynch

My first year in Kieran's was a great yet strange one. I had a mix of actually being in school and online school, thanks to covid! I started off the year in school, meeting new friends, teachers and experiencing new subjects. I also experienced new things like getting an hour lunch break and then being able to hurl for all that time. The school also set up different activities for us over the year including two hours of hurling training a week and a sports day at the watershed.

Then covid hit hard just around Christmas break and we weren't back till the start of April. During those four months I had zoom classes all day and we submitted work via google classroom. Again, this was a new experience but the school helped us to adjust. Thankfully it only lasted the four months and then we got to go back to school. Even with masks, covid and restrictions the teachers tried to make

our first year fun and inclusive. Overall I had a great first year in Kieran's and hope the next five will just be as good!

Daniel Ryan

I started school here in St.Kieran's College on the 31st of August 2020. We were told our classes on the way in and were sent to our new classroom. I am in 1A4 and we have great fun. The teachers made it a nice environment to be in from the very start.

In First Year we do the choice subjects for the whole year which are Woodwork, Technology, Art, Music, Tech Graph and Business, I really liked the practical subjects and the experience of something different. With covid there wasn't any sport competitions although the teachers made a big effort with a sports day at the start of the year. We also got to play hurling with the TY's. I loved the chance to get outside to train and the opportunity to make friends. I'm sure it was a different First Year to others but I really enjoyed it.

FIRST YEAR WELLBEING



First Year Non Contact Hurling

First Year induction continued throughout Covid this year. Our Transition Years organised sports for First Years. Four groups of TY's

volunteered to plan, implement and review wellbeing activities for First Years. Each group spoke to teachers of SPHE and Form creating a programme and timetable for wellbeing throughout the week. The aim of their endeavours was to promote wellbeing through outdoor activities. They organised hurling, soccer and College walks for the classes. All the students had a really enjoyable time while getting a chance to remove their mask in a safe and controlled environment. These activities allowed the TY's to get to know the First Years but also to provide them with role models for the next few years. The First Years got to know each other outdoors through sport and wellbeing.

President's Award Gaisce

One of our Sixth Year students Cormac Brogan achieved the second highest award in the Gaisce Awards this year. This is an impressive achievement at any stage but especially in today's climate to still fulfill all the requirements shows the huge dedication and hard work that Cormac put in.



Wellbeing in Junior Cycle



St Kieran's College, in its nature, has always had a strong historical sporting tradition and competitive spirit. During Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, our students have not had the chance to exercise in a competitive environment as lockdown restrictions meant that non contact training and exercise was not permissible.

Worried about the social and mental effects school closure would have had on some students and aware that some students did not have the chance to meet up with their friends in a social environment like sports training, we were eager to offer them a social and competitive outlet where they could interact with their friends

from school again. To this end, Mr M. Connolly who teaches Second and Third year Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) decided to conduct a Group Steps Challenge for his Second and Third Year groups. Students were required to form a group of 4 and appoint a captain. The team members downloaded an App called 'Stride-Kick' which monitored the total steps for the group each week. The captain of each group would then upload the information to Mr Connolly who compiled the totals for each group over a 6 week period after Christmas.

Some students embraced the competitive spirit of this challenge as they were competing against other

groups not only in their class but their year also. The biggest success of this challenge was that it gave our students the opportunity to engage with their friends remotely over a difficult and challenging lockdown period.

Above are some photos of the winning groups who collected their prize from Mr Connolly once school reopened after Easter.

FIRST YEAR QUIZ

As part of wellbeing for First Years we organised a First Year quiz for the whole year group. It was a quiz of four rounds split into sport, Tv, music and general knowledge. During online learning it was very important for the

students to take a break away from the books to enjoy the quiz with their peers. Well done to Robert McEvoy, Conor Gibbons, James Walshe, Philip Carrigan and James Murphy who won the prizes.

“MY LOCKDOWN EXPERIENCE”

Hugh Whelan

My lockdown experience was a bit of a mixed bag. On one hand you had the lack of a social life and the not knowing of when schools would reopen. But on the other side the later mornings and less hands-on work was a welcomed experience. At first, like anyone, I was over the moon about schools closing and that I had more time to play hurling and do hobbies. Despite that as the weeks went on I began to realise that school really isn't a place I should dread. Since the start of the year I have made more friends and gained more knowledge. By the end of it all I was buzzing to get back to school.

On the first day of online learning I was a mess. Pounding at the screen to the camera to appear was not a pleasant memory. After a few weeks of experience and support from teachers it became a simple process of logging into classes and getting into a routine. I was quite lucky that I had

all the resources at hand to have my best online learning experience. The teachers were very understanding of the change to homeschooling and the support that students needed. I thank them for their encouragement.

Another aspect of staying at home during school was your family. People often say that the lockdown experience helped them grow closer to their families. In a way this was true because often our whole family had dinner together. But in a more obvious way tempers did start to flare. When you have a seventeen year old brother and you're cooped up at home for over 100 days I feel there is no other option but to tear into each other with fists. In hindsight we were arguing over nothing important. I still think I was right at least 90% of the time.

The two week break between online schooling and going back into classes was a pleasant break. I spent most of my time cycling, going to the pitch and making a bit of money from my own business. Although this lockdown experience was never going to be the time of my life, I think I made the most of it.

Charlie Greene

My lockdown experience was overall very enjoyable but there were aspects of lockdown that I won't miss. I thought the hours were great in online school

but you don't have the same craic when the bell rings and you're straight out onto the pitch with your friends. At home during lunch break, or between classes I missed the buzz of pucking a ball and having a laugh with my friends. On the other hand I did gain an hour in bed every morning, as I only had to be up at 8:45am because my classroom was my bedroom. Another good thing about online school was if you had your head in the clouds paying no attention at all and you are asked a question you could pretend your screen was frozen, answer when you were on mute or just pretend that you just couldn't hear. Before the lockdown my life was much busier going to training most evenings for hurling, soccer or rugby. Even though I really miss the craic at training and playing matches it was good to be able to slow things down a bit, relax and just enjoy time at home. In lockdown when online class was over I tried to get out on my bike or go for a run or kick a ball or have a puck around with my brother which was good craic. It was never boring because all of us were at home at the same time and there was always something going on with my brothers and sisters. I really enjoyed being back to normal and seeing all the lads. Hopefully none of us will ever have to experience a lockdown ever again.



Elma Walsh Mental Health Talk



On 15th October 2020, Elma Walsh, mother of Donal Walsh, visited the school, albeit virtually this year, to speak to our students about Mental Health issues. Elma has visited the school before on numerous occasions, driving to Kilkenny from Tralee and often would have other talks planned afterwards.

Her message is a very powerful one. Her son, Donal, died in May 2013, following a long battle with cancer. During his illness, Donal became well known for his message about the importance of life and living. The Kerry teenager touched so many lives when he came to prominence through his writings and subsequent appearance on Brendan O'Connor's 'The Saturday Night Show'. Donal who fundraised tirelessly while battling cancer had the Donal Walsh Foundation set up by his family primarily in order to promote his anti-suicide message. Elma passed on Donal's message to our students this year via Zoom. The message to

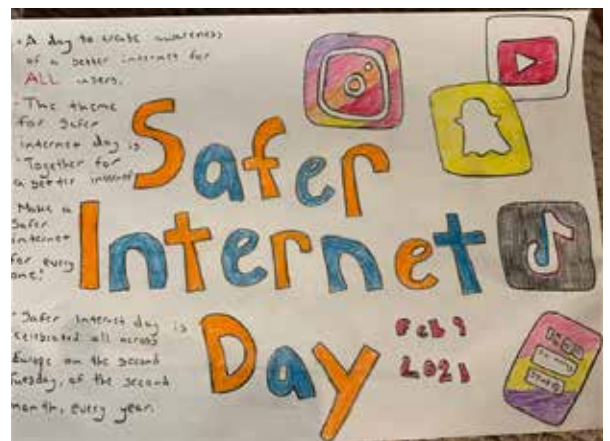
live life to its fullest because there are those with illnesses who can't is a very powerful one which hit home to the students who listened in the Chapel to Elma's talk. We are very grateful to Elma

Walsh for taking the time to pass on her very powerful and moving message to our students. We look forward to welcoming her back to the school in person hopefully next year.



Receiving the Amber Flag for 2021-2022

L-r: Conor Millea, Fionn Mahony, Conor McEvoy, Brian Hickey.



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day (SID) is an EU wide initiative to promote a safer internet for all users, especially young people. It is promoted in Ireland by the PDST Technology in Education and Webwise.

The theme for Safer Internet Day is "Together for a Better Internet" and, while Safer Internet Day 2021 looked a little different, thousands of people got involved to help create a safer, better, internet.

Our First Years got involved in Safer Internet Day this year. They designed and created posters to highlight the importance of staying safe online.



Art



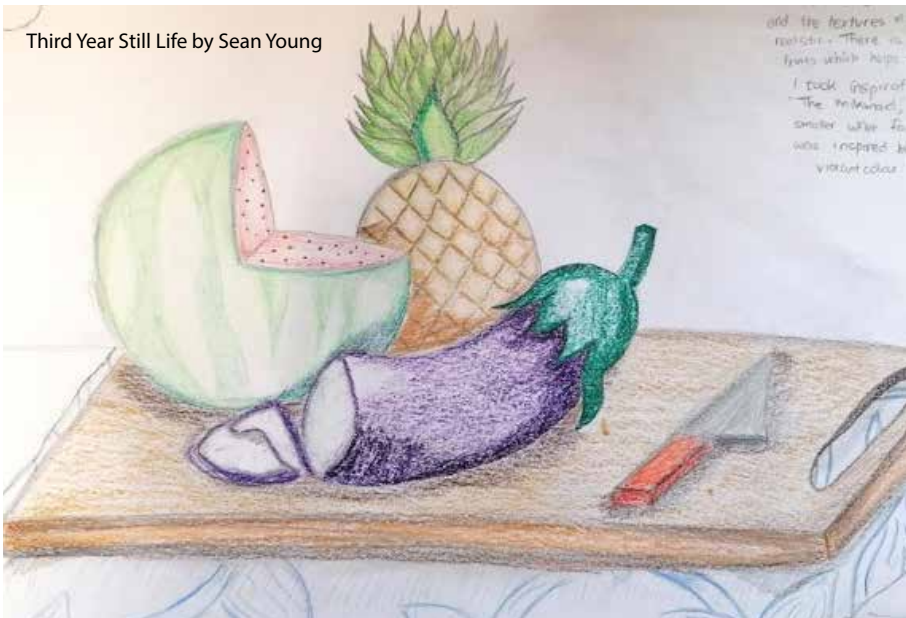
First Year James Wallace.



Third Year Still Life by Matthew Mulligan.



Sixth Year pencil drawing by Jake Malone.



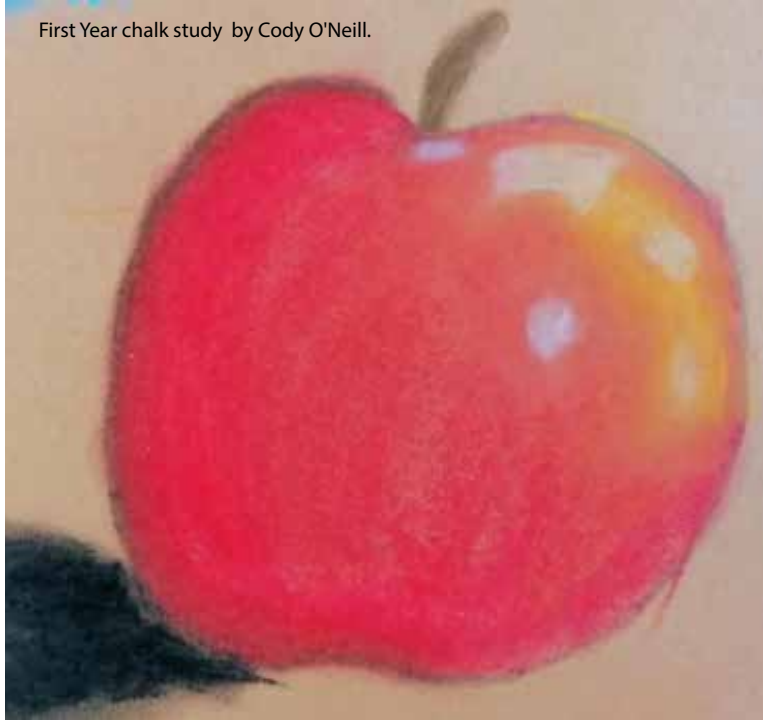
Third Year Still Life by Sean Young

and the textures of
realism. There is
lines which help
I took inspiration
The pineapple,
smaller white fo
was inspired by
vibrant colour.

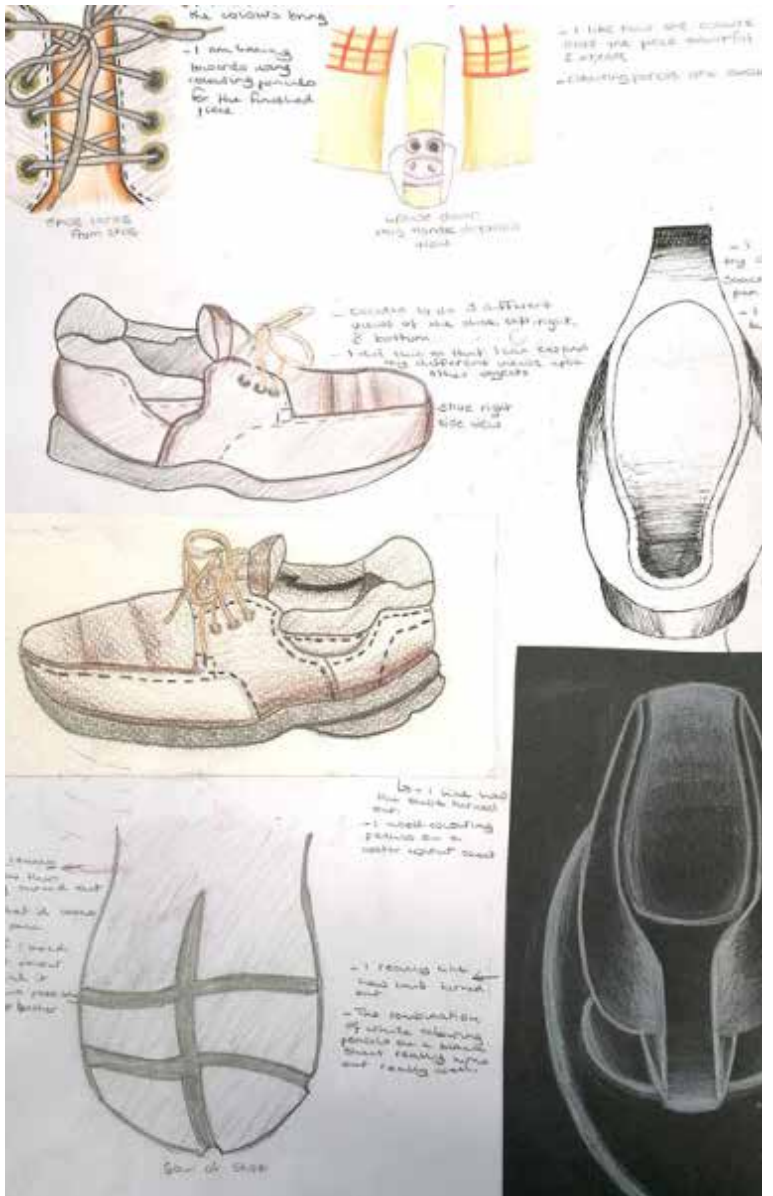
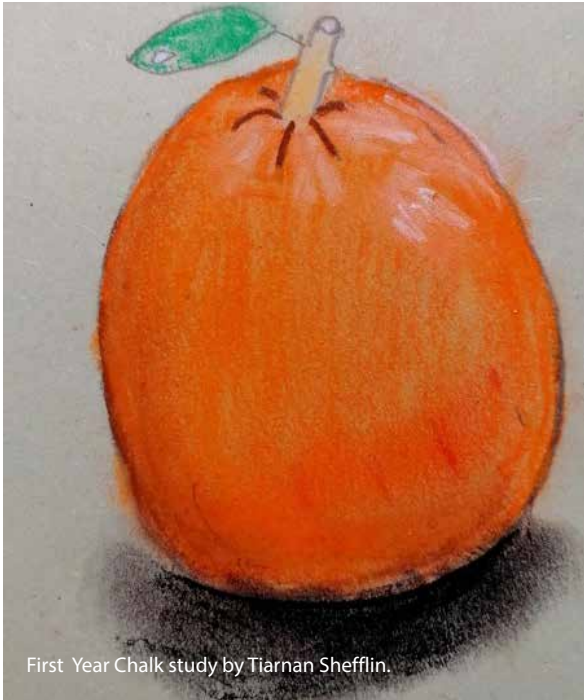
First Year Chalk study by Liam O'Gorman



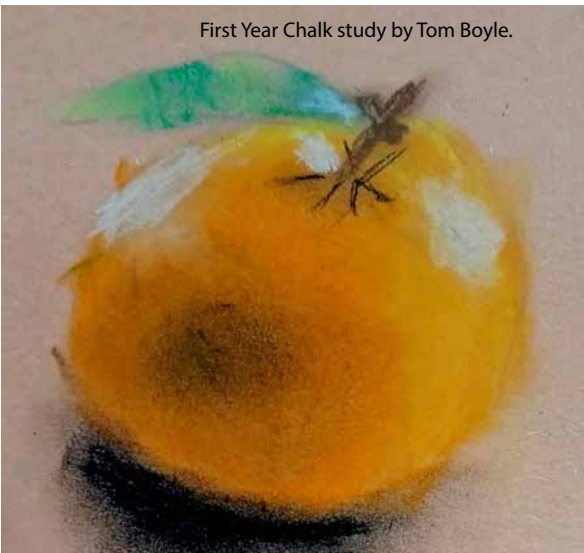
First Year chalk study by Cody O'Neill.



First Year Chalk study by Tiarnan Shefflin.



First Year Chalk study by Tom Boyle.



Sixth Year Research Drawings Billy Brennan.

Bank of Ireland Young Enterprise Award

Adam O'Connor

Money Smarts challenge is a competition designed by Financial Wellbeing experts, this national secondary school competition combines financial literacy education with a fun challenge. The regional finals took place in Hotel Kilkenny which we weren't expecting to win. We were provided with food and snacks during the Quiz. When our team number was called out as winners, none of us could believe it. We studied very hard and were really looking forward to the national finals. Due to Covid-19 the final was called off but we received a very cool prize pack from Bank of Ireland. Thanks to Mr Ryan for organising this competition.



L-r: Nick O'Keeffe, Mr Lester Ryan, Kevin Molloy, Adam O Connor, Harry McIntyre (Front)

Derek McGrath Online Talk

In mid-January, we received a really beneficial talk from Derek McGrath. Derek is a former Waterford hurling manager and a secondary school teacher in De La Salle Secondary School, Waterford. He spoke to us about the importance of minding our mental health and well-being.

This came at a very important time for Leaving Certificate students as there was so much uncertainty facing us in terms of getting back to school, mocks and examinations.

Derek talked about setbacks he had in his life and encouraged us to take every day as it comes and to enjoy it. He also gave us some great advice about the Leaving Cert itself and how to deal with the pressures of it. Overall it was a very beneficial talk which everybody seemed to have enjoyed. It gave us a different perspective on life, and the importance of trying to be the best we can be every day in our lives at a time when we really needed to hear that message. Many thanks to Derek for taking the time to spend a couple of hours with us that day and to our Career Guidance teacher, Mr Dowling, for organising the talk.



The Growth Mindset:

- Implicit in viewpoint re: setbacks
- Knowledge shared and understood
- Recognising the challenges facing all parties



Career Guidance



Philip Connors, Carlow IT



Eddie Brennan, Garda



Paul Murphy, Defence Forces

Mr Brian Dowling - Career Guidance Counsellor

Due to the pandemic, trips to Colleges and Guest Speakers visiting the school were not an option for this current school year. However, we had a lot of online guest speakers during the year through Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

We had informative talks from the following Third Level Colleges – W.I.T., I.T. Carlow, DCU and NUIG. As Open days for colleges were prohibited, these talks gave the students a sense of what Third Level colleges may be like.

The following guest speakers spoke about their own particular careers or courses. We had Philp Connors from I.T. Carlow speaking about Sport Science, past pupil Eddie Brennan spoke about a career in the Gardaí, Paul Murphy spoke about life in the Defence Forces, we had Virginia Bohan from Solas speaking about apprenticeships, we also had talks from the Business Schools in DCU and UCD. Former past pupil and student of the year and current DCU student, Ned Kirwan was part of the DCU Business talk.

There were also informative Scholarship talks from DCU and Maynooth. The Fifth Years enjoyed a presentation on how to apply through UCAS when they are in Sixth Year.

For the first time, our Transition Years took part in the Reach + programme, which will continue on into Fifth and Sixth Year. This offers students the opportunity to learn about themselves and to help monitor students as they progress in secondary school.

The highlight of the year was the talk that Derek McGrath delivered to the Sixth Years shortly after Christmas. Derek spoke very honestly and delivered some key messages to our students in terms of remaining positive and to strive to be the best that they can be.

Best Wishes Ms Wemyss on her retirement. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Ms Anne Wemyss the very best on her retirement. Anne has been an integral part of the Pastoral Care/Guidance Team in the school for many years now. Since Anne joined the Career Guidance Support Team in the school, she has played a pivotal role throughout the whole school community. I have witnessed first-hand from working with Anne, the care and support that she has given for all of her students. This is evident through everything she does. On behalf of all in the Pastoral Care Team and on behalf of all of the students that Anne has taken care of so well, we would like to wish Anne all the best in her retirement and hopefully she will get to enjoy many rounds of golf in the years ahead.

Construction Studies

Each year the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) run a competition to promote careers in the construction industry. This year the theme was “A Home for Everyone” Design Challenge. This years theme was chosen to highlight the need for affordable, sustainable and inclusive homes that can tackle challenges such as climate change and the housing crisis. Two of our students Nick Doheny and Richard McEvoy entered the competition. Under the guidance of their teacher Mr Emmet Bynre their project was selected as the overall winners of the CIF competition, a huge achievement. Well done lads

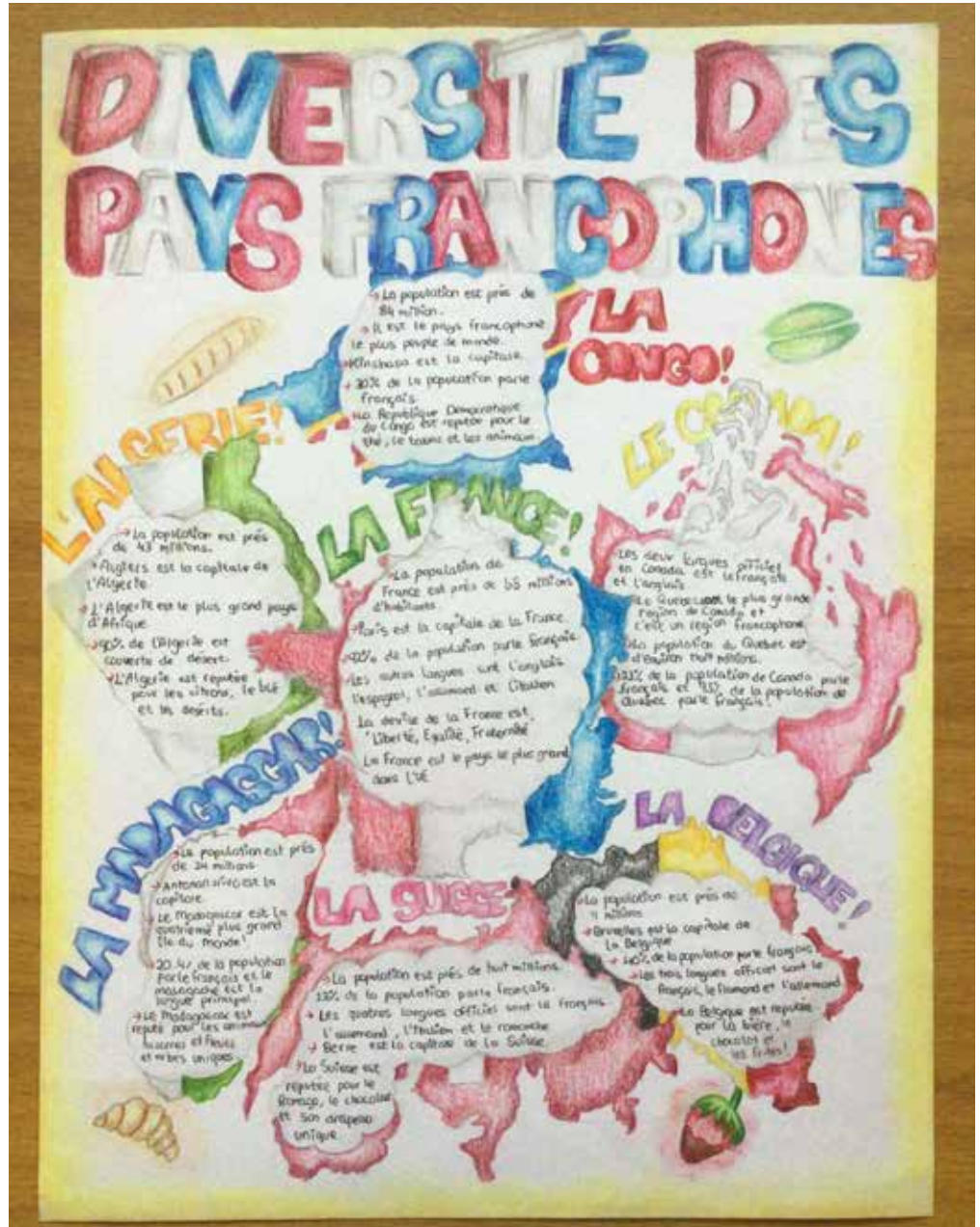


L-r Nick Doheny, Mr Emmet Byrne, Richie McEvoy.

French

Seàn Young (3A3) a participé au mois de février à un concours d'art organisé par l'Alliance française à Cork. Il a créé un poster basé sur le thème de la Francophonie, donc il a dessiné d'une façon très impressionnante une variété de pays francophones dans le monde. Il a aussi écrit une description des pays choisis en français, donc son poster montre ses compétences artistiques aussi bien que linguistiques! Il faut mentionner également qu'il l'a fait pendant le confinement. L'Alliance lui a donné un certificat et a fait l'éloge de notre jeune élève pour son travail. Son professeur de français, Mme. Allan, est aussi très fière de lui. Bravo Seàn!

One of our Third Years, Sean Young, participated in a French poster competition which was organised by the Cork Alliance Française. The theme of the competition was “La Francophonie”. Sean created a poster that represented countries across the world where French is spoken. Sean received a Certificate of Participation and praise from the Alliance for his work. Well done Sean.



Maths during Covid

Maths during Covid

Maths has been very prominent in the school this year, despite the restrictions limiting the usual activities that usually take place. Transition Year students took part in a webinar hosted by Dr Katie Steckles on Maths Greatest Unsolved Problems. In this talk Katie discussed some of the maths problems that are still unsolved by mathematicians and also gave some puzzles for the people attending to solve. This talk was very interesting and very beneficial to those in attendance. Students in Second and Third Year have also been busy with Maths projects throughout the year. The following are samples of work taken from students in Mr Gerry Walsh's Maths class. One student investigated the idea of turning a room into a home gym. Here is a sample of the project:

Unfortunately, Maths Week was unable to go ahead this year. Usually during Maths Week we have scavenger hunts and Maths games. We are planning on having an even bigger and better Maths Week next year. Well done to all of our budding young Mathematicians in the school. Keep up the good work.

Room measurements and cost

Description	Width (m)	Height (m)	Area (m ²)
Wall 1	2.1	2.4	5.04
Wall 2	3.1	2.4	7.44
Wall 3	2.1	2.4	5.04
Wall 4	3.1	2.4	7.44
Door	0.95	2.0	1.90
Window	1.8	1.2	2.16
Floor/Ceiling	2.1	3.1	6.51

Area = Width x Height
 Total area = 4 walls - area of door and window
 Area of walls) $5.04 + 7.44 + 5.04 + 7.44 = 24.96$ sqm
 Area of door and window) $1.90 + 2.16 = 4.6$ sqm
 Total area = $24.96 - 4.6 = 20.36$ sqm

1 litre of paint covers = approx. 12 sqm
 I will be doing two coats of paint so will need paint to cover approx. 41 sqm.
 Litres of paint required = $41 / 12 = 3.41$ litres (I'll get 3.5 litres)
 To paint the ceiling will require a litre of white paint.

Description	Quantity required	Quantity purchased	Cost (€)
Grey wall paint	3.5 l	5 l	64.99
White ceiling paint	1 litre	2.5 l	17.99
Lino for floor 13.29€ per sqm (4m width)	6.51 sqm	8.8 sqm	116.97
Total			199.95

I bought 5 litres of grey paint as the paint cans only come in 2.5 l, 5 l and 10 l so buying the 5 litre can is better value than buying 2 of the 2.5 litre cans.
 I also bought 2.5 litres of ceiling paint as that is the minimum size it comes in.
 8.8 sqm of linoleum was bought as lino is very easy to wash and it comes in a standard roll width of 4 metres and you'll need an extra 10 centimetres when you're cutting.
 The additional cost for 2 paintbrushes and 2 rollers will be 20€.

Bringing the total cost to €219.95

Gym equipment (and extras) and cost

I am limited with floor space as the room is approx. 2 by 3 metres. I have decided against buying any aerobic equipment as I can do this form of training outside. My requirements for the gym will be a power tower, a weights bench, free weights and yoga mats for floor training e.g. push ups. The gym will be focused on upper body strength and arm and leg strength.

Additional items I'll need for this room are led lights, mirror and a light fitting.
 The led lights will need to go round the top perimeter of the room - I'll need 10.4 metres in total.
 I will buy 10 metres of led lights and I'll leave 40 cm of wall without lights instead of buying 15 metres and having 4.6 metres to spare. I'll buy these off lights.ie for **€44.99**
 I have sourced a large mirror from DoneDeal for **€50**
 The last item I bought was a ceiling light fitting in Ikea for **€15**.

Description	Supplier	Dimensions	Price (incl shipping)
Power Tower	OneTivoFit	80cms x 70cms	159.95
Weights Bench	Argos	127cms x 38cms	79.99
Free Weights	Decathlon	II/A	40.00
Yoga Mats	Amazon	II/A	2 for 20.00
Total			299.94

Including the additional costs the total for the whole equipment will be €409.93

Another Maths project by a Third Year student investigated the idea of going on holidays to Paris after the restrictions are lifted. Here is a sample of the project.

Travel - Departure

Bus: The journey to Paris begins with a bus provided by Bus Eireann from Ormond Road, Kilkenny to St. Patrick's Quay in Cork, leaving at 07:35 and arriving at 10:05. The journey is 2hr30m long and covers 168.9km. A short walk from the Quay takes the holidaymaker to Clontarf Street, Cork. Here, a required bus change from Clontarf Street to Cork Airport leaves at 10:23 and arrives at 10:39 to allow for the flight to be boarded. The journey is 16 mins long and covers 8.9km. Both bus journeys combined costs €11-17.

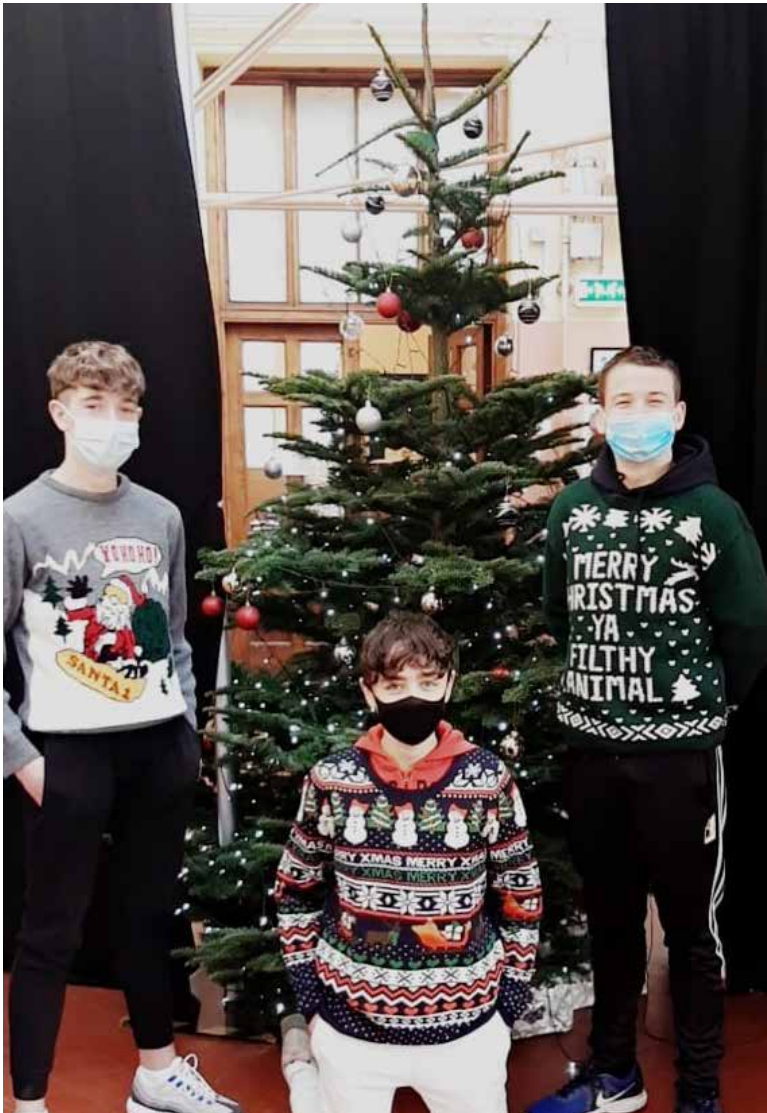
Plane: The flight (provided by airline KLM) will depart Cork Airport at 10:50 and arrive at Amsterdam Schiphol at 13:35. The journey is 2h45m long and covers 906 km. Once arrived in Amsterdam a flight change is required. A plane from Amsterdam Schiphol flies out at 14:50 and arrives to Paris CDG at 16:10. The journey here is 1hr20m long and covers 398 km. Both plane journeys cost €140.66 (departure cost)

Tram: Upon arrival into France, a tram from Airport Charles De Gaulle (2 TGV) leaves at 16:19 and is provided by Paris RER. This brings the adult to the final destination at Chatelet les Halles, Paris, arriving at 16:58. The journey is 39 mins long and covers 31.1 km. The journey costs €6-9.



Blue Bus
 Red Plane
 Green Tram

Charitable Events and Fundraising



Christmas Jumper Day for Focus Ireland.



Fundraiser for Alzheimers Kilkenny.



Fundraiser for Team Hope.



Food Appeal for SVP at Christmas.

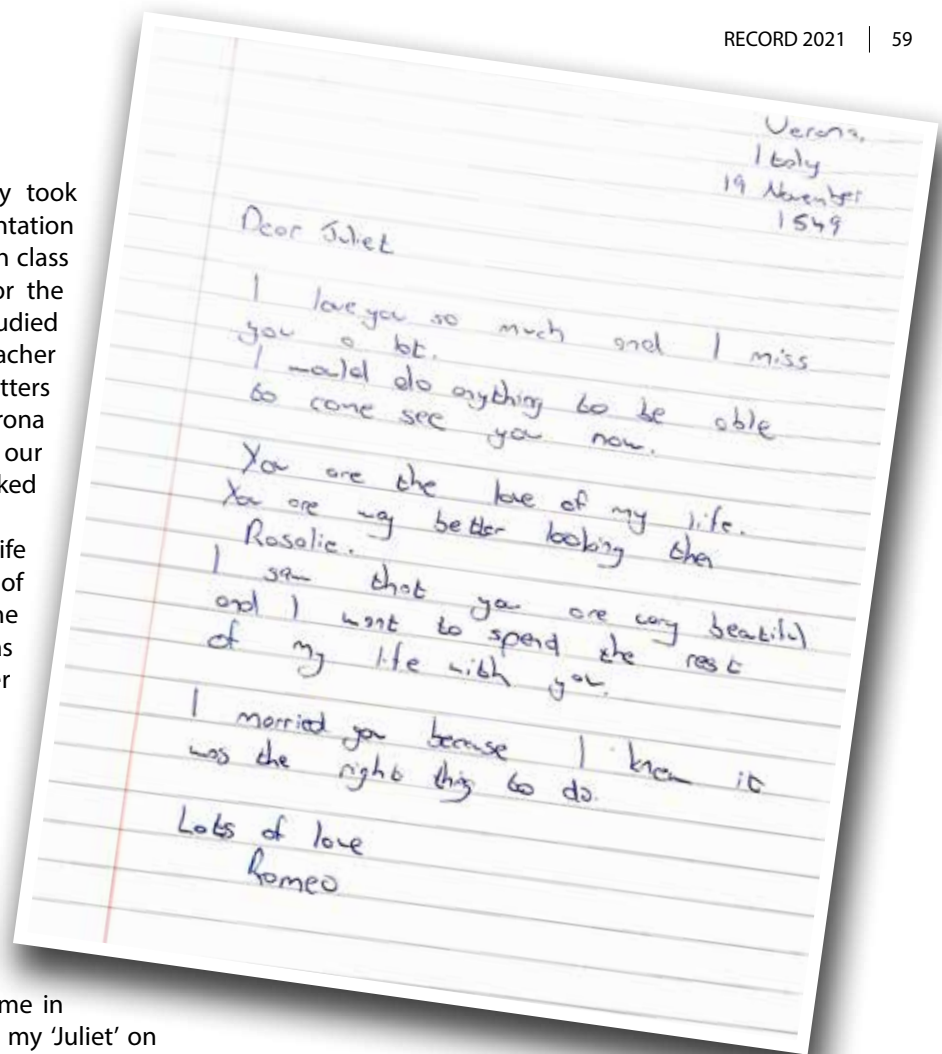
English

'Romeo and Juliet' the Shakespearean play took a modern twist when students of Presentation Secondary school and Mr Cotter's 3A1 English class worked collaboratively to study the play for the Junior Cycle Course. After both schools studied the play, Mr Stephen Murphy the English teacher in Presentation got his students to write letters in the persona of Juliet while she was in Verona missing her husband Romeo. Every boy in our class received a letter from 'Juliet' and was asked to reply in the persona of Romeo.

I feel that this activity brought the play to life and enabled us to get a better understanding of the play. As students we were able to imagine ourselves as characters in the play. My role was to send a letter to 'Juliet' pretending to be her husband in exile in Mantua.

Unfortunately for me during this process my family and I had to spend time in quarantine. I was absent the day the eagerly awaited letters arrived from the Presentation. I missed out on the crack and banter that my classmates experienced receiving their letters from Juliet. From what I heard from my friends it was a very memorable English class. The following day while at home in quarantine I received a scanned letter from my 'Juliet' on Google classroom. While I was grateful to receive the letter, I do feel that I missed out not being with the class when they received the letters. In writing my reply I had to work independently. I re-read the letter I received a few times and I made sure to answer all of 'Juliet's' questions.

Modern technology is an important part of our life today and I think over the past 15 months we have all learned just how vital it is. If we didn't have laptops, broadband or Google Classroom my education would have suffered hugely over my time in quarantine and lockdown. I'm really glad that I could take part in this project even though I was at



home, while all my friends were in school. I felt included in the class and really happy that I wasn't missing out on this opportunity.

Being in quarantine has taught me some valuable lessons. These include learning the importance of friends in a teenager's life. The importance of the physical presence of a teacher on a student's education but also the importance of technology and its ability to connect people in today's world.

LETTERS TO KERRY GIRLS

Louie Jamieson

Around the start of December in one of our English classes, I was delighted to hear that we were going to be writing to a girl in a school in Kerry. It was something different to do in school as our Transition Year had been impacted upon by Covid. Everyone was surprised and was excited to do this since it was the first time for me and maybe for others to be writing letters to a person we didn't know before. At first I was wondering what I would write in my letter but my English teacher, Mr Cotter, gave us some ideas on what we could write.

Each student in the class got a girl's name from the TY class at Presentation Secondary in Tralee, Co. Kerry. We all wrote our first letter introducing ourselves, talking about school, what we like to do in our free time, our

families and our friends. We also included what we were going to be doing for Christmas.

Little did we know that we were going to be in a full lockdown for months straight after Christmas which meant schools were closing.

A couple weeks went by and we got our response back to our letters. We were all excited to see what they had to say about our letter and for them to tell us a bit about themselves. When I read my letter I found myself smiling, as the letter I got back was very funny and enjoyable to read. It was great to learn all about the girl I'm writing to. We have enjoyed writing to each other and we have become penpals.

Overall I found exchanging letters to someone we never met before a great experience. It's not something that we would have experienced if it hadn't been for Covid, and it has been interesting contacting someone through letter writing as opposed to always being on Snapchat.

Science Week



Science week this year ran from 7th to 14th November. This year we decided that all Science Week activities would be run from within the school itself. During this week all First and Second Year students carried out a workshop in their Science classes where they built a Fan Powered Car. They were supplied with components including a propeller, electric motor, switch, wires, wheels etc. A car was then constructed by each student. Everyone then got an opportunity to show their car building skills when the cars were brought outside for testing and the all-important race. To continue the learning, some students remodelled their cars at home using everyday equipment. Prizes were given for the best remodelling jobs. Some very inventive creations showed up using everything from Pringles containers and milk cartons to Lego and Christmas lights! This proved to be a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Well done to all teachers in the Science Department for organising this and to the students who did so well with their projects.





BT Young Scientist Competition



The finals of the BT Young Scientist competition were held just after Christmas this year in keeping with their tradition. The competition had already moved on line due to Covid restrictions so the new level 5 restrictions which had come into place over the Christmas period did not affect the lads who had qualified. Each group had to make their presentation to the judges on line and describe and explain their work. It was different to previous years when they would have gone to the RDS to showcase their work but nonetheless it was a rewarding experience for all involved.

Conor Fitzmaurice with his project "How do Quantum Phenomena give rise to the reality We Know?" was highly commended by the judges.

Well done to all involved including their teacher Mr David Hennessy for all the hard work put into their projects.

BT Young Scientist Qualified entries 2020/21

Students	Project titles
Kevin O'Connor (TY) Oisín Mealy (TY) Adam Noonan (TY)	Title: Investigating Salt Water Batteries
Conor Fitzmaurice (TY)	Title: How Do Quantum Phenomena Give Rise to the Reality We Know?
Micahel Cullen (TY) James McEvoy (TY) Patrick Foley (TY)	Title: An investigation into the effects of eating before sleep
Dylan Teehan (TY) Cathal Keegan (TY) Mark McGeeney (TY)	Title: The effect of fertiliser on the growth of grass
Paucic Kirwan (TY) Killian Corcoran (TY) Johnny Keane (TY)	Title: Sustainable food production using aquaponics

An Ghaeilge 2020/21

Cé go raibh bliain as cuimse againn uile i mbliana, bhí neart imeachtaí ar siúl sna ranganna Gaeilge. Tháinig feabhas ollmhór ar scileanna cumarsáide na ndaltaí sa 3ú Bl. agus MRB2 á chur i bhfeidhm acu ós comhair a gcomhscóláirí. Is fearr Gaeilge bhriste ná Béarla cliste!

Rinne lucht na hIdirbhliana sáróbair ar stair na hÉireann. Thosaíodar ar Dhomhnach na Fola de bharr go raibh 100 Bliain á chomóradh i mbliana. Ansin rinneadar taighde ar Sheachtar na Cásca agus an Éirí Amach. Ar deireadh rinne siad neart oibre ar Na Troiblóidí. Thíosluaite tá ráitis ó na daltaí ina leith.

"Chuir Poblachtánaigh na hÉireann tús leis an Éirí Amach i gcoinne airm na Breataine in Éirinn agus é mar aidhm acu Poblacht neamhspleách a bhunú fad is a bhí an Ríocht Aontaithe ag troid sa Chéad Chogadh Domhanda." Brian Whelan

"Le Domhnach na Cásca a chomóradh tharraingíomar póstaer agus rinneamar an seomra ranga a mhaisiú leo." Darren Coffey

I mbliana, táimid ag comóradh 100 Bliain ó tharla Domhnach na Fola, i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Tharraingíomar póstaer agus d'fhéachamar ar chlár fáisnéise. Faoi láthair táimid ag foghlaim faoi Éirí Amach na Cásca. Bímid ag féachaint ar chlár fáisnéise bunaithe ar na daoine a shínigh Forógra na Cásca. David Mulrooney

"D'fhoghlaimíomar faoi na nithe a thit amach ar Dhomhnach na Fola." Eoin Cahill

"Táimid ag foghlaim faoi cheannairí an Éirí Amach i láthair na huairé." Jack Foley

"Ag tús na bliana rinneamar póstaer bunaithe ar Dhomhnach na Fola. Baineann na scannáin le ceannairí Éirí Amach na Cásca." Pierce Ryan

"Rinneamar póstaer agus d'fhéachamar ar chlár." Robin Lanigan

"Tharraing agus dhathaigh mé póstaer bunaithe ar Dhomhnach na Fola agus bhreathnaigh mé ar scannán bunaithe ar Dhomhnach na Cásca." Seán Keenan

"I mbliana táimid ag foghlaim faoi Dhomhnach na Fola agus Éirí Amach na Cásca." Tom Lodge

Níor chuir an dianghlasáil srian



le Seachtain na Gaeilge i gColáiste Naomh Chiaráin i mbliana. D'éagraigh An Roinn Gaeilge Tráth na gCeist do gach uile bhliain agus bhí uibheacha Cásca mar dhuaiséanna do gach aon duine a ghlac páirt ann. Is beatha teanga í a labhairt!

Ghlac Foireann na Gaeilge páirt ar líne i bhForbairt Phroifisiúnta Leanúnach don Teastas Sóisearach Nua, Dé Luain 22 Feabhra 2021. Bhí deis againn mar fhoireann bualadh

le múinteoirí ó scoileanna eile sa Deisceart agus ár gcuid smaointe a roinnt. Bhí an-lá go deo againn agus d'fhoghlaimíomar ónár gcuid comhghleacaithe.

Um Nollaig, d'éagraigh Iníon Ní Fhearail scannán Gaeilge do na ranganna éagsúla agus bhí neart mílseán ar fáil do na scoláirí. Bhí geansaithe na Nollag á chaitheamh ag na buachaillí agus bhí atmaisféar sona le brath timpeall na háite.

Geography



Turf footing

Footing the turf was a major task every year for many households in Ireland. Footing involved lifting the spread turf sods and building them into little structures that would enable them to dry fully. You placed two sods on the ground, a few inches apart, then laid two more crossways on them, continuing until you had built up five or six pairs in the structure.

Mr Morgan's Geography class learned about turf footing this year in their class and then got the opportunity to try out the age old custom for themselves. All the lads got a chance to stack the turf and get some idea at the back breaking work that was involved each year. It was an enjoyable and learning experience for all involved.



First Year
Geography



First Year
Geography 1



First Year
Geography 2



Second Year
Geography



Second Year
Geography 1

Music



Jazz Band



Jazz Band

Back row (l-r): Mikey Raggett, Edward Whelan, Owen Shine, Tom Walsh, Marc Dohney, Ruairi McEvoy. Middle row (l-r): Bill O'Shea, Joe Connelly, Oisín Marry. Front row (l-r): Hugh Finnegan, Eoghan Phelan, Louis Raggett, Charlie Fitzgerald, Barry Dunne, Artem Arlukov, Daire Mahon.

What a different academic year 2020/2021 has been for the music department. Many of the annual activities and events that we are so familiar with in the school day and calendar were left aside this year as we came to terms with the COVID-19 restrictions that had to be implemented to keep us all safe. The reality of the practical side of music being ground to a halt was daunting and upsetting, as it is this very element of our subject that brings out the passion, drive, talent and enthusiasm of our wonderful music students year after year. But, as always, with challenges came a new perspective.

The school invested in extra classroom instruments that could be easily sanitised, and so started us off with boomwhacker activities within our Junior Cycle music classes. Performances that would normally take place in the classroom, were being done from students' homes, where they quickly upskilled in how to record, upload and send large video files. We found ourselves adapting and learning in a way we would never have done before. Guitar and Drum lessons which normally would

happen at lunch time or after school were stopped, but First Year classes continued to use their assigned ukulele and learned this instrument for a number of weeks during class time. First Years also threw their hand at table drumming to learn the basics of drum beats. The limitations we were faced with brought about the need for creativity in how to learn the same curriculum content. Class singing was stopped but on a dry day, we headed outside to the vast grounds we are fortunate to have, to allow singing to continue, with social distancing in place. Rhythm, metre and pulse was taught using basketballs outside, having taken our inspiration from the amazing internationally renowned group 'Stomp'. This also allowed for group work to take place which could not take place in the classroom.

Creativity was also evident in the work that the Second Year Music class did in their composition CBA. This was eventually cancelled by the NCCA because of how difficult this was to implement this year with teaching and learning moving on line for such an extended period. But, even in such difficult circumstances, some

amazing and very varied compositions have been created. This class battled against the odds to compose original songs such as Bill Hayes' 'Somewhere Free', Bill O'Shea and Ruairi Phelans setting of traditional Irish ballads to a string group, and Tom Walsh, Jake Maher and Ruarc Sweeney all building upon the presentation we were lucky to get from JJ Riordan. JJ came to visit our school back in December and showed the class how to use the software 'Soundtrap'. They learned about found sounds (sounds in their environment), how to record them, input them into Soundtrap and edit them into their own compositions. This skill takes real patience, and a lot of time. In the absence of class performances, choir rehearsals, trad and jazz band rehearsals, the school has definitely seemed a lot quieter, especially at Christmas time and now at the end of the academic year. Our focus had to change, and once again the music department adapted. Group performances were very limited and took place outside, but this allowed more opportunity for solo performances. Well done to all involved and for keeping music alive in

such difficult circumstances. We look forward to being able to make music together again some day soon.

MY MUSIC EXPERIENCE

JJ Ryan

Music has without doubt been one of the main parts of my school life over my six years in St Kieran's College. I remember being a First Year student back in late 2015 and being slightly apprehensive about music in school. Music had always been an out of school hobby for me throughout my childhood but this all changed in my first year in St Kieran's. The extremely interactive and enjoyable music classes with Ms O'Connor in First Year catapulted me into a new way of life in school that only went from strength to strength with each passing year. I am now a Sixth Year student who has studied music as a subject for six years and I have gained such a rich and deep understanding for music.

I started playing with the Kieran's College Trad Band in First Year which helped me develop my skills as a traditional Irish musician. Thanks to my involvement in the Trad Band, I got my first bit of studio experience in Second Year when we recorded a CD alongside the Junior and Senior Choirs. Over my time in Kieran's, the Trad Band, under the guidance of Mr G. Walsh and Mr Dunphy, has gotten stronger and stronger each year with more and more brilliant young musicians coming through the gates of the school. The Trad Band plays at many school events each year such as Christmas Celebrations, Award Ceremonies and Masses. As well as school events, the Trad Band have a tradition of traveling to local nursing homes in the area and performing for the residents on a regular basis. Much like everything, the Trad Band has had to adapt in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and instead of live shows, we have performed for a number of virtual events playing such tunes as "Morrison's Jig", "Tabhair Dom Do Lámh" and "Dusty Windowsills". I'm sure once the current pandemic is behind us, the Kieran's College trad band will be back performing publicly once again.



JJ Ryan Solo

As well as the traditional music band, I was lucky enough to be a member of the St Kieran's College Senior Choir since Third Year. This was a big learning curve for me as I had never sung in harmony or with a group before. The older members of the choir made me feel welcome straight away and it wasn't long before I got the hang of things and began to learn valuable skills about choral singing that will stay with me forever. The Choir performs at school masses, Christmas Carol services, The Annual Awards Ceremony in the Watergate Theatre and takes part in The Kilkenny Music Festival Competition each year, rarely returning empty handed! The choir meets twice a week to rehearse

and practice for upcoming events and competitions. One of my favourite events each year happens at Christmas time when all members of the choir march down to the town hall and sing Christmas songs to the public in order to raise money for charity. Any member of the choir who has done this will not hesitate to inform you of just how cold it can be on those bitter December mornings but also, on how it is one of the highlights of our year!

There is also a junior choir for First and Second years which is becoming increasingly popular each year. So popular in fact, that it has had to be split into two choirs because of the sheer number of students looking to get involved!





Unfortunately, because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the choir could not perform as usual but myself and three other senior students have performed in a socially distant chamber choir this year which has been a huge success. We have virtually performed on a number of occasions this year that have been recorded and broadcast for all students and their families to see. Some examples of the wonderful songs we have performed this year include "Love Me Tender" by Elvis Presley, "Hard Times" made popular by Mary Black, and "In the Bleak Midwinter" for our Christmas Celebration. All aspects of the choir I have discussed would not have been possible without Ms O'Connor and the time and effort she dedicates to making our choir the best it can be for all of us.

Music is accessible to all students in St Kieran's College and many of my peers in Sixth Year took part in "The Greatest Variety Show" with Presentation Secondary School back in Transition Year. This was without doubt the highlight of many student's year and I'm sure that all who took part in the singing and dance productions have very fond memories of that time. The musical couldn't have taken place without the hard work and dedication of Mr F Brennan and Ms R Mulcahy who put some much time and effort into making sure the show was such a huge success.

There is no doubt that the music department here in St Kieran's College

has shaped me into the man I am today. Some of my happiest memories from my time here in school have come from the music department. I have met and performed with some outstanding musicians, made lifelong friends and made memories that will stay with me for the rest of my life. I have thoroughly enjoyed my six musical years and it amazes me just how quickly they have flown by.

It feels like only yesterday I was

starting my musical journey way back in First Year. I would strongly advise any student who is any way interested in music to join any section of the music department as I can assure you that you will not regret it. I would like to give a special thanks to Ms Fitzpatrick, Ms O'Connor, Mr Brennan, Mr Walsh and Mr Dunphy for all the work and time they put into the music department and all of the help and guidance over the year.



Chamber Choir
L-r JJ Ryan, Charlie Delahunty, Jimmy Cantwell, Kevin Benny, Charlie Fitzgerald.



James O'Neill

James composes a lot of electronic music using the platform of Bandlab. He uses midi keyboards to create his compositions and produces and edits his work to form amazing compositions.



Ruarc Sweeney and James Maher



Tom Walsh - All things dental

Second Year compositions for their CBA this year.



TRAD BAND 2020/21

Leon Brown

As with many other extra curricular activities in the school, the St Kieran's College Trad Band saw a very different year. A big part of what we do in the Trad Band is play for elderly people in nursing homes. We also perform in person at various events throughout the school year. Obviously none of these were possible this year in the traditional sense. However, thanks to the hard work of Mr Gerry Walsh and Mr Richard Dunphy we were able to perform virtually at the Open Night, the Christmas Carol Service and the End of Year



Trad Band

Awards Night. This was a very new experience for us as it was the first time we had been professionally filmed. We played a hornpipe into a reel for the Open Night, Morrison's Jig for the Carol Service and Tabhair Dom Do Lámh for the Awards Night. All of these were very exciting and a huge success.

The members of the Trad Band this year are:: First Year - Cathal O'Dwyer (Fiddle); Second Year - John Bergin (Fiddle), Liam Carrigan (Uilleann Pipes), Ruari Phelan (Guitar); Third Year - Luke Phelan (Fiddle); Fourth Year - Leon Brown (Piano), Joe Canny (Fiddle), Adam Noonan (Fiddle); Fifth Year - Jimmy Cantwell (Flute), Charlie Delahunty (Fiddle); Sixth Year - John Canny (Fiddle), JJ Ryan (Tin Whistle), DJ Delaney (Bodhrán).





TY Review 2021

Editors of TY pages

Rory Farrell, Joseph Canny, Leon Brown



Many thanks to Transition Year students who wrote and edited the Transition Year pages for the Record this year. (l-r): Rory Farrell, Joseph Canny, Leon Brown .



BENNETTSBRIDGE WALK

The FirstTY activity that we did this year was the Bennettsbridge river walk. It was a warm September morning when we departed from the Castle Park. We were excited because it was a change from the classroom environment.

We walked through woods, river banks and farmer's fields until we eventually made it to Bennettsbridge. Once there, we were allowed into the Centra in Bennettsbridge where we could buy some things for our lunch. We then went to the pitch in Bennettsbridge and pucked around for a while. We were also treated to ice-creams by Ms Moran. We then walked back to town taking a quick break to skim some stones and take some photos.

It was a very enjoyable day all around where we all bonded greatly. Days like those are what you remember from Transition Year and the sun always helps!



SURFING

At the end of September, we went to Tramore to go Surfing. Due to COVID-19 regulations we had to split the year into two groups that went on different days. We took a bus up to the beach where we got changed into swimsuits and had a quick demonstration on how to surf and how to stay safe while doing so. Before we knew it we were out in the waves. Our instructors were a huge help and many of us found ourselves actually riding a wave or two! As well as this we did relay races and played water polo. It was really good fun. After we were done in the water we were allowed to go around Tramore





for an hour. We got a bite to eat at Dooley's Fish and Chips and some donuts and ice-cream as well! We were all so excited to get out of the county and it was a great day out.

CAKE SALE

This year Team Hope was not able to do the usual Shoe Box Appeal that they do in the run up to Christmas. However we took it upon ourselves to raise money for Team Hope which went towards giving children living in poverty something at Christmas. Our TY coordinator, Ms Moran, came up with the idea of a cake sale to raise money for this cause. A large number of TY students and teachers alike volunteered to bake something to sell to the rest of the school. On the day, we had all sorts of baked goods available, from chocolate biscuit cakes to cookies and everything in between. Due to the fact that the year groups cannot mix,





we had a handful of volunteers from each year group, to help sell the baked goods in their own pods. The event was a great success and we earned a grand total of €1,200!

SEGWAYS

Transition Years Segway activity took place in the PE hall for a couple of hours. It was a brilliant opportunity to get on a segway and have some fun with the class. It was very safe and would have been of great benefit to anyone who may go on segway tours abroad. At first, we were taught how to control the segway by going in circles one after the other. We then went on to learn how to stop, start, with one hand and without hands! It finished off with drills including catching a ball while on the move. The aim was not to let the ball drop and to beat the other schools across the country that the company had done this with before. Everybody who got involved loved every minute of it. It was an afternoon to look forward to and a memorable one also.

SLIABH NA MBAN

The Sliabh na mBan climb was one of the activities that we were fortunate enough to do this year outside of the county. Everyone was looking forward to a day out of the classroom. We all got on a bus and headed to the bottom of the mountain to begin our ascent. Everyone brought a packed lunch for different stops along the way.

We all took off as a group but those fitter went ahead! Slowly but surely we stopped off at different checkpoints for a short break. The track gradually became steeper as we headed for the summit. Once we hit a certain point so many feet up the views opened up, and it was a great experience in itself! When we reached the top everyone was relieved as our calves were on fire from the intense climb.

We all sat down and ate our lunches and enjoyed the views before heading back down towards the bus to get back to the school. Once back down everyone was panned out but happy as it really felt like an



achievement and everyone felt like they did a serious workout!

WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experience 2020/21 was an amazing experience for so many reasons. Fourth Years usually have set dates for their four weeks of work experience but as a result of COVID-19 we only managed to get two weeks this year. All the same, two very important weeks that benefited everyone in some way or another by putting skills learned in school into practice. For example: problem solving, teamwork and punctuality. Work experience

gives all the lads an opportunity to see how businesses are run and gives them real world experiences. When choosing work I would recommend considering what your interests and future career goals are.

For my first week I went to Callan Autos because of my love for cars and the mechanics behind it all. It was an eventful experience, everyone was so kind and I settled in very quickly. I helped out by washing cars and doing small jobs like tidying up and taking orders. I really learned a lot more than I expected and I really enjoyed it. One piece of advice I would give is to go in with a positive attitude and be a

nice person, respect everyone and do anything that you are asked to do.

My second week was a completely different experience as I went to a solicitor's office and it was a lot quieter. It was a much more formal setting, as you can imagine. This gave me an insight into the other end of the spectrum and I found it very interesting.

The best part of work experience was that it helped with my subject choice. It made me aware of what I wanted and especially what I didn't want which is just as important a lesson to learn.



PE Speaker

On Monday 22nd January, we were very fortunate to have a question and answer session with world renowned sports nutritionist Professor Graeme Close. A former professional Rugby League player, Graeme is now a Professor of Human Physiology at Liverpool John Moores University where he is the Programme Leader for the MSc in Sport Nutrition. Graeme has published over 100 papers and review articles and spoken at over 50 conferences across the globe. Graeme currently works with Aston Villa, the National English Rugby Squad and the European Golf Association while also contributing to product development with NutritionX.

Some excellent questions were asked by members of the Fifth and Sixth Year Leaving Certificate Exam PE classes on the nutritional requirements for sport, the use of supplements, best



Professor Graeme Close talking to our students online.

foods for recovery and the timing of food intake. Dr Close answered all questions in simple and clear terms. His take home message was that there is no magic pill but rather to try to eat a healthy diet ensuring that sufficient protein is included and for young sports people to get as much sleep as

possible to allow the body to adapt to training. For the most up to date advice on sports nutrition Professor Close can be followed @close_nutrition. Many thanks to Mr Ken Archbold for organising this informative talk for the students online during the Covid lockdown.

Robbie English

This year marks the last year for one of our Sixth Year students Robbie English. Robbie has made a huge impression on our school community from the moment he arrived in St Kieran's as a First Year. Robbie's hard work and dedication to everything he sets his sights on has been rewarded with some fantastic achievements.

Robbie represents Ireland on the swim team for the Special Olympics and has won countless gold medals in a variety of competitions.

Robbie has also dedicated himself to his school work. He is focused on the Leaving Cert ahead and has been motivated throughout the school closures which he faced in both Fifth and Sixth Year.

We will be sad to see Robbie leave as he has been such a positive person in our school, we would like to wish him well in whatever course he decides to take in college next year and hope that he will come back to see us from time to time.



Sports Day 2020

Our annual Sports Day looked a little different this year. Each year group were assigned a different day to participate in a number of activities. While the format may have been a little different, each group had an enjoyable day with plenty of competition between them in their own pods.



Sport in Pods



Equestrian 2020/2021



St Kieran's College Equestrian Team

L-r: Daniel Ring, Pierce Costello, Conor Fitzpatrick, James Brennan, John Dermody, Eoin Brennan, Patrick Fleming, David Parle, Seamus Murphy.

The Interschools Equestrian Calendar has, for the academic year 2020/21 has been rather bare. A league which is normally very busy and very fast had to be cancelled. It was such a shame that our riders could not represent themselves and the school in national competitions. These occasions require a great deal of dedication and preparation by the riders and their families. Early mornings, extensive travel, very long days and often nail-biting anticipation during the famous 'jump off', can all be in vain if a horse becomes lame on those mornings. However, each weekend the joy these events bring the riders is evident. It is a fantastic opportunity for them to represent themselves and their families, whilst also being ambassadors of St Kieran's College. The bonds and friendships that are made along the way between our own students from First to Sixth Year and between our students and those in other schools are invaluable to them. The friendly competition between rival schools is a sight to behold in itself!

Here in St Kieran's College we are very proud to host an annual leg of the Interschools Ireland Equestrian League during the month of September. This competition is an integral part

in funding sport in the school, as all monies raised are distributed amongst the different sports in the school. We are now the only school in the county who is running an annual show as part of this league. Alas, it was not to be this year. However, the riders in our school have been busy continuing their training and that of their horses. Some of our students have been kind enough to give us an account of what they have been doing this year in terms of equestrian training.

Timmy Brennan, Third Year

"This year was very different as there were no shows to compete in, because all of the shows were cancelled. It was very hard to stay motivated but my plan was to get ready for when the shows begin again at the end of the year or next year in 2022. I have been training at home riding my pony and a few other horses also."

James Brennan, Second Year

"During the last year I was riding my pony to get her ready for when the shows came back. I have been going schooling every week. I've been riding a few horses and one pony. Since the shows have been back, I have



David Fleming - SKC Equestrian Team

managed to get enough points for the RDS Qualifiers."

Daniel Ring, Second Year

"On the 21st of December 2020 there was a show hosted at Warrington Equestrian Centre. I was entered in the 1m and the 1.10 on my 138 Hampton's Flicka. I placed 3rd in the 1m and 2nd in the 1.10"

Séamus Murphy, Second Year

"I went on 3 days hunting with my local hunt The North Kilkenny Foxhounds, with my new 7 year old pony cob Jack. It was good craic, as it was the only thing I could do since lockdown started. Although we only had 3 meets, it was good to get out as we would have missed an entire season otherwise."

Pierce Costello, Second Year

"This year we held our own show at home. The Dunnamaggin Gymkhana was held in our field this year. I competed on my 148 pony Monti in the 1 meter competition and had a double clear. It was a very successful show and we managed to raise €3000 for Carlow/Kilkenny Homecare and St Joseph's Home, Kilmoganny"

Eoin Brennan, Second Year

"Recently, I have been riding my ponies and horses at home, as well as training in places like Kildare and Thurles and locally in Kilkenny, in the hope that the pony and horse competitions will come back so I can compete again. Despite the wet and windy weather lately, I have continued to train and keep the horses fit. My first official show will be in Barnadown, Co.



Robin Carey and Ciaran Byrne were presented with rosettes for reaching the final of the HSI.

Wexford this weekend and I am really looking forward to it."

To all the riders and your families, we would like to say a huge thank you for your commitment to the equestrian team in the school and for all the help you give so willingly during our Annual Show. We look forward to the next academic year and what it will hold

for us all. We would welcome any new members to the equestrian team.

St Kieran's College Equestrian Team 2020/21; Eoin Brennan, James Brennan, Timmy Brennan, Ciarán Byrne, Robin Carey, Pierce Costello, John Dermody, David Fleming, Paddy Fleming, Séamus Murphy, David Parle, Daniel Ring, Charlie Watts, Guy Watts. Chef d'équipe Ms Hollie Hickey.

Marking 40 years at the College



40 years ago on the 5th of March 2020, Mary Martin joined the St Kieran's College staff where she continues as our school secretary. We were delighted to make a small presentation to her on behalf of all staff, students and parents she has helped over the years. Thank You Mary

GAA Future Leaders



David Mulrooney and
Mark MacEaney

This year, from 2pm to 4pm every Tuesday afternoon, Transition Year students did different modules on a rotating basis. One of the courses that we completed was the GAA Future Leaders course. It is based on all of the different areas that go into running a GAA club or event. In addition to some of the modules listed below, there are modules covering wellbeing, GAA history, refereeing and event management. At the end of the year, we will put all of our learning into practice and organise a hurling blitz for our First

Years. Unfortunately the opportunities to help out with school teams during the school year for statistics-taking and writing articles was affected due to lack of competitions taking place.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

For the Performance Analysis module, you analyse a game with a partner. You look into statistics such as puckouts won, hooks, blocks, shots taken etc. You see many things that you wouldn't catch on the first glance and it helps appreciate the speed at which these games are played. My partner and I looked at the 2012 All-Ireland Final replay of Kilkenny vs Galway, which

ended with a 3-22 to 3-11 victory for Kilkenny, securing the Liam McCarthy cup and their 34th All Ireland. My partner and I mainly focused on the shooting of both teams and the success rates. It was interesting to experience to see what it is like to be an analyst and the work and research that is needed.

SPORTS JOURNALISM

I wasn't sure what the sports journalism module would bring but I was surprised at how much it did enjoy it. I always wondered how journalists make a name for themselves and what work went into being a journalist, aside from





reviewing things and interviewing people. This module gave me an idea of what being a journalist is like and the work involved. I learned that journalists have to do a lot of research outside of what we see, they must create new topics to write about and new questions to ask, they need to create a piece that will capture the attention of the audience. To complete this module we had to interview a person involved in the GAA. I interviewed a local GAA coach about the differences between club and county, how to motivate young players and how to maintain the hunger to keep winning as a team and coach. Not only did it teach me a lot about how journalists do their job but also of what it's like to be a GAA coach.

NUTRITION MODULE

One module for our Future Leaders course this year was the nutrition

module. Here we learned about fats, carbohydrates, protein and the importance of hydration. We were taught about the positives and negatives of each, and the nutritional content of different foods. We looked at the food pyramid which showed us how much of each food group you should have. We did a three day food diary too. We tracked the food we ate and the water we drank to see what we could change to be better. After this we looked up online different healthy recipes for dinners and snacks to try that many GAA players use. This was personally my favourite module. I found it very enjoyable, interesting and helpful.

COACHING MODULE

Another module we did was the coaching module. At the beginning we looked at different famous coaches

like Davy Fitzgerald, Alex Ferguson and Joe Schmidt, and what made them great coaches. They showed different skills and characteristics such as leadership, organisation, knowledge and fairness. After this we learned about the IDEAL model, which taught us communication skills you need to use as a coach when teaching your players. Things like tone of voice, body language, demonstrations and common errors are examples. We then brought this into practice ourselves, teaching each other skills such as kicking, jumping correctly and side-stepping. We were also really lucky to be given a short coaching session by Mr. Dowling. He showed us how we should approach teaching a skill in training, and the drills he uses. I think we all really enjoyed this session and found it engaging and helpful.



Mr Brian Dowling, Career Guidance Counsellor

- Manager of the Year 2021

'If we had to win by two points to one, we'd have been over the moon leaving Croke Park tonight. We're All-Ireland champions now and we're going to enjoy it.'

Mr Brian Dowling took charge of the Kilkenny Senior Camogie team for 2019/2020 having been a member of the backroom team the previous year with Ann Downey. That year ended in disappointment with an All-Ireland final defeat to Galway in Croke Park. Having organised his backroom team for the year ahead which included - St Kieran's past pupils Philly Larkin and Tommy Shefflin and future College parent Ray Challoner, Brian set about planning the assault on the O'Duffy Cup for 2020.

'He has been savage so far. So organised, so approachable, so easy to work with' commented half back Grace Walsh. Brian has sharpened his management skills through coaching roles with O'Loughlin Gaels and St Kieran's College. He demands high work rate without possession as a non-negotiable on the field of play. As a manager, he relishes his players getting turnovers, getting hooks, getting blocks.

Having had a loss to start the campaign, Brian's Kilkenny secured their first win in the Littlewoods All Ireland Camogie League Division 1 campaign on a 1-10 to 0-8 scoreline over Offaly at Dr Tierney Park, Graiguenamanagh. Brian was definitely developing his management style on the sideline. In fact, some past team mates and classmates suggest it resembled his combative hurling style. Brian stated 'I worked with Ann Downey last year so I'm bound to be animated on the sideline!'

Games against Westmeath and Limerick in the preliminary championship group set Brian's Kilkenny squad for a Semi Final against Cork who had come through their Quarter Final with Clare. The game was set for November 28th in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. This was a titanic battle against their great rivals. Indeed, they gradually took control of the game



coming from a six-point deficit winning 2-10 to 1-11. Brian described it as a great win but with lots to work on. 'We went a long period of that second-half without scoring, 21 minutes, which is frightening, worrying,' he said after their win. Brian was now setting his sights on the All-Ireland final and relishing a chance to improve Kilkenny's final statistics from recent years.

December 12th, was the date, Croke Park the venue for the All-Ireland final. On that memorable night, the Cats dethroned Galway in an epic Camogie decider to seal a two-point victory at a crowdless Croke Park. This was Kilkenny's fifth final in-a-row, their seventh since 2013, having last lifted the O'Duffy Cup solely in 2016. Brian had his plans set and by the time of the final whistle, he was on his hands and knees in ecstasy. Kilkenny had captured the O'Duffy Cup. Dowling, a two-time senior All-Ireland winner during his time as a player, added that some important conversations took place at the start of the year to instil a belief that Kilkenny could make a charge for glory again this year. He

saluted Galway as worthy champions from 2019, and stressed that an impeccable performance would be required to dislodge the Tribeswomen. Brian stated he knew everything was strange this year in 2020 but, 'if you told me at the start of the year we'd be All-Ireland champions, I wouldn't care if it was 25 December at 7 o'clock in the morning. Once we're All-Ireland champions, that's all that matters.'

Celebrations continued as Brian was announced Manager of the year. A worthy winner in a remarkable year for Brian and Kilkenny Camogie. Congratulations to Brian, his backroom team and to all players involved in the Kilkenny Camogie Panel on a well-deserved victory.

Meanwhile, the Senior Colleges All-Ireland Championship was cancelled again this year due to the Covid pandemic meaning that Brian and his co-manager Richie Ruth will have to wait a little longer before their first outing with the St Kieran's College Senior Hurling Team. For a whole host of reasons, we look forward to the return of the Senior Colleges Hurling Championship.



Leaving Cert
2021



Leaving Cert Class 2021

