



ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE KILKENNY

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RECORD 2023



First Year on their first day 2022/23



Dermot Ryan

On 18th December 2017, the great American basketball player, Kobe Bryant, was having his jerseys retired. He spent his entire 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers and in so doing led them to five championships. On this day his #8 and #24 jerseys were to be retired - Bryant won three championships wearing the former and two in the latter. On that occasion from the podium he spoke directly to his daughters and told that future generation

"Those times when you stay up late and you work hard; those times when you don't feel like working — you're too tired, you don't want to push yourself — but you do it anyway. That is actually the dream. That's the dream. It's not the destination, it's the journey. And if you guys can understand that, what you'll see happen is that you won't accomplish your dreams, your dreams won't come true, something greater will".

That's the dream. It's not the destination, it's the journey.

And what a journey it is... for those of us fortunate enough to walk with the students here in their formative years we are blessed to be invited to share with them a truly sacred journey: a journey towards adulthood; a journey towards life; a journey towards becoming the most complete versions of themselves; the journey to realising their God-given potential. It is humbling, day after day, to see the manner in which our students, their families and our staff, make that happen.

In this past year, on that journey, we stood in the sadness of the losing dressing room of a Leinster final, but, thankfully, we later stood proudly with that same group of players in a Croke Park dressing room having won our 24th College's All-Ireland Hurling final. A team, panel and management equal to any of the greatest of our proud history. That day was not the result of some simple lofty dream but the hard won effort of work, even on days when maybe they were tired, didn't feel like working or didn't want to push themselves - but they did! They understood, as do all here in St Kieran's College, that when you do all that you can, in every moment, "what you'll see happen is that you won't accomplish your dreams, your dreams won't come true, something greater will" - and

Message from the President

for our students here so often it does - cross country, swimming, debating, young scientists, football, musicals, variety shows, trad bands and in so much more...

In recent weeks we were delighted to hear that planning permission had been granted for the complete refurbishment of the existing school buildings and the construction of many new buildings for our school community. This is the fruit of a lot of work, in many seen, and unseen, ways, easy inches often met then with hard yards - not the dream but something greater. We now progress to the final detailed drawings of these wonderful plans to realise our vision for the College and the educational experience, relentlessly pursuing excellence, that we can provide for our students here.

Recently we also saw the formal retirement of Mr John Curtis as Principal of St Kieran's College. For the past seven years he has been seconded to the JMB/AMCSS as its General Secretary guiding all Voluntary and Catholic secondary schools in Ireland through turbulent years in education - from the industrial action which began his tenure to emerging from covid, which coincided with its end. I have seen at first hand, as a colleague here in the College, as a member of the Council of the JMB and always as a friend, just how deftly and resolutely John has led education in this country and the immense contribution, and wonderful legacy, that he leaves behind. John didn't dream about the education he would like - he worked hard to make something greater happen.

This past year, then, also saw the formal appointment of Mr Adrian Finan as Principal of St Kieran's College. Adrian, thanks to the confidence of the Board of Management in his abilities, was asked to 'act-up' as Principal at the point of John's secondment. Over these past seven years he had skilfully, astutely and purposely led this school community to continue to grow and improve. He has led us in difficult days and easy ones - the norm of any journey. It was wonderful, then, to see Adrian compete for, and win, his appointment as School Principal; not a prize for work done or dreams realised but a vote of massive confidence in his ability to continue to take us beyond our dreams to something greater. I thank him and the other members of our senior management team, Mr Ken Maher and Mr Liam Smith, for their leadership and guidance, passion for, and commitment to, everything that is St Kieran's. They and their wonderful colleagues on our school staff do so much to ensure that the journey our students are on brings them to destinations beyond their dreams.

The College remains very much at the heart of the faith community of the Diocese of Ossory. Over this past year it was wonderful to see so many of the Diocesan Synodal sessions take place here in the College Chapel. The future of our Church in Ireland being discussed in the Chapel of its oldest Catholic secondary school. I am delighted to see the continued activity of the Diocesan Forum, the Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator and the Diocesan Faith

Development, all continuing their work from the College grounds.

In January we celebrated the Ordination of Bishop Niall Coll as the 96th Bishop of Ossory and, as such, the Patron of our school and Chair of our Trustees. It was an immense honour for our students to be part of that celebration and to welcome him back to the College to mark with us the Feast of St Kieran. Bishop Niall has a long tradition in education and as such we look forward to the many ways we can continue that journey together. In welcoming him we said goodbye to Bishop Denis who journeyed with us as Apostolic Administrator for two years. His great energy for, and commitment to, the College was deeply appreciated by us all. We hope he will remember fondly his days with St Kieran's.

In this past year Mr Dermot McCarthy, Dublin, and Ms Bernie Fitzpatrick, Johnstown, have stepped down as College Trustees. Their wisdom and guidance has been an immense support to me in all things to do with the College and any continuance to things better than that for which we might dream is due, in no small part, to the contribution they, and all the other Trustees, have made. I thank them most sincerely knowing that words will not capture the contribution they made during their tenure as Trustees. I welcome also the addition of Mr John Curtis as a new Trustee of the College - like all great teams turnover need not weaken the panel.

While these retirements were some years ago, these pages document our covid delayed celebrations with Anne Weymms, Niall Connelly, John O'Keefe, Ann O'Shea, Bernie Dowling, Pat Drennan, Michael Kelleher, and the retirement now of Eilish Ahern and Mary Martin. We note with sadness too the deaths of colleagues Tom Looby and Fr Pat Comerford. Bryant, in retiring, noted "it's not about my jerseys that are hanging up there for me. it's about the jerseys that were hanging up there before me". To all, then, who have gone before us and raised the bar, set the standard, so that we may follow - a sincere thank you.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to thank the students - we are, I continually tell you, most proud of you and all that you achieve. For allowing us to be part of your journey we thank you; for humbling us continually with your ability, resolve and relentless commitment we thank you; for repeatedly reminding us that you don't just accomplish your dreams, your dreams don't simply come true, something greater does... we thank you.

St Kieran's College is a special place - and its people make it so. Therefore, as always, I have a deep debt of gratitude to the students and their Council, the parents and their Association, the School and College staff, my colleagues on the Board of Management, the Trustees, Bishop Niall as our Patron, the Alumni Association and our past pupils and all those who make St Kieran's College. On this journey we never forget the whisper of the risen Lord - *hiems transiit*.

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



Adrian Finan

Message from the Principal

Kieran's College and thereby central to the ongoing history of this, the oldest Catholic Secondary school in Ireland. We also thank him for leading the celebration of mass on the feast of St Kieran in March this year and we look forward to working closely with him in the years ahead. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Bishop Nulty for his work as Patron of our school over the last number of years and we wish him well for the future.

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 would like to especially acknowledge the central role of our Deputy Principals, Mr Ken Maher and Mr Liam Smith in the management of the school. Their passion and energy for St Kieran's and all that it entails is truly inspiring and I thank them, whole heartedly, for all that they do for our students, staff and parents.

We recently received the positive news that planning permission for the new school build with associated refurbishment works to some existing buildings has been granted. Naturally, reaching this milestone has involved considerable work in the background and for his work, in particular, I would like to acknowledge and especially thank the College President and the Chair of our Board of Management, Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan. Dermot continues to engage on our behalf with our dedicated design team and with key personnel from the Department of Education in order to ensure the continued steady progress of this once in a generation building project. For this, and all that Dermot does on behalf of everybody in our school community, we are extremely grateful.

I would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Mr John Curtis on his retirement from his role as General Secretary of the JMB. John served for ten years as Principal here in St Kieran's College before his secondment to the JMB in 2016. His leadership and dedication to everybody in our school community was an inspiration to all of us and it was a great pleasure and education for me to work alongside John as his deputy for eight of those years. John's contribution to Irish education ensures that he leaves behind a

wonderful legacy and St Kieran's College is a richer community today as a result of his time with us.

I would like to wish Ms Mary Martin, who retired this year, the very best for her retirement after over forty years of service to St Kieran's as school secretary. For generations of students, staff and parents, Mary was synonymous with St Kieran's in so many ways and will be deeply missed. We welcome Ms Paula Bibby as our new school secretary and I know that our entire school community will continue to welcome and support Paula and she settles into her new role with us. I would also like to extend my best wishes to Ms Eilish Ahern, who will retire at the end of the current academic year. On behalf of all my colleagues on staff and, indeed, the whole school community I would like to thank Eilish for her commitment and contribution to St Kieran's – she too will be missed.

This past year saw the death of an esteemed former staff member and dear friend, Mr Tom Looby. Tom taught Business Studies and Accounting for thirty five years, was a passionate follower of our school teams and was, indeed, proud of all things St Kieran's. We will remember him and Fr Pat Comerford, who also called Kieran's his home as a member of staff for many years, and I know that our younger members of staff will take on the mantle and continue to build on the rich legacy of all of their predecessors. Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.

I wish to acknowledge and thank all of those involved in the production of the Record again this year, in particular Mr Paul FitzGerald and Ms Tina Lawlor for the countless hours and energy they give to providing such a fitting testament to the school year in St Kieran's College. We hope you will enjoy it.

Finally, on behalf of all of us on staff I would like to wish our Third Year and Sixth Year students all the best in their exams in June. The students have displayed a great attitude to work during the year and I'm sure that this will be evident in their results. As another group of Sixth Years now leave us, we hope that they will always take pride in their school and their achievements here with us. We wish them every blessing on their journey in the years ahead.

I hope that everyone has an enjoyable summer and we look forward to the promise of the new academic year that will soon unfold.

Mr Adrian Finan
Principal

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

In any given year the achievements of our pupils are many and varied, with this year being no different. I would like to give special mention to our Senior Hurlers who in March were crowned All-Ireland Champions for a record 24th time, when, following a thrilling performance in the final, they overcame a gallant Presentation College, Athenry. There are of course many other notable achievements, all documented in these pages, of which we are also extremely proud, including many at national and international level in activities including music, swimming, equestrian, cross country, athletics, badminton, soccer, quizzes and debates to name but a few. To all those involved congratulations and well done.

This year, in January, we celebrated the Ordination of Bishop Niall Coll. As Bishop of Ossory he becomes Patron of St



St Kieran's College Staff 2022-2023

Back row l to r: Mr Peter O'Sullivan, Mr Enda Malone, Mr Joe Kavanagh, Mr David McCormack, Mr Richard Windle, Mr Paddy Darmody, Ms Anne Meany. Fifth row l to r: Mr Charlie Lynch, Mr Simon Reddy, Mr Gerry Walsh, Mr Jonjo Farrell, Mr Michael Walsh, Ms Regina Ryan, Mr Fergal Brennan, Ms Aoife McQuaid. Fourth row l to r: Mr Ken Archbold, Mr Paul Fitzgerald, Ms Eilish Aherne, Ms Evelyn Allen, Ms Eadaoin Maher, Ms Caroline Carey, Ms Chloe Corcoran. Third row l to r: Mr David Hennessy, Mr Conor Delaney, Ms Ciara Staunton, Mr Stephen Morgan, Mr Richard Dunphy, Mr Evan Walsh, Ms Jacqui Norton, Ms Jenny Brennan, Ms Hollie Hickey, Mr Michael Connolly. Second row l to r: Mr Tom Hogan, Mr Lester Ryan, Mr Sean Morrissey, Mr Brian Dowling, Mr Gerry Buckley, Mr Mark Nolan, Mr Shane Byrne, Mr Jean Fitzpatrick, Ms Tina Lawlor, Ms Michaela O'Connell, Mr Larry Cotter, Mr Tom Brennan. Front row l to r: Mr Adrian Finan, Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, Ms Mary Martin, Mr Liam Smith, Mr Ken Maher. Missing from photo: Ms Bernice Boland, Ms Grace Farrell, Mr Eamonn Heffernan, Ms Sharon Keyes, Ms Loretto Mannion, Ms Jane Moran, Ms Jenny O'Dolan, Mr PJ O'Neill, Ms Olive O'Neill, Ms Orla Reynolds, Mr Richie Ruth, Mr Philip Walsh.

Board of Management 2022-2023



Members of the Board of Management 2022-2023

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

The Parents' Association



Parents' Association Executive 2022-2023: (I-r) Ms Julie O'Brien (Treasurer), Ms Danielle Coonan (Chairperson) and Ms Ailish Tallis (Secretary).

On behalf of the community of St Kieran's College, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parents' Association for their support throughout the course of the year. The fact that we are blessed to have such well rounded students is

testament to the love, care and guidance that our students receive from their parents and other family members at home. We are very grateful to all of the parents in the St Kieran's College Community for their continued assistance and support for the work that we do here in the school. We would also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all in the St Kieran's College community, to express our gratitude to Danielle Coonan (Chairperson), Ailish Tallis (Secretary) and Julie O'Brien (Treasurer) who make up the executive of the Parents' Association. Their work enables parents to have a voice in all things school related and we are deeply grateful to Danielle, Ailish and Julie for volunteering their time to work on behalf of the parents in our school. At the time of writing, we are busy preparing a final day of activities for our Leaving Certificate students. A meal for all Sixth Year students on their final day will be sponsored by the Parents' Association - a nice treat for our Sixth Years on their final day and a gesture that is much appreciated by all Leaving Certs at this important time in their lives. We hope that all parents and their families, belonging to the St Kieran's College community, have a very enjoyable and safe summer and we look forward to our return in late August.

Student Council



Back row, I to r: Ben Whitty, Rory Farrell, Rob Ring, Frank Noukeu, Ciallin Brennan, Jack Aylmer. Front row, I to r: Nevin Benny, Alex Dooley, Paul Mahon, Cathal Russell, Conor Marry.

St Kieran's College Priests' Reunion 2022



Continuing an age-old tradition on the first Tuesday after the 15th August, priests ordained from St Kieran's College, and now ministering throughout the world, gathered in the College Chapel for the annual priests' reunion. In good numbers men gathered from the late afternoon to walk the grounds, to recall and to reminisce in this place they once called home for their six years of formation.

The Mass of the Reunion was led by Bishop Denis Nulty, Apostolic Administrator of Ossory, and the music for this year's celebration was provided by JJ Ryan, a past pupil of the Secondary School in recent years. In his words at the Mass, Bishop Denis reflected on what is important about gathering for reunions, noting that, "they allow us the opportunity to gather again in the College that formed us; to remember those no longer with us; to celebrate with those we sat beside here in the chapel or class-hall; to relive those moments where we pucked a ball on the pitch or simply to recall those we hung around with on our walk around the grounds on other reunions".

Bishop Denis also reflected on the loss that the 'so-called' Ordination Tree was on the front lawn which had succumbed to ash dieback but which

he noted would give life to some chalices and pattens for use in the College Chapel in the years to come - a fitting reminder of such an impressive tree ever present to generations of those formed at the College.

It was wonderful, as we emerged from the Covid pandemic, to gather once again in more normal ways.

The joy of that simple fact so clearly evident in all who came together. The celebrations continued into the evening with the meal hosted by the College President and an opportunity following that to sit together into the night, to once more recall fondly friendships, many of which have lasted generations.



College Reunions

A central aspect of the life of the College each year are the College Reunions. Moments when past pupils gather with their class and year group to catch up on old friendships and to reminisce about many childhood exploits from their student days. Such gatherings are an essential aspect to the life of the College as these men are, in concrete terms, the ambassadors for the College in their families, places of work and communities today. It is these men too that, in their time, raised the bar and set the standards which students today try to build upon. It is their legacy that we continue today.

As these reunions gather we ask some of our TY students to meet with them and offer tours of the College - an opportunity for the two generations to compare notes! Often times there is a reunion Mass celebrated by a priest from that year group, and concelebrated by the College President, before a reception in the front rooms wherein the opportunity is taken to outline much of the life of the College campus today. These gatherings are always most enjoyable - if your year is thinking of a reunion please contact the College office.

CLASS OF '88



Front Row Left to right; Liam Campbell; Oliver Maher; Fergus McMorrow, Val Treacy. Back row left to right; Gerry McCoy; Charlie Thompson; Eamon Kelly.

CLASS OF '70



From back, l to r: Joe Gannon, Martin McGrath, Paul Brady, John Dooley, Eamon Walsh, Jimmy Dunne. Donal Kennedy, Ger Walsh. John Phelan, Paddy Bollard, Brendan Delaney, Eddie Mealy, John Woodcock, Terence Nolan, Gerry Murphy, Frank Murray. Joe Brennan, Liam Reidy, Jimmy O' Brien, Michael Purcell, Michael Kelly, Seamus Grant, John Lynch. Martin Costello, Pierce Grace, Ger Cullen, Joseph Kramer, Dick O' Shea, Kyran Ryan. Tony Brennan, Liam Aylward, Dick Walsh, Timmy Cleary, John Hughes, Pat Bolger Pat Neary, Pdraig O'Neill. Kieran White, Fr Gerry Deegan. Joe Kelly, Pat Donoghue, Ken Maher (Deputy Principal St Kieran's College), Liam Smth (Deputy Principal St Kieran's College), Jim Fitzmaurice, Dan Delaney. Missing - Tommy Kavanagh, Tony Butler, Jim Ryan and Sean O' Brien.

CLASS OF '71



Front Row (Left to Right): Sean Reid; Nickey Brennan; Jimmy Walshe; John O'Sullivan; Con Hogan; Richard Marum; Seamus Moran; J.J. Crowley; Terry Brennan. Back Row (Left to Right): Richard Downey; Tony Walsh; Peter Walsh; John Kelly; Tom Muldowney; Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, President St Kieran's College; Eamonn Fennelly; Edward Nolan; Declan Geoghegan; Tom O'Neill; Micheál Ó Diarmada, Former Principal St Kieran's College; Eugene Tobin.

CLASS OF '67

Front L-R: Donie Butler, Sean O'Farrell, Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, President St Kieran's College, Anthony Dillon, Pat Gray and Ray Murphy. 2nd Row L-R: Joe Cummins, Tom Reid, Mons Dan Cavanagh, Michael Kelly, Fr Willie Dalton, John Loughman, Jim Kavanagh and Ray Cleere. 3rd Row: L-R Pat Holohan, Aidan McCormack, Jim Delaney, Pat Alley and Martin O'Sullivan, John Clifford and Michael Delaney. 4th Row: L-R Michael Loughman, Richard O'Farrell, Ned Cuggy, Pat Raleigh and Brendan Morrissey. 5th Row: L-R John Stapleton, Paddy Dunne and Bobby Wemys.

CLASS OF '72

Front: Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, President St Kieran's College, Tommy Lanigan, Paddy Kelly, Philip Sheppard, John Cooney, Declan Roberts, Seamus O'Keeffe, Brian O'Neill, Eamonn Hughes, Michael McDonnell, Tim Delaney, Michael Dundon, Jim Ryan. 2nd Row: Ned Healy, Michael Sheppard, Ger Freyne, John Butler, Richard Murtagh, Noel Minogue, Vincent McIntyre, Paschal Ryan, Colman Duggan, John Delahunty. 3rd Row: Sean Collier, John Quane, John Delaney, David Dixon, John Whyte, Sean Delaney, Noel Dooley. 4th Row: Maurice Power, Mick McCarthy, Ollie Stapleton, Billy Heffernan, Paul Murphy. 5th Row: Billy Fitzpatrick, Peter Loughman, John Quinlan, Pat White, Michael Kells. 6th Row: Tom Mooney, Joe Ryan, Ger Woodcock, Seamus O'Neill, Laurence Kirwan, Simon Walton. Back: John Broderick, Larry O'Neill, Pat O'Brien, Brian Cody, Richard Pratt, Tom Reid, John Crowley, Anthony Dillon, Louis Campion.

CLASS OF '82

Back to front: Martin Phelan, Tony Devlin, Brendan Kehoe, Owen Lawlor, Tim Drea, Michael Dowling, Robert Murphy, Liam Whelan, Liam O Grady, John Fitzgerald, Pat Walton, Seamus Hogan, Kevin Devane, John Scott, Nicky Parle, Frank Prendergast, Fergal O Dwyer, Seamus Cahill, Liam Costello, Ben Fogarty, Tony Brown, Joe Whyte, Christine Kelly, David Bourke, Marty Gannon, Michael O Carroll, Paul Farrell, Anthony McAuley, Pascal Hickey, Philip Drohan, Finbar Daly, Mary Dermody, Jim McAuley, Billy Bolster, Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, President St Kieran's College, Tom Brennan, David Crowley, Tom Clarke, Jimmy Brennan, Liam Meany.

Retirements

MARY MARTIN



By Martin O'Neill

It is an incredibly difficult task to encapsulate in a few brief words the life and work of Mary Martin to the school community of St Kieran's. She began her working life in our school at the age of eighteen, going to the debs with one of our leaving certs in 1982. She finished as a grandmother in the Autumn of twenty-two.

To the parents, students, and staff, hers was the ever-smiling face whose kindness and understanding made their journey through St Kieran's that little bit better, that little bit easier and it is that kindness and understanding which was her trademark.

From the first years who forgot their lunch, to the parent who worried about their small son to the staff member who neglected their reports, she provided a listening ear, an ability to reassure and make everything all right.

She was the voice at the end of the phone, the face behind the hatch, the person who always knew what to do, how to do it and when to say nothing or something. It was her gift with people showing empathy and sympathy in just the right measure.

The person who knew most about our community, she remembered the birthdays, the troubles and worries of everyone. Mary who would remember the cards, the gifts, the occasions of each member of our community.

Hers was no easy task, the farm accounts, the first year's entrance exams, the leaving and junior cert results, the substitute payments, the invitations for retired members of staff. The list of duties too long and onerous for these mere few words. All done



cheerfully and painstakingly, whether she brought it home with her or not, everything was done so that no one was ever let down.

It was that sense of duty and responsibility, the knowledge for many years that she was the only secretarial staff, the letters, texts, and emails were all from the school office and they had to be perfect.

The welcome in the staffroom the day you retired was overwhelming but not surprising since every member of staff remembered the times Mary had helped them out, made them welcome and showed her care and concern for all.

Mary always found something nice to say, remembered something good you had done and reminded you that whatever mistake you made could be remedied.

It is that generosity of spirit and I say again kindness that made our school a better place for all who dealt with Mary.

We wish you a long, happy, and healthy retirement as your busy life continues with Paul, Aisling, Deirdre, and your adored grandchildren.



EILISH AHERN



By Jean Fitzpatrick.

Over the last few years it seems like I have been saying too many goodbyes and once again I find myself in a similar situation. Nevertheless, it is both my pleasure and privilege to pay tribute to another great friend and colleague on the occasion of her retirement.

Eilish Ahern was appointed to the staff of St.Kieran's College in 1996 and has been an integral part of the fabric of our school ever since. A proud Cork woman, she hails from Glanworth, where she grew up and was educated in the nearby Loreto College in Fermoy, subsequently graduating from UCC. On her arrival to St Kieran's, Spanish as

a subject was still in its infancy and although she also taught Irish in those early days, there was no doubt from the start that Spanish was her forte and her passion. Having spent the previous four years immersed in the culture of Madrid, Eilish brought her love of all things Spanish to St Kieran's and from then until now, she has excelled in her teaching of the language, setting the bar high and pressing her students to reach their potential. This was followed through in their exceptional results year after year, which I have no doubt brought her much pride and satisfaction.

While in the classroom, Eilish may have insisted on grammar, roots and memory, - aspects of learning which have become almost unfashionable today -, on another level her commitment went beyond that, encouraging her students to not only learn the language but to live it. And so, for many years, she was involved in the many educational trips abroad to Spain, organised to develop the oral language skills of her students. This was further fostered in transition year where many pupils participated in student exchange programmes, which were hugely beneficial as they entered senior cycle.

Outside of the classroom, Eilish worked in various roles throughout her career. She managed the school golf teams for a number of years and was involved also with the chess teams, travelling with them to various venues throughout the country. She worked for the State Exams Commission both as an examiner and superintendent. She also worked in the role of Year Head, another position which required time, dedication and commitment.

In more recent times Eilish willingly took on the role of mentor in the Spanish department, welcoming and sharing her wealth of wisdom and experience so generously with the next generation. Her guidance and support in this regard are much appreciated.

'Señorita, no existen las palabras para explicar cuanto te agradezco como persona, como mentora y como amiga. En ti he conocido a una amiga para toda la vida. Me has hecho reír muchísimo y encontrar a otra persona que ama tanto a España y a toda la cultura como yo es un verdadero regalo, te agradezco mucho. Aquí nunca serás una desconocida y, por favor, no nos olvides, porque no te olvidaremos nunca. De Madrid al cielo.' (Ms Chloe Corcoran).

Eilish has always been a loyal and dependable friend, a listening ear and a source of sound advice. We will miss the laughs and your straight talking in the staffroom as you move on to the next chapter and live your best life.

On behalf of the school community, sincere congratulations on your career Eilish and best wishes for a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Retirements Evening



Mr Adrian Finan, Mr Charlie Lynch and Mr Peter O'Sullivan making a presentation to Mr Niall Connolly and the Connolly family.



Mr Adrian Finan and Ms Orla Reynolds making a presentation to Mr Pat Drennan.



Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, Ms Jean Fitzpatrick and Ms Bernie Boland making a presentation to Ms Anne Wemys.



Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan making a presentation to Ms Anne O'Shea.



Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan and Mr Gerry Buckley making a presentation to Mr Michael Kelleher and the Kelleher family.



Mr Adrian Finan, Mr Philip Walsh, Mr Tom Hogan making a presentation to Mr John O'Keeffe and the O'Keeffe family.

Obituaries

TOM LOOBY



By Niall Connolly

Tom Looby's arrival to teach in the Business Dept. in St Kieran's College, was to a staff which was quite different from the one that exists today. A third of the staff were priests and there was only one woman present, Mrs Wilcox, to act as a civilizing influence on the group.

Though born in Listowel, Co. Kerry Tom went on to complete his Secondary education in De La Salle College in Waterford before graduating from UCC with a B.Comm. and H.Dip. in Education in 1972. Later that year he joined the teaching staff in St Kieran's College and would remain there for the next 35 years until his retirement in 2007.

While primarily employed as a teacher of Accountancy, Business and Commerce (later to become Business Studies), Tom was also to the fore when a new programme was introduced at Leaving Cert. level, becoming the first Co-ordinator of LCVP in the School. Tom also acted as a Year Head in the school when the role was first introduced and was a great support to students, parents, colleagues, and management. He famously concluded a speech to parents and students at the Leaving Cert. Mass (invoking his love of Frank Sinatra) claiming - 'and most of all THEY did it my way'.

Tom's contribution to the College went beyond the classroom particularly with his support of handball in the school. Indeed, with such players as Richie Hogan and DJ Carey under his wing it could be argued that he was the most successful Sports Manager to go through the school bringing back numerous Leinster and All-Ireland titles to the famous Kilkenny hurling nursery.

Tom also over the years developed a great love of photography. He would bring his camera to all games and events associated with the college and his collection of photos are an invaluable record of life in the school during this period. Indeed, even after his retirement he would be present with the camera particularly when the school were involved in Championship Hurling games.

While Tom loved his time in St Kieran's there was no doubt that his first love was his wife Eileen and 'the girls' Mafra and Noreen. He would proudly boast about cooking breakfast for the girls before coming to school in the mornings. Of course, in later years this familial love and care would extend to his grandchildren Louis, Seth, Paddy, Joe, and Robyn all of whom he doted over.



On a personal level I can't thank him enough for the support and guidance he offered when I joined the staff. He mentored me through the first few years of my time in the school when I was only one 'balanced Balance Sheet' ahead of my Leaving Cert. class, but even in later years would remind me that he was still Dean of the faculty. He was a great friend to all in St Kieran's and will be greatly missed and most of all he did it his way.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

FR PAT COMERFORD



By Fr Eamonn O'Gorman

Pat Comerford was born on the 27th December 1942 in the townland of Kilinaspic in the parish of Mooncoin and he was ordained in St Mary's Cathedral on 11th June 1967, having trained for the priesthood in St Kieran's College Seminary - A College that was to become his home in future appointments. Fr Pat, as many knew him, was a tremendous friend and confident to so many people throughout his life. He was always an avid reader and a great student. In 1968 - 1969 Fr Pat studied Catechetics in London Ontario, Canada. This was followed by two more years of study in Washington University where he graduated in 1971 with an MA.

Following appointments to Tullaherin and St Mary's Cathedral Fr Pat was appointed to the staff of St Kieran's College on 25th August 1975 and to the Seminary Community there as the Director of Formation on 9th July 1983. He worked in this capacity until his appointment as Administrator of St Canice's Parish on 3rd September 1987, and Parish Priest there in 1990. Fr Pat loved his time in St Kieran's throughout his life proudly kept a College Crest framed in his sitting rooms in each of his parochial appointments. Following his time at the College Fr Pat in 2002 served as Parish Priest of Slieverue and then from 2011 - 2018 as Parish Priest of Freshford. Fr Pat retired from active ministry in 2018.

I have always admired Fr Pat for his breadth of research, especially when it came to preparing Sunday homilies and I must say, I so often piggy-backed on his research! Fr Pat had a keen interest in hurling and after Sunday Mass he, with a colleague or two, would head to a hurling match - either club or county. Hurling was part of Fr Pat's make-up. He lived for the matches!

What I admired most about Fr Pat in recent years before retirement and into retirement years, was his dedication to prayer and bringing people closer to the Lord. Ministry to people was at the centre and core of Fr Pat's life. Story after story has been relayed to me, especially since his death, (13th November 2022), of his kindness and empathy with those who were suffering through illness of body, mind or soul. Many spoke of the peace and consolation he brought to those who were bereaved. Fr Pat was a true priest of God and of the people he was called to serve. The verse of scripture that comes to mind is from Matthew 25:40 "And the King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'"

Fr Pat, enjoy the fullness of Life and Light in the presence of your Lord whom you served so well.

Visitors to St Kieran's 2022-2023



Above: Students Tom McPhillips and Sean Bergin enjoy a chat with Minister Heather Humphries, Minister Simon Coveney and Minister Simon Harris.



Left: Players from Michael David's GAC of Belfast visit St Kieran's College to play a challenge game while visiting Kilkenny City for the weekend.

Below: Bishop Niall Coll visits St Kieran's College after his Ordination.



Bishop Niall Coll Episcopal Ordination

His appointment as Bishop of Ossory by Pope Francis was announced on October 28th, 2022. Bishop Niall was ordained as the 96th Bishop of Ossory on 22nd January 2023 by Archbishop Dermot Farrell, who himself had served as Bishop of Ossory.

On Sunday, 22nd January 2023, the people, priests and religious of Ossory gathered for the Ordination of Bishop Niall Coll as the 96th Bishop of Ossory. Bishop Niall made the move from his home in Donegal to his new home the south east of Ireland here in Ossory. The Ordination ceremony was led by Archbishop Dermot Farrell and he was assisted by Bishop Denis Nulty formally Apostolic Administrator of Ossory and Bishop Alan McGuckian of Raphoe, Bishop Niall's home Diocese.

The people, priests and religious of Ossory, and many from the St Kieran's College community, were joined for this celebration by many of Bishop Niall's friends and his family. In assuming the responsibilities as Bishop of Ossory, Niall also becomes the Patron of St Kieran's College as a Diocesan Secondary school and he also becomes the Chair of the College Trustees. Bishop Niall has a great interest, and history, in education having lectured in St Mary's University College Belfast for over nineteen years. As part of the celebration of his ordination Mr Adrian Finan, as the Principal of St Kieran's College, was one of the people who greeted Bishop Niall and welcomed him to his new home and his new responsibilities.

The College was proud to host a dinner on the day of his Ordination for the many Bishops who travelled and as part of this gathering the then Bishop-Elect Niall took the opportunity to meet with some of the students of the College assuring them of his interest in all things education and in their own desires and hopes as students of the College. We wish Bishop Niall every blessing and success in the years ahead and we assure him of our prayers.



Presentation to Bishop Denis Nulty



Some of the priests of the Diocese who gathered with Bishop Denis Nulty to present him with a token of appreciation for his time in Ossory as Diocesan Apostolic Administrator.

On Tuesday 28th March the priests of Ossory, in the company of Bishop Niall, gathered to express, in some small way, thanks to Bishop Denis Nulty for his time among us as Apostolic Administrator. In his assuming that responsibility, in addition to his existing ministry as Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin, the people of Ossory got the first glimpse into the energy that Bishop Denis had - an energy that has served our Diocese, and the College as its Patron, so well for the past two years.

Bishop Denis continually made nothing of repeated trips from Carlow to any part of Ossory, and for any occasion. He was always the first to arrive and often the last to leave - ensuring that he had time with, and a word for, everyone present. All of us at St Kieran's College greatly appreciated the manner in which Bishop Denis wholeheartedly embraced his role as the Patron of the College. Joining us for reunions and St Kieran's Day Masses, and celebrations, Bishop Denis took every opportunity to be with the College community and to serve as our Patron.

We often speak with pride of our being the oldest Catholic School in the Country and how it is that we serve that rich tradition - Bishop Denis in so many ways continued that proud service of our tradition as the Patron of the

Secondary School and in his capacity as Chair of the College Trustees. It was during his tenure that the College Trustees committed a significant spend on the cladding of the new school to help ensure these buildings will be as iconic as is deserved by a College like ours. This commitment continuing the generous support of the College

Community by the Trustees who had, in Bishop Dermot's time committed €500,000 to the development of an astro-turf full size hurling field.

We thank Bishop Denis for his time with us, his service to our tradition and ethos, and his great energy for all things connected with St Kieran's College.



Bishop Niall Coll, Bishop Denis Nulty and Fr Martin Delaney, Chair of the Council of Priests, presenting the gift of the priests of Ossory.

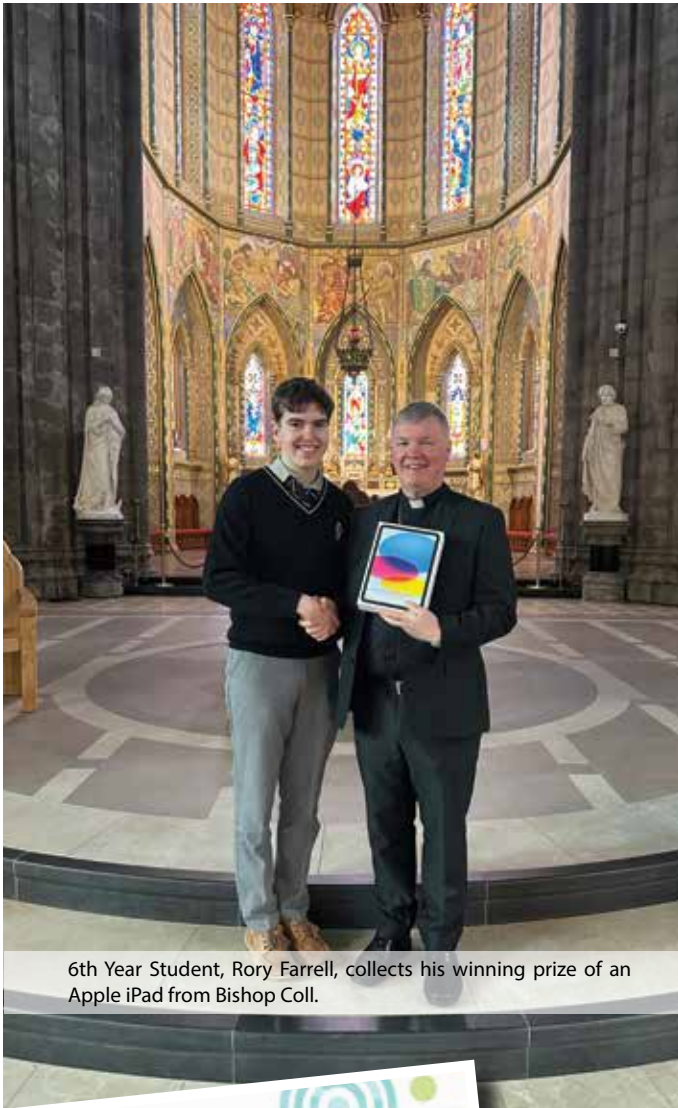
Ossory Adult Faith Development

For over ten years now the Ossory Adult Faith Development has had its home in St Kieran's College. It is a fitting location for this group in many ways given the centrality of the College geographically in the Diocese and also given the College's rich tradition as the oldest Catholic secondary school in Ireland. Catholic education and faith formation has always been at the heart of the College and the activities of they groups ensure that it remains very much so today.

This group continually tries to innovate to bring the faith to people in new ways, to reengage people with their faith or simply to help them further their knowledge of, and love for, God. One of the most innovate projects which continued throughout this past year was the sustaining and growing of the Aspal Platform as Ireland's leading digital faith formation tool. Collaborations with St Patrick's Pontifical University and the Archdiocese of Armagh have seen some wonderful courses and moments of formation offered by means of this platform. In this past year excellent resources have been offered on the Synodal Pathway; Foundations in Youth Ministry and some more day to day courses for extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. In fact on this latter offering the students of St Kieran's College also partook with all those who were commissioned in the school community to serve in this capacity undertaking the Aspal course. It was heartening to see so many parishes throughout the Island of Ireland engage with formation via this platform. The success of the Aspal platform was made possible by the supports offered, in grant format, by the Koch Foundation and by the Benefact Trust. These supports allowed the development of the App, the equipping of effectively two studios - one in St Kieran's College and another in St Patrick's Pontifical University Maynooth.

It was heartening too to see the continued expansion of the MyFaith programme of preparation for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation with many new parishes using this as a means of preparing children and their families in the sacramental years. This online and in-person programme of preparation was created here in the College and those classes with which the children, and parents engage, were recorded and edited here. In an exciting new development for the MyFaith Programme we are currently commissioning a local artist to animate a series of gospel stories to help bring them to life for the children of today. This work makes real the demands of innovative faith formation.





6th Year Student, Rory Farrell, collects his winning prize of an Apple iPad from Bishop Coll.

In this past year too the College was delighted to host a celebration of the deaneries of the Diocese - north, middle, and south as they concluded their work. On that occasion we were delighted to invite all who had been part of this wonderful lay-structure within our Diocese over the years to come to the College for a picnic and a moment of prayer led by Bishop Denis. With the transition to the new Pastoral Areas now complete within Ossory it was felt that these Deanery structures would be best replaced by the regular meetings of the Pastoral Area Coordinators, but before this happened it was important to gather all involved to express our sincere thanks. The Adult Faith Development group were happy to host this occasion at the College.

The *Ossory Times* is now in its 11th year. It continues to serve the people and parishes of our Diocese sharing the good news of how our faith is lived locally. It is wonderful for parishes and Diocesan groups to share word about their activities - it helps us all realise that we are part of a wider faith community, a community that is alive and a community that will help and support each of us in our faith journey. By means of catechetical and news articles the *Ossory Times* helps us to share that good news together.

A key element of the work of the Faith Development Group this past year was around the Ordination of Bishop Niall Coll. In preparation for this the Faith Development Group prepared packs for all the students of our Primary and Secondary Schools to help ensure that they were part of this wonderful occasion for the Diocese. These packs which were a resource for teachers to help open this topic for their students ensured that we all knew about the role of a Bishop, the nature of our Diocese, the tradition of the Church, the person of Niall Coll and

Essay Competition

On the 28th January Fr Niall Coll will be ordained as the new Bishop of Ossory in St. Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny. He will become the 16th Bishop of Ossory. The Church which he will lead here in Ossory should represent all ages, young and old. Why not be part of shaping this church so that young people can be more included?

Recently Pope Francis has asked us to go on a Synodal Journey in Church, this particular word simply means that we listen to each other. Pope Francis tells us that every voice counts. How can we include the voice of all? We are asking you to write an essay on how the Church is good at including people and how it could be better.

The Church on a journey where every voice counts

- In writing this please think about the following:
- What does your parish/diocese mean to you?
 - The strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for youth involvement in our local church.
 - How is the Church good at including the voice of all?
 - How can the Church be better including the voice of all?
 - What positive experiences have you had in relation to Church and faith, what has worked well and how could it be developed?

Every voice counts the Parish

Guidelines:
Essays should be 100 words.
Written on one side of the paper.
Essays to be returned to AFD Office, St. Kieran's C, the office of 28th February. English teacher will help!

Prizes:
There will be two prizes, junior of an Apple iPad 1 and senior. These essays, if well also be published in the *Ossory Times*, our Diocesan newspaper.

A history of St Mary's Cathedral

It was William Kinsella, appointed Bishop of Ossory at the age of thirty-nine, who initiated the building of St. Mary's. He was in Ossory (1829-43) and the present St. Kieran's College completed, the architect of Mullingar, Castlecomer, Prosperity, Dunmore and Leominster, was engaged to be the architect of St. Mary's. His design, which marked a new and ambitious phase in church architecture. It set the building apart from previous ecclesiastical buildings in the diocese, and reflected the new found confidence of the Catholic community.

Kinsella had already announced his plans for a new Cathedral in February 1842 because St. James's Chapel had become "very old and inconvenient and entirely too small". The site chosen was Burnell's Hall which housed the first Catholic college founded in Ireland after the repeal of the laws against Catholicism in 1792. Subscribers from St. Mary's parish pledged over £1500 including £100 from Bishop Kinsella and £200 from Fr. Theobald Mathew who had not only been a student of Burnell's Hall, Mary was also noted for his natural and true vocation. Work was begun in April 1842. On 18 August the foundation stone was laid by Bishop Kinsella assisted by the administrator, Fr. Hubert O'Shea and others. When Bishop Kinsella died in his 64th year in December 1845 the work was only seven feet high.

The new Bishop Edward Walsh asked by Hubert O'Shea and a very active lay committee continued the project. They got it going right through the winter months involving much manual work locally. Collections were taken up in all the parishes of the diocese and bank notes were obtained in the summer of 1843 merchants. The most generous was Dr. Patrick Murray of Maynooth who helped to raise funds. The cost of the original building is estimated to have been £25,000.

The Cathedral has a triple title, viz. - Mary's, Cathedral of the Assumption and Church of St. Kieran.

For the grand opening assistance could only with great determination and spirit only was made. Bishop Walsh's secretary of construction on Sunday 10th October 1857, at 9:15 a.m. and lasted 8:00 a.m. The usual ceremonies were performed - the procession from the cathedral, with hymns and the singing of the Mass. The kneeling in the choir, the singing of the Mass, the singing of the Gloria and the singing of the Credo. The choir then sang the Mass. The Mass was sung in the Lady Chapel. The preacher for the day was the Bishop of Kerry, David Murray who preached on the subject of the Mass. The Mass was sung in the Lady Chapel. The preacher for the day was the Bishop of Kerry, David Murray who preached on the subject of the Mass. The Mass was sung in the Lady Chapel. The preacher for the day was the Bishop of Kerry, David Murray who preached on the subject of the Mass.

The cathedral was described as "of a design, but entirely of a character in its construction in shape". The tower which is a landmark of the city was originally 35 feet high.

Vocation's Prayer

Loving God,
You speak to us and nourish us through the life of your church community. In the name of Jesus, we ask you to send your Spirit to us that men and women among us, young and old, will respond to your call to service in the church.
 We pray especially in our day, for those who hear your invitation to be a priest, sister or brother.
 May those who are opening their hearts and minds to your call be encouraged and strengthened through our enthusiasm in your service.
 Amen.

We pray especially in our day, for those who hear your invitation to be a priest, sister or brother.

Young Person's Prayer for Guidance

Lord may I work with you in a spirit of trust, together building a vision for my life. Open the doors of my heart to allow you to come and speak to me. My faith lives to connect with you, myself, and others so that the road ahead becomes clearer. Help me to be amazed by you and know that you are amazed by me. May I find time to think and explore the bigger questions, always willing to learn about you and how I relate myself and to others. No matter what happens may I imitate you and be an instrument of your Love and Compassion. Give me the generosity of spirit to offer all that I am in the service of my sisters and brothers. Guide me along the right path, showing me how to navigate the course of life and discover my true destination, my true identity, my mission on this earth.
 Amen.

For further information on Vocations please contact Fr. Karen O'Shea, Ferrybank Parish, Ferrybank, Kilkenny. vocations@ossory.ie



so much more... We congratulate too those students... who, as part of this preparation, triumphed in the essay competition, among them our own Rory Farrell, 6th Year student here at St Kieran's College. His effort earning him an iPad as a most welcome prize.

Recently in Lent, thanks to the fact that we are emerging from the Covid Pandemic the Adult Faith Development





group were delighted to host a more traditional series of Lenten lectures on a variety of timely and topical matters. Each of these evenings were well attended and stirred excellent conversations and questions.

The first of these was a reflection on the Ethics of War and those gathered were delighted to listen in to a conversation between Dr Tobias Winright and, past-pupil of the College, Rev Dr Michael Shortall as they reflected on the conflict in Ukraine and other parts of the world at this time through the prism of moral theology. This conversational style drew in those who attended and before the evening concluded many great questions were asked. It was wonderful too to have evenings with Rev Dr Billy Swan, on what St Patrick might say to the Ireland of today; Dr Jessie Rogers on Women in the Church some Biblical Perspectives and Bishop Niall Coll on Synodality. Each of these evenings were very engaging and it was notable that while many attended each of the evenings the individual topics also drew very specific listeners - people who had an interest or expertise in a particular area.

The evening on the Future of Catholic Education was very fittingly

held here in St Kieran's College the location where Catholic education has been present the longest on this island. For that evening we were joined by Dr Marie Griffin, Chair of the Catholic Education Partnership; our own former Principal Mr John Curtis in what were the last days of his tenure as the General Secretary of the Joint Managerial Bodies and the association for Manager for Catholic Secondary Schools (JMB/AMCSS); Prof Dáire Kehoe, President of DCU and a long time friend of the College; and Bishop Niall Coll, Bishop of Ossory and Patron of St Kieran's College. This panel well placed to explore education led the many who attended in a wonderful evening of reflection, questions, thoughts and ideas on the future of catholic education in Ireland. What was most evident from this evening was that its future is as bright as its past - given the calibre people who are committed to leading it today in Ireland.

Finally, it was a joy once again to host the annual Diocesan hurling and camogie blitz in the College in May. As usual literally hundreds and hundreds of children and their families come together for what is now part of the annual Diocesan and College

calendars. A day of fun games, some "competitive" matches - often times it is the first occasion when these young boys and girls can wear their club colours on the field of play. The College with its own rich history with this, and so many other sports, is a fitting location for this wonderful gathering. The sun shines and the peels of the whistles of young referees proving to us all that the most important this is friends, family and fun on occasions such as this.

As always the work of Faith Formation is never finished. Each generation, and each of us, must learn anew and afresh the riches of our faith. Each generation must be told of God's love in ways that are credible and effective for that generation. So the work faith formation will continue - we hope that the College and the Adult Faith Development Group in Ossory will continue to lead in ensuing that this happens here in Ossory into the future. My thanks to all involved in this work, those who ensure that this happens, in Ossory - Fr Kieran O'Shea, Mr Michael Hogan, Ms Eadaoin Maher, Mr Declan Murphy, and Ms Olivia Maher.

The Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator



The European Continental Assembly was held in Prague from the 5th to 12th February 2023. This gathering was part of the Universal Synod on Synodality which Pope Francis began in 2021 and will conclude in 2024. This Synod is intended as a Synodal process which provides the entire people of God an opportunity to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading the church at this time. This Synod is for everyone and Francis has reminded us that the "purpose of the Synod is not to produce documents, but to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts and give strength to our hands." During these past years the church in Ireland and the local dioceses have been part of this journey. Faith communities gathered to share their experiences of church – their joy, their pain and their hope. The faith-based conversations and consultations took place all over the island of Ireland and their responses were collated and sent to the Irish Bishops Conference. The contributions from Ossory diocese were published in 2022 and together with the other dioceses in Ireland and other



faith groups were collated and published as part of the National Synthesis. It was this document and the voices of those within it became part of the Continental Dossier published in April 2023. As noted Pope Francis has emphasised that the purpose of the Synod is not to produce documents and it is clear that the journey is as important as the destination. In Athlone in the Summer of 2022 representatives of dioceses and other faith groups gathered at a national pre-synodal assembly which concluded with a liturgical synodal prayer walk at the 6th century monastic site of Clonmacnoise. Synodality is how we come together to pray, listen, discern and journey in our faith lives together. Pope Francis is inviting us work together in our parishes and dioceses in this synodal way where every voice matters. Through our Diocesan Pastoral Plan in Ossory the vision has always been to work in this way especially through the understanding of Co-responsibility for the mission. This time

in our church is a time of uncertainty for many but it is also a time of great hope. For the first time in the history of the Synod, Pope Francis has given women voting rights and has changed the membership of the Synod of Bishops. There will be an additional 70 non-bishop members who will come from the local churches. The first part of the two-part Synod gathering will take place in Rome in October 23 and it is expected that many of the themes which have emerged from the assemblies around the world will be addressed. The work of implementing the Pastoral Plan in Ossory continues as together we journey on this Synodal Pathway implementing some of the themes and others raised in our diocesan gatherings such as liturgy, young people and shared responsibility. The Diocesan structure of 13 Pastoral Areas aims to support the implementation of the Pastoral Plan in our parishes as we continue to build active faith communities and support all those who live there.

The Ossory Diocesan Forum

By Helen Maher

In July last year St Kieran's College hosted a ceremony which took place in brilliant sunshine on the lawn of the College. This gathering of people was celebrating a significant transition in the life of the Ossory Diocesan Forum. The transition being marked was the move from Deanery Pastoral Councils to Pastoral Area Councils.

From their establishment in 2009 the Deanery Pastoral Councils had been an essential element of the network of pastoral councils designed to facilitate the flow of dialogue and consultation about all that concerned the faith life of the Diocese. Regularly evaluating how these pastoral councils were functioning and responding to changing circumstances has been a key element of the Forum from the beginning. Following the grouping of parishes into Pastoral Areas in 2019 the evaluation process made it clear that the Pastoral Areas should replace the Deaneries. It was

considered important to publicly celebrate this change with a liturgy to thank God for all that the Deanery Councils had contributed to the life of the Diocese, to thank the people who had been members over the years and to ask God's blessing on the recently formed Area Pastoral Councils.

All the people who had been members of Deanery Pastoral Councils from the beginning and the people who will form the Pastoral Area Councils were invited to the July ceremony.

In January this year the Diocese welcomed the Ordination of Bishop Niall Coll as the new Bishop of Ossory. We look forward very much to Bishop Niall's leadership of the Forum. This is an exciting time in the life of the universal Church as we engage in the first ever worldwide process of listening and consultation with parishes initiated by Pope Francis in October 2021. The question at the heart of this process is: *what is God asking of the Church at this time?* That question is addressed to the universal

Church, to the national Churches and especially to the local Churches. A recent communication from the National Synod Office points out: *The synodal journey of the Catholic Church in Ireland has definitely begun but there is a growing realisation that this is a long-haul journey; that it is going to take time. Next steps in Ireland includes further engagement with clergy, religious, and laity as we invite them to reflect upon their own experiences of modelling and practising synodality, not only during this time of the Universal Synod, but in any aspect of our day-to-day mission and ministries as the people of God in Ireland.*

It seems providential, in the light of what is envisaged, that the Forum Constitution is due for revision at this time. Revising the Constitution will give us the opportunity to discern together what pastoral structures will best facilitate us in Ossory to effectively participate in the church-wide movement to become the kind of Church God is calling us to be at this time.

Liberal Studies in the College as lecturer Mark Roper retires

After 32 years of service, poet Mark Roper has retired as lecturer to the Kilkenny Liberal Studies Group. Liberal Studies has made St Kieran's College their home - a warm welcoming location for their weekly gatherings.

The group recently hosted a luncheon to mark the occasion in the Rivercourt Hotel. The luncheon had a Sunday Miscellany theme with readings of Mark's poetry, some reminiscences of his years with the group and music interludes from the harpist Siobhan Armstrong.

Mark was born in Derbyshire and moved to Ireland with his partner Jane Keen in 1980 settling near Piltown.

Kilkenny Liberal Studies Group began in 1986 when a small group of women got together to explore their interest in the liberal arts. They called their original endeavour "A Taste of University" under the umbrella of the Adult Education Services.

Mark began his association with the group in 1990 when the then committee asked him to teach a class on punctuation. Mark, in his own inimitable way, chose DH Lawrence's "Sons and Lovers" as his text!

From small beginnings, the group has gone from strength to strength, now boasting 150 members with a waiting list and Mark has played a very large part in its growth and popularity.

In his 32 years, Mark has covered 150 works of fiction and poetry, from Anton Chekov to James Joyce, from Sylvia Plath to Mary Oliver. The group grew in maturity as readers under his leadership. He has brought so much to their literary table, enhancing their understanding of the works without telling them how to think.

Mark has several volumes of poetry published from "The Hen Ark" in 1990 to his latest publication "Beyond Stillness". He has a litany of literary awards to his name from the Aldeburgh Prize for best first collection in 1992 to the Irish Times Poetry Award for *Bindweed* in 2018. He has collaborated with Paddy Dwan on 3 books of photography and poetry and has written librettos for 2 operas composed by the late Eric Sweeney. Mark has taught creative writing with Adult Education Services both in Kilkenny and Waterford and has also tutored with the Open University.

Mark Roper will be very much missed by Kilkenny Liberal Studies. He offered invaluable guidance to the group and remains a firm advocate for the role of the Arts in our society.



Making Ukrainian students welcome in the College



The Kilkenny Carlow ETB has been holding intensive English classes for Ukrainian learners at St Kieran's College.

Two classes began in September of last year with an additional class joining in the new year. Approximately 42 students are participating in the programme. Classes meet five mornings a week for four hours. The students have shown great dedication and made impressive progress with some leaving for full-time employment in the community.

Both the ETB and the learners wish to express their appreciation and gratitude to St Kieran's for hosting the programme. The learners have felt welcomed and enjoyed their time at St Kieran's having been impressed by the facilities, architecture and the hospitality of the staff.

In St Kieran's College we have had a great opportunity to study English. In our class we all have different reasons to improve our English. For example, some want to find a better job, to get a degree in an Irish university, to increase our network among local people and people from different countries.

St Kieran's College is the most well-known historical college in Ireland. It has a comfortable and friendly atmosphere.

Our class, which is based in the Carrigan Library, has a lot of old books. We sit at a big old wood table among the books. It's an amazing place for studying. We are so lucky, because we improved our English with a great, fun and intelligent teacher. We called him "adorable Alan".

We are so happy and grateful to be here!



Christmas at St Kieran's



Yulefest



Carols in the City



Carol Service



Carol Service



Christmas Jumper Day



Christmas Jumper Day



Supporting Charity



Trad Band visit Drakelands

All Shook Up - The Musical 2022





By Michael Lynch

Before beginning 4th year if someone had told us that we'd be singing, dancing and acting on the Watergate stage in front of family, friends and complete strangers we'd have thought they were certifiably mad. Much to our surprise from 24th-26th of November we found ourselves doing just that and more surprisingly loving every minute of it. We were told about the school musical at the beginning of the year, the general consensus among fellow classmates was that it looked brilliant the year before and was well worth putting yourself forward for, as we had been told from the start of TY to try as many new things as we could this year. To say that the first few singing auditions in front of Mr Dunphy, Mr Walsh and the Presentation teachers were daunting would be an understatement but after those were over and done with we knew it could only get





better. We were lucky enough to get the main parts alongside five girls from the Presentation.

We spent many late nights after school and weekends rehearsing for the show. We worked really hard on our acting, dancing and singing. We had to go "hell for leather" for the final stretch coming up to show week. We weren't

sure if we would be ready, but when the time came around, everything came together.

Our musical wouldn't have been possible without the enormous help from Mr Dunphy, Mr Walsh, Ms Brennan, Ms Davern, Ms Minchen, Sarah our director and Róisín our choreographer. From the first curtain raise on night

one to the final curtain close five shows later it was an unforgettable experience and most definitely the highlight of our TY experience.

The musical wouldn't have been possible without the help and support of all our teachers and we appreciate all their help and commitment.



Charitable Events and Fundraising

TY FUNDRAISING

Well done to our TY students who recently collected €5,588 for the Irish Wheelchair Association - A huge thank you to all in the Kilkenny Community who supported and donated to this worthy cause.



TEAM HOPE

Many thanks to all students & parents who donated so generously to our Team Hope Ireland Christmas Shoebox appeal & to Mr E. Walsh for organising. Thanks also to Mary Foley who collected the boxes & to all who volunteer for this worthy cause.

BAKE MY DAY

Many thanks to all of the students, staff and parents who helped to raise €882 through baking, buying & selling cakes for our Bake Sale this week. All proceeds go to Make A Wish Foundation. Well done to Ms Moran for organising and to all the TYs who helped out.



Global Ireland Air Quality Campaign



Lunchtime Run



Active School Week

Active Schools Week is an organised week of activity across the school community to help promote a physically educated and physically active school community.

At St Kieran's College we had a number of events this year to promote this fantastic initiative.



Active School Flag



We are delighted to have been selected for the Post-Primary Active School Flag programme. The Active School Flag aims to help us to get more active, more often - an initiative of the Department of Education.



Junior Cert Profile of Achievement



Cycle Project



By Larry Cotter

This year our cycling initiatives included a project for First and Second year students. 20 boys began a comprehensive programme of cycling skills under the guidance of expert cycling tutors Roisín Hickey and Charlie Parsons from Cycling Ireland.

The students were given instruction in basic cycling safety on the school grounds. 12 Specialised Sirrus hybrid bikes were supplied by Kilkenny Bike Hub and Kilkenny County Council for this exciting new venture.

Initial lessons were conducted on quieter roads in local estates. As the young cyclists gained experience at managing junctions and positioning the bike correctly on the roads Roisín and Charlie brought them on several longer spins through the city and even on to quiet country roads.

The students learned how to negotiate various hazards and how to use correct signals to indicate their intentions to other road users.

We hope to extend this to include a cycling programme for all TY students next year.

Special thanks to Roisín Hickey, Charlie Parsons and Kilkenny County Council Cycling Officer Caitriona Corr.



St Kieran's Bike Hub to upcycle donated bikes

Communities across Kilkenny have responded in great numbers to a call out for bikes for upcycling in Kilkenny. Families, workplaces and individuals have pulled out disused and outgrown bikes and donated them for repair.

In September a group of enthusiastic teachers and students from St Kieran's College, with the support of Kilkenny County Council, have established a bike hub on the school grounds. The students have been learning all about bike maintenance under the guidance of their teachers, Larry Cotter and Simon Reddy and Paul Murphy from the Bicycle Engineering Academy.

In their free time, the students James Larkin, Alex Rochford, Augustas Milasius and Eoin McCormack have rebuilt bicycles and are pictured here handing them over to some grateful recipients who are eagerly looking forward to getting up and mobile again.

Larry Cotter, is delighted with the new opportunity for the students. "The students have thoroughly enjoyed developing the practical skills of bike maintenance and repair. We look forward to developing this initiative and getting more students involved in the future."

The second year students have recruited several first years to the Bike Hub. Well done to Aaron Okonkwo, Kyrstian Bogusz and Oisín Ryan.



M&A Jersey Sponsorship



Huge thanks to the Dowling Family of M&A Coaches for their sponsorship of our Juvenile and Junior jerseys. Pictured presenting the jerseys to some of our current college players are Emma, Michael and Sharon Dowling.

Variety Show

This year St Kieran's College and Presentation Secondary School following on from the huge success of their joint musical production came together to create a variety show 'Here We Go Again'.

It was a night of huge musical talent and performance at the Watergate Theatre and once again it reminded us all of the huge talent we possess in our school communities.



Ar Ais Le Cheile

Ar Ais Le Cheile is an initiative within the St Kieran's College school community which seeks to promote and reward excellent behaviour and engagement from our students.

This year a number of classes were rewarded for their engagement with different trips to Kilkenny Activity Centre and Kiltorcan Race Track.



Senior Debating 2022-2023



St Kieran's College were privileged to take part in the prestigious Concern Debates this year again. Stemming from the success of last year, a record number of students showed interest in participating in the debating this year to wrestle with issues ranging from climate action to poverty, Covid and the world HIV and AIDS crisis. The team this year consisted of Liam Doyle, Chris Ging, Sean Quigley, Leon Brown, Rory Farrell, Jude Delaney, Sean Young, Pauric Curran, Alexis Fitzgerald & David Hogan.

The opening round of the concern debate league saw St Kieran's College oppose the motion that 'GMOs are



necessary in the fight to end world hunger' against Athlone Community College. As the league stages progressed St Kieran's College were tasked with proposing the motion that 'Climate activists must give up eating meat'. It was at the final stage of the league when things really began to click for the St Kieran's College debating team as they successfully proposed the motion that 'HIV and AIDS in the global south is the forgotten pandemic'. We would like to sincerely thank all students for their participation in the Concern Debates this year and would hope to see many more join us next year.

Green Schools

By Louis Fitzgerald

Being part of the Green Schools Committee is really enjoyable because we partake in coming up with new ideas and initiatives for ways to make the school environment a greener and more sustainable place.

This year, our focus was on water, and in order to educate pupils on this topic, the committee held a quiz for the first year students. This included six rounds of questions such as 'how long does the average shower take?' and 'what is the largest lake in Ireland?' Some of the Transition Year and second year students helped organise the quiz and they corrected answers as well. My role was to read out the questions and also to provide the pupils with a PowerPoint presentation on water.

Overall, this initiative really helped the first years to develop their knowledge on this topic and it was a huge success, that will definitely happen again in the future.



The Leaving Cert 2022



Our 2022 leaving certificate results were fantastic. We were delighted to see some of our students calling in to share their exceptional results with us - very proud of all of our students, congratulations to the class of 2022 on your fantastic results and we wish you well in your chosen course's and careers.



College Scholarships



Dylan Duggan Entrance Award in NUI Maynooth.



Nick O'Keeffe's Award Ceremony in Trinity College.



Mr Ken Maher joined Luke Burke, Jamie McGrath, Philip Prendergast, Liam Walsh, Liam Moloney, Eoin Deely, Eoghan Whelan, Noel O'Brien, Oisín Meegan & Seán Fitzpatrick at UCD Dublin to celebrate their Entrance Scholarship Awards recognising their 560 points or more in their Leaving Certificate 2022.

Sixth Year Memories



By David Williams

As I stroll through the classrooms and hallways of St Kieran's College, a torrent of memories comes rushing to my mind. They are embedded within every nook and cranny of this venerable building. Memories of the experiences that bind us all together in the shared community of 'Kieran's Men'. A phrase coined and emphasised in many of Father Ryan's unforgettable, motivating and impressive speeches. These speeches varied in their subjects, some humorous, others sombre, but all centred around the one solid idea of Kieran's men; that we were proud of who we are. Many of us are familiar with Kieran's men of bygone eras, immortalised by the pictures dotted around the walls. Or further immortalised through the various anecdotes of some of our more 'veteran' teachers, who often recalled one or other of them fondly. Over our six years here, this esteemed institution has moulded us into young men, who will in years to come be proud to walk through these hallways like we are doing now, and glance from picture to picture. We will inevitably, pause at our own. In that future time, a rush of pride will gush through us like a fast-flowing river as the memories come flooding back of our six years here. We will perhaps listen to Fr Ryan give similar speeches to new first years, perhaps our own sons. And they will, like the

class of 2023 buy into the Kieran's men mindset, like we did. We, like those that have gone before us, (and those that will come after us) have carved another notch on the pathway that marches Kieran's men on a journey to the boulevards of success.

This journey all began back in 2017, when we first entered the college, 'Hogwarts for Hurling' many called it. Indeed, that first day despite all the excitement, commotion, and worry, one could not help feeling respect for that magnificent building. It imposed respect on you. Made you fall silent. As if synonymous with the culture and ethos of Kieran's itself, that the architecture of respect was woven through all aspect of our future lives as Kieran's men. 2017 was not the first time I had been to Kieran's college. I, like many of my current classmates, walked through these esteemed gates for many a hurling blitz. Pausing at the almost magical allure of the building and expansive grounds. It never fails to stop you in your tracks. Despite our backs laden down by the ominous weight of schoolbooks and a persistent nervousness weighing on our minds, the school had in September, 2017 and still has this same captivating effect on us all.

I am not from the city or anywhere near it. I recall amid all this architectural mesmerism, the loneliness of that walk from the gates to the building. Watching other boys walking in groups, all familiar with each other. Their loneliness, fear and anxiousness hidden behind their idle chatter or the flick of their hurleys. In many ways I liked the anonymity. It equated me with the anonymity of what the future six years had in store for us all. We all had one thing in common, a hurley. I kicked the base of mine and flicked it around proudly staring at the name of the hurling club I belonged to. In the coming weeks, that name became synonymous of who we were. We no longer referred to our home parishes as where we came from, we came from the locations where we played hurling. You came from Dicksboro, James Stephens or O'Loughlin's but not The Weir or Larchfield.

Those first few days or perhaps

weeks, (it is six years ago now and time has morphed into moments) were spent navigating our way around the maze of corridors and classrooms, invariably getting lost and arriving late to class. The fear of the sight of groups of gigantic, dishevelled, and shaggy sixth years, as they gregariously chatted. Us little first years, trepidatiously creeping by them, careful to remain as insignificant as we could. But getting lost in those early days and the intimidation we felt for sixth years in an inextricable part of the introduction to life in Kieran's college and will always be so.

After a couple of days we were all well and truly settled in, all up-to-date on the various anomalies of life in St Kieran's. We got to know the teachers a bit better, and some lads even started "chancing their arm" with a bit of messing. I can vividly remember the craic we used to have in Hall 33 at break and lunchtimes. Sliotars flying around and lads racing around the spacious classroom tackling each other. A systematic ritual of our first-year days. Inevitably, the rituals and rigours of break time escapades would be cut short by the school bell, or by our Year head, Mr Windle, peering into Hall 33, reminding us to get going to our respective classes.

The presence of the teachers was ubiquitous in the background, always there to ensure that we were fitting into our new surroundings. The Cairdeas programme too, was a valuable asset, our designated fifth year probably seeming a little less intimidating than a teacher. The sight of our Cairdeas leaders gathering outside the classroom door was a welcome break from schoolwork if nothing else!

In the grand scheme of things, first year was a fairly relaxed year, with an abundance of opportunities to continue to get to know each other. Hurling of course will always be something St Kieran's will be famous for and in first year the hurling blitzes provided one such opportunity for us all to become acquainted with each other. In those early days I felt bad for those who did not get involved in hurling. But as my time in St Kieran's passed from weeks to months to

years, I have come to recognise that the college provides so many other alternatives; music (jazz to trad), a plethora of other sports and even chess. Aside from the hurling blitzes, the First-year hurling league became a staple of our lunchtimes. Not only was this an excellent chance for everyone to display their hurling skills to the fullest extent, it also provided occasion to win the much-coveted bragging rights amongst our new found friends.

With the prospect of the Leaving Cert ever approaching, those First-year exams seem utterly inconsequential to us all now. But back in 2017, in reminiscence, I can see how revered those exams were. Maybe it was fear. Fear of what our parents would think. Fear of how we were doing compared to our peers. Fear of not having yet mastered the art of study. The formalisation of the exams, the scramble for the best seats in the exam hall, even the tussles that broke out in the midst of that scramble are evocative memories for most of us. Three months of freedom beckoned, and we relished it.

Second year rolled in lavishing us with an aura of self confidence and satisfaction as we had the privilege of being able to look at the new first years maundering those ancient hallways circuitously. We had begun progressing up what Mr Cotter deemed the schools 'Pecking Order'. However, this new-found status did entail some minor drawbacks. No longer were we afforded the privilege of tables and chairs to congregate around in the morning. Rather, we were shunted into the upper echelons of the hierarchical Kieran's system, to the upstairs corridor of the '79 building. All 120 of us crowded into a narrow strip of hallway. Some of my strongest memories of Second Year are rooted in this hallway; cold mornings spent huddled around the radiators in desperate attempts to unthaw our frozen hands, being swept away in a tide of stampeding scholars heading for their next class.

Further opportunities emerged in our second year; the annual second year overnight trip to Belfast. With just twenty places up for grabs, good behaviour was at an all-time high in the lead up to the trip. We must have seemed like paragons of virtue to our teachers. Everyone desperately wanted to be selected. I was fortunate

to be one of those privileged twenty. Belfast was like one of those far-off places, where you dared cross into. Venturing into what had once been a "warzone" attracted the sense of adventure in us. Sure, we got a tour of Belfast and played hurling matches, but it was the bargains that we dug out in the O'Neill's shop that attracted the most envy.

While, on reflection, second year may seem as though it was merely a filler year for us, slotting seamlessly into the gap between first year and the dreaded Junior Cert, it was a crucial time in our social, sporting and academic development. We started to move with a purpose throughout the school, unconsciously taking paths that led us to where we are today. Individuals were beginning to excel in their various exploits. We were fortunate to have a year blessed with successes ranging from juvenile hurling, athletics, and other sporting accolades to more academic exploits, such as poetry and maths competitions. It is this ethos of success within Kieran's College that has had a marked impression on me. It is not just about the hurling, that is obvious. It is just something about Kieran's that breeds success. The teachers take an interest in personal, academic, and sporting growth. I like many of my contemporaries here, have witness this ethos of success and how we are ubiquitously immersed immeasurably but unconsciously within it every day of our Kieran's college lives. It brings energy, confidence and strength for our journey ahead.

The September of third year marked our graduation out of the '79 building and repositioned us amongst the elders of the school in the glass hall. A memory that educes the seamless resonance of hundreds of students laughing and joking throughout the glass hall at break, followed by the thunderous sounds of simultaneous rush to grab our bags when the bell rang. There was a strong air of unity surrounding us at this time, over a hundred young minds with a common goal in mind – the Junior Cert.

Junior Cert. That word seemed to haunt us from the moment we entered the school after the summer holidays. No teacher could emphasise its importance enough, no parent allow us to dismiss its significance. Its ominous

prospect followed us like a parasite, always in the back of our minds. That's not to say our year was completely dominated by the looming presence of exams. Some of my best memories of my schooldays come from this period. Religion and history trips, in particular, stand out in my mind.

The passing of Christmas brought with it a notable shift in the atmosphere amongst my peers. The empty seats in after-school study started filling up, and it became a common sight to see people with their heads still buried in their books as 6.45 approached. Anxiousness could be discerned as the mocks drew closer. These would be the longest and most demanding exams we had faced to date. All previous exams paled in significance. Not as formidable as we original thought, we grew accustomed to the lengthy exams, and emerged much more confident and prepared for the real thing in June.

And then came Covid. It started first as a mere whisper, creeping into the news and fostering a new-found hope of extended holidays. As covid spiralled, hasty but meticulous preparations were made for the transition to online learning. None of us could have predicted the extent to which it would dominate our schooldays in the coming years.

The change was instant and striking. The days of the week began to morph into one, broken only by Mr Lynch blaring music at the end of his online maths classes. I'm unsure if it was for the maths or the music, but his classes amassed a huge following, Mr Lynch becoming a sort of celebrity among exam students, with thousands of students from all over Ireland attending some of his classes!

The uncertainty ended. Just like that. It was all over. Things had utterly changed. The government announced that exams were cancelled. While many of us were overjoyed at the news, there was still a sense of satisfaction that we would still have an 'online Junior Cert'. All the months of hard work and commitment was not completely fruitless.

Roll on Transition year, with the shackles of Covid lockdowns still firmly in place. While the year got off to a promising start, with a surfing trip to Tramore, any hope of further trips was quashed by another lockdown.

Our exciting plans were completely decimated. Our excursions were confined to within walking distance, although, admittedly, the term 'walking distance' was stretched to its absolute limits. My legs still stiffen at the memory of that riverbank walk to Bennetsbridge and back.

In the absence of other activities, we found ourselves with a mountain of projects to work on. It seemed as though we were caught in a never-ending cycle of traipsing up and down the stone stairs to the computer rooms. Some teachers valiantly tried to plough on with some leaving cert schoolwork, but to be perfectly honest, terms like 'Cosine Rule' flew completely over our heads. As the months passed by, the numbers started to dwindle, as lads decided to forgo the confinement of the classroom and masks in favour of getting a job and earning a bit of money.

There were a plethora of changes throughout the school- windows left permanently open, screens separating different social areas, teachers coming to our classrooms instead of the other way around. However, despite this, Kierans remained at heart what it had always been. We still had the same craic at lunchtimes, still headed onto the pitch for a few pucks, Mr Smith was still roaming around in the corridor trying to catch lads dossing class. It was the same Kieran's, just with a different backdrop.

When I think back on Transition Year, I am struck by one memory in particular. The bitter cold of the classrooms, with the windows wide open and desks spaced out can still send a shiver running through me. Most of the time, there wasn't much of a need to remind people to keep their masks on in the classroom, they were like an extra layer. Leaving them on brought an added layer of much needed warmth.

Yet my memories are not confined to merely this, there were plenty of positive moments too. Despite the strict lockdown measures, the school still managed to provide countless workshops and activity days, a welcome reminder that we were in TY. Most of us were lucky enough to find work placement of some form or another. Occasional trips to the cinema, when guidelines allowed, were very effective at breaking the monotony of sitting in

the same room for 6 hours. The Covid era really demonstrated our fantastic ability to overcome what faced us, growing into the legend of 'Kieran's Men' that we had heard so much of.

Some vestiges of Covid remained when we returned to commence our fifth year. The hour-long classes had been retained, and we found ourselves once more crammed into the claustrophobic upstairs hallway of the '79 building. Many of us were enthralled by our new subjects, the novelty of choosing only ones which interest us rendering our studies far less daunting. I distinctly remember, throughout that first term, comparing our progress through the various acts and scenes of Macbeth with our friends in other classes.

Then the world started to open up. There was no place where this was more evident than on the TV screens scattered throughout the school. The various student successes were evident for all to see, after a brief sabbatical, Kieran's men were once more eternally visible doing what they do best.

Success and St Kieran's College appear to be fundamentally intertwined; it is impossible to enter this hallowed building without being somehow invigorated by the aura of accomplishment permeated from deep within the stone walls. This success is not restricted merely to those who have brought it, it is revelled in by everyone, the entire school basks in each other's glory. The success of our hurling teams was a source of pride for everybody, almost the entire school flocked to Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day to support them. Despite the teeming crowds in Dublin on that day, as I approached Croke Park, I was struck by something. The predominant colour was no longer the green of parade-goers, instead, it had given way to a wave of black and white. Chants of 'Kieran's' floated high into the air, the cumulative power of hundreds of voices echoing in my ears long after the match was over.

However, it would be remiss of me to pretend that fifth year was a year of triumph and joy for Kieran's men like any other. This year will be forever tainted by the tragic passing of Harry Byrne. Harry's passing truly rocked the school to the very core, rendering the whole school utterly devastated. It had a profound effect on all of the

students here, he had been doing what any Kieran's man might do during lunchtime, pucking a sliotar with his friends. Regardless of how well they knew him, it was this, the possibility that it could have been any one of us 700 students, which really struck a chord. It was an incredibly difficult period for everybody in the school community. At the time, it was hard to foresee how life at St Kieran's College could ever recommence. How we could rise from the sorrow and anguish. But nevertheless, prevail we did, and we continued our school journey with a new-found determination, as if to honour Harry's legacy.

Sixth Year began with an assembly in the study hall. All our teachers seemed to convey the same message; that this year would fly by, it would be the quickest of our lives. And indeed, flown by it has. It scarcely seems like yesterday that I was bundling my schoolbooks into my new locker. It is as though a mere blink has caused a fusion of time, transporting me to where I am now. I sit here, with only a few days left ahead of me in this prestigious and celebrated school, attempting to sift through my memories, to isolate those occasions that stand out as truly special. What both perplexes and amazes me is that I'm not really able. I cannot, with definitive certainty, select any one moment. Rather, what emerges from my mind, and shall remain ingrained there forevermore, is all the little moments. A plethora of seemingly unimportant instances, that, together have helped to mould and develop the bonds of shared comradeship between each and every one of us. The countless hours spent together, sculpting us into the men that we are now.

Next year, everybody will have different ambitions. Many of us plan on advancing to college, others will enter straight into the world of work. Some of us may not even remain in Ireland, instead choosing to pursue our dreams elsewhere.

But, regardless of what route we take, of how wide the diaspora becomes, we will all be eternally bound by this place, by St Kieran's College. The enduring echoes of Father Ryan shall linger in our minds, a timeless reminder of the place to which we owe so much. We are Kieran's. And we are all Kieran's Men.

Sixth Year Signatures

Joe Conroy Matty Kelleher Jack Murphy Joshua O'Connell Billy Keogh
 Dylan Stapleton Brian Berwille Seán O'Hetherington Aaron Williams Martin Brennan
 Louie Jamieson Barry Linné Pádraig Naddy Conon Molloy Patrick Foley Matthew
 Micheál Harrison Michael Butler Dáire Phelan Leonard Farrell Bruffell
 Bill Hughes Jimmy Maher Seán Keenan William Wallace
 Harry Shine Darragh Ruane Lewis Todd Ben Walker
 James Larkin Dunne Stephen Jolisi Kieran Brennan Jamie Carter
 Samuel Kane SMCraig Evan O'Neill Tadhg Blanchfield
 Conor Dooley Matthew Durnan Bill Nolan Billy Egan
 Jack Foley Felix Buckenham Eoin Sordl Ben Whitty Jack Guiry Aaron
 Eoin Egan Damien Caddis Eoin Cahill Rob Ring Maher
 Thomas Dillon Oran Lavery Chris Kealy
 Killian Doyle Robin Lanigan Sammy Rockford Denis Dalton
 Ben Murphy Diarmad Greene Sean Byrne Hugh Finegan
 Cathal Keegan Kyle Byrne David Mulrooney Mark McGreeney
 Dylan Teehan Mark Hadden Shane Glynn A. McEvoy
 Leon Brown Joe Kearns Zach Laylor David Williams
 Anthony Ireland Wall
 Brian Whelan Ciarán Nolan Johnny Keane Alex McDonald
 Mike Carroll Pauric Kirwan Niall Shortall Carl Fitzmaurice
 Kullian Coronan Jack Aymon Billy Dowling Michael Cullen Frank Nofka
 Shane Gleeson Mark MacEneaney Rory Farrell Edward Dwyer Tom Lodge
 Donagh Murphy Alan Noonan Oisín Healy Miky Raggatt Ben Moore
 Ted Dune Cathal Walsh Adam Walsh Pierre Ryan
 Konrad Palczynski Duálach O'Flaherty Eoin Byrne Dylan O'Shea
 Kevin O'Connor
 Cora Kavanagh Bill Smith HARRY O'GADY Padraig O'Mahony
 Seán Adams Thom Cody James O'Shea

End of Year Awards 2022

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

FIRST YEAR

Student of the Year - Dan Carroll

Certs of Merit - Michael Tynan, Tom Glennon, Cian Dermody, Conall Doyle, Seán Nulty, Daire Hogan, David Kolodziej

Academic of the Year - Dan Carroll

SECOND YEAR

Student of the Year - Louis Raggett

Certs of Merit - Daniel Ryan, Larry Phelan, Cormac Meegan, Joe Langton, Conor Aylward, David Travers

Academic of the Year - Larry Phelan

THIRD YEAR

Student of the Year - Chris Ging

Certs of Merit - Liam Doyle, Shane Walsh, Michael Lynch, Tom Walsh, Louis Fitzgerald, Charlie Grace

Academic of the Year - Sean Moloney

FOURTH YEAR

Student of the Year - Jeff Neary

Certs of Merit - Seán Hunt, Ronan Hackett, Mark Fitzpatrick, Paul Mahon, James Comerford, Seán Young

FIFTH YEAR

Student of the Year - Micheal Raggett

Certs of Merit - David Mulrooney, David Williams, Hugh Finnegan, Killian Corcoran, Adam Walsh, Eoin Byrne

Academic of the Year - Dan Carroll

SIXTH YEAR

Student of the Year - Nick O'Keeffe

Certs of Merit - Eoin Deely, Paddy Langton, Adam O'Connor, Luke Dunne, Pdraig Lennon, Luke Connellan, Daire Mahon

Academic of the Year - Luke Connellan

SENIOR SUBJECT AWARDS

Mathematics Dylan Duggan

Gaeilge (Corn na Gaeilge) Oisín Meegan

English Dáire Mahon

Business Daniel Bowe

Construction (The Joe Doherty Memorial Award, Senior only) Tommy Phelan

Technology Edmar Basilio

DCG Liam Moloney

History Nick O'Keeffe

Geography Eoghan Whelan

Spanish Eoin Deely

French Liam Walsh

Science Dylan Duggan

Physics Eoin Deely

Biology Dáire Mahon

Chemistry Luke Connellan

Ag Sci Luke Wallace

Home Ec Michael Ibrahim

Art Conor Lynch

Music Charlie Fitzgerald, Charlie Delahunty, Jimmy Cantwell

PE Kevin Benny

JUNIOR SUBJECT AWARDS

Mathematics Pierce Costello

Gaeilge Daniel Ring

English Conor Brophy

Religion Michael Lynch

Business Liam Doyle

Technology Liam Doyle

Tech Graphics Daniel Devereux

History Conor Farrell

Geography Michael Lynch

Spanish Charlie Grace

French Seán Moloney

Science Chris Ging

Art Daniel Devereux

Music Liam Carrigan

Woodwork David Ring

SPORTS AWARDS

Senior Soccer Player of the Year –

Michael Raggett

The White Medal – Pdraig Lennon

Sport star of the Year – Brogan

McAvinney

Senior Hurler of the Year – Adam

O'Connor

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Daire Mahon

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Kevin Benny



Very grateful to Mr Ciarán Kelleher, Managing Director, Head of International Corporate Banking for Citibank in Ireland - Ciarán received the prestigious Past Pupil's Award in 2022 recognising his many great achievements since leaving us back in 1984.



Students of the Year 2022: Congrats to Dan Carroll (1st Yr), Louis Raggett (2nd Yr), Chris Ging (3rd Yr), Jeff Neary (TY), Mikey Raggett (5th Yr), and Nick O'Keefe (6th Yr), who all received Student of the Year Awards. Well done to all of our Award Recipients for 2022.



Congratulations to 6th Year student Kevin Benny who received the President's Award recognising Kevin's exceptional qualities across a variety of areas of school life in the pursuit of excellence epitomising all that we strive for in St Kieran's.



The Raggett brothers, Louis and Michael, had the distinction of both claiming the Student of the Year Awards in their respective years, Louis in 2nd year and Michael in 5th year.



Congratulations to (L-R) Mikey Raggett, Pdraig Lennon, Brogan McAviney, Adam O'Connor & Dáire Mahon who all took home senior sports and leadership awards from our End of Year Award ceremony.

St Kieran's Day

St Kieran is our patron saint and each year on the first Friday of March we celebrate his feast day. A Mass for the entire St Kieran's College community was held on Thursday March 2nd in St Mary's Cathedral, this was followed on Friday by a day of activities which teachers organise for students.

These activities include, foot golf, paintballing, jump zone - Dublin, Kiltorcan Raceway plus many more. It is a fantastic day for all to enjoy and a wonderful tradition within the school.







1ST YEAR FRIENDSHIP DAY

By Eoin Ryan (1B)

First we had an anti-bullying talk in the canteen with Mr Brennan, Mr Dowling & Ms Maher. The whole of 1st year was there. They talked about both physical, verbal and cyber bullying. We also looked at the importance of kindness and being nice to each other in our new school. It was well presented and was a good and strong message.

For first year friendship day we then walked out to Millennium Woods. It was a long, relaxing walk with our friends, we were also getting cars to beep their horns for us. When we got to Millennium Woods, we got free drinks and food. It was very fun and we got time to play and talk as well.

While in Millennium Woods, we did an activity. For the activity, we were given sheets with questions. We had to find different people that match the question. For example, 'find someone who has 2 pets'. It was really fun and we learned a lot about other people in our year group. Overall it was a very fun and enjoyable day.



First Year Friendship Day



2ND YEAR RETREAT

by Tom Glennon (2A1)

We went to Graiguenamanagh on a sunny Wednesday in October. We got a bus from Kieran's out to Graiguenamanagh and headed to Duiske Abbey for a Mass. It was a lovely church. After Mass we went to the local SuperValu to get some food. Then we walked over the bridge and started our walk to St Mullins. The walk is 7.8km. There was a lot of scenery along the walk and the locks were cool to see. When we got there we had some lunch in the cafe called the Muilichain. It was a nice small cafe built in an old mill at the end of the walk. We were there for about 30 minutes then we walked back to our buses which came down to St Mullins. There was a big hill that we had running races up before we left and it was great fun.



Matthew Mulligan, Paul Mahon, Darragh Lawlor preparing to distribute ashes to students on Ash Wednesday.



Third Year Religious Day

3RD YEAR RELIGIOUS DAY

by Conor Heffernan (3A4)

We went on a trip to a Mosque in Clonskeagh Co. Dublin on Tuesday, November 8th, 2022. We went up on a bus. Mr F Brennan, Mr E Walsh, Mr Morrissey and Mr Farrell were the teachers who came up with us to the Mosque.

When we arrived at the Mosque we were greeted by Dr Ali Selim. We were brought into a room and there was another school in there at the time. Dr

Ali Selim said whoever can answer my questions might get a present at the end so people started to concentrate.

Then Dr Ali Selim brought all of us into another room in the Mosque where Muslims would usually pray. Before we went in Dr Ali Selim asked us to take off our shoes as it's an Islamic ritual. We took them off and placed them on the shoe racks. In the room he started telling us about a few things in the Mosque and their significance. For example Dr Ali Selim told us about the clocks as there was many of them and

the clocks were prayer timetables.

At the end, Dr Ali Selim said it's present time and we thought that it was just the people who answered the questions receiving one but Dr Ali Selim gave us all a gift. On our way out we got to see a Muslim praying on the prayer mat which was different as myself and many others had never seen this.

On our way back to school we stopped in Dundrum shopping centre.

This was a good retreat and will be remembered by all.



Artwork created by 1st Year students for anti-bullying week.



Back row l to r: Oisín Bateman, Edward McDermott, Stephan Power-Kellet, James Hickey, James Comerford. Third row l to r: Sean Young, Eoin O'Neill, Sean Casey, Tomás Roche, Darragh Lawlor, Luke O'Donnell, Conor O'Gorman, Aaron McEvoy. Second row l to r: Paddy Walsh, Eoin O'Connor, Diarmuid Langton, Jeff Neary, Jamie Peters, Mark MacPhillips, Alexis Fitzgerald. Front row l to r: Cian Farrell, David Fitzpatrick, Harry Boyle, Rory Glynn, Tom McPhillips, Sean Bergin, Sean Hunt, Stephen Manogue, Jack Johnson, Sean Cahill.

CAIRDEAS

In May 2022, a record number 42 students applied to take part in the Cairdeas programme. The group met with Mr Brennan for some training prior to the first years entering St Kieran's College.

The Cairdeas Programme aims to provide support for our 1st Year students – individually and as a group, to help them settle in, make progress and to achieve their full potential within St Kieran's College. Each year approximately twenty-five to thirty of our fifth year students take part in the Cairdeas programme. Two fifth years are 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 5th Year students to play a responsible role in the school community and to ensure that new students are secure in the knowledge that there are always older pupils available and willing to help them.

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



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



AMBER FLAG AT SKC

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

As part of this initiative, St Kieran's College amber flag team consists of 'Cairdeas' leaders but is indeed a whole school effort. The amber flag team, along with the chaplain, Mr Brennan, are tasked with organising events and schemes to promote and improve mental well-being throughout the school.

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.



Condolence Book for Pope Benedict's Funeral



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2023

The eagerly anticipated and hugely important Mental Health Week took place from Monday 10th - Sunday 16th of October in St Kieran's College. Over the past number of years, the Pastoral Care team have made an attempt to increase awareness of this week due to the huge importance that a positive mental health has in our lives. The Chaplain along with the Guidance Counsellors organise an event for each year group to partake in throughout the week. During Mental Health Week, the school walls are also decorated with positive mental health slogans for all our students to see.

On Wednesday, October 12th, 6th year students received a very informative talk from former Kilkenny manager on setting standards and goals as they began their Leaving Cert year.

On Tuesday, October 11th, First and Second year students participated in a number of outdoor activities in teams incorporating all classes to take time out to get to know each other, improving friendships and bonds within their year groups in St Kieran's College.

Third years received a talk from Fionnbhar Walsh, father of Donal Walsh from Tralee, Co. Kerry. Donal who fund raised tirelessly while

battling Cancer has now had the Donal Walsh #Livelife Foundation set up by his family primarily in order to promote his anti-suicide #Livelife message. This message of living life to the fullest and appreciating everything you have around you continues to be highlighted by both Fionnbhar and his wife, Elma.

TY's also went surfing on Thursday, October 13th as part of Mental Health Week to highlight the importance of exercise and getting outside.

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

MAKING CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR NURSING HOMES

By Jack Stapleton (1D)

In St Kieran's College we made cards for nursing homes at Christmas time. Everyone made a card with coloured paper, pictures and funny jokes to put a smile on their face and they would remember that we done something nice for them. We made cards for Gowran, Archersrath Tinnypark Nursing Homes got cards. A few students went on the trip to both nursing homes and brought the cards into the patients and talked to them about their childhood and what they worked at. Tinnypark really enjoyed it and got great laughs out of it. Unfortunately we could not go into Gowran nursing because there was an outbreak of Covid 19 but we still go to deliver our cards nonetheless.



Third year students making a presentation to Mr Fionnbhar Walsh, father of Donal Walsh, Tralee, following his visit to the school.



6th Year students and Mr Fergal Brennan with Mr Brian Cody following his talk to 6th years ahead of their pre-leaving cert exams.



Third Year students in their talk with Fionnbhar Walsh.



BT Young Scientist



Mr David Hennessy with Louis Fitzgerald, Dylan Muldowney, Sam Hayes, Noah Walsh Brennan, Michael Kenneally, Pierce Costello, Greg Ruane.

By Pierce Costello

This year I took part in the BT Young Scientist competition in Dublin. Back in October our teacher Mr Hennessy told us about the young scientist project and the whole class had to make a submission for it.

My partner Gregg and I spent a few classes thinking of what project to do but eventually we settled on testing out the new Bamboo hurls and seeing how

they compare against your traditional ash hurl.

A few weeks later we received an email from the BT young scientist confirming that our project had been chosen to go to Dublin for the exhibition on the 11th to the 14th of January up in the RDS. Gregg and I were ecstatic when we heard the news and were ready to start into the project.

Before we started any tests we had to decide what tests we were going to

do and it was harder than we thought. We spent many classes thinking of ideas but come late November we were ready to start into them.

Our first experiment was to see how much further I could hit the ball with either hurl so we went out and over 3 days I hit 100 balls with each hurl and by the end of it the bamboo hurl came out as a marginal winner. After this we got out some other students in first year and second year and some other fourth



Pierce Costello (TY), Gregg Ruane (TY): Project: Bambu v Ash hurls - Investigating if the more expensive Bambu hurls are worth the extra cost.



Louis Fitzgerald (TY), Dylan Muldowney (TY): Project: The effects of printing money and the realistic possibility of going cashless. They are going to investigate the damaging and beneficial effects of printing money on the economy, environment, COVID-19, burglaries and the realistic possibility of going cashless.



Noah Walsh Brennan (TY), Michael Kenneally (TY), Sam Hayes (TY): Project Footwear experiment - They are going to investigate does dearer or cheaper footwear affect your performance. They will use vertical jump test as a potential parameter to judge performance.





years to see what worked better for them. The bamboo also came out on top after these tests.

When we had all the tests done all that was left to do was to present it. We had to make a 20 page write up on our project along with an A0 display board and a project journal.

We headed down to Jones' to get them printed and binded when we were done and then we were ready to go.

We arrived in Dublin on Wednesday morning and headed straight for the

RDS. We got to our stall number 1501 and got ourselves set up.

Over the 4 days we had many visitors to the stand asking a wide range of questions and we even had a special guest come in the form of John Paul Phelan who was very interested in the project. We got 3 inspections over the 4 days but unfortunately when it came to the awards ceremony we weren't named out. But the biggest surprise of the competition was when we got a note saying that we were to have a very special guest coming to our stand

for 8 o'clock on the Friday morning. We arrived in eagerly and we're waiting about an hour until Leo Varadkar came over to our stand. We were shocked when we saw him coming over and he had a great interest in the project and we took some pictures and even made the newspaper.

By the time Saturday came we were wrecked and come 5 o'clock Saturday we were ready to pack it in and go home. The whole BT young scientist experience was great and I'd definitely recommend it to the TYs of next year.

Budget Debate



Art 2022-2023

1ST YEAR ART

Gothic horror competition winner:
Mark O Connell 1st year

I really enjoyed the gothic horror booklet project. We wrote our short story in English, and made the booklet in art class. It was great being able to get creative with the story we wrote and turning it into a book using watercolour paints and markers. We learned how to design a book cover in the gothic style and we created characters that were inspired by Tim Burton. I also learned how to draw bubble writing in a gothic style, which was fun because it made the booklet look a lot more like a real gothic horror book. Overall, it was a great experience and it was fun to mix our English and Art class.

TRANSITION YEAR SET DESIGN

Daniel Murphy 4th year

I was a part of the art team who designed and created the set design for our musical "All Shook Up" in November.

I was very reluctant to volunteer for it as I hadn't done art for the Junior Cycle, however

I ended up enjoying it a lot more than I thought I would; which led me to pick art as a leaving cert subject.

2ND YEAR ART

Tommy Doyle 2nd year

For our second year art trip, my art class went to Butler gallery to see an exhibition by Cartoon Saloon. I personally really enjoy animation so I was excited for the day. We sat down and the tour guide told us a bit about the work that goes into making an animation. He showed us an animation made by Cartoon Saloon called "My Father's Dragon". We then moved on to another part of the exhibition which was my personal favourite. In this part you could make your own mini flip book. The trip was very fun and interesting and I really enjoyed the day out.



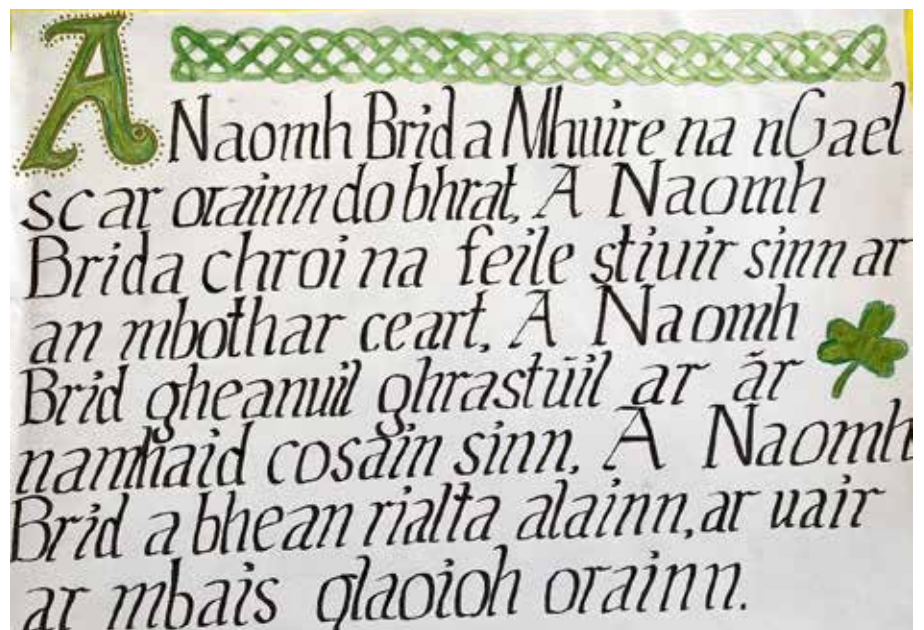
Students with their Gothic Horror entries.



Transition Year students who helped design and create the set for 'All shook Up'.



5th and 6th year trip to The Butler Gallery



Robert Butler 2nd year

I really enjoyed art this year my favourite thing we did in art was calligraphy. I really liked it because it was so relaxing and makes time really fly by. My grandad used to do calligraphy for James Stephens and that's where I got my inspiration from. I entered the 2nd year calligraphy competition and won; I was happy that I won but more importantly I really enjoyed just writing out the calligraphy it was very therapeutic.

5TH AND 6TH YEAR ART



Geography

Alex McDonald

For the leaving cert geography trip Mr Morgan and Ms Ryan's classes both went to Tramore. We did different investigations and activities such as measuring beach profiles and wave frequencies. The project is worth 20% of the final leaving cert profile.

After all the activities we also were allowed free time to grab a fish and chip in Tramore to cap off a very enjoyable windy day!



Agricultural Science Trip 2023

The 5th year agricultural science students attended a practical day on The Farmers Journal Farm in Tullamore on Thursday March 25th. The Tullamore Farm is a beef and sheep farm on a fifteen year lease. The purpose of the farm is to demonstrate best practice inside the farm gate and to show farmers how good technical efficiency can improve farm profitability.

On arrival to the farm, we were instructed to be very aware of biosecurity measures on the farm. These are measures to prevent disease entering the farm so we thoroughly washed and disinfected our footwear. On the farm, we got a detailed tour of the cattle sheds and livestock. We were very impressed with the high standards and results achieved.

On the tour, there was a big emphasis placed on sustainability in agriculture. Examples of sustainable practices are;

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

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

There are many more sustainable practices to maintain natural resources in agriculture. We deal with these in our individual investigative studies (IIS), where we explore a hypothesis through scientific investigations on our own enterprises at home. We type up our investigations, which include a literature review, our investigative process, analysis of results obtained and finally conclusions in a scientific report. This report is worth 25% of our final grade in agricultural science.

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



Business



Transition Year Business students participating in the Bank of Ireland Money Smarts Quiz in the RDS in April.



SEP Kilkenny Enterprise Awards



Third Year students Jack Dooley and Cian Holohan who won the Kilkenny SEP Intermediate category at the County Finals in April for their company HD Horseshoe Designs. Jack and Cian subsequently claimed 3rd prize at the All-Ireland Finals in May.



Career Guidance Report 2022-2023



Mr Brian Dowling, Ms Eadaoin Maher,
Guidance Department

We had informative talks during the year from the following 3rd level colleges – SETU, DCU, UL, and Maynooth. Our TYs visited SETU (I.T. Carlow campus) and UL campus.

We had many different guest speakers during the year. Conor Heary from the Military Barracks spoke about life in the Defence Forces, 8 TY students also completed a week's work experience in the James Stephens Army Barracks. Virginia Bohan from Solas gave a presentation on apprenticeships, past pupil Tony Woodcock spoke about Agricultural Science to Mr Darmody's 6th Year Ag Science groups. Gerry Fitzpatrick (lecturer in Setanta) spoke to 6th year students about a career in Psychology. We had course talks in Sport Science and Business in UL, Construction Management and Quantity Surveying in MTU, Product Design Innovation in SETU, Engineering in DCU and SETU.

Our TYs enjoyed four weeks of Work Experience and also carried out a Career Investigation during the year. Brian Cody gave a very insightful talk on motivation before Christmas, past pupil Harry Maharaj gave a very informative talk about his own journey from school to setting up a very successful business.

Our 5th and 6th years had a Study Skills workshop in December.

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



English



1st year students reading in Kilkenny Library.



1st year students visiting Kilkenny Library.



Poet Mark Roper speaking during a visit to St Kieran's College



Mr Larry Cotter, Mr Mark Roper, Adan Noonan and Mr Gerry Walsh.



Public Speaking - Winning students from a host of Kilkenny schools.



Teachers and students from Kilkenny schools following the public speaking competition.

Computer Science



Sixth Year Computer Science students receiving their certificates for the European Space Agency Astro Pi Challenge. Their experiments ran on board the International Space Station during May 2021.

History



Junior History Trip



First year history trip to Glasnevin



Students visiting the gardens in Kilkenny Castle.

JUNIOR HISTORY TRIP

On Thursday the 22nd of September all 3rd year got to visit Glasnevin cemetery. We departed early in the morning and the bus up was great with everyone in my class. When we arrived in Glasnevin cemetery, we were greeted by our tour guides, throughout the trip the guides were a great help. Some students in our year were assisted in locating graves of their dead relatives which was really interesting.

Throughout the trip I saw various graves of people who played a significant role in Irish history. Daniel O'Connell, Michael Collins and Eamon de Valera are just a few as there are over 1.5 million people buried here in total. My favourite part was Daniel O'Connell's crypt as it was very interesting. We were told his crypt was made from Kilkenny marble. We were also told of his dying wish "My body to Ireland, My heart to Rome, my soul to God." His heart was stolen and is still missing to this day.

The famine museum in St Stephens Green was also very interesting. It was a walk in history museum where we were given various aspects and accounts of the disaster. It was easy to navigate your way through the museum and investigate what interested us the most.

To sum it up I really enjoyed this trip and would like to thank Ms Staunton for organising it!



5th and 6th year students visiting Stormont



Transition Year students visiting the Kennedy Homestead



5th and 6th year students visiting the American Embassy and meeting Ambassador Claire Cronin.



Louis Todd presenting a hurley to Ambassador Claire Cronin.



Transition Year students on the Dunbrody in New Ross.

Science

Science week this year was held from 13th to 20th of November. To celebrate the week a range of activities were organised for students. All 1st year students built their own fan powered cars in class. These cars were then tested out in races along school corridors!

All 2nd year students attended a very interesting science show in Kilkenny castle entitled Dr Ken's spectacular science magic show. This introduced science concepts in the context of magic tricks. Many of our students ended up as volunteers on stage. 3rd year students took part in a science table quiz which was run in the school.



Irish



By Christopher Ging and Liam Doyle

Bhí bliain ghnóthach ag Roinn na Gaeilge arís i mbliana, d’eagraigh Ms Farrell An Cumann Gaelach sa scoil ag am lóin do lucht na 6ú Bliana, ‘Plé & Tae’ a bhí ann. Tugadh deis do na scoláirí feabhas a chur ar a gcuid Gaeilge go neamhfhoirmiúil, taobh amuigh den seomra ranga. Bhraith na scoláirí uile gur fheabhsaigh a líofacht sa teanga dá bharr, bhí neart muiníne acu ag dul i mbun scrúdaithe don Bhéaltriall um Cháisc a bhúil leis an obair seo.

Chuaigh beirt ón Idirbhliain chuig Bhaile Átha Cliath, le ceardlann ‘Thraenáil na nOifigeach’ a dhéanamh le Conradh na Gaeilge. Bhí an-lá go deo ag Christopher Ging agus Liam Doyle ag bualadh le scoláirí eile ó gach cearn den tír agus ag foghlaim conas An Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn sa scoil.

I rith Seachtain na Gaeilge bhí Tráth na gCeist ar siúl do na ranganna sóisearacha agus thóg na scoláirí sinsearacha turas chun na pictiúrlainne le breathnú ar an scannán nua-Ghaeilge Frank agus Róise. Chruthaigh scoláirí ealaíne Ms O’Connell póstaear le haghaidh Lá Fhéile Bríde agus Lá Fhéile Pádraig chomh maith.

Rinne scoláirí na 1ú Bliana cairde nua tríd litreacha a scríobh chuig a bpeann cairde in FCJ Bun Clóidí i Loch Garman. Le cúnamh Dé beidh deis acu buailadh le chéile sa toadhcháí.

Beatha teanga, í a labhairt.



Maths

IAMTA MATHS

By Chris Ging

This year I took part in the IAMTA maths competition on Thursday the 19th January in St Leo's secondary school in Carlow, this was the regional section of the IAMTA applied maths quiz and St. Kierans put forward around 6 teams this year. The teams were made up of 4 people, two from Transition Year and two from Third Year. There were teams from many different schools there that day and the quiz itself was made up of 6 rounds with 4 questions per round and we were given 6 minutes per round for the first four rounds and 10 minutes for the last 2 rounds which had harder questions.

The questions were a mix of some junior cert higher level questions and some applied maths questions, which made a good mix of easier and more challenging questions, and each question was worth 2 points. After all the rounds our team came first with 39 points out of 48, the members of this team were, Christopher Ging, Daniel Devereux, Conor Aylward and Larry Phelan, this qualified us to move forward to the All Ireland Final on the 25th of March in Athlone.

When we came back to school, we started working on our applied maths questions with Mr Kavanagh every Tuesday and Thursday to prepare for the finals in Athlone. On the day we all drove up to Athlone Community College where we were brought down to one of their gym halls for the quiz. There were 16 teams overall from all over Ireland. The rounds followed the same format, but the questions were a lot harder than the regional ones. At the end of the competition we came tied for 4th place with 33 points out of 48 teams.

All in all it was a very enjoyable experience and we hope to try for the senior competition next year!



Conor Aylward, Daniel Devereux, Chris Ging, Larry Phelan



Mark Fitzpatrick, David Williams, David Mulrooney, Mr Joe Kavanagh



Mr Joe Kavanagh, Zach Lawlor, David Mulrooney, David Williams, Mark McGeeney.



Fionn Whelan, Larry Phelan, Ivin Sony, Conor Aylward

Music



Junior Choir

CHOIR 2022/23

Mr Fergal Brennan & Mr Gerry Walsh

We were delighted at the beginning of the year when more students in the school auditioned for the Senior Choir. The Senior Choir now has a total of 75 students while the Junior Choir consists of 134 students.

We had our annual Christmas Carol Service in St Mary's Cathedral on Thursday, December 8th 2022. The Senior Choir sang 'May it Be' and 'Gaudete' while the Junior Choir performed 'That's Christmas to me'. We also had the Junior Chamber Choir performing 'Where are you Christmas?'. Both choirs then combined to perform their rendition of Hudson Taylor's 'How I know it's Christmas'.

As well as singing at the St Kieran's Day Mass on Thursday, March 3rd, we also had the formation of a TY Choir. The boys combined with the Presentation Secondary School to perform 'My souls been anchored' in the Wesley Choral Festival. The choir did brilliantly where they got highly commended and a score of 91%. The Senior Choir also performed at a Variety Show with the Presentation Secondary School on May 4th in the Watergate Theatre.

The Junior and Senior Choir are currently continuing

their preparations for the end of year Awards Nights also in the Watergate Theatre. As the teachers involved in the choir, we wish to thank each and every student who has sung for us this year. We are very proud of the huge effort put in by all students across all choirs. We are delighted to see boys who are so talented academically and in the area of sport so willing to showcase their talents in the form of singing.

Trad band 2022-2023

The St Kieran's College Traditional Irish music group had a busy year between competitions, local performances and nursing home visits. The group rehearse every Tuesday lunchtime under the guidance of Mr Richard Dunphy, Mr Eamon Heffernan and Mr Gerry Walsh.

The band were delighted to welcome five new members to the group this year: Larry Phelan (banjo), John Brennan (guitar), Aden Farrell (guitar), Matthew Bowe (guitar) and Harry Donoghue (guitar). They joined current members: Joseph Canny, Adam Noonan, Leon Brown, Liam Carrigan, Cathal O'Dwyer, Michael Tynan and Keelan Lynch.

The group had a busy opening few months with performances at various school events, before our annual visit to some of the nursing homes around the city. During the month of December, the band played tunes and airs for



Senior Choir



Trad Band

Back: Michael Tynan, Joe Canny, Leon Brown, Larry Phelan, Cathal O Dwyer. Front: Mr G. Walsh, John Brennan, Matthew Bowe, Aden Farrell, Keelan Lynch, Harry Donoghue, Mr Eamon Heffernan. Missing from photo: Adam Noonan, Liam Carrigan and Mr Richard Dunphy.

residents at Drakelands and Tinnypark nursing homes.

A performance at the school carol service was followed by tunes in the bandstand on the parade as part of the Kilkenny Yulefest. The group also entertained customers at the local Bank of Ireland branch over the festive period.

In January, the trad band’s main focus turned to the Wesley music festival. We amalgamated with the trad group in The Presentation Kilkenny, entering the competition as a joint venture. Their hard work came to fruition as they claimed 4th place in a competition of high standards with eleven other schools competing. This was the first time entering this competition as a combined group.

The band will once again combine with Presentation Kilkenny for the upcoming TY variety show where they will be joined by Irish dancers on stage. The group is also preparing to perform as part of the school’s annual awards



Members of the Presentation and St. Kieran’s College trad band that were awarded Highly Commended at the Wesley Music Festival in March.

night at the end of May. The trad band in the school gives the opportunity for students to perform their instrument in front of audiences, gain confidence and mix with students from other schools. We look forward to next years’ events and hope to have a few more incoming traditional musicians in first year 2023.



Jazz Band

Back row l to r: Louis Raggett, Tom Walsh, Sam Hayes. Second row l to r: Joe Connolly, Marc Doheny, Owen Shine, Cormac Leahy, Mr Eamonn Cahill. Front row l to r: Bill O’Shea, Andrew Browne, Josh Butler, David Waldron, Owen Walsh.

Flag Day 2023

Our students were delighted to attend the Flag Presentation ceremony at SETU Waterford recently with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar to mark the 175th anniversary of the flying of our National Flag.

Thanks to Mr Morrissey, to all students who attended and to Ben McEvoy who received the flag for St Kieran’s College.



TY: Intercambios en ESPAÑA

Jamie Tallon, Michael Lynch, Frank McCluskey

In March this year, Michael Lynch, Frank McCluskey and I went to Madrid, the Capital of Spain for two weeks to do a Spanish course. The classes lasted four hours a day and were very beneficial, the school we were in was only an 8 minute walk from the apartment we were staying at. We all stayed in the same apartment with a woman who owned it and her dog. The real highlight would have to be our experiences outside of school though, we got the opportunity to see the whole city and learn about its culture and what they do, there were a lot of things to see including big parks, monuments and squares. We also visited the *Santiago Bernabéu Stadium* which was a great experience. Luckily for us the weather was very good, the temperature was around 20 degrees everyday so we got to enjoy the sun as well. Overall it was an unreal experience and would recommend it to anyone.

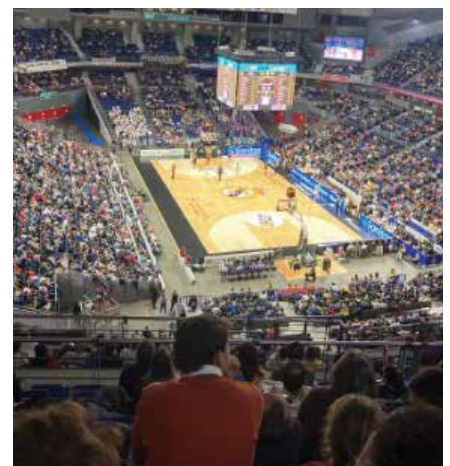
Oisín Marry, Tom Walsh

In February Tom and I swapped our black school jumpers and grey pants for a more suitable shorts and t-shirt attire as we began our two weeks of school in Valencia. We stayed with a host family and attended a Spanish language school from 9-1 everyday. There were students from all over the


world attending school, most of them did not speak English which meant talking to them in Spanish was our only means of communication. We explored the city until we knew it like the back of our hands, tasted the local cuisine, enjoyed the local *Las Fallas* festival and learnt some Spanish in between. I'd highly recommend anyone in TY to consider doing this.

Bill O'Shea

I went to Madrid on an exchange to learn Spanish last November. We were staying with a lady who housed foreign students who were learning Spanish. We took the metro nearly everyday to explore the centre of the city. The food was very nice over there. We often had *paella* and other typical Spanish dishes. The World Cup was on while we were over there so it was very entertaining watching all of the Spanish matches on tv. We got a tour of the Bernabéu Stadium which was very interesting as we got to see all of the trophies that Real Madrid have won. We also got to look around the stadium. We went to a basketball match where Real Madrid were playing against AC Monaco. It was a very entertaining game as Monaco won by a point. I found the Spanish classes very beneficial as I feel my Spanish has since improved. I would definitely recommend this trip to people who are looking to do Spanish for the Leaving Cert.



Prayer for Exams



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

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

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

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

Amen

Gaisce Award

Seán Moloney

The Gaisce award is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, to all young people to dream big and realise their potential. In order to receive the bronze Gaisce award, we had to take up three new activities - A personal skill, physical recreation and community involvement. For example, I took guitar lessons, began going to the gym and joined the No Name Club. The award is earned over a period of 26 weeks during the school year.

The final vital element to receive your award is the adventure journey. We left the school early on a wet and windy day in March. The bus brought us to a community hall where we dropped off our overnight bags. We then changed into our wet gear and got back on the bus, prepared to brave the Comeragh mountains. We experienced all four seasons in a day during the hike. We spent five long hours trekking through the Comeraghs. Once we arrived back at the hall Mr Dunphy, Mr F. Brennan, Mr E. Walsh and Mr Morrissey organised a soccer match. We were tired at first but we all came back to life and it turned out to be a cracker of a game. The following day we did a short walk along the blue way and returned home, ready to sleep!



Transition Year



Dunmore East



DUNMORE EAST

By Mikey Keating

At the start of the year, our whole year group went to Dunmore East in Waterford. When we got there we were given a wetsuit to get into, we were then shown the safety rules for when we were in the water, then we got into the water and we had 2 different activities, water bouncy castles and kayaking.

My favourite was the bouncy castle because there was a lot to do on it including a slide and a trampoline there was also monkey bars, when we were doing the kayaking the instructor brought us out in pairs to a place where we had races in the water and raced back to the shore as well, in my opinion it was the best trip of the year and it was a very good experience and would definitely do it again.



Wellbeing Talk











Helping the Homeless



Crag Walk



TAG RUGBY

By Drew O'Keeffe

We have Tag Rugby every second Tuesday and it is a very refreshing approach to physical education in the school. All of the participating students have a great time learning the fundamentals skills of rugby with Noel.

These sessions encourage students to push themselves and enjoy the experience of playing a new sport. Noel's training teaches the students how to work as a team and properly communicate and manage a team with one another which are skills applicable to all aspects of life and we can't thank him enough for his help.



Tag Rugby



Ice Skating



MOUNTJOY TRIP

By Harry Cody

We went to visit Mountjoy Prison in Dublin with our class and I really enjoyed it. When we got up there it was really cold and miserable but as we got through the day it got warmer. The first time we had to take off our belts and anything metal out of our pockets and put them in a tray so they could go through a x-ray machine.

When we got through the x-ray one of the guards showed us all the different types of shanks and knives that inmates made. He also showed us phones that people were caught with and I was so surprised by the size of them. We went on a tour around the outside of the Prison where the people used to be hanged and they also showed us the Prison museum where all the old Prison items like chains and handcuffs.

Overall I really enjoyed the trip and learned a lot about the history of the prison and by looking at the conditions you would be in if you got sent to Mountjoy made sure I don't do anything stupid in the future!







Rape Crisis Talks



Dublin Zoo



MOBILE RECORDING STUDIO

By Josh Lawlor

The Mobile Recording Studio for me and my group was really good. We made our own advert that we got to record and listen to. We took multiple tries but we eventually got it done and it was a very fun experience for us to learn how to produce an advert and how to publish the advert.

We also got to watch the other groups do their advert through a camera which was funny seeing them mess up and to hear their weird advertisements, most advertisements weren't serious and were made to be a joke but it was very fun nonetheless. It was a great experience overall.



Mobile Recording Studio





First Aid Course

FIRST AID COURSE

By Daniel Ring

The day started with me and thirteen other lads being brought to a classroom, where we found six first aid dolls lying on blue tarp and our instructor welcoming us in.

First he introduced himself then he proceeded to give us a quick rundown

on what we were going to be learning throughout the day.

After that he gave us a sheet with information about first aid and a card that instructs you on what to do if you need to call the ambulance.

He then began his presentation with the first chapter being CPR. We watched a quick movie on how to give CPR which then led to us getting to try it out on the dolls. This was a lot of fun

because I had never used a CPR doll before and it was much different than what I had expected.

Once we all had a turn on the CPR doll we got to try a defibrillator. This was very informative and much easier than I expected.

In the end it was very fun and very helpful and I thought it was well worth it.



Apple Tree Planting



TY students planting the last of 20 apple trees in our wild flower garden. Many thanks to Pat Boyd of Keep Kilkenny Beautiful for helping us to support the #AllIrelandPollinatorPlan to help biodiversity and thanks to Enda Malone, School Caretaker, for his work on this initiative.

First Year



1A - Back Row l to r: Danny O Neill, Sean Kavanagh, Mattie Corr, Oisín Ryan, Martin Wall, Sean Morrissey, Tomas Grogan, Cathal Cahill.. Middle Row l to r: Mamadi Batchilly, Harry Walsh, James Tierney, Dylan Drennan, David Walton, Sean Gannon, Conor Griffin, Adam Staunton, Cameron Beaton. Front Row l to r: Dara Donohue, Harry Simpson, Andrew Forristal, Luke Kealy, Billy Heffernan, Harry Egan, Aaron McCormack, Donnchadh Grant, Krystian Bogusz. Absent: Harry Donoghue, Tomás McBride, Seán Rooney, John Brennan.



1B - Back Row l to r: Seth Lawlor, Eoghan O Connell, Luka Suric, Donncha Foley, Luke Cummins, Sam Kealy, James Butler, Charlie Ryan, David Martins Perreira.. Middle row l to r: Ronan Hayes, Max Corrway, Jack McShane, Sam McAviney, Eoin Kelly, Tom Duggan, Dan Lawlor, Jack Donnelly, Oran Aylward. Front row l to r: Brion Ryan, Josh Malone, PJ Byrne, Johnathon Kingston, Eoin Ryan, Lorcan Mahoney, Jack Bolger, James Slattery. Absent: Sam Medlar, Aden Farrell, Aaron Okwonko, Noah Wall.



1C - Back Row l to r: Sean Norton, Chris Hayes, Liam Farrell, Dylan Brennan, John Keher, Darragh Walsh. 2nd row from back: James Moore, Andrew Dillon, Shane Comerford, Conor Carroll, AJ Mackey, Joe Hayes, Jim Carrigan. 3rd row l to r: Shane Doyle, Andrew Browne, Lorcan Cummins, Jack Renehan, Tommy Madigan, Briain Walsh, Max Edwards, Paul Millea. Front row: James O Brien, Darragh Cahill, Mikey O Brien, Tiarnan O Brien, Oisín Maher, Conor Manogue, Robbie Sheehan, Patrick McDonald. Absent: Jamie Hayes.



1D - Back Row l to r: David Holland, Scott O Shea, Rory Rhatigan, Jamie Walsh, Richie Healy, Kennedy Moni Ali. 2nd row from back: Paddy Duggan, Sam Cummins, Ethan Russell, Steve Hoyne, James Lyons, Jamie Holohan, Charlie Vaughan. 3rd from back: Jack Leahy, Billy Langton, Cian Dalton, Livenish Mogana Sundram, David Brennan, Matthew Bowe, Shane Rouse. Front: Jack Stapleton, Martin Martins, Jason Tallis, Sean Henriques, Paul O Rourke, Jim Connelly, Joe Nolan, Paddy McQuire. Absent: Dara Barut, Mikey Dorney.



1E - Back row l to r: Jacob Konakesh Cormac Whelan Fox, Tobi Bedron, Hugh Byrne, Tommy Duggan. 2nd row from back: Mark O Connell, Ted Healy, Sam Lawlor, Jovanhy (Gio) Fuentes-Kavanagh, Ky Meaney. 3rd row: Conor Hickey, Charlie Kavanagh, Odhran McKenna, Kyrell Mtinsi, Ben Raggett, Shane O Dwyer. Front row: Owen Walsh, Henry Shefflin, Dan Dunphy, David Waldron, Charlie Fogarty, Kevin Stanly, Eddie Murphy, Nathan McMahon. Absent: Sam Kealy, Ray Van Royan, Enda Cunningham, Philip Lynch, Alex Donegan Ryan, Josh Butler.

Second Year



2A - Back Row l to r : Jack White, John Barton, Seán Carroll, Eoin Healy, James O' Reilly, Aidan Keating, Ben McEvoy, Rayan Oweka, Paddy Purcell. Middle Row l to r : Keelan Lynch, Seán Fitzmaurice, Josh Varley, Cillian O' Neill, Matthew Phelan, James Larkin, Daire Hogan, Eldon Sheridan. Front Row l to r : Cian Dermody, Paddy Challoner, Robert Brennan, Ben Leahy, Roman Connolly, Eoin McDermott, Noah Power. Absent from photo: Jarleth Comerford, Dylan Dempsey, Alex Dooley, Tom Glennon, Daniel Hayes, Jake O' Neill.



2B - Back Row l to r : Theo Drennan, Matias Quaglia, Gearóid O' Shea, Michael Barron, Antoni Pawlowski, James Gannon. 3rd Row l to r : Jayden Ryan, Ori Phelan, Eoin O' Gorman, Kieran Bergin, Augustas Milasius, Michael O' Neill Maher, Hugh Healy, Alex Canavan. 2nd Row l to r : Seán McBride, Ruairí Hanrahan, Aidan O' Connell, Paddy Grace, Ruairí Power, Mark O' Neill, Adam Butler, Alex O' Donoghue. Front Row l to r : Chris Phelan, Robert Butler, Cormac Monahan, Jack Mulcahy, Ned Spelman, Ben Fahey, Andrew Lawless. Absent from photo: Matthew Duggan.



2C - Back Row l to r : Will O'Dwyer, Felix Fwamba, Cillian McElwee, Michael Tynan, Dan Carroll, Paul Kirwan. 3rd Row l to r : Harry McEvoy, Ben Nevin, Andrew Holohan, Harry Duffy, Sean Nulty, Tommy Doyle, Seán Curran. 2nd Row l to r : Tomás Carroll, Tom Challoner, Cónal Doyle, Jonathan Kennedy, Rory Glynn, Rían O'Hare, Cormac Neary. Front Row l to r : Michéal O'Mahoney, Eoin McCormack, Cian O'Connor, Sean O'Mahoney, Cillian Maher, Ciabhán Maher, Richard Forristal, Alyn Hearne. Absent from photo: Jonathan Dunne & Darragh Roche.



2D - Back Row l to r : Nicky Healy, Cillian Dunphy, David Kolodziej, Jack Rhatigan, Alex Rochford. 3rd Row l to r : Tom Doheny, Oisín Barry, Tadhg Phelan, Jayden Maher, James Reddy, Conor Brennan, Oliver Phelan. 2nd Row l to r : Jack O'Reilly, Paddy Cuddihy, Conor Marry, C.J. Brennan, Cian Stapleton, Killian Drennan, Dan Rohan, Darragh Drennan. Front Row l to r : Conor Coone, Seán Grace, James Ryan, Dara O'Neill, Fionn Blanchfield, Ryan Minogue Lee, Isaac Okorafor, Patrick Murphy, Charlie Gleeson. Absent from photo: Bruno Bialocerkiewicz.

Third Year



3A - Back row (l-r) Cormac Leahy, David Travers, Martin Brennan, Eoghan Phelan, Hugh Whelan, Cian Walsh, Kieran Carter. Third row (l-r) Nevin Benny, Tadhg Byrne, Tom Gladney, Liam O'Dwyer, Kieran Timmins, James Holohan, Cathal Russell, Conor McEvoy. Second row (l-r) Luke Browne, Robert McEvoy, Diarmuid Behan, Euen Wall, Evan Davy, MJ Banville, Brian Healy. Front row (l-r) Daniel Tallis, Liam Keogh, Cormac Dowling, Ben Drennan, Oisín Farrell, Eoin Walpole, Daniel Patterson. Missing from photo: Rory O'Connor.



3B - Back Row (l-r) David Barcoe, Louis Ragget, Owen Shine, Larry Phelan, Conor Aylward, Eoin Ryan. Third Row (l-r) TJ Comerford, Eli Lynch, Cathal O'Dwyer, Cian Holohan-White, Luke Lawlor, Jake Mullen, Charlie Greene. Second Row (l-r) James Murphy, Scott Hennessy, Killian Ryan, David Quinn, Thomas Murphy, Lewis Kenealy, Jack Walsh. Front Row (l-r) Ciarán Hickey, Rian Shefflin, Cian Doherty, Ivin Sonny, Michael O'Shea, Peter Kealy, Liam Ireland-Wall. Missing from photo: Ted Donoghue, Harry Bourke.



3C - Back row (l-r) Ronan O'Mahony, Conor Dillon, Aaron Fox, Jack Dooley, Eoghan Cahill, Timmy Corr, Marc Doheny. Third row (l-r) James Wallace, James O'Mara, Louis Lawlor, Conor Gibbons, Conor Holohan, Joe Power, Charlie Carroll, Andrew Comerford. Second row (l-r) Robbie Lynch, Conor Millea, Cillian Bowe, Cathal Rossiter, Dean Herbet, Ronan Hanrahan, Tadhg O'Gorman. Front row (l-r) Sam Mackey, Daniel MacEneaney, Cormac Holden, James O'Brien, Rory Moore, Joe Langton. Missing from photo: Phillip Carrigan, Daniel Smith.



3D - Front row (l-r) Bill McDermott, Stephen Walsh, Paddy Savage, Conor Hanrahan, Mark Dalton. Third Row (l-r) Misha Tiptiuk, Hugh Kelly, Daniel Ryan, Joe Butler, Tadhg Bergin, Ciarán Coone. Second row (l-r) Brian Hickey, Mathew Cahill, Tiarnan Shefflin, James Walshe, Fionn Mahony, Liam O'Gorman, Harry Conroy, Conor Dowling. Front Row (l-r) Vova Virko, Tommy Walsh, Rickard Burke, Tom Boyle, Ciarán Power, Cody O'Neill, Cayden Byrne, Conor Hanrahan. Missing from photo: Cormac Meegan, Séan Morrissey.

Transition Year



TYA - Back row (l-r): Jack Dooley, Conor Brophy, Finn Conway, Christopher Ging, Marc Bergin, Harry Cody. Third row (l-r): Bill Hayes, Sean Quigley, Christopher Delaney, Odhran Moore, David Moore, Robert Wallace, Drew O'Keefe. Second row (l-r): Daniel Gargan, Thomas O'Shea, Josh Lawlor, Theo Petrani, Dara Behan, David Ring, Patrick Kerwick. Front row (l-r): Matthew Rowe, Hugh Hennessy, James Conway, Daniel Murphy, Phillip O'Mahony, Mikey Keating, Liam Doyle, Noah Manogue.



TYB - Back row (l-r): Sean Shefflin, Jack Holden, Edmund Lauhoff, Jamie Tallon, Tom Walsh, Darragh Doyle, Tadgh Ahern. Third row (l-r): James O'Neill, Daniel Devereux, Patrick Bergin, Luke Gamble, David Kenyi, Rafal Palcznski. Second row (l-r): Quinn O'Neill, Seamus Murphy, Ruairi Mcevoy, Conor Farrell, Johnny Leahy, Dawid Palcznski, James Cody. Front row (l-r): Jake Maher, Daniel Tallis, Matthew McAviney, Allen Larkin, Daniel Carey, Conor Hoyne, Conor Dalton.



TYC - Back row (l-r): Noah Walsh-Brennan, Páidí Egan, Jack Holohan, Michael Rohan, Ruairí Phelan, Ross Gormley, Dillon Cummins, Samuel Hayes. Second row (l-r): Michael Kenneally, Pierce Costello, Sean Moloney, Dylan Muldowney, Charlie Larkin, Louis Fitzgerald, Sean Rossiter, Odhran O'keefe, Alex O'Farrell. Front row (l-r): Eimhin O'hare, Cameron McFarlane, Thomas Langton, Gregg Ruane, Tony Butler, Conor Murphy, Jude Delaney, Stephen Butler.



TYD - Back row (l-r): Evan Murphy, Eoin Dalton, Tim Brennan, John Bergin, Darragh Coverdale, John Fitzpatrick, Sean Deely, David Langton, Ruarc Sweeney. Second row (l-r): Daniel McDonald, Kian Kealy, Alex Preston, Mark Reddy, Oisín Marry, Enda Kavanagh, Ruairí Walsh, Liam Carrigan, Jake Byrne. Front row (l-r): Cian Byrne, Jack Hennessy, Charlie Grace, Briain Wilson, Bill O'Shea, Eoghan O'Brien, Daniel Ring, Michael Lynch.

Fifth Year



Back row l to r: James J Comerford, Dayo Kingston, Edward Langton, Finn Drennan, Joseph Prendergast, James Hughes, Adian Ryan. Middle row l to r: Dean O'Brien, James Brennan, Kealan Gray, Calum Meagher, Conor Gamble, Mark McPhillips, Killian Butler. Front row l to r: Sam O'Shea, John Dermody, Adam Coyne, Ben Crow, Diarmuid Langton, Jacob Cassin, Andy Murphy.. Missing from Photo Charlie Fitzgerald, James O'Brien.



Back row l to r: Max Coffey, Rory Connellan, Conor O'Gorman, Christian Connick, Luke Phelan, Patrick Purcell. Middle row l to r: Cian Kelly, Alex Reynolds, Ronan Hackett, Noah Gilmore, Eoghan Bennett, Alexis Fitzgerald, Sean Young. Front row l to r: Tommy O'Keeffe, Andrew O'Connor, Cian Farrell, Jacob Breslin, Bill Coogan, Gavin McMahon, Timmy Kelly, Patrick Fleming.



Back row l to r: Cathal McCormack, Nathan Ryan, Eoin O'Neill, Ben Phelan, Donal Kealy James Hickey.. Middle row l to r: Sam Larkin, Seán Brett, Aidan Cahill, Aidan Cashin, Seán Casey, Matthew Mulligan. Front row l to r: Eoghan Dowling, Sean Bergin, Paddy Walsh, Robert Brown, Jeff Neary, Luke McBride, Eoin O'Connor. Missing from Photo : Páuric Curran, Seán Hunt, Kieran Walsh.



Back row l to r: Cormac Burke, David Hogan, Cormac Moore, Oisín O'Reilly, James L Comerford, Ross O'Neill. Middle row l to r: Conor Mulhall, Harry Boyle, Aaron Coogan, Joshua Owens, James O'Connor, Charlie Bibby, Sean Cahill. Front row l to r: Jake O'Brien, Tomás Roche, Ryan Cody, Joey Dalton, Bryce Cummins, Jamie Peters, Cathal Buckley. Missing from Photo: Liam Holohan, Luke O'Donnell.



Back row l to r: David Butler, Joe Greene, Aaron Doyle, Killian Tallon, Robert Murphy. Third row l to r: Ben Cummins, Joseph McInerney, Charlie Cleere, Jack Murphy, Cathal Hickey, Edward Whelan. Second row l to r: Paul Mahon, Josh Tallis, John Hayes, Joseph Hughes, Stephen Power Kellett, Rory Smithwick, Richard Nolan. Front row l to r: Aaron Dowling, Fred Odano, Rory Glynn, Cian O'Reilly, Conor Doyle, Warren McGuinness. Missing from Photo: Tom Cleere, Robin Carey, Lee Greene, Aaron McEvoy, James Patchell, Jake Stanley Dunphy.



Back row l to r: David Fitzpatrick, Edward McDermott, Ciallín Brennan, Ben Little, Niall Farrell, Luke Hanrahan. Third row l to r: Colm Fitzgerald, Harry Lanigan, Thomas Brennan, Darragh Lawlor, Seán Coughlan. Second row l to r: Aaron Russel, Sean Carrigan, Stephen Manogue, John Davis, Tom McPhillips, Brian Gladney. Front row l to r: Jack Johnson, Mark Fitzpatrick, James Brennan Smyth, Ronan O'Brien, Oisín Bateman, Darragh Treacy. Missing from Photo: Joseph Murray.

Sixth Year



Back row l to r: Sam Kane, James O'Shea, Jack Aylmer, Andrew McEvoy, Ted Dunne, Adam Walsh. Middle row l to r: Kieran Brennan, Darragh Ruane, Oran Lavery, Louie Jamieson Eyre, Leon Brown, Rory Farrell, Conor Kavanagh. Front row l to r: Ben Moore, Shane Gleeson, Edward Dwyer, David Williams, Alex McDonald, Joe Kearns.



Back row l to r: Dualtach O'Flaherty, Michael Butler, Eoin Egan, Evan O'Neill, Killian Corcoran, Bill Smith. Middle row l to r: Daire Phelan, Konrad Palczynski, Cathal Keegan, Dylan Teehan, Tom Lodge, Eoin Byrne. Front row l to r: Niall Shortall, Donagh Murphy, Mick Carroll, Ben Murphy, Fionn Cody.



Back row l to r: Cathal Walsh, Harry O'Grady, Robin Lanigan, Rob Ring. Middle Row l to r: Podge Kirwan, Pdraig Naddy, Chris Kealy, Harry Shine. Front Row: Shane Glynn, Sean Keenan, Anthony Ireland Wall, Jimmy Maher, Dylan Pratt-Stapelton.



Back row l to r: Ciaran Nolan, Brian Whelan, Barry Dunne, Zach Lawlor, Kyle Byrne. Middle row l to r: Mark MacEaney, Michael Cullen, Mark McGeeney, Pierce Ryan, Oisín Mealy. Front Row l to r: Patrick Foley, Michael Harrison, David Mulrooney, Diarmuid Greene, Michael Raggett.



Back row: Aaron Maher, Stephen Sorkiri, Joe Canny, Matthew Kelleher, Denis Dalton, Sammy Rochford. Middle row l to r: Bill Nolan, Matthew Banville, Billy Egan, Eoin Forde, Tadhg Blanchfield, Jack Guiry. Front row l to r: James Larkin Dunne, William Wallace, Aaron Heffernan Barcoe, Brian Kerwick, Thomas Dillon, Leonard Farrell.



Back row l to r: Sean Og Hetherington, Conor Fitzmaurice, Hugh Finnegan, Bill Hughes. Middle row l to r: Conor Dooley, Frank Noukeu, Billy Dowling, Killian Doyle. Front row l to r: Kevin O'Connor, Mark Holohan, Johnny Keane, Martin Brennan.



Back row l to r: Jack Murphy, Ben Whitty, James McEvoy, Louis Todd. Middle row l to r: Adam Noonan, Sean Adams, Matthew Durnan, Pádraig Mahoney, Dylan O'Shea. Front row l to r: Billy Keogh, Adam Fomin, Eoin Cahill, Conor Molloy, Jack Foley.

Sports Day

Sports Day is always a hugely anticipated day on the school calendar. It's a day when students engage with activities perhaps they otherwise would not get to experience. Activities can range from tug-o-war, shot put, javelin, long jump, sprints and of course soccer for senior cycle students. Huge thanks and well done to our PE department for organising.



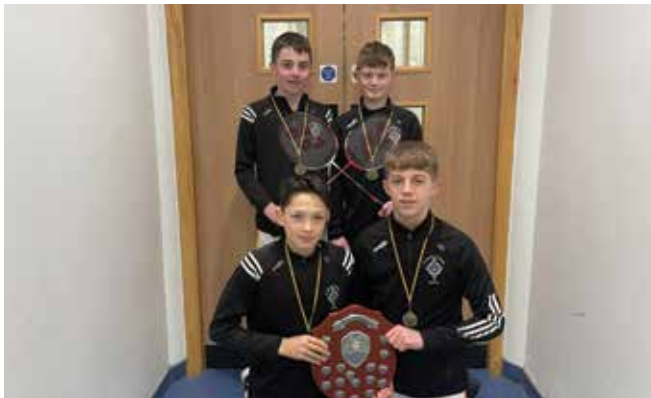


Badminton



Badminton County Finals

Back row l to r: Dylan Dempsey, Ben Raggett, Donncha Foley, Jack Bolger, James Tierney, Mattie Corr, Tomas Carroll. Front row: Isaac Okorafor, Cillian Maher, Donnchadh Grant, Jack McShane, Conor Carroll, Max Edwards, Josh Malone, Ryan Minogue Lee, Charlie Gleeson.



Kilkenny County Champions

Back row l to r: James Tierney, Donncha Foley. Front row l to r: Tomas Carroll, Dylan Dempsey



Students attending the International Irish Open and participating in a training session with former Olympian Chloe Magee and Irish National coach Aisling Ryan



Leinster Division 2

Basketball



U-19 Basketball team who recorded their first win of the school year win over Colaiste Abhainn Ri, Callan in October.



Our 2nd Year Basketball team who both won both of their games in a blitz held in January in the Watershed. They beat High School Clonmel. Many thanks to Lawrence "Puff" Summers for coaching and to Ms Aoife McQuaid for organising.



Golf

SENIOR GOLF

On October 10th, Athy Golf Club played host to the Senior Boys Championship first round, where 30 schools met for the regional competition. The St Kieran's team consisted of Podge Kirwan, Conor Brophy, Sean Keenan, Robert Ring and Louis Todd. We played alongside students from Clongowes Wood College and Castlecomer Community School in the stableford contest. Despite great efforts and performances the team missed out on qualification but enjoyed the competitive and challenging experience. We look forward to St Kieran's returning to compete next season.

JUNIOR GOLF

On the 3rd of October, the St Kieran's College Junior Golf team made its way to the Royal Curragh Golf club to compete in the Leinster Junior Schools golf tournament. When we arrived at the venue, we availed of the practice facilities to warm up for the round and then headed to the 1st tee. The team comprised Daniel Patterson,



Senior - Sean Keenan, James O'Shea, James McEvoy, Louis Todd, Padraig Kirwan.

Thomas Langton and Bill O Shea. The conditions were tough with high wind speeds and a few rain showers but in the end we all finished with very good scores. Unfortunately, we didn't qualify for the next round but we had a great experience, something we can build on going forward.

Both teams would like to thank Mr McCormack for organising the teams, arranging both days and for supporting us during the rounds.



Junior - Thomas Langton, Daniel Patterson and Bill O'Shea

Athletics

CROSS COUNTRY

Lunchtime training in the Castle Park commenced this year in September. The lunchtime run on Mondays and Thursdays is an incremental run which intensifies over the season in preparation for the inter-schools competitions. All students are welcome to run regardless of fitness level.

The annual Michael Brannigan Memorial was held for First Years on Friday, October 14th.

Healthy pre-match rivalry was clearly evident for the inter-class competition. The winner was Kyrell Mtinsi with Paul Millea and Conor Carroll coming second and third respectively.

1C were victorious for the team prize.

The South Leinster School Cross Country Championship was held in Carlow GAA Pitches.

St Kieran's took home four medals on the day. Our minor and intermediate teams were victorious in first place. The junior and senior team came second. Kyrell Mtinsi holds the title for South Leinster Minor Champion. Paul Millea had an impressive finish in 5th position in the minors. Paddy Cuddihy, Conor Carroll, Dan Carroll and Cian Stapleton finished 5th, 13th, 14th and 16th in the junior race respectively. Our intermediate team hold the title for South Leinster Intermediate Champions. Ruairí McEvoy, Matthew McAviney, Oisín Marry and Jonathan Kennedy finished 2nd, 11th, 16th and 19th respectively, which allowed the boys to comfortably take the title. In the senior race, our top scorers David Williams, Tom Lodge and Luke Phelan came in 2nd, 8th and 21st respectively.

Four teams qualified for the Leinster Championship in Santry Demesne in mid-February.

The minors were victorious again. Kyrell Mtinsi was crowned Leinster Minor Champion.

Paul Millea finished in 9th position. The juniors had a solid performance and received silver medals on the day. David Williams and Ruairí McEvoy secured a very impressive 4th and 14th position respectively, which allowed them to qualify for the All-Ireland as



Minor Team: Back: Shane O'Dwyer, Kyrell Mtinsi, Rory Rhatigan, Paul Millea. Front: Max Edwards, Sam McAviney, Oisín Maher, Patrick McDonald.



Junior Team: Back: Oliver Phelan, Dan Carroll, Cillian Dunphy, Jack Rhatigan, Paddy Cuddihy. Front: Cian Stapleton, Conor Marry, Conor Carroll, Joe Hayes.



Inter Team Back: Chris Delaney, Ruairí McEvoy, Oisín Marry, Matthew McAviney. Front: Eoin Walpole, Jonathan Kennedy, Daniel Gargan. (Missing from photo is Cormac Holden).



Senior Team: Back: Jack Holohan, Sean Moloney, Aidan Cashin, Luke Phelan. Front: David Williams, Jack Johnston, Paul Mahon. (Missing from photo is Tom Lodge)

individual runners. Unfortunately, the intermediate and senior teams did not qualify.

The All-Ireland in Carriganore Waterford on March 11th saw our minors, juniors, Ruairi McEvoy and David Williams line out in the black and white hoops. The day threw everything weatherwise. It was real cross country weather. In this prestigious race, our minors and juniors gave it everything in wet rough terrain but came up short on the day. However, they have left a mark for next year. Both Ruairi McEvoy and David Williams had a mighty race finishing 30th and 16th respectively. We look forward to more achievements from all our runners next year.



Kyrell Mtinsi who won gold in the minor 800m at the South Leinster Athletics in May, he now progresses to the Leinster Finals.



Matias Quaglia who claimed gold in the junior 200m & silver in the minor 100m in the South Leinster Athletics in May, he now progresses to the Leinster Finals also.



South Leinster Finals



Leinster Finals



All Ireland Cross Country Finals

MICHAEL BRANNIGAN RUN



Congrats to Kyrell Mtinsi who won the First Year Michael Brannigan Memorial Mile Cross Country Run around the school campus. Once again this year everyone in First Year took part - great fun was had by all! Thanks to Mr Darmody for organising.



Handball

The school had a successful year in handball with students John Hayes and Cathal Buckley who won the intermediate 60x30 Leinster and All-Ireland handball championship. Well done also to Noah Manogue and Conor Doyle who won the senior in the 60 X 30 Leinster and all Ireland championship. Noah (O'Loughlin Gaels) and Conor (Windgap) also claimed the All Ireland Minor doubles champions in April.

In 1st Year handball we would like to say well done to Shane Doyle who won the 60X30 1st year singles and to Steve Hoyne and Enda Cunningham who won the 60X30 1st year doubles at the Leinster schools event.



John Hayes and Cathal Buckley receiving their medals at the Leinster championships.



Shane Doyle receiving his trophy following his win in the Leinster championships.



Steven Hoyne and Enda Cunningham.



Conor Doyle and Noah Manogue following their Senior Doubles victory in Leinster and the All-Ireland Finals.



Chess



1st year students participating in chess



Students playing Kilkenny College in Chess in the St Kieran's College Chapel.

Swimming

by Matthew McAviney

This past year was a fantastic year for all swimmers in St Kieran's College, it has really shown that swimming is beginning to become a more prominent and successful sport amongst the many others in the College. This year I was privileged to compete at the Leinster Senior Schools gala alongside seven other amazing swimmers, Oisín Marry, Paddy Cuddihy, Daniel Rohan, Sam McAviney, Kyrell Mtinsi, Conor Carroll and Sam Kealy. Everybody raced well with new personal bests all around and even a few medals at the end of the day.

Daniel started off the day with the first of many great swims in the 100 metre backcrawl where he placed third in Leinster. This was followed by Paddy in the same event who raced an amazing time of 1.02.12 which was a massive improvement since the last time he had raced with a time of 1.03.54. He also won a bronze medal in the 100 metre freestyle later that day. Next up was Conor, he competed in the 100 butterfly, my personal favourite event, he placed 5th in his age group in a time of 1.13.01 which is a great time for a young swimmer only in first year, his competition overall shows great potential for his future in swimming both with the school and the club in Kilkenny. I was next alongside Oisín in the 100 metre butterfly, Oisín had a good swim really showing his strength in the butterfly stroke with a personal best of over four seconds putting him sixth in Leinster with a time of 1.04.94. I was very happy with my swim, I



Swimming Teams

Back row l to r: Paddy Cuddihy, Matthew McAviney, Oisín Marry, Dan Rohan. Front row l to r: Kyrell Mtinsi, Sam Kealy, Conor Carroll, Sam McAviney





placed on the podium with a bronze medal only 0.35 seconds off a silver medal with a time of 1.01.77. Three of our first years competed in the 100 metre freestyle and all had great swims finishing very close to one another, Sam Kealy was the quickest of the three with a time of 1.11.38 followed closely by Kyrell only 0.61 seconds behind him, then only 0.06 seconds behind him was my own brother Sam McAviney on a time of 1.12.05. The last individual event was the 400 metre freestyle where Daniel won a bronze medal and Paddy won a silver in their own age groups.

There was some very good close competition between the three young lads but they all showed great teamwork hyping each other up before their races and cheering one another on. This is what I love about being part of a team, it doesn't matter where you place compared to the other lads, everybody is working together for the overall goal of the competition.

The whole competition led up to the relays at the end, we had one team in the junior age group and two teams in the intermediate age group. Our intermediate boys were first, we

were very hopeful of a medal as we had a good team, Paddy was the first to go giving us a good lead straight away from his backcrawl leg of the medley relay, Conor was next up doing breaststroke, he kept our position in the race as we all watched and cheered him on from behind the starting block. Oisin was third and helped increase the lead we had with a good 50 metre butterfly swim leaving it down to me to bring it home on the final freestyle leg of the relay, I was not too nervous as the three lads on my team had built up a lot of space between us and second place, I swam my best and increased our lead a bit more and finished off the race ten seconds ahead of the team in second, but we weren't done yet, we still had one relay to go in just a few minutes so we kept calm.

In the meantime, we got the junior team ready for their relay, they were about to race the 200 metre freestyle relay. Daniel started the team off, the first 50 was very close between a lot of the teams and it was very tense, Kyrell was second to go, we all cheered him on as he stood on the block waiting for Daniel to hit the wall, he sprung off the block into a very fast 50 metre freestyle.

He hit the wall and the team was in first place. Sam Kealy was next, he held the position and brought it back quickly to let Conor finish out the race in first place by three seconds.

We went onto our last relay of the day with a team of me, Daniel, Paddy and Oisin. This was the intermediate boys 200 metre freestyle relay. Paddy was first hitting a new personal best of over half a second starting us off well, he was followed by Daniel and then Oisin who kept our lead leaving it to me to finish off the race for one more gold medal to end a day of great success for St Kieran's College swimming. We left with three gold medals, one silver medal and four bronze medals.

A few weeks later the three winning teams from Leinster's competed again at the All Ireland's in the National Aquatic Centre where they raced another impressive relay putting them second in Ireland and they brought home another silver medal each to the college.

We also had a few swimmers compete at two national and international competitions. I travelled up to Bangor in Down for Dave McCullagh International as well as Paddy and Conor. I raced the 200 metre butterfly and did a personal best of three seconds qualifying for the B final where I did another pb of one second. Paddy had more races. He competed in the 200 metre, 400 metre, 800 metre and 1500 metre freestyle as well the 200 metre backcrawl, he qualified for a final in the 400 metre freestyle and 200 metre backcrawl. Conor swam the 200 metre medley and the 400 metre freestyle where he qualified for the junior final and came third in his age group winning a bronze medal. Paddy and I also competed at the Irish Open competition where Paddy raced in the 200 metre, 400 metre, 800 metre and 1500 metre freestyle and the 200 metre backcrawl again making finals in the 1500 metre freestyle and the 200 metre backcrawl. I raced the 200 butterfly where I qualified for the Junior final and placed second.

In conclusion the past year has been very successful for all swimmers in St Kieran's College competing at Leinster, National and International competitions all over the country representing their school at some and showing the talent that Kieran's has in swimming.



JUNIOR RELAY SWIM TEAM BRINGS HOME A NATIONAL SILVER MEDAL

by Sam Kealy

On Feb 5th this year we represented St Kieran's College in the National Aquatic Centre (NAC) for the Leinster Schools Gala. While we were all entered into many events, we came together as a team for the 4 x 50m junior relay. This team consisted of Dan Rohan, Conor Carroll, Kyrell Mtinsi and myself, Sam Kealy. We had a great swim to win gold medals for Leinster and to qualify for the National Schools Gala the following month. The big day came, March 26th, when we were going to try to lead it home. Before the race we got into a huddle, where Oisin Marry gave us an inspirational speech, it helped calm our nerves and prepare us for the effort ahead. Dan led us out in the relay to position us well after the first 50m. He then handed over to Kyrell and then myself, both of us giving our all to keep us in medal contention. The last 50m was completed by Conor, winning heat 1 to bring the team home in an impressive 2 minutes, improving on the time we set in Leinster. We were happy we had given it everything and sat in to watch the second heat, hoping that it was enough to secure gold. The second heat contained 2 teams from Ulster that had qualified for the finals ahead of us, we knew that this was going to be tough. As it turned out, our swim had moved us up to second in the rankings, a fantastic silver medal for St Kieran's, edged out only by the Royal Belfast Academy. We have done ourselves and our school proud and are looking forward to further opportunities in the years ahead to bring home the gold. It was a fantastic experience, and we would like to thank Ms O'Connor and the school for their support

WATER SAFETY – POOL LIFESAVING

by Oisin Marry

This year the National Pool Lifesaving Championships took place in UL Sports Arena from the 18th to 19th of February. Pool Lifesaving is a relatively new sport to Ireland which tests individuals swimming and rescue skills in a competitive race setting. The events are varied and challenging with competitors swimming under obstacles, rescuing 'casualties' from the water and skillfully testing a variety of lifesaving competences in the process. This year 7 students from St Kieran's competed at junior, intermediate and senior levels. As well as winning numerous individual medals, Kilkenny placed second in two senior relays out of eleven teams, this was a fantastic achievement as 3 out of the 4 team members were intermediate swimming at a senior level.

NATIONAL LIFESAVING NIPPERS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

by Conor Carroll

On Sunday 16th of April 2023, three first years Conor Carroll, Sam McAviney and Sam Kealy, competed in the Irish National Lifesaving Nippers Championships in University of Limerick. We were first in Leinster for our relay events, so we knew we had a good chance of medalling. There was tough opposition from Cork, Clare, Waterford, Donegal and Wicklow to name but a few.

We had two relay events. The first relay was a 4 x 25m obstacle swim, this involved swimming under an obstacle gate with our long fins on. We got bronze medals and had a 3 second PB. The next relay was a 4 x 25m medley relay, this involved diving into the water with a rescue tube and then making a rescue using the float. We came 3rd in this event. I also got a silver medal in manikin carry, I swam 1 length underwater kicking with my fins, I rescued a manikin from the bottom of the pool floor and carried it safely back to the start. I was 3rd in the obstacle swim.

We enjoy training with Water Safety Kilkenny. We learn many valuable skills and life lessons around water. It is an honour to be part of the only inland county competing at the National Event-Kilkenny Nippers.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Matthew McAviney who has earned a place on the Water Safety Ireland Junior National Squad and to Paddy Cuddihy who has earned a place on the Leinster Regional Squad for Swimming.



Individual Achievements

BOXING



Jack Johnson who is Barum International Boxing Cup Champion and who also claimed the National Youth Boxing Championship in April. Cian Stapelton who claimed the Leinster Boy4 Championship in February.

NO NAME CLUB



Transition Year student Sean Moloney, NoName Club Joint National Host 2023.

EQUESTRIAN



Robbie Sheehan 1st Year.



1st Year student Shane O'Dwyer on Madges Lane Buddy at Coilog Equestrian Centre.

ICE HOCKEY



Ireland's Junior Mens Ice Hockey Team: Jamie O'Brien, Cameron Macfarlane, Adam Fomin and Bryce Cummins.

JU JITSU



TY student Daniel Gargan who was second in the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu National Finals in October. Daniel narrowly lost out in the final to claim the silver medal.

MOTORSPORT



David Tavers



Brian Wilson

KILKENNY RUGBY



Well done to the U-15 Kilkenny rugby team and especially our 11 students who won the Leinster Division 1 Final recently beating Naas 21-10.

Soccer

UNDER 13

Sean Kavanagh and Chris Hayes

2022/2023 was a successful year for the first year soccer team. The year started off with a loss away to St Belindas in the FAI National Cup. After a month or two off we kick started our Carlow/Kilkenny league with a great 2-0 win vs Johnstown the goals on the day were from Tiernan and Mikey O'Brien. Next up for us was a local derby against Kilkenny CBS. We had a very strong first half going 4-0 up at half time. The second half was a poor performance from us but we managed to see it out with the game finishing 4-2 to Kieran's. All 4 goals on the day came from our striker Aaron McCormack.

We then moved on to Tullow which was a must win game. We started very strong and continued right til the end and the final score was 4-0. We then progressed to the Carlow/Kilkenny league final against a very strong Tyndall college. Early on we went 1-0 down but bounced back going 2-1 up with goals from Aaron McCormack and Mikey O'Brien. Just before the break Tyndall equalised leaving it all to play for in the second half. Early on in the second half we went 4-2 up with Aaron McCormack and Tiernan O'Brien. The goal of the day came from Joe Nolan who leaped off the ground to score a great header which sealed the game and crowned us Carlow/Kilkenny champions.

Next up for us was a very tough game against Wexford CBS. We went 1-0 down after 15 minutes to a sloppy goal. Mr Nolan's half time team talk worked wonders as we went 2-1 up within the first 5 minutes thanks to a brace from Tiernan. For the last 20 minutes we held on very well to see it out. The journey came to an end in the semi final of the Leinster cup when we lost 5-0 to a very strong Blackrock team. Overall it was a great season. Thanks to Mr Nolan and Mr Morrissey for managing us throughout the year.

U15 SOCCER

The year began with trials for more than 60 boys on the Soccer field in St Kieran's in early October. From this, a



U-13 Soccer

Back row l to r: Jamie Walsh, Seán Kavanagh, Danny O'Neill, Scott O'Shea, Harry Donoghue. Middle row l to r: Mr M. Nolan, Sam Kelly, Aaron McCormack, Charlie Kavanagh, Tiernan O'Brien, Owen Walsh, Mr S. Morrissey. Front row l to r: Joe Nolan, Mikey O'Brien, Donnchadh Grant, Eoin Ryan, David Walton, Dylan Drennan. Missing from picture: Harry Egan, Bríon Walsh, Chris Hayes.





U-15 Soccer

Back row l to r: Conor Delaney (Manager) Ben McEvoy, Gearóid O'Shea, Jack Rhatigan, Cian Stapleton, Cormac Dowling. Middle row l to r: Robert McEvoy, Daire O'Neill, Diarmuid Behan, Jayden Maher, Jack Mulcahy, Luke Browne. Front Row l to r: James Ryan, Roman Connolly, Noah Power, Isaac Okorafor, Ben Fahy. Missing from photo Shane Byrne (coach) Ruairi Power, Felix Fwamba

panel of 19 was picked to represent the school in cup and league competitions. The league began with games versus Tullow CC and Pobail Scoil where a win and a draw was enough to secure a league semi final versus Carlow CBS. Unfortunately the boys came up short against a very strong Carlow CBS team with Jayden Maher and Cian Stapleton the bright lights for the Kieran's boys.

This loss meant that the team could concentrate on the Cup. A 5-1 win against Presentation Carlow and another win against Pobail Scoil set up an away fixture to Wexford CBS. In an

excellent game, the Kierans boys lost out 3-2 after extra time. Robert McEvoy and Gearoid O'Shea shone particularly bright in what marked the end of the year for the boys.

Thanks to Mr Delaney and Mr Byrne for their organisation and management throughout the season.

U17 SOCCER

By Charlie Fitzgerald

This year the U-17 school soccer season started with trials in September, with

over 80 lads trying out for the team. The trials were hard to pick from, but Mr O'Sullivan and Ms Brennan managed to pick a strong squad for the season. We trained on Mondays at lunchtime, making sure we were ready for the games ahead.

The league started in October, and we had a fantastic start, beating Tyndall College in our first game thanks to a brilliant free kick from Adam Coyne. The following match against Bagenalstown was another highlight, with us winning 4-2 in a thrilling and tough game.



U-17 Soccer

Back row l to r: James Brennan Smyth, Darragh Doyle, Louis Raggett, Hugh Whelan, Noah Walsh-Brennan, Sam Hayes, Cian Farrell. Middle row l to r: Mr Peter O'Sullivan, Aaron Fox, Michael Keating, Kieran Timmins, Darragh Coverdale, Jack McCormack, Thomas Langton, Sam Mackey, Ms Jennie Brennan. Front row l to r: Cathal Buckley, James Conway, Dean Herbert, Charlie Bibby, Adam Coyne, Eoin O'Connor, Charlie Fitzgerald, Liam Ireland-Wall.



These victories qualified the team for the semi-final against Presentation Carlow, which was a tense match that ended in a draw. However, we came out with the win in a penalty shootout, with Jack Holden making the winning save. The final against Carlow CBS in Leighlinbridge was a hard-fought match, but we unfortunately lost despite putting up a strong performance.

The season continued with the cup. We won our first-round match against Presentation Carlow. In the second round against Bagenalstown, Sam Hayes came off the bench to score a crucial goal, helping the team secure a 4-3 victory. We then beat Presentation Bray in the round of 16 with some brilliant goals from Noah Walsh Brennan and Mikey Keating, but we were unfortunately defeated in the quarter-finals by Greystones, ending our season.

Overall, the school soccer season was great fun, filled with highs and lows. We played some fantastic matches and overall it was a very enjoyable season.

U-19 SOCCER REVIEW

The team led by Mr T Brennan and Mr F Brennan took part in the Carlow Kilkenny league. A series of trials took place. Once the 26 man squad was selected all eyes were on the league.

The first league game saw the team take on Borris Vocational School. The long grass of birchfield made the home advantage worth every penny. A game of set pieces due to Borris's Roy Keane-like tactics saw two freekicks and a penalty hit the back of the net. Mikey Raggett with two while Adam Coyne had the pick of the bunch with his 25 yard screamer finding the top corner. A solid defensive performance from Bill Smith, Cian Kelly and Joe Hughes saw the team through to a comprehensive 3-0 win.

Next up the rivalry between neighbours CBS continued. A neutral venue of Evergreen park was chosen for the brisk December morning. The team were labelled underdogs with an exciting match in store. The first half started off with some heavy tackles from both sides to set the tone. There were chances at both ends with CBS breaking the deadlock with a well-timed volley at the back post. It wasn't long before Noah Gilmore got the Kierans team back into it after bursting onto a chipped ball, using his pace to get through on goal before calmly sliding it past the on-rushing CBS keeper. Minutes before the halftime mark a perfectly placed corner kick for ever-imaginative Sean Casey saw Bill Smith meet the ball with a towering header. 2-1.

The second half was a cagey affair as the wind picked up on the Kells road. CBS grabbed their second to make it 2-2. Aaron Russell was a key player for the Kierans team shutting the door on CBS chances on multiple occasions, David Fitzpatrick also showed his defensive quality on numerous occasions. The introduction of Oisín Bateman and Conor Dooley was a tactical masterclass as their creativity found the gaps in the tiring CBS defence. A slipped ball from Bateman saw Adam Coyne bear down on goal before being hacked down. Coyne smashed the resulting freekick around the wall, bending the ball into the far corner just out of the goalkeeper's reach.



U-19 Soccer

Back row l to r: Mikey Raggett, Jack Aylmer, Joe McNerney, Joe Greene, Aidan Cashin, Mark MacEaney. Third row l to r: Mr Tom Brennan, Joe Hughes, Bill Smith, David Fitzpatrick, Cathal Walsh, Conor Dooley, Matthew Durnan, Mr Fergal Brennan. Second row l to r: Eoin Forde, Noah Gilmore, Andy Murphy, Jacob Cassin, Oisín Bateman, Sean Casey, Cian Kelly. Front row l to r: Conor Molloy, Arron Russell, Fionn Cody, Aaron Maher, Adam Coyne, Bill Nolan

The game ended 3-2 with Kierans progressing top of the table into the semi-final.

Presentation Carlow were the opponents for the semi-final. The game took place on the freshly laid astroturf in the Watershed, the perfect playing surface. The Kierans boys looked to continue their goal scoring prowess, despite the absence of Joe Hughes and Mikey Raggett. Up stepped Jack Aylmer to take control of the game. Andy Murphy and Sean Casey dominated the flanks with endless crosses into the box while Jimmy Maher kept busy in the middle of the park. An exquisite showing of technique from Jack Aylmer broke the deadlock after smashing a volley into the back of the Pres. net from an Oisín Bateman cross.

Aylmer once again showed his class with a Neymar-esque sombrero flick over the defenders head, then steering his volley past the distraught Pres goalkeeper who was rooted to the spot. Impact sub Fionn Cody put the game to bed in the 70th minute with a tidy finish into the bottom corner before Adam Coyne added one more to his goal tally with a well placed penalty. The game finished 4-1, onto the final

The feared Carlow CBS stood

between Kierans and the Carlow Kilkenny league title. With many ex-national league players and a recent Irish international the Carlow side were red hot favourites. The Kierans boys battled hard and held their own, Andy Murphy's tough tackling drove the team on while Batemans first goal of the campaign gave the team hope. The task was too much for the Kierans boys as the Carlow team showed their class taking a grip on the game. Coyne once again slotted home a consolation

penalty but the opposition proved too strong. Battling performances from the team meant they could walk away with their heads held high, rounding off a successful year in Kierans football. Special mentions go out to Joe 'Roy' Keane and Eoin Forde for their leadership and communication qualities which proved crucial for the team during the year.

A big thanks to Mr Tom Brennan and Mr Fergal Brennan for coaching the team this year.



Football

FIRST YEAR GAELIC FOOTBALL

This year it was decided to try and get as many boys playing Gaelic football for the school as possible. Everyone in first year was offered the chance to play in a football match for the school. Over 120 lads got the opportunity to play football while wearing the school jersey for the first time. 4 even panels were created and played games against Portarlinton, Athy, Bunclody and an internal game between two SKC teams. Well done to everyone who participated this year and a special thanks to TY helpers Eoin Dalton, Cian Phelan, Ruairi Walsh & Danny Carey for all their work this year.

SECOND YEAR GAELIC FOOTBALL

By Ben Nevin (Captain)

Our second-year football campaign started with multiple trials so our managers Mr Morgan and Mr Windle could select a panel. Once this panel was selected, we played St Peter's of Wexford in a challenge match. This match went very well for us and we kept possession well and took our goal opportunities. In the end we won quite comfortably. Our next task was an away match to Portarlinton. This game was a real dog fight, but Portarlinton seemed to be the better team with a comfortable lead at half time. We knew that we would have to up our game in the second half, and that is what we did and throwing in heavy challenges and taking our goal chances we managed to pull off a great comeback.

On to the Leinster semi-final Enniscorthy were next in line. Enniscorthy moved the ball very well and once again we went into halftime as second best. In the second half chances were hard to come by but when they did, we took them. We chipped away at the scoreboard and within the last few minutes we were only down by two points. We worked hard to get the ball into the box and eventually we did and thanks to Oisín Barry who booted the ball into the Enniscorthy goal we were through to the south Leinster final against Bunclody. This match took place at Fenagh Co. Carlow. As soon as the ball was thrown in, we really hit the ground running unlike our previous two games. We had a big lead until the second half when Bunclody really started to apply the pressure, but we defended very well and managed to hold on to a 3-point lead. When the referee blew the full time whistle our whole panel could take a sigh of relief and celebrate our south Leinster victory.

For the next few weeks we trained hard for a next opponent, Joseph's of Drogheda. All of our players were looking forward to this match as it was being played on an Astro turf pitch and it was a chance to play in a Leinster final if we won. We started lively, scoring a couple of goals and a handful of points. We seemed to be in a comfortable position but full credit to St Joseph's who fought hard and came back well in the second half. Fortunately, we were the better side and were through to the Leinster final. Our final match was against Celbridge in O'Moore park.

Finally this was our opportunity, We knew everything we trained and worked for had to come out today. Unfortunately, Celbridge were the better team and they beat us. But we still





Juvenile Football - South Leinster B Champions 2022/23

Back row l to r: Kieran Bergin, Cillian McElwee, Ben McEvoy, Cian O’Rielly, Jack Rhatigan, David Clifford. Middle row l to r Dan Carroll, Michael Tynan, Oisín Barry, Theo Drennan, CJ Brennan, Paul Kirwin, Jake O’Neill. Second row l to r Isaac Okorafor, Ori Phelan, Gearoid O’Shea, Roman Connolly, Daniel Hayes, Rory Glynn, Keelan Lynch, Johnathon Kennedy. Front row l to r Darragh O’Neill, Andrew Lawless, Ned Spellman, Cian Darmody, Aidan Keating, Ben Nevin (Cpt) Cormac Neary, Tom Challoner, Noah Power, Eldon Sheridan.

were still proud that we got so far and proved to everyone that St Kieran’s can play Gaelic football as well as any school.

Word from the coaches: This particular group has shown terrific spirit and character in all the games they played this year. They had a real knack of grinding out results in really tight games and this is a huge credit to these chaps as they move forward in their playing careers. Well done and thank you to every member of the panel for their effort and commitment to the Gaelic football team this year. A special word of thanks to our TY helpers who were very helpful, diligent and interested in helping out this year; namely; Rory Walsh, Eoin Dalton, Daniel Carey & Cian Phelan.

**JUNIOR FOOTBALL
2022/2023**

by Chris Delaney

Our first match to start the new season was against Portlaoise CBS away in Portlaoise. We went into the game with a fresh new team who hadn’t been playing together too long but we’re hungry to get the win after last years draw at home in Kieran’s, but we went out and started very strong with quick goals to ease us into a tough game but we came out on top winning 3:12 to 3:10.





Junior Football

Back row l to r: Jamie Tallon, Ruarc Sweeney, Evan Murphy, Sean Deely, Tadhg Ahern, Conor Doyle. Fourth row l to r: Mr P Fitzgerald, John Fitzpatrick, Ed Lauhoff, Jake Byrne, David Langton, Christian Connick, Hugh Whelan, Mr E Walsh. Third row l to r: Dara Behan, Conor Brophy, Sam Hayes, Mark Bergin, David Barcoe, John Hayes, Larry Phelan, Mikey Keating. Second row l to r: Mikey Rohan, Bill McDermott, Chris Delaney, Jacob Breslin, Jack Holden, James Holohan, Jack Walsh, Kieran Timmons, Eoghan O'Brien. Front row l to r: Sean Bergin, David Moore, Michael Lynch, Conor McEvoy, Brian Hickey, Diarmuid Behan, James O'Neill.

Our second game came around fast, the week after at home in St Kieran's. It was against Bunclody who we beat in the South Leinster Final last year 3:06 to 3:03. We had a few minor setbacks due to a few of our players missing so we had to switch the team up. Bunclody were definitely up for it and wanted to get one back but we held into them in the first half down by 3 points. But then the game slipped away as they got scores after scores and beat us 2:06 to 3:16 this meant we

couldn't top the group but we still held on strongly to claim second place in the group meaning we would be in the South Leinster Semi Final.

We faced Gorey CS in the South Leinster Semi Final away in Gorey which we knew was going to be a tough game but we held the heads and put it up to them and played fantastic football throughout this cracker of a match which was neck and neck the whole way through and with only a few minutes to go we were up by 2

points and they got a lucky goal from a free going in over the keepers head putting them 1 point ahead leaving us scrambling for a score in the dying stages of the game and as we were up the field they won back possession and scored a late goal winning 3:08 to 3:04 to put our brilliant season to an end. But that won't stop us as we have lots of footballers coming up ready to put in the hard work as we did this year.

Jack Petit DCU Blitz-Regional Post Primary Schools Tournament



First Year Blitz



Hurling



1st Year Hurling

Back row l to r: Sean Morrissey, James Moore, Jamie Walsh, Danny O'Neill. 4th row l to r: Enda Cunningham, Scott O'Shea, Sean Kavanagh, Liam Farrell, Mattie Corr, Sean Norton. 3rd row l to r: Mr T Brennan, Charlie Ryan, Lorcan Cummins, Steve Hoyne, Dylan Brennan, Ethan Russell, Rory Rhatigan, Mr D McCormack. 2nd row l to r: Luke Cummins, Conor Manogue, Sean Rooney, Charlie Kavanagh, James Tierney, Aaron McCormack, Ted Healy, Tiernan O'Brien, Jack Donnelly. Front row l to r: Donnchadh Grant, Jack Stapleton, Dylan Drennan, Jack Leahy, Sam Kelly, Lorcan Mahony, Jack Bolger, David Walton. Missing from photo: Brion Walsh, Kyrell Mtinsi.

FIRST YEAR HURLING

by Jack Bolger

I always wanted to go to St Kieran's College because of its proud hurling tradition. Out of 150 boys around 120 tried out for the hurling team and took part in the class leagues and trials. It was very competitive. We train most weeks on Friday after school, our sessions are very intense and you have to try your best every time. Our first few challenge matches we played against first and second year teams from Mullingar, Midleton and Thurles. I think it really stood to us playing against older lads. The first few matches were probably the toughest. We played against St Peters and Good Counsel College from there we made it into a Leinster semi final. We will be playing CBS in the semi final next week. It's a nice feeling putting on the St Kieran's College jersey.

FIRST YEAR CLASS LEAGUES

by Andrew Dillon

In October all of the first year classes played in a hurling tournament against each other. Each class had a different teacher as a manager. There were five classes and we all played against each other in a match at lunch over a couple of weeks. The two teams that won the most matches played in the final. 1C qualified with 1E for the final. All of the first years were let outside to watch the match one Friday, it was a great atmosphere. 1C won on the day.





2nd Year Hurling

Back row l-r: Michael Barron, Michael Tynan, Cillian McIlwee, Ben McEvoy, Jack Rhatigan, David Kolodziej, Paul Kirwan. Third row l-r: Mr Lester Ryan Kieran Bergin, Aidan Keating, CJ Brennan, Dan Carroll, Ben Nevin, Oliver Phelan, Mr Jonjo Farrell. Second row l-r: Jonathon Kennedy, Ned Spelman, Rory Glynn, Jayden Maher, Cian Staple-ton, Tomas Carroll, Jake O'Neill, Eldon Sheridan, Jack Mulcahy. Front row l-r: Tom Challoner, James Ryan, Cormac Neary, Cian Dermody, Gearoid O'Shea, Patrick Murphy, Noah Power, Roman Connolly, Conal Doyle. Missing: Ruairi Power, Patrick Purcell, Andrew Holohan, Cillian Dunphy.

LEINSTER JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2022-23

The junior campaign began with a home game against St Peter's Wexford in mid September. After a competitive first half we ran out winners on a score line of 1-20 to 1-08. Next up was an away game in Enniscorthy against St Mary's CBS in October. The lads took control of the game from the throw in and we had a facile win. These two victories qualified us for the Leinster semi-final where we met our local rivals Kilkenny CBS. The game was played in Nowlan Park on November 16th with

a vocal support from both schools. The CBS were on top for most of this very entertaining game with great skill and sportsmanship on show. However, we got on top in the last ten minutes and we managed to win on a scoreline of 3-19 to 3-13. The Leinster final was again fixed for Nowlan Park because we were facing Coláiste Mhuire from Johnstown who had an impressive run to their very first Roinn A final. As well as students from North Kilkenny they had a few Laois minors and a good number of very good players from the Gortnahoe club in Tipperary. On the last day of November in front of

hundreds of excited students, parents and other interested spectators we were treated to a feast of hurling. Both teams played 15 on 15 and just hurred. We got the better start and seemed to be in control coming towards halftime. Coláiste Mhuire turned the game on its head in the space of a couple of minutes when Durrow's Justin Duggan scored a great individual goal and immediately a couple of points were added. This put the Johnstown school three points ahead. The tide was stemmed as the halftime whistle approached when Eoghan Cahill ran at the Johnstown defence and scored a very important



Junior Hurling A Champions 2022-23

Front Row: L-R: Daniel Ring, Michael Lynch, Alex O'Farrell, Seán Bergin, Ed McDermott (Capt.) Evan Murphy (vice-capt.), Cathal Buckley, James Brennan Smyth, Jake Mullen, Ciarán Hickey. Second Row: L-R: Mr David Hennessy, Cian Phelan, Seán Deely, Cian Farrell, Mikey Rohan, Páidí Egan, Conor Brophy, Conor Hoyne, Conor Dalton, Mr Tom Hogan. Third Row: L-R: John Fitzpatrick, Jake Byrne, Sam Hayes, Christian Connick, Cillain Brennan, Conor Doyle, Kieran Timmins, Luke Lawlor, Jacob Breslin. Back Row: L-R: Louis Raggett, Bill McDermott, Chris Delaney, Eoghan Cahill, Ed Lauhoff, Conor Heffernan, David Barcoe, Ross O'Neill.



goal. The two McDermott brothers, Ed and Bill got a point apiece to leave the score at 1-11 to 1-09 in our favour. Coláiste Mhuire started the second half in whirlwind fashion and were level within a few minutes. For the next 15 minutes it was score for score as both teams battled for supremacy. The introduction of a few subs tilted the game in our favour in the last 10 and we ran out winners 1-23 to 1-16.

The team and panel as it toggled out for the Leinster final.

Jake Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks); Ciarán Hickey (Dunamaggin); Conor Brophy (Erin's Own, Castlecomer); Jim Conlon (Young Irelands, Gowran); Seán Deely (James Stephens); David Barcoe

(Clara), Evan Murphy (Dicksboro) (Vice-Captain); Seán Bergin (James Stephens 0-1); Ed Lauhoff (James Stephens); Eoghan Cahill (Graigue Ballycallan 1-02); Ed McDermott (James Stephens 0-5, 4f) (Captain); Bill McDermott (James Stephens 0-2); Conor Doyle (Windgap 0-06, 0-5f); Ciallin Brennan (Tullaroan 0-2); Noah Manogue (James Stephens 0-2).

Subs: Conor Hoyne (Clara 0-1); Sam Hayes (Danesfort); Ross O'Neill (Dunamaggin 0-2); Luke Lawlor (Clara) Used: Alex O'Farrell (Bennettsbridge); Mikey Rohan (Carrick-shock); John Fitzpatrick (Ballyhale Shamrocks); Chris Delaney (Ballyraggett); Jake Byrne (Young Irelands, Gowran);

Cian Farrell (Thomastown); Louis Raggett (Dicksboro); Conor Heffernan (James Stephens); Cathal Buckley (Dunamaggin); Jacob Breslin (James Stephens); Paidí Egan (Graigue Ballycallan); Christian Connick (Ballyraggett); Daniel Ring (James Stephens); Conor Dalton (St Lachtain's, Freshford); Kieran Timmins (Young Irelands, Gowran); James Brennan Smyth (Dicksboro); Michael Lynch (John Lockes); Cian Phelan (Young Irelands, Gowran).

A special word of thanks to our TY helpers throughout the year for their assistance. It is always much appreciated by the players and teachers.

JUNIOR B HURLING REPORT

By Rob McEvoy

The year started in October when we had trials with over 100 lads trying out for the team. Trials ran for two weeks with Mr O'Sullivan and Mr Delaney having to pick two 30 man panels for the year ahead, team white and team black.

Both of our teams had 4 matches each with everyone getting plenty of game time. I was on team white. We started the year in a group with Castlecomer and CBS Kilkenny winning both matches well. We then played a quarter final vs Gorey on a wet and windy day in SKC coming out winners by a few points.

We qualified for the semi final which was a thrilling game against Johnstown, Fionn Mahony, Bill Coogan and Hugh Whelan all played very well but unfortunately we came out on the wrong side of the scoreline by 2 points after an excellent game.

Team black played CBS in the first game then Johnstown away in the second, winning both. Their semi final was against Comer and unfortunately lost.

Overall it was a very enjoyable year with everyone getting plenty of game time.



Junior B Hurling Team A

Back row l to r: Mr Conor Delaney, James Comerford, Larry Phelan, Killian Ryan, Conor Holohan, Jack Doolye, Mr Peter O'Sullivan. Third row l to r: Eoin O'Connor, Hugh Kelly, Andrew O'Connor, James Holohan, Fionn Mahony, Ruarc Sweeney. Second row l to r: Cormac Dowling, Hugh Kelly, Timmy Corr, Jack Walsh, Luke McBride, John Hayes, Johnny Leahy. Front row l to r: Robert McEvoy, Brian Hickey, Ciaran Power, Conor McEvoy, Cian Doherty, Charlie Fitzgerald, Charlie Bibby, Mark Reddy.



Junior B Hurling Team B

Back row l to r: Mr Conor Delaney, David Langton, Jack Holden, Marc Bergin, Mr Peter O'Sullivan. Fourth row l to r: Sean Shefflin, Jamie Tallon, Jack Dooley, Daniel Ryan. Third row l to r: Conor Gibbons, Michael Kenneally, Dillon Cummins, Bill O'Shea. Second row l to r: John Bergin, Enda Kavanagh, David Moore, Ronan O'Mahony, Thomas Langton. Front row l to r: Harry Madigan, Eoghan O'Brien, Cathal Rossiter, Cian Walsh, Tommy Walsh, Joe Power.



Senior B Hurling

Back row l-r: Killian Tallon, Eoin Egan, Luke Phelan, Kyle Byrne, John Davis, Rory Farrell. Fourth row l-r: Charlie Cleere, Donal Kealy, Eoin O'Neill, Kieran Brennan, Ronan Hackett, Damien Cuddihy. Third row l-r: Mr Fergal Brennan, Josh Tallis, Ned Langton, Sean Carrigan, Leon Brown, Frank Kanko Noukeu, Mr Sean Morrissey. Second row l-r: Paddy Walsh, Tadhg Blanchfield, Joe Hughes, Stephen Power Kellett, Eoghan Bennett, John Dermody. Front row l-r: Billy Keogh, Fionn Cody, Joey Dalton, Diarmuid Langton, Ronan O'Brien.



SENIOR HURLING 2022/2023

By Donagh Murphy

The desire to play for St Kieran's College senior hurling team was once again evident at the start of the 2022/2023 school year with roughly one hundred lads turning up to trials which were as ferocious as ever. Even lads who made the team last year brought an edge as no place is reserved here in St Kieran's.

Once a provisional panel was selected, Ardscoil Rís of Dublin awaited us in Kildare's centre of excellence for the league opener. We ran out comfortable winners as we converted a number of goal chances early on. It was much the same against Mullingar in the second league fixture where we never found ourselves in need of that next gear. It was in our third and final league game before the break for championship that any senior hurling debutants quickly learned what college hurling was all about. Tullamore brought us into a dog fight in their own backyard in tough underfoot conditions. We eventually ground out a two point win on a scoreline of 0:18 to 1:15.

We had to recover quickly from that tough match and prepare for another as our old local rivals Kilkenny CBS were our first opponents of the 2022/2023 championship. There is always a fantastic hype around this fixture. We were fully prepared for the CBS challenge and had a comfortable victory to start our championship campaign.

Our second and final group stage championship match was in the





form of an away fixture to Wexford Town school St. Peters. A vocal home crowd combined with a very physical challenge led to a tense first half that finished level. We began to find our feet in the second half and amazingly prevented our opposition from scoring from play. The game finished 1:18 to 1:10 in our favour.

After winning both of our matches so far, we topped our group which meant we qualified for the Leinster semi-final against Coláiste Eoin on the 28th of January.

As the school parted ways for the Christmas break, one group that didn't was the senior hurling team. Management never left too much time between practice games, of which we had many, in order to fill the gap between then and our Leinster semi. We played teams from all across the country including Thurles CBS, CBC Cork and DCU freshers. Each of whom had their own aspirations in their respective competitions.

As soon as we returned to school all

eyes were on Coláiste Eoin and our first knockout game of the year. When the day eventually came around, the team looked like it was beginning to take shape as we welcomed back All Ireland Club champions Killian Corcoran and Niall Shortall. Bill Hughes also made his long awaited return after a year long knee injury.

All our preparation paid dividends as we rounded off a solid performance with a victory on a scoreline of 3:18 to 2:10 to set up a Corn Uí Dhúill final against combined Offaly schools. Kilkenny senior panellist and joint captain Killian Doyle led by example and goals on the day came from Donagh Murphy, Seán Hunt and Rory Glynn.

Nowlan Park was chosen as the venue for our Corn Uí Dhúill final clash against combined Offaly schools. This was a final no one on the panel had contested before including lads from last year's team that reached the grand heights of the Croke Cup final. As a result of this, the hunger for that cup

was immense despite the knowledge of our progression in the competition due to Offaly's "combined" status regardless of the outcome.

The strong home support was given a day to forget as nearly every Kierans man will admit they played within themselves that day. Despite poor performances across the board, the margin was very close at the end with Offaly winning 1:16 to 1:14. Ted Dunne being probably our only performer on the day bagged our solitary goal.

Management were tasked with finding out what went wrong on the day and correcting it in the space of two weeks before our All Ireland quarter final clash with St. Raphael's of Galway on the 18th of February. Their task was made easier with the return of joint captain Harry Shine along with Tom McPhillips.

It was clear that we were now playing with a chip on our shoulder as we ran all over the Galwegians. We led from start to finish and never looked truly threatened as youngsters



Leinster League Winners

Ed McDermott, Jeff Neary and Aaron McEvoy stepped up to the plate with clinical performances. McEvoy finished with a cool 12 points. The game finished 2:28 to 0:13 in our favour with goals coming from Harry Shine and Donagh Murphy.

Similar to last year, we went from beating Galway opposition in the quarter-final to facing the Harty Cup champions in the semi-final. This year's Harty Cup winners were Cashel Community School who had a few Tipperary All Ireland winning minors at their disposal. Such is the competitiveness of the Harty Cup that we were under no illusions to the challenge between us and a return to Croke Park on St Patrick's Day. This game would also mark the return of the previously injured Ben Whitty which gave us a massive boost.

We got off to the worst possible start against Cashel and found ourselves 6 points down after just 13 minutes of play. With so little time gone and what seemed like a mountain to climb, a string of 3 goals paired with Padraig Naddy's piercing runs up the wing helped us to claw it back and then some before half time when it was us that led by 6 points. The second half was a case of holding the lead we had built up and that's exactly what we did as the game finished 3:13 to 2:09 with Donagh Murphy, Ted Dunne and Harry Shine bagging the goals.

After booking our tickets to the Croke Cup final against Presentation College Athenry we now wanted to go one step further. As we learned harshly from the year previous, there were no medals for runners up. The atmosphere around the school in the build up to St Patrick's Day was one of quiet confidence and complete focus on the task at hand. Nobody was getting carried away. While the rest of the school were securing their seats on one of the many buses leading up to the game, we were still training away and putting the finishing touches on our game.

The big day took its time coming around but when it did there was a sense we were ready. We trailed by 2 points after the first quarter but an expertly taken goal from Anthony Ireland Wall and some top class scores from Rory Glynn helped to steady the ship. Glynn would go on later to deservedly receive the man





of the match award. An incredible achievement considering the Clara man didn't start a game previous to the final. We were ahead at half time on a scoreline of 1:07 to 0:08.

After a half time talk that would make the hairs on the back of any young Kierans man's neck stand up, we burst back onto the sacred sod of Croker. Contrary to how the first few minutes after half time had gone for us so far this year, we really started to come alive and set up a couple of goal opportunities early on before Donagh Murphy rattled the back of the net to put 5 points between the teams. From this point on it looked like the fate of the Croke Cup was sealed as Killian Doyle controlled the midfield and Athenry couldn't get their star man Aaron Niland on the ball thanks to the defensive exploits of Killian Corcoran.

This turned out to be the case as we tapped over some more points before

a Ted Dunne insurance goal meant St Kieran's College were the Croke Cup champions for the 24th time.

The celebrations with all our classmates, teachers, family and friends that ensued were very special and we're extremely grateful to anyone that travelled that day wearing the black and white.

On behalf of the panel, a massive thanks must go to our management team of Mr Dowling, Mr Ruth and Mr Walsh. These men are the reason we can call ourselves All Ireland Champions because of the amount of time and effort they put into making us better. Whether it was in the gym or on the pitch, they had the plan fully set out for us and all we had to do was follow it.

We also won the Leinster A League, beating St Peter's in the final, this game was not played until after the All Ireland final in April. Our 5th year's also

won the DCU 7 a-side blitz to round off a very successful year.

Finally, although it is nice to have the silverware at the end of it all, any man on that panel will tell you that the memories and bonds made on the journey are what's truly priceless.

Senior Hurling Panel 2022/2023: Stephen Manogue, Killian Corcoran, Bill Hughes, Timmy Kelly, Tom McPhillips, Jeff Neary, Pádraig Naddy, Aaron McEvoy, Killian Doyle, Anthony Ireland Wall, Harry Shine, Rory Glynn, Ben Whitty, Ted Dunne, Donagh Murphy, James McEvoy, Seán Hunt, Niall Shortall, Bobby Murphy, Mark Holohan, Tomás Roche, Cathal Hickey, Seán Keenan, Billy Dowling, Matthew Kelleher, Ciarán Nolan, Johnny Keane, Mick Carroll, James Hughes, Andrew McEvoy, Rob Ring, Tom Brennan, Shane Glynn, Rory Connellan, Ben Phelan, Cathal Keegan, Ed McDermott, Conor Kavanagh, Tom Cleere.



Senior hurling team wearing their club jerseys.



Senior Hurling

Back row l to r: Matthew Kelleher, Bill Hughes, Bobby Murphy, Ted Dunne, Ben Whitty, An-drew McEvoy, Killian Corcoran, James Hughes, Claran Nolan, Rory Connellan, Rob Ring, Ben Phelan, Ed McDermott, Mick Carroll, Mr Michael Walsh. Middle row l to r: Mr Brian Dowling, Johnny Keane, Tom Brennan, Mark Holohan, Cathal Hickey, Pdraig Naddy, Tom Cleere, Stephen Manogue, James McEvoy, Cathal Keegan, Conor Kavanagh, Shane Glynn, Sean Keenan, Billy Dowling, Mr Richie Ruth. Front row l to r: Jeff Neary, Tomas Roche, Sean Hunt, Anthony Ireland Wall, Niall Shortall, Killian Doyle, Harry Shine, Tom McPhillips, Aaron McEvoy, Rory Glynn, Timmy Kelly, Donagh Murphy.



Leaving Cert Class 2023

