



ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE KILKENNY

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RECORD 2025



First Year on their first day 2024/25





Dermot Ryan

# Message from the President

Our past pupils also amaze as they continue to pursue the tradition of excellence, we hope building on the foundations received here. One of them, Fr Michael Shortall has been asked to serve as the President of St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth, the first for a past pupil from here; another Peter Lynch has broken the Irish 10 mile record running an amazing 45:59, surpassing the previous record of 46:25, set by Olympic silver medallist John Treacy in 1993. He also broke the Irish marathon securing a podium finish in Dusseldorf clocking 2:09:36 to carve six seconds off the previous record. With so many others excelling in work, in sport, in business and in life - the traditions of this College stand proud.

Our desire is to see all in our community excel, in what ever way possible - academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally. When they do, and they do it so often, we as their school teachers or formators, you as their parents, those of us in management, those who are Trustees, and Bishop Niall as our Patron, are all rightly proud. We delight to share in their success.

Building that tradition we continue to work towards the realisation of the new school building. It is a slow process but one that will be worth the wait. At present the design team are costing the final plans so that we can get the approval from the Dept to proceed to tender. We open in these months two special education classrooms furthering the care and welcome that we can give at St Kieran's College - a reason for great joy for all in our community. We are working towards a planning application for a full sized Astro-Turf GAA field on our senior hurling field and moving boundaries at Birchfield to get a full sized grass pitch there.

We are building for success in the classroom too - this year, as this Record documents we see the retirement of Jo Staunton, Jean Fitzpatrick, Philip Walsh and Sharon Keyes. Their contribution to the life and tradition that is St Kieran's is greatly appreciated by all - and wonderfully documented here. 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, and they, are so proud. I thank them, 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.

In management I work closest with Adrian Finan, School Principal, Ken Maher and Liam Smith, Deputy Principals. I am humbled by their relentless commitment

to building on the tradition handed to us - their passion for leadership, guidance, and endless commitment to a vision for St Kieran's is a joy to be part of - I am privileged to walk with them in some small way. They, and their amazing colleagues on our school staff, do so much to ensure that all in our community fulfil their goals and realise their potential. What a tradition to serve.

St Kieran's College remains very much at the heart of the faith community of the Diocese of Ossory. 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 St Kieran's College. The Church, which Pope Leo will lead, continues to serve the traditions of our rich faith past.

We were delighted to celebrate the contribution of a proud past pupil earlier this year when we marked the centenary of the death of William Canon Carrigan - his legacy to the history of this, and other, Diocesan history is well known. It was wonderful and fitting to celebrate it here.

Bishop Niall Coll, our School Patron, has a deep love for all that is education. We were blessed, that this year he was formally welcomed to our community, to meet students, staff and management. His continued support for all that we try to achieve here is a most welcome encouragement of all that we hope to achieve. I thank him and the College Trustees for their unfailing support for all that we do here.

Most importantly I want to thank the students of this wonderful College. We are so very proud of you and all that you achieve. Your ability and resolve, your support for each other, your commitment to chasing your God-given potential is humbling and inspiring. I thank you for the manner in which you continually remind us that God has created us for such promise. May you all continue to chase that in everything you do.

St Kieran's College is a special place and, as such, I have a deep debt of gratitude to all that make it so. 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. Let us continue the tradition given to us to protect - *hiems transiit*.

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

We live in a world of technology... smart phones, smart TVs, instant tech, promethean screens, Google classroom, Zoom calls, ChatGPT, AI and so much more. Yet in these past days our world, and certainly our Catholic world, sat waiting for a smoke signal! As the Cardinal electors were in conclave, praying and choosing the next successor to St Peter, the world watched that long-famous small chimney above the Sistine Chapel for white smoke. When it came, it brought our first (North) American pope - Pope Leo XIV. The traditions of the papal election brought the world from the technology of today back to the mystery of the past. Tradition, it seems, still holds value.

Tradition does - and we know it well here at St Kieran's College - now in our 243rd year the College continues to do today what it first hoped to do as that lease was signed on 11th October 1782 - educating students to the highest standards possible, in light of the Gospel, so that all can achieve the very best of their God-given potential. And what joy it is for us to see that happen.

This past year we have won another Leinster Senior Colleges Championship, Ruairí McEvoy who won numerous competitions, for both the school and Ireland, ran a sub 4 minute mile making him the third of our pupils to achieve that once fabled impossibility. Ruairí joins with Cathal O'Reilly and Eoin Everard in this elite club. James Brennan and Robbie Sheehan represented Ireland in showjumping, Michael O'Keeffe who won the national award in the Student Enterprise Programme for his business idea... as well as the now usual successes in cross-country, swimming, debating, young scientist, chess, badminton, basketball, football, the school play with the Loreto, variety shows, trad bands and so much more.



Adrian Finan

## Message from the Principal

with the guidance and encouragement of our wonderful staff, is truly remarkable. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or through a myriad of extracurricular activities, our students continue to excel and always take great pride in representing our school.

To our teaching and support staff, thank you. Your hard work and dedication to our students is something truly special. You go above and beyond every day, not just in your teaching but in the care and support you provide outside the classroom. Your commitment to our school community is felt everywhere—whether you're coaching a team, organising events, or offering a listening ear. You make St Kieran's College a place where every student feels valued, supported, and encouraged to do their best.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank my colleagues in school leadership, our Deputy Principals, Mr Ken Maher and Mr Liam Smith. Their constant support, wisdom, and leadership have made this year a success. It's a pleasure to work alongside them, and we are all better for their dedication and insight.

I must also extend my sincere thanks to everyone who helped make this year's College Record such a wonderful publication. This edition showcases the vibrancy of our school community, and a special thank you goes to Ms Tina Lawlor and Mr Paul FitzGerald for their incredible work in bringing this publication to life.

One of the highlights of the year was the reunion of the Leaving Cert class of 2020 in February. It was such a special occasion to gather together a group of students whose final year was so dramatically affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. It was wonderful to see how they've thrived despite the challenges, and it was a true joy to reconnect with them and to celebrate together their time in St Kieran's College.

As we look to the future with great excitement, we eagerly anticipate the beginning of our new school build, a milestone that will provide enhanced facilities and a modern learning environment for our students. This development marks the beginning of a new chapter for St Kieran's College, one that reflects our ongoing commitment to excellence in education. Alongside this, we are thrilled to announce the opening of a new Special Class in the coming year, a significant step towards further inclusivity and support for all our students.

These initiatives will undoubtedly shape the future of our school, providing opportunities for growth, learning, and achievement for generations to come.

As we near the end of this academic year, we also bid farewell to some esteemed colleagues - Ms Jean Fitzpatrick, who retired last October, Ms Sharon Keyes and Mr Philip Walsh, who will retire this summer. Each have dedicated many years to the students of St Kieran's College, fostering a love for learning and shaping countless lives. We are deeply grateful for their years of service, and while they will be missed, their legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire us all. We also extend a special thank you to Ms Jo Staunton, our Accounts Secretary, who will retire this summer after 13 years of exceptional service. Jo's professionalism and commitment to the school has always been notable and we are very grateful for everything that she has contributed during her time with us. We wish each of you every happiness, good health, and fulfilment in your well-earned retirements.

This year, we also take a moment to remember Mr Michael O'Dwyer, a former colleague who sadly passed away. Michael, who retired in 2001, was an outstanding Science teacher and a passionate historian, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His kindness, expertise and dedication made a lasting impact on so many of us. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*

Finally, I would like to offer our very best wishes to all of our Third Year and Sixth Year students as they prepare for their State Examinations in June. To our Leaving Certificate students in particular, I extend every good wish and blessing for the future—may the road ahead be filled with success, fulfilment, and exciting opportunities. Whatever comes next for you, we know you'll go on to do great things.

As we break for the summer, I want to express my deepest thanks once again to everyone in the St Kieran's College community—students, parents, staff, and all who support the life of the school. Your dedication to our shared mission makes this school what it is. I hope you all enjoy a restful and rejuvenating summer, and I look forward to welcoming you back in the new school year.

Mr Adrian Finan, Principal

As we come to the end of another school year, it's a perfect time to reflect on all that we've achieved as a school community. This year, as always, has been one of both challenge and triumph, and I am so proud of how our students, staff, and families have worked together to make it such a memorable year.

St Kieran's College, as Ireland's oldest all-boys Catholic Secondary School, continues to stay true to its founding mission: the pursuit of excellence in education and formation, rooted in the teachings of the Gospel. We strive to help our students reach their full potential, whether it's academically, spiritually, physically, or emotionally. It's been a year of growth and discovery, and it has been inspiring to witness how our students continue to live out our motto, *Hiems Transiit*, with such joy and determination.

I want to begin by expressing my deep thanks and appreciation to our Patron, Bishop Niall Coll, the Trustees, the Board of Management, the Parents' Association, and the Student Council. Your ongoing support ensures that our school remains a place where students can thrive, and we are incredibly grateful for your commitment.

A heartfelt thank you to Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, our College President, for his steadfast dedication, which continues to be a pillar of support for our entire school community. His guidance has been truly invaluable, and we are very grateful to Fr Dermot for all that he does on our behalf.

Of course, our students are the heart of St Kieran's, and I couldn't be prouder of their achievements, which are so wonderfully celebrated in this edition of the College Record. The variety of activities undertaken by our students,





**St Kieran's College Staff 2024-2025**

Back row l to r: Mr Eddie Brennan, Mr Richie Windle, Mr Simon Reddy, Mr Enda Malone, Ms Ann Meany. Ninth row l to r: Mr Paul Cody, Mr Ben Tomkins, Mr Peter O'Sullivan, Mr Philip Walsh. Eighth row l to r: Ms Aoife McQuaid, Mr PJ O'Neill, Mr Larry Cotter. Seventh row l to r: Mr Stephen Morgan, Mr Michael Walsh, Mr Evan Walsh, Mr Shane Byrne, Mr Ronan Lynch. Sixth row l to r: Mr Paul Fitzgerald, Mr Sean Morrissey, Mr Gerry Buckley, Mr Eoin Cody, Mr Eoin Bourke, Ms Patricia McElwee, Ms Chloe Corcoran, Ms Jo Staunton. Fifth row l to r: Ms Pauline Bergin, Mr Richie Ruth, Ms Jennie Brennan. Fourth row l to r: Mr Ken Archbold, Mr Brian Dowling, Mr Jonjo Farrell, Mr Conor Delaney, Ms Eadaoin Maher, Ms Paula Bibby, Ms Jacqui Norton. Third row l to r: Mr Ronan Dowling, Ms Michaela Donoghue, Mr Joe Ryan, Mr Eoin Glendon, Ms Ciara Staunton, Ms Jennifer Dunne, Ms Evelyn Allen, Ms Hollie Hickey, Mr David McCormack, Mr Tom Brennan. Second row l to r: Mr Gerry Walsh, Mr David Hennessy, Mr Michael Carey, Mr Joe Kavanagh, Mr Brian Maher, Mr Joe Kavanagh, Mr Michael Connolly. Front row l to r: Mr Carl Lynch, Ms Tina Lawlor, Mr Liam Smith, Mr Adrian Finan, Dr Dermot Ryan, Mr Ken Maher. Missing from photo: Mr Patrick Darmody, Ms Grace Farrell, Mr Eamonn Heffernan, Ms Patricia Johnson, Ms Sharon Keyes, Ms Loretta Mannion, Ms Jane Moran, Ms Michaela O'Connell, Mr Martin O'Neill, Mr Lester Ryan.



## Board of Management 2024-2025

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, Mr Michael Walsh, 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 McNerney Brown, Mr Pat O'Neill and Mr John Curtis.

## The Parents' Association



L to r: Mr Ken Maher, Ms Julie O'Brien (Treasurer), Ailish Tallis (Secretary), Ms Danielle Coonan (Chairperson).

## Student Council



Back Row l to r: Enda Kavanagh, Ross Gormley, Sean Moloney, Oisín Marry, Chris Delaney, Nevin Benny. Front row l to r: Will Vaughan, Sam Medlar, Oliver Butler, Philip Lynch, Bobby Aylward, Ciaran Power. Missing from photo: Imad Rahman Miah, Tommy Doyle, Sean Nulty, Evan Murphy.



# St Kieran's College Priests' Reunion 2024



As is tradition we gathered for the annual College reunion on a bright, warm, August evening - on the first Tuesday after the 15th August. It was wonderful to see so many priests from our own Diocese and men ordained from the College for other dioceses return to come together for this annual gathering. A chance for stories, laughs, memories, prayer and to spend time together.

During the Mass Bishop Niall reflected on his personal connection to the College and this part of Ireland, noting that "I personally felt a connection to St Kieran's College long before I became Bishop here. As a student in Maynooth College in the 1980s, I came here on several occasions to visit my co-diocesan Raphoe students who were studying here. And I recall with great affection my first visits around those times to nearby Jerpoint Abbey and Graiguenamanagh Abbey – gems of the Irish Catholic landscape – surviving testimonies in stone to the long history of Christian witness in these parts, one which deserve a special mention today on the feast of St Bernard, one of the founders of the Cistercian Order." He also thanked the past students and professors of St Kieran's who were his lecturers in Maynooth: Tom Norris memorably

taught the very first Theology class that he attended on the day, coincidentally, that he began his long years of service there. The late Martin Drennan taught him Old Testament and Willie Dalton, Canon Law.

He noted that at this reunion we look back with gratitude for the parents and siblings who loved us and helped us discern a vocation to the priesthood. We give thanks too for the fellow students (living and dead) who journeyed with us and later as priests

in this Diocese and elsewhere.

It was wonderful to gather for this special 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.



*Hiems Transiit.*

# Retirements

## MS JEAN FITZPATRICK

By Martin O'Neill



It is difficult to do justice to a career beginning in 1986 and coming to a close in 2024.

38 years is a lifetime of service and commitment to the students, staff and everyone associated with St Kieran's College.

It is a working life where Jean brought Music and English to a vast array of students and in doing so enriched so many lives.

Many will remember Jean accompanying her students on the piano at festive nights and celebrations.

More will remember the seemingly endless array of outfits that she wore so elegantly, much more smart than casual as the dress code states.

Her kindness, courtesy and thoughtfulness to both colleagues and students helped create a wonderful atmosphere of collegiality and positivity.

She was a lady of many parts and roles in this school of ours. The open night, the annual awards, work experience are just some of the many roles she took on through the years.

In terms of students I think of a recently departed Sixth Year who wrote to Jean on her retirement to say that some teachers will be remembered for all their lives.

As an English department, Aoife, Ciara, Sharon, Larry, Loretta, Eoin and I are grateful to have a colleague who was also a friend, who worked hard and was always on your side.



Fr Dermot Ryan, Mr Adrian Finan and Ms Jo Staunton making a presentation to Ms Jean Fitzpatrick and her family.



Ms Jean Fitzpatrick, Ms Pauline Bergin and Ms Mary Martin collecting for charity.



Sean Moloney and Chris Ging made a presentation to Ms Jean Fitzpatrick on her last day in the school.

Starting a career at 21 means that many of Jean's life events were celebrated here in St Kieran's. It has been a second home for her over the years.

We wish Jean nothing but health, happiness and contentment in the next stage of her life.

## MS JO STAUNTON

By Chloe Corcoran

As we come to the end of this academic year, we say goodbye to a deeply valued member of our school

community. After thirteen years in St.Kieran's College, our much loved accounts secretary, Jo Staunton, is retiring. While it is difficult to imagine the school without her presence, we feel grateful to have worked with her as she begins this new chapter of her life.

A native of Stoneyford and a proud Kilkenny woman, Jo has been a helping hand to all during her time at the school. Before joining, she had already built a wealth of experience in her roles with Kilkenny Living in Ballyhale and the ETB. From the moment she arrived, it was clear that Jo was someone you





could rely on - organised, efficient, and truly dependable.

Jo was known for her no-nonsense, straight-talking approach, and as a staff this was what we came to rely on most. You always knew where you stood with Jo, she told it like it was. Yet, you also knew that no matter what issue you brought to her, it would be sorted without fuss and with absolute competence. She was the person you went to when you needed something done, and done right.

Away from the spreadsheets and invoices, Jo's personal achievements are equally impressive. A proud and accomplished camogie player, she began her journey with her local club, Carrickshock. Her sporting career was marked by determination and true teamwork, with a record of eight All Ireland Camogie medals to her name. Her legacy in camogie is one of excellence and leadership, qualities we all saw reflected in her every day

at school. Jo's talent runs in the family. Her son, Brian Staunton, joined the school while in his fourth year, going on to display an impressive hurling career with Thomastown. Jo is also an avid golfer, and with no doubt she will welcome spending her days on the courses.

Jo's contribution to this school went far beyond figures and finance. She was a colleague we leaned on and a friend to many. Jo has helped organise fantastic retirements for previous staff members over the years, never sparing any detail and always making them feel special. We hope we can do the same for her. Jo's departure leaves a space that will not be easily filled. Her warmth, wit, and unwavering dependability will be missed by staff, students, and parents alike.

It is my pleasure to say on behalf of the school body: thank you for everything Jo. Your contribution to this school will never be forgotten. We

wish you and your family all the best in the future. Enjoy the well deserved rest and freedom. You've earned every minute.

## MS SHARON KEYES

By Jacqui Norton



After more than two decades of dedicated service to St. Kieran's College, Ms. Sharon Keyes is retiring — and with her departure, we mark the close of a remarkable chapter in the life of our school. A constant presence of warmth, wisdom, and grace, Sharon's influence reaches far beyond the classroom. She leaves behind a legacy woven into the very fabric of the school and held dearly in the hearts of colleagues and students alike.

Since joining St. Kieran's in 2004, Sharon quickly became known for her deep love of the English language, her impeccable poise, and her unwavering commitment to her students. Her classroom was a place of energy and insight, where Shakespeare leapt from the page, poetry found new meaning, and students discovered confidence and clarity in their own expression. Her ability to see the potential in every student was one of her greatest strengths — she taught not just how to read and write, but how to believe in oneself.

Throughout her time in St Kieran's College, Sharon has been more than a colleague to many — she's been a trusted friend, a sounding board, and a true role model. Her warmth, wisdom, and calm presence were constants in a busy school environment, and her legacy goes far beyond lesson plans and exam results.



still speak of her with great fondness, describing her as a role model in every way — composed, kind, and endlessly encouraging. Whether preparing students for exams, or offering words of advice and reassurance, Sharon gave her time and her heart to everything she did.

As she steps into retirement, we thank Sharon for her tireless commitment, her elegance, and the inspiration she has been to so many. St. Kieran's is all the better for having had her, and she will be deeply missed.

Enjoy every moment of the well-earned next chapter, Sharon. You leave behind a legacy written not just in ink, but in the lives you've shaped and the friendships you've fostered.

## MR PHILIP WALSH

By Martin O'Neill

Mr Philip Walsh has taught Science, Maths, Technology, Physics and ECDL in a teaching career of 34 years. He was well known for his determination and persistence, never giving up once a task had begun.

The time, effort, energy and love that he devoted to the school was inspirational and commendable.

As a Year Head from 1997 to 2024, he helped to guide generations of students throughout their time in school and in preparation for life afterwards. Philip also supported many staff members in a variety of ways over the years, particularly helping new



These events, much like Sharon herself, were always marked by good humour and kindness, and the moments were enriched by Sharon's quiet leadership and generous spirit.

She has been a quiet yet powerful presence in the life of the school — mentoring new staff, upholding high standards, and consistently leading by example. Her poise and dignity earned her the respect of all who worked with her. There was always a sense of calm and reassurance when Sharon was near — the kind of presence that steadied nerves before exams or lifted spirits after a long day. Former pupils

Sharon's contributions to school life extended well beyond her teaching. She was instrumental in the introduction of the LCVF programme at St. Kieran's, helping to open doors and create opportunities for countless students. She also took on the important task of establishing and nurturing the School Record, working conscientiously over the years to ensure it reflected the vibrant and evolving story of our school community.

Among staff, Sharon was a cherished figure — not only for her professionalism but also for the joy she brought to social life. Many memorable evenings were enjoyed thanks to her efforts — from darts and pool nights to casual get-togethers that strengthened the bonds of friendship and camaraderie among colleagues.







teachers settle in. Philip was always a great teacher, a wonderful colleague and somebody who had always the best interests of students and staff at his very core.

During his time in St Kieran's College, he contributed greatly to the extracurricular areas of school life including his involvement coaching many Hurling teams from Juvenile to Senior with great distinction, success and energy. He also led Science quiz teams that reached All-Ireland finals.

Philip was renowned for his firm but fair approach to life in school. If a student was late for class, he needed to have a good excuse. Those students



who managed to evade his eagle eye were few and far between. There was a story that a student gave the excuse that there were "elephants on the road" as a reason for being late. Naturally, Philip wasn't too impressed with this particular excuse but it turned out to be true!

Philip would not be easily pranked. The young teacher who attempted to

take Philip's car and place it somewhere else as a joke, is still recovering from seeing his wife and children still in the car as he attempted to steal it.

As you can gather, kindness, a sense of humor and a dogged determination to do his absolute best were the trademarks of Philip Walsh's exceptional career.

## Obituary Mr Michael O'Dwyer

by Martin O'Neill

It is with great sadness this year that we acknowledge the passing of retired teacher and former colleague Mr Michael O'Dwyer. Micheal had taught for ten years in Downpatrick, Co Down, before joining the teaching staff in St Kieran's College in 1967 where he taught Physics and Science to many students for the following 34 years, after which he retired in 2001. Michael was a deep believer in the importance of education and his 44 plus years of dedicated service to his students is testament to his belief.

Michael was an avid researcher and historian with a passion for local history. During his retirement, Michael had a very successful career as a local historian, writing many books and articles on a variety of topics. His history of the game of Cricket in Kilkenny was



hugely successful and offers great insight into the development of the GAA in Kilkenny and how our games were influenced by our cultural history. He pioneered many topics such as his research and book "Lady Desart, Otway

Cuffe, and Talbot's Inch" which gives a valuable insight into the ascendancy class in Kilkenny. He also produced a book about Coolagh parish and Emly, his own homeplace.

Michael is fondly remembered by the staff and past-pupils of St Kieran's College. Many students who were taught by him, remember him to be a teacher who possessed and displayed a great deal of care, kindness and respect for his pupils. He is remembered by staff and former colleagues as a true gentleman who always had a smile, time for a chat and was professional to the core.

He taught with great passion, wrote with great accuracy and lived his life to the full. A Kieran's man with many parts - a Scientist and a Historian, truly a renaissance man. Rest in Peace Michael.

# Celebrating a past pupil - William Canon Carrigan

Canon William Carrigan will forever be synonymous with St Kieran's College and the Diocese of Ossory where he served. The College now proudly names one of its libraries in his honour and is home to the extensive collection of notebooks which formed the basis of his four volume work. On the 12th December this year we marked the 100th anniversary of his death. St Kieran's College was proud, then, to host, on that weekend, a conference to mark that occasion. In recognising the anniversary of Canon Carrigan's death, we needed to honour not only the man himself but also the enduring relevance of his work for scholars today. Carrigan's meticulous attention to the intersection of Church, culture, and history continues to resonate, offering a model for how local history contributes to our understanding of wider cultural and ecclesiastical dynamics and it was important, on this occasion, that the College and Diocese mark that fact.

In line with the conference title "Carrigan: Church, Culture, Context", the weekend sought to place Carrigan's work within the ecclesiastical, cultural, and historical frameworks of his time. Papers, so generously offered by many speakers, explored how Carrigan's scholarship was influenced by the intellectual movements of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including the growing interest in antiquities, archives, the importance of the Church's role in preserving cultural heritage, and the significance of local history itself in shaping our national identity.

Over the course of two days speakers explored various perspectives feeding into the context of this wonderful historian. In welcoming those who gathered we noted, as Fr Fearghus had once written, that "The chorus of praise that greeted Carrigan's monumental work was thoroughly merited and the appearance of a rather intemperate review of inordinate length published under the pseudonym GPO did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm for Carrigan's Magnum Opus an enthusiasm that has remained undimmed and indeed has increased in the 100 years since its





publication". It was fitting then that we gathered to continue that recognition on this occasion.

On the opening evening of the conference, Chaired by Bishop Niall, the keynote lecture was delivered by Prof. Tom O'Connor, emeritus Director of Arts & Humanities Institute, Maynooth University, who spoke to the title "Reading archives and writing critical history in the afterglow of religious controversy: William Carrigan's (1860-1924) historical achievement". By means of dividing his thoughts into three sections - the diocesan history as a means to provide unity to places where division was still felt and the hopes of Brownrigg; the Catholic Diocesan History as a Genre with a focus on Meath's early pioneer, Anthony Cogan (1826-1872) who in 1862-70 produced the first dedicated Irish diocesan history; and finally exploring the Post-Cogan Diocesan History era and how it was that Carrigan's sets its own finer tone and strove after a more rigorous standard, Prof. Tom set Carrigan in his rightful context.

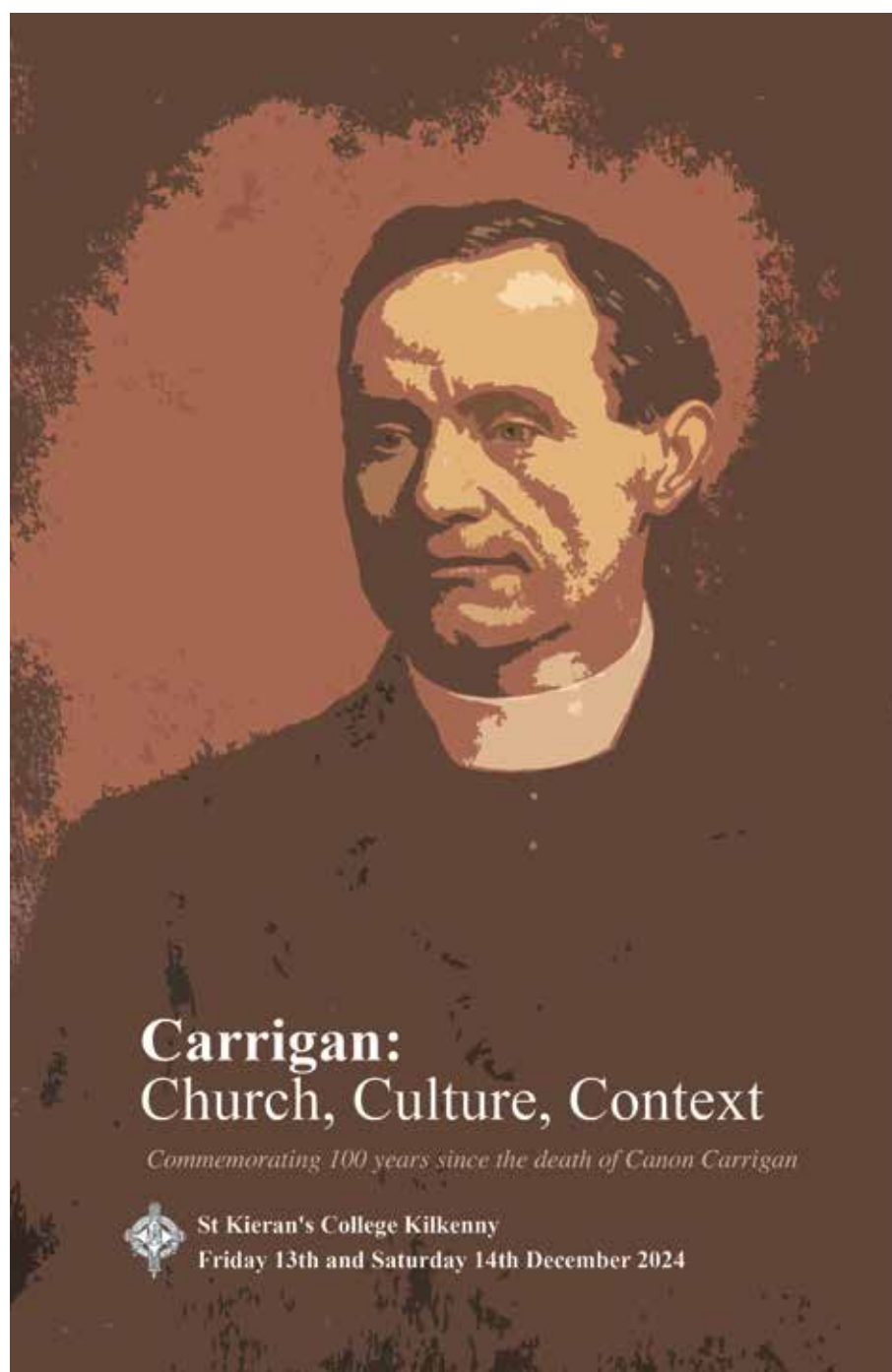
Saturday morning saw Prof. Marian Lyons of Maynooth University chair Dr Richard Hyland as he explored the context of a Kilkenny in which Carrigan was formed and into which his history was written before a second session in which Dr Brian Gurrin, the census and population specialist on the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland Project based at TCD, explored the contribution of the Carrigan Collection to the (partial) reconstruction of the lost census records of County Kilkenny in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland. In so doing he shared some startling statistics on how it was that Carrigan's work has contributed so greatly to the restoration of lost data before concluding his piece exploring his theory, with strong evidence, that Carrigan had 171 notebooks and not, as was previously thought, 168. The afternoon sessions were chaired by Prof. Tom O'Connor as Mr Denis Bergin offered a very personal reflection on the merits of context and the imperative honouring history today and into the future before our own Rev. Dr Fearghus Ó Fearghail shared wonderful insights into the details of the life of Canon Carrigan - from the perspective of one who knows him best! Those gathered were delighted

to hear Fr Fearghus speak of him as if of an old friend - with the meticulous attention to detail that the Canon himself would surely appreciate. Concluding the conference all were invited to join for the Memorial Mass which was to take place the following morning in Durrow. This was a fitting tribute to this wonderful son of Ossory and all the more so given many of his family were in attendance.

There is no doubt but that Canon Carrigan's life and work represent a critical juncture between the past and present in Irish historical scholarship. As a priest and historian, he occupied a unique position where his ecclesial

duties intertwined with scholarly inquiry, enabling him to capture the spiritual and material fabric of the Diocese of Ossory with an unparalleled depth. His work remains one of the most comprehensive accounts of a diocese in Ireland, notable for its careful attention to detail, reliance on primary sources, and engagement with the architectural, cultural, and religious artefacts of the region. The workings of this conference, and some associated papers, will be published in 2025.

The College was proud to honour this past pupil and his immense contribution to the Irish history.



# Visit of Bishop Niall Coll



Bishop Coll meeting students and their grandparents following the grandparents' Mass.



Students presenting Artwork to Bishop Coll



Mr Adrian Finan makes a presentation to Bishop Coll on his visit to the school



Bill Hayes and the senior choir performing during Bishop Coll's visit.



# Beginning of Year Mass





# Ossory Adult Faith Development

St Kieran's College is located at the centre of the Diocese - both geographically and hopefully in the sense of its mission too. It continues its founding intention - the education of all our students to the fullest extent in accordance with the Gospel - but it also acts as a location for many diocesan activities and for a number of Diocesan Offices: the Forum with Sr Helen Maher and The Diocesan Pastoral Council with the Coordinator of our Pastoral plan, Ms Gemma Mulligan. The Faith development group also has a home here. This group, directed by Fr Dermot, continually attempts to innovate to help all in our parishes and Diocese to deepen their understanding of their faith in old and new ways.

In this past year the group held at the College a year long theology course entitled aptly - Faith Seeking Understanding. This course was designed to allow those who attended, by means a a lecture each Monday night, a full suite of lessons on Christology,



Sacraments, the Old Testament, The New testament, Liturgy, Spirituality and Prayer, Ecclesiology and Mission,

Synodal and Parish Structures and so much more... Staffed so generously by the people and priests of the Diocese, over 40 people journeyed together on this course each week. Not only was there learning but also great friendships made. It was an opportunity for this diverse group to probe their faith in gentle ways and to learn not only from lecturers but also from each other. The course finished just recently when Bishop Niall celebrated a Mass with all participants reflecting on the time spent studying together.

In preparation for the Jubilee Year of Hope in this past year, starting first in Advent, the College also hosted many varied gatherings reflecting on the theme of hope. It started with Bishop Niall leading us to reflect on a theology of hope on a December evening during Advent. He explored the many obvious and subtle ways that our faith brings hope into our lives - later in that month Fr Sean Maher reflected on the seeds of hope in the bible. Once again, on this evening, small threads





of hope were traced for, and by, all those in attendance. During Lent, just gone, we explored the work of Trócaire with its CEO Caoimhe de Barra in what was a wonderfully intimate and honest gathering. The hope that the work of Trócaire brings to the darkest of situations was inspiring as was their relentless belief in the power of small acts to change our world. We also had a refreshingly honest reflection on the national and international synodal pathway in the company of Julianne Moran the General Secretary for the Irish Synodal Pathway in which we saw the hope that this process has brought to our Church, not only in Ireland but throughout the world. It was empowering to see the comments of the Irish Church reflected in the synodal document that emerged from the sessions in Rome - a hopeful sign of more of this to come as we now continue on that synodal pathway.

The Faith Development Group has continued to lead with the innovative ASPAL faith formation APP

and once more this year there were further developments with regard to our Diocesan collaboration with St Patrick's Pontifical University. St Patrick's continued to offer even more ongoing moral formation for all who work in the Bons Secours hospitals here in Ireland and in America. This collaboration the Bons Secours Health System and St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth and by means of the use of the ASPAL platform continues to provide programmes for those in Allied Healthcare, professional and administration roles, and people working in Pastoral Care or Chaplaincy. This working together went from strength to strength and further collaborations are planned.

The Ossory Times is now in its 13th year!! Not bad for a local publication. It continues to serve the people and parishes of our Diocese sharing the good news of how our faith is lived locally. Its wonderful colourful pages and many reflective articles give an insight into the vibrant life of faith that is found in our parishes and many diocesan groups.

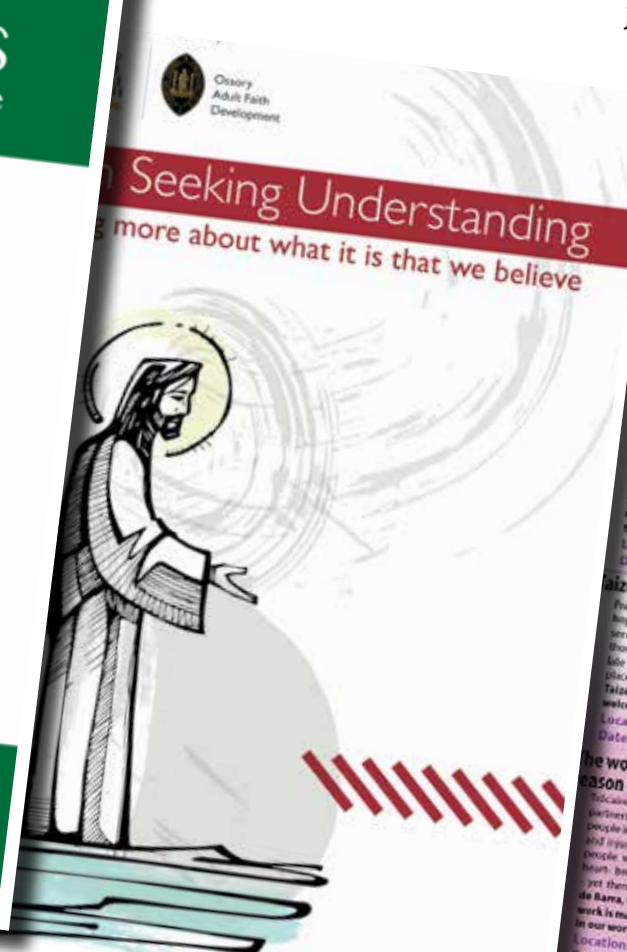
Our baptism tasks us with sharing the Good News with others and it is in response to this call that this Diocesan publication continues. A sincere thanks to all who contribute to this publication which emerges from the walls of this College and reaches into every parish of our Diocese.

The work of faith development is continual - we will stay learning about God and our faith as we journey through life. Faith is like any relationship - if we stop working on it - it stops working... The Faith Development Group try to offer, in small and creative ways, supports to people as they explore what this faith means to them.

So that the work of faith formation will continue - we hope that the College and the Adult Faith Development Group 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, Ms Tina Lawlor and Ms Olivia Maher... Let us see what next year brings on this journey of faith.



CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE  
YEAR OF HOPE 2025



**Synod - a real reason for hope**  
Pope Francis has called on all on a synodal journey for some time now the Church throughout the world has wanted to ensure that the voice of all of its members are included. Church in Ireland. It has not always been easy or without its setbacks - but much has been achieved. Please join us when Julianne Moran the General Secretary for the Synodal Pathway of the Catholic Church in Ireland reflects on the challenges and hopes that this journey brings.  
Location: St Mary's Cathedral Chapter House  
Date: Wednesday, 12th March 2025 at 7.00pm

**Prayer Night**  
Praying with the next generation is for us all a real reason for hope - Why not join with us, then, for a special Prayer Night service of hope during this Lent. We will come together with those who are preparing to travel to Talzi from our Diocese in the Summer - bringing our prayer to this special place. Come and experience the serene atmosphere of Talzi prayer, a time of song, silence, and hope - all are welcome.  
Location: St Mary's Cathedral Chapter House  
Date: Friday, 14th March 2025, Time 7.00pm

**The work of Trócaire in our world today - a reason for hope**  
Trócaire, an arm of the Irish Church, works with local partners in the world's most at-risk communities and with people in Ireland to tackle the underlying causes of poverty and injustice and respond to the crises they create. These heart-breaking situations of injustice in our world today yet there is reason for great hope. Join us as Caoimhe de Barra, CEO of Trócaire, explores the reasons why this work is making a difference - and hope still shines forth in our world today.  
Location: St Kieran's College Kilkenny  
Date: Thursday, 20th March 2025 at 7.00pm

**Walk in Jenkinstown Wood**  
A guided walk in Jenkinstown Wood for John Paul II Award participants, but also for all young people. Led by Fr Eamon O'Donnell with Gemma Mulligan. Come along on the evening - all welcome.  
Location: Jenkinstown Wood, Kilkenny  
Date: Saturday, 5th April 2025 at 11.00am

#### Godly Play

A Lenten Godly Play - 'Faith the Road' with Ms Gemma Mulligan and Ms Eadaoin Maher for young people, those attending school, to reflect through Godly Play storytelling, drama and movement, the message of Lent and Easter.  
Location: St Patrick's Parish Centre  
Date: Saturday, 12th April 2025 at 10.00am

#### Faith Seeking Understanding

Lent 2025 sees the conclusion of the Adult Faith Programme of faith formation for over forty years. Each Monday night since our people have come together to reflect on the aspects of our faith. A faith they decided to live. We congratulate those people who, during the Season, will complete the last of these gatherings. Monday night at 7pm-9pm in St Kieran's College. More information on a similar course for next year.

#### Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Join us, via the ASPAL platform, for a series of on the role of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. Over a series of three sessions on the platform and a fourth in your local parish, this helps prepare those who will be commissioned Thursday to be Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. Those already serving in this important ministry, those already serving in this important ministry, those already serving in this important ministry.

#### Foundations in Youth Ministry

The most powerful ministry to young people is from people themselves. This digital course on the ASPAL platform provides a chance for those who are in youth ministry to share their experiences and to receive key principles that will help guide your important ministry.

#### Lent Tweets

Follow @OssoryDiocese for a simple thought each day during this Lenten journey. Have your timeline prompt you to pause, each day to be reminded of our Lenten journey.

#### Online Resources

Online resources for Lent are available on the website. Download them all at once or individually.

# The Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator



Gemma Mulligan

## The Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Plan

The Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Plan is a response to the changing needs of the Catholic Church in our time. Rooted in prayer, discernment, and dialogue, it outlines a vision for the future of our diocese—one that is faithful to the Gospel and responsive to the realities of our communities.

The Plan is the fruit of a wide consultation process involving clergy, religious, and lay faithful across the Diocese of Ossory. It reflects a desire to renew the mission of the Church in a way that is inclusive, participatory, and grounded in the life of the local parish. At its heart is the call to be a Church that listens, accompanies, and walks together in faith. There are nine

strands in the Pastoral Plan which focus on encouraging collaborative decision-making and active participation at every level of diocesan and parish life, reaching out to the marginalized and making our parishes centres of hospitality, service, and care. The plan also aims to create spaces for young people and families to grow in faith and feel valued within the life of the Church, through the John Paul II Awards, Taizé Prayer, family fun days and parish family days.

As parishes work more closely together as a Pastoral Area, liturgies and gathering for prayer can draw people into deeper communion with Christ through more vibrant celebrations as resources are shared.

The plan acknowledges the challenges faced by the Church in Ireland today—declining vocations to priesthood and religious life, demographic shifts, and a growing secular culture. Rather than retreat, it calls the faithful to renew their commitment to missionary discipleship. This includes reimagining parish structures, supporting new ministries,

and using resources more wisely and collaboratively. It encourages all the baptised to respond to their baptismal calling to missionary discipleship.

The Diocesan Pastoral Plan is a living document—a roadmap that will evolve through ongoing prayer, evaluation, and action. It invites every member of the diocese to play their part in shaping a more hopeful, engaged, and Gospel-centered Church.

As Bishop Niall Coll has said, “This is a time not for fear, but for faith. The Spirit is calling us to be creative and courageous in building the Church of tomorrow, beginning today.”

The Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Plan is ultimately about people—about renewing faith, deepening relationships, working and journeying together, strengthening the bonds that make us one Body in Christ. As we journey forward together, our hope is that this plan continues to bear fruit in hearts, homes, and parishes throughout the diocese.

# The Ossory Diocesan Forum

Helen Maher

The Diocesan Pastoral Council, the executive body of the Forum, addressed several pastoral issues important to the Diocese over the past year. One fundamental task undertaken was the revision of the Forum Constitution. The first Constitution was written in 2004 prior to the launch of the Forum. This document outlined the formation of each of the network of Pastoral Councils that make up the Forum. One stipulation of the initial Constitution was that the Constitution would be evaluated and, if necessary, revised within the last six months of each four-year term of office. Such evaluations have taken place in 2008, 2013, 2017 and most recently in 2024. Each revision reflected significant developments in the life of the Forum, for example, the establishment of Deanery Pastoral Councils in 2009 and the change from Deanery Pastoral Councils to Pastoral Area Councils in the most recent edition.

The 2025 Constitution was approved by Bishop Coll in April and launched at the diocesan Chrism Mass during Holy Week this year. In the preface to this edition Bishop Coll writes: *Some sixty*

*years following Vatican II, the work of implementing the Council's teaching has lost nothing of its urgency and indeed in Pope Francis's reconfiguration of the notion of 'synodality' there has begun an exciting phase in its reception.*

The notion of ‘synodality’ has been very clearly articulated in the Final Document of the Universal Synod on Synodality which was published last October. That document, which was adopted by Pope Francis as official Church teaching, emphasises the baptismal call of all to participate actively in the life of the Church and considers what it calls “participatory bodies” essential to ensuring this participation. Parish, Pastoral Area and Diocesan Councils are such bodies. The document goes on to say “A synodal Church is based upon the existence, efficiency and effective vitality of these participatory bodies, not on the merely nominal existence of them.”

From the beginning, the Forum has placed great importance on having Pastoral Councils at every level in the Diocese and has offered guidance and support to parishes about their establishment. Following the launch of the 2025 Constitution this year copies

were circulated to all forty-two parishes in the Dioceses. This Constitution is intended to be a working document which gives clear guidelines about the type of Parish and Pastoral Area Councils envisaged by the Diocese at this time.

While the Constitution concentrates on the formation of effective pastoral structures, the Final Document of the Synod reminds us that “it is relationships that sustain the Church's vitality, animating its structures”. It goes on to say

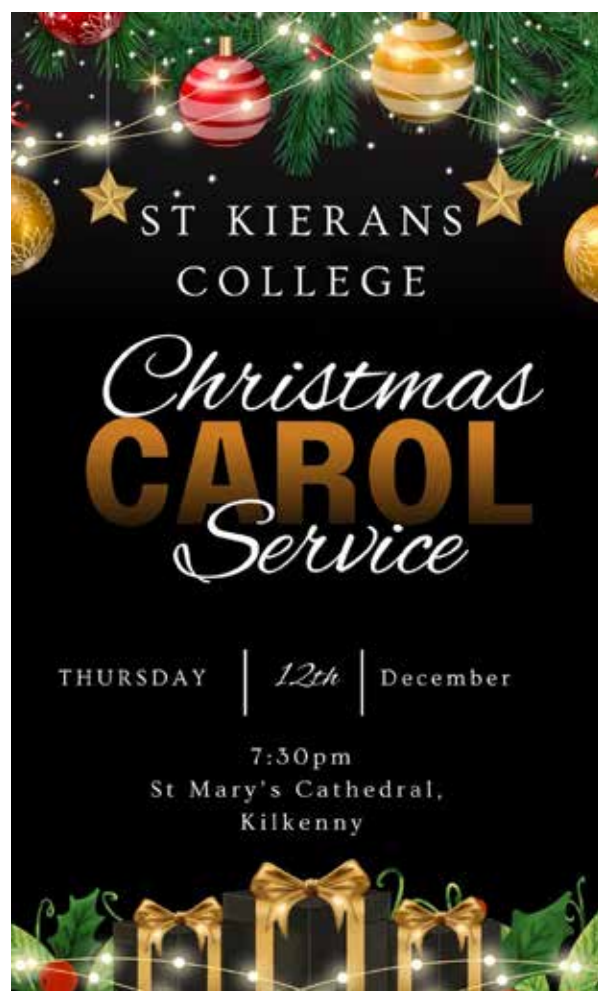
“What emerged throughout the entire synodal journey, and in every place and context, was the call for a Church with a greater capacity to nurture relationships: with the Lord, between men and women, in the family, in the local community, among social groups and religions, with all of creation.”

The Constitution is intended to be in service of such a vision of Church.

The hope is, as Bishop Coll expresses it in the Preface that *it will be a source of encouragement and blessing to the people, religious and clergy of the Diocese during the years to come as we endeavour to work together with the help of the Holy Spirit, to develop a 'style' of Church and ministry most appropriate to our times.*



# Christmas Carol Service





## Christmas Jumper Day



## Snow in January 2025





# Christmas at St Kieran's



Jazz Band performing at the Watergate.



Junior Choir performing on the Parade for Yulefest.



Trad Band performing at Drakelands Nursing Home.



# The Green Schools Committee

By John Keher

At the start of the year, the Green Schools Committee made our plan for what we hoped to achieve. Our main focus was working towards earning our Mobility Flag. This involved encouraging students to walk to school.

We started out by carrying out a mobility survey. We visited classrooms collecting information about students' journeys to and from school. We learned which methods of travel were most common and identified the obstacles that prevent some students from walking to school.

Following the survey, we conducted a walkability audit on the routes students commonly take when walking to school. We created a list of issues with the local infrastructure. In the weeks that followed, we used a speed gun to measure how fast cars were travelling on College Road. Both activities gave us useful insight into the safety of walking to school.

Also during the year, we also performed a kick test in the River Breaghagh. We collected water samples and identified the different species and counted how many of each we found. This helped us determine the pollution level in the river.

Overall, it was a successful year, and we hope to complete our Mobility Flag in 2026.



## Water Project





## 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, Kiltorcan Race Track and IMC Cinema.



## Rotary Youth Leadership Award



Congratulations to Fifth Year pupil Hugh Whelan who won the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. Hugh represented Kilkenny in the Regional Final, in Wicklow last November.



## Safe Pass





# GAA Future Leaders and Active Schools

The GAA Future Leaders Transition Year Programme is a cross-curricular programme comprising Performance Analysis, Nutrition, Coaching and Refereeing modules amongst some designed to encourage maturity, initiative, responsibility and leadership skills in pupils. Our TY students have organised and run both on-field and off-field events for our First Year students which was very worthwhile for all involved. Experiences include organising events, running hurling training and healthy eating presentations to First Year students.

Active Schools is an initiative with the aim of getting more students and staff more active more often in our schools. We in St Kieran's College were very lucky to be chosen as a pilot school to roll out the very successful Active School Flag programme for post primary schools in 2022. Our current TY Active School Flag class have engaged in this endeavour this year and are working hard to hopefully receive our award by the end of the year.



Ciara and Seamus from the Kilkenny Local Sports Partnership who spoke to TY students about our Active Schools programme.



Students at the Kilkenny Gymnastics Academy



Referee David Hughes speaking to GAA Future Leaders students.



GAA Future Leaders students visiting UPMC Nowlan Park.



# Tractor Run



Mr Ben Tomkins and TY students, Dan Carroll, Jack Rhatigan and Michael Barron, making a presentation to Dan Quirke of the Dylan Quirke Foundation.





# Debating Team Shines in a Landmark Year



L to r: Seán Moloney, Oisín Marry, Chris Ging, Larry Phelan, Missing from pic Liam Doyle

This year has been a remarkable one for St Kieran's College debating team, as they showcased their skill, intellect, and determination on the national stage through their participation in the Concern Debates. The team consisted of Seán Moloney (captain), Chris Ging, Oisín Marry, Liam Doyle, Jack Holohan and Larry Phelan.

Competing in a fiercely contested league, they emerged victorious in all three phases, securing two unanimous (5-0) wins along the way. Throughout the league, our debaters tackled some of the most pressing global issues with confidence and critical thinking. They successfully argued that 'School strikes are the only effective way for young people to have a voice on climate change', convincingly opposed the motion that 'Feeding the world is increasingly beyond humanity's reach', and skilfully resisted the motion that 'Big business is indifferent to the Sustainable Development Goals'. Their



impressive performance earned them a place in the knockout stages, where they continued to thrive among the best schools in the country.

In the first knockout round, they secured another victory by passionately advocating that 'The TikTok generation cares about ending global poverty', making it into the last 32 schools remaining in the competition. However, their incredible journey came to a heartbreaking end when they were narrowly defeated while opposing the motion that 'We must only buy from brands that adopt

fair trade practices'. Despite this, the team's achievements have cemented their reputation as one of the top debating squads in the country. This has been the most successful debating team in the school to date and their success is a testament to their dedication, teamwork, and ability to engage with complex issues. We look forward to seeing what they achieve next year while we wish our outgoing Leaving Certs every success in their futures, hopefully they will continue in their debates!



Some of our students represented the Diocese in the St Patrick's Day parade. The lads were treated to dinner in Langton's the following week.

## Lourdes Bake Sale





## Reunion Class of 2020



Class of 2020 Reunion: St Kieran's College was delighted to welcome the LC Class of 2020 to The Set Theatre in February for a class reunion. Due to Covid five years ago, this group didn't get the opportunity to formally celebrate their

graduation. The Class of 2020 met up for the first time since Covid - a chance to rekindle old friendships and reminisce on school days.

A wonderful night was enjoyed by all.



## Ireland's Fittest Family



Well done to past-pupils Paul, Zac and Bryce and to Hallie & to all members of the Cummins family on their fantastic achievement winning Ireland's Fittest Family which was

broadcast on RTE television earlier this year. A fantastic achievement and we were delighted to welcome back the lads to the school following their win.

## Lunchtime Games





# St Kieran's Day



## St Kieran's day - Kayaking

By Robert Brennan

For Kieran's day I chose to go paddling with the kayaking club. I do kayaking there a lot so I decided it was an easy choice that I would enjoy. Two friends decided to do it with me, one who also does kayaking. We went down, got changed and met the leaders at the slipway. There was no kayaking but there were paddle boards which I have very little experience on. There was around a dozen of us mostly from First Year. I got on one of the big boards with my two friends and we easily passed out the rest.

After we got up to John's Bridge we could push each other into the water and steal each others boards. We had a race from the pedestrian bridge. After that we attempted to get all of us on one board and we did succeed but all fell off after.

After a few hours we paddled back down to the slip and I helped load the boards back up. I think it was a very enjoyable day for all of us and I would do it again.









# Time Sails By



Oisín Marry

I've always liked the idea that each and every one of us, as individuals, are like ships passing in the night, navigating the sea of life in our own unique paths. In saying this, I believe that those of us who attend St Kieran's College have one predominant thing in common. We have all been fortunate enough to harbour in such an influential place for a brief period of six years, six years which have seen us grow from immature young boys to considerably less immature young men, six years which will undoubtedly stand as a testament to us in all of life's later voyages.

As I fondly reflect on the days in which I have spent in St Kieran's College, it is the strong culture of success which stands out to me the most. Such success does not simply lie in the genuine victories which can be earned in Kieran's but rather in the continuous bravery to seize opportunities. To put yourself forward in any endeavour is to be celebrated as if you've won, from hurling, running and football to debating, chess, maths and so much more. The school's ability to celebrate each individual's efforts is what I believe makes it stand out from the rest.

As someone who lives in close proximity to Kieran's, my first day of school was not my first time being on its expansive grounds. It was a familiar place, yet on that momentous day I was overcome by a sense of awe which prior sights of the school had never instilled within me. As I nervously made my way through the prominent arch which fronts the college, I was instantly captivated by its sheer scale.

As a 12 year old, paying any heed to the intricate architecture of a building is a foreign concept, yet on that late August morning, that's exactly what I did. The towering building which stood before me, commanded an inexplicable form of respect, orchestrated by the fact that my tightly fastened black and white tie meant that I was now a student here.

This day of new beginnings was also our initial exposure to the belief that to be a student of Kieran's is to be inherently exceptional. Fr Ryan shared the idea that from that day forth there would be an element of 'black and white' flowing through our veins, no matter where life took us, having been a student of Kieran's would be something which we would be eternally proud of.

As First Year got underway, the idea of adaptation in order to survive was of paramount significance. We were the smallest fish in the sea and the concept of not needing to carry around every set of books in your bag for the entirety of the day or running full tilt down the Glasshall at the lunchtime bell, in hot pursuit of the canteen's chicken curry, was something which we would in time come to understand.

Whilst there's no denying that from an outside perspective Kieran's appears to be a school solely revolving around hurling, it was in the early stages of First Year that this subconscious belief of mine was demystified. I quickly found great joy in the weekly lunchtime runs around the grounds of the Castle Park led by a rather passionate and often vocal Mr O'Keeffe. The defining moment of such an activity came not in the familiar park but rather the bus bay of Santry Demesne before we were to brave the Leinster Schools Cross-Country Championship. Whilst delivering his familiar moving words to prepare us, his soldiers, from First to Sixth Years, for 'battle', Mr O'Keeffe stated that as fabled 'Kieran's men', the poor weather conditions which were ongoing outside were in our favour, he never failed to instill the belief that we held this unique inner strength, fuelled by challenges.

Unfortunately, our First Year in Kieran's ended in a fashion in which no one could have ever anticipated. On March 12th, 2020 the entire student body was instructed to empty their lockers and leave the school on a

gloomy Thursday afternoon, a reality which I will always struggle to grasp. What first began as quiet murmurs of an illness which hailed all the way from China, quickly transcended into a beast which rapidly changed our first year lives as we knew them. Covid-19 birthed a whirlwind of virtual classes and an ever building 'to do' list on Google Classroom in its wake. The locked gates and empty college were an eerie reality of our early secondary school days.

As Second Year came upon us, the College was accompanied by rather unpopular regulations, 'covid restrictions'. Upon re-entering the grounds of Kieran's, sporting some little to be desired DIY haircuts, the time in which we had previously spent mastering student life felt as if it was null and void. We no longer travelled from class to class but rather waited attentively, within the same four walls, for a teacher to come to us.

The camaraderie between different year groups in the hallways was now a distant memory, it was as if Kieran's was a shell of its former self. In spite of this, it was still embedded into our nature to make the most of what we had. Lads took a liking for the new 'outdoor' canteen which saw hundreds line up during lunchtime and wait for their turn to buy a chicken roll from a designated window, a fairly simple source of excitement, a reflection of the irregularity which was cast upon the school.

A standout memory of mine from a relatively non-eventful year was an unsupervised free class which resulted in around twenty lads carefully engineering and launching paper airplanes towards the permanently open window at the far side of the room, eventual success resulting in an eruption of cheers, quickly drawing Mr Smith's attention. Kieran's may have temporarily changed yet novelties such as a free class still allowed us to experience what once was.

As normality eventually resumed its position it was welcomed with open arms by the community of St. Kieran's College. Our minds were no longer tormented by the necessity to wear a mask and stick to our confinements of the school but rather the ever approaching threat that was 'The Junior Cert'. It would be unjust of me to



class Third Year as one of unwavering success and happiness for our school. The untimely passing of fellow student Harry Byrne in November 2021 has left an indelible mark on our time in Kieran's. This tragedy greatly impacted all members of the school, an incident which was very difficult to come to terms with. An air of sadness was felt throughout the hallways, marked by the fact that regardless of how well you knew Harry, he was a student of Kieran's just like the rest of us, he wore the same uniform, possessed the same Kieran's spirit. Yet, in due course, the entire school community came back together, in a way, stronger than it had been before, and Harry will live on in all of our memories.

For me, Third Year reached its pinnacle at the senior hurling match in late February, against our neighbours the CBS, a local derby. A plethora of parent signatures were forged on absence notes as word spread throughout the school that all were to leave the grounds at one o'clock and head towards O'Loughlin's. Led by a few nameless sixth years, all students proudly marched through town towards the pitch, spirits flying as high as the black and white flags which accompanied us and an array of chants being belted out by all.

As quickly as Third Year began, it soon too came to an end. The Junior Cert was merely a stepping stone, a chance to experience State Exam nerves in a set of tests which ultimately rendered little real importance, something which teachers would undeniably contest. I can still recall the sense of relief that I was overcome with as I wandered through the gates on my first day of Transition Year, not a care in the world. We were free from the burden of study and set to embark on the 'Dolce Vita', a year packed with real life opportunities that books would simply never be able to teach us. The beauty of TY, in my eyes, was that it was nothing more than a blank canvas, a year which allowed every student to paint it however they wished. As the year got underway we were presented with a variety of activities which would allow us to pass the time, from putting ourselves forward to receive various awards such as the 'Gaisce' and 'Hiems Transiit', to volunteering or taking part in the musical. It was a rare day that we were completely idle. The best decision that I made in TY was to partake in the musical 'All Shook Up', something which

definitely wouldn't have been on my secondary school bingo card when I started Kieran's. Before I knew it, I was queuing up outside of the canteen with at least thirty other similarly pale-faced lads, waiting to do singing auditions for a board of self-proclaimed 'singing expert' teachers in order to see if we would make the cut for the Watergate stage. Needless to say, 'Riptide' will never sound the same.

Whilst sitting here, deep in thought about what to include in this piece—my Irish oral notes retired for good and an abundance of study ahead of me—it has dawned upon me that you truly don't realise what you have until it's gone. Transition Year was one of ease and new experiences, arguably my favourite in Kieran's. And yet, it's not something you tend to appreciate at the time—not when you're leisurely strolling the halls in search of a teacher who might have a spare 'job' up for grabs as opposed to going to class, or trudging through the Comeragh Mountains on the overnight Gaisce trip, spending the night in a community hall which had certainly seen better days, all on the verge of exhaustion after a day of giving Bear Grylls a run for his money. At the time, it simply felt like normality but now I'd have no objection to being back in that time of bliss.

Within no time our bags quickly filled from the Transition Year essentials of a singular pen and crumpled piece of paper to an array of Leaving Cert books as we began Fifth Year. In a way we resumed the position of our former first year selves, we embarked on a new chapter in our schooling lives which we were not yet sure exactly how to tackle. My father's words in relation to the Leaving Cert still rest in the back of my mind as we're only a few weeks out from 'D-Day'. He frequently reminded me throughout the course of fifth and subsequently sixth year that 'the only way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time'. Whilst such an idea may not be particularly appetising these words were crucial when it came to remaining level headed while facing the abundance of work which stood before me.

The widespread recognition that the only person who would reap the rewards of your continued efforts would be yourself could be seen in the quickly growing numbers of lads attending after school study. Meticulously supervised under the watchful eyes of PJ, whose daily 'alright lads study has ended' at

6:15 is still nothing short of music to my ears.

Alongside such a rigorous new workload was the opportunity to become a 'Cairdeas Leader' for the incoming First Years. The definition of a full circle moment. We could now seize the opportunity to guide the new 'smallest fish in the sea' in adapting to the Kieran's lifestyle. A great portrayal of the strong caring ethos promoted within the school, something which stood to all of us in our early days.

As our Leaving Cert Year beckoned, it was with great anticipation that we responded. In the opening days and weeks, there wasn't a single teacher that failed to focus on the astonishing speed of such a year. To be blatant, I initially disregarded this, viewing Sixth Year as a long and monotonous road, yet as I now sit here, having the privilege of writing on behalf of the Leaving Cert students of 2024/2025, attempting to define an almost undefinable experience, it is with great confidence that I can confirm their comments about such haste were correct. In the dying embers of my time in Kieran's, it's the poetry of Patrick Kavanagh which resonates with me the greatest. The predominant message of many of Kavanagh's poems are that of finding the extraordinary within the ordinary and I can say that my time in Kieran's has granted me such an ability. For me, the unassuming hallways, lined with black and white photographs of students gone by are elevated by the continuous success moulded by the school community, by the friendships which over six years have flourished, by the constant support that all members of the staff have given us and by the realisation that no singular moment is sufficient in summing up such a memorable time in our lives.

As our ships prepare to disembark from the safe harbour of St.Kieran's, to test the waters of college or the working world, it is with a sense of great pride and confidence that we can do so. Our masts will differ from the rest, embellished with black and white stitching from a time gone by, all too quickly. To my fellow classmates, I wish you the very best of luck in the Leaving Cert and irrespective of the outcome, may you happily reminisce on your time in the harbour of St.Kieran's College, a harbour in which we've all had the honour of sharing.



# 625 Points



L to r; Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, Patrick Fleming, Ben Crow, Darragh Lawlor, Killian Tallon, Paul Mahon, James Hughes, Alexis Fitzgerald, Mr Adrian Finan.



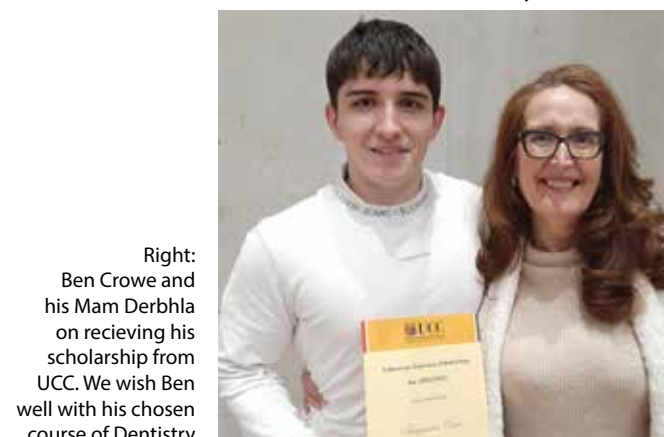
## Scholarships



Left:  
Past pupil  
Patrick Fleming  
who received  
an Entrance  
Scholarship Award  
from Trinity College  
Dublin based on his  
fantastic Leaving  
Cert results in 2024.  
We are very proud  
of Patrick and we  
wish him well with  
the remainder of his  
studies throughout  
the years ahead.



UCD Scholarships - Congratulations to James Hughes and Killian Tallon on receiving Entrance Scholarships to UCD for outstanding results in their Leaving Certificate in 2024. It was lovely to celebrate their achievements with their families in O'Reilly Hall, UCD. Best wishes to both of the lads as they pursue their chosen studies in Veterinary and Engineering respectively.



Right:  
Ben Crowe and  
his Mam Derbhla  
on receiving his  
scholarship from  
UCC. We wish Ben  
well with his chosen  
course of Dentistry



Delighted to meet past-pupil Seán Young and his family last night at the Maynooth Entrance Scholarship Awards recognising his exceptional Leaving Certificate results in 2024. Seán is currently studying Psychology at Maynooth University - We wish him every success with his course and future career.







# Leaving Certs

Some happy faces calling to the school to collect their Leaving Cert results in August 2024

Below teacher and students reflect on the Leaving Cert results.



## Junior Certs



Students receiving their Junior Cert Profile of Achievements (JCPA).





First Years - August 2024  
Taking the First Year photo at the end of their first day in St Kieran's.



# End of Year Awards 2024

## STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

### FIRST YEAR

**Student of the Year** - Sam Norton

**Certs of Merit** - David Timmons, James Travers, Darragh Carroll, David Blanchfield, Rory Quigley, Patrick McCarthy

**Academic of the Year** - Ronan Griffin

### SECOND YEAR

**Student of the Year** - Lorcan Cummins

**Certs of Merit** - Jack Stapelton, Jack Bolger, Ted Healy, AJ Mackey, Enda Cunningham, Phillip Lynch

**Academic of the Year** - James Butler

### THIRD YEAR

**Student of the Year** - Tommy Doyle

**Certs of Merit** - Michael Tynan, Robert Butler, James Ryan, Paddy Grace, Ryan Minogue Lee, Robert Brennan

**Academic of the Year** - Sean Nulty

### FOURTH YEAR

**Student of the Year** - Kieran Timmins

**Certs of Merit** - Cathal Rossiter, David Barcoe, Marc Doheny, Conor Aylward, Louis Raggett, Conor McEvoy

### FIFTH YEAR

**Student of the Year** - Jude Dooley-Delaney

**Certs of Merit** - Chris Ging, Pierce Costelloe, Chris Delaney, Liam Doyle, Bill O'Shea, Charlie Grace

**Academic of the Year** - Sean Moloney

### SIXTH YEAR

**Student of the Year** - Darragh Lawlor

**Certs of Merit** - Killian Tallon, Jeff Neary, James Hughes, Eoin O'Neill, Patrick Purcell, Killian Butler

**Academic of the Year** - Alexis Fitzgerald

## SENIOR SUBJECT AWARDS

**Mathematics** - Killian Tallon

**Gaeilge (Corn na Gaeilge)** - Alexis Fitzgerald

**English** - Paul Mahon

**Business** - Rory Smithwick

**Technology** - Ronan Hackett

**Construction Studies** - Luke O'Donnell

**DCG** - Seán Counihan

**History** - Kealan Gray

**Geography** - Mark Fitzpatrick

**Spanish** - Killian Butler

**French** - Seán Young

**Physics** - Patrick Fleming

**Chemistry** - Darragh Lawlor

**Biology** - Ben Crowe

**Ag Science** - Paul Mahon

**Home Ec** - Charlie Cleere

**Art** - Seán Young

**Music** - Seán Cahill

**P.E.** - Sam Larkin

**Computer Science** - Kealan Gray

## JUNIOR SUBJECT AWARDS

**Mathematics** - Seán Nulty

**Gaeilge** - Patrick Purcell

**English** - Oliver Phelan

**Religion** - Michael Tynan

**Business** - Ben Nevin

**Technology** - Cormac Monahan

**Tech Graphics** - Robert Butler

**Wordwork** - Alex Rochford

**History** - Jack White

**Geography** - Oisín Barry

**Spanish** - Ryan Minogue Lee

**French** - Felix Fwamba

**Science** - Seán Nulty

**Art** - Robert Butler

**Music** - Michael Tynan

## SPORTS AWARDS

**Senior Hurler of the Year** – Sean Hunt

**Senior Soccer Player of the Year** – Sean Casey

**The White Medal** – Sean Bergin

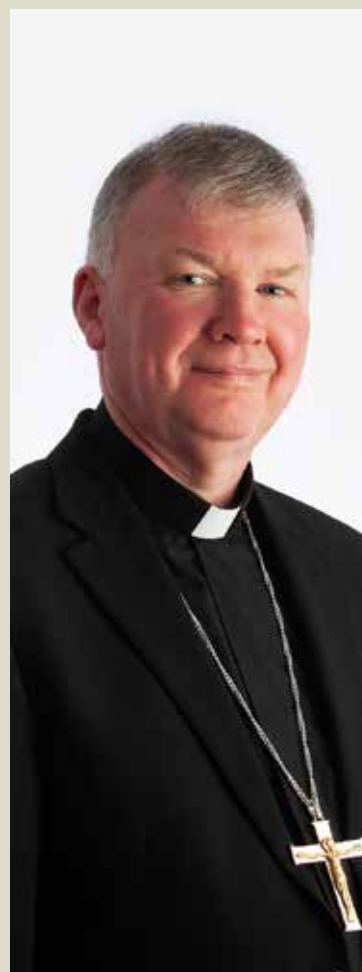
**Sport Star of the Year** – Jack Johnson

## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Noah Manogue

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Rory Glynn



**Bishop Niall Coll**

School Patron and Special Guest at our Awards Night.





St Kieran's College Awards Night - Students of the Year 2024: L-R: Sam Norton (1st) Lorcan Cummins (2nd) Tommy Doyle (3rd) Darragh Lawlor (6th) Jude Dooley-Delaney (5th) and Kieran Timmins (4th). Many thanks to Guest of Honour Bishop Niall Coll for presenting our Student of the Year Awards.



St Kieran's College Awards Night - Awards Night 2024: Sixth Year student Darragh Lawlor who was presented with the Student of the Year Award by Guest of Honour, Bishop Niall Coll in Lyrath Estate Hotel.



St Kieran's College Awards Night - Awards Night 2024: Sixth Year student Rory Glynn receiving the President's Award from Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, President of St Kieran's College.



St Kieran's College Awards Night - Awards Night 2024: Rory Glynn (President's Award), Jack Johnson (Sports Star of the Year), Alexis Fitzgerald (Academic of the Year), Darragh Lawlor (Sixth Year Student of the Year), Sean Hunt (Hurler of the Year), and Sean Bergin (White Medal).



# Pastoral Care



Back row l to r; Louis Lawlor, Jack Dooley, Charlie Greene, David Barcoe, Conor Heffernan Middle row l to r; Ciaran Coone, Ciaran Hickey, Philip Carrigan, Conor McEvoy, James Wallace, James Holohan Front row l to r; Eoin Walpole, Brian Hickey, Scott Hennessy, Harry Conroy, MJ Banville, Cian Doherty

## CAIRDEAS

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. This year, each Fifth Year student underwent training and was assigned to be a mentor to six First year students. They met 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.

Our Fifth Year mentors provided individual and group support from the initial stages of the first year's life within St Kieran's College. The Cairdeas Programme encourages Fifth Year students to play a responsible role in the school community and to ensure that new students are secure in the knowledge that there are always older pupils available and willing to help them.

The process of recruiting students with similar skills has already begun

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

Thanks to all of our students who are so willing to help our incoming first years each year.



Sixth Year students created a Lenten display in the school.



## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

A huge thanks to everyone who was able to donate to our Christmas shoebox and fillers appeal for Team Hope. Every year, the St Kieran's College community contributes huge amounts to Team Hope's campaign and every single item donated is received by those in need at what can be a difficult time of the year.



## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK





## MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2024/25

Our annual whole school Mental Health Week took place from 7th-12th of October in St Kieran's College. During Mental Health Week, the school walls are also decorated with positive mental health slogans for all our students to see.

On Monday, October 7th, Fifth Year students received a very informative talk from Tony O'Reilly (Tony 10) who spoke to the students about the dangers of gambling.

On Tuesday, October 8th, TY students went on a well-being walk, stopping for ice creams along the way. This was followed by a soccer tournament to highlight the importance of staying active for positive Mental Health.

On Wednesday, October 9th, First and Second Year students participated in a number of outdoor activities in teams incorporating all classes to take time out to get to know each other, improving friendships and bonds within their year groups in St Kieran's College.

On Thursday, October 10th, Third Years received a talk from Elma Walsh, mother of Donal Walsh from Tralee, Co.



First and Second Year students enjoying some activities away from the classroom as part of mental health week.



Fifth Year students making a donation to the Alzheimers' Society



Students making a presentation to Mary Pierce of Kilkenny Helping the Homeless and Cois Nore.





Elma Walsh from the Donal Walsh #livelife and former olympian Kenneth Egan who spoke to our 3rd and 6th years to mark World Mental Health Day 2024.



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

Finally, Sixth Year students received a talk from former Olympian, Kenneth Egan who spoke about his own troubles with addiction along with his mindset in getting him onto the Olympic podium.

Throughout the week, students donated money to Mental Health charities. In total €2000 was raised for local charities.

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

## AMBER FLAG

The Amber flag is an initiative by Pieta House which recognises the individual efforts of schools to create

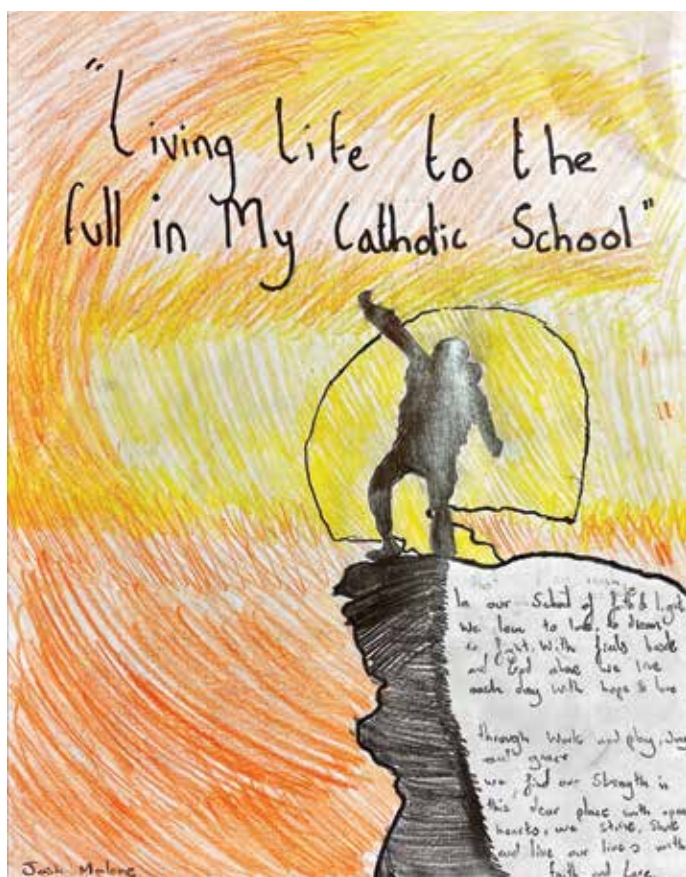


Tony O'Reilly (Tony 10) spoke to our Fifth Year students about the dangers of gambling as part of our Mental Health Week programme.





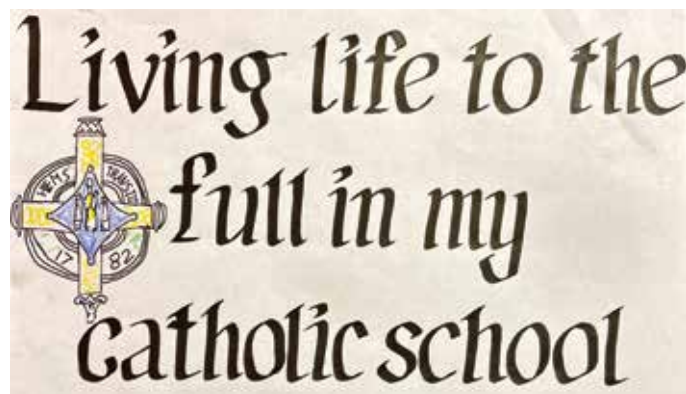
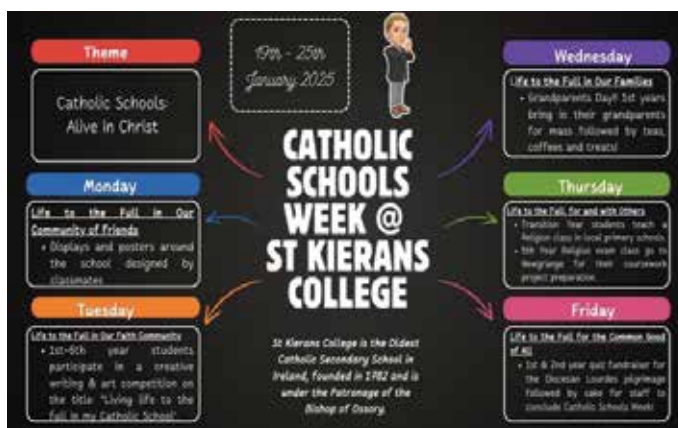
Transition Year students teaching in St Canice's Primary school for Catholic Schools Week.



healthy, inclusive environments that support mental well-being. The amber flag enables schools across the country to raise awareness of the stigmas which exist across the country.

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

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



All year groups took part in a creative writing and poster competition using the title "Living life to the full in my Catholic School".





Grandparents' Mass

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2025

Catholic Schools Week took place from the 19th-25th of January 2025 under the theme 'Catholic Schools: Alive in Christ'. A number of activities took place throughout the week to celebrate what it means to be the Oldest Catholic Secondary School in Ireland and the Diocesan school under the Patronage of the Bishop of Ossory. For each day of the week in Catholic Schools Week there was a sub-theme:

- Life to the Full in Our Community of Friends - Students made displays and posters around the school designed by classmates
- Life to the Full in Our Faith Community - First-Sixth Year students participate in a creative writing and art competition on the title: 'Living life to the full in my Catholic School'.
- Life to the Full in Our Families - First Years brought in their grandparents for mass celebrated by Bishop Coll which was followed by teas, coffees and treats!
- Life to the Full, for and with Others - Transition Year students went to St Canices Primary School to teach a Religion class to all 6th class students in the school. Our Fifth Year Religion exam class also went to Newgrange for their coursework project preparation.
- Life to the Full for the Common Good of All - First and Second years had a quiz fundraiser for the Diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage followed by cake for staff to conclude Catholic Schools Week!

It was a great week for the whole school to Celebrate Catholic Schools Week.





## FIRST YEAR FRIENDSHIP DAY

By Daniel Funcheon (1A)

On Thursday 19th of September 2024, we went on a walk with our Cairdeas leaders to St Mary's Cathedral for a mass where we organised and did readings. After that we went to the Castle park to do some activities with our Cairdeas leaders and other students. The activity centred around "Get to know each other" where we got to know lads better who we wouldn't have known before joining the school. Our Cairdeas leaders helped us get settled into First year, if we had any questions about school etc we could always ask them. On random days they could take us out to the main pitch to do some activities or they asked us some questions to make sure that we were settling well into the school. Anyway after we finished our activities in the Castle Park we took a walk back to school where we had pizza from dominos and a fizzy drink of choice it was either Coke or Fanta. After we were stuffed with pizza, we had a big soccer tournament with our Cairdeas groups. It was a very fun tournament. Just before we went home we got ice cream off the teachers and we got our icecream of choice, the ice cream was a surprise so we were delighted! I had a very fun day out with my friends and Cairdeas leaders This was my favourite day of school so far!



## SECOND YEAR RETREAT

By Sam Norton (2A)

Tuesday October 1st was the retreat to the river barrow walkway in Saint Mullins. The trip involved many things like mass in Duiske Abbey in Graiguenamanagh, the walkway and also food at the end of the walk. The day started off with all second years getting buses from the school out to Graiguenamanagh. We all attended mass in the Duskie Abbey. We then got ready to go on the walk which we started around 11 o'clock and lasted till about 2 o'clock. At the end of the walk we got food in the Mullichain café which is at the end of the walk in Saint Mullins. The weather was great and everyone was pucking around and talking with their friends. It was a great day out to get a day off school and go on a trip with your year group. The trip was definitely one of my favourite days in second year so far and was a great day out for all involved.







Fifth Year students waiting patiently for their barbecue.



Fifth Year students engage in team building exercises as part of their Retreat.

## FIFTH YEAR TEAM BUILDING DAY





# Chess



L-r Jack O'Neill, Alyn Hearne, Kevin Stanly, Yevhen Zavarzin, John Keher, Matthew Duggan, Matthew Phelan.

By Matthew Duggan and Matthew Phelan

Every Tuesday at lunch time the chess club meet to practice their skills. Our club has grown in numbers during the course of the last few years which has led to us having some great matches during lunch time. This year we hosted friendly competitions in St Kierans with Loreto Kilkenny and Knockbeg College Carlow coming to visit. We have a return

competition to look forward to in Knockbeg College before the end of the school year. This year we also competed in the inaugural Kilkenny Schools Chess Championship where we had a very successful day. A report on the day is below. We look forward to many more successful days out with our chess club.

## Chess Competition

On 28th of March 2025, our St Kierans College Chess team took part in Mark Quinn's Kilkenny Schools Chess championship. They faced off against numerous Kilkenny teams as well as teams from schools in Waterford, Wexford, Carlow and Wicklow. The St Kierans College team, comprising of TY student Matthew Duggan, TY student Matthew Phelan, Third Year student John Keher, First Year student Jack O'Neill, 3rd student Kevin Stanley, Third Year student Yevhen Zavarzin and TY student Alyn Hearne, our team manager. The team put in an amazing performance beating Kilkenny CBS in the semi final and drawing with Abbey Community College in the final to score 4.5/5 and becoming the first ever Kilkenny Schools Chess champions. Matthew Phelan, John Keher and Jack O'Neill also won individual awards on board 2,3 and 4 respectively. Thanks to Ms Maher for organising the Chess Club.



# SPHE



Many thanks to Sergeant John Duffy and his colleagues from Kilkenny Garda Station for visiting all of our year groups in the school, to discuss a host of topics from the Criminal Age of Responsibility with our First Years to Road Safety with our Sixth Years and everything in between.





# Spanish



Erasmus Day



## Erasmus Integration

Sean Nulty

My name is Seán Nulty and I participated in the Erasmus Integration Program, helping to guide and educate Dutch students during their brief stay in Ireland. The first activity we did with the students was a sort of "speed dating" where we each had five minutes to talk and introduce ourselves to each of them. This helped us to learn more about each other and our respective countries. Afterwards, we were sorted into teams of two students from St Kieran's College and two Erasmus students for a table quiz. Here we had to work together to answer trivia questions regarding both the Netherlands and Ireland. After completing the quiz we had some time to show our new Dutch friends some of the further aspects and complexities of Irish life as we went out to lunch with them in Kilkenny City. Following this we went on a guided tour, seeing such sights as Kilkenny Castle and Rothe House. Overall, I feel that it was an enjoyable experience and that I learned much about the Netherlands and its culture.



Erasmus Integration Program

## Intercambio a Madrid

Isaac Okorafor

I went on an exchange to Madrid at the start of October. For the first week, I was with my parents and we stayed in a hotel. We explored Madrid, learned how to use the public transport and bought some essentials. My parents went back to Ireland and then I went to a small village in Madrid called Galapagar where I stayed with a Spanish local in an apartment in the village. The population was about 30,000. There wasn't much there but there was a very good football team which I joined for a while. I also went to the bilingual school in my village called Cañada Real. It was a normal secondary school so I had the opportunity to see what school life was like for people my age in Spain. It was a small enough school with about 300 students. It was very different to school in Ireland, mainly because of the timetable. Class started at 8 and finished at either 2pm or 3pm, depending on the day.

November was when I felt I began to settle in and started to go places with my friends from school. We used to go to the city centre mostly and

transport was so easy to use and so cheap if you had a transport card. The centre of Madrid had every shop that you could think of.

School in Madrid is much tougher than it is in Ireland. Even though I couldn't speak Spanish fluently it didn't mean that they let me skip any of the work.

In December, I was lucky and got the chance to play with a professional football club. I was able to leave school and play full time football for around 3 weeks. We trained 4 times a week and sometimes twice a day. If you play for a professional team in Spain you don't have to go to school, you just have to do a little bit of course work. Unfortunately, I had to come back to Ireland and didn't get to finish the full month with the team. Overall, I had a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone who has an interest in doing Spanish or if you want a cool new experience to do an exchange.





# Agricultural Science Trip 2025

The Fifth Year agricultural science students attended a practical day in Kildalton College on Friday March 14th. Kildalton College is located 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, tillage, equine and horticultural enterprises.

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

- the use of collar system on cows for heat detection and health status,
- the use of protected urea,
- correct calibration of fertiliser spreaders,
- incorporating clover into swards,
- use of Euro Star Rating in beef production to produce higher grade animals,
- improving soil fertility through maximum use of organic manures
- and
- making maximum use of the economic breeding index (EBI)

There are many more sustainable and advanced technological practices to maintain natural resources and to support Ireland's future agricultural competitiveness. We deal with these in our individual investigative studies (IIS), where we explore a hypothesis through scientific investigations on an agricultural enterprise. 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.



Fifth Year students Joe, Ronan, Fionn and Conor who represented the school at the "Know your Ag Quiz" run by Macra, UCD and the IASTA in UCD in April.



Kildalton Agricultural College.



Kildalton Agricultural College.



# Career Guidance Report 2024-2025

Mr Brian Dowling, 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
- Agriculture – SETU
- Shannon College of Hotel Management

Management

- Engineering
- Psychology
- UCD
- UCC (Quercus Scholarships)
- Maynooth
- DCU
- MTU – Construction Management and Quantity Surveying talk

Management and Quantity Surveying talk

- Sport Science – SETU
- Business – SETU
- Sports scholarships – Maynooth

Maynooth

- PWC – Accounting
- Defence forces

Our TYs had the opportunity to visit to different colleges during the year; SETU (W.I.T. campus) and UL campus while attending many of the talks listed above.

Our TYs enjoyed four weeks of Work Experience and they carried out a Career Investigation during the year. 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.





# Geography

## Leaving Cert Geography Trip to Tramore

The Leaving Certificate Geography field trip took place towards the end of last year for Mr. Morgan's class and early this school year for Mr. Lynch's group. A key part of the curriculum, the trip contributes 20% to students' final grade through the completion of a Geography investigation project. Students travelled to Tramore beach to explore the processes of coastal deposition and transport. During the trip, they engaged in hands-on activities such as measuring the effects of longshore drift and analysing beach fabric, all aimed at investigating the impact of natural coastal processes on the area. This year also marks a change in how students submit their projects. For the first time, the write-up must be completed and submitted using Microsoft Word. While this adds a modern twist to the traditional field study, it also brings new challenges for students as they adapt to the digital format. Overall, the trip provided a valuable learning experience and an opportunity to apply classroom theory in a real-world setting.



## Geography Week 2025 Brings Learning to Life

Geography Week 2025 was a lively and engaging celebration of all things geographical. First-year students kicked off the week with a fun and competitive Geography Quiz held in the study hall. The event tested their knowledge on topics ranging from continents and capitals to flags and landmarks, all while promoting teamwork and enthusiasm for the subject. Meanwhile, second and third years took their revision outdoors by making use of the school's active walkway. This creative approach allowed students to combine physical activity with learning, as they reviewed key concepts and challenged each other by answering questions placed along the route. Our Transition Year students have been busy all year promoting a love for Geography and History through their weekly updates. Their updates showed how both subjects play a role in our daily lives, often without us even realising





it. From natural disasters and global news to anniversaries of key historical moments, the TYs kept the school community informed and engaged. Their work has not only boosted awareness of these subjects but also reminded us just how deeply Geography and History are woven into the fabric of everyday life. The week was a great success, blending education with energy and giving students across all junior year groups a fresh way to connect with Geography.

### School Joins ESB WeatherWatch Programme

We are delighted to have been selected as part of the ESB WeatherWatch programme, an exciting initiative that brings real-world weather monitoring right to our school grounds. As part of the programme, a digital weather

station was installed on-site, giving students access to real-time weather data that they can observe and analyse. This live data will play a key role in helping students deepen their understanding of weather forecasting and its importance in our daily lives. The station can be viewed online by scanning the QR code displayed here and on the weather station. As part of the programme, Transition Year students also explored the link between weather patterns and the generation of renewable energy. They took part in a national competition by creating videos to showcase this connection, blending science, creativity, and technology. A special thank you goes to Enda for his support in setting up the station and getting everything up and running smoothly.



## History



Third Year history trip to Glasnevin Cemetery.



1B visiting Talbot's Tower on New Street.



Third Year history trip to Glasnevin Cemetery



Third Year history trip to Glasnevin Cemetery



# Irish



Seachtain na Gaeilge



## Gaelbhratach

Cuireadh tús leis an scéim Gaelbhratach i gColáiste Chiaráin ag tús na scoilbhliana 2024/2025. Is í aidhm an scéim seo ná chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i measc pobal na scoile. Bunaíodh coiste le scoláirí ó gach bliain, is iad:

1ú bhliain- Con Roche, Danny Greene

2ú bliain- Shane Hogan, Ned Foristel, Liam Corcoran

3ú bliain- Seán Norton, AJ Mackey, Shane Comerford

4ú bliain- Will O'Dwyer, Alyn Hearne

5ú bliain- Liam O'Dwyer, Cormac Lahy, Marc Doheny

6ú bliain- Seán Rossiter, William Nugent

Múinteoirí- Patricia McElwee, Michaela Ní Dhonnchú

D'oibrigh an coiste le linn na bliana chun imeachtaí éagsúla a chur ar siúl trí Ghaeilge. Bhí comórtaisí, seisiúin ceoil,

tráth na gceist, ciorcal cómhra, Gaeilge 24, turas pictiúrlainne, agus imeachtaí Seachtain na Gaeilge mar chuid de na himeachtaí a eagraíodh.

Bailíodh an Gaelbhratach i gColaiste Mhuire gan Smal i Luimneach, tá sé go hiontach don scoil go bhfuil ár gcuid iarrachtaí chun an Ghaeilge a spreagadh i measc na scoláirí aithinte. Comhghairdeas do chách a bhí bainteach leis.



# Art

This year's students had a range of exciting activities and projects to engage, celebrate and intrigue students in their art education. Senior cycle students got the opportunity to go on trips to Dublin to the National Gallery of Ireland and to Newgrange in Co. Meath to support their understanding of art in the real world. They also worked on a specific art piece to give to Bishop Coll on his arrival to the school. Students across both junior and senior cycle have worked extremely hard through painting, drawing, printmaking and 3D sculpture to create some excellent and outstanding pieces of art. Art club has also been a lunchtime hub of activity for students to enjoy the art room space and develop their own artistic practice.

In the art department we celebrate each individual student's creative journey and have seen some wonderful creative explorations through a variety of materials throughout the year. Well done to all.





# Business

## Student Enterprise Programme Competition

By Michael O Keeffe (Second Year Business)

Taking part in the Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) has been a brilliant experience. My business is called Suet & Song, where I produce handmade, eco-friendly suet cakes for wild birds using suet from our own cows, combined with ingredients like peanut butter, seeds, and grains. The cakes come in unique shapes and are currently stocked in local pharmacies and one Tirlán FarmLife store.

The Kilkenny Final in Lyrath was a highlight – it was great to meet other young entrepreneurs and get feedback from the judges. It was a great day out and my classmates John Nolan and Conor Hanlon also competed with their business 'NH Custom Lightening' and Gearoid Farrell competed with his business 'Farrell Sports'.

The competition has pushed me to improve my product, understand my business better, and develop skills in marketing, finance, and presentation.

I won the intermediate section and will represent Kilkenny in the All-Ireland in May. I'm really looking forward to it, and I'm proud to showcase the hard work and sustainability values behind Suet & Song.

### The Student Enterprise Programme - National Finals 2025

The national finalists for Ireland's largest student entrepreneurial programme took place on the 8th of May. Over 200 students from 85



school enterprises across the country competed in the finals of the Student Enterprise Programme from the 30,000 or so who began the programme in September. Michael O Keeffe from St Kieran's College, Kilkenny was the overall winner of the SEP National Final intermediate category with his business 'Suet & Song'. Suet & Song produces handcrafted, high-quality suet cakes designed to provide essential nutrition for wild birds. Unlike mass-produced alternatives, suet cakes are made using natural, locally sourced suet from their own farm's cows, ensuring freshness, sustainability, and superior quality. It all started on the 5th of March when the County Final took place in Lyrath Estate Hotel where schools from around Kilkenny gathered to compete. Suet and Song won the County Final and went on to represent Kilkenny in the National Finals that took place in Mullingar Park Hotel on the 8th of May. There were a total of 27 schools in a very competitive intermediate category. All

of Michael's hard work and continuous development of his product paid off when he was announced the SEP National Final Overall intermediate winner. An outstanding achievement and a great start to Michael's entrepreneurial career.







Fifth Year Business Classes visit to State Street.



Visit to State Street.



Fifth Year Students visit to Tirlán.

## Woodwork



First Years enjoying their Wood Technology class.



First Year Wood Technology projects



# Maths



Regional Applied Maths

## Regional Applied Maths

Well done to our Senior Regional Applied Maths Winners - 1st and 2nd place in the IAMTA Regional Applied Maths Final. Well done to Nevin Benny, Chris Ging, Seán Moloney, Daniel Devereux, James Brennan & Conor Aylward who qualified for the All-Ireland Final in March. Many thanks to Ramsgrange Community School for hosting the competition & to Maths teacher Mr Joe Kavanagh for accompanying the lads.



## IMTA Regional Maths Quiz

Congrats to our Sixth Year students, Daniel Devereux, Dara Behan, Cian Phelan & Ruairi Phelan who have retained this trophy for a second year running and will now progress to the All-Ireland final. Many thanks to Mr Hennessy for organising and to all of the Maths teachers in the school who were involved

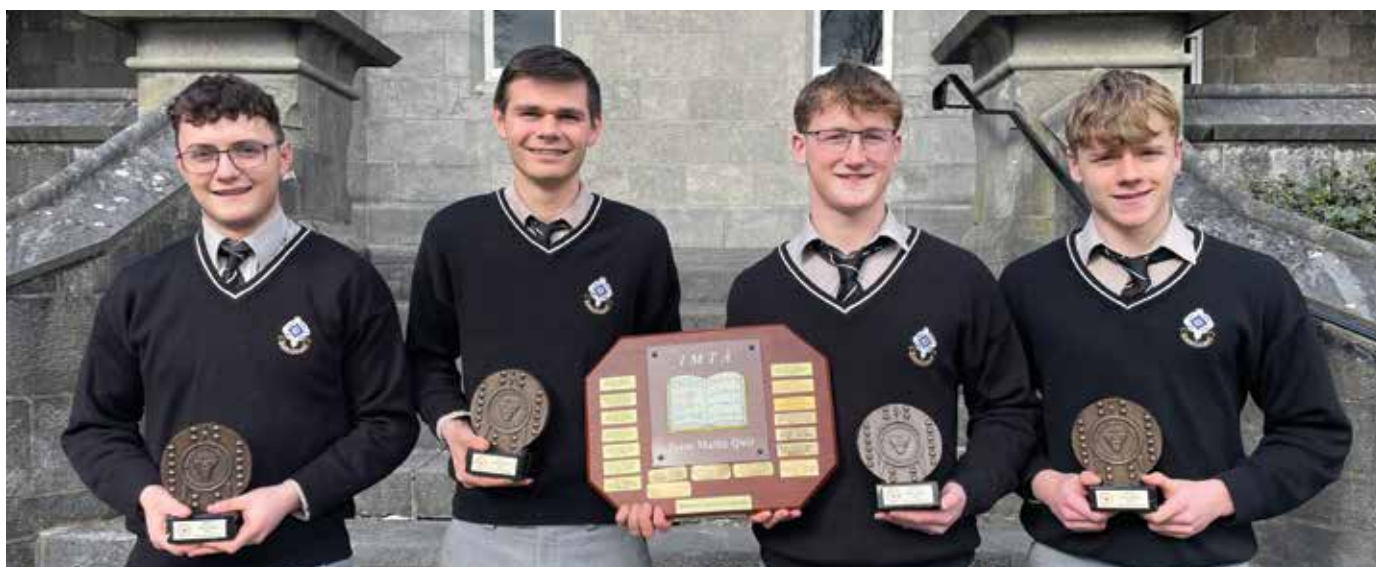


Well done to First Year student Hugh Chaney who was one of 5 students to score 100% in the IMTA First Year Maths Quiz held recently.



James Rochford who received a medal from the IMTA for his outstanding result in the First year maths competition.





IMTA Regional Maths Quiz Winners - L to R: Cian Phelan, Daniel Devereux, Ruairi Phelan and Dara Behan.

## Religion

This has been another busy year in the Religion Department with lots going on. All First Years prepared for the Grandparents' Mass and wrote Christmas Cards to the residents of local nursing homes. Our Second Years completed their CBAs and we wish our Third Years the very best in their upcoming Junior Cycle State Exams. At TY and Senior levels we have explored the usual topics in the RE curriculum and in the co-curricular space we have organised many visitors and guest speakers to visit the school and speak to the students. One particularly interesting guest was Sam the Sniffer Dog. Sam visited our Fifth Years with his handlers Laura and Alan from the Revenue Customs office. They very kindly introduced the lads to Sam and spoke about their daily work in airports, sea-ports and mail centres in relation to Alcohol and Drugs - part of the Fifth Year RE curriculum.



Enda Kavanagh reading at the start of year Mass.



Leaving Cert Sniffer Dog visit.



Newgrange visit.



# Music



Senior Choir

## Senior Choir

By Liam O'Dwyer

The experience of participating in the Senior Choir has been one I've thoroughly enjoyed. Over the course of the year, we've taken part in several different competitions and concerts, in all parts of the country. Multiple times the Senior Choir has performed at masses in front of the entire school. Just before Christmas, we performed in

front of a crowd of family, friends and fellow students, singing a rendition of Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree. Our whole year was building toward our last competition in Wesley College and it was a day full of nerves. We sang I Want It That Way, a song that we all thoroughly enjoyed learning. We came out of that competition in 3rd place with a score of 87%, just barely trailing behind the second and first place choirs. It was an extremely tight

competition and I think we all came out of it very proud of ourselves. At the moment, the choir is practicing for the awards ceremony at the end of the year. Overall, the Choir has put in outstanding effort and the result of that effort has been an output of great songs again and again. On behalf of the choir we'd like to say a huge thank you to Ms. Johnson and Mr. Brennan, without whom none of this would be possible.



Junior Choir



## Junior Choir 2024/25

By Harry Egan (3A)

This year in choir it began with all students who signed up for the choir doing an audition for Mr Brennan and Ms Johnson performing 'Yellow' by Coldplay.

Following the auditions, a list was later put out listing the students who were chosen for the choir.

The first event we started rehearsing for was the Christmas Carol Service. Rehearsals took place once or twice a week in preparation for this. We performed two songs: 'Winter Lights' and 'For those who can't be here' that we sang in St Mary's Cathedral in front of the parents of all the students. A few days later, we sang two of the same songs on the parade as part of Kilkenny's Yulefest for the public.

Following these two performances we started rehearsing for the Epworth Cup with all Junior Choirs around Ireland competing in it. It's held in Wesley College, Dublin. We rehearsed every week and then a few weeks before the competition we rehearsed multiple times every week as a full group and as our 2 separate groups perfecting every piece of the song 'Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel' that we needed to have right for the competition.

On the morning of the competition we arrived in Dublin and got to have a look around Dundrum Shopping

Centre before the competition. We then arrived in Wesley College, and were assigned a classroom to practice our song with the piano player for the first time.

Each choir proceeded to perform their song on stage in front of the judges. We performed very well and placed joint third with 87%, only 3% behind the winning school.

We then performed at St Kieran's Day Mass with the Senior Choir, performing the songs 'Eagles Wings' and 'Here I am Lord'

At the time of writing this, we are currently preparing for our next competition, The Zone Perpetual Cup in Navan. We are learning 2 songs; 'Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel' and 'Viva La Vida' by Coldplay.

To conclude the year we will perform in the Ormonde Hotel for the end of year Awards Night.

## Jazz Band

By Marc Doheny

St Kieran's Jazz Band has been busy this year. We started off the new school year with our annual Christmas show in the Watergate, performing "I Wish it Could be Christmas Everyday" and "God Put a Smile on your Face," as well as the Christmas Mass where we played some hymns with the choir.

We also had a very successful run in the Wesley Jazz Festival, receiving a highly commended certificate and

being placed fourth out of the eight competitors in the tournament. At this time, the Jazz Band is currently continuing preparations for the Crème of Kilkenny Cats, where we will play "Smooth" and "Angel of Harlem."

We will also be saying goodbye to a number of our members who are in Sixth year, and leaving Kieran's this summer. They will all be sorely missed, but we wish them well with their future aspirations.

Of course, none of these performances or competitions would be possible in the slightest without our fantastic conductor and teacher, Eamon Cahill, who continues to work just as hard as the rest of us to always put on a good show.

## Sixth Year Music Reflection

By Tom Walsh

From the moment I first came into St Kieran's College, music has been a constant part of my time here. Having come from a very musical primary school, I was certain I was going to keep it on for Junior Cycle, and later I kept it on for the Leaving Cert. The music department has supported me a lot throughout my time, having given me opportunities to learn and enjoy myself.

In first year, music was a class I loved. I really enjoyed how interactive the classes were, learning the ukulele and getting to use fun apps to create



Jazz Band





Trad Band: Back row l to r; Larry Phelan, Ciaran Power, Luke Lawlor, Cathal O Dwyer. Middle row l to r; Mr Gerry Walsh, Matthew Bowe, Eoghan O'Farrell, Liam Carrigan, Cormac Leahy. Front row l to r; Liam Corcoran, Dan O'Keeffe, Jack O'Neill, Sam Woodcock, Tom O'Donovan, Conor Holohan, Sean Corcoran.

songs on Ms O'Connor's computer in front of the class. In Junior Cycle, music was always the subject I looked forward to doing, the class was loads of fun and I always enjoyed myself there.

I signed up for the Junior Choir in First year, and so did most people in my year, with a trip to Tayto Park being promised to us at the end of the year, but Covid made sure we never got to go. I also signed up for the Jazz Band, and have been a part of the group for all 6 years. Taking part in these groups led to me going on a number of trips I would have otherwise missed, like the Wesley College music festival or choir competitions in Galway and Sligo.

In TY, many people who didn't do music for Junior Cycle got the chance to try it out with the musical 'All Shook Up' and the Variety Show that we did with Pres. It was great fun getting to work on that and take part in it and, for many people in the year, it was their first time performing music. Everyone

that took part in it enjoyed it. Taking part in that really helped build the confidence of people in the year, they had to step out of their comfort zone, and had to perform in front of 300+ people. Later in the year, Pres and Kieran's collaborated again, joining together to compete in the Wesley Music Festival, which was again very enjoyable for all involved.

In the third year, the choir went to Galway for the Donal Walsh Memorial Competition with Mr. F. Brennan and Mr. G. Walsh. We stayed in an old seminary and it was so funny seeing everyone's reaction to where we were staying, with many people saying it 'had to be haunted'. We got a delivery from a local chipper and everyone luckily escaped without any run-ins with ghosts. This was the first time I ever got to go on an overnight trip with the school and is stuck in my memory. The choir also gave me another overnight trip in Sligo for the National Choirs competition,

but the teachers had learned from the last time and had us stay in AirBnBs. On both occasions, our performances were highly commended by both the judges and the listeners.

I have been playing the clarinet since 3rd class and have been able to be a member of the Jazz Band in school. The Jazz Band really helped me get used to playing in front of crowds and helped me build up my confidence. Every year, we would play in the conductor, Eamonn's, concerts at Christmas and summer time, as well as the school's carol service and awards night.

Through the jazz band I have been able to play alongside loads of brilliant musicians. In the Christmas concert and carol service we played the song 'God Put a Smile Upon Your Face'. We then played this tune at Wesley Music Festival and because of our efforts (and a great trumpet solo) we came third place.



Guitar Ensemble



As I'm writing this, I have just done my Leaving Cert practical, and it's so hard to believe my time here is almost up. Over the past 6 years, taking part in activities with the music department has helped me build up my confidence, and get to experience things I wouldn't

have otherwise. It's the only exam subject where you feel like you can study while also relaxing.

For all of us who have gotten involved with music in our time here, we will miss the times we performed with our school, like in All Shook

Up or the Variety show in TY, the awards nights, the school masses, the competitions and more.

Nothing we have done could've been possible without help and constant support from all the teachers involved in the music department.



'Infrared' - Josh Butler, Matthew Bowe, Cormac Leahy, Cillian Bowe. They took part in 'Battle of the Bands' last October.



Congrats to Sixth Year student William Nugent whose performance on the piano earned him 2nd place in the National competition run by the Leinster School of Music & Drama at Griffith College. William received his prize at a special award ceremony in October.



Junior Choir - Wesley Interschools Music Festival.



Jazz Band - 4th Place at the Wesley Interschools Music Festival.



Third Year music classes visited the National Concert Hall in March for a 'Junior Cycle music in the classroom' exhibition. The workshop worked on melody, songwriting and general composition in preparation for the lads Junior Cycle exam.



# Science



## BT Young Scientist 2025 - Anan Jalali

At the beginning of September, our science teacher Mr Hennessy told us about the BT Young Scientist. He told us to brainstorm our project. Me and my partner Alex O'Donoghue were brainstorming our projects. On the 26th September 2024, we submitted our project 'The effects of energy drinks on sleep patterns'. Around the middle of October, I received an email from the BT Young Scientist confirming that our project has been chosen to go to Dublin for the exhibition on the 8th-11th January up in the RDS. I was in absolute shock and delighted when I heard the news. For our project, we told our friends and families to drink an energy drink 30 minutes before going to sleep and track their sleep using a smartwatch if possible. When we got our results, we put everything together and completed our project. When we went into the RDS, there was a staff member waiting for us at our stand. She told us what was going to happen over the next few days and there was a very important guest coming to our stand after the ceremony. After the opening ceremony, the very important person that came to our stand was the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins. We all shook the president's hand and explained



Experiments in the School Laboratory



First Year students in the School Laboratory



5th Years Biology students



our project to him and his wife Sabina. They were wonderful people and they really liked our project and our energy. Our judging was really great and most of our judges were really nice and gave us positive feedback on our project. There were loads of interesting projects and we met so many amazing people. It was great meeting new people as we went to events together and did a bunch of activities together. Myself and Alex featured in the Irish Times, Kilkenny People and on social media. I have to say, the BT Young Scientist was probably the greatest experience I ever had in my life so far. The amount of amazing people I met and friends I made was incredible. The best part was when I met Michael D. Higgins, and shook his hand, and when I found out that we were on Irish Times. Without a doubt I would highly recommend everybody to submit an idea for the BT Young Scientist. My advice when I come to brainstorming a project is to just go full on with your project and go for it. It was definitely the most memorable and enjoyable experience I have had this year.



Science Club



Science Week



# Transition Year

## SLIEVENAMON



## SURFING





## PLOUGHING



## RIVER WALK



## ICE SKATING





## GO KARTING



## LIFFEY VALLEY & JUMP ZONE

by Ryan Minogue Lee

At the beginning of the last term we went to Liffey Valley and Jump Zone. We left the school first thing and we set off on the bus to Dublin. We immediately went into the Jump Zone area for our scheduled time and got our safety video beforehand. After the video we were broken up into groups so we all got a go, in each area. This was very enjoyable and my favourite part was the dodgeball. After the jump zone, we went into Liffey Valley and were given time to have our lunch and to go shopping.





## BAKE SALE



## SETU TRIP

Dara O'Neill

One Monday morning, we met in Kieran's for first class and then hopped on the bus to head off to SETU Waterford. Our first stop was the Sports Campus. When we got there, we were split into groups and given a tour around the college. It was very impressive. After the tour, we took part in a sports competition where prizes were up for grabs. We played tag rugby, basketball, and indoor soccer, which was good fun. When we finished up at the Sports Campus, we made our way over to the main college. We had a talk about the different courses and scholarships you can get there, which was interesting. They also handed out the prizes from the sports competition where the winners got hats. Before heading home, we got a tour around the college and saw all the different parts of it. It was great to get a proper look at what the place is like. Overall, it was a really good day and we all enjoyed it, giving us all plenty to think about.





## DRAMA

Alyn Hearne

### St Kieran's College and Loreto Secondary School Present a Powerful Production of *Blood Brothers*

On the 21st and 22nd of March 2025, Transition Year students from St Kieran's College and Loreto Secondary School Kilkenny took to the stage for a joint production of Willy Russell's iconic play *Blood Brothers*. The performance was a moving and memorable experience for both the audience and those lucky enough to be involved. Auditions began in October 2024, with an initial group of over 60 students selected—30 from each school. A second round of auditions followed, where 15 students from each school were unfortunately cut, bringing the final cast down to a committed and talented core group. While the process was competitive, it's important to note that not every student in TY auditioned. For anyone considering drama in the future: don't be afraid to put yourself forward—everyone truly has a fair shot. As someone who was fortunate to be part of the final cast and also played a major role in stage management alongside Miss Hickey, I saw firsthand the dedication, talent, and teamwork that went into bringing this production to life. Whether it was learning lines, building set pieces, or coordinating scene transitions, every moment was a learning experience and a celebration of student creativity. It was an honour to be part of such an amazing cast and an unforgettable production. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.

## BLOOD BROTHERS - OUR JOURNEY

By Matthew Phelan and Jacob Thekekkara

In September our teachers Ms Mc Elwee and Ms Brennan held auditions for the drama but we Originally, we thought it might be a musical, but after we got in we found out it was a drama, most of the year auditioned for the show as we felt more comfortable speaking rather than singing. At the start there was around 30 people involved but after a lot of auditions we finished with 15 students, those fifteen were; Aidan Keating, Alyn Hearne, Cian Dermody, Conor Marry, Daniel Hayes, Dan Carroll, Jack Rhatigan, Matthew Phelan, Michael Barron, Paddy Grace, Anan Jalali, Tom Doheny, Tomás Carroll and William O Dwyer and me - Jacob Thekekkara. After the initial audition process we had other auditions with the director Sarah Brennan to find out our actual roles. Every Thursday we would meet up with the girls during period one and two, either in St Kieran's or in Loreto. There were 15 girls that were doing it with us aswell at the Loreto end. It was a grueling process to find out our roles but it was worth it.

After we found out our roles mid december we had great craic we really loved the practice sessions together, the main characters were Cian Dermody as Mickey, Daniel Hayes as Eddie, Jack Rhatigan and Dan Carroll as narrators.

I was the Doctor and it was so much fun preparing my role. Some of the lads were in the ensemble but even as an ensemble you still had a

lot to do to get the show on the road. We did a few bonding activities such as sports in the hall and even went to the cinema to watch small things like these. It was really good and I enjoyed it - even taking a few acting pointers from Cillian Murphy!

We had practice at the Loreto and at Kieran's on alternate days that were very fun and interesting. We slowly got into our roles for the drama for different scenes. It was very funny to see the lads do their Liverpool accent and their posh accents, especially Daniel Hayes' posh English accent.

My favourite scene of the drama was the cowboys and indians scene as everyone was in it - it was chaotic! We also had a dance scene at the start with the girls as the mother Mrs Johnstone meets and loses her husband there, which was Michael Barron, it was important as it sets the rest of the story up for the audience.

We went to the Watergate on the 19th of March for the first time. It was great fun, especially running behind the back curtain for different scenes. We had to practice and polish the show every evening until past nine o'clock!







The theatre experience was great craic. It was very cool to see in the Watergate, the show was coming together so much thankfully too! You could feel the energy coming from the show as it was so exhilarating. Our first show was with the second year students of both schools. It went well with a few mistakes but overall it was a success and the feedback from students and teachers alike was

positive. We had such a lovely audience reaction!

Our second show was the same day, Friday evening at 8pm. It went superbly and got such a good reception from the audience in terms of a reaction of jokes that some of the second years did not understand. When I said my line as the milkman turned doctor everyone started laughing. Our last show was on Saturday evening at 8pm and we had

such a good time during it. Everyone enjoyed it and most of those who came to watch it said it was fantastic. I already miss the experience of it. I don't know why, but if I had the option to be in the transition year again and choose modules I would choose the drama again. I really recommend it to the TYs next year to sign up and audition as it is a once in a lifetime opportunity and you will have a lot of fun. Thank you.

## FUNDRAISING



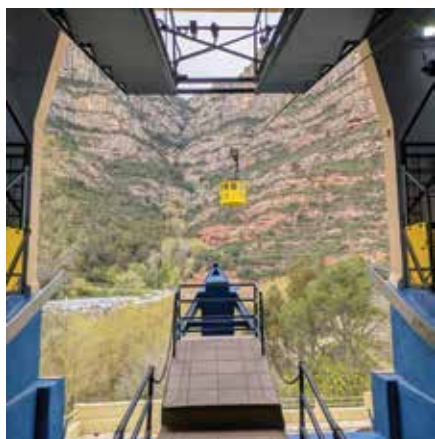
Nevin Benny and Ciaran Power making presentations to the Amber Women's Refuge, Kilkenny Rape Crisis Centre and St Vincent de Paul following fundraising events.



## BARCELONA TRIP

By Seán Fitzmaurice

The Barcelona trip was the most fun trip of the year. We left Kilkenny on a bus at 01:30 in the morning and got on our flight at 05:30. We got off the plane and went into the city, we were allowed to go where we wanted by ourselves and go into the shops. We went on a bike tour around the city too and a walking tour. We got to our hotel at about 19:00. We were all very tired and had dinner. The rooms were very nice. On the second day we went to an old amphitheatre and went to a village on a mountain. Then we went to Barcelona to go on a boat tour. On the third day we went to a theme park all day and had lots of fun, we went on a lot of very fast roller coasters. On the last day we went around the city to the Sagrada Familia and to the FC Barcelona stadium and to a shopping centre. We had lots of fun on the trip and it was an experience that we will never forget for the rest of our lives.







## WORK EXPERIENCE

By Josh Varley

During October, for my second week of work experience I went to An Garda Síochána. They had set-up a course for TY Students across the county. On the first day, we met in the Ossory Youth Centre opposite the Vocational School where we were introduced to the Gardaí in charge of work experience and we were told what we were going to be doing for the week. Near the end of the first day we got a talk from the traffic and roads policing unit. On the second day, we were given a tour of Kilkenny Garda Station and we got a talk from the riot police, we got to see the Garda vehicles. The process of arresting someone was explained to us and we were shown the cells and interview room. On the third day we were brought to the Midlands Prison in Laois. We started with the initial process of being a prisoner coming into the jail for the first time. The prison officers had to put the prison on lockdown for us. We then got a tour of the work rooms, visiting centre and cafeteria. On the fourth day, we were brought to the High Courts in Dublin and got to watch some cases which were really interesting. The courts building was very impressive but you couldn't take any pictures anywhere. On the last day we had guest speakers talking to us which included the sex crime police, the armed forces and the sergeant. Overall the Garda TY work experience was very good and teaches you a lot about what being a garda would be like. I'd recommend this to other TY students.



## WORK EXPERIENCE

By Ruairí Hanrahan

For my work experience I got an opportunity to go over to my uncle in Geraldton Australia. For my work experience I went working with my uncle in his general practice; Batavia Health. In the general practice I spent time learning how it operates and how each doctor specializes in different areas. I learned about the Australian health system. I also learned that my uncle was asked to set up a general practice by the Australian government due to a lack of doctors in small towns across Australia. I learned how to be a receptionist in a general practice. While in Australia I experienced Australian culture such as Australia day. It celebrates Australian independence and is celebrated with fireworks and food stands. I went to lots of different areas such as a place called monkey mia. One thing I noticed there was that journeys of three hours were called very short due to everything being very far apart.





## BUCKET COLLECTION



Well done to our TYs who were out in force supporting Special Olympics Ireland recently for their annual collection day.

## BIKE HUB

By Tommy Doyle TY



We started Bike Hub near the beginning of the school year. All the students that showed interest in the programme were interviewed. In the end four students were selected including myself, Robert Butler, Mark O'Neill and Seán MacBride. The Bike Hub took place for two hours every Thursday.

On the first day we started very simple with only washing a number of bikes. While washing the bikes we also learned about different components on the bike on a very basic level from Paul, who was the man doing the Bike hub with us. We were also sent to a local bike shop to collect tubes for the tyres.

In the later weeks of the Bike Hub we would begin to get into the more mechanical side of the bikes. Bikes

were donated to the School for us to repair, and they would then be given away to Ukrainians.

We learned how to repair a or replace a tyre. The methods for repairing a tyre can either be installing a tyre tube to re-inflate it or to repair the hole with a patch. We also learned about the breaking and gear systems on the bikes which I found most interesting.

I enjoyed learning about how the breaks worked and how to repair the breaking cables. Later in the year we would get involved with Cycle Champions where we would repair the bikes for them while in lessons. Overall I really enjoyed the Bike Hub.

## CYCLE CHAMPIONS: TEACHING CYCLING SKILLS

By Robert Butler TY

The Cycle Champions programme is a fun way for Transition Year students to teach younger kids in local primary schools how to ride bikes safely. TY students from St Kieran's and Loreto

completed a day of training for Cycle Champions with Cycling Coach Roisín Hickey and Caitriona Corr, the Cycling Officer at Kilkenny County Council.

In the classes children can bring their own bikes or use the bikes supplied by Cycling Ireland. We visit the local primary schools and use games to help improve balance and braking skills. This makes learning fun and keeps the kids active. TY students become teachers, which helps them build confidence and develop leadership skills.

Both groups benefit from the programme. The Transition Year students learn how to teach and help others, while the younger kids learn important cycling skills. This programme shows how Transition Year students can grow while helping their community. It's a great way to teach kids about cycling and safety in a fun way. By working together, everyone learns something new and valuable. The program promotes cycling and helps kids become more confident riders. It's a positive experience for everyone involved.





## EMERALD PARK





# First Year



**1A** - Back row: l to r Fiach Crowley, David Carroll, Conor Gleeson, Liam Moore, Dathí Egan. Third row: l to r Aidan Sweeney, Imad Rahman Miah, James Hogan, Charlie Shore, Michael Dermody, Ben Dooley, Hugh Chaney. Second row: l to r Seán Cottrell, Julian Pawlowski, Tyrese Okorafor, James Foley, Jamie Kavanagh, Seán Donoghue, Mikey Hennessy, Breathnach Tobin. Front row l to r: Darragh Morrissey, Seán Byrne, Joshua Barcoe, Daniel Delaney, Daniel Comerford, Daniel Funcheon, Aidan Corrigan, Conor Muldowney.



**1B** - Back row: l to r Seán Dooley, Jack O'Neill, James Rochford, Landon Ryan, Paddy Larkin. Third row: l to r Dorian Bedron, Donie Cahill, Max Egan, David Carroll, Ashton Maher, Jack Darcy, Rian Maher, Pádraig Treacy. Second row: l to r Harry Dillon, Justin Flynn, Conor Holohan, Jared Lynch, Mike Fennelly, Harry Brennan, Cathal Kelly, Tom Hoyne. Front row: l to r John McGuire, David Lanigan, Ultan Hanrahan, Míceál Trant, Eanna Costello, Eoghan Grant, Dan O'Keeffe, Harry Vaughan, Jack Andrews.



**1C** - Back row: l to r Yehor Ahalakov, Sam Byrne, Michael Kennedy, Tom O'Donovan, Éanna Dunphy, Conor Knox. Third row: l to r Olivier Harezlak, Darragh Kavanagh, Patrick Brennan, Danny Greene, Harry Concannon, Ronan Major, Charlie Mulcahy. Second row: l to r Alex Zaiqat, JJ Brennan, John Hawe, Ryan Spelman, Seán Staunton, Sam Woodcock, Dominic Phelan, Zack Hennessy, Ryan Carroll. Front row l to r: MJ Carroll, Seán Coogan, Noah Flynn, Ryan Dwyer, Fionn Grogan, Robbie Brett, Con Roche.





**1D**- Back row: l to r Ben Quigley, Will Vaughan, Cillian Murray. Third row: l to r Paddy Raftice, Joe Hanrahan, Peter Quinn, Brian Lawlor, Mark Phelan, Joseph Duggan, Louie Kelly Doyle. Second row: l to r Josh Pratt, Dara Kavanagh, Cillian Murphy, John Guerin, Conor Morrissey, Milo Ahern, Aaron Carrigan, Jack Lyng, Reuben Morrissey. Front row l to r: Tadhg Glennon, Rory Phelan, Liam Luby, OJ Tierney le Roux, Dara O'Farrell, Ger Cody, Will O'Rourke, James McDonald, Jimmy Grant, David Morrisson.



**1E** - Back row: l to r Danny Maher, Alex Hickey, Michael Hogan. Third row: l to r Patrick Dowling, Rory Treacy, Ben Walshe, Callum Robinson, Barry O'Connell, Ódhrán Murphy, Billy Kennedy. Second row: l to r Ruadhán McGuinness, Nicky Downey, Michael Kirwan, Billy O'Dwyer, Cian Donoghoe, Luke Dermody, Tadhg Power, Caelan Morrissey, Séamus Costelloe. Front row l to r: Sadid Rahman, Daragh O'Callaghan, Liam O'Callaghan, Hugh Leacy, James Keating, Pádraig Ryan, Seán Kenny, Seán Millea, Michael Ryan.



# Second Year



**2A** - Back row: l to r Sam Dunne Donnelly, Owen Flanagan, Paddy O'Keeffe, Tadhg Leahy, Robby Lodge, Tadhg Kennedy, Third Row: l to r Jack Cantwell, Darragh Carroll, David Timmins, Sam Norton, Odhran Henderson, Danny Reade, Joe Ryan. Second Row: l to r: Tommy Butler, Oisín Fogarty, Daniel McCullagh, Adam Phelan, Shay Molloy, Bill Guiry, Finlay Beaton, Adam Cullen. Front Row: l to r: Darragh McDermott, Aaron Blackmore, Cormac Phelan, Micheal Fitzgerald, Thomas Hayes, Jim Clune, Harry Butler, Tom Lawler. Absent: Tymur Sinchukov.



**2B** - Back row: l to r Sean Corcoran, Liam Corcoran, Henry Phelan, Harry O'Brien, Patrick Dermody, Mikolaj Sliwinski. Third row: l to r Conor Murphy, Michael O'Keeffe, Simon Kolodziej, Andrew Ryan, Cathal Bennett, Ned Forristal, Rian Flynn. Second row: l to r Shane Hogan, Jake Green, Darragh McCormack, Tommy Dowling, Fionn Barry, Oliver Butler, Ryan Shelly. Front row l to r: Connell Tobin, Jack Gamble, Cathal Malone, Conor Walsh, Daniel O'Brien, James Daly, Daniel Holohan White, Milosz Pronobis. Absent: John Paul Bergin, Michael Hurley.



**2C** - Back row: l to r: Eoin Philpott, Canice Power, Hugo Carroll, Billy Ronan, Conor Hanlon, Yevhen Zavarzin, James O'Connor. Third row: l to r: Ciaran Gibbons, James Travers, Tommy Walsh, David Blanchfield, Gearoid Farrell, John Nolan, Ronan Griffin. Second row l to r: Tom Butler, Fionn Doyle, Cillian Pollard, Tomas Curran, Billy Dalton Mockler, Ben Fitzgerald, Niall Foley. Front row: l to r: Gerard Delaney, Keilan Egan, James Tallis, Niall Cody, Cormac Reynolds, James Leverrier, Paddy Leverrier. Absent: Alex Leverrier, Fionn Dunne.





**2D** - Back row: l to r: Liam Treacy, Eoghan O Farrell, Jack J. Ryan, Charlie Teehan, Dylan Kylie, David Nolan, Cathal Dooley. Third row: l to r: Paddy McCarthy, Bobby Aylward, Henry Petras Sagunevicius, Padraig Dolan, Rory Parley, Mitchel Houston. Second row: l to r: Leon Purcell, Callum Owens, MJ Buggy, Conor P. Murphy, Glenn Ryan, Sean Keane. Front row l to r: Tadhg Buckley, Karlo Guzovski, Michael Brennan, James Parsons, Dylan Culleton, Jakub Wozniak, David Bourke. Absent: Dominic Figan, Eoghan McCorry, Jonah Suric, Jack White.



**2E** - Back row: l to r Harry Canavan, Mikey Phelan, Jack O'Grady, Conor Egan. Third row: l to r Darragh Maher, Jack A. Ryan, Jack Dermody, Ruairi McNally, Patrick Wall, Emmet Murphy, Harry Thomas. Second row: l to r Aidan Murphy, Oisin Murphy, Olly Kelly-Doyle, Conor O'Hara, Hamish Carey, Conor Power, Micheal Beagan. Front row l to r: Lory Hogan, Michael Langton, Rory Quigley, Charlie McCluskey, Aidan Dowling, Micheal Murphy, Alfie Lanigan. Absent: Neil Leahy, Ruarc Shefflin, Shay Fitzgerald, Harry Jordan, Codie Owens.



# Third Year



**3A** - Back row: I to r: John Brennan, Seán Kavanagh, Tomas Grogan, Danny O'Neill, Harry Donoghue, Mattie Corr. Third row: James Tierney, Cathal Cahill, Oisín Ryan, Adam Staunton, Tomás McBride, Seán Gannon, Seán Morrissey. Second row: I to r: Harry Simpson, Luke Kealy, Dara Donohoe, Harry Walsh, Martin Wall, Dylan Drennan, Donnchadh Grant. Front row I to r: Billy Heffernan, Conor Griffin, Aaron McCormack, Andrew Forristal, Harry Egan, Krystan Bogusz, Mamadi Batchilly.



**3B** - Back row: I to r: Eoghan O'Connell, Jamie Holohan, Seth Lawlor, Luka Suric, Sam Kealy. Third Row: I to r: Odhran Aylward, Charlie Ryan, Tom Duggan, Aden Farrell, James Butler, Donncha Foley, Daniel Lawlor. Middle row: I to r Jack Bolger, Max Corrway, Eoin Kelly, David Martins Pereira, Sam McAviney, Jack Donnelly, Jack McShane, Ronan Hayes. Front row I to r: Bríon Ryan, James Slattery, Jonathan Kingston, PJ Byrne, Joshua Malone, Sam Medlar, Eoin Ryan, Lorcan Mahony.



**3C** - Back row: I to r Andrew Dillon, Liam Farrell, Seán Norton, James Moore, Bríon Walsh, Artem Semenov. Third Row: I to r: Shane Doyle, Lorcan Cummins, Jack Renehan, Dylan Brennan, John Keher, Darragh Walsh, Shane Comerford. Middle row: I to r: Conor Carroll, Paul Millea, Tommy Madigan, Andrew Browne, AJ Mackey, James O'Brien, Chris Hayes, Joe Hayes. Front row I to r: Conor Manogue, Jamie Hayes, Max Edwards, Darragh Cahill, Oisín Maher, Tiernan O'Brien, Darragh Walsh, Robbie Sheehan.





**3D** - Back row: l to r - Richie Healy, Scott O'Shea, Rory Rhatigan, David Holland, Jamie Walsh, Paddy Duggan. Third Row: Sam Cummins, Kennedy Mony Ali, James Lyons Ethan Russell, Charlie Vaughan, Shane Rouse, Cian Dalton. Middle row: l to r Davd Brennan, Martin Martins, Steve Hoyne, Sean Henriques, Matthew Bowe, Jack Leahy, Jack Stapleton. Front row l to r: Livinesh Mogana Sundrem, Daniel Tallis, Joe Nolan, Paul O Rourke, Jim Connolly, Mikey Dorney, Paddy McGuire, Dara Barut.



**3E** - Back row: l to r Ted Healy, Tommy Duggan, Tobi Bedron, Jacob Mich, Ky Meaney, Cormac Whelan-Foxe. Third Row: l to r: Hugh Byrne, Conor Hickey, Charlie Kavanagh, Mark O Connell, Sam Kelly, Owen Walsh, Sam Lawlor. Middle row: l to r Shane O Dwyer, Henry Shefflin, Josh Butler, Eddie Murphy, Oran McKenna, Dan Dunphy, Kevin Stanly. Front row l to r: Cillian Murphy, Nathan McMahon, Kyrell Mtinsi, Ray van Rooyen, David Waldron, Charlie Fogarty.



# Transition Year



**TYA** - Back row l to r: Jarlath Comerford, Alex Dooley, James O'Reilly, Jonathan Kennedy, Seán Carroll, Jack White, John Barton. Middle row l to r: Roman Connolly, Dan Carroll, Daniel Hayes, Rory Glynn, Cormac Neary, Robert Brennan, Josh Varley, Seán Fitzmaurice. Front row l to r: Tom Challoner, Seán O'Mahoney, Ciabhán Maher, Cillian Maher, Ben Leahy, Tom Glennon, Eldon Sheridan, Cian Dermody.



**TYB** - Back row l to r: Gearóid O'Shea, Nicky Healy, Kieran Bergin, Aidan O'Connell, Theo Drennan, Michael O'Neill Maher, Michael Barron. Middle row l to r: Dara O'Neill, Christopher Phelan, Conor Coone, Darragh Drennan, Jayden Ryan, Ned Spelman, Conor Marry. Front row l to r: Alex Canavan, Ryan Minogue Lee, Patrick Murphy, Charlie Gleeson, Mark O'Neill, Cormac Monahan, Tom Doheny, Harry Bay.





**TYC** - Back row l to r: Andrew Holohan, Paddy Purcell, Aidan Keating, Ben McEvoy, Michael Tynan, Mattvii Andriishen, Will O'Dwyer, Rayan Oweka. Middle row l to r: Jacob Joseman Thekkekara, Seán Nulty, Tommy Doyle, Cillian O'Neill, Keelan Lynch, Eoin Healy, Daire Hogan, James Larkin, Matthew Phelan. Front row l to r: Noah Power, Tomás Carroll, Darragh Roche, Richard Forristal, Eoin McDermott, Jake O'Neill, Paddy Challoner, Seán Curran.



**TYD** - Back row l to r: Oisín Barry, Alex Rochford, Jack O'Reilly, Jack Rhatigan, Hugh Healy, Anan Jalali, Antoni Pawlowski. Middle row l to r: Matthew Duggan, Tadhg Phelan, Ruairí Hanrahan, Daniel Rohan, Paddy Grace, Augustus Milasius, Eoin O'Gorman, Ruairí Power. Front row l to r: CJ Brennan, Fionn Blanchfield, Andrew Lawless, Cian Stapleton, Jack Mulcahy, Ben Fahey, Alex O'Donoghue, Jayden Ryan.



# Fifth Year



Back row l to r: Kieran Timmins, Cormac Leahy, Liam O'Dwyer, Luke Lawlor, James Wallace, David Travers, Felix Fwamba. Middle row l to r: Daniel Smith, Luke Browne, Evan Davy, Diarmuid Behan, Conor McEvoy, Nevin Benny, Front row l to r: Tadhg Byrne, Ben Drennan, Brian Hickey, Daniel Tallis, Daniel Patterson.



Back row l to r: Charlie Greene, Ronan O'Mahony, Hugh Kelly, Daniel Ryan, Louis Lawlor. Middle row l to r: Rian Shefflin, Sky Omari, Liam Keogh, Joseph Power, Conor Heffernan. Front row l to r: Eoin Walpole, Rickard Burke, James O'Brien, Ivin Sony, Michael O'Shea, Joseph Langton.



Back row l to r: David Barcoe, Louis Raggett, Eoghan Cahill, Hugh Whelan, Jack Dooley, Cathal O'Dwyer, Sam Mackey. Middle row l to r: Eoin Ryan, Jake Mullen, Conor Dillon, Tom Gladney, Conor Aylward, Charlie Carroll, Robbie Lynch, Owen Shine. Front row l to r: Cormac Meegan, Tom Boyle, Andrew Comerford, Cian Doherty, Euan Wall, Ciarán Hickey, Conor Millea.





Back row l to r: Paddy Savage, Larry Phelan, Eoghan Phelan, Stephen Walsh, Bill McDermott. Middle row l to r: Liam O'Gorman, Timmy Corr, Fionn Mahony, Cody O'Neill, Conor Dowling, Matthew Cahill, Rory Moore. Front row l to r: Marc Doheny, James Murphy, Cormac Holden, Cathal Rossiter, James Walshe, Tommy Walsh, Ciaran Power.



Back row l to r: Tiarnan Shefflin, Cian Walsh, Dean Herbert, James Holohan. Middle row l to r: James O'Mara, Conor Gibbons, TJ Comerford, Tadhg Bergin, Tom Murphy, Brian Healy. Front row l to r: Yaroslav Nemyrovskiy, Daniel MacEaney, Cillian Bowe, Harry Bourke, Ronan Hanrahan.



# Sixth Year



Back row l to r: Darragh Doyle, Jake Byrne, Ed Lauhoff, Daniel Devereux, Conor Farell, Tom Walsh, Pierce Costello. Middle row l to r: Enda Kavanagh, Patrick Kerwick, Louis Fitzgerald, Shane Walsh, Odhran O'keeffe, Robbie Wallace, Brian Wilson. Front row l to r: Vova Virko, Matthew McAviney, Micheal Lynch, Dawid Palczynski, Jude Delaney, Ross Gormley, Dara Behan.



Back row l to r: Sean Quigley, Joe Connelly, Eimhin O'Hare, Bill Hayes, Noah Walsh Brennan. Middle row l to r: David Ring, Oisín Marry, Dillon Cummins, Matthew Rowe, Jack Hennessy. Front row l to r: Quinn O'Neill, Kian Kealy, Daniel Ring, Ruairi McEvoy, Danny Carey.



Back row l to r: Ciallin Brennan, David Langton, Chris Ging, Ruarc Sweeney, John Fitzpatrick, Jamie Tallon, Sam Hayes. Middle row l to r: Ruairi Phelan, Liam Carrigan, Sean Rossiter, Cian Phelan, Chris Delaney, James Brennan, Philip O'Mahony. Front row l to r: Thomas Langton, Stephen Butler, Liam Doyle, Sean Maloney, Charlie Grace, Rafal Palczynski, Cameron Macfarlane.





Back row l to r: Paidi Egan, Sean Shefflin, Frank McCluskey, Drew O'Keeffe, Marc Bergin, Eoin Dalton, Micheal Kenneally. Middle row l to r: Noah Minogue, Jake Maher, Jim Conlon, Ruairi Murphy, William Nugent, John Bergin, Luke Gamble. Front row l to r: Daniel Tallis, Tony Butler, Conor Murphy, Theo Petrani, Bill O'Shea, Mikey Keating, Eoghan O'Brien.



Back row l to r: Jack McCormack, Dylan Muldowney, Tim Brennan, Sean Deely, Conor Brophy. Middle row l to r: David Moore, Harry Madigan, Odhran Moore, Patrick Bergin, Nicky Ryan, Conor Hoyne. Front row l to r: Hugh Hennessy, James Conway, Mark Reddy, Seamus Murphy, Cian Byrne



Back row l to r: James Cody, Jack Holohan, Jack Holden, Evan Murphy. Third Row l to r: Darragh Coverdale, Thomas O'Shea, Ruairi Walsh, Harry Cody, Jack Dooley. Second row l to r: James O'Neill, Johnny Leahy, Alex O'Farrell, Michael Rohan, Tadhg Ahern. Front row l to r: David Sheppard, Danny Gargan, Daniel Murphy, Conor Dalton, Danny McDonald, David Kenyi.



# Sports Day









# Michael Brannigan Run



1C the fastest class to cross the line



First Year students at the start of the Michael Brannigan run



Congrats to Aaron Carrigan, Odhran Murphy and Fiach Crowley who came 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the annual Michael Brannigan Memorial Mile Run and to 1C who were the fastest class to cross the line. A great event - well done to all.



Mr Finan presenting Aaron Carrigan with the Michael Brannigan Memorial Shield





# Cross Country

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

The annual Michael Brannigan Memorial was held for First Years on Friday, November 15th. Healthy pre-match rivalry was clearly evident for the inter-class competition. The winner was Aaron Carrigan with Odhran Murphy and Fiach Crowley coming second and third respectively. 1C were victorious for the team prize.

Dublin City University (DCU) held an invitational cross country event on January 15th. This was the first day out for our athletes and it gave them a great opportunity to represent the school. Gearoid Farrell came 3rd in the junior race which allowed our junior team to receive silver on the day. Kyrell Mtinsi came home 2th in the inter race and was closely followed by his team mates. Ruairi McEvoy was crowned senior champion.

The South Leinster School Cross

Country Championship was held in Carlow GAA Pitches on Thursday, January 23rd. 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 2nd in the juniors. He was supported by Tommy Butler, Hugo Carroll and Padraig Dolan in 5th, 14th and 15th respectively. This allowed the juniors to take home gold on the day.

Ruairi McEvoy was crowned South Leinster Senior Champion on the day, which also allowed his team to take home gold on the day. The minors and intermediates took home silver. The result allowed the boys to comfortably qualify for the Leinsters.

The four Kieran's teams qualified for the Leinster Championship on February 12th in Phoenix Park. With the Papal Cross in the background the juniors had a superb performance achieving gold on the day. Kyrell Mtinsi had a fantastic run in the intermediate race – finishing 11th on this occasion. He was closely followed by Conor Carroll, Paul Millea and Michael O'Keeffe. Ruairi McEvoy finished 7th in

the senior race. The top 15 make it through to the All Irelands in March as individual runners. Unfortunately, the minor and senior teams did not qualify.

The All Ireland in Ballybrit, Galway on March 9th saw our juniors, intermediates and Ruairi McEvoy line out in the black and white hoops. In this prestigious race, our junior and intermediate lads galloped around the course and finished in a respectful 6th and 5th position respectively. Tommy Butler and Caelan Morrissey on the junior team had their best performance of the year. The intermediate team were led home by Kyrell Mtinsi in 15th position which is remarkable considering that Kyrell has another year to run intermediate. Jack O' Neill who was a sub for the junior team ended up running on the intermediate team, which was a huge undertaking at an All Ireland. Ruairi McEvoy ran a fantastic race finishing a very impressive 4th, which is an outstanding result. Congratulations to all our runners on their outstanding achievements in the 2025 season. All our runners have left a mark for more achievements next year.



Senior team - Back Row l to r; Cathal Rossiter, Matthew McAviney, Oisín Marry. Front Row l to r; Danny Gargan, Cormac Holden, Ruairi McEvoy, David Ring, Sean Rossiter (missing Jonathan Kennedy, Conor Gibbons, Jack McCormack).



Junior team - Back Row l to r; Rory Treacy, Jack Cantwell, Hugo Carroll, Jack O'Neill, Daithi Egan. Front Row l to r; Caelan Morrissey, Tommy Butler Gearoid Farrell, odhran Murphy, Aaron Carrigan (missing Padraig Dolan, Charlie McCluskey, Fiach Crowley).



Intermediate team - Back Row l to r; Oliver Phelan, Conor Carroll, Front L to R; Paul Millea, Oisín Maher, Max Edwards (missing: Kyrell Mtinsi, Micheal O'Keeffe, Ryan Minogue-Lee).



Minor Team





Congrats to Sixth Year student Ruairí McEvoy (Kilkenny City Harriers) who was third in the U19 All-Ireland Cross Country Championships in Tramore in December. Ruairí also represented Ireland in February in the U20 European Cross-Country Championships in Leeds.

## Athletics

### SOUTH LEINSTER FINALS

Well done to all our students who took part in the south leinster's in May and especially to our medal winners, Jack O'Neill - Bronze Junior Hammer, Sam Woodcock - Gold Minor 800m, Conor Knox - Silver Minor Shot Put, Eoghan O'Farrell - Gold U16 200m, Fiach Crowley - Silver Junior 80m Hurdles, Cormac Holden - Silver Senior 110m Hurdles, Kyrell Mtinsi - Gold U16 Mile and to Ruairí McEvoy - 6th Yr who won Gold in Senior 5000m. Best of luck to all in the Leinster finals in mid May.



Well done to Patrick Wall (2nd Yr), Eoghan O'Farrell (2nd Yr), Fiach Crowley (1st Yr) and Conor Knox (1st Yr) who competed in the Leinster schools combined event in October. Patrick Wall came second in the final of the national 250m hurdles in the summer of 2024. Well done Patrick.



Congratulations to First Year students Conor Knox (All-Ireland Bronze U14) and Fiach Crowley (Leinster Bronze U15) in the All-Ireland and Leinster Indoor Pentathlon in Abbottstown in January representing Kilkenny City Harriers.



First year student Conor Knox who won gold competing in the Boys U14 Long Jump in March.



Cormac Holden



Eoghan Farrell



Gearoid Farrell



Jack O'Neill



Kyrell Mtinsi



Sam Woodcock



# Badminton

## U16 BADMINTON ALL IRELAND RUNNERS UP

By Aden Farrell

We started doing badminton trials for the team in November. The PE hall was full with players (same for every grade). When the trials were over we had four teams enter the Kilkenny schools competition. The A team played Kilkenny College first and narrowly beat Callan. The U16 team were victorious and moved on to the Leinster's. The Leinster competition was held in Dublin on the 27th of February. The tournament lasted the majority of the day and we played two games and flew through them winning the Leinster division two title. On the team was Tomás Carroll, James Tierney, Aden Farrell and Shay Molloy. Everyone was very excited. The All Ireland was on the 26th of March in Meath. The St Kieran's team got new half zips for reaching the All-Ireland. We had to leave at 7am in the morning to get there. The All Ireland lasted all day, and before the start every school had to take part in the parade. In the All Ireland we beat schools from Belfast and Kerry but sadly lost the final to a very strong team from Offaly. We ended up coming second and received our medals. Our school also visited the Irish Open earlier in the year and met Irish Olympic player Nhat Nguyen.



Three teams competed in the Kilkenny Schools U19 badminton competition in January.



U-16 Leinster Division 2 Champions - L to r Aden Farrell, James Tierney, Tomás Carroll and Shay Molloy.



Well done to our U16 team who finished 2nd in the U16 Div 2 All-Ireland in Gormanstown, Co Meath in March.



Our U14 players taking part in the Kilkenny Schools tournament in February.



# Basketball



First Year Basketball - Back row l to r; Jack O'Neill, Conor Knox, Callum Robinson, Michael Hogan, Ben Quigley. Second Row l to r; Luke Dermody, Barry O'Connell, Joe Hanrahan, Cian Donohoe, Jack Doyle, Patrick Dowling. Front row l to r; Robbie Brett, Billy O'Dwyer, Eanna Dunphy, Charlie Shore, Michael Kirwan, Padraig Treacy, Tadgh Power, Con Roche.



Second Year Basketball - Back row l to r; Yevhen Zavarzin, Harry Canavan, Jack O'Grady, Emmet Murphy, Harry Thomas. Second row l to r; Owen Flanagan, Aidan Murphy, Leon Purcell, Jack Alfie Ryan, Finlay Beaton. Front row l to r; Conor Murphy, Conor O'Hara, Fionn Barry, Cormac Phelan.



U16 Basketball - Back row l to r; Noah Wall, Sam Cummins, Conor Hickey, Owen Walsh, Ky Meany. Front row l to r; Jacob Komabeche, Harry Walsh, PJ Byrne, James O'Brien, Paddy McGuire, Sam McAviney.



U19 Basketball - Back row l to r; Tom Walsh, Jacob Komabeche, Harry Bourke, Shane Walsh. Front row l to r; Augustas Milasus, Cian Byrne, Harry Walsh, PJ Byrne, Cathal Rossiter.

This has been another fantastic year for basketball in St Kieran's College, building on the success of last year student participation rates have increased and the standard of basketball played has improved immensely.

Again the season started very quickly for our senior & junior teams who had very little time to prepare for our opening game of the season. Led by team captain Tom Walsh and stand out performances from Cian Byrne, the senior team played some fantastic basketball this year and were competitive in every game they played but unfortunately came up against some very strong teams finishing the league with two wins and two losses.

Despite dominant performances

by Kyrell Mtinsi and only losing one game this year the junior team were extremely unlucky not to advance onto the knockout stages of the South East league by getting knocked out on head to head point's difference.

In early December trials for the 1st and Second Year basketball squads began with over 50 students turning up to try out. After a lot of close calls both squads were picked and the season began in early January with mixed results.

The Second years had a slow start to their season with two losses and as performances got better so did the results finishing the season with two wins but sadly it was not enough to advance.

Following four comprehensive

victories averaging over 50 points a game and over twenty players getting court time the first year team finished top of their league advancing into the knockout stages of the South East League. In the quarter finals the first years were pushed all the way by Scoil Mhuire before an excellent display by Eanna Dunphy in the semi final to help them ease past FCJ Bunclody. After a scare in the first quarter of the Final the first years led by their captain Charlie Shore and a commanding performance from Conor Knox they defeated Wexford CBS to lift the cup claiming the South East League title and progressing onto the all Ireland playoffs in Kanturk.

At the playoffs in Kanturk the first years showed up fully prepared and



ready to play defeating St Colmans, Middleton in the first round eventually losing to the hosts in the second round on a score line of 41-38. Kanturk were the better team on the day but that does not take away from how hard they worked and fought to the final buzzer. Hopefully we grow and learn from this experience which will make us stronger in the future.

The popularity of basketball continues to grow in St Kieran's College evident from the large numbers of students attending training and those who took part playing games and having fun at the sports day early in the year and on St Kieran's Day.

It is important to acknowledge the contribution our coaches Xabi and Mr Brennan have made this year. They have put in a lot of work behind the scenes organising training every Monday & Wednesday afterschool, booking venues, arranging referees and ordering buses. I would like to give a special mention to all the TY students and senior players who supervised first year students walking over to and back from O'Loughlins and doing the scoreboard for games.



Charlie Shore receiving the South East Trophy.



First year South East finals.



Tom Walsh winning the tip-off.



TY helpers doing the scoreboards.

## Equestrian

Last year and to date Robbie has had some fantastic results and has competed all over Europe. He represented Team Ireland where he won Nations Cups in Compeigne, France and Hagen, Germany. He also qualified his horse and pony for the RDS Horse and Pony Show which took place in August. After the RDS the season slowly came to a close. It is now back up and running and Robbie will head to the RDS qualifiers in May where he is hoping to qualify for this year's show.



Robbie Sheehan in action.



# Golf

## JUNIOR GOLF

By A.J. Mackey

This year for the Junior Golf Team we played in The Royal Curragh Golf Club in Co. Kildare.

There were 17 students on the team from different years and we all travelled to the course on the 3rd of October. We were all given our tee times and paired with students from other schools. The course was in perfect condition for Autumn and the sun was shining so it was suited for a day of golf. The mountainous landscape of The Curragh made it a tough course and in the end we did not manage to qualify for the next round, but on the other hand it was a very enjoyable day to try a new course and meet new people. I am extremely grateful to be given the opportunity to play for the school and hope to represent them again in the future and possibly make it to further rounds.



## SENIOR GOLF

By Tom Glennon

This year the Senior Golf took place in Gowran Park golf club. We had a band of six eager golfers competing. Though everyone acquitted themselves well, unfortunately nobody qualified for the All Irelands as it was a very competitive field with only 3 to follow on to the next round. Even though we were unsuccessful, we really enjoyed a great day out with lovely weather, and we are looking forward to competing again next year. Special thanks goes to Mr McCormack who organised the day and supervised proceedings.



# Pitch & Putt

Well done to pupils Jack McShane, Harry Concannon & Aidan O'Connell who were part of the Kilkenny Team that finished 2nd in the All Ireland Inter County Pitch & Putt finals in Clonmel last August. Harry Concannon also won the All Ireland U13 stroke play championship.





# Handball

This year Leinster GAA ran a Post-Primary Schools 40x20 competition.

As usual, we had numerous players in singles and doubles at all levels competing after competitive trials. Winners included Shane Doyle (U15 singles), Michael Lynch and Noah Manogue (Senior doubles), Andrew Dillon and

Darragh McCormack (U15 doubles). Well done to all students who competed for the school this year.

There were also many notable achievements with students competing outside of school at club, county and international level. Congratulations to all on their hard work and dedication.



Boys U17 Doubles Champions - Andrew Dillon and Daniel Smith



Boys U17 Singles Champion - Ronan O Mahony.



U15 singles - Shane Doyle



Senior Doubles -  
Michael Lynch and Noah Manogue



U15 Doubles - Andrew Dillon and  
Darragh McCormack



Boys U16 Doubles Champions -  
Lorcan Mahony and Joe Nolan

# Ice Hockey

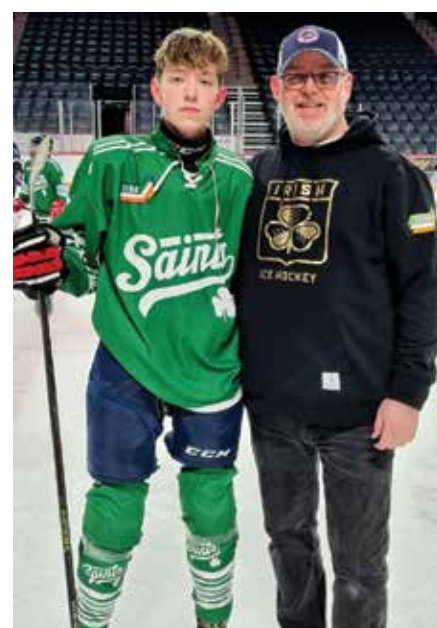
The squad traveled to Nova Scotia, Canada to take part in the coveted SEDMHA tournament (the largest minor hockey tournament in all of Canada).

They made it to the finals in the top tier of their division but unfortunately it just wasn't to be for them on the day. The team have surpassed all expectations and are the first junior Irish team to bring home silverware, so the boys are part of a history making team.

Well done also to their head coach Paul Cummins who is also a past pupil of St. Kieran's.



Well done to students Aidan Sweeney and Callum Robinson who came home from Canada as silver medalists having played as part of the U15 Irish Ice Hockey squad in March.



Sam Cummins represented Ireland in Ice hockey at the Green Ice Classic U16 tournament in Kalamazoo, Michigan in March. As part of the trip Sam stayed with a family, apart of the local team Koha and played 5 games representing Ireland.



# Swimming

## LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP 2ND FEBRUARY 2025

Individually the boys could have entered two events from 200m IM and 100m categories. As well as a third option of 400m Freestyle. All the boys swam really well, all getting PBs in some if not all their races.

Dan Rohan won the intermediate 400m Free.

The intermediate boys team won both their 200m Free relay and 200m Medley relay races. The junior relay team did well coming 5th in their Free relay.

The Intermediate boys accumulated enough points to be awarded the overall Leinster Schools intermediate champions- the trophy coming back to Kilkenny again. The inter team qualified to compete at the All Ireland Schools Championships 23rd March.

## ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP 23RD MARCH 2025

The boys consisting of Sam McAviney, Dan Rohan, Conor Carroll and Sam Kealy swam on Sunday and came 8th in 200m Free Relay, 7th Medley Relay, but finishing the fastest of the Leinster teams.



Junior and Intermediate teams



Intermediate team



Water Safety Bronze Medal - UL



Dan Rohan receiving his medal.



Congrats to Transition Year student Paddy Cuddihy who medalled in all of his events at the Andalusian Junior Championships in Spain last December with highlights being gold medals in the 200m Backstroke and 800 Freestyle. Paddy only recently claimed Bronze in the Irish Open Junior 1500m Freestyle event recently.

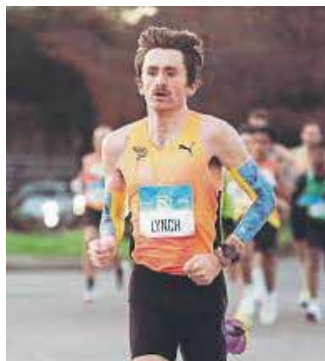


# Individual Achievements

## ATHLETICS



**Shay McEvoy** - In 2025, past pupil Shay McEvoy, running for the University of Tulsa Oklahoma USA delivered an exceptional track and field season. He achieved personal bests in four distances: a 3:58.48 mile, a 7:49.70 in the 3k meters, 13.40.30 in the 5K and a 28:22.95 in the 10k meters. Notably, his mile time set a new American Athletic Conference (AAC) indoor record and was the fastest ever by a Kilkenny athlete. Shay also won the Conference titles in 3k and distance medley relay.



**Peter Lynch** - Huge congratulations to past-pupil and Kilkenny City Harriers man Peter Lynch on breaking the Irish national marathon record in Dusseldorf in April in a time of 2:09:36. Another fantastic achievement. Well done Peter!

## TAEKWONDO

**Harry Simpson** - Congratulations to Harry Simpson, a current Third Year student this year who received his 2nd Dan (black belt) in Taekwondo. Harry was one of the youngest students in Ireland receiving his 1st Dan black belt at 12 years of age.



## KARTING



**Adam Butler** - T4 Nations Cup - Well done to Transition Year student Adam Butler who represented Ireland at the T4 Nations Cup in Valencia last September.



**Brian Wilson** - In the 2025 season after 3 rounds Brian Wilson sits in 4th place in the T4 Regional Championship. Brian's main focus however is on the Nations Cup in September where he is looking to rectify the wrongs of previous years and finally achieve that World Title he has worked so hard for the last 3 years. We wish him the best in his quest for success.

## RALLYING



**David Travers** - In 2024 David finished second overall in the Motorsport Ireland Junior Rally Series and currently is leading three national championships in 2025 so far.



**James Travers** - Over the 2024/25 season James won the Rally Sport Association Junior 1000 winter championship, for people aged 13-17 and is moving into the Irish forestry rally championship in 2025.

## BOXING



**Cian Stapleton** - Well done to Cian Stapleton who won gold during the November mid-term in the 'Home Counties Box Cup' Junior 1 in London & he also won gold in the Junior 1 Wexford box cup. Cian followed this up by winning his Junior 2 Leinster title last February. Cian also took part in the National Championships in February.



**Jack Cantwell** - Well done to Second Year student Jack Cantwell who claimed the Boy 3 52kgs title at the end of April.



**Michael O'Neill** - Well done to Michael O'Neill Maher who won the 2024 Michael Andrew's Cup, boxing at 66kg in Wexford in November. Michael also won gold at 63kg while boxing internationally in Poland, representing Ireland with the Leinster Development Squad in September.

## EQUESTRIAN



**James Brennan** - Following a lot of success in the past few years, James finished as runner up in the Young Rider National Championship in the RDS as well as a Nations Cup win in Hagen, Germany with Team Ireland this year.



# Soccer

## U-13

By Daniel Comerford

2024/2025 was a very enjoyable year for the first year soccer team. The year began with an exciting match away, against Borris College. We took the lead with an excellent strike from Jamie Kavanagh. Towards the end of the game we conceded through an unlucky penalty given against our defenders to finish level with one goal each.

Next we faced Tyndall College and with home advantage flew through this match winning 9-0 with a variety of scorers.

Our season ended after an away game to Tullow Community School where we unfortunately came up short.

Overall, it was an enjoyable experience and a great way for players to have fun and make memories from their first year in St Kieran's College. Thanks to our teachers and managers Mr Glendon and Ms Donoghue for coaching us throughout the year.

## U-15

By Sean Corcoran and Dan O'Brien

The under 15 soccer team got off to a great start by defeating Bray 17-0. With great support from the management team Mr Cody and Mr Lynch we pushed on with draws to Kilkenny CBS and Borris 0-0. Unfortunately, we did not qualify to the next stage due to goal difference. We pushed on in the



U-13 Soccer

Back row l to r; Ms. Donoghue, Mark Byrne, Danny Maher, Yehor Ahalakov, Dara Kavanagh, Harry Concannon, Mr. Glendon. Middle row l to r; Jack Lyng, Donie Cahill, Reuben Morrissey, Jamie Kavanagh, Tom Hoyne, Danny Greene. Front row l to r; Jack Andrews, Daniel Comerford, Éanna Costello, Michael Ryan, Noah Flynn, MJ Carroll, Darragh O'Callaghan. Missing from photo: Daithi Egan.



cup Leinster stage, reaching the semi-final 3-2 in a great game.

My time as a player on this team has been great. It's been really enjoyable and the bus journeys have been very good. We also have a lot of fun with this team. My Experience with this team has been exceptional and I loved the long away days all across Leinster and we haven't lost a match in the season so far so it's been better coming out with a win every match.

## U-17

By Max Edwards, 3rd Year

This year started when Mr. O'Sullivan and Ms. Brennan picked the squad at the end of October, following a series of trials with over 50 players trying out.

Our league campaign kicked off in early November with a hard-fought 1-0 win against C.B.S., with Andrew Lawless scoring just before halftime. This victory put us in a strong position



U-15 Soccer

Back row l to r; Jacob Mich, Brion Walsh, Micheal Beagan, Harry Canavan, Mattie Corr, Tadhg Leahy  
Middle row l to r; Tom Duggan, Liam Corcoran, Mitchel Houston, Tadhg Kennedy, Sam Norton, Sean Corcoran. Front row l to r; Sean Rooney, Dan O'Brien, Harry Jordan, Oisín Maher. Missing: Jack Ryan, Robbie Sheehan, Ben Fitzgerald, Thomas Hayes, Tom Butler, David Blanchfield, Calum Owens.





U-17 Soccer

Back row l to r; Mr Peter O'Sullivan, Tom Gladney, Luke Browne, Danny O'Neill, Diarmuid Behan, Timmy Corr, Ms Jennie Brennan. Middle row l to r; Sean Norton, Ben Fahey, Roman Connolly, Charlie Kavanagh, Harry Egan, Paddy Grace. Front row l to r; Andrew Lawless, Aaron McCormack, Noah Power, Max Edwards, Chris Hayes, Eoin Walpole.

for the rest of the campaign. In our next match at the end of November, we put on a dominant display against Tyndall College, securing a 5-1 win.

Two weeks later, we repeated that scoreline with another 5-1 victory, this time against a strong Presentation Carlow side, pulling away late in the game. At this point, we had secured the top spot in the group with one match still to play.

Our final group match was our first away fixture of the year, facing a very strong Presentation De La Salle team. In a high-scoring thriller, we narrowly lost 6-5 despite a Jack Mulcahy

hat-trick. Due to injuries, we weren't able to field our strongest team, but thankfully, the loss didn't impact our league standing. We still topped the group on goal difference, finishing level on 13 points with C.B.S.

The season concluded with a heartbreaking 3-2 loss in the final against C.B.S. We had taken a 2-1 lead after a brilliant solo goal from Ben Fahy and a Chris Hayes header, but unfortunately, C.B.S. struck twice late on to snatch the win.

Although the season ended in disappointment, it was an overall

enjoyable and successful campaign with plenty of highs and lows along the way.

## U-19

By Charlie Grace

The team led by Mr R Dowling and Mr Byrne took part in the Carlow-Kilkenny League and had a good run in the Leinster Shield. Our first game saw us take on Woodbrook College of Bray on a rainy day in the Watershed. Goals flooded in from Kieran Timmins, Mikey Keating, and TJ Comerford as we finished the game 6-1 winners, progressing us into the next round of the Leinster Cup.

The first league game was against Bagenalstown. They were a strong side and an unfortunate early red card saw us 4-0 down at halftime. We battled hard in the second half, the game ending 5-2. We took on Kingswood CC of Tallaght on the astro in the Watershed next. They ended our cup run early with a comprehensive 3-0 defeat, putting us into the shield.

Callan were our next opponents in the league on the Fairgreen on a clear morning. Charlie Greene's long range

effort found the net, followed by a well-placed header, before Kieran Timmins put the game to bed with a 4-1 victory.

We began our Leinster shield campaign in Kildare against Celbridge. A cagey first half ended 0-0 but Tadhg Ahern opened the scoring in the second half, with an excellent free kick from Mikey Keating finishing the game 4-1. We were out of contention for the league and turned our attention to the shield. We drew St Marks of Tallaght in the next round and we travelled to Dublin on a mucky January morning to face them. A hard fought 2-1 win led us to play Blessington in the round of 16. A last minute equaliser for Blessington brought the game to extra time but goals from Tony Butler and Kieran Timmins saw us win 3-1.

We then progressed into the quarter final against our neighbours Kilkenny CBS. A stunning volley from Kieran Timmins put us into an early lead but another last minute equaliser sent the game to extra time where we were defeated 4-3 on penalties, ending our season.

Massive thanks to Mr Byrne and Mr Dowling for coaching us this year.



U-19 Soccer

Back row l to r; Charlie Greene, Louis Lawlor, Liam O'Dwyer, Darragh Doyle, Hugh Kelly. Third row l to r; Mr. Ronan Dowling, Sam Mackey, Euan Wall, Noah Walsh Brennan, Mikey Keating, Kieran Timmins, Mr. Shane Byrne. Second row l to r; Cathal Rossiter, Joe Power, Dean Herbert, Jack McCormack, Tony Butler, Aaron Fox, Harry Cody. Front row l to r; Harry Bourke, TJ Comerford, James Conway, Charlie Grace. Missing from photo: Tadhg Ahern.



# Football

## FIRST YEAR FOOTBALL



## SECOND YEAR GAELIC SOUTH LEINSTER 'B' CHAMPIONS

By Liam Corcoran and Conor Power

At the start of the year, in September, many Second Year students went for

trials for the Second Year Gaelic panel. Our coaches, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Glendon and Mr. Lynch eventually chose a panel and we were all determined to do well.

As people might know, St Kieran's College is predominantly a hurling school but the boys brought their skills to the football pitch and we were

going to give the Leinster competition our best shot.

First, we played St. Peter's College Wexford in the first round of the league and had a convincing win over them.

Next, we beat Ardscoil Na Trínóide, Athy and after an encouraging win faced Wexford CBS in the South



Back row l to r; Tadhg Leahy, Charlie Teehan, Mikey Phelan, Billy Ronan, Emmet Murphy. Fourth row l to r; Sam Norton, Sean Corcoran, Hugo Carroll, Eoin Philpott, Tadhg Kennedy, David Blanchfield. Third row l to r; Paddy McCarthy, Liam Corcoran, Micheal Beagan, Ruairi McNally, Calum Owens, Rory Parley. Second row l to r; David Timmins, Fionn Barry, Tom Butler, Ger Delaney, Cillian Pollard, Conor Power. Front row l to r; Cormac Phelan, Dan O'Brien, Michael Fitzgerald, James Parsons, Conor Murphy, Charlie McCluskey.



Leinster quarter final where we had an impressive win despite the bad conditions with a score of 5-8 to 2-6.

Then we took on FCJ Buncloody despite it going to extra time the lads dug it out with a score of 3-14 to 4-5.

In the South Leinster final we played Portlaoise CBS. After extra time again, we managed to come out on top with a score line of 2-6 to 1-7 and were through to the Leinster semi final.

We faced De La Salle Dundalk in the Leinster semi final in Dublin on January 14th and were beaten by a better team on the day but we gave it our best shot.

Despite falling short at the final whistle, we think we represented the school with great passion and pride.

The boys enjoyed getting to play another sport and representing the school.

We asked each other a question - "Will you be playing Gaelic next year?" We all answered yes definitely!

The boys learned that you can

be good at football when your from Kilkenny.

We learned that there are a lot of similarities and differences between Gaelic and hurling, for example the scores were all the same and there is the same amount of players and same sized pitch used but we also learned that there are a lot less scores involved and the ball moves a lot slower you

also need to be a lot fitter to play the game but you don't need as much skill.

Overall we had a great experience of being part of the team (and missing class) and getting to play football which we never really play. It was a privilege to wear the black and white jersey and represent our year and our school.



## JUNIOR FOOTBALL

We had our first Junior football trials for third years on the 13th of November, massive interest was shown by all that signed up, with over 40 students registering their intention to play for the team. We went on to have two more third year trials and two further trials for TY and Third Year students. In total more than 70 students took part

in trial matches with the intention of making the panel. We played our first game against Portlaoise CBS on the 12th of December in Portlaoise, here Noah Power was deservedly named team captain. Unfortunately, we were missing a few players through injuries and were beaten, despite the best effort of all the players on the field. We then went on to play Colaiste Iosagáin Portarlinton in a must win game at

home. With some important players returning we started very brightly and led for much of the first half, partly in thanks to a brilliant individual goal scored by wing back Ben Nevin. Unfortunately, again, we ran out second best at full time following a spirited second half performance in which all the players could be very proud of.



Back row l to r; Rory Rhatigan, Sean Norton, Oisín Barry, Dan Carroll, Felix Fwamba, Ben McEvoy. Third row l to r; Mr Mikey Carey, Enda Cunningham, Cian Dalton, Harry O Donoghue, CJ Brennan, Mattie Corr, Mr Brian Maher. Second row l to r; Roman Connolly Tom Duggan, Charlie Kavanagh, Cian Dermody, Eoin O Gorman, Jack Bolger. Front row l to r; Joe Nolan, Jack Stapleton, Max Edwards, Charlie Vaughan, Noah Power (Captain) Paddy Grace, Cormac Neary.



# The Harry Byrne Memorial Tournament



Harry Byrne Memorial Cup



Harry's parents Annette and Fergal Byrne present Micheál Beagan with the Cup



2E the winning team





# Hurling



First Year Hurling

Back row l to r; Mr. Conor Delaney, Yehor Ahalakov, Joe Hanrahan, Michael Hogan, Mr. Richie Windle. Fourth row l to r; Seán Dooley, Cillian Murray, Peter Quinn, Tom O'Donovan, Rory Treacy, Harry Brennan. Third row l to r; Reuben Morrissey, Dara Kavanagh, Ben Dooley, Seán Coogan, Odhran Murphy, Rian Maher, Aaron Carrigan, Ger Cody. Second row l to r; Mark Byrne, Jack Lyng, John Hawe, Jack Darcy, Jack Andrews, Tom Hoyne, Ryan Spelman, Ashton Maher, Billy Kennedy. Front row l to r; Donie Cahill, Jamie Kavanagh, Noah Flynn, Eanna Costello, MJ Carroll, Jimmy Grant, Dan Comerford, Conor Cody, Mark Phelan. Missing- Daithi Egan

## FIRST YEAR

The First Year hurling team in St Kieran's College enjoyed a fantastic season under the management of Mr. Delaney and Mr. Windle.

Interest in the team was exceptional,

with over 100 students attending trials and getting the opportunity to represent the school in games. After a competitive and enjoyable selection process, a final panel of 35 players was chosen.

The team showed great commitment and skill throughout the year, playing numerous challenge matches against strong opposition such as Árdscóil Rís, Midleton CBS, St. Flannan's, Castlecomer Community







School, Thurles CBS, and St. Peter's College. In the group stages of the competition, they recorded impressive wins over Good Counsel College and Kilkenny CBS, securing their place in the final, which is yet to be played as we go to print. These players however show great promise for the future of hurling in St. Kieran's.



## SECOND YEAR

By Liam and Sean Corcoran

The trials for the Second Year hurling team started in October, after the Harry Byrne tournament in memory of our past pupil.

It was a hard decision for the coaches Mr McCormack and Mr Brennan to pick the panel as everyone was trying to prove why they should

be on the team, and the trials were very competitive.

When the panel was announced we got straight into training and challenge matches. We played Tralee CBS, St Mary's SS Newport and De la Salle of Waterford twice, who ended up winning the Munster u15 competition. We also had S&C sessions at lunchtime with Kilkenny GAA coach Nathen Culleton.

We got off to a good start by beating Kilkenny CBS in the league by 4 points at home. Next we faced a physical Good Counsel team but we managed to get through it beating them in tough conditions. We took to the field against St Mary's CBS Enniscorthy in our last league match away and beat them. Now we were through the knockout rounds and we faced Good Counsel again in the semi



Leinster Champions - Second Year Hurling 2024/2025

Back row l to r; Mikey Phelan, Charlie Teehan, Henry Phelan. Fourth row l to r; Mr Tom Brennan, Tadhg Leahy, Hugo Carroll, Tadhg Kennedy, Conor Egan, Eoin Philpott, Mr David McCormack. Third row l to r; Sean Corcoran, Tom Butler, Billy Ronan, Tom Lawler, Hamish Carey, James O'Connor, David Blanchfield, Sam Norton. Second row l to r; David Timmins, Mitchel Houston, Liam Corcoran, Daniel McCullagh, Simon Kolodziej, Paddy McCarthy, Conor Power, Jake Greene. Front row l to r; Darragh Carroll, Dan O'Brien, Fionn Doyle, Niall Cody, Oisín Fogarty, James Tallis, MJ Buggy, Lory Hogan, Micheál Fitzgerald.



final and with all the lads working hard we beat them in our best performance.

Next up was Kilkenny CBS in the Leinster final. The game was played in Nowlan Park in April. We knew it would be a very tough game. We got off to a great start but CBS came back into and it was level at half time. We came out strong in the second half again with 5 points in a row with 10 minutes gone. Again CBS fought back and they were winning by 2 points with 3 minutes left. We got an injury time goal to put us a point ahead with about 30 seconds left. They had one last chance to level but our keeper managed to get the ball and clear it. The final whistle blew thankfully and captain Henry Phelan lifted the Dr Barry Cup in front of a big Kieran's crowd.







Junior Hurling

Back row l to r; Ben Nevin, Jack Rhatigan, Dan Carroll, Felix Fwamba, Gearoid O'Shea, Mikey Barron, Jake Mullen, Ben McEvoy. Third row l to r; Rory Rhatigan, Mattie Corr, C.J. Brennan, Ned Spelman, Roman Connolly, Oliver Phelan, Scott O'Shea, Sean Norton. Second row l to r; Mr. Stephen Morgan, Enda Cunningham, Kyrell Mtinsi, Charlie Kavanagh, Cian Dermody, Paddy Grace, Eoin O'Gorman, Jamie Walsh, Sean Kavanagh, Mr. David Hennessy. Front row l to r; Paul Millea, Jack Stapleton, Lorcan Cummins, Noah Power, Cormac Neary, Charlie Ryan, Dylan Brennan, Jack Bolger.

## JUNIOR HURLING

The journey for our junior hurling team began in late August, as players from Third, Fourth and Fifth Year tried for a spot on the team. With over 120 students showing up to take part, the trials were a true testament to the enthusiasm for hurling among our students. The competition was fierce, but after weeks of trials and tough decisions, the panel was selected and ready to represent the school.

The group stage of the competition kicked off with two highly anticipated matches against Good Counsel and Kilkenny CBS. Both matches were hard-fought affairs, with our team displaying determination and skill to secure victories. These wins meant we topped the group and secured a home semi final.

The semi-final saw our team face off against Good Counsel once more. This time, however, the conditions were

challenging. A thick fog had descended over St Kieran's College pitch, making visibility difficult for both sets of players. Despite the challenging weather, the team showed great resilience, securing a well-deserved win that sent them through to the Leinster Junior Final.

The final, held in late November, was a nail-biting encounter against Kilkenny CBS. The match was as intense as it was thrilling, with both sides exchanging blows and never giving an inch. The match went into extra time, and when that didn't settle the score, it came down to penalties. It was a nerve-wracking shootout which we narrowly lost.

A special thanks must go to the Transition Year students who helped out throughout the trials and competition. Their support of recording matches and doing stats was invaluable to management throughout the year.







## SENIOR B



Senior B Hurling

Back row l to r; Mr Lester Ryan, Pierce Costelloe, Ronan Mahony, Hugh Whelan, David Langton, Mr Jonjo Farrell. Third row l to r; Philip Carrigan, Patrick Kerwick, Tim Brennan, Ciaran Coone, Timmy Corr. Second row l to r; Daniel Ryan, Conor Millea, James Holohan, Jack Walsh, David Moore. Front row l to r; Hugh Kelly, Eoin Walpole, MJ Banville, Tony Butler, Joe Power.

## SENIOR HURLING

Sam Hayes

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 with a strong win against Colaiste Eoin at home followed by a walkover against Colaiste Choilm, which helped us reach the league final. We also played CBS Thurles and CBC Cork, with both teams having great ambitions to win the Harty Cup in challenge matches to prepare us for our championship

opener against Good Counsel down in Good Counsel. After a comfortable victory over Good Counsel with a scoreline of 1-18 to 0-7, our focus was sharply turned to a much tougher battle with old rivals CBS in our final group game. After a tough game at home, CBS came out on top with a 3 point victory of 3-18 to 3-15. Next up was a Leinster semi final against Good Counsel who we knew would be a much stronger outfit from the team we played earlier in the year.

During the Christmas break we gathered together for numerous training sessions in all weather conditions. We trained hard in preparation for Good Counsel which

we knew would be an immense encounter as it was a do or die game for us. In the new year the game came around quickly and all our preparation paid dividends as we beat Good Counsel in a tough match in Tullogher on a scoreline of 0-22 to 0-14 and all roads lead to a Leinster Final in Nowlan Park against our rivals CBS Kilkenny where a massive performance would be needed to redeem ourselves.

On the 29th of January, the Leinster final took place in UPMC Nowlan Park. We knew this was going to be a tough encounter from our previous game earlier on in the league championship. 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, whereby the loser had to play a Quarter Final.

The day finally came around and there was a great buzz around the school from teachers and students. The atmosphere in Nowlan Park was electric with all of the school attending this massive game. There was very little between us and CBS in the first half, a goal by John Fitzpatrick helping us go in level at half time. We came out strong at the start of the second half

with points by Ed Lauhoff and Noah Manogue who was deadly accurate on frees.

CBS hit back again and the game was level going into the last 10 minutes. Points from Ruairi Murphy, Ed Lauhoff and Jake Mullen helped us to a 3 point lead going into injury time, 1-18 to 0-18. A last minute CBS goal brought the game to extra time. As extra time started, we came out strong building up a lead. CBS came back at us again with another late goal at the

end of extra time to bring the game to penalties with a full time score of 1-25 to 2-22. 3 brilliant penalties by Noah Manogue, Jake Mullen and Cian Phelan and an excellent save by Luke Lawlor got us the victory in penalties on a scoreline of 3-0.

For the next three and a half weeks we trained hard to prepare for the All-Ireland semi- final against Presentation Athenry. Each player on the panel battled and fought hard in training to contest for a starting position and to







make a matchday panel. We played Kilkennys u19 team and UCD Freshers in preparation for the semi final.

Preparation for the semi-final could not have gone any better but on the

day Presentation Athenry were just too strong, proving that goals win matches with a winning tally of 4-13 to our 2-11.

On behalf of the panel, a massive thanks must go to our management

team of Mr Dowling, Mr Ruth and Mr Brennan.

The endless amount of work these three put in since September didn't go unnoticed.



Congratulations to William Maher, past pupil and player on the All-Ireland Colleges Winning Team in 1996, on his appointment as National Head of Hurling with The GAA - This is a great honour for William and his family. We continue to take great pride in William and his achievements in hurling and we wish him every success in his new role.







#### Leinster Champions - Senior Hurling 2024/2025

Back row l - r; David Barcoe, Eoghan Cahill, John Fitzpatrick, Ciallin Brennan, Evan Murphy. Fifth th row l - r; Larry Phelan, Jake Mullen, Kieran Timmins, Ruarc Sweeney, Cian Phelan, Bill McDermott. Fourth row l - r; Diarmuid Behan, Conor Holohan, Jake Byrne, Ruairi Murphy, Conor Hoyne, Mikey Rohan. Third row l - r; Conor Heffernan, Cian Doherty, Fionn Mahony, James O'neill, Nicky Ryan, Jim Conlon, Sam Hayes. Second row l - r; Mr Fergal Brennan, Noah Manogue, Bill O'Shea, Luke Lawlor, Rob McEvoy, Thomas Langton, Jamie Tallon, Mr Richie Ruth, Mr Brian Dowling. Front row l - r; Louis Raggett, Conor McEvoy, Ciaran Hickey, Ed Lauhoff, Sean Deely, Conor Brophy, Michael Lynch, Dara Behan, Eoghan Obrien. Missing from photo: Darragh Coverdale.





Leaving Cert Class 2025



