



ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE KILKENNY

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RECORD 2024



First Year on their first day 2023/24



Dermot Ryan

There are moments in every match: the moment a half back surges out to win a puck out, dominating the player he is marking and, in so doing, lifting the entire team; the moment a shot on goal is saved and, with a smart clearance, suddenly the ball is returned to the far end and a point is scored - a 4pt turnaround that changes the face of a game, crushes the opposition spirit or raises your own... Then there are also unseen moments that, even unnoticed by many, they are still memorable and part of story that is that match... the body language of one of our players, or someone on the opposition; a word said between players at the right time to encourage, refocus or drive on...

In the Colleges' Final this year there was one such unseen moment. The match was an epic battle in which St Raphael's College had pushed us for every ball and every score - our players responded brilliantly fighting for every small win and a draw at full time was a fitting reflection for both teams. From the stands I was nervous having "endured" the ups and downs of normal time and after the team had re-grouped at the break to start extra-time I noticed Richie Ruth walking from the centre of the pitch to the sideline and, as he did, he looked to the heavens - his gaze rested there for a minute and he exhaled fully. In that very moment I smiled and prayed - not for myself but for the team and its management - "Lord what ever he is asking for please grant it" - not the most altruistic prayer I will admit, I too had skin in the game...

"Lord what ever he is asking for please grant it". It occurs to me that since the College first opened in 1782 that is the prayer of all who lived and worked here. As a Catholic institute of education, that prides itself in its pursuit of excellence, that is what we ask of the Lord each day for the other... "Lord what ever he is asking for please grant it".

We come here to see young people fulfil their God-given potential; we help them pursue, as our mission states, that potential academically, spiritually, physically and

Message from the President

emotionally so that our students, of the school and so many Diocesan initiatives, have here a place where they are encouraged to strive for all that is possible in the relentless pursuit of perfecting their individual gifts and talents. In so doing they bring to life the joy intended by our motto, "Hiems Transiit", for themselves, for those they love and the community where they will live, serve and lead. Our prayer every day, then, must be for the other - for it is the other we serve, "Lord what ever he is asking for please grant it". But no more than I had at the Colleges' Final - we all too have some skin in the game of the achievements of others. When they achieve, we as their school teachers or formators, you as their parents, those of us in management, those who care for the Trust, and Bishop Niall as our Patron, are all rightly proud when we witness the founding intention of this fine institution be realised time and time again.

We continue to pursue the realisation of the new build which will allow us to continue to serve Catholic education to the highest of standards. We have recently received the Disability Access Certs and Fire Certs, a process that took time, and now we are preparing the detailed drawings so that we may return to the Dept for the final ok. As mentioned we won our 25th Colleges' All-Ireland title following an epic battle that revealed the character of the players we have, each playing for the other, the only way a team can win - their prayer for each other, like mine for them, "Lord what ever he is asking for please grant it". Not the passive prayer which expects the Lord to provide but an active one in which they were prepared to cooperate.

And, time and time again, this year, as in all those that have gone before, our students here did so much to realise their potential in crosscountry, swimming, debating, young scientists, football, musicals, variety shows, trad bands and, as is now the norm, so much more...

This year, as this Record documents we see the retirement of Tom Hogan and Bernie Boland. In their years here they have served the prayers and potential of others in the College community with dedication and commitment. We will miss the companionship of these friends and colleagues but, like all who have been part of the family that is the College, they will visit us and still enjoy the achievements of the students of which we are so proud. I thank them, not only for their selfless service to the College students and our proud tradition, but also for the manner in which they raised the bar for us who follow.

As always I work closest with Adrian Finan as School Principal, Ken Maher and Liam Smith as Deputy Principals. I am endlessly amazed at their commitment to realising the prayers of those we journey with. Their leadership, guidance, passion for, and relentless commitment to, everything that is

St Kieran's is humbling - and I am privileged to walk with them in some small way. They, and their wonderful colleagues on our school staff, do so much to ensure that all in our community reach their full potential, that all here have their prayers answered.

St Kieran's College remains very much at the heart of the faith community of the Diocese of Ossory. Again this year it was wonderful to see the Diocesan Synodal sessions take place here in the College Chapel wherein we tried to listen to the voice of all in our local Church. 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 Group, all continuing their work from the College grounds.

This past year saw a collaboration with Notre Dame Australia as the College hosted two wonderful conferences on the future of Catholic Education and the role of Parish Catechists. It was exciting to see so many leaders in these spaces gather here to explore what more we can do to realise the prayers of others through these services. We hope that this is but the beginning of further collaborations with Notre Dame Australia in time to come.

Bishop Niall Coll, our Bishop and School Patron, has a deep love for, and commitment to, all that is education. He has taken the time, this past year, to meet with the Principals of all the Catholic Secondary Schools and he has joined us for St Kieran's Day and other moments. Importantly he has deeply supported the work we trying to achieve here through the Trustees and his support of the College's senior management. I thank him and the College Trustees for their support of me in all that we do here.

Most importantly I want to thank the students of this wonderful College. We do ask that your prayers are answered and your dreams fulfilled. We are so very proud of you and all that you achieve. You continually humble us with your ability, resolve and the relentless commitment you bring to your every task here. I thank you all for the manner in which you continually remind us that the true call of Catholic education is hoping that the prayer of another is answered. I honestly pray that each of yours is, in time.

St Kieran's College is a special place and, as I continually say, it is our people that make it so. Therefore, again, 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. That your prayers may be answered, and in asking that we each have some skin in the game - *hiems transiit*.

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



Adrian Finan

Message from the Principal

As we approach the end of another school year it is important that we take time to reflect and take stock of the many achievements, events and activities that helped make this year so special. We are blessed in St Kieran's to have such a wonderful community of students, parents and staff whose combined efforts help to make St Kieran's College such a unique place. I trust that you will find that wonderful spirit of this school community powerfully reflected through the pages of this year's Record.

We cherish a comprehensive educational approach that nurtures the growth of every student. As you explore this edition, you'll witness the diverse talents, boundless enthusiasm, and exceptional capabilities of our students. Our commitment to fostering their development and helping them achieve their fullest potential remains steadfast. This publication celebrates their impressive achievements over the past school year.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to acknowledge the great support and contribution of all the stakeholders in our school who work so hard on our behalf. I extend my heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to the dedicated teaching staff whose relentless efforts enrich our students' educational journey. The rich variety of academic and extracurricular achievements showcased in this record highlights

our staff's ability to deeply engage with and inspire our students. Their unwavering commitment and dedication continue to shape the unique character of our school. This year has been filled with notable accomplishments across various fields. Our Senior Hurlers, for instance, claimed a record 25th All-Ireland title for the school in March, following a thrilling extra-time victory over a gallant St Raphael's College, Loughrea. Numerous other achievements, from national and international accolades in music, maths and sports to success in debates and quizzes, fill these pages and are testament to the dedication and talents of our students but are also a marvellous tribute to the volunteerism of the teaching staff. Congratulations to everyone involved in these endeavours.

Our gratitude extends to our Patron Bishop Coll, the Trustees, Board of Management, Parents' Association, and Student Council for their continuous support and dedication. The collective efforts of our school community contribute significantly to making St Kieran's College such a remarkable institution. I would like to express my sincerest thanks to College President, Rev Dr Dermot Ryan for the support and encouragement he offers to everybody in our school community and for the tireless work that he undertakes on all of our behalf. I also want to especially thank our Deputy Principals, Mr Ken Maher and Mr Liam Smith, for their dynamic leadership and passionate commitment to our school.

I would like to wish Mr Tom Hogan, who retired this year, the very best for his retirement after over thirty years of service to St Kieran's. For his commitment and expertise in the classroom many generations of students will always be grateful, but for so many Tom will forever be synonymous with hurling in St Kieran's and he was instrumental in so much of the success enjoyed by the school over the years. I would also like to extend my best wishes to

Ms Bernadette Boland, who will retire at the end of the current academic year. Bernie has been instrumental in developing a vibrant science department in the school and has helped so many students in so many untold ways. On behalf of all my colleagues on staff and, indeed, the whole school community I would like to thank both Tom and Bernie for their commitment and contribution to St Kieran's – they will be missed.

This past year saw the death of former staff member, Mr Séamus McGurran. Seamus joined the staff of St Kieran's in 1973 and taught mathematics and business studies to five generations of students. We will remember him and I know that our younger members of staff are resolute in their determination to build on the rich legacy of all of their predecessors. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*

I am deeply indebted to each and every contributor to the Record this year, to the many students and teachers who have written articles and provided photographs chronicling another memorable year in the school. I especially wish to acknowledge and thank all of those involved in the production of the Record, in particular Mr Paul FitzGerald and Ms Tina Lawlor who, as always, bring their professional skills to bear on the finalisation of articles, layout and production. We hope you will enjoy it.

I take this opportunity to wish our staff and students a restful summer and wish our Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle students every possible success in their upcoming state examinations. The students have displayed a great attitude to work during the year and I'm sure that this will be evident in their results. I also pray every blessing on our Leaving Certificate students as they prepare to move on from St Kieran's College. I hope that they will always take pride in their school and their achievements here with us and I wish them well on their journey in the years ahead.

Mr Adrian Finan, Principal



St Kieran's College Staff 2023-2024

Back row l to r: Mr Phillip Walsh, Mr Fergal Brennan, Mr Enda Malone, Mr Jonjo Farrell, Mr Paddy Darmody, Mr Gerry Walsh, Mr Martin O'Neill, 7th row l to r: Mr Tom Brennan, Mr Ronan Lynch, Mr David McCormack, Ms Grace Farrell, Ms Aoife McQuaid, Mr Brian Dowling, 6th row l to r: Mr David Hennessy, Mr Evan Walsh, Mr Sean Morrissey, Ms Elle Lawlor, Mr Larry Cotter, Ms Jo Staunton, 5th row l to r: Mr PJ O'Neill, Mr Simon Reddy, Mr Eamonn Heffernan, Mr Peter O'Sullivan, Ms Evelyn Allan, Ms Jean Fitzpatrick, Ms Chloe Corcoran, 4th row l to r: Mr Michael Connolly, Mr Shane Byrne, Mr Ben Tomkins, Mr Chris Walshe, Ms Evelyn Allan, Ms Trish McElwee, Ms Jennie Brennan, 3rd row l to r: Mr Gerry Buckley, Mr Stephen Morgan, Mr Micheál Murphy, Ms Eadaoin Maher, Ms Hollie Hickey, Mr Eddie Brennan, 2nd row l to r: Mr Ken Archbold, Ms Tina Lawlor, Mr Paul Fitzgerald, Mr Michael Walsh, Mr Conor Delaney, Ms Ciara Staunton, Ms Michaela O'Connell, Ms Bernie Boland, Mr Joe Kavanagh, 1st row l to r: Mr Ken Maher, Mr Adrian Finan, Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, Mr Liam Smith, Missing from picture: Ms Paula Bibby, Ms Ann Meany, Ms Jenny O'Dolan, Ms Pauline Bergin, Ms Sharon Keyes, Mr Carl Lynch, Ms Loretta Mannion, Ms Jane Moran, Ms Jacqui Norton, Ms Orla Reynolds, Mr Richie Ruth, Mr Lester Ryan, Ms Regina Ryan, Mr Richard Windle.

Board of Management 2023-2024

Our schools have boards of management to, as the name suggests, manage the school. The Board of Management in St Kieran's College does this on behalf of the Patron Bishop Niall Coll, and is accountable to Bishop Niall as our Patron and to the Minister for Education. The Board is expected to uphold the ethos of

the school, which for the College is a Catholic School ethos embodied in the mission statement of our school. We are fortunate in St Kieran's College to have an excellent Board of Management and we are grateful to them for the tireless work in helping to create the community that is St Kieran's College.

Our Board is comprised of Rev Dr Dermot Ryan, Chairperson, Mr Adrian Finan Principal of the School and Secretary to the Board of Management, Mr Michael Hogan, Ms Yvonne O'Dwyer, Mr Kevin Cummins, Ms Una Dillon, Ms Orla Reynolds, Ms Hollie Hickey and Mr Tom Hogan.

Trustees of St Kieran's College

As a Diocesan School the College has a group of Trustees who direct and guide the control of the entire campus and the College itself.

They are chaired by Bishop Niall Coll and, under his direction, they endeavour to guide and support the work of the College President who carries out the decisions of the

Trustees on a day to day basis. The College Trustees have a long history of providing immense support to the College in its educational endeavours - with our Diocesan Secondary School and the many other Diocesan educational and pastoral activities which take place at St Kieran's College.

We are very grateful to the Trustees

who give so much of their time and talents to the College ensuring its future is as bright as its past - the Trustees are Bishop Niall Coll Chair, Ms Sinead Fitzmaurice, Mr Cathal Fitzgerald, Mgr Michael Ryan, Mgr Dan Carroll VG, Ms Claire McInerney Brown, Mr Pat O'Neill and Mr John Curtis.

The Parents' Association



Left to right: Ms Julie O'Brien (Treasurer), Ms Danielle Coonan (Chairperson), Ms Ailish Tallis (Secretary)

Student Council



Back row left to right: David Hogan, Paul Mahon, Paddy Walsh, Darragh Lawlor, Rory Glynn. Middle row left to right: Philip Lynch, Nevin Benny, Sean Moloney, Chris Delaney. Front row left to right: Sean Nulty, Sam Medler, Oliver Butler, Bobby Alyward, Ori Phelan.

St Kieran's College Priests' Reunion 2023



This past summer, as is traditional, on the first Tuesday after the 15th August, the 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 Niall Coll. In his words at the Mass, Bishop Niall reflected on the importance of our reconnecting and coming together in reunion - our returning to the College of our formation. It returns us to where this journey of priesthood began for so many - and with that return the memories of those days too.

It was wonderful to gather for this annual tradition and those from our own Diocese and from much further afield were delighted to have time to spend together. The celebrations continued into the evening with the meal and reception 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.



Retirements



BERNIE BOLAND

By Jean Fitzpatrick

As another academic year draws quickly to a close, so too does the teaching career of yet another of my dear colleagues and so it is both my pleasure and privilege to pay tribute to a great friend on the occasion of her retirement.

Ms Bernie Boland was appointed to the staff of St Kieran's College in 1993 and has been an integral part of the fabric of our school ever since. A native of Tullamore, Co.Offaly, Bernie graduated from the Science faculty in University College Limerick and spent the first year of her working life close to home in Birr where she was involved in setting up an Ecology/Field Study programme in the community activities centre there. Following this she began her teaching career proper in Roscrea College.

On her arrival to St Kieran's, she quickly immersed herself in the Science department teaching Biology and Ag. Science at Leaving Cert. level and general Science to Junior Cycle students. A firm believer in learning through experience, Bernie ensured that her pupils were exposed to many scientific experiments, oftentimes outside the classroom, where they could investigate and research their topics in the natural world. Bernie further promoted this type of learning by inviting guest educators like Eanna Ni Lamhna – the renowned biologist, environmentalist and wildlife consultant – to St Kieran's on numerous occasions. This, coupled with other initiatives like the TY World



of Science module, the educational excursions to Dublin Zoo to learn about wildlife conservation and endangered species, not to mention the many trips to the boglands of her native Offaly, accounted for Science becoming a very enjoyable and popular subject. This was particularly evident in the large numbers opting to study it at senior level.

Away from the Science Lab, Bernie always found time to get involved in many of the social activities on offer. For many years she played on the staff volleyball teams and was an avid supporter of the sporting activities of the students. The Delphi trips in particular come to mind here.

Bernie was also a regular on several of the school tours abroad, Barcelona and Prague to name but a few. She has shared many interesting stories about her travels to various destinations and I'm sure she's looking forward to travelling a great deal more in her retirement. One thing I think we can be sure of is that we won't find her on the golf course like many of her retired friends. I'm thinking here of one of our past golf outings where a memory comes to mind of Bernie handing out some sweet treats on the putting green and having little interest in the golf ball! So I think it's much more likely that she will be jetting off to some beautiful exotic region of Italy in her newly acquired leisure time!

On a personal note, Bernie has always been a loyal and dependable friend, a listening ear and a source of sound advice. Unfortunately, her departure from school means that I am the only remaining Spice Girl. I have no doubt however that we will have many reunions in the future and will continue to 'spice up our lives' beyond SKC.

So even though St.Kieran's has been a big part of her life for many years, I know that Bernie will treasure the time to come with her dear family, Des, Aoife and Rachel (and 3 dogs), forever the centre of her universe.

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

TOM HOGAN

by David Hennessy

The school academic year 2023-2024 saw the retirement of Mr Tom Hogan. Tom attended St Kieran's College as a

Retirements Evening



Mr Tom Hogan, Ms Mary Martin and Ms Eilish Ahern.



Ms Mary Martin joined by her husband Paul and family.



Mr Tom Hogan joined by his wife Nora and son Ciaran.



Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, Mr Richie Ruth, Ms Eilish Ahern, Ms Chloe Corcoran and Mr Adrian Finan.

student and later joined the teaching staff in 1991. Tom taught many things: Computers, History, Geography and Irish. Tom's rapport and caring nature with the student body was second to none over his teaching career. He would often be seen with an arm around the shoulder discussing all important aspects of school life with students.

Tom's tenure as ICT coordinator began during a period of rapid change in the IT industry in Ireland, and at a time when the application of technology began to create new opportunities, challenges, and changes in traditional teaching and learning models. Starting from a primitive base, the fruits of Tom's vision and commitment can be seen in the quality of the IT infrastructure that supports student learning in St Kieran's College today. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the school already had Google Classroom and an effective hybrid learning model in place for at least a year beforehand, meaning we were already prepared to face the challenges that were presented during that difficult time.

Tom thoroughly enjoyed the extra-curricular aspect of school life. He loved cross country running and lunchtime runs with students and colleagues. Hail, rain or snow you would see Tom out running with the students down to the Castle Park. He simply did not miss a run. The chats and good natured crack while on the run are memories that many teachers will look back on fondly.

Since Tom joined the teaching staff in 1991 he was involved in training one of the schools hurling teams every year. Many people saw Tom coming in off of Fennessy's Field wearing his wellies in the dark, wet and cold winter nights after another training session. It is rare to see such selfless willingness to give of one's time. Tom was a serial winner in the school's hurling front. He won it all, multiple times!. Tom created a winning mentality between all his panels. Whether it be training or a challenge match the sheer desire and

will to win is certainly characteristics that filter down to his players. No wonder the school has won so much in the recent past with Tom at the helm.

Tom's quiet style of leadership, openness and empathy made him such a great teacher, colleague and friend to many in the St Kieran's College community. His modesty and understated approach is a mark of a complete gentleman. And on that note we wish Tom a long, happy and most of all healthy retirement for many, many years to come.



Obituary



MÓD

It was with fond regret that the St Kieran's College community heard of the death of Séamus McGurran on October 13, 2023. Séamus had given sterling service to the boys of St Kieran's College from 1973 until 1997, when he retired.

Séamus was a graduate of Queens University, Belfast, where he majored in Maths. He had a particular interest in students who had learning difficulties. When the Department of Education assigned teaching hours to such students, Séamus volunteered to undergo training in that area. Under his direction, remedial education became an integral part of the school programme.

An Armagh man by birth, Séamus retained his northern accent all his life, despite living in Africa for many years. On arrival in Kilkenny he got involved in local affairs. He played golf for a number of years and was an active member of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, being a member of the committee for many years.

His greatest form of relaxation was probably music and signing. He was with the Unity Singers during their halcyon days. He was also a loyal member of the St John's Parish choir.

The community of St Kieran's wish to extend its sympathy to Christine, Paul, Kevin and Shelia and Séamus's extended family and friends.

Leaba i measc na naomh go raibh aige.

St Kieran's College and International Perspectives

- Two Conferences



This past year two exciting conferences were held in St Kieran's College. These conferences were a joint venture collaboration between St Kieran's College and the University of Notre Dame Australia. The first initiatives of, what both institutions hope will be, many more to come. These gatherings were made possible as a result of the work of Prof Eamonn Conway in his capacity as the Inaugural Chair of Integral Human Development at Notre Dame Australia and Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, President of St Kieran's College.

In welcoming attendees to both conferences we had an opportunity to explore briefly the history of St Kieran's College as the oldest Catholic College in Ireland and the resulting responsibility for all involved in St Kieran's to continue to promote the truly best of the excellence in Catholic education and service of the Gospel in all its forms.

Both Notre Dame Australia and St Kieran's College, then, have, for obvious reasons, a keen interest in Catholic education and as such a logical conference for them to host was International Perspectives on Catholic Educational Leadership. This gathering, which was quickly sold out, saw people from, literally, all corners of the country come to Kilkenny to be part of the various sessions on offer over the three

days. Leaders from many school and leading Catholic education bodies were in attendance to hear contributions from Prof Sally Egan, UNDA, who is the inaugural Senior Director of Strategic Academic Development in Notre Dame Australia; Mr Mike Shorten, CEO of the Bishop Hogart Trust in the UK which is leading and managing nearly 40 Catholic schools; Prof Eamonn Conway a priest of the Archdiocese of Tuam and the inaugural Chair of Integral Human Development at Notre Dame Australia; and Prof Renée Kohler-Ryan National Head of the School of Philosophy and Theology at Notre Dame Australia. Panel discussions also featured Seamus McMulconry, Gen Sec CPSMA; Alan Hynes CEO of the Catholic Education Partnership; and Angela Mitchell Notre Dame Australia Association for Catholic Education. All attendees also took part in a most interesting keynote lecture on Values Driven Leadership by Brian Cody, the current manager of James Stephens Club and former manager of Kilkenny GAA, proud past pupil and, we would say, the most successful Irish sporting manager of all time.

The second conference was on the topic of International Perspectives on Forming Catechists, a timely contribution to this conversation now that Pope Francis has asked all local churches to explore how they can institute this ministry in a stable and permanent capacity. In the service of the Diocese and Church St Kieran's College was delighted to host this timely conference. Addressing various topics at this conference were Prof Leonard Franci Professor of Catholic Education at Notre Dame Australia, Bishop Kevin Doran, Prof Renée Kohler-Ryan National Head of the School of Philosophy and

Theology at Notre Dame Australia, Rev Dr Eamonn Fitzgibbons, Director of the Irish Institute of Pastoral Studies at Mary Immaculate College, and Dr Alex O'Hara, National Director of Catechetics and Executive Secretary to the Council for Catechetics in the Irish Episcopal Conference. A discussion on the impact of Synodality to our Church today was chaired by the College President Rev Dr Ryan, during which he asked questions of Prof Conway on his experience of the recent Synod in Rome.

Each day was begun with Mass in the College Chapel and both gatherings came together for a moment of prayer on the Thursday evening led by Ms Gemma Mulligan, Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator in Ossory. The College was a hive of activity throughout the conferences. Many side-bar conversations were had by attendees and contributors and it was obvious that new collaborations and synergies were being born in these very days. The mood at both gatherings was very positive and optimistic and the real possibilities available to the Church in this new ministry of Catechists and to Education, by the very best of Catholic Education, came to the fore.

Sadly the gatherings were impacted by bereavements as Bishop Niall, who was due to make a contribution, had to depart as his father took poorly and died in the days that followed, and Linda Rainsberry, who was also to contribute, suffered the loss of her father-in-law. May they both rest in the Peace of Christ.

As these days ended it was obvious to all who attended that this must be merely the first of many similar collaborations between our two wonderful Colleges. In working together we can support the best of each other and then reflect deeply on the questions which impact us.

Ossory Adult Faith Development

At the heart of St Kieran's College is service to the Diocese. This is a mission that we fulfil by means of the education of all our students to the fullest extent in accordance with the Gospel, but we also serve this mission through many diocesan activities for faith development. Since its inception the Ossory Adult Faith Development has had its home, trying to fulfil this latter mission, from St Kieran's College. Catholic education and faith formation has always been at the heart of the College and the activities of the many diocesan groups here ensure that it remains very much so today.



The Adult Faith Development Group, which is directed by Fr Dermot, continually strives to help people deepen their understanding of, and love for, their faith. It has done this since the group began by continually exploring new and innovative ways to engage people with their faith. One of the stand-out initiatives in recent years, in this regard, was the creation of the ASPAL platform, as a digital faith formation tool for all the dioceses of Ireland. This past year saw exciting developments with regard to this platform and our Diocesan collaboration with St Patrick's Pontifical University. St Patrick's had secured the contract to provide ongoing moral formation for all who work in the Bons Secours hospitals here in Ireland and in America. Through this collaboration the Bons Secours Health System in partnering with St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth and by means of the use of the ASPAL platform can provide programmes for those in Allied Healthcare, professional and administration roles, and people working in Pastoral Care or Chaplaincy. These NFQ aligned short courses delivered online, via the platform developed here in Ossory, that will allow users to build towards certification and scale to Master's level. It is an exciting development and opens the way for the many other similar innovations that the ASPAL platform can support.

Notably this year also the platform supported many dioceses in offering the training of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist from the comfort of their own home. Again showing the manner in which this innovative platform can have much to offer our parishes and the Irish Church.

This past summer also saw an off-shoot from the ASPAL platform by means of the creation of ASPALINTERACTIVE - a new platform created from scratch to offer QR driven tours of sacred spaces. This project, driven largely to in the first instance, offer this in St Mary's Cathedral but in a way that can be scaled and offered freely to other churches, shrines, and parishes, saw the creation of a interactive tour modal that invites people to engage with the art, history and symbols of faith before them in any sacred space. As we write this article the first of a new group of parishes wanted to explore the use of this platform has happened - another way the AFD group, in desiring to serve Ossory, is reaching beyond the confines of the Diocese too.

In this past year, also, the College hosted many varied gatherings during Advent and Lent as the AFD Group offered reflections on various topics that were timely and of interest - we explored Catholic Education in a modern Ireland; the need for parishes and Dioceses to embrace collaboration

and to restructure so that we can better serve the Lord and his people; evenings of training for Ministers of the Word; a city retreat, over three nights, on the topic of Faith, Hope and Love; and exploration of Theology and Ecology; an insight into the Synod as it took place in Rome and so much more. For these evenings we were joined by Prof Eamonn Conway, Mr Alan Hynes, CEO CEP, Fr Billy Swan Ferns, Fr Albert McDonnell Killaloe, Fr Chris Hayden, Ferns, Prof Tobias Winright, Maynooth and many other top class speakers. It is wonderful that here in the College and throughout the Diocese work is undertaken to bring such quality reflections to the people of our parishes.

The *Ossory Times* is now in its 12th year and 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 news of their many faith 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 together.

Has the Faith Development Group succeeded in its work - no. But that work is a lifetime of trying to help deepen the faith of those who are keen; inspire



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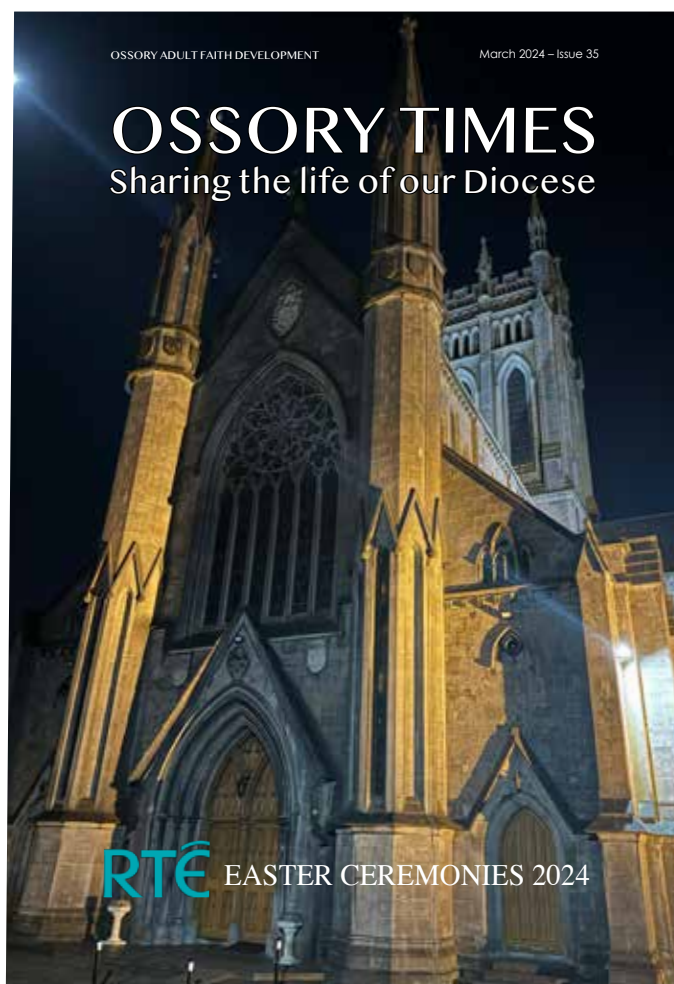
Align Camera with the selected code

Click the pop-up on your screen



the faith to those who are on the peripheries and bring the faith to those for whom it may be "new". As we write this article there are exciting new developments in the area of a baptismal ministry in the Diocese, as well as courses on the faith to those who would like to know more or those who would like to come to the faith - Bishop Niall has asked the question about our ministry to these groups and it is the task of the Faith Development Group along with the Ossory Diocesan Forum, the Council of Priest and the many members of our parishes and Diocese to answer those questions now. The work of faith formation, then, is never finished. Each generation, and each of us, must learn anew and afresh the riches of our faith.

So that the work of faith formation will continue - we hope that the College and the Adult Faith Development Group in Ossory will continue to lead in ensuring that this happens here in Ossory into the future. My thanks to all involved in this work, those who work with me to ensure that this happens - Fr Kieran O'Shea, Mr Michael Hogan, Ms Eadaoin Maher, Mr Declan Murphy, and Ms Olivia Maher.



The Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator



By Gemma Mulligan

This year Ossory Diocese, keen to develop its youth ministry outreach, is reintroducing The John Paul II Award.

Strand 5 of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan is Young People. This award, is a faith achievement, one for young people between the ages of 16 and 18 with its key goal to encourage and help participants to take an active part in the life of the Church and wider community.

It seeks to do so in ways that are 'non-competitive, inclusive, flexible

and voluntary'. The Award involves candidates committing to one hour per week in their parishes and one hour per week in their communities over eight, fourteen or twenty weeks depending on which Award level they are undertaking.

Thankfully, there are young people in Ossory who are already involved in their parishes and volunteer in their wider community. The John Paul II Award is a means to officially recognise and honour those contributions. For others who are not involved regularly in parish and community, the Award allows an opportunity to become involved and to make a positive contribution to parish and community life.

The young people who wish to enrol for the Award are asked to register their applications through

their TY coordinator in their schools and it is hoped that those who engage in it will have a positive and enriching experience, and in turn encourage others in the future to participate.

Students from St Kieran's College and other schools in the Diocese travel to Taizé each year with Ossory Youth and many of these students have participated in Taizé Prayer evenings held in the Diocese over the past few months.

Gathering around the Taizé Cross in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Mary's Cathedral in a prayerful atmosphere, the music and chants from Taizé are played and the Word is read. There is an opportunity for silence and personal reflection before the evening ends with a social aspect.

The Ossory Diocesan Forum

By Helen Maher

From the beginning of his ministry in Ossory Bishop Niall Coll pointed out the importance of developing the full participation of the people in the life of the Church. He met the members of the out-going Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council (ODPC) in March 2023 to acknowledge their work. In July 2023 Bishop Niall established a working group consisting of priests, religious and lay members to consult widely and make recommendations about the formation of a new Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council. In August 2023 the working group presented their report to the Bishop. Following this process of consultation, the members of the new Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council were appointed by the Bishop.

The new Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council had its first meeting of their four-year term on 19th January 2024. The members of the ODPC are:

- Bishop Niall Coll, President
- Ms Sarah Rice, Laity Representative and Chairperson
- Mr John Shortall, Laity Representative and Secretary
- Fr Dan Carroll, Priest Representative and Vicar General

- Fr Martin Delaney, Priest Representative
- Fr Dan Bollard, Priest Representative
- Sr Helen Maher, Religious Representative and Forum Coordinator
- Ms Gemma Mulligan, Pastoral Coordinator
- Ms Ann Daly, Laity Representative
- Ms Brid Duffy, Laity Representative
- Mr Diarmuid Healy, Laity Representative

Going forward there will be a possibility, as needs arise, of co-opting additional members, whilst maintaining a balance of priests and lay people, women and men.

At our first meeting in January Bishop Niall outlined that The Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council is a consultative group with whom the Bishop explores and discusses pastoral matters. The Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council will promote, support, and coordinate the work of the Parish Pastoral Councils and the Pastoral Area Councils in the context of the Ossory Diocesan Plan. It will model synodality, collaboration and co-responsibility for

the life of the Diocese between the Bishop, priests, and laity. Finally, the Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council will invite, receive and consider reports from the various areas of life in which the diocese is engaged.

The Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council has planned a schedule of monthly meetings across 2024 (including taking a break during the summer months of July and August). Included in these meetings was a training session hosted in St Kieran's College and facilitated by Joe Conroy on Saturday 27th April 2024. The aim of this day, which was rooted in contemplative prayer, was to foster a deeper understanding and commitment to the ODPC's collaborative decision-making, thus furthering the mission of the Church in Ossory and enriching the spiritual journey of its members.

As in the case of Parish Pastoral Councils, there will be many challenges in working as a Diocesan Pastoral Council. These will include adequately communicating what we are doing, drawing on the gifts of volunteers who are often busy people and trusting that we will recognise where the Holy Spirit is leading us. These are the realities we live in.

Liberal Studies



Triona McCann, Chairperson, Kilkenny Liberal Studies Group

Kilkenny Liberal Studies Group celebrated their 38th year with a very successful programme of literature, music, art history, poetry and politics. We run a series of lectures covering these genres from September to May each year. It was an eventful year for the group which began in 1986 when a group of like-minded women got together to explore their interest in the Liberal Arts and here we are 38 years later.

We saw our resident tutor, the poet Mark Roper, retire after 32 years of wonderful service. We gained a new resident tutor in Dr James Heaney, who is a lecturer in English and Irish Studies at Carlow College-St Patrick's. Dr Heaney has settled very well into his new position. He delivered a programme titled "The Writer in the World" as we looked at works as diverse as Giovanni Boccaccio's "The Decameron" written in

the 14th Century, Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night", Jonathan Swift's satirical work "A Modest Proposal", the poetry of W B Yates and Maya Angelou and the novel "White Teeth" by Zadie Smith. It certainly was a packed programme and a very enjoyable one.

The group continued with our guest lecture series still with the theme of "The Writer in the World" influencing our speakers. We listened to Dr Jane Olmeyer of Trinity College explore the idea of Ireland being an empire. We heard from Patrick O'Riordan, from the European Parliament Liaison Office of the importance of the EU as Ireland celebrates its 50th year of membership. We listened as Dr Maxine Keoghan told us of the links between Ireland and Newfoundland. Sarah Maguire Hale engaged us with the life story of the Spanish painter Valazquez. A favourite and regular guest speaker of Liberal Studies Group is John McKenna who brought us through the music and lyrics of Mary Chapin Carpenter and Gretchen Peters. Ray Taylor told us of his experiences doing humanitarian aid in war zones and the writer Nessa O'Mahony gave us a talk on how artists are responding to the climate crisis. I am sure you will agree that again, a very packed programme but a most enjoyable one.

Part of our programme each year is to have cultural outings. This year we visited the Wexford Opera Festival to enjoy one of the lunchtime concerts in the magnificent National Opera House.

We had our annual Easter lunch and were entertained by storyteller Nuala Hayes and fiddler Aoife Granville with

stories as we learned of a very different Peig Sayers than most of us remember from our school days!

Mayday saw us take to Dublin to North Great George's Street to the Joycean Museum where we weaved our way through Leopold Bloom's famous travels recounted in Joyce's "Ulysses". On our way home, we called to Ballitore's Quaker Village. John McKenna brought us to Mary Leadbeater's house, now the village's library and to the Quaker Meeting House. A most enjoyable day had by all.

Over the years, the Liberal Studies Group has had many homes for our lectures. We began in Ormonde College as a small group where we were under the umbrella of the Adult Education Services at the time. We now are lucky enough to reside in the hallowed halls of St Kieran's College. We run our programme from the chapel which has room for all our members. We now number 150 with a waiting list of over 70 names. As they say, from small beginnings... The chapel is a wonderful venue, not least because, in keeping with the rich legacy in Ireland of stained glass, St Kieran's College has fine examples of the art designed by Harry Clarke. Many of our guest lectures are very impressed with our venue as, while listening to music or poetry, our gaze is lifted to those wondrous colours.

Our programme for 2024/2025 is almost complete and our theme is "Home". The Liberal Studies home is St Kieran's College and we value our residency there very much. Here's to another successful year, our 39th!



St Kieran's College - Beautiful sunrise after the winter solstice December 22nd, 2023 - *Hiems Transiit*.

Truck and Tractor Run

On the 4th of February 2024 the St Kieran's college truck and tractor run took place in Cillin Hill, Kilkenny. The event was raising funds for the very worthy causes of Carlow Kilkenny Homecare team and also Brain Tumour Ireland. Over 30 vehicles attended the event which we will be building from now on year on year. The run went from Cillin Hill to Gowran and back again and was enjoyed by all who attended.



Christmas at St Kieran's



St Kieran's Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Cathedral.



David Moore and Mikey Rohan getting in the festive spirit.



Trad Band getting ready to perform for Christmas 2023.



Christmas Jumper Day 2023



Mr Brennan and Mr Walsh with the Senior Choir at Bank of Ireland, Parliament Street.

Erasmus Programme

By Cormac Meegan and Nevin Benny

On Tuesday April 23rd, we met with a number of Dutch students who were here on an Erasmus course from the Netherlands. Unlike in Ireland, they start college at about 16/17 years of age, and the majority of the students that visited studied IT courses in the Netherlands, they were all at different stages of their college degrees with some nearly finished and others just starting. The teachers organised different activities for us to take part in during the day such as a quiz and a tour of Kilkenny city.

We started the day with a presentation about the history and culture of our school, after that we did a meet and greet where we had five minutes with each student to get to know them a little bit better. After this, we then started the quiz that we had made the day before, the quiz consisted of forty questions about a variety of different topics. We then went into Kilkenny City where we had lunch and got to know them all a lot better and we were able to show them parts of the city. After lunch, we gathered at town hall and went on a walking tour of the city where we went on the medieval mile and saw the famous monuments along the mile, such as Rothe House and the Kilkenny Castle.

Overall we had a great day and we would absolutely recommend this for all future students. It was a great experience getting to know people our age from a different country.



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.



1E enjoying their Ar Ais le Cheile activity at Kilkenny Activity Centre.



3D at KBowl in October as part of Ar Ais Le Cheile.



2D having some fun at KBowl Kilkenny.



3D enjoying some Footgolf at The Pockocke.



3D enjoying some Footgolf at The Pockocke.

Young Social Innovators – Bike Hub – ‘Bikes Without Borders’

by Harry Bourke

For my Bike Hub experience in TY I learned how to fully repair a bike to near new condition. I started my year in the Hub meeting our mechanic Paul and being introduced to what I'll be doing throughout the year.

After this introduction we started learning about how to fix various issues with the bikes that had been donated to us. Some of the main issues I remember were replacing the tube within the back tyre, replacing the brake cables and replacing the gears.

Once we had all got the hang of repairing the bikes we began the main objective of the Bike Hub our YSI project 'Bikes without Borders'. This project aimed to put an electric motor onto a disability bike. The mobility bike is used by people with disabilities in Aurora, Kilkenny. Once we had received the bike we began to assess the bike to see what changes we would need to make to place this motor and what additional parts we would need to buy. Many kind sponsors supported our project including Kilkenny County Council, Marble City Cyclers, E-Bikes Ireland and Marty Mannering of Bicycle Engineering Academy. We would also like to thank Andy of Kilkenny Cycles for all his help.

We ordered the parts, stripped down the bike and began repainting the frame. Once our parts had arrived we began to place and fix them to the frame. When we had reassembled the bike we tested it to see if it would meet the road safely regulations. We were



happy with how the bike had tested. We started to prepare to present our project to a panel of judges.

When the day to present our project we went to The Newpark Hotel to present our project among many other from schools across the South East of Ireland. After we had given our presentation we handed

the bike back over to Aurora. The school was awarded our first Young Social Innovators Award for this novel project, improving a mobility bike for people with disabilities

I would say I really enjoyed this experience and recommend it to anyone interested in a path of engineering or any mechanical career.



Charitable Events and Fundraising



Thanks to all students, parents and staff who contributed to our @ TeamHopesIreland Shoebox Appeal. Many thanks to Mr E. Walsh for organising.



TY students delighted to volunteer for Cois Nore. The boys got Christmas cards ready for the charity to distribute ahead of the festive season.



Well done to all our students who raised over €1000 for @CoisNoreKK as a result of fundraising during #MentalHealthWeek. Students from all year groups and our Chaplain, Mr Brennan presented the cheque to Cois Nore

Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

Right:
JCPA Award Ceremony 2024

Below:
JCPA Awards Ceremony 2023



Popstars The 90's Musical



Marc Doheny & Liam O'Dwyer

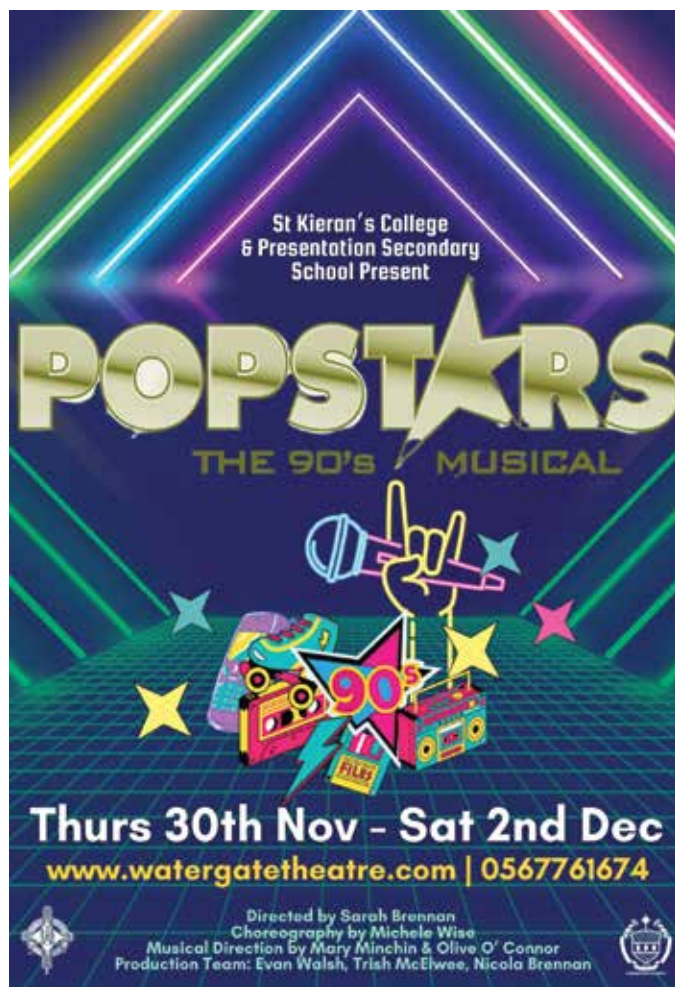
Before going into Transition Year, we always knew that the Musical was something we wanted to partake in. Soon enough though, after a scarily short amount of time, from the 30th November to 2nd December we were up on stage, acting, singing and dancing in front of hundreds of people.

I wish I could say that going into the auditions we were as composed as we hoped we'd be, but in reality we were shaking with nerves. Afterwards though, we were ecstatic to discover that we had landed the parts of the main characters.

At the start, just performing in front of our classmates was a daunting task; as we were all fairly inexperienced with acting and dancing. It was a very unique undertaking that we'd never have gotten to do if not for this musical. As the months flew by and we came closer and closer to show night we had to practice exponentially more.

Only a couple of weeks before we had to perform it was when we all started feeling under pressure, however, throughout those many hours practising we had gained a lot more confidence in ourselves and our abilities. By opening night, we knew we'd done enough to put on an awesome show.

One of the greatest parts of the musical were the newly-blossomed friendships that never could have flourished like they did otherwise. It only took a few weeks for us to start becoming great friends with a lot of the Presentation girls, and that made the whole experience so much more enjoyable.





At the end of it all, everything surrounding the musical was just extraordinarily fun. I'm so glad that we all got to have this experience, which of course couldn't have happened without the enormous help of everyone involved; Ms McElwee, Mr Walsh, Ms Brennan, Ms Minchin, Ms O' Connor, Sarah our director and Michelle our choreographer just to name a few. Huge thanks to every single person involved with the musical - it wouldn't have been possible with your hard work and commitment.



Active Schools Flag/GAA Future Leaders



By Liam Keogh

There was an Active Schools Flag and GAA Future Leaders once again this year. In Future Leaders we completed 4 of the modules. Nutrition, Coaching, Performance analysis and Refereeing.

In the Nutrition module we learned about how to fuel ourselves in our everyday lives and in the lead up to matches.

At the end of the module we got into groups and made presentations on nutrition which we then presented to all the first year classes.

In the Coaching module we learned a range of techniques and tips for coaching GAA.

We spent a few weeks practising these skills with first year classes outside using training sessions we had planned ourselves.

This module gave us a great opportunity to get involved with our local clubs and will help with coaching at Cul Camps in the Summer.

In Performance Analysis we watched different matches and learned what different stats we could take from them.

We then learned how to plot them in a power point for the teams.



This led to us getting a job taking stats for a couple of teams which has been very fun and beneficial.

In the Refereeing module we learned all about what a referee needs and lots of the different rules. We did an interview with local referee John McCormack and asked him many questions about his experience as a referee. Kilkenny GAA ran workshops for us based on coaching and refereeing also.

The Active Schools Flag was also run alongside the Future Leaders course in which we analysed survey results at the start of the year and had

an aim to reach the targets set for us. We held whole school events when students got time off class to complete a 1km walk around the school. We also promoted things like walking and cycling to school to get people more active.

During 'active schools week' we ran many events for the different years and got everyone out and active. Overall both courses were very beneficial and gave us great opportunities to help ourselves and others develop good habits and help others also.

BT Young Scientist 2024

By Cormac Dowling

On September 23rd 2023, I got an email about an opportunity to enter the BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2024. Over the next few days, I was thinking about entering this event, because my interest in sport and my experience with growing up watching my sister suffer from sleep came together to form my idea. On September 30th 2023, I submitted my project - 'Does Sleep have an Effect on the Performance of Sports Athletes?'

Mr Hennessy, our science teacher, called myself and 7 other lads out of class to let us know that our projects had been picked to take part in the BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2024. Alongside my project, there were 2 other groups - Louis Raggett, Luke Lawlor and Larry Phelan with their project on "Investigating the effects of different music genres on athletic performance" and Ivin Sony, Cormac Meegan and Michael O'Shea with their project on "The truth of air to water heating".

The next few weeks were tough for us all. A lot of work had to be put into it on the actual experimentation and the write up. For my project, I had to contact multiple sports teams of different sports, draw up questionnaires to gather information on their sleep, create a fitness test to cover every area of fitness, and meet each sports team to collect my data. This was only the



on-field research. I then had to gather everything together and do statistics on my results. I wrote up what I had found, whether my hypothesis was supported or not, and then created an A0 project sheet, project book, and a project diary.

All of this took me months, right up until the competition, which took place in the RDS from Wednesday 10th - 13th January 2024. When we went in, the crowds in the RDS were massive. There were 100's of projects, with every type of person and project taking part. The arena was split into 5 categories - Health and Wellbeing, Biology, Physics, Social and Behavioural Sciences, and Technology.

After we all set up our stations, the judging commenced on the first day of the competition, at about 3pm. In between, other people in the

venue would walk around, viewing our projects, asking us questions on what we did and how we did it. The judging stopped Friday morning, with 3 rounds of judging taking place. Each time, 1 judge would come up and ask questions based on my findings and my experimental research. The award ceremony then took place that Friday night.

On the first day of the competition, KCLR invited us to take part in an interview. We all spoke about our projects to the presenter, Brian Redmond.

Without a doubt, I would recommend everybody to submit an idea to the BT Young Scientist Exhibition. It was an experience I definitely enjoyed and I'm sure the other lads would agree with me.



Cormac Dowling.



Cormac Meegan, Ivin Sony and Michael O'Shea.



Luke Lawlor and Louis Raggett (Larry Phelan missing from picture).

Debating



L-r: Ms Ciara Staunton, Seán Maloney, Jack Holohan, Tom Walsh, Chris Ging, Liam Doyle, Ms Aoife McQuaid.

Sean Moloney

This academic year, the St Kieran's College debating team made its return to the prestigious Concern Debates programme and we had our most successful year to date in the competition. Since the Concern Worldwide Debates Programme began in 1984, over 40,000 students have wrestled with issues ranging from sustainable development and climate change to terrorism, extreme poverty and the scourge of HIV and AIDS. Our team, consisting of myself, Oisín Marry, Chris Ging, Liam Doyle, Jack Holohan, and Alexis Fitzgerald and together we tackled a range of pressing global issues and were pitted against some of the most renowned schools in the country.

In our first debate, we opposed the motion "Africa will regret its reliance on China," and emerged victorious with a unanimous win. Buoyed by this success, we moved forward, proposing motions such as "African nations must be allowed to develop fossil fuel resources to help lift their people out of poverty" and "Big business is indifferent to the Sustainable Development Goals." Once again, our efforts were met with unanimous

wins. As we entered the knockout stages, we found ourselves debating more complex topics such as "Properly regulated, Artificial Intelligence will be a force for good in our world." We ended up finishing our group stages of the competition on maximum points – this is a huge achievement for us and we are extremely proud that we were able to come this far in a highly competitive national competition.

Following our group stage success we went up against a highly experienced and very composed team with Athlone Community College. Unfortunately, we were not victorious on this occasion and were therefore eliminated. This was the furthest our school has made it so far in this competition so we are extremely proud, and we look forward to competing again next year. Thanks to Ms Staunton and Ms McQuaid for their work with us throughout the year.



Trad band 2023-2024



Back row l to r: Mr Heffernan, Harry Donoghue, Matthew Bowe, Oliver Phelan, Michael Tynan, John Brennan, Mr Walsh. Front row l to r: Liam Carrigan, Liam Corcoran, Sean Corcoran, Aden Farrell. Missing: Eoghan O'Farrell, Larry Phelan, Luke Lawlor, Cormac Leahy, Cathal O'Dwyer, Ruari Phelan, Luke Phelan.

The school's Irish traditional music group had a successful year performing at various events both in and outside of school. The group rehearse every Tuesday lunchtime under the guidance of Mr Gerry Walsh and Mr Eamon Heffernan.

The band were delighted to welcome four new members to the group this year: Eoghan O'Farrell (tin whistle), Cormac Leahy (guitar), Liam Corcoran (banjo) and Sean Corcoran (banjo).

The group had a busy opening few months with performances at various

school events, before our annual visits to some of the nursing homes around the city. In December 2023, we played for residents at Drakelands and Tinnypark nursing homes and, on the fourteenth of that month, the band played at the school carol service.

The group were invited to take part in a seisiún ceoil in Coláiste Pobail Osraí for Seachtain na Gaeilge in March and collaborated again with members from their trad band in April, sharing tunes, songs and dances.

Two members of the group, Liam Carrigan (pipes) and Michael Tynan

(flute), were delighted to be selected to perform on RTÉ 1 as part of their broadcast of Good Friday Mass and Easter Saturday Mass from St Mary's Cathedral at the end of March. They both also played music for the Chrism Mass a couple of days before Easter.

The trad band in the school provides 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 2024.

Harmony Choir



Senior Choir



Back row l-r: Tom Walsh, Harry Cody, Ben Cummins, Fred Odano, Edward Whelan, David Barcoe. 5th row l-r: James Brennan Smyth, Finn Conway, Charlie Greene, Jack McDonald, Will O'Dwyer, Conor O'Gorman, Conor Heffernan. 4th row l-r: Bill Hayes, Drew O'Keeffe, Oisín Marry, Sean Moloney, Nevin Benny, Alyn Hearne, Joe Hughes, Sean Bergin. 3rd row l-r: Cormac Leahy, Cathal Rossiter, Lewis Flynn Kenealy, Philip O'Mahony, Danny Gargan, Marc Doheny, Ronan Hackett, Sean Carrigan, Tomas Roche. 2nd row l-r: James Wallace, Kieran Timmins, Ciaran Hickey, Louis Lawlor, Peter Kealy, Luke McDonnell, Philip Carrigan, Jacob Breslin, Oisín Bateman. Front row l-r: Mr Gerry Walsh, Conor McEvoy, Daniel Patterson, MJ Banville, Cormac Holden, Hugh Kelly, Harry Conroy, Daniel Ryan, Charlie Bibby, Paddy Walsh, Rory Glynn, Mr Fergal Brennan.

Junior Choir



Green Schools Activities & Awards



By Jude Dooley-Delaney

At the start of the year the Green Schools committee drew up a plan of what we wanted to accomplish. We aimed to get our Green Schools water flag, help the council with urban transport planning and participate in as many other initiatives to promote sustainability as possible.

To receive the Green Schools Water flag we had to promote sustainable water use throughout the school and the broader community. We held a very successful water quiz with all the 1st year classes to raise awareness in a fun way. Myself and Conor Farrell also attended a training day in Dublin to become Water Ambassadors where we learned lots of valuable information.

We also ran a beach clean-up on the 23rd of April where we went to Tramore and spent two hours on the beach picking up rubbish. We collected a worrying amount of rubbish, a sign that a great deal needs to be done, especially to reduce the levels of plastics polluting the environment.

A kicktest of the River Breagagh was also performed in May. This test is to judge the water quality of a river based on what is living in it. Two members of the Green Schools committee got into the river to perform the test. We found that the river was in ok condition but there is still work to be done to improve water quality and increase biodiversity.

As a result of our various campaigns we were awarded our Water flag and "Water school of the Year" for the East of Ireland and Midland regions.

We went to various meetings in the Town Hall about urban transport in Kilkenny where we helped with the development of a Transport Initiative to promote walking to school, this was done in a number of ways such

as a radio advertisement starring Rob Sheehan.

It was a very successful year for the Green Schools committee. A lot was

accomplished and we hope to do even better next year when we aim to meet the challenge to secure our Green Schools travel flag.



Water Ambassadors



Water Quiz



Houses of the Oireachtas



Thanks to Past Pupil & Minister Malcom Noonan for the invite & warm welcome to observe the Dáil and Seanad earlier this year. Well done to 6th Yr student

Paul Mahon who was commended by Senator Ronan Mullen on his outstanding essay on parliamentary politics.



Ireland's Fittest Family



5th year pupil, Ruairi Murphy, along with his brother past pupil Donagh Murphy, and their brother Fionn and mother Aoibheann on the set of Ireland's Fittest Family 2023.



Students enjoying lunch in Langtons following their participation representing the Diocese at the St Patrick's Day Parade.

Active Schools 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.





Sixth Year Memories



By Paul Mahon

St Kieran's, 242 years of history, of victories and defeats, of studying and shenanigans, and there even seems to be a few teachers from back then still hanging around. Throughout history in Kilkenny, many things have changed, but Kierans has always remained constant. It has stood the test of time, educating some of the best, like Eddie Keher, Henry Shefflin, Phil Hogan, Thomas Kilroy, and other leading lights in every realm of society.

For our year group, the journey through Kierans started in August 2018. We could feel the significance of the buildings, as we lined up for our photo that first day on the front steps. We plodded around the labyrinth of corridors, with bags the same size as ourselves. Unfamiliar faces soon became friends as we navigated the changes brought about by the transition to secondary school. We quickly adapted to our new lives in Kierans, with new subjects, teachers, classmates and longer school days with extra homework.

During the year, we were lucky enough to qualify for the cross country schools All-Ireland. Come hail, rain or shine, Mondays and Wednesdays were spent running around the castle park, spurred on by words of wisdom from our year head Mr. O'Keefe. We capped off the year with our retreat to Jerpoint Abbey, before being let out to pasture for three months of well deserved freedom.

Returning back for 2nd year was a bit different of an experience, we were no longer herded into Hall 33 as our base classroom, but instead commanded the entirety of the upstairs of the '79 building. I suppose it'd be fair to say that a lot of lads came out of their shells around that time and we probably felt a lot more at home in Kierans by that point. We had tasted success as a year with winning hurling, soccer, Gaelic, and running teams, which probably earned us some recognition and respect as a worthy year group from the rest of the school. We still may have been small in stature, but the second years ruled the roost over our pitch with a much greater degree of authority than the puny first years, who had to carve out a corner to share amongst themselves.

After a number of weeks in 2nd year we went on our retreat to Duiske Abbey in Graigueenamanagh. Whilst I cannot recall much about the actual abbey itself, my abiding memory of that trip was the insanely long walk we went on along the River Barrow. I have only since found out that it's Ireland's second longest river, but I remember after that trip feeling like we had walked all 192km of it. I remember when the announcement came through about schools closing on that Thursday in March, I was delighted because it meant we had Gold Cup Day in Cheltenham off on that Friday. I'd say within a week we knew things were going to change for the long term. Sport had stopped and we all tuned in to hear Leo Varadkar's speech from Washington telling us to stay at home. For the rest of the year, we moved our schooling online and whilst I'm sure every student's experience of that year is different, I felt online classes took on a more well rounded approach to teaching. The breaks between classes gave you a chance to relax and you could fit in a walk or a run within your 5k during the day. Exams were dispensed with and both the students and staff watched on for signs that we'd be returning to normal the following year.

Things calmed down Covid wise over the summer and we were back in classes that August for the start of 3rd

year. I'd say a lot of lads were checked out by that point as far as sitting the Junior Cert was concerned. 3rd year was spent mostly in "pods" and segregated classes, so there probably wasn't as much of a chance for lads from different classes to mix. When we went into lockdown again after Christmas in 3rd year, we were back to the same structure of online classes and assignments. For this lockdown, we were a lot less confined and travel restrictions weren't as severe, so we didn't have as much adjusting to do in those early weeks. I remember every day you'd be waiting around to see if they'd finally announce they were calling off the Junior Cert for that year. When news finally broke of its cancellation, it was a great relief, but it also made it hard to be motivated for those last few weeks of the year when we returned to school. When we finally did reach the end of that term, it did seem strange that unlike almost every other previous 3rd year group, we were free. We had evaded the tradition of being tormented by sitting state exams in the intense heat of June.

TY is remembered fondly for the vast range of opportunities it affords to students. For our year, TY was ably coordinated by Ms Moran. During the year, the musical was a big hit, as well as many great trips, such as the Bennettsbridge River Walk. Another memorable trip in TY would have to be climbing Sliabh na mBan on a particularly wet and windy day in March. The age-old tradition of a tenner to the lad who reaches the summit first, developed into a titanic battle, like horses storming up the hill at Cheltenham each year. I would say the highlight of TY for many people was getting the opportunity to do work experience and seeing what life outside of school could be like. I did one of my work experiences with Deputy John Paul (JP) Phelan, which I really enjoyed, as I got to write various political speeches and accompany Minister O'Donovan to Carlow Castle. The highlight for me was amidst myself and JPs speculation about when the next general election might be, Taoiseach Micheál Martin called by and I got to meet him.

Transition year however was not without its low points also. That November we said goodbye to Harry Byrne after his tragic death. Harry was the epitome of what it means to be a good person - hardworking, kind, honest, and always a friendly face to everyone. He is still fondly remembered by the entire Kieran's community and his family remains in our thoughts.

When 5th year rolled around we were back with a bang, back to studying and dusting off the books for what we were told would be two very intense years. Every teacher seemed to have the same speech about how we had to hit the ground running and for the most part, I'd say lads took that on board. The year was dotted with a number of great successes, the most notable of which has to be bringing home the school's All-Ireland for the first time since Covid. There were still times for trips and activities though

and the end of year retreat would be one that springs to mind.

We spent the day being coached by members of the Defence Forces and some great tug of war battles separated the true warriors from the weak.

Then finally there was the last hurrah of 6th year, a year dreaded by most, but undoubtedly an important landmark in everyone's life. It is a year ruled by the institution of the Leaving Cert and the obsession with the points race. With that being said however, it would be unfair to say there wasn't still time for other things. Winning the school's All-Ireland was a great achievement, as every year going up the school, you'd usually see the 6th years delivering the title and we felt proud to add our year to that list. The activities of students however did not fill all the headlines from Kieran's this year.

For our 2024 year group though, being students of Kierans is coming towards its conclusion. We will all remember our time here with fondness and use the lessons we have learned in the classrooms and from our fellow students and teachers as we navigate through life.

Post leaving cert we will all be starting from a blank slate, which can oftentimes seem daunting. However, we have all done it before, having originally started in Kierans knowing no one and nothing way back in first year. As one chapter ends, a new chapter begins and as we finish in Kierans and head off in our separate directions, we will all go down different roads and be faced with different opportunities and challenges. Like lost little first years finding our way around Kieran's endless corridors, we don't know where we're going, but we're all on our way.

Top Results



Above: Well done to three students from the 2023 Leaving Cert group who all achieved the top result of 625 points, they are David Mulrooney who is now studying Economics and Finance in UCD, Adam Walsh studying Mathematical Sciences in UCC and David Williams also studying Medicine in UCD. The lads are pictured here following their leaving cert results in August 2023 but previously they won an All-Ireland maths competition in First Year in 2018. Well done lads on all your achievements and best wishes in your future careers.

Left: Well done to Mick Carroll, Oran Lavery and Mikey Raggett who obtained the joint highest mark in the 2023 leaving certificate exam in Technology. This is a fantastic achievement by all three of the lads, Mick is pictured here collecting his certificate recently.

Leaving Certs

Our 2023 leaving certificate results were excellent. We were delighted to see most of our students calling in on results day to share their exceptional results with us - we are very proud of all of our students, congratulations to the class of 2023 on your fantastic results and we wish you well in your chosen course and careers.



Some happy faces collecting their leaving cert results in August 2023

Scholarships



Congratulations to past pupil Nick O'Keeffe - St Kieran's College Student of the Year in 2022 - who was named as a new Trinity scholar recently. Nick is studying Middle Eastern & European Languages & Cultures.



David Williams and Mikey Raggett with their mothers at the Ad Astra Awards in UCD.



Mikey Raggett, Mr Liam Smith and David Williams.



Adam Walsh receiving his UCC entrance scholarship, he was joined by Mr Brian Dowling.



David Mulrooney, Mikey Raggett, David Williams, Hugh Finnegan and Mr Liam Smith. Missing from photo is Mick Carroll, Conor Kavanagh and Luke Connellan.

End of Year Awards 2023

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

FIRST YEAR

Student of the Year - Jack Stapleton

Certs of Merit - Adam Staunton, Darragh Walsh, Jamie Walsh, Joe Nolan, David Waldron, Lorcan Cummins

Academic of the Year - Ted Healy

SECOND YEAR

Student of the Year - Sean Nulty

Certs of Merit - Tomás Carroll, Dan Carroll, Tommy Doyle, Cian Dermody, Tom Glennon, Ryan Minogue Lee

Academic of the Year - Oliver Phelan

THIRD YEAR

Student of the Year - Larry Phelan

Certs of Merit - Hugh Whelan, Conor Aylward, Louis Raggett, Joseph Langton, Ronan O'Mahoney, Bill McDermott

Academic of the Year - Lewis Kenealy

FOURTH YEAR

Student of the Year - Sean Moloney

Certs of Merit - Liam Doyle, Charlie Grace, Oisín Marry, Chris Ging, Odhran Moore, Matthew McAvinney

FIFTH YEAR

Student of the Year - Sean Bergin

Certs of Merit - Darragh Lawlor, Killian Tallon, Patrick Purcell, Adam Coyne, Jeff Neary, Kealan Gray

Academic of the Year - Alexis Fitzgerald

SIXTH YEAR

Student of the Year - David Mulrooney

Certs of Merit - Donagh Murphy, Sean Keenan, Killian Doyle, Hugh Finnegan, Adam Noonan, William Wallace

Academic of the Year - Adam Walsh

SENIOR SUBJECT AWARDS

Mathematics Adam Walsh

Gaeilge (Corn na Gaeilge) David Williams

English David Mulrooney

Business Conor Kavanagh

Construction Patrick Foley

Tech Mikey Raggett

DCG Shane Gleeson

History James O'Shea

Geography Bill Smith

Spanish Brian Whelan

French Edward O'Dwyer

Physics Adam Walsh

Biology David Williams

Chemistry Hugh Finnegan

Ag Sci Sean Adams

Art Louis Todd

Music Adam Noonan

PE Donagh Murphy

Computer Science Dylan Teehan

JUNIOR SUBJECT AWARDS

Mathematics Conor Aylward

Gaeilge James O'Brien

English Luke Lawlor

Religion Daniel Ryan

Business Hugh Whelan

Technology Cathal Rossiter

Tech Graphics Conor Aylward

History Sam Mackey

Geography David Travers

Spanish Larry Phelan

French Charlie Carroll

Science Hugh Whelan

Art Mark Doheny

Music Larry Phelan

SPORTS AWARDS

Senior Soccer Player of the Year – Adam Coyne

The White Medal – David Williams

Sport Star of the Year – Mikey Raggett

Senior Hurler of the Year – Killian Corcoran

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Conor Fitzmaurice

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Rory Farrell



Derek Lyng

Derek, a native of Urlingford and currently the manager of the Kilkenny Senior Hurling team, is a past pupil who has won one Fitzgibbon, nine Leinster, six All-Irelands and two All Stars. We were delighted to recognise him with the Past Pupil Award this year. He continues to do us proud.



St Kieran's College Awards Night

Back row (l-r) Mr Paul Fitzgerald, Ms Julie O'Brien (Parents Association) Mr Ken Maher (Deputy Principal), Mr Adrian Finan (Principal) Dr Dermot Ryan (President), Mr Derek Lyng (Past Pupil Award Winner) Mr Liam Smith (Deputy Principal) Ms Hollie Hickey. Front row (l-r) Rory Farrell (President's Award), Conor Fitzmaurice (Special Achievement Award), David Williams (The White Medal), Killian Corcoran (Hurler of the Year), Mikey Raggett (Sports Star of the Year) and Adam Coyne (Senior Soccer Player of the Year).



Presidents Award

Rev Dr. Dermot Ryan presenting the President's Award to Rory Farrell.



Students of the Year 2022-23 - l-r: Sean Nulty, Sean Moloney, David Mulrooney, Sean Bergin, Larry Phelan, Jack Stapleton.



Adam Walsh, 6th Year, Academic of the Year



Academics of the Year

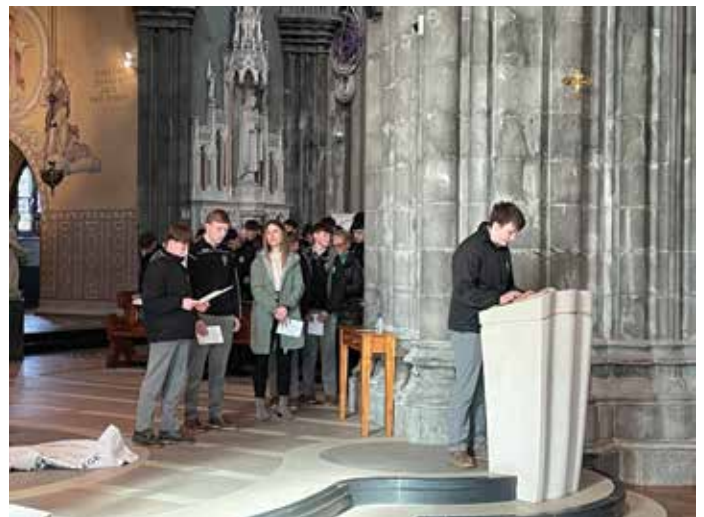
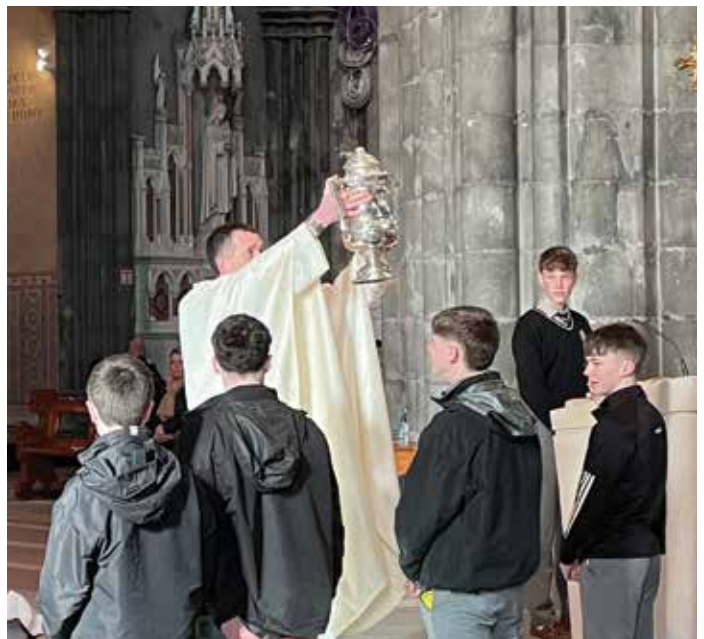
l-r: Oliver Phelan, Lewis Kenealy, Adam Walsh, Alexis Fitzgerald, Ted Healy.



David Mulrooney, 6th Year, Student of the Year.

St Kieran's Day 2024

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 Tuesday March 5th 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, Soccer and Darts plus many more. It is a fantastic day for all to enjoy and a wonderful tradition within the school.







Pastoral Care at St Kieran's

FIRST YEAR FRIENDSHIP DAY

By Cormac Phelan (1A)

On Friday, September 20th, the first year's had a whole day based on anti-bullying and the importance of friendships. First we went up to the study hall and Mr Finan and the Pastoral Care team gave us a talk on how serious the school takes bullying. After the talk all 150 first years went outside and went for a walk. We walked out to Millennium Woods. In Millennium Woods we all got a sheet of paper with different things on it. We had to find a different person for each question on the sheet. We could only use each person once so it helped us get to know everyone in our year. When we got back to Kieran's college we all went down to the soccer pitch and pucked around.

Then we shared a pizza from Papa John's between two people. In the end we all had an amazing day. We all learned about one another and all enjoyed the pizza.

SECOND YEAR RETREAT

By Aden Farrell 2B

On October 3rd 2023 the 2nd year group went on a retreat to Graiguenamanagh to participate in the river walk.

It was a cold frosty morning and we departed from the school at 8:50pm. It took us around 30 minutes to reach Graiguenamanagh. Upon entering the beautiful countryside village. We made a stop at the local supervalu to stock up on food and beverages as we had a long hike ahead of us.

At first it just looked like your average countryside river but when the sun came out it didn't take long for us to notice the beauty of the river. The walk took us approximately two hours before stopping at the Mullichain cafe for a bite to eat,

My friends and I ordered pizzas and they were delicious. We stayed at the cafe for a couple of hours. I couldn't believe the beautiful scenery. Overall it was a great day and we all had so much fun.



INTER-FAITH THIRD YEAR TRIP

by Ruairi Power

On the 20th of November all 3rd years went up to the Clonskeagh Mosque to immerse ourselves in the Muslim culture and practice in preparation for our Junior Cert exam at the end of the year.

We left Kierans gate at 8:30am and headed for Dublin. We arrived at our destination at 10:30am and were welcomed by Imam, Dr Ali Selim and were asked to remove our shoes when entering the Mosque as part of the Muslim culture. He brought us in and we had to sit on the floor and he began his talk. He talked for roughly an hour and watched a video at the end. They were kind enough to gift us hats as we left.

My year group and I really enjoyed this trip.



THE CAIRDEAS PROGRAMME

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

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2023/24

Mental Health Week took place from Monday 9th - Sunday 15th of October in St Kieran's College. Mental Health Week has become a constant in the calendar over the past few years. During Mental Health Week, the school walls are also decorated with positive mental health slogans for all our students to see.

On Monday October 9th the Transition Years had a teamworks workshop while the 5th years had a talk on the effects of gambling with Tony O'Reilly also known as Tony10. On Tuesday, October 10th, the TY students also had a talk



Cairdeas

Back row l-r: Ed Lauhoff, Sean Shefflin, Mikey Rohan, Paidi Egan, Finn Conway. 4th row l-r: Patrick Kerwick, Tom Walsh, Pierce Costello, Sam Hayes, Jack Holohan. 3rd row l-r: Jack McCormack, Oisín Marry, Chris Delaney, Conor Farrell, Michael Kenneally, Sean Moloney. 2nd row l-r: Louis Fitzgerald, Philip O'Mahony, Jamie Tallon, Ross Gormley, Kian Kealy, Patrick Bergin. Front row l-r: Matthew McAvinney, Theo Petrani, Liam Doyle, Allen Corr Larkin, Quinn O'Neill, Daniel Tallis, Ruairi McEvoy.

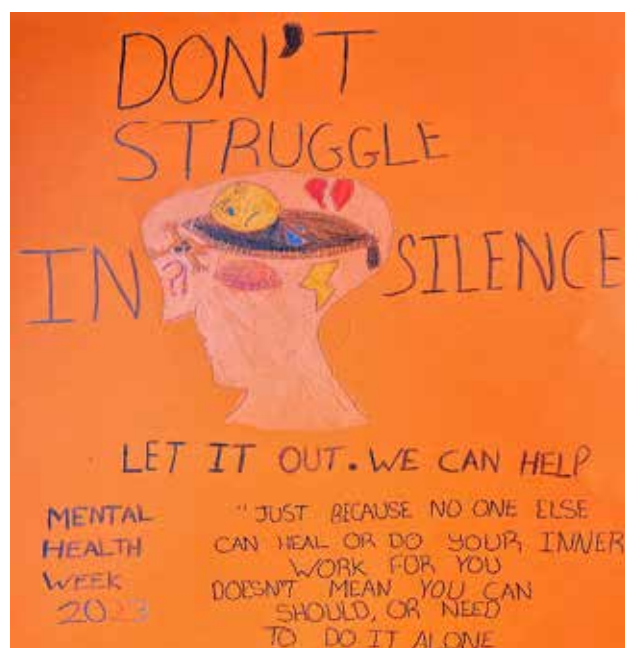
from Jackie Fox (Coco's Law) on the dangers of online bullying and spoke about the devastating impact that cyber-bullying had on her daughter's life.

Wednesday, October 11th saw 3rd years receive 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 #Livelif Foundation set up by his family primarily in order to promote his anti-suicide #Livelif 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.

On Thursday, October 12th, first & 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.

On Friday, October 13th, 6th years also had a similar talk to the 5th years with Tony O'Reilly.

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



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2024



Cian Kelly and Stephen Manogue, the winners of the Catholic Schools poster competition.



The Choir at the Grandparents' Mass



Transition Years teaching in De La Salle Primary School.



Refreshments being served in the College following the Grandparents' Mass.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR NURSING HOMES



JOHN PAUL II AWARDS



Gemma Mulligan talking to TYs about the John Paul II Awards.



Chaplaincy team: Mr Brian Dowling, Ms Eadaoin Maher and Mr Fergal Brennan.

First Year Letters

1A

Cormac Phelan

My first year experience
The very first first day in St Kierans College was very different as I had come from a very small school in Cuffesgrange. I knew 7 or 8 other kids going in with I walked in through the gates and was put in my class. I knew a few kids from soccer, rugby and hurling, but most of them were new to me. It was a big change from church Hill. As I had to move to classrooms, been a timetable and have an hour long break. My highlight of the year would be definitely St. Kieran's day where we went to Kibod and then went to McDonald's for something to eat.

My First Year Experience Finnis 1A

I enjoyed my first year experience I came from a small school out in Gowran I knew alot of lads going in so I was pretty confident I got lucky because two other lads from Gowran were in my class but it took a while to get used to the locker but I got the hang of it in a few weeks after the first few weeks then all the friends for Sports came out like Soccer Hurling Badminton Basketball I signed up for the hurling and did trials and I made the team then there was runner I made that also and then we did Sports day that was good craic and the muckin', and St Kierans day and I'm looking forward to the All Ireland on Saturday

Harry Butler 1A My First Year Experience

I came from St Adens in Kilmoghry. About 10 of us came to Kierans. There was ~~was~~ 33 in my class in primary school. I found it very easy to settle in. My favourite thing that happened this year was when we went to Kiltoran Race track for winning Aras na cheile. Our class won everything there was to win this year so far. Sports day Michael Brogan Run, Aras na cheile and the Hurling league.

DARLAGH CARROLL 1A

My first year experience

I always wanted to go to St Kierans College ever since my brother went there. I come from a small primary school in Gowran. There was eight of us that got accepted to St Kierans college. The first few weeks were challenging like getting lost, forgetting your books and getting organised. Our teachers were all very nice and helped us if we needed it. I was very happy with my class as three other boys from my school were in it. My favourite moment from the school year was by far finding out I made the hurling team, other boys didn't make it and were very upset but that shows how much they care.

Finlay Beaton 1A

My First year experience

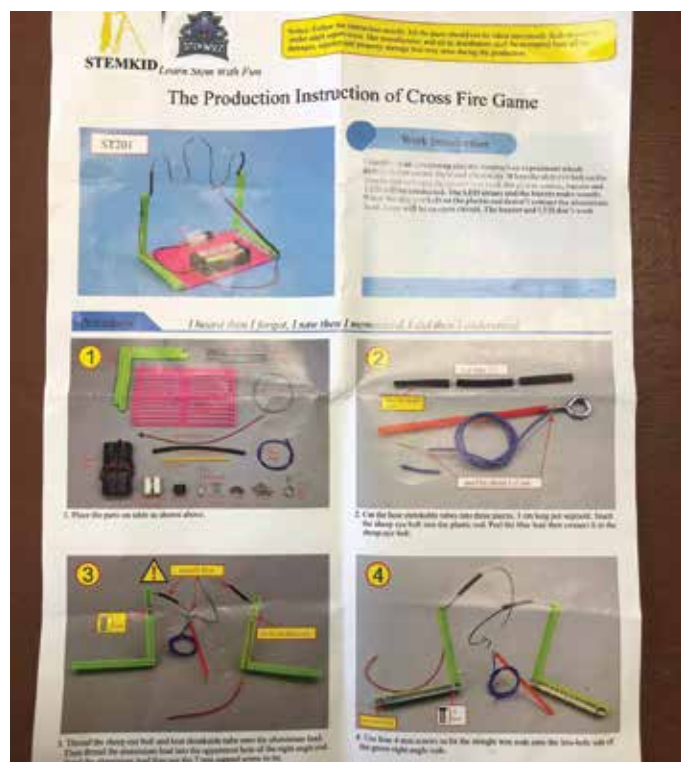
When I started in the school I knew nobody ^{in my year} as I'm from Tipperary. It was very easy to settle in because everyone was so nice. My favourite my this as of 15/3/24 was going to a singing competition in western College dublin and going to a Dundrum shopping centre. I chose this school because I love hurling and I heard of all the extra curriculum activities from my brother who is in second year

PE



Tag Rugby in Gym Hall

Science



Science Week Project



Students from 1A busy completing their projects as part of science week.



Art



Students enjoyed various art trips this year including two exhibitions at The Butler Gallery and a day trip to Newgrange.

Transition year pupils helped build the set design for the school musical 'Popstars The 90's Musical'.

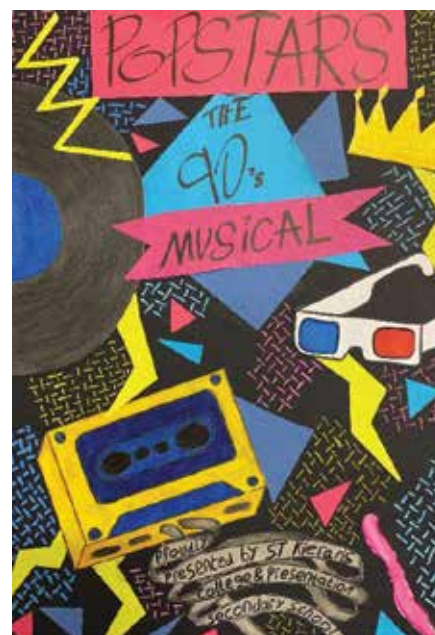
Visiting Artist Elizabeth Cope showed 5th year pupils the importance of drawing and painting from life.

Past pupil Tommy Walsh came to St Kieran's College to meet the artists behind the three paintings. He was especially taken with Philip Carrigan's rendition of this top class moment.





4th year pupils Philip Carrigan, Harry Bourke and James O Meara created three fantastic paintings to hang in our school.



Artist: Harry Bourke



Artist: Philip Carrigan



Artist: James O Meara

Agricultural Science Trip 2024

The 5th year agricultural science students attended a practical day in Kildalton College on Thursday March 21st. Kildalton College is in the village of Piltown in south Kilkenny. It is a leading provider of training in agriculture, horticulture and equine studies in Ireland with over 1,400 students attending courses every year.

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 dairy, beef, sheep and tillage enterprises.

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
- and 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. The target for agriculture is to reduce its emissions by 30% by 2030. No doubt there will be higher targets to be met in the future.

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



Business



Kilkenny Enterprise Awards - Killian Ryan and Jack Dooley who won 'Best Commercial Potential' for their mini company 'RD Bars'.



Kilkenny Enterprise Awards - Ciaran Coone, Tiarnan Shefflin and Tommy Walsh who won the 'Innovation' award for their mini-company 'Crush Caddy'.



5th Year Business students visiting the Tirlán plant in Ballyragget to see and understand the processes involved in the production of milk, butter and whey.



Career Guidance Report 2023-2024

Mr Brian Dowling and Ms Eadaoin Maher, Guidance Department

We had many different guest speakers who visited the school during the school year to chat to our Senior Cycle students.

We had the following talks during the year for our students:

- Apprenticeship talk
- Business talk from UL
- Law and Business – UCC
- Physiotherapy talk
- Teaching
- Digital Business – DCU
- Engineering
- UCD
- UCC
- Maynooth
- DCU
- MTU – Construction Management and Quantity Surveying talk
- Sport Science – SETU
- Business – SETU
- Sports scholarships – DCU
- PLC/Further Education – Ormonde College
- PWC – Accounting
- Defence forces

Our TYs had the opportunity to visit different colleges during the year; SETU (W.I.T. campus) and UL campus.

Our TYs enjoyed four weeks of Work Experience and also carried out a Career Investigation during the year. Past pupil Harry Maharaj gave a very informative talk about his own journey from school to setting up a very successful business.

We held our first ever Careers Fair in the school in November for our 5th and 6th year students. They had the opportunity to speak to different colleges, local businesses, Gardai, Defence forces and much more. We are very appreciative of the support we received from local businesses and all of the different colleges and organisations that attended on the day.

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.



SETU Tour

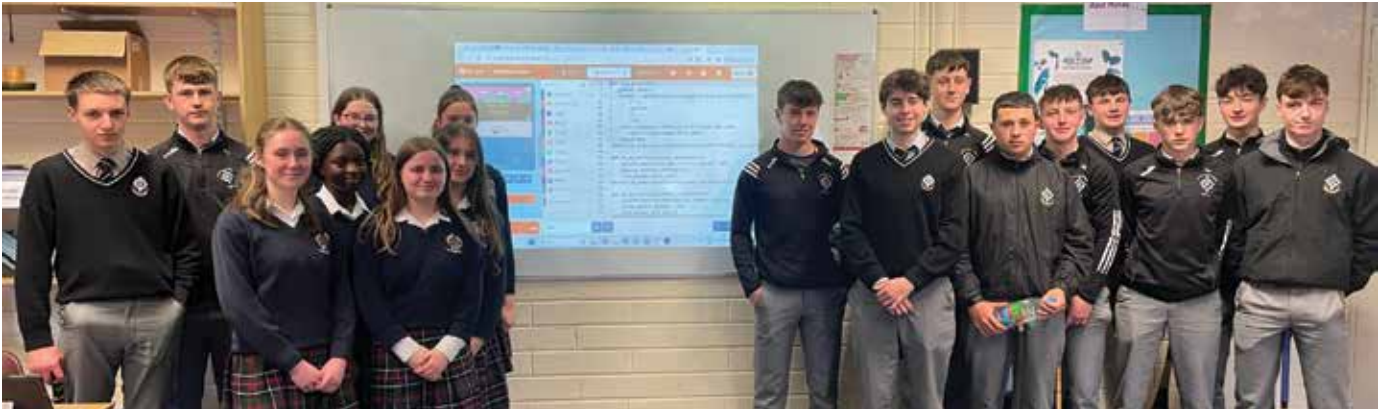


Careers Fair



UL Tour

Computer Science



TYC engaging in a coding workshop hosted by Presentation SS, Kilkenny.



5th Year Computer science students visiting Trinity College.

Visit the Town Hall



Thanks to Mayor Joe Malone for inviting some of our 1st years to the Town Hall earlier this year. The boys also got to meet Emer Higgins TD. Thanks to Mayor Malone and Deputy Higgins for their time.



Geography

By Mark Fitzpatrick

For our Leaving Cert Geography project, we headed down to Tramore for our geographical investigation. We spent the day on the beach measuring different things necessary for the project such as the beach fabric & roughness of the wave cut platform, we then recorded the results. After that we were let off to get chips on the pier before heading home for the day. Overall, it was a good day out and a good start to the year.



Senior Geography Trip to Tramore.



1st years enjoyed a table quiz today as part of geography week.



Posters & Graphics created as part of Geography week.



Prize winners following the 1st Year quiz as part of Geography week

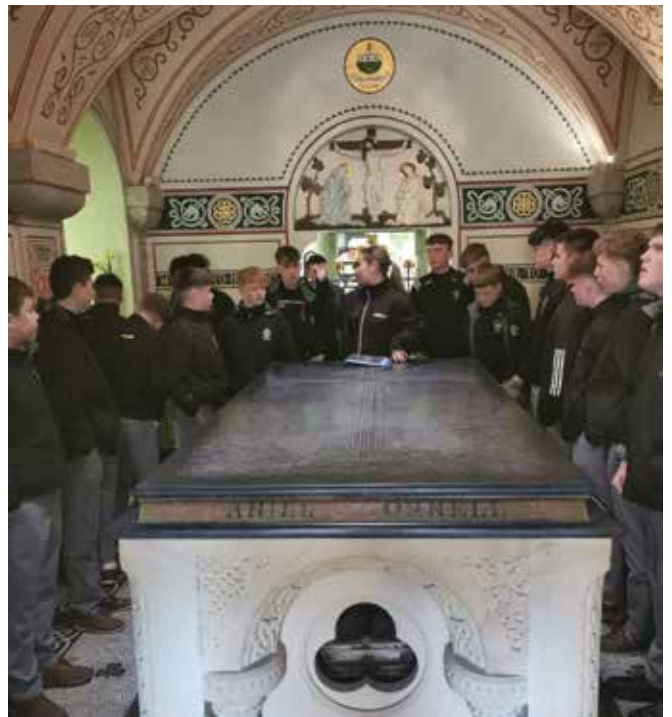
History



Leaving Cert history students who, along with students from Loreto Kilkenny and Duiske College, interrogated, through primary source documents, the Nuremberg Rallies, the Soviet Show Trials and the Jarrow March 2.



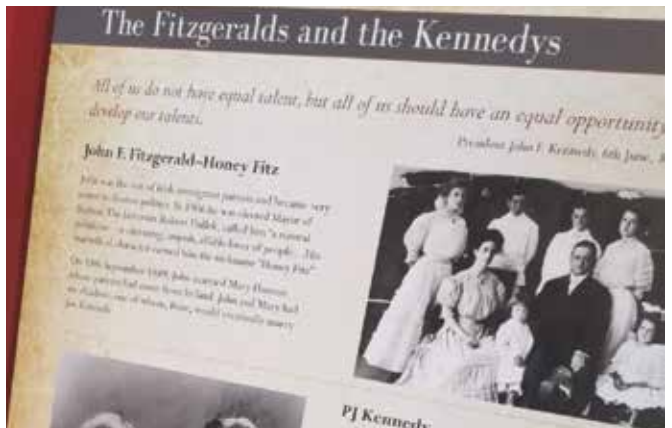
TY history trip, Kennedy homestead, New Ross.



Junior Cert History Trip, Glasnevin Cemetery.



Leaving Cert Kilmainham Gaol visit.



An Ghaeilge 2023/2024



SLÁN, A MHÁISTIR!

Bliain ghnóthach a bhí ann don Ghaeilge arís i mbliana. I Mí Dheireadh Fómhair, d'fhágamar slán ar an Uasal Uí Ógáin. Thosaigh an t-Uasal ag múineadh na Gaeilge (agus Laidin) i gColáiste Naomh Chiaráin sa bhliain 1991. B'éiseamláir é an t-Uasal Uí Ógáin dúinn go léir agus guímid sonas agus sláinte air ina scor. Ní bheidh do leithéid ann arís a mháistir.

CÚRSAÍ ACADÚLA

Eagraíodh go leor imeachtaí le linn na bliana. Tháinig feabhas íontach ar scileanna cumarsáide na ndaltaí sa 2ú agus sa 3ú bliain. D'oibrigh siad go dian ar MRB1 agus MRB2 agus bhí béim ar fhorbairt labhartha na ndaltaí.

Rinne grúpaí na hIdirbliana tionscadail ar stair na hÉireann agus ar na ceannairí (ar nós Pádraig Mac Piaras) a ghlac páirt in Éirí Amach na Cásca i 1916. D'fhéach na daltaí ar an tsraith oideachasúil 'Seachtar na Cásca'. Rinneamar taighde ar na Troibhlóidí i dTuaisceart na hÉireann agus bhaineamar taitneamh as go leor gearrscannáin na Gaeilge.

Tharla na béaltrialacha i rith saoire na Cásca agus chuir lucht na hArdteiste an iarracht isteach sna scrúduithe sin. Mar a deir an seanfhocal ársa "Beatha teanga í a labhairt."

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE: 1Ú – 17Ú MÁRTA

Comórtas Ealaíne: Tharraing na daltaí ón gcéad bliain póstaí cruthaitheacha agus ildaite bunaithe ar sheanfocail coitianta, mar shampla 'níl aon tinteán



mar do thinteán féin' agus 'tús maith leath na hoibre'. Comhghairdeas leis na buaiteoirí uile!

Turas lae: D'fhreastail rang Ms Lawlor ar thuras chuig an gcloigtheach i rith seachtain na gaeilge. Turas fíor-fhiúntach a bhí ann. Tá neart staire ag baint leis an gcloigtheach aghus bhain na daltaí an sult as an lá!

Scannánaíocht: Bhí seans ag na daltaí féachaint ar ghearrscannáin ar nós 'Clare sa Spéir' sa rang Gaeilge. Bronnadh gradam 'Oscar' ar Cillian Murphy i rith mí an Mhárta agus dá bhrí sin d'fhéach daltaí ar 'Filleann an Feall' tar éis a bhua. Ní raibh fhios ag go leor daltaí go raibh Cillian líofa sa ghaeilge,

agus spreag a líofacht iad gan dabht go bhfuil ár dteanga tábhachtach agus an luachmhar sa lá atá inniu ann.

Tráth na gceist: D'eagraigh na múinteoirí Gaeilge Tráth na gCeist do lucht na hidirbliana agus lucht an chúigiú bliain i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge. Bhí foirne de cheathrar curtha le chéile sa rang. Bhí bhabhta bunaithe ar ábhair éagsúla ar nós; eolaíocht, eolas gineárálta, spórt agus ceol. Bhí duaiseanna ann do na buaiteoirí. Bhuaigh na daltaí uibheacha Cásca agus bhain na daltaí taitneamh agus táirbhe as gach imeacht gan dabht.

Is léir go bhfuil an Ghaeilge ag dul ó neart go neart!!

Maths



Senior Maths Team - Alexis Fitzgerald, Darragh Lawlor, Killian Tallon & Patrick Fleming winning the leaving cert IMTA quiz earlier this year. Questions were based on the higher level Leaving Cert maths course. Well done lads.



Prize winners following a maths quiz during Maths week earlier this year.



Students taking part in a maths quiz as part of Maths week.



Junior Maths Team - Mr David Hennessy, Conor Aylward, Darragh Drennan, Ivin Sony and Ryan Minogue Lee - First place in the IAMTA Regional Maths Competition.



IMTA South East Quiz in St Kieran's College.

Music



Sligo Choir Festival

By Mr Fergal Brennan and Mr Gerry Walsh

The Junior and Senior Choir have had another busy year of representing the school in a number of different performances.

The Senior Choir travelled to compete in the Sligo Choral Festival. The lads got a distinction in their performance which falls under the 85-90% category where their singing was given huge praise by the adjudicators in their feedback.

We had our annual Christmas Carol Service in St Mary's Cathedral on Thursday, December 14th 2022. The Senior Choir sang 'Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas' and 'Rocky Road to Dublin' while the Junior Choir performed 'Africa Gloria'. The Junior Chamber Choir also performed 'At Christmas Time'.

As well as singing at the St Kieran's Day Mass on Tuesday, March 5th, the Junior Chamber and Senior choirs performed at the Wesley Choral Festival with both choirs placing with highly commended from the adjudicators.

The Junior and Senior Choir are currently continuing their preparations for the end of year Awards Nights in the Lyrath Convention Centre. As the teachers involved in the choir, we wish to thank each and every student who has sang for us this year. In particular, we would like to thank our 6th year students who have given such time and commitment to our choirs throughout the years.



Sligo Choir Festival



Wesley College Interschools Music Festival



Wesley College Interschools Music Festival

Spanish-French



IRELAND EXPERIENCE IN ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE

I arrived (Iñigo) at the end of August. It wasn't my first time in Ireland, because my sister came here four years ago, but it was Jamie's first time.

I (Iñigo) come from Zaragoza. It's in the north of Spain. Initially I didn't really want to do an exchange because I was happy at home.

I (Jaime) am from Gijón, which is a city in Asturias. To be honest, I was very nervous on my first day in school, because everything was new for me, for example my classmates. It was actually kind of hard making new friends. Another change was the uniform because in Spain both of us wear our own clothes to school, but we liked wearing a uniform.

During these months in Ireland we think that our English has completely improved. At the beginning it was pretty difficult because people speak very fast and pronounce words

differently than how we learn in English class in Spain. At first, it was a little difficult to mix with Irish people but then you get used to it and start to have a much better time. At the beginning, it seems that people can be a little rude, but in the end you make some great friends. The first few days we felt nervous and very anxious but now we are very comfortable here.

In Ireland, the classes are so different than in Spain. I was very surprised because we don't have a year like Transition Year like in Ireland, we have a normal year like the other ones. We found that the day seemed long because the classes start at 08:50am and finish at 4:00pm. In Spain, we usually start at 8:30am and finish at 2:30pm.

We really enjoyed the year and are sad to be leaving. We would like to thank everyone who has helped us throughout the year and we hope to see you again in the future.

¡Gracias a todos! ¡Adiós!



Jamie and Iñigo

TY SPANISH EXCHANGE 2024

Hugh Kelly, Daniel Ryan, Brian Hickey, Harry Conroy, James Walsh, Conor Aylward

A group of us went on exchange to Málaga, in the south of Spain this year. We had been thinking about organising this trip since early in third year. Many of us picked Spanish for the leaving cert and this trip definitely played a huge part for me in making my decision. There was a group of six of us in total and we organised it together and flew out from Dublin on the 7th of April. This was all of our first time leaving the country without our parents, meaning we were all very excited.

We went to a language school in the centre of Malaga. We had four hours of class from 9am to 1pm and a trip every evening at 4pm. We stayed in apartments with families that would cook for us three times a day. Our host mother spoke very little English and at the start we really struggled to understand her. However, as the trip went on we began to understand her better everyday. The lessons were very well structured and helped us to understand complex parts of the language. For example, we learned about present participles. Every evening we went swimming at the beach or played soccer at the local soccer pitches. We were very lucky and the weather was lovely throughout the entire trip. Some nights we went out to restaurants to try the local food, like paella or gazpacho. We stayed for just under two weeks and flew back on the 20th of April. Overall, we would all agree that it was a great experience and it really helped us to improve our Spanish.

TEACHING FRENCH

By Marc Doheny

Teaching French to primary school students was a great experience. It felt good knowing that I was making an impact on them, and it was very rewarding seeing how their knowledge of the subject grew.

I honestly wish we could have done it longer with more schools as it was really fun. To any future TY students, I would highly recommend



this if you think it's something you'd be interested in.

Students involved: Marc Doheny, Cormac Holden, Louis Lawlor, James Wallace Liam O'Dwyer

TEACHING SPANISH

By Daniel Ryan

When Mr Murphy gave us the opportunity to teach Spanish to primary school children, lots of us were happy to take it. We thought it would be a good experience and a fun thing to do. We split into two groups of five and began preparing for our lessons

with the help of Mr Murphy.

We taught three classes in St Canice's and two classes in St John of God primary schools, each of them going very well and the students learning a bit of Spanish.

Our teaching was made a lot easier with the help of the Spanish exchange students Iñigo and Jaime and we all really enjoyed it.

Students involved; Daniel Ryan, Conor Aylward, Charlie Greene, Ciarán Power, Cian Doherty, Harry Bourke, Scott Hennessey, Jaime Fernández Sánchez, Conor Heffernan, Brian Hickey, Iñigo Kuhnel, Hugh Kelly



Transition Year

Conor McEvoy

We were told many times at the start of TY that you'll get out of the year, what you put in and this turned out to be so true. The most memorable trips in my opinion were the ploughing championships, surfing in Tramore, Dunmore adventure centre and the Irelands fittest family obstacle course. There were many other trips and many workshops as well such as the JFK workshop which was very interesting.

We did four weeks of work experience throughout the year which is very helpful for all students to get an insight of what careers students are thinking of doing in the future. We also had many in school sport activities such as a Gaelic football tournament organised by Mr Delaney and Mr Murphy, these activities are very beneficial as they get students out of the classroom and exercise it also brings the year group closer together.

One of the most important parts of the year was subject choice for the

leaving certs, the teachers of each subject went through the subjects courses in detail which is the first time the school had done this, I think it was very beneficial as it gave each student a better understanding of the subjects they were thinking of picking.

Some of us were lucky enough to go to the career fair which was held in the school. This was really helpful, to ask questions we had about careers we were interested in. In conclusion, Transition year is a very beneficial year and I've really enjoyed the activities we did throughout the year.

David Barcoe

I think Transition Year has been a brilliant experience. This is down to the many activities we have partaken in, which help pass the time throughout the year.

The most enjoyable trips we went on in my opinion were the trips down to Tramore surfing, Dunmore East, the

Wibit and the trip to the ploughing championships.

There were also a few workshops like the forensic day and the law day that were educational and enjoyable. We also had to complete four weeks of work experience at two different times of the year, this is a great part of the transition as you get to get a taste of what subjects you might want to pick for your leaving cert and possible jobs you might consider. We also did a lot of in school activities including a Gaelic football tournament and a soccer tournament in the watershed. I think this really helped break up the weeks of just sitting in class, this year is about a lot more than being in class all day.

To conclude I think transition year is a well worthwhile experience as it gives you a chance to get a break from studying and homework and more of a chance to see what career you might want to pursue. Overall I got great enjoyment out of the year and it turns out you really do get out of the year what you put in.

Surfing in Tramore





Ploughing Championships 2023



Dunmore East Activity Centre





Teamworks - Teambuilding



Tinpod Productions





Ice Skating at Winterval in Waterford



SVP Christmas Singing

Past pupil Alan Mooney spoke about the European Union



Forensic Workshop - The Killing of JFK



Law Module - Kate from @LawEd.ie doing workshops with each TY class.





Future Leaders - Kilkenny GDA Nathan Culleton giving some coaching advice to this year's group



Ireland's Fittest Family Course





Football Blitz



TY Soccer Blitz in The Watershed







First Year



1A - Back row l to r: Robby Lodge, Joe Ryan, Tadhg Leahy, Tadhg Kennedy, Sam Norton. Fourth row l to r: Odhran Henderson, David Timmins, Tom Lawler, Jim Clune, Paddy O'Keeffe, Adam Cullen. Third row l to r: Tymur Sinchuko, Danny Reade, Bill Guiry, Daniel McCullagh, Sam Dunne Donnelly, Owen Flanagan. Second row l to r: Darragh Carroll, Jack Cantwell, Adam Phelan, Micheal Fitzgerald, Finlay Beaton, Darragh McDermott. Front row l to r: Tommy Butler, Oisín Fogarty, Aaron Blackmore, Thomas Hayes, Shay Molloy, Harry Butler, Cormac Phelan.



1B - Back row l to r: Liam Corcoran, Tommy Dowling, Patrick Dermody, Harry O'Brien, Sean Corcoran, Henry Phelan. Third row l to r: Andy Ryan, Jake Greene, Ned Forristal, Fionn Barry, Oliver Butler, Rian Flynn, Cathal Bennett. Second row l to r: Conor Murphy, Dan Holohan White, Simon Kolodziej, Cathal Malone, Michael Hurley Shane Hogan, Mikolaz Slivinski, Michael O'Keeffe. Front row l to r: Conor Walsh, James Daly, Darragh McCormack, Milosz Pronobis, Connell Tobin, Ryan Shelly, Dan O'Brien, Jack Gamble, John Paul Bergin.



1C - Back row l to r: Canice Power, Eoin Philpott, Hugo Carroll, Billy Ronan, Yevhen Zavarzin, Conor Hanlon. Third row l to r: Tom Butler, Gearoid Farrell, Ciaran Gibbons, Billy Dalton Mockler, James Travers, Tommy Walsh, John Nolan. Second row l to r: Fionn Doyle, David Blanchfield, James O'Connor, Niall Foley, Gerard Delaney, Ben Fitzgerald, James Leverrier, Tomas Curran. Front row l to r: Alex Leverrier, Paddy Leverrier, Cillian Pollard, Fionn Dunne, Cormac Reynolds, Kealan Egan, Niall Cody, James Tallis, Ronan Griffin.



1D- Back row l to r: Charlie Teehan, Jack Ryan, Eoghan O'Farrell, Cathal Dooley, David Nolan, Liam Treacy. Third row l to r: Dylan Kiely, Leon Purcell, Padraig Dolan, Eoghan McCorry, Henry Petras, Conor Murphy, Rory Parley. Second row l to r: Paddy McCarthy, Bobby Aylward, Michael Brennan, Sean Keane, Glenn Ryan, Karlo Guzoushi, Jack White, Michael Houston. Front row l to r: James Parsons, Jonah Suric, Calum Owens, Dominic Figan, Jakub Wozniah, M.J. Buggy, Tadhg Buckley, Dylan Culleton, David Bourke.



1E - Back row l to r: Darragh Maher, Micheal Beagan, Jack o Grady, Mikey Phelan, Jack Dermody. Fourth row l to r: Harry Canavan, Conor Egan, Cian Quinlan, Ruarc Shefflin, Oisín Murphy. Third row l to r: Aiden Murphy, Harry Thomas, Jack Ryan, Ruairi McNally, Olly Kelly Doyle, Neill Leahy. Second row l to r: Conor O'Hara, Emmet Murphy, Patrick Wall, Hamish Carey, Michael Murphy, Alfie Lanigan, Michael Langton. Front row l to r: Rory Quigley, Charlie McCluskey, Harry Jordan, Codie Owens, Aiden Dowling, Lory Hogan, Shay Fitzgerald.

Second Year



2A - Back row l to r: Harry Donoghue, Danny O'Neill, Seán Kavanagh, Mattie Corr. Fourth row l to r: Seán Gannon, Seán Morrissey, John Brennan, Cathal Cahill, Harry Simpson. Third row: Tomas Grogan, James Tierney, Harry Walsh, Tomás McBride, Oisín Ryan, Cameron Beaton. Second row l to r: Dylan Drennan, Donnchadh Grant, David Walton, Luke Kealy, Adam Staunton, Mamadi Batchilly, Martin Wall. Front row l to r: Dara Donohoe, Conor Griffin, Krystian Bogusz, Aaron McCormack, Billy Heffernan, Sean Rooney, Harry Egan, Andrew Forristal.



2B - Back row l to r: Eoghan O'Connell, Aaron Okwonko, Luka Suric, David Martins Pereira, Seth Lawlor, Noah Wall. Third Row l to r: Charlie Ryan, Daniel Lawlor, Sam Kealy, Max Corrway, Donnachadh Foley, James Butler, Tom Duggan. Second Row l to r: Luke Cummins, Aden Farrell, Oran Aylward, Jack Bolger, Jack McShane, Sam McAviney Jack Donnelly. Front row l to r: Sam Medlar, Lorcan Mahony, Brion Ryan, PJ Byrne, James Slattery, Joshua Malone, Jonathan Kingston, Eoin Ryan.



2C - Back row l to r: Liam Farrell, James Moore, Seán Norton, Andrew Dillon. Third row l to r: Shane Comerford, Chris Hayes, Andrew Brown, Joe Hayes, Brion Walsh, John Keher Paul Millea. Second row: Shane Doyle, Max Edwards, Conor Carroll, AJ Mackey, Patrick McDonald, Lorcan Cummins, Jack Renehan. Front row l to r: Tommy Madigan, Robbie Sheehan, James O'Brien, Tiernan O'Brien, Darragh Cahill, Mikey O'Brien, Oisín Maher, Jamie Hayes.



2D - Back row l to r: Rory Rhatigan, David Holland, Jamie Walsh, Scott O' Shea, Richie Healy. Third row l to r: Paddy Duggan, Sam Cummins, James Lyons, Kennedy Mony Ali, Jamie Holohan, Ethan Russell, Billy Langton. Second row: Jack Leahy, Steve Hoyne, Mikey Dorney, Livenish Mogana Sundram, Shane Rouse, Jack Stapleton, Charlie Vaughan, Jason Tallis. Front row l to r: Matthew Bowe, Paddy McGuire, Paul O' Rourke, Seán Henriques, Dara Barut, Martin Martins, David Brennan, Jim Connolly.



2E - Back row l to r: Philip Lynch, Jacob Mich, Toby Bedron, Tommy Duggan, Sam Kelly, Shane O' Dwyer, Cormac Whelan Foxe, Enda Cunningham. Middle l to r: Ted Healy, Sam Lawlor, Hugh Byrne, Kevin Stanley, Kyrell Mtinsi, Joshua Butler, Gio Fuentes Kavangh, Kye Meany, Conor Hickey. Front row l to r: Ben Ragget, Eddie Murphy, Oran Mkenne, Dan Dunphy, Ray VanRooyen, Henry Shefflin, David Waldron, Nathan McMahon, Charlie Fogarty.

Third Year



3A - Back row l to r: Alex Dooley, John Barton, Paddy Purcell, Ben McEvoy, Aidan Keating, Jake O'Neill. Second row l to r: Matthew Phelan, Cillian O'Neill, Eoin McDermott, Roman Connolly, Jack White, Daniel Hayes, Josh Varley. Third row l to r: Eldon Sheridan, James O'Reilly, Sean Fitzmaurice, Sean Carroll, Dylan Dempsey, Eoin Healy, James Larkin. Front row l to r: Tom Glennon, Noah Power, Cian Dermody, Ben Leahy, Paddy Challoner, Daire Hogan, Robert Brennan.



3B - Back row l to r: Paddy Cuddihy, Tadhg Phelan, Nicky Healy, Jack Rhatigan, Conor Brennan. Fourth row l to r: Oliver Phelan, Jayden Maher, Oisín Barry, David Kolodziej, Jack O'Reilly. Third row l to r: James Reddy, CJ Brennan, Dan Rohan, Isaac Okorafor, Cillian Dunphy, Oisín Drennan. Second row l to r: Conor Marry, Alex Rochford, Conor Coone, James Ryan, Sean Grace, Cian Stapleton. Front row l to r: Ryan Minogue Lee, Tom Doheny, Dara O'Neill, Patrick Murphy, Charlie Gleeson, Fionn Blanchfield.



3C - Back row l to r: Ben Nevin, Cillian McElwee, Will O'Dwyer, Michael Tynan, Paul Kirwan. Third row l to r: Tom Challoner, Sean Grace, Felix Fwamba, Dan Carroll, Alyn Hearne, Rian O'Hare, Tommy Doyle. Second row l to r: Andrew Holohan, Rory Glynn, Jonathan Kennedy, Owen McCormack, Darragh Roche, Sean Curran, Ciabhan Maher. Front row l to r: Cian O'Connor, Richard Forristal, Cillian Maher, Conall Doyle, Cormac Neary, Tomas Carroll, Sean O'Mahoney, Harry McEvoy.



3D - Back row l to r: Kieran Bergin, Michael Barron, Theo Drennan, Antoni Pawlowski, Hugh Healy. Third row l to r: Aidan O'Connell, Michael O'Neill Maher, Matthew Duggan, Ori Phelan, Gearoid O'Shea, Ruairi Power, Ruairi Hanrahan, Jayden Ryan. Second row l to r: Sean McBride, Eoin O'Gorman, Augustas Milasius, Paddy Grace, Ned Spelman, Alex Canavan, Adam Butler, Mark O'Neill. Front row l to r: Andrew Lawless, Cormac Monahan, Robert Butler, Jack Mulcahy, Ben Fahey, Chris Phelan, Harry Bay, Alex O'Donoghue.

Transition Year



TYA - Back row l to r: Ronan O'Mahony, Eoghan Cahill, Jack Dooley, Conor Gibbons, Charlie Carrol, Lars Londono Stenskar. Third row l to r: Tom Gladney, Timmy Corr, Dean Herbert, Diarnuid behan, Kieran Carter, Conor Dillon, Mark Doheny. Second row l to r: Cillian Bowe, Tadgh Byrne, Evan Davy, Ronan Hanrahan, Nevin Benny, Andrew Comeford. Front row l to r: Joseph Langton, Cormac Holden, Ben Drennan, Oisin Farrell, Luke Browne, Mj Banville.



TYB - Back row l to r: David Barcoe, Killian Ryan, Bill McDermott, Jaime Fernandes Sanchez, Conor Heffernan. Third row l to r: Charlie Greene, Daniel Ryan, Conor Aylward, Jack Walsh, Owen Shine, Eoin Ryan. Second row l to r: Fionn Mahony, Cian Doherty, Scott Hennessy, Stephan Walsh, Rian Shefflin, Harry Burke, Cian Holohan White. Front row l to r: Brian Hickey, Ciaran Hickey, Inigo Khunel, TJ Comerford, Ciaran Power, Cody O'Neil, Liam O Gorman.



TYC - Back row l to r: Hugh Whelan, Louis Lawlor, James Holohan, David Travers, Eoghan Phelan, Liam O'Dwyer. Third row l to r: Rob McEvoy, James O'Meara, Conor Millea, Conor Mcevoy, Cathal Russell, Kieran Timmins, Cormac Leahy. Second row l to r: Robbie Lynch, James Wallace, Cian Walsh, Cathal Rossiter, Sam Mackey, Euan Wall, Joe Power, Daniel Smith. Front row l to r: James O'Brien, Daniel MacEneaney, Daniel Patterson, Cormac Dowling, Liam Keogh, Eoin Walpole, Daniel Tallis, Rory Moore.



TYD - Back row l to r: Louis Ragget, Luke Lawlor, Joseph Butler, Paddy Savage, Mark Dalton. Third row l to r: Tom Boyle, Lewis Kennealy, Cathal O'Dwyer, Tiarnan Shefflin, Matthew Cahil, Ciaran Coone. Second row l to r: Conor Dowling, Jan Cuatrecasas, Harry Conroy, James Murphy, Elijah Lynch, Tom Murphy, Tadhg Bergin, James Walshe. Front row l to r: Tommy Walsh, Liam Ireland Wall, Cayden Byrne, Rickard Burke, Cormac Meegan, Michael O'Shea, Ivin Sony.

Fifth Year



Back row 1 to 12: Finn Conway, Thomas O'Shea, Noah Walsh Brennan, Tim Brennan, John Fitzpatrick, Jack Holden, Rourke Sweeny, Liam Carrigan. Middle row 1 to 12: Páidí Egan, Alex O'Farrell, Frank McCluskey, Philip O'Mahony, Ruairí Phelan, Camron Macfarlane, Daniel Murphy, Jack Holohan. Front row 1 to 12: Nicky Ryan, Christopher Delaney, James Conway, Bill O'Shea, Joe Connelly, Conor Murphy, Conor Dalton, Mark Reddy.



Back row 1 to 12: Eoin Dalton, Oisín Marry, Sam Hayes, Darragh Doyle, Michael Kenneally, Jack McCormack. Middle row 1 to 12: Johnny Leahy, Patrick Bergin, Matthew Rowe, Dillon Cummins, Rafal Palczynski, Ruairí Walsh, Seán Shefflin. Front row 1 to 12: Jude Delaney, Ruairí Murphy, Daniel Carey, Noah Manogue, Eoghan O'Brien, Shane Walsh, David Moore.



Back row 1 to 12: Jack Dooley, David Langton, Drew O'Keeffe, Bill Hayes, Odhrán O'Keeffe, John Bergin. Middle row 1 to 12: Ruairí McEvoy, Jim Conlon, Daniel Gargan, Conor Brophy, Conor Farrell, Dawid Palczynski. Front row 1 to 12: Ross Gormley, Jake Byrne, Seamus Murphy, Cian Byrne, David Kenyi, Robert Wallace, Odhrán Moore.



Back row l to r: Christopher Ging , Pierce Costello, Tadgh Ahern, James Cody, Harry Cody, Ed Lauhoff. Middle row l to r: Seán Deely, Eimhin O'Hare, Dylan Muldowney, Seán Moloney, Michael Rohan, Cian Phelan. Front row l to r: David Sheppard, Hugh Hennessy, Michael Lynch, Allen Corr Larkin, Briain Wilson, Liam Doyle.



Back row l to r: Jake Byrne, Marc Bergin, Thomas Walsh, Darragh Coverdale, Daniel Devereux, Enda Kavanagh, Louis Fitzgerald. Middle row l to r: Sean Quigley, Patrick Kerwick, Seán Rossiter, William Nugent, Luke Gamble, Stephen Butler. Front row l to r: James O'Neill, David Ring, Jack Hennessy, Quinn O'Neil, Daniel Tallis, Harry Madigan, Daniel McDonald.

Sixth Year



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



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



Back row l to r: Killian Tallon, Joe Greene, Joseph McInerney, Robert Murphy, Edward Whelan, Tom Cleere. Middle row l to r: Joseph Hughes, Richard Nolan, Paul Mahon, John Hayes, Stephen Power Kellett, David Hogan, Cathal Hickey. Front row l to r: Rory Smithwick, Brian Murphy, Cian O'Reilly, Conor Doyle, Joshua Owens, Rory Glynn, James O'Connor. Absent from photo: Cormac Burke.



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



Back row l to r: Charlie Cleere, Dayo Kingston, James J Comerford, Aaron Doyle, Aidan Ryan, David Butler. Third row l to r: Kealan Gray, Mark McPhillips, James Hughes, Dean O'Brien, Killian Butler, Edward Langton. Second row l to r: Aaron McEvoy, Aaron Dowling, James Brennan, Joseph Prendergast, Joshua Tallis, Calum Meagher, Conor Gamble, Fred Odano. Front row l to r: Sam O'Shea, Charlie Fitzgerald, Diarmuid Langton, Adam Coyne, Ben Crowe, Jacob Cassin, Jack Murphy. Absent from photo: John Dermody, Finn Drennan, Andy Murphy.



Back row l to r: Thomas Brennan, Darragh Lawlor, Ronan O'Brien, Edward McDermott, John Davis, Ciallin Brennan, Brian Gladney. Middle row l to r: Luke Hanrahan, Sean Carrigan, David Fitzpatrick, James Brennan Smyth, Tom McPhillips, Oisín Bateman, Stephen Manogue. Front row l to r: Mark Fitzpatrick, Darragh Treacy, Jack Johnson, Colm Fitzgerald, Niall Farrell, Aaron Russel, Sean Counihan, Harry Lanigan. Absent from photo: Ben Cummins, Lee Greene, Liam Holohan, Ben Little, Warren McGuinness, Jake Stanley Dunphy.

Sports Day





Badminton

By Nevin Benny

This year in badminton we got as far as the division 2 all-Ireland finals and I feel like it was one of the greatest experiences, playing very close to the highest level of badminton in my age group. Once we qualified for the leinster's we got very excited as it is the first time that we qualified from our region to the leinster finals. On the day of the leinster's the atmosphere was filled with tension and we felt how serious it had become but as the day went on we felt more comfortable and played better and better, through many hard matches we came first and qualified for the all-Irelands. We burst out in joy. Before the all-Ireland we had a few training days and were able to become a better team.

On the day of the final, we had to wake up early in the morning to get to Gormanstown and the drive up was calm but you could feel the tension and nervousness, once we arrived it became very real and we had to try our best to win. These matches were much harder but we were still able to win most of them but then the final match became a draw 3-3 and it came to point difference to which the opposing team won and we came second place.

Even though we were disappointed with the result, seeing where we came from and how we managed to come this far we were still delighted in the result. Now our next goal is to get there next year, hopefully.



Basketball

This has been a fantastic year for basketball in St Kieran's College, our success is not be measured in the amount of Trophies and medals rather in participation levels, improvement in knowledge and skills of the game and most importantly how much fun was had.

The year started quickly for our Senior Basketball team who had very little time to prepare for our opening game of the season, recording a very hard fought victory over Tyndall College in early September. Next up for the senior team was blitz day in O'Loughlans where they lost to a very strong Castlecomer Community School and got the better of Carlow CBS in a close game. The senior team finished their season with their best performance but unluckily they lost in overtime to Callan.

Unfortunately our Junior team did not have much success this season but they kept turning up to training and showed massive improvement with every game they played, never giving up.

In early December trials for the 1st and 2nd year basketball squads began with over 50 students turned up to the gym at lunchtime every Thursday to try out.

After a lot of close calls both squads were picked and the season began in early January with narrow away defeats to Tyndall College for both teams. It was extremely beneficial learning experience for 1st year team considering it was their first ever game of basketball.

After this both teams went from strength to strength defeating Callan and Castlecomer Community School but unfortunately both teams came up just short against two very strong Carlow CBS teams.

Both teams entered into the south east plate competition where they went on a four game winning streak to reach the 1st and 2nd year finals. The 2nd year's beat Tyndall College in the semi finals on a scoreline of 41 - 22 to avenge their opening game of the season loss.

In the final our 2nd year's produced their most impressive performance of the season to beat ERSS of Carrick En



1st Year - Back row l to r: Aiden Murphy, Jack Ryan, Jack O'Grady, Emmet Murphy, Harry Canavan, Jack White, Jack Ryan. Front row l to r: Conor O'Hara, Fionn Barry, Owen Flanagan, Shane Hogan, Leon Purcell, Cormac Phelan, Padraig Dolan, Finlay Beaton



2nd Year - Back row l to r: Noah Wall, Eoghan O'Connell, Aaron Okonkwo, Mark O'Connell, Owen Walsh, Jovanhy (Gio) Kavanagh, Jacob Mich, Ky Meany. Front row l to r: Conor Hickey, PJ Byrne, Harry Walsh, Cameron Beaton, Paddy Mc Guire, Kevin Stanly, Sam Cummins, Patrick McDonald.



Junior Squad - Back row l to r: Theo Drennan, Tom Doheny, Harry Bourke. Front row l to r: Joseph Langton, Ben Fahey, Conor Marry, Augustats Milasius.



Senior Squad - Back row l to r: Louis Lawlor, David Butler, Joseph McInerney, Tom Walsh. Front row l to r: Bill Coogan, Jack McCormack, Conor Gibbons.

Suir 44 - 11. With Kyrell Mtinsi claiming the final MVP award.

Unfortunately the 1st years came up just short in their final to a very strong St.Pauls Community College, Waterford team. They never gave up to the final whistle but it was just not their day.

This year's success would not have been possible without our coaches Mr Brennan and Xabi, Mrs McQuaid who put in a lot of work behind the scenes organising venues, referees and buses, lastly the support of the management of the school.

A special mention to all the TY students and senior players who supervised 1st year students walking over to and back from O'Loughlin Gaels and doing the desk for games. Thank you.



Joseph McInerney

Chess

Our chess club has gone from strength to strength this year. We formally meet every Tuesday lunch time in the study hall to compete against each other and develop our skills.

We also participated in a number of friendly tournaments with Kilkenny College and Loreto Kilkenny. These tournaments were great fun and a fantastic way for all students to show off their skills.

We look forward to our final tournaments this year and to developing our club even more next year.



Christmas tournament with Loreto Kilkenny.



John Keher, Halloween League Competition Winner



Chess Club

Cycle Champions

By Conor Gibbons

Cycle champions is an initiative in which twenty four Transition Year students from St Kieran's College and Loreto Kilkenny went to primary schools on a weekly basis to help younger children get exposure to cycling and learn the basic skills of cycling.

We started Cycle Champions in November, with a training day from Caitríona Corr from Kilkenny County Council, where we learned about different games and activities we could do with the students to improve their skills. We also found out about how to teach younger students, as well how to pass on the benefits of cycling on a daily basis.

We were then divided into groups of four and given two hour time slots to go to Presentation

Primary, St Patricks De La Salle, Mother of Fair Love and St John's Junior School. Then with the help of coaches Roisín Hickey and Charlie Parsons, we went to the different schools mentioned over the course of the year to put our training and teaching skills into action.

Overall it was a very successful and beneficial experience for us Transition Year students. We learned a lot and we also saw a big improvement in the primary school students' skills, abilities and interest in cycling. Hopefully this will encourage them to cycle more in the future.



Pitch and Putt

Well done to Jack McShane, Conor O'Carroll and Aidan O'Connell who finished 5th in the All-Ireland qualifier series recently and who now go on to represent St Kieran's at the All-Ireland Schools Final on May 17th.

Well done also to Charlie Ryan, Aden Farrell and Donnacha Foley who also played on the day and who narrowly missed out on a spot in the All-Ireland Final.



L to r: Charlie Ryan, Conor Carroll, Jack McShane, Donnacha Foley, Aden Farrell, Aidan O'Connell.

Cross Country

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

The annual Michael Brannigan Memorial was held for First Years on Friday, November 10th.

Healthy pre-match rivalry was clearly evident for the inter-class competition. The winner was Ben Fitzgerald with Darragh Carroll and Hugo Carroll coming second and third respectively. 1A were victorious for the team prize.

Dublin City University (DCU) held an invitational cross country event on January 17th. This was the first day out for our athletes and it gave them a great opportunity to represent the school. Our minors were victorious on the day and they were crowned All Ireland Champions. Ben Fitzgerald came home 4th in the race and was closely followed by his team mates. Ruairi McEvoy ran an impressive race finishing 3rd in the senior competition.

The South Leinster School Cross Country Championship was held in Carlow GAA Pitches on Tuesday, January 30th. St Kieran's had eight teams competing on the day. Four teams took home medals – one from each category qualified for the Leinsters. Gearoid Farrell came 4th in the minors. He was supported by Padraig Dolan, Tommy Butler and Tom Butler in 16th,

18th and 19th respectively. The minors took home silver on the day.

Kyrell Mtinsi holds the title for South Leinster Junior Champion. Kyrell last year was the South Leinster Minor Champion. Paul Millea and Max Edwards had an impressive finish in 5th and 7th position respectively in the juniors. The junior team narrowly missed out on gold by just two points to Patrician College. However, the result allowed the boys to comfortably qualify for the Leinsters.

Conor Carroll finished 10th in the intermediate race. Eoin Walpole, Ryan Minogue Lee and Cathal Rossiter came in 19th, 27th and 34th respectively. This



Minor boys - back l to r: Darragh Carroll, Padraig Dolan, Gerard Delaney, Hugo Carroll, Adam Cullen, Henry Phelan, Tom Butler, Gearoid Farrell. Front l to r: Adam Phelan, Tommy Butler, Charlie Mc Cluskey, Cathal Malone.



Junior boys - back l to r: James Lyons, Max Edwards, Sean Corcoran, Kyrell Mtinsi, Jack Renehan, Shane O'Dwyer, Paul Millea. Front l to r: Sam Mcaviney, Tadhg Kennedy, Liam Corcoran, Micheal O'Keeffe, Oisin Maher.



Inter boys - back l to r: Cathal Rossiter, Danny Gargan, Cormac Holden, Eoin Walpole, Joe Hayes, Tom Doheny, Ryan Miongue-Lee. Front l to r: Conor Carroll, Jonathan Kennedy, Cillian Maher, Oliver Phelan.



Senior team - back l to r: Louis Fitzgerald, Drew O'Keeffe, Ruairi Phelan, Dylan Muldowney, Aidan Cashin, Paul Mahon, Jack Holohan, Sean Moloney. Front l to r: Ruairi McEvoy, Seán Rossiter, Mathew McAviney, Oisin Marry.



allowed our intermediates to qualify and they received bronze on the day. In the senior race, Ruairi McEvoy finished a healthy 2nd followed home by Sean Rossiter, Matthew McAviney and Oisín Marry in 15th, 25th and 30th position respectively. The boys received silver and go ahead to the Leinsters.

The four Kieran's teams qualified for the Leinster Championship on February 7th in Phoenix Park, which was a departure from the usual venue of Santry in Dublin. With the Papal Cross in the background the juniors

had a solid performance and received bronze medals on the day. Kyrell Mtinsi had a superb run – finishing 2nd on this occasion. Gearoid Farrell finished 13th in the minor race and Ruairi McEvoy finished 10th in the senior race. The top 15 make it through to the All Irelands in March as individual runners. Unfortunately, the minor, intermediate and senior teams did not qualify.

The All Ireland in Tymon Park, Tallaght on March 9th saw our juniors, Gearoid Farrell and Ruairi McEvoy line out in the black and white hoops. The

day threw everything at us weather wise and unfortunately Kyrell was injured for the race. In this prestigious race, our junior lads gave it everything in wet rough terrain and finished in a respectful 5th position.

Ruairi McEvoy ran a fantastic race finishing 12th, which is remarkable considering that Ruairi has another year to run senior. Gearoid Farrell had a mighty race finishing 32nd. All our runners have left a mark for more achievements next year.



The wonderful sight of teachers and students returning from their lunchtime run.

MICHAEL BRANNIGAN MEMORIAL MILE RUN



1st Year students Ben Fitzgerald (Gold) Darragh Carroll (Silver) and Hugo Carroll (Bronze) in The Michael Brannigan First Year Memorial Mile Run with Mr Adrian Finan.



Mr Patrick Darmody with Ben Fitzgerald, winner of the Michael Brannigan Memorial Mile Run.



First Year students at the start of the Michael Brannigan Memorial Mile Run.

Golf

JUNIOR GOLF

On the 11 th of October the Junior team travelled up to Carlow Golf club to participate in the Leinster Schools Junior Golf competition. Unfortunately, due to unsavoury weather, the competition was cancelled during play and was rescheduled for the 23 rd of October in Royal Curragh Golf Club. We enjoyed playing the course, which was in great condition, but unfortunately, none of the teams qualified for the next round. The teams consisted of Eoin McDermott, Tomas Carroll, Conor Carroll, Sean Norton, Rory Quigley, Tom Glennon, Timmy Corr, Adam Phelan and Ronan O Mahony. We all really enjoyed our day out and are looking forward to competing again for St Kieran's College next year. We would like to thank Mr McCormack for organising the teams and for coming to support us during our rounds.



SENIOR GOLF

On the 2nd of October, the senior golf teams set off to the Royal Curragh Golf Club to compete in the senior schools competition. Two teams comprising of Tom Glennon, Daniel Patterson and Hugh Kelly on one team with Ben Drennan, Thomas Langton and Charlie Bibby, on the other, participated in the event. It was a great competition with the course in excellent condition for that time of year. Though we competed well, both teams were unlucky not to qualify for the next round. We really enjoyed our day and would like to thank Golf Ireland for hosting the event and Mr McCormack for organising the teams and coming to support us on the day.



Handball



Handball Leinster Champions: Hugh and Nicky Healy (U15), Lory Hogan & Tadhg Kennedy (1st Yr) who won Leinster 40x20 Leinster Doubles Finals.



6th year Conor Doyle who all won 60x30 Leinster Handball titles in October.



6th years John Hayes, Cathal Buckley, who all won 60x30 Leinster Handball titles in October.



1st years Tadhg Kennedy and Lory Hogan who all won 60x30 Leinster Handball titles in Garryhill last Oct. Well done also to Darragh McCormack who got to the Leinster final that day.



5th year pupil Noah Manogue - O'Neills 2024 4-Wall Boys Minor Singles All-Ireland Champion. Well done Noah on a fantastic achievement.



Hugh and Nicky Healy who won U-15 at Leinster 40x20 handball finals this year.



Fionn Mahony and Cian Doherty who reached their respective Leinster finals this year also.



First Year Darragh McCormack, Leinster Final Runner-up

Swimming

Paddy Cuddihy (3rd Year)

St Kieran's college swim team is made up of Sam Mcaviney, Sam Kealy, Conor Carrol (2nd year) Paddy Cuddihy, Dan Rohan(3rd year) and Matthew Mcaviney (5th year). At the Leinster school championship St Kieran's was very successful with the intermediate team winning silver medals in the 4x50 freestyle relay and in the 4x50 medley relay.

The freestyle relay team was Paddy Cuddihy, Dan Rohan, Sam Mcaviney and Conor Carroll. The medley relay was Paddy Cuddihy, Dan Rohan, Sam Kealy and Conor Carroll. Also the school leinster competition Paddy Cuddihy won silver in the 100 metre backstroke and gold in the 100 metre freestyle which got him a place on the leinster team for the Irish interprovincial championships.

The St Kieran's intermediate team also won a silver medal at the senior school all Irelands in the 4x50 freestyle relay with a team of Paddy Cuddihy, Dan Rohan, Sam Kealy and Sam Mcaviney.

Overall a very successful year for the St Kieran's swim team.



Leinster Freestyle Relay Dan Rohan, Conor Carroll, Sam McAviney, Paddy Cuddihy.



Leinster IM and Nationals Freestyle Relay Team Dan Rohan, Sam Kealy, Conor Carroll, Sam McAviney, Paddy Cuddihy.



Individual Achievements

ATHLETICS - NOAH GILMORE-WILLIAM NUGENT



6th Year student Noah Gilmore and 5th Year student William Nugent who were both part of the U20 Men's Relay team who won Gold for Kilkenny City Harriers in the Irish Athletics National Indoor 4x200m Relay last January in Athlone - Massive achievement lads - well done!

KARTING

Aaron Coogan (6th Year) who had a 3rd place podium finish representing Ireland in the T4 Nations Cup in Valencia last September. Well done to Bráin Wilson and Aaron Doyle who also represented Ireland at this event.



RALLYING - DAVID TRAVERS



TY student David Travers who recently won the J1000 class in the south east stages of the Rally Championships. This is a championship for 14-18 year olds who must compete with a 1 litre car.

PITCH AND PUTT - JACK MCSHANE

Well done to Jack McShane who won the All-Ireland U-16 Pitch & Putt stroke play Championship at Seapoint, Co Louth this year. Well done also to 3rd year Tomas Carroll who was part of the Kilkenny Team along with Jack who finished 2nd in the All Ireland County Championship.



BOXING



1st year Jack Cantwell Boy 2 48Kg Irish Champion



3rd Year Michael O'Neill Maher who won the 63kg, at the Wexford Box Cup Championship's 2023.



3rd year student Cian Stapleton who was victorious in Wexford over the November winning the Wexford International Box Cup Youth 2 60kg.



6th year student Jack Johnson who was victorious in Wexford last November winning the Wexford International Box Cup Youth 2 60kg.



6th Year Jack Johnson winning.

Well done to 6th year student Jack Johnson who has claimed the U-18 60kgs Champion of Ireland 2024 title. Jack has also represented Ireland at the European Boxing Championships this year.

Soccer

FIRST YEAR

By Harry Jordan, Micheál Beagan and Tommy Hayes

In our first match in the cup, we played Skerries up in Dublin and won 3-2, coming back from 2-1 down to beat them. Dan O'Brien James Parsons got a great goal to win it. We got a bye in the next round before beating Templeogue College 2-0 again up in Dublin, Seán Corcoran scoring twice. In the Leinster Cup Quarter Final, we beat Coláiste Cill Mhantáin, Wicklow Town despite missing lots of players. We fought hard and won the game 2-1, Jack Ryan and James Parsons scoring. We played Greystones recently in the Leinster Semi-Final and we came up against a very good team. We fought hard but lost 3-1 unfortunately.

In the Carlow/Kilkenny League, we did really well. Our first game was against Tyndall college in the league and we won 6-0. We also beat Kilkenny CBS 6-0 and Tullow 3-1. In the final we played a derby day against Kilkenny CBS again and we won 5-0, a very good win. Amongst the scorers in the games were Liam and Seán Corcoran, Canice Power, Dan O'Brien, Simon Kolodziej, Sam Norton, Ben Fitzgerald and Charlie Teehan. After winning the Carlow/Kilkenny League, we moved onto the Leinster Champions League semi-final where we played Coláiste Choilm, Tullamore. We had a great game and won 2-1 after extra time with Tommy



Back row l to r: Tadhg Kennedy, Charlie Teehan, Tadhg Leahy, Canice Power, Mikey Phelan, Sam Norton
Middle row l to r: Mr Ronan Lynch, Liam Corcoran, Jack Ryan, Micheal Beagan, Harry Canavan, Seán Corcoran, Tom Butler, Mr Micheál Murphy. Front row l to r: Calum Owens, David Blanchfield, Simon Kolodziej, Dan O'Brien, Tommy Hayes, Ben Fitzgerald, James Parsons. Missing from photo: Harry Jordan.

Hayes scoring the winner in the last few minutes of extra time. We recently played Dundalk in the semi-final but we were unlucky, missing a few players and we lost 2-1.

Overall, we had a very successful year, winning the Carlow/Kilkenny League and getting to two provincial semi-finals.

U-15 SOCCER

by Ruairi Power

The year began with trials for more than 60 boys on the soccer field in St Kieran's in early October. From this, a panel of 20 was picked to represent the school in the cup and league competitions. The first game of the season was a cup

game away to St Mark's in Tallaght. Goals were plentiful with the game finishing 6-6 after full time so it went to extra time and with 5 minutes left in extra time we were 8-7 down until Jack Mulcahy scored an amazing goal late on to bring it to penalties. Penalties were just as close where we lost 5-4 but after getting knocked out all focus turned to the league.

The league began with a game against Kilkenny CBS in the Fairgreen. We won this game 1-0 with a late goal scored by Aaron McCormack. We were then awarded a bye in the second round of the league which meant we had qualified for the semi-final against Tyndall College. The final score was 7-1 with Jack Mulcahy being the stand out player scoring 6 out of the 7 goals. This



brought us into the final where we met our rivals Kilkenny CBS for the second time in the year. We went 1-0 ahead with Jack scoring again. We couldn't keep the lead unfortunately as CBS got an equaliser which brought it to extra time and then penalties which they won 5-4 where our season came to an end.

Overall it was an enjoyable season. Thanks to Mr Delaney and Mr Byrne for managing us throughout the year.

U17 SOCCER

By Kieran Timmins

The year started with Mr O'Sullivan and Ms Brennan holding trials during lunchtime to pick a team. They managed to pick a strong squad from a huge number of lads, getting us ready for the year ahead. We started the year in the All Ireland shield competition, our first match against Creagh College, Gorey. We ran out 5-2 winners in the end, with good performances all around. Next we faced Pres Bray, who travelled down to the Watershed and left disappointed as we won 6-3, after goals from Tony Butler and myself. Now we were due to play St Joseph's. After a tight first half and some brilliant defending from Conor McEvoy and Louis Raggett, we eventually finished the game 4-2, qualifying us for the quarter final against Kildare Town after the Easter break. We were on a high after our last victory but unfortunately, we lost the game 1-0 in extra time, after being quite unlucky in front of goal on the day. As a team we all really enjoyed the year and were disappointed it ended the way in defeat. Huge thanks to Mr O'Sullivan and Ms Brennan for taking their time to coach us this year.



U15 Soccer - back row l to r: Shane Byrne, Felix Fwamba, Paddy Purcell, Sean Kavanagh, Scott O'Shea, Danny O'Neill, Sean Norton, Conor Delaney. Middle row l to r: Paddy Grace, Charlie Kavanagh, Jayden Maher, Jack Mulcahy, Brion Walsh, Ruairi Power. Front row l to r: David Walton, Noah Power, Aaron McCormack, Max Edwards, Tiernan O'Brien, Harry Egan, Ben Fahey. Missing from photo: Chris Hayes.



U17 Soccer - Back row l to r: Gearoid O'Shea, Kieran Timmins, Pierce Costelloe, Fionn Mahony, Louis Raggett. Middle row l to r: Mr Peter O'Sullivan, Hugh Kelly, Dean Herbert, Dara Behan, Timmy Corr, Sam Mackey, Ms Jennie Brennan. Front row l to r: Conor McEvoy, Paddy Grace, Thomas Langton, Jayden Maher, Tony Butler, Daniel Tallis, Joe Power.



Our U17 and U19 soccer teams visiting the Aviva Stadium for the Republic of Ireland's European Qualifiers v Greece last October.



U19 Soccer -Back row l to r: Darragh Doyle, Sean casey, Joseph McInerney, Mark McPhillips, David Fitzpatrick, Noah Walsh Brennan. Middle row l to r: Aidan Cashin, Michael Keating, Noah Gilmore, Charlie Grace, Noah Manogue, James Brennan Smyth, Charlie Bibby. Front row l to r: Charlie Fitzgerald, Jacob Cassin, Eoin O'Connor, Harry Cody, Adam Coyne, Stephen Power Kellett, Jack McCormack.

Football



First Year Football Team following challenge match between CBS Primary.



Second Year Football - Back row l to r: Philip Lynch, Jamie Walsh, James Moore, Mattie Corr, Sean Kavanagh, Scott o'Shea, Sean Morrissey. Third row l to r: Mr R. Windle, Ted Healy, Danny O'Neill, Sean Norton, Lorcan Cummins, Enda Cunningham, Sam Kelly, Mr S. Morgan. Second row l to r: Harry Donoghue, Charlie Ryan, Rory Rhatigan, Charlie Kavanagh, Dylan Brennan, Paul Millea, Max Edwards. Front row l to r: Joe Nolan, Jack Stapelton, Conor Carroll, Jack Bolger, Kyrell, Mtinsi Jack Donnelly.



Second Year Football



Second Year Football v St Peter's

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Brían Hickey

We started the new season with our first match of the league against Enniscorthy in Kieran's.

We went into the game with a new team who had only had a few trainings together before the first match. We started the game off quick with some early goals and kept this up for the rest of the match with Enniscorthy never really coming close. We won the match 8:09 - 2:04.

Our second game came around fast, the week after this game was away in Portarlinton. We knew this would be a very challenging match and we were right as this was a tight match from minute one with big tackles going in and a lot of early goal chances.

Unfortunately we missed a lot of these goal chances. This would come back to haunt us at the end of the game as we narrowly lost the game by only 1 point with the final score being 0:13 - 2:06.

This meant we finished second in our group meaning we would have to play a quarter final at home in Kieran's against Wexford cbs. We had a lot of setbacks before the game due to injuries and players missing due to a match the next day.

Thankfully this didn't affect us as the lads that came in their place played exceptionally well. In the first ten minutes we were all over wexford cbs it seemed as though they had no answer to us we were well on top and up by 7 at half time. The second half did not go to plan with wexford cbs really upping their game and due to two well taken goals there were only 2 points in it

with five minutes to go, thankfully we held on for the win with some great defending to finish the game. Winning the game 4:05-2:09.

Our next game would be a south leinster semi final away in gorey. This was a replay of the semi final the year before where they narrowly beat us by scoring a last minute goal to beat us by 1. This meant we were really up for the game this year we had most of our players back and we're ready to go. It was a very tight game however they were scoring a lot easier than us and were 6 points up at half time. They started the second half very strong with some well taken scores to go up by 11 however we began coming back and got their lead down to 6 unfortunately this just wasn't enough as we lost 1:12-0:09. This put an end to a brilliant season.



Junior Football - Back row l to r: Hugh Whelan, David Barcoe, Conor Aylward, David Travers, Mikey Barron, Felix Fwamba, Jack Rhatigan, Ben Nevin, Louis Raggett. Third row l to r: Kieran Timmins, Diarmuid Behan, Timmy Corr, Daniel Smith, Ben McEvoy, Rory Glynn, Ruairi Power, Dan Carroll, Paul Kirwan. Second row l to r: Mr. Paul Fitzgerald, Fionn Mahony, Cathal Rossiter, Briain Hickey, Joe Power, Daniel Patterson, Roman Connolly, CJ Brennan, Jonathan Kennedy, Mr Evan Walsh. Front row l to r: Ciaran Power, Hugh Kelly (Captain), Jake Mullen, Conor McEvoy, Ciaran Hickey, Eoin Walpole, Cian Dermody, Joe Langton, Ryan Minogue-Lee, Cormac Neary, Tadhg Phelan.

First Year Blitz



Gort Super 9s



Captain Killian Ryan



Player of the Tournament, Jake Mullen



Gort Super 9s Champions 2023

Ben Nevin

Last May St Kieran's College were invited to play in the All Ireland 9 a-side hurling tournament the 'Gort Super 9s'. We got on the bus early that morning on a lovely sunny day and arrived in Gort GAA a few hours later ready to play our group games.

There were eight groups with four teams in each group. We played Ardscoil Rís Limerick, St Bridget's Loughrea and Cashel in our group games. We won all of those games and were now through to the quarter final against the hosts, Gort. The full time score was 3-03 to 0-03. Our semi final was played on the main pitch against St Flannan's from Clare. Our strength in depth came through as when other teams were tiring from being in the sun all day we knew we had a good bench to call upon when needed.

This match ended in us winning very comfortably with a score line

of 4-04 to 0-01. After our game we watched the other semi final between De La Salle and St Joseph's from Tulla under the cover of the stand. De la salle won easily by 20 points.

Going into the final we knew we were about to face our toughest challenge yet. Everyone was nervous before the throw-in but after our team talk from Mr O'Sullivan and Mr Moylan we were ready to go.

Before the game the teams lined out, we got to meet the President of the GAA Mr Larry McCarthy before the national anthem was sung.

De La Salle were a great team and came very close to beating us if it wasn't for goals scored by Jake Mullen, Conor Holahan and Rob McEvoy and a great penalty save from Patrick Murphy. The full time score was 3-08 to 2-05. Everybody was delighted to have won the tournament after a great day of hurling.



St Kieran's College Senior Hurling Team in UPMC Nowlan Park, following their Leinster Hurling Final victory.

The Harry Byrne Memorial Tournament 13th October 2023



Winning Team with Eoin Cody and Mr Conor Delaney



Harry's parents Annette and Fergal Byrne present Sean Norton with the Cup



Harry Byrne Memorial Cup



Hurling

FIRST YEAR HURLING EXPERIENCE

by Lory Hogan

When I joined St Kieran's college I was really looking forward to hurling with players from all over Kilkenny.

We played our class leagues at lunch time in September and October. Each class had to play each other and the 2 classes with highest points at the end played in the final. It was a great experience and we got to know our classmates a lot better.

After this we all played in a blitz against Kilkenny CBS and the Good Counsel College. It was a very enjoyable morning and everyone got to play.

Trials began then for the 1st year hurling team and a panel was announced after Christmas. We trained and went to the Gym a few times a week before we started playing challenge matches. We had matches against the Ard Scoil Ris and Midleton CBS.

In the Larry Doyle cup we had Kilkenny CBS and Good Counsel in our group. We won both games and topped our group. In the semi final we travelled to Tullamore to play Coláiste Choilm and won so we are training hard and looking forward to the final.

It has been a very enjoyable experience hurling this year and I have learned a lot from it and made some good friends. Thanks to Mr D McCormack and T Brennan for all their help, support and encouragement during the year and to Mr E Walsh for the S&C training.

SECOND YEAR HURLING

Second year hurling started out with a trial game against Ard Scoil Ris in December. Trials ran throughout the month but over 100 students looked to be part of the panel for the year. There was no league for 2nd years as the championship was played as a round robin series of games ensuring we had to be at our best from the first game played in late January.

We had wins against St Brendan's, Birr, Kilkenny CBS and Good Counsel and a draw with Enniscorthy CBS in games that were played in extremely



First Year Hurling - Back row l-r: Tadhg Leahy, Conor Egan, Henry Phelan, Tadhg Kennedy, Canice Power, Liam Treacy. 3rd row l-r: Charlie Teehan, Sam Norton, Sea Corcoran, Jack Dermody, Liam Corcoran, Hamish Carey, Mitchell Houston, Billy Ronan, Hugo Carroll, Micheal Beagan. 2nd row l-r: Cian Quinlan, Paddy McCarthy, Ben Fitzgerald, David Blanchfield, Ciaran Gibbons, Daniel McCullagh, Niall Cody, Adam Phelan, Robbie Lodge, Eoin Philpott, Harry Thomas. Front row l-r: Fionn Doyle, Darragh Carroll, Micheal Fitzgerald, Tom Lawler, Oisín Fogarty, Lory Hogan, Jake Greene, Tom Butler, David Timmins, Dan O'Brien, MJ Buggy.

difficult conditions with the weather playing a major factor in all games. We won back the Dr Barry Cup in a thrilling final against Good Counsel when a last minute score secured a one point victory.

This was a repeat of last year's 1st year final and it is clear we will have

many great battles ahead with this very tough Good Counsel side.

We are very grateful to Mr Farrell, Mr Ryan and Mr Blanchfield for their time and commitments throughout the year. It was an extremely enjoyable year and it has brought us great pride in wearing the black and white jersey.



Leinster Champions 2023-24 - Back row l to r: Harry Donoghue, Ted Healy, Danny O'Neil, Jamie Walsh, James Moore, Rory Rhatigan, Sean Kavanagh, Philip Lynch. Third row l to r: Mr Lester Ryan, Sean Morrissey, Charlie Ryan, Brion Walsh, Sean Norton, Lorcan Cummins, Mattie Corr, Liam Farrell, Mr David Blanchfield. Second row l to r: Jack Bolger, Donnchadh Grant, Jack Stapleton, Charlie Kavanagh, Max Edwards, David Walton, Sam Kelly. Front row l to r: Conor Carroll, Kyrell Mtinsi, Lorcan Mahony, Steve Hoyne, Enda Cunningham, Dylan Brennan, Aaron McCormack, Paul Millea, Jack Donnelly. Absent from photo: Mr Jonjo Farrell, Sean Rooney, James Tierney.



JUNIOR B HURLING



Back row l to r: Felix Fwamba, Oliver Phelan, Cathal Rossiter, David Kolodziej, Tadhg Phelan, Cillian Dinphy, Sam Mackey, Aidan O'Connell. Second row l to r: Mr Peter O'Sullivan, CJ Brennan, Cillian Maher, Micheal O'Mahony, TJ Comerford, Jonathan Kennedy, Joe Power, Charlie Gleeson, Mr Conor Delaney. Front row l to r: Daniel Hayes, Eoin Walpole, Ciaran Power, Ryan Minogue Lee, James O'Brien, Roman Connolly, Liam Keogh, Euan Wall.



Back row l to r: Kieran Bergin, Louis Lawlor, Michael Tyanan, Cillian McElwee, Ronan Hanrahan, Conor Brennan, Daniel Ryan, Dylan Dempsey. Second row l to r: Mr Peter O'Sullivan, Robbie Lynch, James Ryan, Keelan Lynch, Paddy Grace, Cillian O'Neill, Conor Coone, Tom Challoner, Andrew Holohan, Mr Conor Delaney. Front row l to r: Paddy Challoner, Daniel Tallis, Ruairi Hanrahan, Cónal Doyle, Eldon Sheridan, Tomás Carroll, Ciabhán Maher, Noah Power, Tom Glennon.



Junior B Hurling

LEINSTER JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2023-24

The Junior Hurling competition reverted to U16 ½ this year which meant some of the older lads lost out and were left disappointed. Trials started immediately in September in between local championship games. Our first game was a good test for our panel when we played Ardscoil Ris (Limerick) in a challenge match in

Golden, Co, Tipperary on September 6th. Birr Community School were our first opponents in the Leinster Championship. This game was played at home on the Fr Tommy Maher pitch and proved to be very one-sided. We ran out comfortable winners putting up a score of 1-24. Our next outing was in Dublin versus Coláiste Eoin. With the gates of the venue locked we included climbing over the gates as part of our warm up. Anyway we had a stiffer test

against Coláiste Eoin but we pulled away in the second half to record an impressive 1-23 to 0-10 win. Next up was Good Counsel from New Ross. This game was played on Birchfield in St Kieran's College on October 24th. The Good Counsel lads really tested us and we were under pressure at half time. But our players upped the gears and work rate in the second half and we emerged victorious 5-25 to 2-14.

That win qualified us for the



Leinster Junior Hurling Champions 2023-24 - back row l to r: Larry Phelan, Bill McDermott, Louis Raggett, David Barcoe, Hugh Whelan. Fourth row l to r: Jake Mullen, Ben McEvoy, Cillian Dunphy, Michael Tynan, Ben Nevin, Jack Rhatigan. Third row l to r: Kieran Timmins, Conor Heffernan, Fionn Mahony, Dan Carroll, Timmy Corr, Diarmuid Behan, Hugh Kelly. Second row l to r: Mr David Hennessy, Killian Ryan, Ciarán Coone, Michael Barron, Gearóid O'Shea, Cian Doherty, Daniel Smith, Mr Tom Hogan. Front row l to r: Conor McEvoy, Ciarán Power, Rory Glynn, Cian Dermody, Cormac Neary, Ciarán Hickey, Ruairi Power, Brian Hickey. Missing from photo: Philip Carrigan, Conor Holohan, Aidan Keating, Luke Lawlor, Ronan O'Mahony, Robert McEvoy.

semi-final against Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown. This game took place in the James Stephens grounds on the Kells Road on Monday November 13th. After a tough battle, with our backs on top, we won out on a scoreline 1-15 to 0-6. Our neighbours Kilkenny CBS had a very comprehensive victory over Good Counsel in the other semi-final so the scene was set for another Leinster final in Nowlan Park. We were lucky that the weather was fine and the pitch was perfect for late November so it was up to both sets of players to go out and perform.

The CBS got off to a great start with early points and a long range goal putting them in the driving seat. Despite our best efforts the CBS held onto a two point lead at half time with some great hurling played by both teams. Our lads redoubled their efforts after the resumption and pulled back the lead with great point scoring from Hugh Whelan and Jake Mullen from play and frees. Even though we were on top we couldn't shake off our great rivals and the game was level 0-18 to 1-15 at full time.

Our fitness told in extra time and we outscored CBS by 3-3 to a solitary point in that extra twenty minutes with the goals from Conor Holohan, Ruairi Power and Bill McDermott.



Captain David Barcoe ready to lift the Leinster trophy



The team and panel as it toggled out for the Leinster final: Cian Dermody (James Stephens); Ciarán Hickey (Dunamaggin); Larry Phelan (James Stephens); Killian Ryan (Ballyhale Shamrocks); Luke Lawlor (Clara); David Barcoe (Clara) Captain; Louis Raggett (Dicksboro); Conor Heffernan (James Stephens, 0-1); Diarmuid Behan (James Stephens, 0-1); Hugh Whelan (The Harps, Durrow, 0-3); Bill McDermott (James Stephens, 1-02); Conor Holohan (O'Loughlin Gaels, 1-01); Conor McEvoy (James Stephens, 0-2); Jake Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks, 10 points, 0-2 frees); Fionn Mahony (Danesfort).

Subs: Ben Nevin (Thomastown, 0-1); Ruairí Power (James Stephens, 1-0); Timmy Corr (Danesfort); Kieran Timmins (Young Irelands, Gowran); Brían Hickey (Dunamaggin); Ciarán Power (Dicksboro); Cian Doherty (Thomastown); Mikey Barron (Ballyhale Shamrocks); Philip Carrigan (Clara); Cormac Neary (Graigue Ballycallan); Ben McEvoy (Graigue Ballycallan);

Ciarán Coone (Thomastown); Jack Rhatigan (Conahy Shamrocks); Rory Glynn (James Stephens); Hugh Kelly (Clara); Dan Carroll (Dicksboro); Daniel Smith (Danesfort); Gearóid O'Shea (St Molleran's Waterford); Aidan Keating (Young Irelands, Gowran); Michael Tynan (Graigue Ballycallan); Cillian Dunphy (Lisdowney); Robert McEvoy (Lisdowney); Ronan O'Mahony (Danesfort).

A special word of thanks to our helpers throughout the year for their assistance, Michael Lynch, Pierce Costello and Conor Farrell all from 5th year. It is always much appreciated by the players and teachers.

SENIOR B HURLING

Christian Connick (6th Year)

This year was the first year of the Senior B competition and we began our preparations with a home win against Clane from Kildare. As the start of the competition loomed we suffered a defeat away to Tullamore

but bounced back with a great win against Heywood in a game that went down to the wire, both enjoyable days out of the usual school routine. Our first game in the campaign was a home game versus Thurles CBS. In a game that had everything we were 5 points behind with ten to go but a wonderful goal from Sam Hayes backed up by great points from Allen Corr Larkin and Ronan O'Brien sealed a one point victory in a pulsating affair.

That win was enough to qualify us to the final against old rivals Kilkenny CBS. Nowlan park was the venue for the clash and we prepared meticulously leading up to the final. On the day, our work rate, style of play and movement of the ball was too much for the opposition. Goals from Jacob Breslin, Allen Corr Larkin and Sam Hayes in the first half gave us the platform to kick on and win the match. It was the perfect way to top off a very enjoyable year of hurling for the school. Thanks to Mr Brennan and Mr Morrissey.



Back row l to r: Eoghan Cahill, Christian Connick, Ruarc Sweeney, Pierce Costello. Fourth row l to r: Chris Delaney, Sam Hayes, Darragh Coverdale, David Langton, John Fitzpatrick. Third row l to r: Jacob Breslin, Stephen Power Kellett, Tim Brennan, Conor Hoyne, Daniel Ring, Dara Behan. Second row l to r: Eoghan O'Connor, Michael Lynch, Thomas Langton. Daniel Carey, Conor Dalton, Eoghan Bennett. Front row l to r: Bill O'Shea, Ronan O'Brien, Tony Butler, Alex O'Farrell, Eoghan O'Brien, Conor Murphy, Josh Owens, Sean Morrissey. Missing from picture; Mr Fergal Brennan, Allen Corr Larkin, Ross O'Neill, Jack Walsh.



SENIOR HURLING 2023/2024

By Jeff Neary and Stephen Manogue

The Hurling trials for the senior team began once again in early September, with over 100 players competing in these trials. A provisional panel of 39 players was selected after several trials had taken place throughout September. The league started against our close rivals CBS Kilkenny in Palmerstown. A victory was found here and other victories in the league were found against Birr, Mullingar and St Fintans from Dublin which helped the team reach the league final. We also played CBS Thurles and St. Colmans of Fermoy, both teams with great ambitions to win the Harty Cup, in challenge matches throughout the winter which gave us the ideal preparation for our championship opener against Good Counsel at home.

After a comfortable victory over Good Counsel with a scoreline of 2-30 to 1-12, our focus was sharply turned to a much tougher battle with old rivals CBS in our final group game. After a hard fought 1 point victory, we saw ourselves securing a Leinster semi final place against Offaly combined schools, who previously got the upper hand on us last year in the Leinster Final.

During the Christmas break we gathered together for numerous training sessions in all kinds of weather conditions. We trained hard in preparation for Offaly schools which we knew would be an immense encounter as it was a do or die game for us. In the new year the games came around quickly and all our preparation paid dividends as we beat Offaly Schools in terrible weather conditions in Rathdowney GAA Club on a scoreline of 0-14 to 0-10 and all roads lead to a Leinster Final in Nowlan Park against our dear rivals CBS Kilkenny.

During the middle of the mocks on the 7th of February, the Leinster final took place. We knew this was going to be a tough encounter from our previous game earlier on in the league championship.

This was a massive game for both teams and schools as neither team had won this competition in numerous years. This was not only important because silverware was on the line, but it would set us up to be in an All Ireland semi final position also.





The day finally came around and there was great buzz around the school from students and teachers. The atmosphere in Nowlan Park was electric with all of the school attending this massive game. Early goals from Sean Hunt and Aaron McEvoy left us in a good position at half time. The score at half time looked to be an impossible task for CBS to overcome and with a strong second half performance the game finished 2-20 to 0-05 with a Kieran's victory.

For the next 4 weeks we trained hard to prepare for the All-Ireland semi-final against the 2022 All Ireland Champions Ard Scoil Ris of Limerick. Each player on the panel battled and fought hard in training to contest for a starting position and to make a matchday panel. This unseen work was reflected in our performance against Ard Scoil Ris in Bansha on the 2nd of March as we ran away with a great victory on the day with superb performances from Rory Glynn, Sean Hunt and Timmy Kelly. In tough conditions we fought hard and came out on top of a scoreline of 1-19 to 0-14 which helped us reach our target from the start of the year.

We had two weeks of hard training to get ourselves ready for the Connacht champions St Raphael's of Loughrea who overcame the Harty Cup champions Nenagh CBS in the other All Ireland semi final. We were delighted to be able to use the facilities of SETU Carlow in preparation for the Croke Cup. The 16th of March came around very quickly and every panel member was focused with the task in hand. The minute we ran out of the Cusack Stand we noticed the crowd that the school had brought and this stood to us



Senior Hurling Panel before the All-Ireland final in Croke Park.

Photo credit: Willie Dempsey

throughout the game. Ed McDermott got the first score of the game and then it was nip and tuck throughout the rest of the first half and the score was level at half time 0-10 to 1-07. Big performances from all of the defence and important scores from Rory Glynn, Sean Hunt and Aaron McEvoy, kept us in the game. Immense pressure from St.Raphaels saw the game resulting in a draw at full time.

We were able to gather ourselves in the dressing room and take a deep breath to prepare for extra time. During this break leadership was clearly shown in the group and for most of us it was going to be our last 20 minutes in a Kierans jersey so we promised each other to give everything we had left to win this match. In extra time the strength and depth of the panel was shown as substitutions had a significant impact on the game. The fitness work from the start of the year and our determination resulted in a 0-26 to 1-18 victory and we became

Croke Cup Champions for the 2nd year in a row.

This victory was very sweet as our backs were to the wall and it tested us both mentally and physically. The celebrations with all our teachers, classmates, family and friends were spectacular.

On behalf of the panel, a massive thanks must go to our management team of Mr Dowling, Mr Ruth and Mr Walsh. The endless amount of work these three put in since September didn't go unnoticed and thankfully the goals they had set out for us at the start of the year were achieved.

Senior Hurling Panel 2023/2024

Stephen Manogue (James Stephens), Sean Bergin (James Stephens), Evan Murphy (Dicksboro), Timmy Kelly (Bennettsbridge), Cathal Hickey (St Lachtains), Jeff Neary (Graigie Ballycallan), Tom McPhilips (Dicksboro), Ed Lauhoff (James Stephens), Rory Connellan

(Thomastown), Tomás Roche (John Lockes), Sean Hunt (St Martin's), James Hughes (Bennttsbridge), Rory Glynn (Clara), Ed McDermott (James Stephens), Aaron McEvoy (Graigie Ballycallan), Cian Kelly (Clara), Tom Brennan (Clogh/Ballacolla), Oisín Bateman (James Stephens), David Barcoe (Clara), Ciallin Brennan (Tullaroan), Conor Brophy (Erin's Own), Sean Deely (James Stephens), Conor Doyle (Windgap), Bobby Murphy (Durrow Harps), Ruairí Murphy (Mount Leinster Rangers), Bill McDermott (James Stephens), James O'Neill (St Martin's), Oisín O'Reilly (Thomastown), Ben Phelan (Young Irelands), Cian Phelan (Young Irelands), Charlie Cleere (Tullaroan), Nicky Ryan (Graiguenamanagh), Sean Carrigan (Clara), Harry Boyle (Clara), Jake Byrne (Young Irelands), Diarmuid Langton (Young Irelands), Paddy Walsh (Bennettsbridge), Cian Farrell (Thomastown), Mikey Rohan (Carrickshock).





Senior Team 2023/24

Back row left to right: Edward McDermott, Evan Murphy, Jake Byrne, Conor Brophy, Sean Carrigan, Ed Lauhoff, Ciallin Brennan, James Hughes, Bobby Murphy, Rory Connellan, Sean Deely, Oisín O'Reilly, David Barcoe, Bill McDermott. Middle row left to right: Mr. Richie Ruth, Mr. Brian Dowling, Ruairi Murphy, Harry Boyle, Paddy Walsh, Thomas Roche, Nicky Ryan, Oisín Bateman, Timmy Kelly, Cian Farrell, Charlie Cleere, Conor Doyle, James O'Neill, Cian Kelly, Cian Phelan, Mr. Michael Walsh. Front row left to right: Diarmuid Langton, Cathal Hickey, Tom Brennan, Sean Bergin, Tom McPhillips, Stephan Manogue (Capt), Jeff Neary (Capt), Ben Phelan, Mikey Rohan, Sean Hunt, Aaron McEvoy, Rory Gylm.



Leaving Cert Class 2024

