



## **RATOATH COLLEGE PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

### **Newsletter**



#### **Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter**

*Our newsletter is part of a number of initiatives intended to improve communications with parents. Each newsletter will contain updates on what is happening in Ratoath College, including updates for your diary and news of the work of the Parents Association during the term.*

*We would welcome any feedback with ideas and suggestions for future editions of the newsletter, please feel free to contact us via our email address [ratoathcollegepa@gmail.com](mailto:ratoathcollegepa@gmail.com)*

*From all the Parents Association Committee*

#### **Parents Association Committee Members**

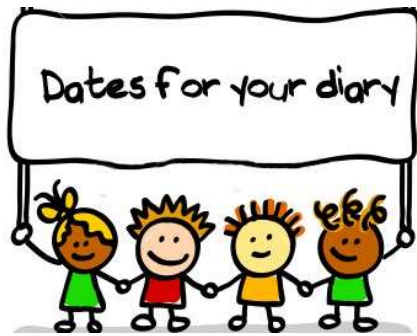
*Chairperson - Chris Devine*

*Vice Chairperson - Kathryn Ryan*

*Treasurer - Mary Fay*

*Secretary - Olive Fox*

*Committee Members - Aine Moore-McCormack, Annette Smyth, Brendan Daniels, Christine Turner, Damian Kearns, Jo-Ann Harris, Karen Higgins, Karen Scattergood, Lisa Geoghegan, Louise Kiernan, Lynda Markey, Marisol Subiran, Sharon Styles, Siobhan Sevestre, Therese Foster.*



**1<sup>st</sup> Years go to the Young Scientist**  
Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Year Parent Teacher Meetings**

Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 16.15-18.45

**Parent Talk on Child Safety Online**  
Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Parent Teacher Meetings**  
Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 16.15-18.45

**Mock Exams**  
3<sup>rd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year Parent Teacher Meetings**  
Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 16.15-18.45

**TY Work Experience (1 Week)**  
10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> February

**Mid Term Break**  
17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020

**LCA 1 & 2 Work Experience (2 weeks)**  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Teenage Mental Wellbeing**  
Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020



The new Board of Management met on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The newly appointed Parent Nominees on the board of management are Aidan Falvey and Morag McGowan. The Teacher Nominees are Martin Horan and Eimear Kilrane.



### National Parents Council

The PA have written to LMETB to request that they pay the fee to the National Parents Council on behalf of the PA.



### Parent Talk

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at 7:30pm, James Blackwell of DeGeekIT will give a presentation on the topic of Child Safety Online in Ratoath College.



Deirdre@simplyhealing.ie

### Parent Talk

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7:30pm, Deirdre McCormack of Simply Healing will be on hand to talk about Teenage Mental Wellbeing in today's society.



The work of the Independent Review Group is ongoing. A survey has been issued to parents, students and teachers and the review group will consider the response as part of their overall body of work. The final report is expected to be presented to the Board of Management in January 2020.



### **New School Building**

Building work to commence in the coming weeks. The building is expected to be handed back to the school in June 2020. The building will then be fitted out during the summer holidays ready for the new school year.



### **Constitution Review**

A Review of the Parents Association Constitution is to be completed to ensure the wording will allow parents of children registered in the school can attend General Meetings i.e. EGMs and AGM's. In addition, consideration is to be given to including a definition of terms to avoid any ambiguity.



### **Recruitment Challenges**

There are currently a number of open teaching positions. Filling the positions has been challenging with recruitment of teachers being an ongoing national problem. Efforts continue to be made to close the vacant positions with two positions filled in recent weeks. In any event, priority will be given to Junior Cert and Leaving Cert Classes.

Details of open vacancies are available on <http://www.etbjobs.ie/>



### **Supported by the PA**

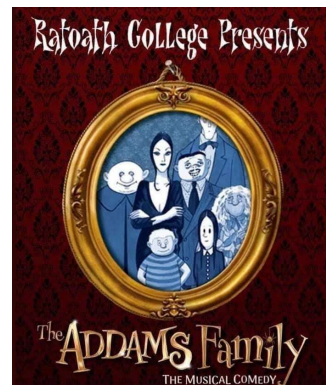


The school ran their annual sports day on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 with great fun had by all the students. The Parents Association members ran the tuck shop on the day with proceeds going towards the cost of the Musical.



### **First Year Service**

The first year service was held in the school hall on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 officiated by Father PJ. The Parents Association members were on hand at the end of the service to provide refreshments.



### **The Musical**

The school musical took place on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, & 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019. It was a fantastic show with the audience amazed by the talent on stage. Parent Association Members were on hand each night to run the raffle with the support of the TY students with proceeds going towards the cost of the Musical.



## Some Activities from the First School Term



## Some of the Sporting Events



### Soccer



1st Year Boys Soccer team in action against St Peters College Dunboyne as the team captain gives the lads some encouragement before kickoff!



U19s Boys Soccer team who emerged victorious in a titanic encounter against Colaiste Rís, Dundalk

### Rugby



The Senior Girls Rugby team won all three of their matches and the Junior Girls Rugby team won one of their matches at the North East Leinster Tag Rugby blitz

### Camogie



The Junior Camogie Team beat Ashbourne Community College and Boyne Community College

### Athletics



Students had a great day out in Oldcastle where they picked up a couple of athletics medals

### Sports Day



What a day! Well done to all participants, particularly Rang McKenna who continued their sporting dominance into 3rd Year and to Rang McGarron who won the overall trophy

### History

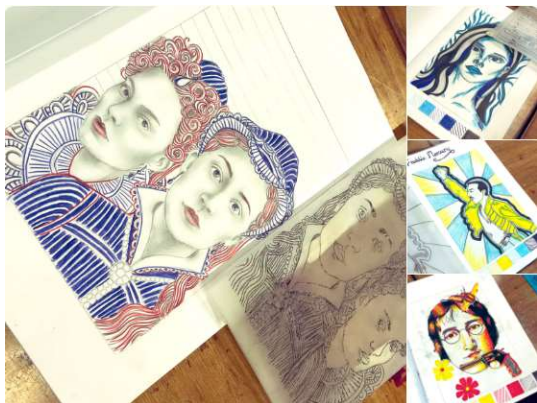


Senior Cycle History students had the honour of meeting Tomi Reichental, a Holocaust survivor who was incarcerated in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp when he was 9 years old. An insightful and eye-opening talk about one of the darkest periods of human history

## Art



1st year art students pictured having completed their Credit Union posters.



Some examples of the talented Ratoath College Artists.



Leaving Cert Art students visiting the National Gallery

## The Musical



The audience were amazed by the talented cast of the school musical "The Adam's Family".



## Geography



6th Year Geography students diving head first into their field study investigation at the Tanagh Outdoor Centre.

## English



3rd Year students attending a performance of Romeo & Juliet



## Getting into the Community Spirit

### Santa's Village



TY students have been busy organising Santa's Village for the junior schools

### Christmas Shoebox Appeal



Students donated to the Team Hope Ireland Shoebox Appeal

### Christmas Hampers



Well done to the TY hamper team busy collecting the donations generously given by the families of the Ratoath College students

### Collecting for St Vincent de Paul



TY students volunteering for St Vincent de Paul bucket collection

## Worldwise



3rd year students attended a presentation from WorldWise to learn about global citizenship & sustainability

## Zeminar



Ty students attending Zeminar with talks on wellbeing and education for generation Z.

## Trip to Liliput



What a start to the adventure!!!

Ty students began the year with a trip to Liliput for some team building.



### The First Year Service



A wonderful evening was had by all at the 1st Year Service with Master of Ceremonies, Fr PJ.



### Thanksgiving Tree



Students sharing all the people and things they are grateful for.

### College Fair



A College Fair was organised by the Careers Guidance Team for 6th year students in the week of 9/12/2019.

### Remembering the passing of Ms Aoife O'Sullivan



To mark the 1st Anniversary of the passing of Ms Aoife O'Sullivan. The staff and students planted hundreds of daffodils - "Bláthanna Aoife" in her memory.



### Student Council



Some of the Student Council members represented the school at the ISSU Regional Council of Schools. It was a great day and very informative. The Student Council got loads of ideas and are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

## **School Contact Details**

### **Ratoath College**

Website: [www.ratoathcollege.ie](http://www.ratoathcollege.ie)

Telephone: 01 8254102

Email: [ratoathcollege@lmetb.ie](mailto:ratoathcollege@lmetb.ie)

Our mailing address is:

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## **Aim of Parents Association**

**The overall aim of the Association is to work in partnership with all other Ratoath College stakeholders including the Board of Management, Principal, Deputy Principals, Teachers and Professional Staff in furthering the education, learning and moral, mental, social and cultural wellbeing of all our children.**