

# SIXTY-SIX



The Ratoath College Yearbook 2021





# FÁILTE

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2021 edition of Sixty-Six. This year's Sixty-Six has the dubious honour of recording what has been the most tumultuous year, not only in the history of Ratoath College, but in the lives of most of us.

The academic year of 2020-2021 has been like no other. We have all suffered and endured hardship but thankfully, as the vaccine rollout gathers pace, there is light at the end of the tunnel.



Looking back on a year of many firsts, we are reminded of the scramble and immense amount of effort and work that went into getting our school COVID-19 ready last summer for our students' return, while also processing textbooks for all our Junior Cycle students.

Coming back to school at the beginning of August we had to tackle a mountain of work to clear classrooms of furniture, re-orientate chairs and desks, deep clean the entire building, purchase PPE, convert our gym into a staffroom; our staffroom, fitness suite, practical rooms and canteen into classrooms, as well as creating designated areas, entrances and exits for Year Groups and conduct the intricate planning required to have our classes classroom-based. These mammoth tasks were achieved due to the diligent efforts of our administrative staff, our caretakers, our cleaners and our teachers and SNA's who went above and beyond to ensure our school was ready to open for our new academic year.

On top of this, 13 pallets of books arrived for Junior Cycle students. These books had to be processed, covered, processed into our database and assigned to our students. This task would not have been completed but for the aid of our teaching staff and SNA's who came back early from their holidays to assist us.

As the new academic year began and the reality of wearing masks, social distancing and sanitising our hands became our new norm, we all embraced this and made the very best out of a very difficult circumstance. Despite these challenges and due to the ingenuity of our teachers we endeavored to make this academic year as close to normal as we could. Examples of this was moving our morning assemblies, student of the month and prize giving ceremonies online and by making our classes roomed based with our teachers moving from room to room as opposed to our students. By all playing our part we ensured that the highest standard of education continued in Ratoath College, and we were able to keep our College open to all students before Christmas.



As we entered into our second national lockdown after Christmas we returned to distance and online learning. We must commend you all on your engagement. We know that this hasn't been easy for you but you have all made the very best that you could out of very difficult circumstances. Looking back on our social media accounts for this year gives a wonderful snapshot of your work from home; the dishes that were prepared, the towers that were built, the art that was completed and the many walks and exercise videos you all submitted.



We would like to take the opportunity to thank our Parents and Guardians for their unwavering support and many words of thanks, support and kindness during this most extraordinary year. We are extremely conscious of the myriad of issues that our Parents and Guardians have faced as a result of this pandemic, but through collaboration and communication we have all endeavored to make sure the needs of all our students are being met. Parents/Guardians, you should be immensely proud of your children's achievements. The effort, resilience and maturity they have displayed is a credit to you and will stand to them for the rest of their lives.



Our motto and ethos – Mol an Óige agus tíocfaidh sí – has never been more important. As our Mission Statement says, Ratoath College is a partnership of students, staff, parents and guardians and the community. What has come to the fore during this time is the importance of family and community, of supporting and lifting each other up, of recognising that we are stronger, safer and better when we work together.

No sector of our society has been left unscathed by this terrible virus but we will emerge from it and continue to support one another. As we come to the end of this unprecedented year, we look forward to a new academic year which will hopefully be a more normal one. We can't wait to fully return to all the activities like sport, shows, concerts and school excursions we have so dearly missed this year.



On behalf of all the staff of Ratoath College, we wish all members of the Ratoath College Community a very happy, safe and adventurous summer.

*Séamus Meehan, John McCarthy, Colm Connolly, Donna Kelly.*

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# GRADU CLASS OF 2021

## *A MESSAGE FROM MS. CASEY*

Dear Class of 2021,

As we come to the end of your time in Ratoath College, I am finding it incredibly difficult to know where to even begin with this farewell message to you. These last two years have been filled with fun, laughter, tears, hardship, fond memories, new friendships and seen stronger bonds formed throughout these strange times, and the Class of 2021 will be sure to go down in history.

On a personal note, it has been an honour and a privilege to be your Moltóir for the last two years of your secondary school life. Each one of you has brought something special to the year group and you have taught me so much during this time. You are the kindest, funniest and most resilient group of young men and women to walk out the doors of Ratoath College. I am immensely proud of how you have adapted to our new 'normal' and how you always managed to remain so positive throughout it all. I have enjoyed every minute of working with you and you have enhanced my time in Ratoath College to no-end.

# QUATING

I would like to sincerely thank your fabulous Caomhnóirí who have looked out for you during your time in school, many of them since day one when you first walked through the door in your red jumpers. Their support to you and I has been extraordinary, and I could not have done my job without them.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish every one of you the best of luck with whatever path you choose in life. Remember, school does not define you and if you can dream it, you can do it!

The class of 2021 has made a lasting impression on the school and we as a staff will remember you forever and I hope that you leave here with fond memories. I would like to remind you that we are always here for you in Ratoath College.

**Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain!**

Best of luck, remember to stay in touch and mind yourselves.

*Ciara Casey*  
Moltóir, Class of 2021





# ARD-CHINNIRÍ

## Focal ó na hArd-Chinnirí

It's hard to believe we are sitting here writing our goodbye speech. After the year we've had we just want to commend every single one of you for making it this far. We know it hasn't been a normal year and for many of you it hasn't been the year you wanted but we have all made the most of it. We never believed in first year that we would be ending school in a global pandemic or that us two would've been voted as Ard-Chinnirí but here we are going into the "real world".

As both of our parents would say!! We want to say a special thank you to our Cinnirí team for all the hard work they have done throughout the year. We really would not have got through the year without you. You are all a credit to yourselves.

To the teachers and staff of Ratoath college we would like to thank you for supporting us and the whole of 6th year during our years in the school. You have made this journey a memorable one for every one of us. The school has become such a fun and enjoyable environment to be in and we will be heartbroken to be leaving it.



To Godfrey, John and Robert, you all have made every student laugh and smile every day! You brighten up the student's day every day and you continue to always make us smile! You create such a positive atmosphere around the school, and we are so lucky to have caretakers like you! The school would be lost without the three of you and we want to remind you your hard work and positive attitude does not go unnoticed by the students!

To Mr Connolly and Mr Ball (even though he's not in the school anymore) we want to thank you for being our support from first to third year. We wouldn't have got to the place we are without you both. You helped mould us into the students and young adults we are today. We truly miss Mr Ball around the school, but we know he holds a special place in the school's heart.

To Miss Casey, we don't know where to start to thank you. You really have been a role model to both of us. You have pushed us to become the best people we can be. You've shown us what hard work looks like. You haven't only been a Moltóir, you've been a friend. You have been a shoulder to cry on, a smile to laugh with and in times you've given us a good kick up the arse! Saying goodbye to you will not be easy but we know we will be taking a bit of you with us in every decision and choice we make in life. Your guidance has allowed us to become mature young adults and you have shaped us into the people we are today.

To Mr Meehan, for us you have flipped the school upside down! You came in and took everything in your stride and added a great new sense of energy and atmosphere to the school! Every student has something positive to say about you along with every parent. You have a firm hand and a kind heart. Everything you do for the school does not go unnoticed and we want to thank you on behalf of the 6th years for making our final year in school the best year. The little things like welcoming the students in the morning really have made a positive and personal touch to the school.

To our parents, where do we begin to thank you. You are the reason we are here, and we are who we are. You push us, guide us and inspire us every single day to do what we love to do. Without your support we would never make it. We love you.

To our fellow 6th years, wow what a year it has been. A year of fun laughter tears and joy! But one we will never ever forget. This year has brought us all together for the better. Wherever life takes you we want to wish you all the best success in the future! Hopefully we will all stay in touch and continue to build the bond we have already built. From the bottom of our hearts, we will miss you all. We will miss the early mornings and the late evenings; we will miss it all.

Thank you to everyone who has had an impact on our Ratoath College journey, we will miss every single one of you.

Your Ard-Chinnirí,

*Ivan & Amber*  
Class of 2021



# Na Cinnirí - Class of 2021



## Environment Cinnirí

**David O'Malley, Caoimhe McCormack, Anya Browne, Cian Agar Finlay & Margarita Baturova.**

Although life has been very difficult and school being staggered over the last year, the Cinnirí have been making a huge effort to improve school life for both students and teachers. As part of our role as the Environment Cinnirí, it is our job to promote a green planet by encouraging the use of recycled materials and to use sustainable clothes and products. Whilst in school, we have been putting a huge emphasis on people using the correct bins located around the school to help Ratoath College become a cleaner centre for learning.

We hope that even without being in school full-time, people will take action to be environmentally friendly both inside and outside of school. A key component for us is the idea of wearing sustainable clothing as this is an area that receives little attention but is incredibly important in helping the environment.

We encourage everyone to be aware of where their clothes come from and the amount of packaging used, especially during these Covid times. All it takes is each and every one of us to make little changes in order to make a huge difference to the world. It is with great optimism that we feel the situation will improve and maintain the beauty of our planet. An rud is annamh is iontach!

## Extracurricular Cinnirí

**Laoise Murphy, Orla Byrne, Anya Clarke Carr, Ariana Short Doyle & Cian Smyth**

Sport and Culture are two of the most important aspects of life in Ratoath College. There is a major focus on languages, history, art, music as well as GAA, basketball, football and rugby. When it came to choosing my group as a Cinnirí, there was no doubt about what I wanted. Both sport and culture are huge parts of my life both in and outside of school. I was very lucky that the other members of the group also shared a passion for extracurricular activities in Ratoath College.

From September, it was clear that with the pandemic still very present, schools could potentially close again. We began brainstorming ideas for something that we could do which followed the health and safety guidelines. Since there would be no sport's day this year due to Covid-19, we decided to arrange our own mini sports days for the first years since they would be missing this important day of bonding. So, in October, during their PE time, we organised with their teachers for the students to be brought to the basketball courts. We arranged multiple different stations such as an obstacle course, penalties and a selfie challenge as well as other mini games. The first years went around in their pods and we arranged for the other Cinnire to get involved to boost our numbers. All round it was a success and a really fun experience.

Between November assessments, mock orals and a lockdown just after Christmas, it has been hard to get any projects off the ground. Our whole team did a video during lockdown but overall, we were limited with what we could do. It has been a difficult year for everyone, and I know all of us would have loved to do more with our time as Cinnire. However, the year isn't over yet and we've got some ideas for the upcoming weeks that we will work on that hopefully will bring the school together. I had such a wonderful time as a Cinnire especially working with Ariana, Orla, Anya and Cian as extracurricular Cinnire!

## Academic Cinnirí

**Roisin Corbett, Eve Drysdale, Katie O'Reilly, Claudia McKeon & Holly Flynn Larney**

The Academic Cinnire of 2020-2021 have had a great year working together considering the circumstances! The team of Holly, Roisin, Katie, Claudia and Eve have really tried to put our heads together to help the school and the students out this year. We have worked on the inspiring the future of tomorrow with wise words by academics of the past including Helen Keller and Dr. Seuss.

We helped the first years learn about the Mol an Óige point reward system with some bright and colourful posters. We also did an inspiring quote series for the Cinnire Instagram account for International Women's Day on the 8th of March, a great day for our all-women team! The academic cinnire also helped with other cinnire activities such as the First year sports day which was a great success!

## Wellbeing Cinnirí

**Josh Kavanagh, Ben Geoghegan, Eabha Fitzroy, Civa Connolly & Matthew Hayes.**

This year the well-being committee has been working harder than ever in the face of a pandemic that has affected the health and well-being of many students in Ratoath College. This year we have raised awareness and highlighted the ever growing need for supports for students and conversation about well-being and mental health. Projects this year haven't been as plentiful as we would have liked due to interruptions from Covid-19, however we have made good progress otherwise, although students seem to be missing the well-being teams iconic tea and chat!

Apart from myself, the well-being team consists of Josh Kavanagh, Ben Geoghegan, Eabha Fitzroy and Civa Connolly who should all be commended for the excellent effort they've given to the team this year despite all that's been happening. I've asked the rest of the team to give me ideas of well-being tips to include and although the usual favorites were recommended such as meditation, exercise, painting and music, I have to admit, some recommendations such as ASMR videos, ultimate frisbee, baking banana bread, and Minecraft seem to be highly recommended!

To the rest of the well-being team and all the students and teachers that have gotten involved and helped our committee out this year, we give a big thanks and a goodbye as well as a good luck to next years students, cinnire and well-being committee.

# CINNIRÍ BONDING TRIP

The cinnirí bonding trip started with a game of deceit and murder. A game of among us deciding whether you could trust who was sitting two rows behind you on the bus was a fun bonding experience. When we finally got off the bus at the foot golf place we were all very excited. We got split up into the four cinnire groups so we could get to know the people we would be working with for the next year. The rules were explained and off we went. My team the environmental cinnire were the first group on the course. It was a bit tricky at the start but we all started to get the hang of it. Then around hole number five we rescued two little frogs that had gotten trapped in the hole. We took pictures with them and set them on their way and we continued on our journey around the course. We finished the course in time for some lunch and some human foosball. I didn't get a first-hand experience of playing the football but I was very happy watching from the side-lines and taking photos. The foosball concluded our trip to the foot golf course. So we hopped back on the bus and made it back just in time for the bell for home time.





Class of



**GRADUATES**

2021



# RANG GROGAN



I sat down to write this so many times, and each time, I gave up. It is no secret how much I adore you all, and so writing this, knowing that I will be saying goodbye to you all, fills me with sadness. I met some of you way back in 2015, when I taught you PE in first year. I met some of you in 2018, during TY. One of you when you joined us in fifth year and another when you rejoined Ratoath College in 2020. However, for most of you, I met you in 2016. Fresh faced. Bright eyed and bushy tailed, sitting in room 9, ready to begin your journey in secondary school. Over the years we lost some students from our original pack - whether it was to Transition Year, Leaving Certificate Applied or that they just didn't find their way back to us - but our gang grew and evolved when we welcomed a whole other group of students two years ago. They made us who we are today. Rang Grogan.

It is funny to look back now because I can see how much you guys have grown up and sometimes, I cannot even picture the tough times. I often hear you laugh about those first three years and although it is nice to have those memories, you learned and grew and have turned into some of the most amazing young people I have ever met. Our Rang is represented by five Cinniri, who do us proud. However, I would like to point out that we also have other leaders in the rang, who represent us in so many other ways. On the sports field, the track, in the classroom, by caring for family, friends, teachers, and our school.



The last year has probably been one of the toughest years for you all so far. Do you remember last March we went home early that Thursday because of this new virus which was spreading rapidly? We all thought that we would be back in school after the Easter holidays and ready to get stuck into revision for the summer exams. Little did we think we would still be fighting the same virus over a year later and that you guys would be preparing for your Leaving Certificate as you are now. Accredited grades vs the Leaving Cert exams. The SPSS portal. Wearing masks vs not wearing masks in your orals. No practical exams. Sitting one meter away from the person next to you in class. Sanitising your desk and chair. Wearing your PE gear all day. No sport, no school teams, no training. "Pull up your mask". All things we could never have dreamed of this time last year and yet, we will remember all of this for the rest of our lives. It has been tough. The emotional rollercoaster has been draining and well, emotional, and that's just me! The resilience and determination and grit that I have seen from you all has been hugely inspiring. Life is full of so many ups and downs, and if you can get through this last year and still come out of it smiling, then you can get through anything.

Not only have I seen changes in you guys, or the way you are going to be examined, or how our school looks, but there have been changes in me too. I have learned many new skills (such as patience!) and so much about myself since becoming your Caomhnóir. Working with Rang Grogan has inspired me in more ways than you can ever imagine. You have continuously pushed me, not only to be a better Caomhnóir, or teacher, but to be a better person. You have encouraged me to keep learning, educating myself so that I could continue help you all. To look out for others in a way I could not have imagined by being a Mammy to 26 young people. You have trusted me with your hopes, dreams, thoughts, tears, laughter and joy. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know you over all these years. I want to thank you for welcoming me and embracing me as your Caomhnóir. I may have shouted, cried, lost my patience (and that was just in this last year!!) on multiple occasions, but I always felt that we had a mutual respect towards each other. You have changed me. I will miss our chats. I will miss seeing your faces every morning. The smiles. The 'good morning'. The laughs. I will even miss the excuses. The lates. Reading the bad notes in the dialanns. The arguments. Most of all, I will miss you all, Rang Grogan.

But, now it is time for you to move onto the next stage of your life. I hope you all take something positive from Ratoath College with you as you move through your life and I wish you all every success in whichever endeavor you choose. Remember, the most important thing in life is to find something that makes you truly happy. Here's to the class of 2021 and to Rang Grogan.

**"You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think"**

*Charlotte Grogan*

# RANG MCCABE



You guys are my very first Rang in Ratoath College and I couldn't have asked for a better group. It was going to be a tough challenge to fill the boots of your fantastic previous caomhnóir, but I was super excited to give it a go. I have enjoyed every moment together over this past year. I loved that our group was small and we had a chance to really get to know each other. Our Wednesday morning treats were the best part of the week for me. I loved how we were able to have a laugh, enjoy the time, chat about the latest Netflix series or solve the latest life drama.

This past year, I watched you develop into hard working and responsible young men and women. I am so proud to have shared part of this journey with you and I feel privileged that you welcomed me into your group the way that you did. I am sad that we didn't get to share more experiences together and I wish your last year in the school could have been more action packed but sadly circumstances prevented us.

You are one of the best ever LCA groups this school has ever had and that is something I hope you are proud of. I have always tried to inspire you to achieve your best and always reach for those goals. I know I have a fondness for quirky quotes, so true to form, here is one sentiment I want to leave with you:

**Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard – Remember this!**  
#gonnamissyoulíkemad

*Clara McCabe*

# RANG BURNS



I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for the future. It has been a very unusual journey throughout your senior cycle at Ratoath College. Covid and all the restrictions have made your journey far harder than it needed to be. You have faced that journey with resilience and strength. That is going to stand to you in good stead in the years to come. You may not realise it right now but that strength you will be able to call upon at other stages in your life. In that sense it was never wasted.

I wish to thank you for all the smiles in the morning. You never ceased to smile despite the difficult times and that made my time so much easier. Each and everyone one of you are unique and I personally am delighted to say I shared a small part in preparing you for your adult years ahead. For a teacher saying goodbye to 6th years comes with a lump in your throat. I have it now as I write this farewell.

As you move forward I wish you the greatest happiness, every luck in whatever you chose to do. Be safe and always know you have a second home here whenever you pass by. Best wishes again,

*Edward Burns*

# RANG TRACEY



It is so hard to believe that 5 years have passed since I first met some of you. The last 2 years have gone by particularly quickly! To all the original Rang Treacy's, I cannot believe how much you have grown in maturity (and height!) over the last 5 years. I would love to go back to that first day of 1st year to see your mini selves again and compare you to the grown-ups which you have become. You really are a very special group of people and I have loved getting to know you. Fortunately for me, the people who joined the class in 5th year are equally amazing! It has been a memorable experience to have gotten to know each and every one of you. It was the best start to my day seeing you in assembly every morning as you are such a positive and friendly bunch! I am so happy to have had the opportunity to meet you and to watch you grow over these two years into confident and capable adults, who are gifted in academics, sport, music, arts and many other fields.

I hope you have enjoyed your time in Ratoath College and that you are leaving with great memories of your experiences here. I hope you have learned a lot from your experience here and carry this forward with you into the future, whatever that may hold. Remember that you are at such an exciting point in your life where you can achieve anything you wish in life, once you are prepared to work for it.

I wish you the very best of luck for June and with whatever path you choose next.

*Rachel Tracey*

# RANG FARRELL



“Time flies when you are having fun” and how true that statement is! September 2016 seems like no length ago. We have some excellent memories to reflect upon. We have had some fantastic times over the past 5 years and more recently in the last two years. I will certainly miss the chats with tea and biscuits on a Wednesday morning and daily greetings in assembly. Some strong friendships have developed among you over your time as a Rang and I am certain these friendships will continue for the rest of your lives.

One more thing I certain about is, you will all achieve what you want to achieve and accomplish any obstacle put in your way. And remember our class symbol the compass from 1st year, when you loose your way or make a wrong decision there is always a way back. The world awaits you Rang Farrell, go and embrace it.

*Kevin Farrell*

# RANG JACKSON



I have had the privilege of being the proud Caomhnoir of Rang Jackson, not only to the Jackson originals, but also the 2.0 edition that was formed in 5th year. This group is a formidable group of students who have shown resilience and maturity in one of the most challenging times any of us have faced, it is something they should all be proud of, I know I certainly am very proud of each of you.

I will really miss chatting to you all in tutorial, filling me in on the goings on of the week. As my first group of both junior students and now seniors, it has been such a pleasure getting to know you all and watch you grow as young adults. I hope we someday we will meet again, all on our different journeys in life, and reminisce (without a mask on) of the good times we had in Ratoath College.

It's always so sad to say goodbye, especially to a group that have a special place in my heart, but remember that endings are never bad things, they just mean that something else is about to begin.

*Kelly Jackson*

# RANG LEIGHBURN



It has been an honour to have had the opportunity to be the Caomhnoir of such a fantastic group of students. Both Ms. Casey and Ms. O'Dwyer had been singing your praises upon my arrival and I had told about an outstanding group of students I was inheriting. I thought to myself that, 'surely this class can't live up to all this hype?' I was pleasantly surprised. It was evident from my very first day with the class that this group were a truly special cohort. I had never experienced a group that had made me feel welcome into a school until I met with you guys.

The class environment is so strong and is one that is built upon so many genuine friendships that fill whatever room we're in with a positive atmosphere each morning, setting us all up for the day ahead. This ray of positivity had me looking forward to our tutorials each morning. It is said that lightning doesn't strike twice but I will have to hope it does to find as good a start to each morning than I had with you all as a group.

I know this year has been one to remember and I have constantly been in awe of the resilience and perseverance of everyone in the class has shown throughout this year. I know my time with you has been brief but you all have made a big impression on me and I am truly honoured to have my name connected to such a wonderful group of individuals. I wish you all success and happiness in any and all walks of life you decide to take in your bright futures.

*Callum Leighburn*

# RANG FREEMAN



Rang Freeman, what can I say you have been an amazing class group and I have been very lucky to have the absolute pleasure of being your Caomhnóir since Sept 2020. You are an excellent class group and you all are intelligent, respectful, responsible and talented young adults.

Remember to continue to implement your strong work ethic in whatever you wish to do in the future. In other words, Reach for the Stars! "Believe you can achieve and you're halfway there".

As a class group the theme of friendship is very clear. You have all built fantastic friendships together, I hope that you continue to experience these great friendships with one another in the future and that you all remember to look out for one another. Now, Rang Freeman the time has come for you all to continue being motivated in your learning in order to achieve your goals. When you enter the world of work you will gain invaluable practical experience where I have no doubt you all will excel. "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams".

Rang Freeman, the roll call has been taken, the bell has rung... Now it is your time to shine and take the next step forward in your life with a positive attitude as a new chapter is about to begin. Congratulations on your graduation from Ratoath College, Well Done and best of Luck in the future.

*Mary Freeman*



# GRADUATE

# PROFILES

CLASS OF 2021



**Cian Berkeley**

*Berko*

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** Bomber

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** "Moment of Madness."



**Charles Bexon**

*Beans*

**Likes:** Chicken & cheese wraps

**Dislikes:** Mo salah

**Will miss:** PE

**Quote:** "I might be wrong but it's highly unlikely."



**Sean Buchanan**

*Bucho*

**Likes:** Gym and football

**Dislikes:** Pineapple on pizza

**Will miss:** Biscuits on a Wednesday morning

**Quote:** "Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it."



**Garrett Coey**

*Mr. Sandman*

**Likes:** Setting people's hands on fire, in the name of science on open days

**Dislikes:** The tent on the gaisce trip

**Will miss:** The new school building, oh wait...

**Quote:** "Started studying it, had a breakdown, Bon appetite."



**Sean Colgan**

**Likes:** Rugby and Cars

**Dislikes:** Manual labour in the garden, Homework assignments

**Will miss:** Engineering and P.E class

**Quote:** "You live one day, you've lived them all."



## Caoimhe Connelly

*Civa Diva*

**Likes:** Avacado and Toast

**Dislikes:** Rudeness

**Will miss:** Swapping my jelly for bens square bar

**Quote:** "Just Relax"



## Karlin David

*Karl*

**Likes:** Being called my first name.

**Dislikes:** Mendy and Varane

**Will miss:** After school DCG with Vinnie

**Quote:** "Its Karlin, not David."



## Aoife Foster

**Likes:** Not replying to texts

**Dislikes:** Getting stung in the face by a wasp in PE

**Will miss:** Lunch with the girls

**Quote:** What's that?



## Dylan Fox

*Foxy*

**Likes:** Sunderland AFC

**Dislikes:** Sunderland being in League 1

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** "He's done it again that Harry Kane..."



## Ben Geoghegan

*Gaygo*

**Likes:** Finns shed

**Dislikes:** Ms. Casey in a bad mood

**Will miss:** Tunnel

**Quote:** .....



## Ruby Hussey

*Rubes*

**Likes:** Making tiktoks x

**Dislikes:** Posting tiktoks x

**Will miss:** Crying with Ms. Grogan

**Quote:** Pain is temporary, \$wag is forever.



## Sean Looney

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



## James McCann

*Absentee*

**Likes:** Anything that i can beat someone else at

**Dislikes:** Anything thats not competitive and losing

**Will miss:** P.E with the lads and waffling

**Quote:** "Ah sure it'll be grand."



## Scott McEvoy

**Likes:** Telling people it's fine

**Dislikes:** It definitely not been fine

**Will miss:** The warm classrooms

**Quote:** "Fame is prison"



## Rory Meehan

*Snoopy*

**Likes:** Ordinary English with the boys

**Dislikes:** Monday morning assembly

**Will miss:** Mr Jordan

**Quote:** .....



## Thrysha Nikole Mislant

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



## Cian O'Farrell

*Cof*

**Likes:** Winning a free bet

**Dislikes:** Losing on the roulette wheel

**Will miss:** PE classes with the boys

**Quote:** "Dream big and go get it."



## Katie O'Reilly

*KT*

**Likes:** Molly O' Toole

**Dislikes:** Being slagged for bringing in seafood for lunch.

**Will miss:** Losing my cinnire badge

**Quote:** "Guys my lunch doesn't even smell that bad"



## Sven Objedovic

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



## Seam Pembroke

*P-Dawg*

**Likes:** Warzone with the boys

**Dislikes:** Double accounting on a Tuesday

**Will miss:** Absolutely nothing.



## Aine Purcell

**Likes:** The 1975, an OCD ridden room.

**Dislikes:** Beans (this may be a lie), Philadelphia Here I Come

**Will miss:** Caoimhe's travelling circus

**Quote:** "Hey Caoimhe! That's a secret, you might wanna ask the other Caoimhe"



## Julia Read

*Jules*

**Likes:** Chloe, napping in class

**Dislikes:** Being called small

**Will miss:** Lunch with the girlies

**Quote:** I'm 5'2 and 1/2, the 1/2 is important



## Ariana Shortt-Doyle

*Shortt*

**Likes:** Sports, being right

**Dislikes:** Losing, early mornings

**Will miss:** Coaching the football & basketball teams, lunchtime catch ups with the girls.



## Cian Smyth

*Smythy*

**Likes:** Chicken and pasta for lunch

**Dislikes:** Getting done dirty with a family in PE

**Will miss:** Playing ball on yard

**Quote:** "Don't worry we'll be back in 2 weeks"- Ms Canny 12th March 2020.



## Conor Tierney

*Conrad*

**Likes:** Leaving school

**Dislikes:** P.E

**Will miss:** Vicky

**Quote:** "Better late than never, even if it's last class."



## Raymond Walsh

*Rambo*

**Likes:** Green grapes

**Dislikes:** Red grapes

**Will miss:** Saying the our father at assembly

**Quote:** "What a brewww"



## Dragos Barlescu

*Dragos*

**Likes:** Nothing

**Dislikes:** Everything

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** "Can I go home?"



## James Bruton

**Likes:** PE

**Dislikes:** Woodwork

**Will miss:** Ms McCabe

**Quote:** "Waking up in the morning isn't easy."



### Josh Doherty

*Dotsy*

**Likes:** PE

**Dislikes:** Maths

**Will miss:** PE

**Quote:** .....



### Vince Ebbs

*Vinceywinceyspider*

**Likes:** Art, food, music, video games

**Dislikes:** Stressful situations, per pressure

**Will miss:** My friends & Ms.Morris becasue she helped me.

**Quote:** Create Art With Heart



### Matthew Fitzgibbon

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### Mintaras Matijosaitis

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### Alex McLean

*Alexis*

**Likes:** Makeup

**Dislikes:** Fake people

**Will miss:** Ms McCabe

**Quote:** "If can't love yourself how in the hell you gonna love somebody else."



### Kayla Naughton

*Kayla*

**Likes:** Half days on Wednesdays

**Dislikes:** Covid

**Will miss:** Ms fong

**Quote:** .....



### Jodie Neary

**Likes:** Having a chat with kayla every morning

**Dislikes:** Covid

**Will miss:** Ms.fong and half days on a Wednesday

**Quote:** .....



### Aaron Nulty

*Nulty*

**Likes:** PE

**Dislikes:** Wood

**Will miss:** Ms McCabe

**Quote:** "If the crossroads are empty give her plenty."



### Aodhán Tomkins

**Likes:** Half days on Wednesday, Art, Reading, listening to music.

**Dislikes:** Studying, Maths

**Will miss:** Rang McCabe

**Quote:** .....



### Shona Beedall

*Shins*

**Likes:** Reading in class

**Dislikes:** Paying attention in class

**Will miss:** That one window

**Quote:** "It matters not, what you've done, but what you do with what you've done... for others."



### Sarah Edena Coman

*Coman*

**Likes:** Sleeping in

**Dislikes:** The school WiFi

**Will miss:** Talks with my girls

**Quote:** "I was planned."



## Joshua Crampton

*Josh*

**Likes:** Patrick Bamford

**Dislikes:** Anyone other than Patrick Bamford

**Will miss:** All French Classes

**Quote:** "Jeremy Lynch, I'm calling you out" - Oliver Taylor



## Patrick Dolan McIntyre

*Paddy*

**Likes:** To simply vibe

**Dislikes:** Getting kicked out of higher level classes.

**Will miss:** Matt doing my woodwork projects.

**Quote:** "I don't know what I'm worse at, mario kart or studying."



## Jacob Donnelly

**Likes:** James' creatine

**Dislikes:** Jack Grealish

**Will miss:** Patrick Dolan's DCG project

**Quote:** "Conor don't be a dipstick"- Mohammed Nissar, 2016



## Felikss Drozdovs

*Fenton*

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** "Dream big and fart loud."



## Eve Drysdale

**Likes:** Stealing other people's personality traits

**Dislikes:** Coming up with a yearbook profile

**Will miss:** Mr. Toner having a crush on my dad

**Quote:** "Who are we talking about?... Never mind idk who that is"



## Tadgh Duggan

*Tadhg*

**Likes:** Tv&Movies and Rugby

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** The Office, USA.



## Eabha Fitzroy

**Likes:** Filling this profile out on time

**Dislikes:** Getting kicked out of the prefabs

**Will miss:** Barking in maths

**Quote:** .....



## Holly Flynn Larney

**Likes:** Being an apple polisher

**Dislikes:** Waking up early

**Will miss:** Everything but the prefabs

**Quote:** "Have you seen this picture of my dog?"



## Sadbh Hanratty

**Likes:** Telling everyone i'm not 18 yet

**Dislikes:** Having/not having a fringe

**Will miss:** Only having Emily in geography

**Quote:** \*gets a compliment\* 'are you sure?'



## Laura Jenkins

*Laurzers*

**Likes:** Fashion

**Dislikes:** The School Uniform

**Will miss:** The laughs

**Quote:** "Omg look at that dog."



## Yasmin Kaya

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



## Sinead McCarthy

*Sinny*

**Likes:** Staying inside at lunch

**Dislikes:** Getting sent outside at lunch

**Will miss:** The prefabs

**Quote:** "You would yeah"



**Jude McEvoy**

*Tinny*

**Likes:** Chocky sambos everyday for lunch

**Dislikes:** Paying taxes

**Will miss:** Getting targeted in tunnel

**Quote:** "Hes going places.....not college but places."



**Michael Moriarty**

*Mikey*

**Likes:** Tuchel

**Dislikes:** Foxy in trapstar

**Will miss:** Mr. Hannon cutting me a piece of aluminum

**Quote:** "Don't go changing a85"



**Lily Murray**

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



**Luke Neville**

*Nev*

**Likes:** Sleep

**Dislikes:** Not being able to sleep because of school

**Will miss:** Mr McAuley's football team

**Quote:** "I clap when the plane lands."



**Sriram Unnithan  
Rajesh**

*Sri*

**Likes:** Driving

**Dislikes:** Weekdays

**Will miss:** Strolling around

**Quote:** .....



**Luke Reddy**

*Luke*

**Likes:** Chillaxing

**Dislikes:** Being early

**Will miss:** Doing nothing in engeering.

**Quote:** "I'm not fat just bulking."



**Alfie Smith**

*Alf*

**Likes:** Willian

**Dislikes:** Mikey

**Will miss:** Mr. Burns

**Quote:** "You wouldn't be long getting frostbit."



**Katie Cotter**

*Cotter*

**Likes:** Having a chat

**Dislikes:** Dinners in school canteen

**Will miss:** English class

**Quote:** " you hollio"



**Brian Donnelly**

**Likes:** Ripping skhids

**Dislikes:** Being on a learners lience.

**Will miss:** The new building

**Quote:** "Line locking and hip knocking."



**Emma Dunne**

**Likes:** Stress eating

**Dislikes:** People who are rude to waiters

**Will miss:** The happiness of having a free class

**Quote:** "Its not even cold in these prefabs"- every teacher in RC



**Matthew Dunne**

*Dunner/ Kevin Dat Conway*

**Likes:** Good old crack

**Dislikes:** Despises the prefabs

**Will miss:** The lads and their crap memes

**Quote:** "Adventure is out there!! Computer says no."



## Aodhan Fagan

**Likes:** Mr McAuley in Italian

**Dislikes:** Subject of Italian

**Will miss:** Mr McAuley

**Quote:** "I would like to thank Google and to whoever invented copy and paste."



## Robert Foley

*Pablo*

**Likes:** Chicken Pesto Pasta (Red Pesto only)

**Dislikes:** Disapproving stares

**Will miss:** History classes where Mr Jordan needs to Google a slang term.

**Quote:** "Stream SAWAYAMA on Spotify live and legally."



## Tara Greene

*Greener*

**Likes:** Playing the harmonica at lunch

**Dislikes:** Food in the canteen

**Will miss:** Half day Fridays

**Quote:** "Hannah Montana said nobody's perfect, but here I am."



## Alex Hesse-Mason

*Hesse*

**Likes:** Playing PlayStation with the boys

**Dislikes:** Beans

**Will miss:** Getting off early on a Friday

**Quote:** "When I close my eyes, I can't see"



## Lauren Hu

**Likes:** Doing accents

**Dislikes:** My friend's lack of appreciation for my accents

**Will miss:** The art room

**Quote:** "I really think i can be a voice actor if i tried hard enough."



## Sophie Killion

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



## Andy Marshall

*Andy*

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** Beans

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



## Kerry McBride

*Kekezita*

**Likes:** Having a siesta

**Dislikes:** Accidentally speaking in the wrong language

**Will miss:** Trying to contain my laughter in class



## Claudia McKeon

*Claud*

**Likes:** When people say my name right

**Dislikes:** When Mr Meehan says my name wrong on the intercom

**Will miss:** Biology with the gals

**Quote:** "Hannah Montana once said nobody's perfect but here I am."



## Tom Murnane

*Thomas*

**Likes:** Half Life 2 mapping.

**Dislikes:** Half Life 2 mapping.

**Will miss:** Mr. Jordan's hair gel.

**Quote:** "Me? I'm just a lawnmower, you can tell me by the way I walk."



## Amy Nolan

**Likes:** Tea

**Dislikes:** People that ruin the vibe

**Will miss:** The girls

**Quote:** "Regret for wasting time is more time wasted."



## Emma O'Connell

*Em*

**Likes:** Playing camogie

**Dislikes:** Turning 18 during lockdown

**Will miss:** Catching up with the girls at lunch

**Quote:** "I was gonna say something but now I can't remember"



### Eve Rafter

*Raptor*

**Likes:** Being annoying  
**Dislikes:** Being woken up  
**Will miss:** Nothing  
**Quote:** "Everything happens for a reason."



### Nathan Scattergood

*Tris = Sin/Cos*

**Likes:** Landscaping and Geography  
**Dislikes:** Deadlines  
**Will miss:** Sleep deprived laughing at everything with the boys  
**Quote:** "School Extension Coming Summer...."



### Niamh Shannon

*Niamhy*

**Likes:** Purple snack bars  
**Dislikes:** Prefabs  
**Will miss:** Our English corner  
**Quote:** "Did I mention I got a dog?"



### Adam Smith

*Crouchy*

**Likes:** Football and the gym  
**Dislikes:** Gaa  
**Will miss:** Tunnel on yard  
**Quote:** .....



### Sulaiman Sultan

*Sully*

**Likes:** Ev stalling  
**Dislikes:** Iz's Fiat 500  
**Will miss:** Coming in late  
**Quote:** "We're in a global parallelogram" "Amber your gonna crash"



### Alex Tierney

*Alo*

**Likes:** Not talking  
**Dislikes:** Jordan Pickford  
**Will miss:** Jacobs waves  
**Quote:** "I'd rather be a hammer than a nail."



### Evan Walsh

**Likes:** Pretending to be busy  
**Dislikes:** Being busy  
**Will miss:** That one window  
**Quote:** "Get that fire exit door i'm off."



### Cian Agar-Finlay

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### Lisa Barry

*Alright Barry*

**Likes:** Wearing my hoodie  
**Dislikes:** My hoodie spending half the year in Mr. Connolly's office  
**Will miss:** The laughs and lunchtime chats with the girls  
**Quote:** "As a dyslexic myself, in my spare time I love a good read of a book."



### Margarita Baturova

*Maggs*

**Likes:** Getting along with my brother's & Ice-cream  
**Dislikes:** Fighting with my brother's  
**Will miss:** The teachers, they helped me far more, than they could imagine.  
**Quote:** "Don't worry about it"



### Max Brazil

*The Green Machine*

**Likes:** Recycling  
**Dislikes:** People not wearing the correct school uniform  
**Will miss:** the mobile phone policy  
**Quote:** "The ball is in your court now" -Derek Ball





### Samuel Buckley

*Sam gaeilgeoir buckley*

- Likes:** Sraith pictiur 6
- Dislikes:** Sraith pictiur 4
- Will miss:** Sraith pictiur 2
- Quote:** "Ar mhuin na muice."



### Kevin Dat Conway

*Matthew Dunne*

- Likes:** Matthew Dunne
- Dislikes:** Matthew Dunne
- Will miss:** Matthew Dunne
- Quote:** "Fuller, stop dat."



### Sarah Cullen

- Likes:** My Dogs
- Dislikes:** Not being around my dogs
- Will miss:** Áine Foster
- Quote:** "Never let anyone treat you like a bounty in the end of a celebrations box."



### Jodie Doherty

*Joe*

- Likes:** Going home at 3:30
- Dislikes:** Studying
- Will miss:** Lunch with the girls
- Quote:** "My phone screen is brighter then my future."



### Ciara Donnelly

- Likes:** Spending time with the girls
- Dislikes:** Exams
- Will miss:** PE with the gals
- Quote:** "My favourite colour is orange, guess what my type is?"



### Liam Duffy

*Liam*

- Likes:** Biology
- Dislikes:** Time management for exams
- Will miss:** Learning
- Quote:** "Education is the most powerful tool anyone can have"



### Ryan Duggan

- Likes:** .....
- Dislikes:** .....
- Will miss:** .....
- Quote:** .....



### Sean Eccles

*Seccles*

- Likes:** His blue bag
- Dislikes:** Froobs
- Will miss:** Not having his blue bag



### Corneliu Fendic

- Likes:** .....
- Dislikes:** .....
- Will miss:** .....
- Quote:** .....



### Áine Foster

- Likes:** Bagels
- Dislikes:** Eggs thrown at me on break, being called Aoife.
- Will miss:** Sarah Cullen, all my friends in geography
- Quote:** "Do you want the rest of my apple slices?"



### Aaron Fuller

*AA Battery*

- Likes:** Pro Clubs
- Dislikes:** Biology and Irish
- Will miss:** Religion with Mooney
- Quote:** "Ice in the veins mate."



### Grace Hennessy

- Likes:** Sports Day
- Dislikes:** Bleep Test
- Will miss:** Home EC Practicals
- Quote:** .....



### Jude Lovett

*Mr Iova Iova*

**Likes:** A filthy tackle  
**Dislikes:** Moochers  
**Will miss:** Having a laugh with the lads  
**Quote:** "UNLUCKYYYYY!!!"  
- Lucas Leiva



### Amber McAllister

*Amz*

**Likes:** The blazer x  
**Dislikes:** The jumper  
**Will miss:** carpool karaoke on the way to school  
**Quote:** "Hannah Montana once said nobody's perfect, but here I am."



### Isabelle McManus

*Iz*

**Likes:** My mint fiat 500  
**Dislikes:** Sully's opinion on it  
**Will miss:** accounting with Mr.Leonard x  
**Quote:** "Follow @isabelle scustomshoes on insta."



### Ewan McNally

*Mick McCarthy*

**Likes:** 105 bus straight to Gym Plus  
**Dislikes:** Stew in the Slow Cooker  
**Will miss:** Fungie  
**Quote:** "Couldn't be bothered taking the shortcut."



### Aodhan O'Connell

**Likes:** .....  
**Dislikes:** .....  
**Will miss:** .....  
**Quote:** .....



### Saoirse O'Kane

*Sok*

**Likes:** Lunch with the girls  
**Dislikes:** Katie bringing in seafood for lunch  
**Will miss:** Molly and Jess galloping down the hallways on all 4's  
**Quote:** "If I still look this good in 10 years, then I'll be happy."



### Mikolaj Plewa

*Mik*

**Likes:** Video games  
**Dislikes:** Mini mocks  
**Will miss:** Break times  
**Quote:** "And I knew exactly what to do. But in a much



### Fabiano Portelas

*Fab*

**Likes:** The Gym  
**Dislikes:** Mornings  
**Will miss:** Hearing stories about OG Rang Farrell  
**Quote:** "No I don't speak South African."



### Patrikas Sumskis

*Pat*

**Likes:** Basketball, aviation, ping-pong and chess  
**Dislikes:** Nothing at all.... (except waking up early)  
**Will miss:** Walking home with my friends  
**Quote:** Am I the only one who will try to see how much hours I can get before i sleep?



### David Barry

*Dave*

**Likes:** Saturday nights  
**Dislikes:** Dirt  
**Will miss:** Tunnel on break  
**Quote:** "You're getting lippy."



### Emma Burke

*Em*

**Likes:** Getting my own way  
**Dislikes:** Not having tan on  
**Will miss:** Lunch time chats with the gals at the lockers.  
**Quote:** "I'm not that mean..."



### Ciaran Cassidy

**Likes:** Love playing football and PlayStation

**Dislikes:** Hate simultaneous equations

**Will miss:** Getting shouted at by miss Casey when going toilet during class.

**Quote:** "If you're reading this go play the Playstation."



### Alannah Coyne

**Likes:** My dog

**Dislikes:** Seagulls

**Will miss:** Seeing my friends every day

**Quote:** The Office, USA.



### Kim Donnelly

*Kimbo*

**Likes:** Staying inside at lunch

**Dislikes:** Going outside at lunch

**Will miss:** Biology with the girls

**Quote:** "Where's Cody?"



### Lon Aidan Fabian

**Likes:** Singing, performing, writing music

**Dislikes:** Chantel, Lauren, Evan, Shona, Huda, Gracie, Erin & Lara

**Will miss:** Chantel bullying Lauren

**Quote:** .....



### Alex Fisher

*Fish*

**Likes:** Gym and music

**Dislikes:** School

**Will miss:** Mr. Horans construction class

**Quote:** "Welllll...."



### Daigh Fitzpatrick

*Digga D daigh*

**Likes:** Sleep

**Dislikes:** Social situations

**Will miss:** Nothing really to be honest

**Quote:** .....



### Mathew Fleming

*Flemwad*

**Likes:** Being known by everyone as the better twin (unlucky Alex)

**Dislikes:** Rice cakes

**Will miss:** You'll all miss me

**Quote:** "I like my women how I like my coffee. I don't like coffee."



### Emily Foster

*Emiloy*

**Likes:** Art class

**Dislikes:** Most other classes

**Will miss:** PE with the girls and Josh.

**Quote:** "You're the mine to my craft."



### Daniel Gallagher

*Dano*

**Likes:** New extensions

**Dislikes:** Prefabs

**Will miss:** Mr Jordans Geography class

**Quote:** "Education is important....."



### Matthew Grall

**Likes:** Not being in school

**Dislikes:** School

**Will miss:** P.E and Religion

**Quote:** "Imagine having decided to do TY in 2019 and not getting predicted grades."



### Mathew Hayes

*Moon Man*

**Likes:** The cold, walls.

**Dislikes:** Jumpers, Having my name spelt wrong.

**Will miss:** Making 50% of all Patrick's wood projects

**Quote:** "Matthew, you're a walking disaster." - Ms.BOD after witnessing all my books fall out of my locker, 2017.



### Josh Kavanagh

*Roshy*

**Likes:** Fridays

**Dislikes:** Being Late

**Will miss:** Tutorial and Religion

**Quote:** "We might be getting an accounting teacher next week finally- the whole of fifth year."



**Joey Lewis-Cullinan**

*Joe*

**Likes:** Football

**Dislikes:** United & Liverpool

**Will miss:** Engineering class in 6th year

**Quote:** Micheal Keane > Van Dijk



**Andrew Mackey**

*Andy*

**Likes:** Music football and gym

**Dislikes:** Country music

**Will miss:** I will miss Ms.Freeman

**Quote:** "I was never late everyone else was just early."



**Caoimhe Masterson**

*C-Slice*

**Likes:** Primary colours

**Dislikes:** Not having my sombrero

**Will miss:** Chats with Matthew in English

**Quote:** When life gives you lemons.....Garett what is in the satchel?



**Caoimhe McCormack**

**Likes:** Plotting my enemies downfall

**Dislikes:** Yearbooks

**Will miss:** I never miss

**Quote:** "Caoimhe? Yeah she's sound"



**Laoise Murphy**

*Lee*

**Likes:** when Chloe's in, tutorial, overachieving

**Dislikes:** chloe not being in, freezing in the prefabs

**Will miss:** getting praised for the bare minimum



**Aoife Rutherford**

**Likes:** Early excuse notes

**Dislikes:** Monday-Thursday

**Will miss:** Friends

**Quote:** "I probably wasn't in anyway"



**Robert Scheffer**

*Robot*

**Likes:** Getting to draw as part of junior cycle classics tests.

**Dislikes:** Not being able to take naps during lunch.

**Will miss:** Cafeteria pizzas



**Jed Walshe**

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



**Chloe Whelan**

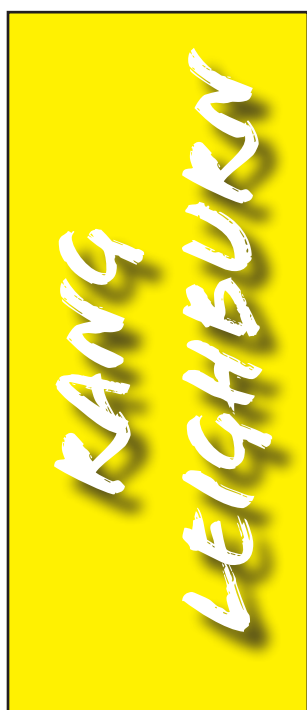
*Chlo*

**Likes:** Julia, Lists

**Dislikes:** Coming in, the prefabs, the bus journey,

**Will miss:** Mr. Mooney (my fave)

**Quote:** "No that's a joke like god love him with a name like Fergal."



**Anya Browne**

*Annie*

**Likes:** Going for a drive, literally anywhere

**Dislikes:** Loud Eaters

**Will miss:** Tea and Biscuits in 5th year Religion

**Quote:** "I'm not a farmer"



**Ciara Coleman**

*CJ*

**Likes:** Wattpad, puppies and swords

**Dislikes:** Judgment, fear and drama

**Will miss:** friends and the drama

**Quote:** "Oh, you had to walk to school in the rain? I went to school during a pandemic, you're not special!"



### Roisin Corbett

*Ró*

**Likes:** Being the 'oldest', My treadmill

**Dislikes:** Slow walkers

**Will miss:** Tea and biscuits in religion

**Quote:** "Right you can't say this to anyone coz I was told not to, but..."



### Ross Curley

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### James Hennessy

*Grames*

**Likes:** Karlin

**Dislikes:** Mennan

**Will miss:** Mr Leighburn telling Brian & I to move seats.

**Quote:** .....



### Dylan Kerin

*Dylan*

**Likes:** Fishing, Nature, bugs and games

**Dislikes:** Anxiety, accidentally walking in front of cars.

**Will miss:** All the holidays

**Quote:** "Roses are black, violets are black, everything is black 'cause I cant see."



### Stephen McCabe

*Ste*

**Likes:** Mr.Horan

**Dislikes:** English and Irish

**Will miss:** Mr.Horan

**Quote:**.....



### Aaron McCluskey

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### Oisín McGee

*Skunky*

**Likes:** My car

**Dislikes:** Ditches

**Will miss:** Mr Horan talking about a crap load of insulation

**Quote:** "Haven't a clue where I'm going but I'll know when I get there."



### Ella McGoldrick

**Likes:** Staying inside for lunch

**Dislikes:** Being made go outside in the cold for lunch

**Will miss:** Eating lunch with the girls



### Jessica McMahon

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### Eoin McNerney

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### Demi Mooney

*Dem*

**Likes:** Fake tan

**Dislikes:** Being pale

**Will miss:** Religion tea and biscuits

**Quote:** "Can we make a TikTok?"



### Evan Moylan

*Moylo*

**Likes:** Accredited grades

**Dislikes:** Sullys driving

**Will miss:** Tunnel with the lads

**Quote:** "Education is important but sleep is important too."



## Joshus Mulcahy

**Likes:** .....  
**Dislikes:** .....  
**Will miss:** .....  
**Quote:** .....



## Evan Murphy

*Capitano*

**Likes:** Trad group, Biccies, Insulin  
**Dislikes:** Gluten  
**Will miss:** Biccie Time with the class  
**Quote:** "Lord give me chastity and countenance, but not yet" - St Augustine



## Caoimhe O'Farrell

*Garrett Coey*

**Likes:** Cereal, keeping clean and ponchos  
**Dislikes:** Sticky things and tea  
**Will miss:** Having too many friends  
**Quote:** "Hey Áine what you got in that satchel?"



## David O'Malley

*Dave*

**Likes:** Sport  
**Dislikes:** Dejan Lovren  
**Will miss:** The El Clasico every Tuesday morning  
**Quote:** "Stir the sandwich and cut the tea."



## Molly O'Toole

*Subheading*

**Likes:** Barking in maths  
**Dislikes:** Katie O'Reilly  
**Will miss:** Galloping with Jess  
**Quote:** "Next person to bark is getting a bad note." - Mr Leighburn



## Matthew Somerville

*Matty*

**Likes:** Guitar, music, history, cycling  
**Dislikes:** Breaking my collar bone  
**Will miss:** The social aspect of school, routine and the people  
**Quote:** "You can sing a song to 85,000 different people and they can sing it back to you for 85,000 different reasons."



## Cillian Stears

*Cill*

**Likes:** Gym and Love Hate  
**Dislikes:** Moochers and buzz kills  
**Will miss:** Winding up Ms. Gilna  
**Quote:** "Don't hate the player hate the game." ~Cillstears



## Evan Weir

*Ev*

**Likes:** Miss Doonan  
**Dislikes:** Not being able to hit people for tunnel  
**Will miss:** Miss Doonan  
**Quote:** "Don't follow your dreams, follow my insta @ evan.weir3."



## Cody Woods

*Co*

**Likes:** Lie in's  
**Dislikes:** The prefabs  
**Will miss:** Biology with the girls  
**Quote:** "Where's Kim?"



## Huda Ahmad

**Likes:** .....  
**Dislikes:** .....  
**Will miss:** .....  
**Quote:** .....



## Gracie Allen

**Likes:** Books, my dog  
**Dislikes:** Running out of space on my bookshelf  
**Will miss:** My friends  
**Quote:** "I'm usually not indecisive, but I don't know what to say."



**Ryan Birkhead**

**Likes:** .....  
**Dislikes:** .....  
**Will miss:** .....  
**Quote:** .....



**Orla Byrne**

*Byrnsie*

**Likes:** Ben & Jerry's Choco Fudge Brownie  
**Dislikes:** Being the unluckiest person in the world  
**Will miss:** Making TikToks with the girls in PE  
**Quote:** "Okay then... you've convinced me x."



**Leah Carey**  
**O'Neill**

*Shawty*

**Likes:** Throwing my dialann  
**Dislikes:** Being mistaken for a 2nd year  
**Will miss:** Doing my homework 10 minutes before school



**Marc Checkley**

*Barcode boy*

**Likes:** Useless musical debates with Sidney  
**Dislikes:** Maidhc danín  
**Will miss:** Irritating Garrett on a daily basis  
**Quote:** "Elpenor died for our sins."



**Chantel Chukwuezi**

*Chanty*

**Likes:** Winning  
**Dislikes:** Losing  
**Will miss:** .....  
**Quote:** "Fun fact: I'm better than you."



**Anya Clarke-Carr**

*L'oignon*

**Likes:** Painting dead birds  
**Dislikes:** Forgetting my muffin box  
**Will miss:** Lunchtimes with Lizzie by the blue head  
**Quote:** "I wish my life had background music so I could understand what the hell is going on"



**James Patrick**  
**Cruz**

**Likes:** .....  
**Dislikes:** .....  
**Will miss:** .....  
**Quote:** .....



**Sidney Dehaene**

*Sidney*

**Likes:** Snagceoil  
**Dislikes:** Dudelsackspieler  
**Will miss:** Staying up until 3am to finish Classics essays.  
**Quote:** "Fail better."



**Aoibheann Doyle**

*Doyler*

**Likes:** Red grapes  
**Dislikes:** Green grapes  
**Will miss:** My happy hippo at lunch every day  
**Quote:** "I'm going home early."



**Gavin Fennessy**

*Wan-Bissaka*

**Likes:** Cuan pier on a rainy day  
**Dislikes:** Ewan acting like Arsenal are good  
**Will miss:** Hannons jokes on a Friday morning  
**Quote:** "Pro clubs 7:30?"



**Alex Fleming**

*Joël Matip*

**Likes:** Pro clubs at 2am  
**Dislikes:** Left ear  
**Will miss:** Mr. Mooney's catchphrases  
**Quote:** "It's better to sit and look stupid, than open your mouth and prove it."



**Emily Keeley Clarke**

*Saff*

**Likes:** Thinking I'm funny  
**Dislikes:** When Róisín makes me walk fast  
**Will miss:** Having one friend in geography x  
**Quote:** "Em idk someone told me"



**Karen Mavimpi  
Kimbeni**

**Likes:** Double classics on a Friday

**Dislikes:** Actually doing PE

**Will miss:** Cackling in class for no reason

**Quote:** "Laughing is the best form of therapy. hahahaha"



**Elizabeth Martin**

*Lizzie*

**Likes:** Monster energy drinks

**Dislikes:** Early morning

**Will miss:** Lunches with Anya by the blue head

**Quote:** "Oh jays!"



**Cameron McDonald**

*Brandon Williams*

**Likes:** Creatine

**Dislikes:** Sitting in the backseat with Ewan and Gavin

**Will miss:** Ms.Donnellan

**Quote:** .....



**Craig Mee**

*Craog*

**Likes:** GME

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** Teachers asking me to fix the projector.

**Quote:** "I would like to thank my arms for always being by my side, my legs for always supporting.... Oh."



**Caithlin O'Connor**

*Cato*

**Likes:** Drives with the gc x

**Dislikes:** Accounting

**Will miss:** Making tik toks in pe with the girls

**Quote:** "Stop, have to go home and do my tan tonight."



**Nathan O'Connor**

*Nato*

**Likes:** Swimming

**Dislikes:** Irish

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



**Ross O'Neill**

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



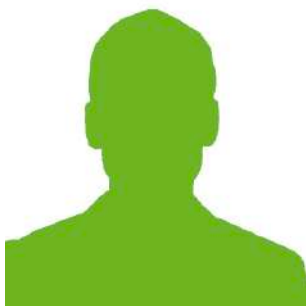
**Denis Alexandru  
Sterescu**

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



**Liam Van Valen**

*Liamo*

**Likes:** Bit of Religion with Mooney

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** Chillin with the boys

**Quote:** "The only mystery in life is why the kamikaze pilots wore helmets."

**Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain!**



R  
C



**FEARLESS**

Luke Neville  
James Hennessy  
Tara Greene



**LIFE OF THE PARTY**

Katie Cotter  
Sully Sultain  
Luke Neville



**COMEDIAN**

Katie O'Reilly  
Luke Neville  
Tom Murnane

A  
W  
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S



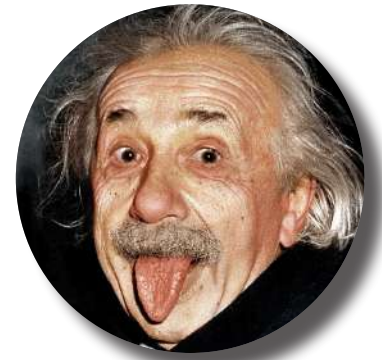
**CHATTERBOX**

Katie Cotter  
Karen Mavimpi  
Caoimhe Connelly



**CLASS CLOWN**

David Barry  
Sean Eccles  
Rory Meehan



**SMARTEST**

Marc Checkly  
Claudia McKeon  
Jed Walshe



**BEST HAIR**

Aoife Rutherford  
Liam Van Valan  
Fabiano Portelas



**GAMER**

Sriram  
Stephen McCabe  
Kevin Conway



**DRAMA QUEEN**

Aoibhinn Doyle  
Amber McAllister  
Elizabeth Martin



**BEST DRESSED**

Caithlin O'Connor  
Chantel Chuckwezi  
Sean Looney



**KINDEST**

Orla Byrne  
Josh Kavaghna  
Holly Flynn Larney



**PACK LEADER**

Denis (the menace)  
Ross O'Neill  
Ruby Hussey



**CREATIVE GENIUS**

Anya Clarke Carr  
Isabelle McManus  
Shona Beedall



**TEACHER'S PET**

Labelle McManus  
Laoise Murphy  
Emma Burke



**MEMELORD**

Patrick Dolan  
Lean Carey O'Neill  
Marc Checkley



**HEAD CHEF**

Eve Drysdale  
Matthew Sommerville  
Jodie Neary



**GENTLE GIANT**

David O'Malley  
Adam Smith  
Cian Agar Finaly



**BEST ATTITUDE**

Amber McAllister  
Evan Murphy  
David O'Malley

**R  
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S**

# MOST LIKELY



## Become a sports star:

Evan Weir  
Ross O'Neill  
Saoirse O'Kane



## Become a millionaire

Amber McAllister  
Sully Sultan  
Cillian Stears



## Get 625 points in the LC

Jed Walshe  
Laoise Murphy  
Garrett Coey



## Become famous

Aidan Fabian  
Daniel Gallagher  
Jessica McMahan



## Be the first couple married

Saoirse O'Kane & Cian O'Farrell  
Jodie Neary & Charlie Bexon



## Win the lotto & lose the ticket

Lisa Barry  
Stephen McCabe  
Cameron McDonald

# MOST

# Y TO...



## Become a movie star

Alannah Coyle  
Chloe Whelan  
Chantelle Chukwezi



## Get asked for ID at 30

Cameron McDonald  
Karlin David  
Anya Browne



## Go to appear on CSI

Denis Sterscu  
Adam Smith  
Ben Geoghagan



## Become Taoiseach

Evan Murphy  
Matthew Flemming  
Niamh Shannon



## Become a social media influencer

Jess McMahon  
Emily Foster  
Kayla Naughton



## Win gold at the Olympics

Matthew Hayes  
Cian Smyth  
Laoise Murphy

# LIKELY TO...

# MOST LIKELY



## Write a bestselling novel

Evan Walsh  
Eve Drysdale  
Huda Ahnad



## Win an Oscar

David O'Malley  
Laura Jenkins  
Aidan Fabian



## Return to RC as a teacher

Evan Murphy  
Luke Neville  
Max Brazil



## Cure a rare disease

Anya Clarke Carr  
Robert Sheffer  
Raymond Walsh



## Become TikTok famous

Jessica McMahan  
Isabelle McManus  
David O'Malley



## Start a fashion trend

Holly Flynn Larney  
Shona Beedall  
Jess McMahan

# MOST

# Y TO...



### Catch all 807 Pokemon

Dylan Kerin  
Kevin Conway  
James McCann



### Look more like a celebrity each day

Orla Byrne  
Alannah Coyne  
Aidan Fabian



### Become a farmer

Anya Browne  
Brian Donnelly  
Max Brazil



### Get sorted into Gryffindor

Caoimhe Masterson  
Stephen McCabe  
Aine Purcell



### Get sorted into Hufflepuff

Gracie Allen  
Aaron Fuller  
Kerry McBride



### Get sorted into Ravenclaw

Evan Moylon  
Chantel Chukwuezi  
Huda Ahmed

# LIKELY TO...

# TEACHER AWARDS

## ***BEST DRESSED***

Ms. Doonan  
Ms. Monerwella  
Mr. Mitchell

## ***BEST HAIR***

Mr. Jordan  
Mr. McCathy  
Ms. McCabe

## ***SCARIEST***

Mr. Connolly  
Mr. Mooney  
Ms. Witter

## ***NICEST***

Ms. Jackson  
Ms McCormack  
Mr Mulheir

## ***BABY FACED***

Mr. Leighburn  
Ms. Gilna  
Mr. McKenna

## ***ACTS TOUGH BUT HAS A HEART OF GOLD***

Ms. Casey  
Ms. Kelly  
Mr. Meehan

## ***BEST MASK***

Ms. Donnellan  
Ms. Flynn  
Ms. Hynes

## ***BEST ONLINE TEACHER***

Ms. Fong  
Ms. Conaty  
Ms. Tracey

## ***BIGGEST SOFTIE***

Mr. Farrell  
Ms. Canny  
Ms. Huban

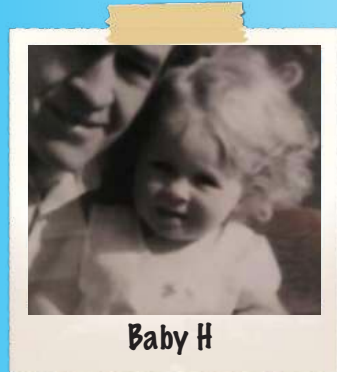
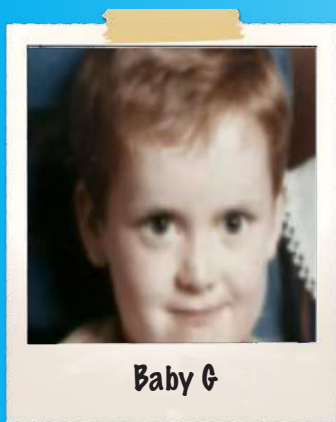
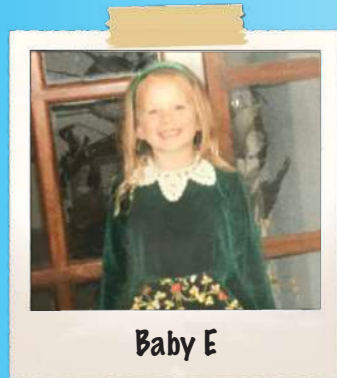
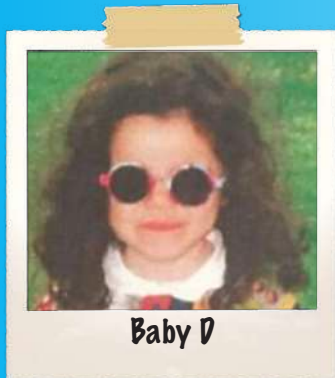
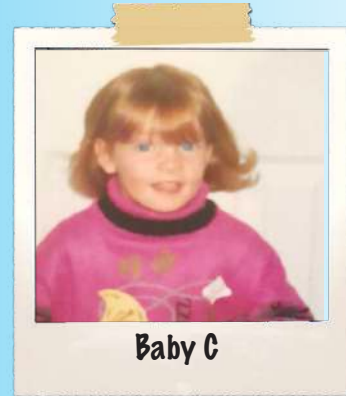
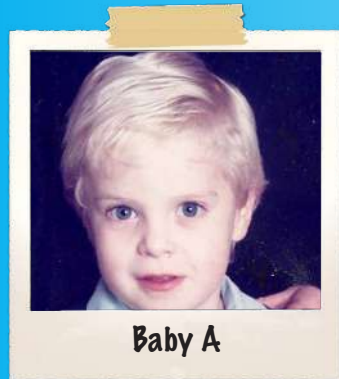
## ***BEST USE OF "I'M NOT ANGRY I'M JUST DISAPPOINTED***

Mr. Toner  
Ms. O'Neill  
Mr. Nissar



Teachers at the end of the school year

# GUESS THE BABY TEACHER



Answers: (A) Mr. McCarthy (B) Ms. Casey (C) Ms. Grogan (D) Ms. Monerawela (E) Ms. Donnellan (F) Mr. Toner (G) Mr. Connolly (H) Ms. Dinsmore (I) Mr. Jordan (J) Ms. Savage





## “I love it when a plan comes together”

### Get to know the A-Team

#### **Who is the most organized?**

Mr. Connolly  
Ms. Kelly

#### **Who would win in a game of monopoly?**

Mr. Connolly

#### **Who has the best hair?**

Ms. Kelly  
Mr. McCarthy

#### **Who would survive the hunger games?**

Mr. Meehan  
Ms. Kelly

#### **Who would you take with you to help you survive on a desert island?**

Mr. Meehan

#### **If you could trade places with anyone in the world for a day, who would it be?**

Micheal Martin  
I would love to be Prince William!!  
Roy Keane  
Oprah Winfrey

#### **If you could revive a fashion trend, which one would it be?**

Bring back the duffle coat  
Byker Grove Windbreakers!  
Bell bottom trousers  
Neon leg warmers and fingerless gloves-I'm a child of the 80's!

#### **Do you have any party tricks/random talents?**

A tune or two on the piano  
A Magician!  
None  
I am the party!

#### **If you could have dinner with anyone in history, who would it be?**

Mary McAleese..... inspiring lady!  
Freddie Mercury (Queen)/Princess Diana  
John F Kennedy  
Martin Luther King Jnr

#### **Who's the life of the party?**

All of the above! But mainly Ms. Kelly

# MESSAGES TO THE CLASS OF 2021

## **Mr. Toner's Favourite Memories:**

Consistently reminding Eve Drysdale of how much I admire her heroic father - Conor Drysdale (LEG-  
END)

Karen Kimbeni's infectious laugh & her explaining why she thought all submarines were Yellow Submarines or her pondering if firemen actually rescue cats from trees.

Tom Murnane's over the top European Fact of the Week - what a life experience.

Also in Italy, convincing the flight attendant not to charge us for the massive bag Evan Murphy was bringing, by telling her he would literally die on the flight without it, was a personal achievement which I'm particularly proud of.

Making Chantel Chukwuezi consistently roll her eyes or tell me to shut up has been a significant goal of mine for the last two years. She is truly the Queen of Sass in RC.

My favourite/worst memory happened two years ago in Italy. Marc Checkley, Laoise Murphy & Evan Murphy can act as witnesses to my actual meltdown when I thought I lost half the passports on the Classics & Art trip. We can all look back & laugh now as I frantically searched my bag, throwing out clothes, my toothbrush, my runners, etc out on to the floor of the airport in Rome, only for Ms O'Neill to tell me the passports were all in my other bag. My biggest fail, but what a story!

Another great memory - Robert Scheffer's latest Lockdown Hair-cut.

## **Messages to the Class of 2021**

"To the 6th Years History class that myself & Ms Dinsmore adopted this year - you guys are class. You an absolutely phenomenal group & it has been a true pleasure teaching you this year. Your work in class in difficult circumstances have been exceptional & your projects have all been brilliant to read through. You're such a great group of students & I've enjoyed every minute of teaching you, whether you were in Rang Mooney, in TY or if I just started teaching you this year - you guys are unreal!"

-Mr Simon Toner

"To my fantastic 6th Year Classics group. You guys are the best Classics class I've ever taught, hands down. I have enjoyed every single class I've had with you & you've made teaching an absolute dream for the last two years. Some of you I've had from 1st or 2nd Year, others I taught in TY & some I just met last year - each of you has been absolutely fantastic since I've met you & it's been an honour to teach you. I'm not gonna mention individuals here because I would literally take up half the Yearbook but just know that you are one of my favourite classes I have ever taught & I have had so much craic walking into a class before. I wish you guys all the best, you've been brilliant & deserve it!"

-Mr Simon Toner



Rang Burns English -  
"Wishing you luck because you're going to need it. Just kidding. Thank you for working with me this year and for contributing to really informative class discussions - even if these discussions went entirely off the point at times (at the girls in the middle of the room, you know who you are). I also wish you all the best in the future.

- Ms. Aoife Smith

English class with the original Rang Grogan was never dull and a lot of fun! I remember the super presentations for CBA and the wonderful support you gave one another, the brilliant still shots of 'fight scenes in the corridors and the highly competitive determination to win every sports day! Congratulations to you all on your achievements and the best of luck in the future!

-Ms. Janice Conlon

6th years - especially my fantastic music students. Thank you so much for memories and the laughs. I wish you all the very best of luck and cannot wait to see your names in bright lights in the near future.

-Ms. Debbie Dalton

My message for Rang Leighburn: "All the very best for the future. You were all a pleasure to teach (despite the amount of essay chasing!) and I couldn't have asked for a better class to inherit. It's all out there for you now, so go and get it!"

-Mr. Keith Conlon

It has been an absolute pleasure to teach this group for the past two years. They have a great way of bringing me off topic and turning a great lesson into a deep discussion!! I wish you guys every success and happiness in the years ahead. You all deserve the very best!

-Ms. Amy Quinn

"A massive congratulations to you all on successfully navigating what has been a truly difficult and disruptive senior cycle experience. You should all be immensely proud of yourselves. I wish you the very best of luck in all your future endeavors."

-Mr. Ronan Mitchell

Class of 2021, Wishing you all the very best of luck in your future endeavours. Here's to your bright futures!

-Ms. Debbie Hogan

# MESSAGES TO THE CLASS OF 2021

To my 6th year art class, its has been a great few years. Some of you if not nearly all I have taught since day one. From the drama of third year art projects to senior cycle lock downs, it has been a great journey. You have been an excellent class. I hope you continue to be creative and pop into a few art galleries throughout your life. Wishing you all the best.

-Ms. Sarah O'Neill

Rang Tracey, It has been a joy and an adventure teaching you English this year. You are a fabulous bunch of bright, funny and interesting young adults and I know that road ahead will be paved with great opportunities. Missing you already!

- Ms. Aisling Savage

Bonne chance a tous les élèves.

I have enjoyed teaching many of you at different stages over the years and have had the pleasure of teaching my wonderful French class for the last two. Well done on all your hard work and positivity. Wishing you all a very happy, bright and successful future.

- Ms. Paola Flynn

“Ciao ragazzi! What an absolute pleasure it has been teaching you in our small but wonderful Italian class this year. I know it has been a challenging year on many fronts but your enthusiasm, good humour and hard work has made it very easy for me as a new teacher coming into the school to teach you Italian. I wish you all every happiness and success for the future and I hope you might even get to go to Italy soon and practice some of your Italian! In bocca al lupo! Signor Delaney”

-Mr. Conor Delany

Dear Class of 2021, It has been my pleasure to have worked closely with many of you over the past 6 years. Your enthusiasm, love of learning and personalities have shone through! Wishing you all the very best in your future endeavours and please make sure to stay in touch!

Kind regards

-Mr. Colm Connolly

To my LCPE class, thank you for the last two years and for being part of history as the second group of students who will take this subject as an LC exam... you're technically the first group to be honest in my eyes. You will be delighted to never hear the word PAP again after this but well done to all of you for overcoming the struggles and wish you all the luck in the world.

-Ms. Ciara Casey

Dear class of 2021, It's been a pleasure to work with so many of you in the past two years and I sincerely wish you all the very best.

You have all shown fantastic resilience which will stand with you all for the rest of your lives. You will all be a school year group which will go down in history! I've enjoyed the laughs, chats and craic during our ranganna Gaeilge and I hope you did too!

-Ms. Mikela Smyth

Wishing every student from the class of 2021 the very best for the future. You have been a super year group and a pleasure to teach throughout the years. I look forward to hearing what the next phase of the journey will bring for you all. Aim high when you leave Ratoath College and please always keep in touch. Best Wishes,

-Ms. Grainne Reilly

To my wonder 6th year Business class! It has been my pleasure to teach you and see you grow and mature you over the last two years. I wish you all the very best for your future and I have no doubt that you will all find a wonderful career path to suit your very unique and fabulous personalities.

-Ms. Ursula Hynes

# 6TH YEAR MEMORIES OF RATOATH COLLEGE

The dinsBOARD

'Are we winning' - Mr. Connolly

When I was told I would be in the extension more than 6 years ago.

Bringing in Mr Jordan a birthday cake in 2018. We figured out his birthday by another teacher and surprised him

Mr. Mooney being chaotic and slamming the press doors. Always a crowd favourite

Bus banter with u20s team

Singing in the talent show

Morning chats with Ms. Grogan

When Liam broke the chair in Irish

During 3rd year Ms. Gilna

Post during class one day as they wouldn't deliver to her house despite giving an address. Ms. Gilna proceeded to give an oscar worthy performance of arguing with the delivery person that even Robert de Niro couldn't pull off. To say the least the package got delivered to her house with fast track delivery by then end of that call!!!

Ms. O'Hanlon teaching us about France, she always had a good story or two to tell us and made it easily my favourite class.

When Mr. Toner lost my passport "Do you see a hat on that board" - Diarmuid McCarthy TY18

51

On the first year Italy trip we went to Gardaland, I was quite happy to walk around and enjoy my day without going on any major rides, somehow I found myself standing beside one of the rides, with no intentions to go on it... until Mr.Jordan showed up... he had made an announcement earlier that day, and said that he would try his best to go on every rollercoaster in the park despite being nervous. He encouraged me to get on this specific one aswell, I think his words were "if I have to do this then so do you" I don't know what happened after that, all I know is that a few moments later, myself, Mr.Jordan and a few others were in the queue and before long, we were on the rollercoaster itself. Despite my nerves, I am really glad that I went on the ride as it made the trip very memorable ( I think Mr.McCarthy bought the footage from Mr.Jordan's seat of the rollercoaster ) - Anya Browne

When Mr. Jordan beat Raymond Walsh in Mario Kart



Doing Mr Mooney impressions “if you wanna act the clown go outside!”

“I’m getting a stress rash” -Ms. Grogan  
TY trip to Belfast 2019

Staying up for a reckless amount of hours, studying for a test just for it to be cancelled later on that day XD

The parties in Irish with Ms. McCormack (don’t tell Mr.Connolly)

The spot at lunch upstairs

The 3rd year business mock

Mr. Horan , Ms. S O Neill , Ms. McCabe , Ms. Hynes

‘Ok ok so so’- Mr. Mooney

Ms. Mc Cormack

Sorry Ms i had a mental breakdown

Teams calls with Ms. McCormack

Orla Byrne falling off her chair in Irish.

‘10 H8’s do you want to pass this subject’

Irish with Ms. McCormack Ty maths class with Ms. Gilmartin (Emma,Julia,-Ciara,Kerry) Ms. Jackson tutorial (ty group) Ty Lilliput trip Ms. Casey’s tea & biscuit chats

Best no homework excuse: I didn’t do my Irish homework, so I wrote a bunch of random words down and threw the page in mud outside. I brought it to class and acted like my homework had been ruined after it fell. I would’ve gotten away with it only for my teacher seen me do it on yard.

My best late excuse was that I wasn’t late and that I had already been on time. I had left my bag and coat outside before going to reception and got them later between classes. Needless to say my Irish teacher wasn’t to happy when I turned up with no bag or books!



# FAVOURITE MEMORIES

# PETS



# OF RC



### Holy Flynn Larney:

Meet Cooper. Copper is a 10 month old Boxer pup, who loves to sleep, play and drink tea.



### Laoise Murphy:

This is Luna. She loves long walks on the beach, bread crusts and belly rubs. She's a good girl but will take your spot on the couch to show love. Luna enjoys lying on your bed and eating your favourite slippers.

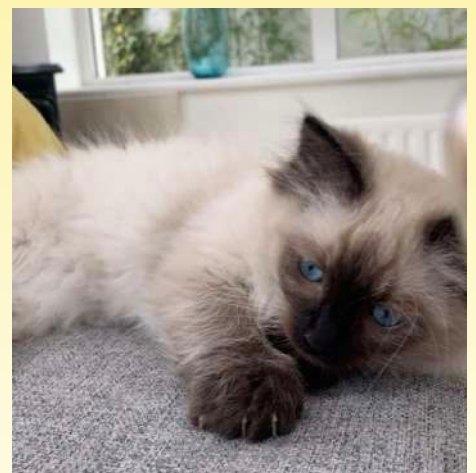
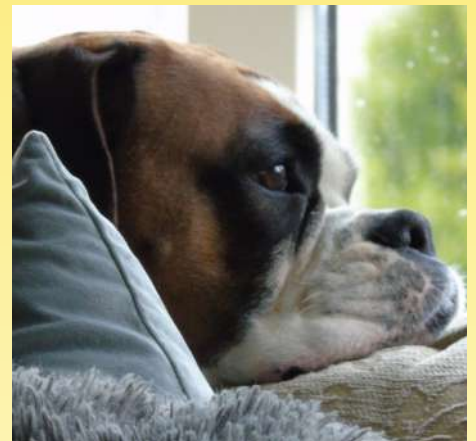


### Matthew Dunne:

This is Molly nearly everyone in Ratoath knows her. A small little white dog that has a big heart and loves meeting people. People slow down in their cars to get a good look at her. She warms Matthews heart and his friends. Matthew says without her it would have been quite difficult to get through school.

### Aodhan Fagan:

Charlie is a boxer puppy. She wakes Aodhan up every morning and waits for him to come home from school. She loves balloons and walks. Her best friend is the hedgehog.



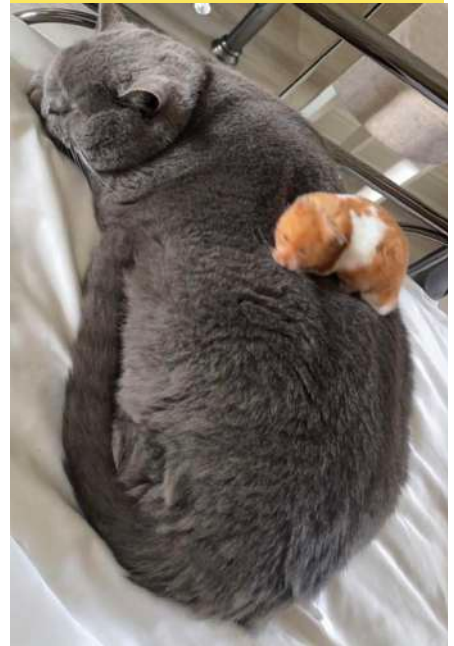
### Laura Jenkins:

This is Nico, he is a ragdoll kitten who is very playful but also spends most of his day asleep!



**Caithlin O'Connor:**

This is Kiwi, he is a zebra finch. Kiwis got his name from his love of Kiwis. He loves to sing and look at himself in his mirror. We also have Molly and Pip who are frenchies, they are mother and daughter and they like to eat petits filous and running in the fields.



**Isabelle McManus:**

Bobby is a British Blue Shorthair and the fattest cat in Ratoath. He is very friendly yet lazy. Billy is a Syrian hamster who loves to run on his wheel all day & eat dried banana chips. Bobby & Billy are Ratoath's very own Tom and Jerry.

**Jodie Neary:**

This is Pixie and Eric they are french bulldogs who are very friendly and really cheeky, Eric is named after the Manchester United player Eric Cantona. Their favourite things to eat are steaks.

**Sarah Cullen:**

Daisy is a pitbull and she's very loveable and chill despite her looks and Enzo is a staffy, he has the most energy in the world and always wants to play.





## ASKING THE BIG QUESTIONS: Caithlin, Ruby, Isabelle & Orla

# COVID Questionnaire

### One thing you learned about yourself during lockdown?

I never give up  
My hair looks better in a middle split  
I'm stubborn  
I'm a legend  
I'm really Lazy  
I'm unfit  
I'm addicted to tea  
That I can't sit down for more than 5 minutes without getting bored  
I'm perfectly suited for isolation  
I can bake very complicated things when I am bored  
Pyjamas can be worn 2 days in a row max  
I work better at home  
Life is better with 8 plus hours sleep  
I loved working from home  
I should have more confidence  
How much I like to sleep  
How to love myself  
Stronger than I think  
That I'm extremely grateful for having the people that I do in my life  
That I can multitask  
I don't mind school  
I eat a lot  
I don't like being alone  
To be unique  
I didn't find any good revelation, only bad insights.  
I took so much for granted before lockdown  
I'm not as strong as I thought I was  
Nothing will stop me from clothes shopping  
I am resilient



I hate coffee  
I love spending time with family  
I'm a resilient worker when I want to be  
I realised who were my friends and who weren't, who checked up on me and made sure i was coping  
I'm a peoples person

### One thing you missed about school during lockdown?

Seeing my friends  
Being with my friends  
Lunch  
The laughs  
Taking naps during lunch  
Doing work outside  
The feeling of coming into school without homework  
The lads  
I missed a lot of school yes  
Laughing and catching up with the girls at lunch  
Honestly everything  
I missed the social aspect of school more than I thought I would



Being able to see my friends  
 Being allowed to sit beside someone  
 Talking to everyone  
 Mr.Mooney

**Where's the first place you'd like to travel after the pandemic?**

Anywhere abroad  
 Wexford  
 Spain  
 The moon  
 New York  
 Anywhere 5k outside Ratoath  
 Either the Philippines or France  
 Belmullet  
 Norma Foley's house  
 Greece  
 Australia  
 America  
 Bora Bora  
 Marbella  
 Anywhere hot  
 Anywhere different  
 Chicago with my mam, nicest place in America !!

**One of your favourite activities to do during lockdown?**

Baking  
 Sleep  
 Painting  
 Walks  
 Watching Grey's Anatomy  
 Makeup  
 Home workouts  
 Playing video games  
 Sunbathing  
 Garden rave  
 Learning and improving at music  
 Seeing teachers not know how to use a computer  
 Have a rave in my room by myself  
 FaceTime my friends

**Things that remind you of lockdown?**

Whipped coffee  
 Iced coffee  
 Masks  
 When I had covid  
 Loneliness  
 Tik Tok  
 The stretch in the evening  
 Maths  
 My study desk  
 Noodles and sunny days indoors  
 Banana bread  
 A farmer tan  
 Minecraft with the bois  
 The ground Hog day movie  
 Baked Oats  
 Waking up every morning still in a lockdown  
 March-April, zoom  
 Brazilian funk, Teams, Zoom, my bedroom  
 Sitting out my back garden in the sun  
 Being told to put your mask on  
 Toilet paper



# C O R N E R

# CARETAKERS

## **What's your favourite part of the job?**

They get to see and talk to a lot of great students and teachers during the day and help with the maintenance around the school.

## **What's your least favourite thing to fix around the school?**

Having to fix blocked toilets, clean the bathrooms, graffiti and plumbing around the school.

## **What time do you get into school at?**

They arrive at school between 7:15am-7:35am each morning. Robert arrives at 11am. They are one of the first people to arrive to open up each door, turn off all the alarms and open all the gates in preparation for the students arriving.

## **What time do you leave school at?**

They leave at 4:15pm and 5:15pm. Robert leaves at 6-7pm. Before they leave then empty all bins in 60 classrooms plus the staff room and get each room ready for the next day.

## **How long have you been working for in Ratoath College?**

John has been here for 3 years since November



been here since September 2020. Robert has been here for 5 years and one month.

## **What year group is the messiest?**

Each year group has their messy moments but it is unfair to name and shame!

## **How has Covid affected your work?**

Covid has affected their work big time. With two bins in each room, having to check the hand sanitiser, antibacterial spray and blue roll that has put extra work on the caretakers as they have to check all 60 rooms each day in the morning and in the evenings.

## **What's your favourite memory from the year?**

John -"When Godfrey starting working here.

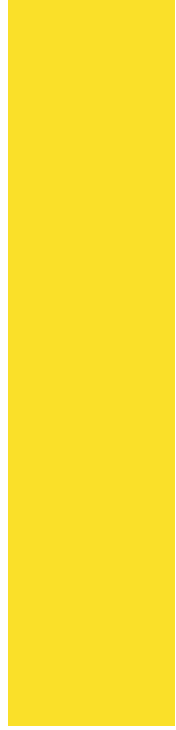
They also loved the school being painted as it brightens it up and makes it more lively. They actually painted all of upstairs by themselves and they used a total of 1300 cans of paint. They like the new landscape around the building and the nature as it makes they school more beautiful. And they love having all the students and teachers back in the building.

## **Who do you think should have won the Christmas door?**

Godfrey -"Oh definitely Rang S.O'Neill with the nutcrackers, they were amazing. All thanks to our help with attaching the arms and for naming them after us"

John-"Mr Jordan's class that did the giant snow globe that was cool"

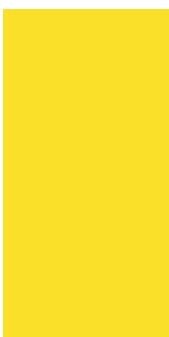
LETTERS

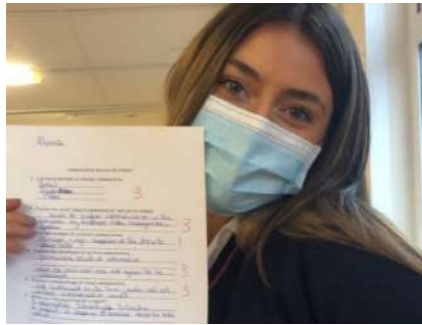
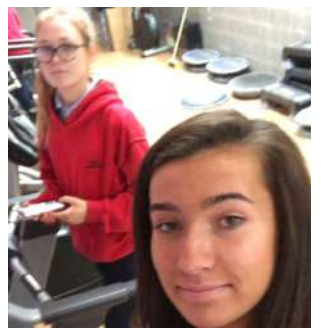


MOVEMENTS

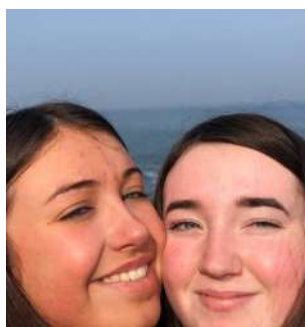
BIG

FEELURES





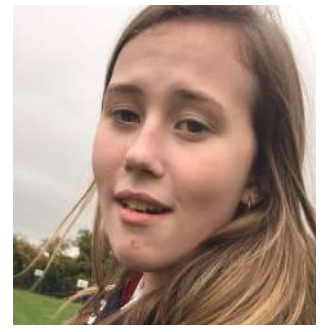
















# Q & A

## New Teacher Interview



### Mr. Flanaghan

**1. What's your karaoke song?**

Damien Dempsey: Apple of my eye. (Absolute belter!)

**2. What is your first memory from school?**

My history teacher telling us to look after each other and to enjoy our school days as they fly by.

**3. If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them?**

Niagara falls on the USA/Canadian border. Great place to practice swimming too haha.

**4. What is your biggest pet peeve?**

People who have no manners.

**5. Any advice for life?**

Always believe in your dreams, work hard and you will achieve them.

**6. Anything you wish you were told after graduating Secondary school?**

To get your driving license as soon as you can to get that first great sense of independence. Don't be afraid to try something new. Don't be a sheep, be a shepherd.

**7. Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by?**

We're all here for a good time not a long time so cherish every day.

**8. Who/what inspired you to become a teacher?**

Some of my former teachers were excellent and inspirational.

**9. In which other teacher's class would you like to enrol, even for a day? Why?**

Mr Nissar's class. He has bundles of energy which would make the learning very enjoyable but on one condition that we do experiments only!! Ms O'Neill's class as well, sure she has to get a mention as she's putting this year book together and who doesn't love art?!

**10. If you could grow up in any decade which one, would you choose? Why?**

The 80's just so I could have been in Stuttgart, Germany during Euro 88' to cheer on the boys in green as they beat England 1-0. That would have been some day and night!

# Q & A

## New Teacher Interview

### Ms. Bailey

#### 1. Who / what inspired you to become a teacher?

I enjoyed volunteering as a swimming teacher when I was in secondary school. I knew I wanted a job that was active and exciting that gave me opportunities to help people. Teaching was a perfect fit!

#### 2. If you could take students on a field trip to anywhere in the world where would you take them?

I've always enjoyed giving pupils the opportunity to step outside their comfort zones and realise their potential. I have previously taken students on expeditions to Zambia and Borneo and these experiences provided a bit of a culture shock but aided their personal development in numerous ways. It would be amazing to lead a trip to South America next! Any takers?

#### 3. In which other teacher's class would you like to enroll, even for a day? Why?

Woodwork - I went to an all-girls secondary school where Woodwork wasn't an option for us, so I never had the opportunity to try it. I would also like to join home economics as I really enjoy cooking and baking, and I would like to improve my skills.

#### 4. What is your biggest pet peeve?

Rudeness and bad manners!



#### 5. What song do you know all the lyrics to?

I know the words to a good few Westlife songs! Up Sligo!! However, I am an awful singer so cover your ears if I start to sing along!!

#### 6. In your opinion, what's the best part of being a teacher?

I love it when pupils feel proud of themselves. This could be finally mastering the triple jump, getting the hang of serving in badminton, or applying theory that I have taught them in exam PE into discussions and exam questions. They are delighted with themselves and I am delighted for them!

#### 7. Is there a quote or saying that you live by?

Be a radiator not a drain! Be the person that others want to be around rather than those that drain the positivity out of life. Surround yourself with radiators!

#### 8. What is one of your hidden talents?

Not quite a talent but a hidden skill I am learning is how to play chess!

#### 9. Any advice for life?

It's a cliché but #YOLO! Seek out opportunities that excite and challenge you!



# New Teacher Interview



## Mr. Mitchell

### 1. What is your go to karaoke song?

Proud Mary by Tina Turner

### 2. What is your first memory from school?

Being brought up to the front of the class in Junior infants and being told to put my nose to the wall because I had done something bad. Then looking to the side and seeing my best friend sniggering.

### 3. If you could take students on a field trip to anywhere in the world where would you take them?

New York!! An absolute must-see.

### 4. What is your biggest pet peeve?

When someone is late without a good reason.

### 5. Any advice fro life?

If you find a job you love, you will never work a day in your life.

### 6. Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by?

What's meant for you won't pass you.

### 7. In which Hogwarts house would you be sorted? Why?

Gryffindor. I've already been inducted!

### 8. How are you finding Ratoath College compared to previous jobs?

It has been a pleasure to work in the school. The sense of community and positivity that radiates from the school is unbelievable. In what has been a very challenging year for all, the students and staff of the school have worked exceptionally well. And I am very proud to have been a part of that.

### 9. In your opinion what is the best part of teaching?

The best part is watching someone succeed when they themselves hadn't expected too. Being able to in still that confidence and self-believe is why I do what I do.

### 10. In which other teacher's class would you like to enroll, even for a day? Why?

I would love to be a fly on the wall for Mr Burn's class. He's one of the funniest people I've met and I can imagine he brings that humor to his classes.

### 11. If you could grow up in any decade which one would you choose? Why?

Hands down the 80's!! Just simply for the music.

# Q & A

## New Teacher Interview



### Ms. Fong

**1. If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them?**

I would bring my students to visit India. From the hopeful Taj Mahal to the despairing slums, students will definitely have the biggest cultural shock of their lives. We could have a tour along River Ganges where people perform religious activities such as - purifying their bodies, scattering ashes, drinking the water, and meditation. To end the day on a positive note, we could do a mandatory Bollywood Dance

**2. What is your biggest pet peeve?**

'My mic doesn't work'  
'I am taking my fish for a walk'

**3. Is there a subject or topic you wish you could teach?**

I would like to be fluent in French or Japanese and teach it one day.

**4. What's your favourite thing about your subjects?**

Religion: Non-fact based. Everything Religion-related is open to interpretation.  
History: Fact-based. I enjoy looking at old things without having to live through those periods of time.

**5. How are you finding Ratoath College compared to previous jobs?**

RC is the biggest school I have ever been to. The first thing I noticed upon arrival at the school was the big blue guy outside the entrance and I knew immediately this school was going to be fun. The enormous bundle of support and welcome I received was very touching. It was also the first time a student has asked me how I was getting on in the new environment. I appreciate every moment of it and it has been a huge learning curve for me.

**6. In which other teacher's class would you like to enroll, even for a day? Why?**

Mr Cullen or Mr McKenna. I admire their positivity and want to know how they always keep a smiley face.

**7. If you could grow up in any decade which one would you choose? Why?**

I would like to travel back to any period where a mystery case is taking place.



# Q & A

## New Teacher Interview



### Mr. Conlan

#### 1. What is your karaoke song?

Dublin in the Rare Auld Times

#### 2. What is the first memory you have of school?

1st year, 4 foot nothing self walking into my base class room 32 and meeting Mr. O'hEochaidh. I can remember feeling a bit anxious but he put me at ease very quickly.

#### 3. If you could take students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them?

Definitely Vietnam. The Vietnam War has always interested me since learning about it in my leaving cert days. Mr. Jordan will vouch for me.

#### 4. Any advice for life?

Remember that time is money, so use that time to showcase the best version of yourself in everything you do.

#### 5. If you could grow up in an decade, which one would you choose? Why?

The 80s. Great music, Johnny Logan winning the Eurovision twice, Ireland beating England in the Euros and a crippling economic recession. A decade that had it all!

#### 6. What song do you know all the lyrics to?

Couldn't pick one. Tiny Dancer by Elton John. When You Were Young by The Killers. Lose Yourself by Eminem.

#### 7. Who / what inspired you to become a teacher?

My old teacher and caomhnóir Mr. O'hEochaidh. I wasn't the best at Irish but he was a great teacher and built up such good relationships in the class.

#### 8. In your opinion, what's the best part of teaching?

June, July and August.

#### 9. What's it like teaching in the town that you are from?

It felt quite strange and surreal at first, seeing some familiar faces from years before. I'm quite used to it now though. The welcome I received was amazing and it is nice to be able to call my old teachers colleagues and remember the good old, pre-extension days. And still getting to enjoy my favourite chicken fillet rolls from Centra the odd time for lunch is an added bonus!



# New Teacher Interview



## Mr. Leighburn

### 1. What is your first memory of school?

Hiding from my teachers inside the coat rack and PE gear bags with my friends in Primary School.

### 2. What is one of your hidden talents?

I can Juggle (Sometimes)

### 3. What is your best party trick?

I can balance a football on my head for longer than average. (Not sure if that counts as a talent?)

### 4. Do you have any nicknames?

Cal. I think that is the only nickname I've ever had.

### 5. If you could take students on a field trip to anywhere in the world where would you take them?

I'd take them to Switzerland to see the CERN large hadron collider. This is a huge insight into what happened during the Big Bang at the beginning of the universe. I'm sure the people working here would be inspirational to many people and inspire of new future physicists.

### 6. What is your biggest pet peeve?

When people take the easy option and quit when they could achieve if they put in a true effort.

### 7. Anything you wish you were told after graduating secondary school?

Q9 - Work hard when you can and travel at every opportunity you get the chance.

### 8. How are you finding Ratoath College compared to previous jobs?

I have loved my time here in Ratoath College. I was lucky enough to inherit a fantastic group of 6th years who welcomed me into their school and made me feel at home. Every class I teach reminds me of why I teach in the first place, the students here in Ratoath are driven and want to achieve their goals.

### 9. Is there a subject you wish you could teach?

I'd love to teach Spanish.

### 10. If you could grow up in an decade which one would you choose? Why?

I loved growing up during the 1990s, I wouldn't change it at all. I lived in a semi-rural area, so I spent a lot of my childhood traversing across fields or building treehouses 10ft in the air. I feel I had the benefit of having technology increase in popularity throughout my childhood but never envelope me at the same time. I feel I got the best of both worlds in a sense.



# New Teacher Interview



## Ms. Martyn

### 1. What's your karaoke song?

Mr Brightside

### 2. If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them?

The Inca trail in Peru or Iceland.

### 3. What is your biggest pet peeve?

Small Talk

### 4. Any advice for life?

Do what makes you happy. Don't let yourself be too consumed by the opinions of others.

### 5. Anything you wish you were told after graduating Secondary school?

Sometimes things don't work out how you think, and it can be the biggest blessing in disguise.

### 6. What song do you know all the lyrics to?

Jingle Bells

### 7. How are you finding Ratoath College compared to previous jobs?

I am really enjoying teaching at Ratoath College this year. It is a positive supporting community.

### 8. In your opinion, what's the best part of teaching?

When students have a 'finally clicks' moment and you know that your attempt to reach them has gotten through. I also love in my subject how students can show their interests and personalities through discussions. Plus, the holidays are great.

### 9. What current student trends are baffling you?

Drunk marathon challenge  
Zoom/team pranks, teachers are on tiktok too.

### 10. What's your favourite thing about your subject?

My subject is Geography. I love how diverse the subject is, covering a wide range of areas about our world.

# Q & A

## New Teacher Interview



### Mr. Spratt

**1. What's your karaoke song**

I'm not very brave when it comes to singing. Probably 'Tequila'.

**2. What is your first memory from school?**

I remember playing with these hexagonal plastic things that interlinked with one another.

**3. What is one of your hidden talents?**

I can play the drums.

**4. Do you have any nicknames?**

Benji

**5. If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them?**

Aachen, Germany

**6. What is your biggest pet peeve?**

Loud chewing.

**7. Any advice for life?**

Happiness isn't found, you work for it.

**8. Anything you wish you were told after graduating Secondary school?**

Don't do a science degree. Really, DON'T DO A SCIENCE DEGREE

**9. What song do you know all the lyrics to?**

The Man Who Can't Be Moved by the Script, of all songs...

**10. Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by?**

The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continuously fearing you will make one.

**11. In which Hogwarts house would you be sorted? Why?**

Slytherin, no doubt. I'm a very proud and cunning person.

**12. In which other teacher's class would you like to enroll, even for a day? Why?**

Mr. Toner's Classics class. I've seen some of his memes that are in his PowerPoints. (Looking at you, young Stalin)

**13. What's your favourite thing about your subject(s)?**

I love English. I love interesting stories and interesting characters. I enjoy language and using language creatively. And I love poetry, I really think it's an amazing art form. Being able to articulate oneself with language beautifully is something I adore.

**OUR**

**UNITY**

**IS**

**OUR**

**STRENGTH**



# UNITED IN THE ARTS

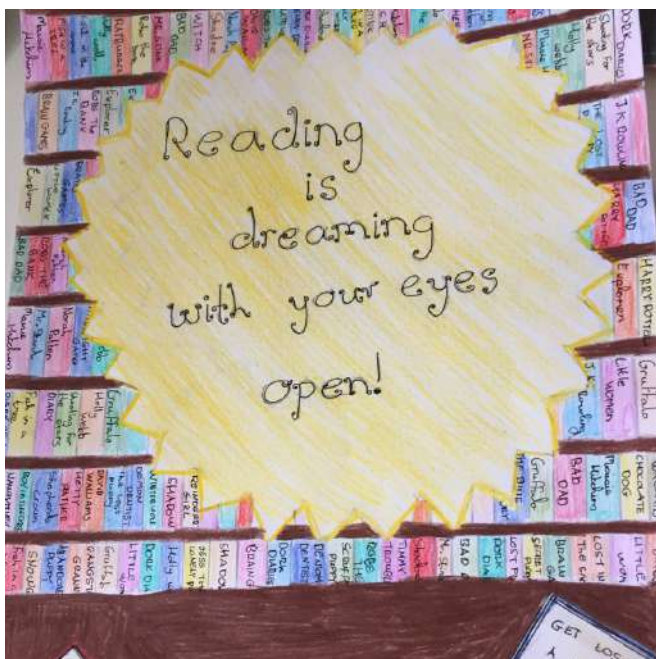
**M**arch 1st heralded the 2021 Ratoath College Arts Week, the ultimate celebration of the Arts and all things cultural. The activities of this week are an invitation for all students to enjoy and engage in creative and innovative thinking! Arts Week and World Book Day collided this year presenting us with the opportunity for an uber cultural festival under our umbrella theme of unity. This theme reflected our school community and how wonderfully our students have rallied together during the past year of obstacles, learning challenges and adapting to change. The Arts transcend time and offer us fresh perspectives on life and humanity. This year emphasised the strength of our school community, the resilience of our staff and students as well as reflecting on the unity of people all over the world working together and showing resilience.

**“Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine!”**

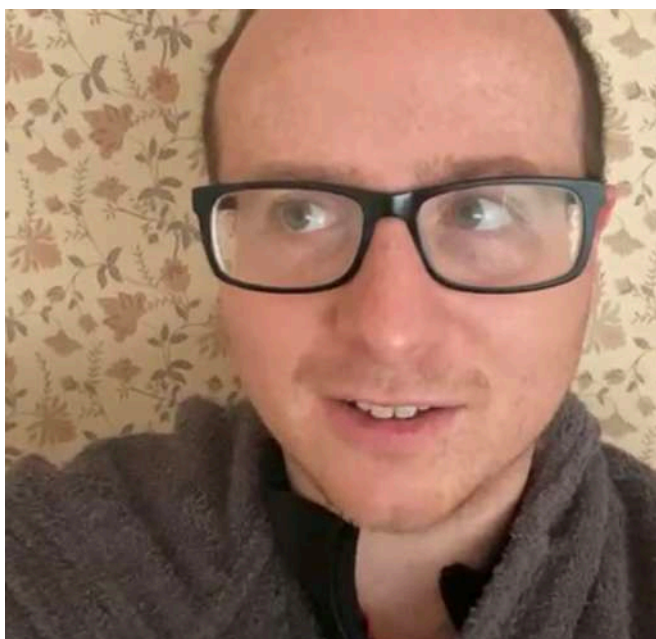
Like so many other school activities in the past year, the years 2020 and 2021 posed some obstacles for the sharing of and in Arts Week but there was never any doubt that it would proceed, albeit, with some alterations. The pandemic has highlight how essential the Arts is, a sector that is often underfunded and under appreciated. We’ve all missed a trip to the theatre, cinema, gallery or concert. But even as we were confined to our houses it was books, music, art and performances that entertained and brought us joy. The Arts are important for learning, connection, well-being; they are an essential part of living.

Our students and teachers shared their love of reading with the school community. Mr. Conlan’s class created a word wall of the value of reading while throughout the week students shared their recommended reads in their English classes which will be very useful when students select titles for their Summer reading list.

Students from all year groups created posters and videos encouraging their peers to take refuge in a good book. Congratulations to Eibhlin in Rang Smyth who was the worthy winner of a wonderful hamper donated by The Book Haven for her World Book Day poster.



We were all challenged to identify the Classics quote of the day as the wise words of Caesar and Plato were consulted and shared. Mr. Toner took inspiration from working from home, wearing his dressing gown to symbolize a Roman toga. 2nd year students celebrated Arts week in the true Ancient Grecian way, with a feast of pasta, yogurt, feta and maybe a stuffed dormouse or two!



Transition Year students, Meg and Saoirse, spoke in rhythm and rhyme reciting their favourite poems on the theme of unity displaying clearly the value and importance of poetry as a medium of art and imagination. With the words of Oscar Wilde and Derek Mahon comforting us,

**“Everything is going to be alright”.**

In SPHE unity all over the world was the theme as students promoted a world of collaborative problem solving, working together and peace through their discussions and poster publications.



The Italiano teachers sharing the Italian culture of fine architecture, football and most enjoyably, food. Cross curricular links were made when Mr. Delaney showcased his culinary skills and taught us all how to make an authentic Italian pizza! Brava!

The French Department promoted the beautiful language and haute couture culture of France with their daily challenges and phrases. The famous words of the Musketeers, “Tous pour un et un pour tout”, embellished our theme of the week.



This tremendous showing of unity and creativity throughout Arts Week was heart-warming, illuminating, motivational, educational and inspiring. There is power when people unite. “Míle Buíochas, Merci Beaucoup, Grazie Mille” to our wonderful teachers, staff and students that contributed to and participated in Arts Week 2021.



The Art Department shared work from the worldwide renowned masters of Art, Banksy, Coolidge, Lorenzo Quinn and Le Brocqy with us throughout the week flavoured with exhibitions of work from our resident masters of art in Ratoath College presenting the eye with food for the soul. Congratulations to the recipients of Credit Union Art Awards! Two of our Senior students have taken their skills to the next level, Isabelle creates wearable pieces of Art @isabellescustomshoes while Ava has elevated the artistry of the MUA where she is the canvas in fantastical creativity @ava\_\_mua.



**“It was a digital triumph!”**



# International Women's Day



International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality.

Marked annually on March 8th, International Women's Day (IWD) is one of the most important days of the year to:

- Celebrate women's achievements
- Raise awareness about women's equality
- Lobby for accelerated gender parity
- Fundraise for female-focused charities

The campaign theme for International Women's Day 2021 was 'Choose To Challenge'. A challenged world is an alert world. And from challenge comes change. So together we all #ChooseToChallenge.

As part of International Women's Day 2021 the staff and students of Ratoath College come together to celebrate women and challenge the world.

Article by Ms.O'Neill



# SQUEEZE IN A READ



**O**n Thursday February 25th as a prelude and warm-up to Arts Week and World Book Day, a number of our teachers and students shared some of their favorite reads with the school community. A variety of books and stories were recommended as part of an All-Ireland boost to reading for enjoyment. In RC we recognize the joy reading can bring!

The “Squeeze in a Read” public libraries initiative is a national campaign in partnership with publishers, booksellers, authors and the government encouraging people of all ages, from all over Ireland to take some time indulging in good book. Overall people in Ireland pledged to read for over 855,000 minutes that day. This initiative also emphasized the importance of looking after your wellbeing by doing the things you enjoy and taking some time to relax. Not only can reading for just 6 minutes a day reduce your stress by 68%, but it is also a form of meditation, lowers blood pressure and your heart rate. Opening a book opens the door to thousands of different worlds where each page reveals tales of adventure, learning and the lives of a multitude of characters. It is the purest form of escapism developing empathy, perspective and imagination in all readers. If you read for 20 minutes a day, you’ll read 1,800,000 words a year so this is the ultimate in personal development, improving your mind, your communication and vocabulary. We know that literacy skills are recognized as one of the strongest predictors of academic success and Plato spoke true when he described reading as an endeavor that “gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything”.

This summer we invite you all to indulge in a good book. Check out your local library, @LibrariesIRE or @Borrow Box on Twitter for more recommended reading material.

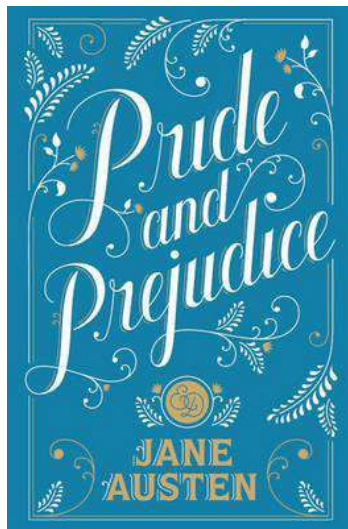
**Article by Ms.Donnellan**





## **Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen**

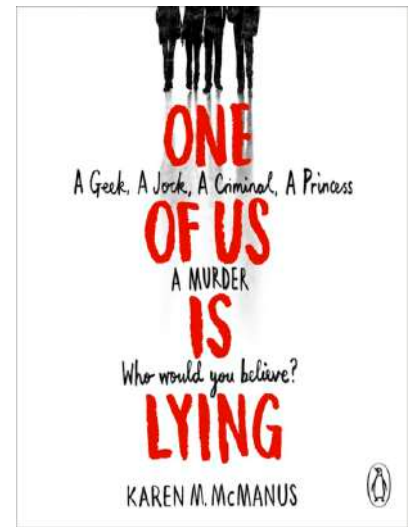
Pride and Prejudice follows Elizabeth Bennet, along with her four sisters, as she embarks on a relationship with the rich aristocrat, Mr. Darcy. Throughout the novel, truths are revealed, and the pair must overcome their pride and prejudices in order for their relationship to succeed. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, as the story is so well written, and I enjoyed watching the relationship between the two protagonists evolve. My only criticism is that the novel, having been written over 200 years ago, can be quite difficult to understand at some points. I would definitely recommend this novel to everyone, as it is a classic, and definitely worth the read!



## **One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus**

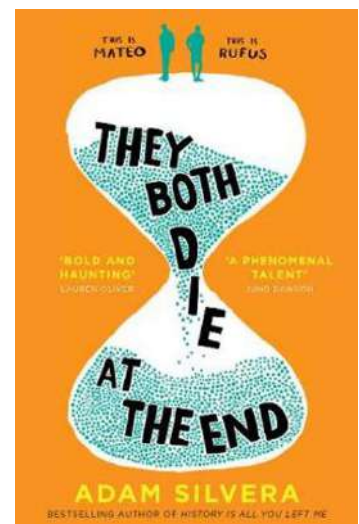
One of Us is Lying follows the perspective of four high school students as they become murder suspects of a renowned gossip, Simon Kelleher. The author switches perspectives throughout the novel, adding to the suspense, and leaving you hooked right until the end. I would recommend this book to everyone, especially fans of

The Breakfast Club, as the characters are extremely similar, being from completely different cliques. It is an easy book to read, and definitely worth it.



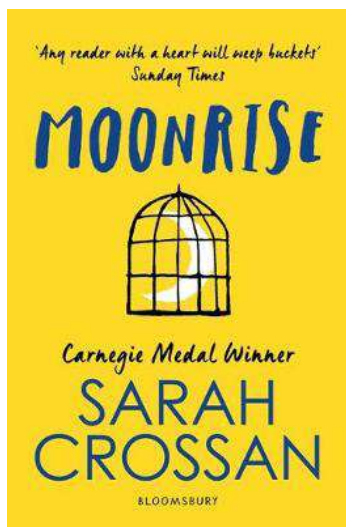
## **They Both Die At The End by Adam Silvera**

This novel follows the two teenage boys, Rufus and Mateo, as they find out that they're both going to die that day. These two strangers meet up, and embark on a journey to live their whole lives in just one day. This book is incredibly well written, and is definitely one of my favourites. If you are on TikTok you may have seen this one going around, but for a very good reason. It is heart-wrenchingly sad, but send an important message to the readers- You don't have to be dying to live.



## **Moonrise by Sarah Crossan**

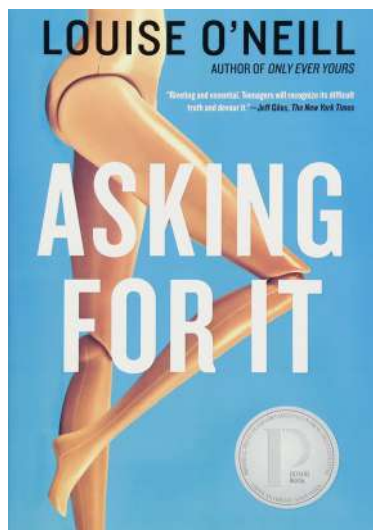
It's been ten years since Joe has seen his brother, Ed, who was arrested and put on death row. When Joe receives the shocking news that Ed's execution date has been set, he travels down to Texas to spend what might be his last summer with his brother. I could not put down this book; it is a quick yet haunting read which will definitely make you shed some tears. (or a bucketful). This book covers the criminal justice system and the death penalty in America, which I found interesting to understand more about. I can guarantee you will feel a hundred different emotions whilst reading this powerful novel and you will remember it long after you've finished it!



## **Asking For It by Louise O'Neill**

This novel follows the story of Emma O'Donovan, an Irish teenager proclaimed for her beauty and popularity. After a party in which Emma struggles to remember the events of, explicit images are released of her without her knowledge or permission, for everyone to see.

This book is heart wrenching and was difficult to read as it explores heavy topics; but it's an important one as I tackles the topic of rape culture in today's society. Though this book was heart-breaking, I am so glad I read it and would recommend to everyone as I believe it is an essential read!



## **Little Women by Louisa May Alcott**

This novel follows the March sisters; Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy, who have hit hard times since their father was sent away to fight. Even through the arguments, change and mistakes that walk hand-in-hand with childhood and family, these sisters always have each other at the end of the day. This book is by far my #1 comfort read as I adore the sibling dynamic and the lessons both the sisters, and you as a reader learn throughout the book. If you read this book, you will understand why the story has been adapted to film so many times, it's timeless!

**Article by Rachel Conway and Amelia Smith**

RECOMMENDATIONS

# TRANSITION YEAR MINI COMPANIES

This school year, with the lack of transition year trips, there was fierce competition among the transition year mini companies. From snack boxes, to jewellery, to toasties, to Christmas decorations, the year brought a huge variety of products and services available to the staff and students.

Our transition year mini company began in early October, as we began selling hand-made custom jewellery. The business escalated quickly after I posted a TikTok video for promotion which happened to gain over 100k likes! Myself and my business partner Mia were now selling to international countries such as America, Australia, France, Germany.. and many more! Our mini company allowed us to gain real experience in the business industry, and we learnt many new skills along the way. - Rachel



Setting up the mini company and participating in the Student Enterprise Awards was the highlight of my Transition Year experience. The support that we received from the school community, our teachers, and the other TY mini companies helped us to achieve our goals. In March 2021, Wired Jewellery were winners of the “Social Media Award” through Meath Student Enterprise. Myself and Rachel are delighted to be recognised for all of our hard work. - Mia

Check out our instagram  
[@wiredjewellery.rc](https://www.instagram.com/wiredjewellery.rc)

Article by Rachel Hue Conway  
and Mia Frawley



## THE BUSINESS BUNNISS

This Easter the Business Bunnies brought some sweet treats to school and surprised many students, teachers and staff with some nice Easter treats. The 6th year mini business students personally delivered sweet Easter treats to all members of the school community. All treats cost €2 and all profits went to Make a Wish Ireland. This business and venture was a huge success.



So far, for my short time of being a first year, it has been a blast. I love how we have more say in what we study and how we study it, and I also love the chance to learn other languages and develop more advanced computer skills. I really like how we know what subjects we are going to be doing on certain days, and how we have more time to do our homework. Despite the fact that I am in the school building right now, doing my online classes, I still miss everything before the pandemic, and I miss being in the same room with the teachers and being with other students in a classroom. While it has been a hard year, I still love school, and I hope others enjoy their time as a first year as much as I do. So remember enjoy your time in school and remember to pursue what you are passionate about.

**By Dillon Masterson  
1st Year Student**



**By Einin Murphy  
1st Year Student**

My 1st year in Ratoath College has been interesting to say the least. It is quite different to primary school, but I think I have adjusted well. I made new friends and enjoyed getting to try out new subjects. My favourite subject is Classical studies and Mr. McAuley makes the class funny and enjoyable. My Gaomhnóir, Ms. McCormack, is super nice and my Rang is great. Online school has good and bad qualities. It's good because I don't have to get up as early or walk to school. It isn't so good just because there's less discussion in the classes and that was one part of class that I did like because it was always funny. I also loved getting to know all my new teachers and fellow classmates. My favourite 1st year memory was making random jokes with one of my best friends, Sophie, in class and at lunch. I'm looking forward to making more memories and friends during my time at Ratoath College.

# PRESSING



## F L O W E R S

**P**ressing Flowers are an alternative rock band formed in September of 2019. We are all in Transition Year now but came together in 3rd Year. Our members include: lead vocalist and bassist Meg Johnson, lead guitarist and producer Leo Bergin, rhythm guitarist and vocalist Paul Roche, and drummer Matt "Bubbles" Duff. Since forming, we have released music on SoundCloud and YouTube, produced by Leo, with songs such as Bedhead, Vacant, Chemical Bones and Half Past. Collectively, we have just under 5,000 plays on SoundCloud. Our music is heavily inspired by bands such as Pixies, Radiohead, The Strokes, Nirvana and Car Seat Headrest.

**B**edhead, our most popular song, has been played on Irish radio station KCLR, and our wonderful drummer Matt created an animated music video to go along with the track! Before the pandemic, we practiced every Saturday, in Leo's studio-bedroom, in the attic. We worked on lots of original music and covers and released Bedhead on March 1st, 2020. Leo and Meg wrote the song together, with Leo on the instrumental side, and Meg on lyrics and melody. The song is about the early whispers of a lockdown and a raging global pandemic, and Meg's feelings towards what she thought it might be like.



**W**ith promotions on the band's Instagram page, and Meg's Mam's incredible Facebook advertising abilities, the song quickly became rather popular, and now stands at 1,035 plays. Practise quickly came to a halt on March 12th, the beginning of the Coronavirus Lockdown, so we were all forced into practicing and writing material at home. We all began learning new songs, and making music ourselves, while still practicing and roughly recording new songs for band.

**W**e were able to start rehearsing and recording again for a while in June of 2020, all socially distanced and wearing masks,

and in that same month, we had professional photos taken by the brilliant David Duff, that we used as cover photos on Instagram, Soundcloud and YouTube. In October, once again, we were put to a stop, and since haven't been allowed to rehearse and make music together. Once more, we have all been learning our own material, and working on different songs we can play together when the restrictions allow it.



Article by Meg Johnson

# ALTERNATIVE ROCK





We have played for several Student of the Month ceremonies in school and managed to snag 4th place in the Ratoath College 2019 Annual Talent Show. Working with the insanely talented Mr. Cullen, we wrote a Christmas-themed song together called 'Christmas Cheer'. We couldn't have done it without him as a mentor, as he helped us with the writing, the instrumental and melody, the overall sound of the song, our performance, and all our early morning rehearsals in the music room during assembly, leading up to the show. He also let Meg borrow his own bass and let Paul borrow his guitar and supported and cheered us on the whole time. We can all safely say that he is definitely one of our favourite teachers, and we are so grateful to have him in the school. His song-writing advice still helps us out when we are writing new songs.



We have been listening and experimenting with lots of different music over this lockdown and are very excited and ready to get back into Leo's attic again. When we do actually get back, we will be re-recording some old songs for an EP and recording new ones for our first album. We have also been trying our best to plan & book gigs, alone and with some other musicians. Playing gigs and going to gigs is what we miss the most, but we are preparing ourselves for when the time comes to go. We think music is an extremely important part of being alive, and we want to keep creating, studying, and discovering new music together.



# Nurturing Your Passion is the Path to Success

**C**ongratulations to all of you for reaching the end of your journey as secondary school students. It seems like yesterday when you first entered the college, unsure of what lay ahead. Over the past five or six years you have encountered every type of challenge, from the personal to the global – and by engaging with those challenges, you're now well equipped to deal with adult life.

**A**s you move on from Ratoath College, I want to offer one perspective that might be useful to you. That is: keep what you're passionate about front and centre. Whatever skills you are confident in, whatever makes you feel centred, secure and positive when you do it – that's what you should focus on.

**I**t's not always easy to follow your passion, because life can (and will) get in the way. When I left secondary school, I wanted to live away from home, and study music. However, there was no music degree in Galway, where I wanted to go. So, I had to shelve the plan to study music for a while. However, I kept in touch with my passion by playing with other musicians in the university, entering talent competitions and giving some piano and guitar lessons. I also made soundtracks for student movies, and listened to a lot of music that other people recommended.

**W**ithin a couple of years, I was playing professionally, and I got to travel to Jamaica on tour with a reggae band, playing our own music. That was a brilliant experience, and more were to follow. Since then I have worked in Ireland and overseas with choirs, bands, orchestras, songwriters, film makers, and at-risk youth. These are life-changing experiences and they make me who I am. I also enrolled in music studies later in life, through distance learning; so, in the end, I achieved my dream of studying music.

**M**y hope for you is that you will follow your passion as well. It will boost your mood, and can work wonders for assertiveness and self-confidence. And it's going to be great fun. It'll keep you feeling positive about where your life is going, make work easier, and in dark times it will give you hope. In an unsecure world, and in unpredictable times, that's become so important.

Wishing you all the best on your journeying.

**Article by Mr.Cullen**



NURTURING YOUR PASSION

N

O



A

H

**N**.O.A.H was formed in January 2020, after the band decided to reform a previous musical endeavour. The band have taken inspiration in its naming, from the biblical story of 'Noah and the Ark', which is centralised around the theme of new beginnings. This idea is fundamental to the band's vision and core values.

It goes without saying, that Covid-19 has undoubtedly affected every one of us in a unique manner. For the past 12 months, the band have been locked away writing, rehearsing and recording new music. As a result, the band's most recent songs are heavily informed by the ongoing pandemic. Some of the themes

include isolation, escapism, and togetherness.

N.O.A.H is comprised of three life-long friends and pas pupils Ryan Hill: Lead Vocalists and Guitarist: Adam Rooney: Bass Guitarist and Ronan Hynes: Drummer. Ryan and Ronan both studied Leaving Certificate Music.





# FORMER STUDENTS HIT A HIGH NOTE WITH MAJOR UK DEAL

The students performed at the annual talent show while in Ratoath College and also agreed to come back to perform after they had graduated at subsequent shows. All members have been formally educated through third level in several music related degrees, some of which include BIMM Dublin. N.O.A.H are determined to share their music with the world and will without a doubt leave a lasting impression on the Irish music industry.

Last September, the band released their debut single "Shine". This song tells the

tale of a journey, one which we must all have to make at one point or another in our lifetime. This essential travel is by no means easy and is hard fought. Sometimes we do not know where we are going, but ultimately, deep down, we know something greater and more powerful is guiding our way. In a similar vein, the band are prepared to go the distance and fulfil their hopes and dreams.

The band are due to release their second single 'Darkest Hour' and have an upcoming gig in Saturday 2nd of Oct in Lost Lane Dub-

lin 2. They have received critical acclaim being featured across all forms of media including radio-as track of the week on 2fm, in HotPress magazine, in the Irish Independent and on RTE one.

We would like to wish N.O.A.H continued success in their musical career.

**Article by Ms.Flynn**

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW? with Leah Barniville

**M**y name is Leah Barniville and I graduated from Ra-toath College in May 2020 and received calculated grades for my leaving cert results! I was delighted with my results and managed to get a place in my first choice course, which was Biomedical Science in TUD! However, I decided to defer my offer for the year and take the year out to work on my singing career!

As some of you may know, I am a classically trained singer and I love singing all styles of music! Since I left school, I've been so busy with my career, despite the COVID restrictions preventing live events taking place! I have spent the year working on my new music releases. I released my second ever single, which was a classical crossover version of Goldplay's "Fix You", along with a music video for my release! My song got great feedback which I was delighted with! If you haven't seen it already, please check it out on YouTube, download on iTunes, or stream on Spotify, Apple Music, and all other major streaming platforms!

As well as "Fix You", I released a charity single, "O Holy Night", at Christmas time in aid of DEBRA Ireland. DEBRA helps provide support to patients and their families living with EB. EB is a painful skin condition, which causes skin to blister and tear at the touch. Usually, I'd hold an annual charity concert, but because of COVID, I unfortunately couldn't make that happen this year... so, I decided that releasing a single would also be very beneficial to the charity, and so that's what I did!



Throughout the year I've had many radio interviews and TV appearances. I performed in Virgin Media One "Concert 4 Cancer" alongside some of Ireland's most renowned performers such as The Coronas, Gavin James and Nathan Carter. I also performed in a world-wide broadcasted concert with incredible performers such as Alfie Boe and Chris De Burgh, which was really cool!

I have also been teaching both singing and dancing, which was always a dream of mine since I was very young, as I used to idolise all my teachers, and still do! I teach singing on a weekly basis via Zoom and hold workshops every 2 months! I love watching my student's progress as they continue their training with me! I teach dancing in the stage school that I, and I'm sure many of you, grew up in, Stage Performers! I love this job so much and I can't wait to get back to teaching in person once restrictions allow!

I've taken part in many online concerts and virtual showcases in the past year. This was a struggle for me as technology IS NOT MY BEST FRIEND as I've come to realise! I'm working on our relationship on a daily basis... So recording from home was a bit of a struggle for me at first but as the months have gone by it's gotten easier! I have also recorded some songs with The Ivory Sessions Online, which is run by my music producer, Mark Cahill. We released two songs, "Bring Me To Life" by Evanesence which is available on Spotify, and "The One That Got Away" by Katy Perry. We have also collaborated to produce a full livestream concert which should be released sometime before June! It's strange performing a concert to no audience but I think that's something that every performer has gotten used to these past 12 months!



In my spare time, I love going on walks and taking exercise. I think without a form of exercise I would've gone mad during this pandemic! I have to say, the secondary school blues are really starting to kick in now, I'm starting to miss it!

If I could give any of you a piece of advice, I'd tell you to enjoy your time in secondary school while you can. Despite the heavy workload and the studying and the early mornings (we all complain about those), you will be lucky to ever feel such a sense of family again, outside of your actual family! Enjoy every moment!

Thanks a mill, again, for inviting me to write up an article for the 2021 yearbook. Best of luck to the 6th years receiving accredited grades and sitting the exams! Look forward to the sense of achievement you'll feel once you finally finish school! Stay safe everyone! Leah xx



# STAGEW



The cast reunited for a socially distant presentation of the awards when we returned to school in September 2020. It was great to see everyone together again and to invite past pupils back to the school. Although we may not get back on stage this year, we hope to be performing and competing again very soon!

Article by Ms.Monerawela

After the success of The Addams Family musical in 2019, the cast and crew were thrilled to have been nominated for 11 awards in the Stagewise Secondary School Musical Awards in 2020. They received nominations in the following categories:

Best Visual

Best Ensemble Scene for 'Full Disclosure'

Best Duo - Lauren Kelly & Aidan Fabian for Where Did We Go Wrong

Best Male Comedian - Matthew Kelly

Best Male Comedian - Stephen Kieran

Best Female Comedienne - Meg Johnson

Best Female Singer - Aideen Lanigan

Best Actress - Lauren Kelly

Best Choreographer - Aisling Toher

Best Director - Megan Monerawela

Best Overall Show

The award ceremony took place virtually in May and our fabulous choreographer Aisling won the award for best choreographer.



# WISE





# MUSIC THROW BACK & A BID FAREWELL

What a year it has been for the Ratoath College music department! Although we have not been able to do many live performances, we are so proud of the efforts our music students have made to continue to bring music to our school through the Christmas awards ceremony and our new YouTube channel!

Our talent show was sadly missed this year and we want to take a moment to look back and bid farewell to two very talented 6th year students. Aidan Fabian and Josh Mulcahy amazed us at the school talent show in 2018 and 2017. Josh was named the winner after a stunning vocal and guitar performance of Perfect by Ed Sheeran and returned as a judge the following year where Aidan was named the winner after a stunning vocal performance of Praying by Kesha. Both Aidan and Josh have always been willing to perform at many student of the month award ceremonies and we will miss hearing their beautiful voices.



Article by Ms.Flynn



*WHERE WORDS  
FAIL MUSIC  
SPEAKS*



# BERNIE

## CHALLENGE

### STEP ONE

Choose your mountain to conquer.



Name: **Lugnaquilla** 11th highest peak in Ireland  
Height: **925m**  
Level: **Hard**  
Distance you must run, jog, walk or cycle to conquer this mountain: **13km**



Name: **Mullaghcleevaun** 15th highest peak in Ireland  
Height: **849m**  
Level: **Medium**  
Distance you must run, jog, walk or cycle to conquer this mountain: **8.5km**



Name: **Camaderry** 90th highest peak in Ireland  
Height: **699m**  
Level: **Easy**  
Distance you must run, jog, walk or cycle to conquer this mountain: **5km**



### STEP TWO

Get moving. Make sure you challenge yourself. Don't forget to post your distance covered (MapMyRun) and a selfie of yourself at the end sat beside Bernie on the top of the mountain. Post and share on instagram to



**F**or the Leaving Cert Geography course, all students must attend a trip and write up a field study about it as a part of their grade. Due to the circumstances this year we were unsure whether the trip would go ahead but fortunately because of the ease of restrictions at the time we were able to go. This project is worth 20% of our grade so it was vital that we were able to go and give our full participation. Our field study was to go to a river and investigate two specific processes of erosion on the shaping of a meander. We went to the Bunnoe River in County Cavan.

A lot of planning and preparation went into the trip. Before the trip we revised the Rivers chapter in our Geography book, viewed the site of our investigation on Google Maps, checked the weather for the day of our trip and designed record sheets to take down all the information we gather on the day. We divided ourselves up into groups of 4 or 5 to do the investigations.

The investigations included 1. Measuring the Width and Depth of the River, 2. Measuring the Velocity of the River, 3. Evidence of Undercutting and 4. Bedload analysis.

# GEOGR



The morning of our trip it was an early, freezing cold day. We were all so cold and were trying to convince our other group members to get into the river and brave the elements because none of us wanted to. Once we got there we were brought into a classroom and were told what the day would entail. We were split into two separate groups and then got two bus to the sites of the river where we would do our investigations.

There was an equipment box given to us with all the materials needed to carry out our investigations and we brought our record sheets we designed to take down all the information we were about to gather.

There were four different tasks that we had to complete:

The first task we had to complete was measuring the width and depth of the river channel. Some of the members of each group had to get into the river with a measuring tape and a meter stick in order to get the width and depth.



# TRIP APHY

The second task was to measure the velocity of the river. We used a hydro prop and a stopwatch to calculate the speed of the river on both the inside and the outside of the meander. The speed of the river was faster on the outside than the inside which shows that erosion is taking place.

The third task was to see if there was any evidence of undercutting, which there was. We found this out by putting a metre stick horizontally into the riverbank.

Finally, we carried out a bedload analysis. The group members in the river picked up rocks from both the inside and outside of the meander bend. Sediment of a certain size would not be present where velocity and power to erode is at its greatest. This proves erosion is more active in the outer bend and deposition on the inner bend.

We got back to the centre and the group of people who were in the river went to get changed into some dry clothes and huddle

around the radiators to warm up. We then went back into the classroom and began to draft up diagrams from the information we had gathered.

For the next few weeks in school after the trip we began to write up our drafts for our field study project. We wrote about our Aims, Planning, Gathering of Information, Results and Conclusion for the field study.

Overall, it was a memorable trip and we had lots of fun gathering the information for our field study. Although we all dreaded getting into the freezing cold river on a cold Autumn morning, it ended up being hilarious and we all had a great laugh about it. We would highly recommend choosing geography for the leaving cert as the project is not only enjoyable but also an easy way of getting 20% before you have even sat your exam.

**Article by Ruby Hussey and Isabelle McManus**

# HOME ECONOMICS

Article by Ms.McKeon

This year has been another busy one in the kitchen. Students have been creating, cooking and serving all kinds of sweet and savoury dishes. Lockdown did not stop our RC cooks and bakers this year. With several students taking up baking and making lunch/dinner as part of their daily routine. It was great to see so many Home Ec students keeping up with their practical work at home whilst also brighten their families and friends day with sweet treats. Your Home Ec teachers were very proud and also inspired by some of your dishes, so well done. Check out the pictures here of some top-class chefs across the year groups!!

Amazing cupcakes created by Ruby C, a 1st year student. Excellent fondant icing skills.



Unbelievable chocolate drip cake made by Sinead, 2nd Year.



3rd years whip up mega chocolate biscuit cakes.

To the right we can see the amazing Beibhinn, Niamh, Hannah and Lucy all decorating their gingerbread cookies with royal icing and sweets!



5th Years students Jamie, Shonagh, Aimee and Cara definitely mastered the skills of choux pastry, making some delicious chocolate profiteroles.



5th Years Sarah, Lauren, Holly and Julie all busy baking and laughing, no better combination. Delicious chocolate yule logs are in the making.



# COOKING UP A STORM

# HOME ECONOMICS

Article by Ms.McKeon

**H**ome Ec students from 1st, 2nd and 3rd year have been busy crafting this pass year. There have been some wonderful displays of creativity and originality in their work.



1st years were busy bees before Christmas making hundreds of pom poms. After learning the skills and mastering how to operate the pom pom makers the 1st year classroom become somewhat of a production line with so many different yarns, colours and designs being created. The pom poms were then glued together to make circular Christmas wreaths. They made the perfect gift or decoration for their front door. Well done to all the 1st Years on their tremendous effort.



The 2nd years also jumped on board the pom pom train. Some decided to make pom pom wreaths while others opted for a simple yet effective garland.



The 2nd years have been extra busy this term preparing for their textile CBA. They have been putting their design skills to the test and coming up with wall-hanging solutions for the home.

3rd years have been crafting away this year. Firstly, finishing off their wall-hanging to an exceptional standard. There were some excellent ideas including cookie monsters, teddy bears and football crests. Well done to our three nominees – Beibhinn, Sophie and Amy for the Renee Weldon 2020 award. All three girls created excellent designs. Congrats to Sophie who was the winner.



# CREATIVE AND ORIGINAL



3rd years also completed a tie-dye project. They researched different folds and knots in the fabric and the design effect it has to create their own t-shirt. They used old t-shirts to demonstrate how easy it can be to upcycle and give your clothes a new lease of life! Some really hip and funky tops were made.





# EMBROIDERY



I started fabric crafts with Ratoath College during Junior Cert Home Ec. and although I did enjoy it, I didn't continue with it after my wall hanging was complete. However, when covid came and the schools closed I knew I needed something creative to do that would keep my hands busy. My eyes fell upon my 3rd Year sewing box and I started drawing out plans. For my first completely self-motivated wall hanging I decided to do it on my favourite things at the time which led to a Hamilton, Daddy Long Legs and Harry Potter themed wall hanging. I can't say it's perfect but I did enjoy making it and it allowed me to discover more about embroidery.

My interest in wall hangings decreased but I wanted to get something personal for my new baby cousin. Looking up personalised gifts online I came across loads of name blocks and frames that I thought would be lovely.

These gave me the idea of hand-making her something that she could keep as she grows. I decided to make her personal name frames with the use of small old canvases that I found in a closet, felt and thread.

They came out better than I imagined and I was so happy that I had done it myself rather than buy something online. Since then I have made it my plan to give her something completely handmade preferably embroidery based, for all major occasions. So far I have made her the name frames, a designed embroidery in a hoop for her Christmas tree and an embroidered keyring. The personalised gift giving aspects of embroidery is one of my favourite parts of it all.

I have continued to do embroidery due to the relaxing nature of the activity. I am able to sit for hours bingeing a TV series or collection of YouTube videos while stilling being productive and making something. The sense of satisfaction when seeing a finished work is well worth the effort and time for me. All these factors make embroidery a great and beneficial hobby to have and I recommend it to anyone who has the time.



## HOW I STARTED EMBROIDERY AND WHY I CONTINUE.

# EMBROIDERY



## What you will need:

Embroidery needles  
Embroidery floss  
Embroidery Hoop  
Fabric with a tight weave  
e.g. cotton  
Fabric scissors  
Paper  
Pen/Heat erasable pen  
Light Box / Light source  
Felt (Hoop Backing)

## Getting started:

- 1) Plan your design on the paper
- 2) Place the fabric securely in the hoop
- 3) On the light source place the design paper then the hooped fabric and using a pen draw out the design onto the fabric
- 4) Cut a strand of floss (around arm length), split the strand of floss into 2 parts, each with 3 threads and tie a knot at the end
- 5) Thread the needle and start stitching

## Backing on the hoop (other methods are available on YouTube):

- 1) Make sure no thread is unsecured
- 2) Take fabric out of hoop
- 3) Place a piece of felt below the fabric
- 4) Put the hoop back on and secure it making sure the design is outwards and centred
- 5) Cut the felt 1 cm around the hoop
- 6) Cut the fabric 1 inch around the hoop
- 7) Using a running stitch go around the fabric
- 8) Pull the tread tight so the fabric closes in
- 9) Tie a knot to keep the tread tight
- 10) Done!!



## Benefits of Embroidery and Sewing

### Improving Creativity

Making the patterns and designs that get embroidered allows people to display their personal creativity and branch out into new art styles.

### Relieves Stress

The repetitive motion of pulling the thread in and out is considered to be very relaxing. Patience is also developed due to the long sewing time of a singular small project. Embroidery is not an art form that can be done quickly so taking time to properly place each stitch is necessary. The drawn out process can calm the mind.

### Develops fine motor skills

Holding on to a fine needle and being able to direct your fingers to a small specific location is a skill that is not used in many activities but that can strengthen the connection between the eyes and the fingers.



# RATOATH TO ROME



**O**n the week of Monday 22nd March, Ratoath College started the journey from Ratoath to Rome in aid of The Irish Cancer Society and the Cork University Hospital Charity for our much loved teacher Aoife O'Sullivan. Ms. O'Sullivan started in Ratoath College in 2016 and as soon as she walked through our doors, she was welcomed with open arms. She was always very positive, funny and kind-hearted. We were told by many teachers that she was constantly working hard for all of her students. She had found her niche in life. Aoife sadly passed away in December 2018 and she was dearly loved by staff and students and is greatly missed. This is one of the main reasons why the event was so important for so many of us, students and teachers.

The preparation began in the weeks leading up to the event with the help of the amazing Ms. McCabe and our Cinnirí. They stayed back and painted large Daffodils for our GP area, made beautiful yellow ribbons for students and teachers to wear to show their support for the Irish Cancer Society, set up a JustGiving donation page and made a Strava page.

The aim of the week, was that everyone in the school could get involved in Daffodil Day 2021, even though we couldn't be all together in school. We came up with the idea of journeying from Ratoath to Rome by clocking up 2,000 kilometres. Students and teachers could get involved by running, walking, cycling or even swimming and by clocking their kilometres on the app Strava.

# MECHALLENGE

On the Monday 22nd two of our Cinnirí Orla Byrne and Amber McAllister were invited onto LMFM radio station to tell them all about the Daffodil Day fundraiser. They told them all about the event and the fundraiser which sparked some interest and people started to donate. Throughout the week everyone was busy planning and organising, and our 5th and 6th years got to write their own personal messages relating to Cancer on the board with the painted daffodils. That was hung up in the GP area on the day of the event.

Friday 26th was a very exciting day at our school as our teachers took on the students in a final push to raise funds for the Irish Cancer Society and Cork University Hospital, where Ms. O'Sullivan was treated.



The school held a contest to see whether teachers or students would cover the furthest distance on the treadmill, bicycles and rowing machines in the school. The GP area was decorated in balloons and paintings and the cinnirí were selling raffle tickets and ribbons, where all proceeds went towards the charities.



# RATOATH TO ROME CHALLENGE



The whole week turned out to be a huge success and we definitely couldn't have done it without the help of Ms. McCabe and everyone involved. We raised an amazing €4,261 through our JustGiving Page for the Irish Cancer Society and €650 from our ribbon and raffle ticket sales for the Cork University Hospital Charity.

A few of the teachers provided food and drinks and everyone came together to make it an amazing day. At the end of the school day the results came in, and the students won the kilometre distance challenge. A photographer also came in to take photos of the event for the Meath Chronicle.

**Article by Orla Byrne**

# Isabelle's Custom Shoes

During the first lockdown I became obsessed with tiktok, I loved seeing all of the art and creative things people were coming up with whilst in isolation. I then noticed a new trend with up cycling and customising old clothes and runners and it really sparked an interest in me.



I really wanted to try my hand at it and I never realised how much I was going to enjoy it. I took a pair of my sisters old runners, cleaned them up and came up with a design. I sketched it onto the shoes and began to paint. After I was left with what looked like a brand new pair of shoes that were completely unique and no one else had. After showing my friends they all began asking me to paint their shoes and that's when I decided to make an Instagram to post all the shoes I was doing and orders began to fly in.



I've really enjoyed doing this because I get to have fun doing something I really enjoy which is art and being creative as well as learning business skills that I can use in life like dealing with customers and orders. If you would like a pair of Isabelle's custom shoes, please check out my instagram @isabellescushoes and message for inquiries.



Article by  
Isabelle  
McManus





**SHARING  
THE  
CHRISTMAS  
LOVE**



## Sharing The Christmas Love

This year our enterprising 6th year Leaving Certificate Applied class came up with a wonderful business idea together with their VPG teacher Ms Hynes. For one of their VPG modules they had to create and run a business enterprise.

Because they were trying to bring some LOVE to Ratoath College, while we were all dealing with a global pandemic, they decided to run a Candy Cane Delivery Service called 'Clauses Canes' for all students in Ratoath College. Students could buy a Christmas candy cane for their friend and each candy cane was personally delivered to their loved one by our own Ratoath College Santa Clause! The idea was for students to surprise their friend and buy a candy cane and send it to someone anonymously, so they wouldn't know who they received it from. Students in this VPG class wanted to give students in their school the opportunity to show kindness and love to their fellow classmates, something which was very important to our school community.

On the 17th and 18th of December, Santa Clause and his helpers went around to each classroom to deliver the candy canes to each student in every year group. This brought excitement and an obvious feeling of love to the school. Even all our fabulous teachers got a very special delivery of a candy cane which made their day!

The project was executed perfectly and these VPG students made a substantial profit from their business enterprise. A huge well done to this 6th year VPG class for their novel and enterprising idea and for bringing a little move LOVE to our school community at Christmas time.

**Article by Ms.Hynes**





# CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



# CHRISTMAS DOOR COMPETITION

**Article by Evie & Anna McSweeney**

The Christmas door competition is an annual competition in Rataoth College. It all starts 4 weeks before Christmas break and each rang in the school must work together to decorate their classroom door. The competition this year was fierce and the amazing teamwork from all the rang's had transcended all expectations elevating this competition to a new level. There is a winner in both the junior and senior cycle classes for this competition.

The junior winner this year was Rang Jordan, they made a Snow Globe out of clever materials and with great attention to detail! The senior cycle winner this year was Rang McKeon with a fantastic entry they created a unique Gingerbread house that looked good enough to eat! This took a lot of brainstorming and designing before they settled on the winning creation!



A word from Anna in Rang O'Neill: My class, Rang O'Neill came together and designed two life sized Nutcracker Soldiers from the movie The Nutcracker. This took a lot of work and time but great fun to do. A group of us stayed back after school designing the nut crackers and making sure they were identical. Even though we didn't win our class had a blast making them.





# MOL AN O

**M**ol an Óige agus Tíocfaidh sí - Praise the Youth and they will flourish. The proof of the proverb is evident every day in Ratoath College in the consistent efforts and the positive attitude to learning our students show. We are so proud of you all and love to commend the achievements and accomplishments of our students. Our Students of the Month Ceremonies are occasions we can gather as a community and celebrate each other.

This year we had to alter our full-school gatherings to maintain our class bubbles and to follow all social distancing guidelines. Mol an Óige is the heartbeat of our school and we knew that our Student Achievement Ceremonies would not face cancellation because of Covid 19 and so we went digital.

With a different theme in mind each SOTM ceremony was beamed into tutorial on Wednesdays. Student effort was recognised and boppers from the 90s like the Vengabus and SClub7 set a joyous tone and woke us up for a day of learning. Not fully content with prerecords we knew we needed to go live and thus began the master plan to beat all other plans for the Christmas Prizegiving Show. This was not without challenges, during our Live Stream for Gradam Aoife we hit a steep learning curve, a disconnect from the school WiFi and then blocked by the Internet Safety firewall we thought it might not happen but with the help of the IT Gods and an Internet Hotspot we were back on the right road. And it was nearly smooth sailing for the end of Term awards.



# ÓIGE LIVE!

RC Studio set up in the GP Area. Mr. McCarthy's experience with livestreams of mass and the knowledge of our production team. Aodhán, Matt & Leo made for an easy process and although the countdown clock had to be reset twice, while some certificates were located, the show was broadcast to all Caomhnóir classes and families watching at home. Our cinnire team ably assisted in coordinating the prizegiving and the awards while snaps of all winners and the action were captured by photographer extraordinaire Daniel B. Aodhán F was the mastermind behind it the live broadcast, his involvement in SOTM ceremonies has been enormous and we will miss him terribly as he graduates from RC this year.

The talents of RC singers and musicians had been missed and we were delighted to invite some our music students to perform live on the day. The melodious tones of Pressing Flowers, Aidan, Elsa, Saoirse and the 5th year music group held us in rapture. TY students felt they were present in the 3Arena as the music inspire them to start waving their flashlights in time. Feel-good community spirit flooded the tutorial classrooms and was the Christmas boost we all needed. We are looking forward to our live streamed Summer Achievements Day in May.

**Article by Ms.Donnellan**

**NEVER,  
UNDERSTIMATE  
THE  
IMPORTANCE  
OF HAVING  
FUN.**



# TY FUN DAY

Article by Laura Kelly

The TY's this year have missed out on a lot of the fun trips and activities that they would've had under normal circumstances. So to make up for these missed trips and activities, the TY caoimhnoirí and moltóir Ms Savage, organised a Christmas Fun Day for all the TY students.

The TY students were told to come into school in Christmas attire and we saw a variety of different outfits including Christmas jumpers, Christmas hats and even some Christmas pyjamas!



The Christmas Fun Day consisted of 5 different stations and each rang rotated between the 5 throughout the day. Ms Savage was playing a set of brain games with the TY's in Room 23. Ms O'Neill hosted a quiz which got the students using their brains; the most popular round was definitely the Teacher Baby Photos round which really shocked the TYs. Ms Dinsmore had a game of Bingo running in her classroom which was accompanied with a few Just Dance dances. Mr Flanagan's room was full of board games including Scrabble, Monopoly, Jenga, Game of Life and more. Ms McKeon and Ms Quinn were upstairs in Room 47 giving hot chocolate and cookies to the TYs throughout the day. While drinking their hot chocolate they played games such as Uno, "Who Am I" and more.



After each rang had been to each station, the TYs returned to their base classrooms for lunch. The TYs didn't know that Ms Savage had a surprise for them for lunch, pizza for everyone!! Each rang picked out a Christmas movie to watch and finished the day by eating pizza and watching their Christmas movie.



All the TYs enjoyed their Christmas Fun Day so much, with many students claiming that the day was their favourite moment of the year. So much work was put in by the TY team and it turned out to be a great day for the all the rangs who have not had the easiest of Transition Years. It was a great way to finish off the first half of TY!



# VILLAGE VETS DUNSHAUGHLIN

**B**efore the Christmas Break, all the Transition Year classes had a work experience zoom call with the Village Vets in Dunboyne. We had a pre-recorded tour of the building and we got to see where the vets perform their surgeries and operations on the animals. We learned about all the different procedures, the pets they work with, and we also got to watch one of the vets prepare a dog for surgery on his paw along with a cat being neutered. It was not the prettiest sight but we all found it interesting and it was great to see an insider's point of view on what it's really like to work as a veterinarian. Each of us got to ask the vet a few questions and he told us about his experience studying veterinary in college, his most memorable operations, and his typical day working with the animals. We got to ask him questions relating to our own pets at home, and we got to learn why we have to give them certain foods, how to keep them safe, about their body language, and he gave advice on past experiences that we all had with our animals at home.



We all thoroughly enjoyed the talk and it has opened our eyes to how much vets care and how hard they work to keep their patients happy, safe and calm.

**Article by Alix Kane**







# TY LILLIPUT TRIP

For many of us TY's we weren't very excited to go into this year because there is a global pandemic and we didn't think we would be able to go on trips or do many fun activities like the past TY's got to do but we were mistaken. We were lucky enough to get the chance to go to Lilliput.

We weren't sure what to expect but it was far better than we thought it was going to be. Everyone made the most of every second we had there. It was different to what the past TY's did: we weren't able to stay over night, we had to wear masks on the bus, there were sanitation stations around which were used frequently etc. We weren't sure if we were going to be able to mix with other classes or make new friends due to contact tracing but I feel like we all became much closer.

We were split into different groups and got to do different activities such as kayaking, orienteering, capture the flag, bog jumping, rock climbing and more. We ended the day off by swimming in the lake which was absolutely freezing. This was followed by a pizza from apache. It was delicious.



**T**Y students from RC News were there to interview some of us about the day and Ms O'Neill was there to take pictures to remember this day.

**Article by Jessica Farrell**



# Orange and Black Day

A group of TY students came together and organised an Orange and Black day for the school. I was one of the organisers and we thought it would be a nice to say well done to the students and the staff for getting through the first half term of school this year. We also thought it would a nice fun day for the school and to have something to look forward too besides exams and assignment deadlines. We also wanted to incorporate helping a charity during our black and orange day. So as a group we came together and decided to charge €2 to students and teachers who wanted to participate in the day and all the donations went to Samaritans Ireland, who are a suicide prevention hotline service. Lockdown was pretty hard on all of us and our mental health so we thought that we should give back and chose a charity that focuses on mental health and well-being.



The day was a huge success and everyone seemed happy and in the festive spirit all day. We ended up raising over €1,500 for the Samaritans Ireland. It was amazing seeing such a good response from both students and staff and we felt like it was a great way to end the term.

**Article by Anna McSweeney**



# ST VINCENT DE PAUL

It was decided that one of the charities for TY was St Vincent de Paul. This is a charity that everybody will be familiar with. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul exists to fight poverty through their wide range of services, they provide practical support to people in need. The money raised in the community goes back locally to the people who need it. The charity offers direct, personal assistance that is non-judgemental and based on the needs of the individual or family. In addition they provide a wide range of services for vulnerable people through their local offices, shops, resource centres, housing, daycare and holiday schemes amongst other things.

On the 4th of December 2020, students from Ratoath college participated in the SVP donations. Students from several different classes in TY had donated their time to helping collect money for SVP. A group of 2 students at a time walked down to our local SuperValu in Main Street, Ratoath, once arriving at the SuperValu we were greeted by other TY's who were volunteering before them. Every group volunteered for an hour and greeted many people passing in and out of the shop. Our job included greeting people leaving and arriving, we offered some chocolates and talked about SVP. There were many very kind people who donated as much as €50 to this charity, which we were very grateful for. After our hour was up we greeted more ty students who were taking over from us. This cycle continued into the evening with different students volunteering to help this great charity.





A day to show national solidarity and appreciation, and to say thanks and “go raibh maith agaibh” to our school communities.

NAPD and IPPN collaborated with the National Parents Councils and the Irish Second Level Students Union in saying thanks to our school leaders, teachers, SNAs, ancillary staff, school transport services, custodial services, students, student leaders and mentors, and all involved in the huge ongoing effort to ensure students are safe and cared for as they enjoy their day at school.

# #GRMA DAY



To acknowledge and celebrate the work done by our school community in maintaining a safe environment in which our students can enjoy attending school, on the 11th of December 2021 staff and students took part in GRMA day. On this day members of the school community joined together to say ‘go raibh maith agaibh’ or GRMA.

In 2020 we will remember when our front-line workers became our heroes and our school leaders, teachers and ancillary staff essentially became front line workers.

**Article by Ms.O’Neill**

# One Million Stars to End Violence project

**D**rogheda Star Weavers are a group of women and men who hand weave stars as part of the One Million Stars to End Violence campaign co-ordinated by Ms Paola Flynn. Our goal is to make 32,000 stars as part of an all-Ireland project. Ratoath College TY students and fifth year students have taken part in this project this year by hand weaving stars to be included in our campaign.

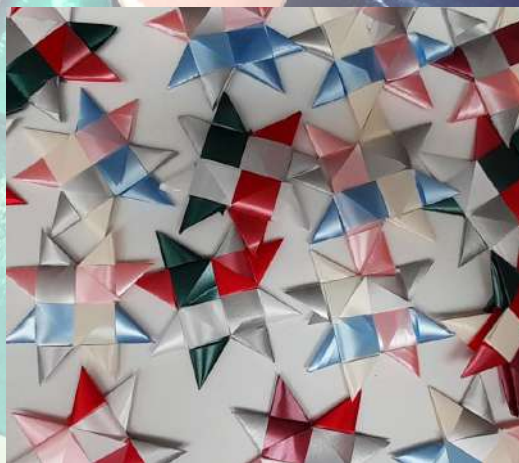
Each star symbolises light, hope and solidarity against all forms of violence particularly domestic violence. The incidences of domestic violence have risen in Ireland and worldwide during the global pandemic so it was an important conversation to have with students to raise awareness of this issue.

The project began in Australia, created by Maryann Talia Pau, a Samoan weaver, brought to Ireland by Siobhan McQuillan an Art therapist working with Amber Women's refuge in Kilkenny.

The stars are woven using florists ribbon which is funded through donations to our Go Fund me page One million stars to end Violence Drogheda by weavers and businesses. The weaving of the stars is therapeutic and the perfect lockdown hobby, they allow people to reach out and open up conversations around violence with people of all ages.

Currently the stars are displayed in shop windows along West Street in Drogheda but we plan in the future to have an exhibition of the stars and raise more awareness and some donations for local charities. Currently we have woven over 10,000 stars. During the dreary months of lockdown we hope that the stars bring a little hope, joy and light to those passing them on the streets of Drogheda.

**Article by Ms.Flynn**



# IT'S SHOW TIME

## TY RANG O'NEILL MUSICAL

Article by Anna McSweeney



At the beginning of the year my rang were told that we would have drama class with Mr.Mitchell for the first term of school. We had the choice between a musical and a variety show and as a class we went with the musical. The musical we performed was Back to the Summer which is about 3 teenagers who want summer to start all over again so they time travel back in time but end up getting lost in the past.

We had 10 weeks to rehearse so we got broken up into groups each week. Those groups were acting, dancing and re-search. Due to COVID 19 we couldn't sing any of the songs so we had a compromise of lip syncing and wearing masks and in all the dances we were social distancing. When the day came to pre-form our musical we had an audience of teachers and staff. While we all got into costume we rehearsed our lines and dances. I was asked to take photos of the show while I wasn't in a scene and take pictures back stage. After the show we had a round of applause for Mr.Mitchell for all the effort and hard work he did to make the show possible. He then surprised our class with chocolates and sweets as a well done for putting on a great show.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr.Michell for all his hard work in putting this show together.

# A WORD FROM MR. MITCHELL

The 2020/21 academic year was certainly filled with a lot of challenges. But for me, it was also the year I got to realise a dream I've had for many years. Putting on a drama performance of any sort is always going to be a tough thing to do. But in a year of lockdowns and social distancing, TY students had to come together and work even harder to put on a show.

With just one class period a week, students put in the work for four months as they prepared music, dances, costumes and everything in between for Rang O'Neill's Musical and Rang O'Donoghue's Variety Show. In a year where many schools around the country parked their stage shows to the side, these groups of students rose to the challenge and overcame many barriers.

For those that were lucky enough to come and see the performances they were a huge success and a much needed spark of positivity as we headed towards the holidays. For me, it was an absolute pleasure to see a different side to the students, a side where confidence, teamwork and laughter were to the forefront, instead of academics and grades. TY's have been starved of several experiences this year because of the pandemic, and I was thrilled that I got to provide them with at least one experience and many memories, which they can bring with them into senior cycle and beyond. I will also take what I have learned from this amazing experience with me into the future and look back on it with fondness every time another show comes down the line.





**G**aisce is a Presidents award which is earned by participating in certain activities for a period of time. In TY we do the bronze level Gaisce award. We have to participate in community involvement, personal skill, physical recreation and an adventure journey. To earn the bronze award you must participate in each of these for one hour a week for 13 weeks and then continue one of those activities for a further 13 weeks. It will take at least 26 weeks to successfully earn the Bronze Gaisce award. Gaisce, like many things, has been quite different this year but these are some of the things the three of us TYs did for Gaisce.



# G A I S C E

## *THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD*



Article by  
and Sophie

### **Community Involvement Activity**

For my community involvement I took part in the headstrong committee in my school. I have been helping to run the schools well-being Instagram as part of it during lockdown and I have loved that! In headstrong we work to make out school kinder and more educated on mental health and I really have loved being apart of it!

### **Personal Skill Activity**

For my personal skill I have been learning how to play the keyboard. At the beginning I could barely play a few chords so the thoughts of properly learning how to play was definitely very daunting! I can now read music at ease and have learned to play some songs. I never expected to learn as much as I did by doing 1 hour a week but I definitely surprised myself!

### **Physical Skill Activity**

For my physical skill I did camoige. I have played camoige since I was younger so this was an obvious physical skill choice for me.



It was really interesting to analyse what I've worked on skills wise in camogie because I normally never do it. I practised camogie and went on runs to stay fit for it while in lockdown and I tried to run further and faster while analysing my fitness level. This meant I could keep it up and successfully get my 13 weeks done! I've loved doing bronze level gaisce and have learned a lot while doing it!

### Community Involvement Activity

The community involvement activity was the most difficult of all three activities to complete this year. I began this activity by coaching younger girls (age 4-8) at the GAA club for both football and camogie. I really enjoyed coaching these girls but after only 5 weeks, the GAA closed and when they reopened the coaches decided not to allow the younger girls back as there were so many in the one group. I had to change my community involvement after this, so as I was apart of the Well-being group in school I decided to change it to that. When school closed, Well-being continued through Teams which allowed me to complete my community involvement activity.

### Personal Skill Activity

For my personal skill activity I decided to develop my skill of cooking and baking. This activity was the easiest to complete out of all the activities for Gaisce, as when restrictions were in place I was still able to continue with this activity as I did it at home. I learned many new recipes and definitely strengthened my skills of cooking and baking. That is why I chose to continue with this activity for the additional 13 weeks as I thought it would be the one that is easiest to complete.

### Community Involvement Activity

Gaisce has been very different this year so it was a lot harder to find things to do for the community section of gaisce. So, for my community I started first by coaching gaelic and camogie to under 6 girls, but then the GAA closed and the coaching hasn't come back so I changed to doing the well-being committee because I was doing that anyways.

For all of us Gaisce has been a marvellous experience despite changing activities due to Covid and the changing times.





# MASK FASHION

## WEAR A MASK AND PROTECT EACH OTHER

**T**Y students were provided with the opportunity to lead an initiative to promote wearing a mask in school. This year has brought a lot of changes and challenges to the school environment for both teachers and students. Over a number of weeks students took the initiative to create a piece to support wellbeing and wearing a mask.

Working with recyclable materials like plastic and wire students sculpted a mask for the blue head sculpture outside our school. The students care for their environment and are aware that recycling material is very important, as waste has a huge negative impact on the environment. Students were very motivated and as a collective designed and built the mask.

This group of students achieved their goal. The students brought art to the wider community and highlighted the importance of wearing a mask in school.

**Article by Ms.O'Neill**



# Shine Festival

The shine festival took place from the 8th of March to the 10th of March to celebrate international women's day this year. Shine was a free, online women empowerment festival.

There were six different stages at the festival – careers stage, sports stage, people and planet stage, stress busters stage, arts stage and then the main stage. Some of the big names that did talks as part of the shine festival were Laura Whitmore, Evanna Lynch, Holly Cairns and over 80 other female speakers. Important topics such as LGBTQ+, racism in Ireland, mental health, how to cope with stress and sexual health were covered in talks as part of the festival.

Although this festival is yet another evening that would have previously been in person if it wasn't for COVID it was still such an accessible, inspiring and empowering event to be involved in. The event was organised by @shonadotie on Instagram. The whole purpose of the Shona Project and the Shine festival itself is to educate, empower and inspire Irish girls to become tomorrow's strong, resilient and confident women. The festival was done in such a way, that you could watch the videos and talks at your own pace, whenever and how ever many times you like. The videos of the talks stayed up on the website until the middle of April which was brilliant in case you didn't get the opportunity to watch some of the talks that you may have wanted to in those two days. Over 40,000 people logged onto the Shine Festival this year with over 800,000 thousand views altogether on the Shona website!

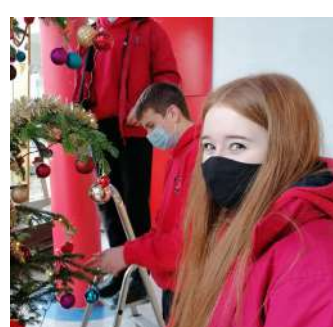
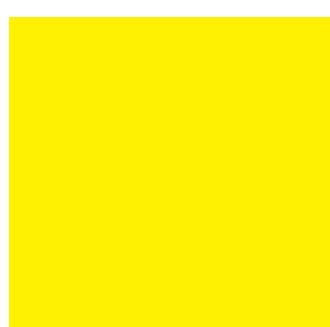
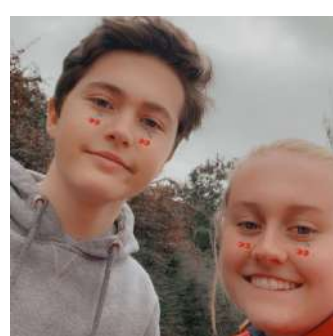
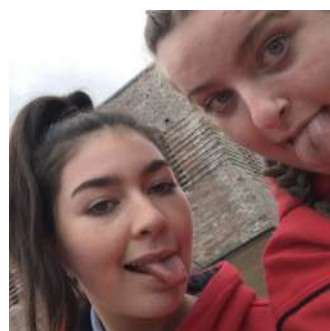
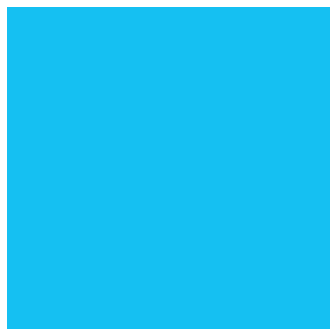


# TRANSITION YEAR ORIENTEERING

Due to COVID- 19 us TYs couldn't have the normal experience of going into Dublin and doing orienteering there but that didn't mean that we couldn't have a good time! Instead we got ourselves into teams and we were given a map of Ratoath. We had around an hour and a half to search the village for stampers so we could stamp our map to prove that we had found it. The stampers were hidden all over the village in various different areas and estates. Orienteering

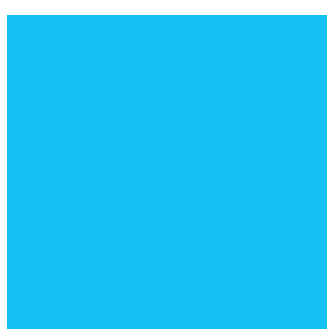
was in early November so us TYs were still fairly new to our rangs so it was a great way to bond. We didn't get to mix with other classes but in amongst our own rangs I definitely felt closer to everyone after orienteering! Of course the orienteering became a huge competition as us TYs are definitely very competitive, but unlike the Christmas door competition there is no bad blood after orienteering! Orienteering was definitely a day to remember!

Articles by Saoirse Browne.

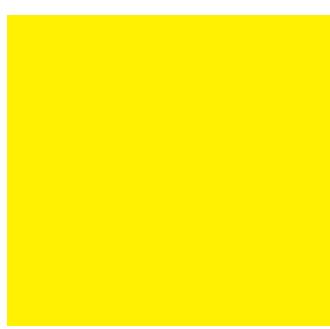
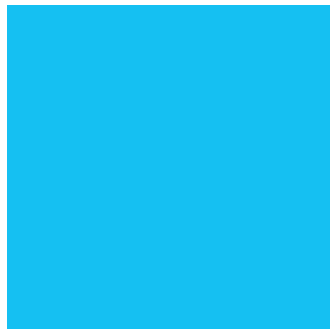




# TY MEMORIES CLASS OF 2021









# TY MEMORIES CLASS OF 2021



# MOVING FROM TY TO 5TH YEAR

ARTICLE BY SORCHA BROE-BRADY

Going into Senior Cycle is a scary and confusing time for everyone. No one knows how they will get on in the stressful time and can only hope they are prepared to face the demon of Leaving Cert head on with the aim of coming out victorious. I can't speak for everyone in this article but I will do the best to show how the change has went for myself and have asked some of my fellow TY, now 5th Year classmates to give some tips that they have gathered during their first few months of 5th.

**“I can't speak for everyone in this article but I will do the best to show how the change has went for myself”**

The end of my TY year was all online and by that point the teachers just provided us with one final project to finish off the month. This meant that I had essentially a 6 month summer break in which I had no set schedule to follow and was just staying around my house. Going back to the school building after this was very hard for me, as I suspect it was for most people. On the first day back I showed up at school, mask on and was totally lost on where I was supposed to meet with our teachers. This time was nerve wrecking and it didn't instantly get better. Once the initial organisation of students had happened we were led to our base rooms. Mine just happened to be the long upstairs gym in which it is very hard to see others. Due to the masks and social distancing necessary to provide a safe school environment, it was very hard to talk to people in which I had never spoken with especially the old 3rd Years as I had never even shared a class with them. The first day probably went similar in every year group so I won't say any more on it.

Settling in to class was the next step. I believe in the first week alone I went to 'Forever Amber' at least 4 times for different subjects.

In TY I just had one big copy that I had sectioned off for different subjects so I had pretty much forgotten about the book list and the amount of copies needed. Luckily the teachers have experience with first week forgetfulness and didn't mind when I said that I would have it for the next class. For Physics and Applied Maths I still just have a small copy as on the first day of both the classes I forgot to bring a manuscript copy but found the small ones in my bag. The teachers don't mind the size of the copy as long as you pay attention.

Creating a study plan was my next stage. I went into it with good intentions and wrote out a plan that had at least 3 different subjects per day with the sessions spread evenly throughout the week. After TY I thought I could just put my head down and get the work done. I have no clue about anyone else but I didn't even last 2 days with it. Studying is different for everyone and can change depending on what is coming up. I had to adapt so that I could get all my homework done on time and properly as doing homework is a part of studying. Taking notes in class is also something that cannot be undervalued. It is much easier to go back later when preparing for a test in English and look at the Bishop notes that you took down and truly understood rather than looking through the PowerPoint the teacher used to start explaining the poet. Talking to individual subject teachers about the best strategy in their subject is probably best but also after the first while if one of your friends is doing well in the topic you might want to ask them what they're doing as sometimes they have thought of something the teacher hasn't.

**“Talk to individual subject teachers about the best strategy”**

I know that my experience with the transition is different from others so I have collected together a bunch of tips given by other 5th Years about what they thought helped them settle in the most.

### **Tips from past TYs now 5th Years**

Writing down your homework in your dialann when your teacher gives it to you

Try and stay positive even when you don't get a grade you were hoping for/expecting because the Leaving Cert content is different to the Junior Cert and it's been a while since you've done proper exam subjects

Try to get to know as many people in your classes as possible even if you're not in a class with lots of your friends because everyone is in the same boat and is probably hoping someone will approach them.

Make sure you're organised with the correct books, copies and folders as it makes it much easier to stay on track as it is unlike TY where you could survive with just one copy.

You just have to accept that the first month or so will be difficult adjusting and that's okay. It is normal to find it difficult.

You're going to be sick of hearing it, but seriously, just stay on top of your homework. I'm not saying do it the day you get it, but yeah, do it the day you get it. It helps a lot! It keeps you structured and stops working from piling up around you. You don't want to reach Sunday night and suddenly have six different subjects to work on. It may be hard getting back into the habit, but it's worth it in the long run, I promise.

**“You're going to be sick of hearing it, but seriously, just stay on top of your homework”**

That being said! Take care of yourself at the same time, y'know? The increase in workload from 3rd year to 5th year and especially from TY to 5th year, might make you dizzy at first. So, keep an eye on your mental and physical health. If you're up to your eyes in work and feel like you're falling behind no matter....

....what you do, communicate this to someone. Whether it be your caoimhnoir, another trusted teacher or a family member, you don't have to suffer in silence. Along with that, sometimes even simply going for a walk can do wonders to clear your head.

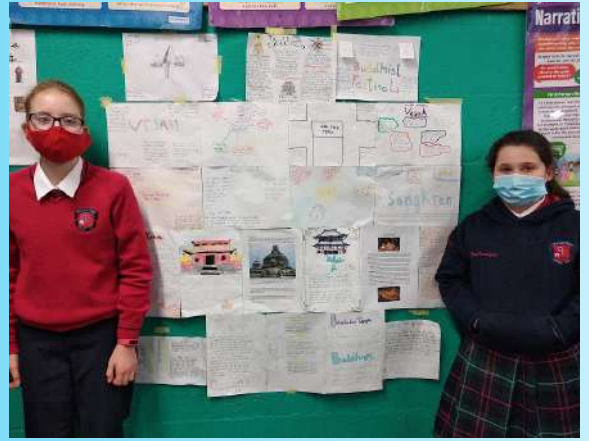
**“I may have struggled getting myself organised at the start but I was able to get it together and now have found a rhythm that works for me.”**

I hope that if you get anything out of this article it is that it is tough but completely do able. I may have struggled getting myself organised at the start but I was able to get it together and now have found a rhythm that works for me. Once you find your way just keep walking it and before you know it the year is flying past. If at points along that journey you get trapped or snowed under people are there to help dig you out. Everyone around you is facing the same big challenge and you can all work towards it together.



Author Sorcha Broe-Brady

# RELIGION IN RC



**F**or our First-Year Religion, we have been looking at different world religions and how Christianity blends in with the Irish culture. The First Years really enjoy learning different cultures through both religious and non-religious perspectives. They have fostered a better sense of community, respect, tolerance, and compassion among themselves, in school, and beyond the classroom environment. We have made some posters, especially on Buddhism. Students have put in an immense effort and time into the work which truly displays the true spirit and values of Religious Education.

Second years have done many lovely works on different charities and organizations. They particularly enjoy exploring how various well-known people / celebrities have played a part in promoting peace and kindness to one and another.



Third-Years presented some awesome work over the period of remote-learning. They explained the biblical creation of the world through images and drawings, which is visually spectacular.



With Fifth and Sixth Year Religion, we focused a good amount of time on LGBTQ+ and gender stereotypes. During the week of Stand-Up Awareness Week, all students were actively participating in love hearts in colours that represent different genders. Their work is on display near the wall at the main entrance of the school. They are certainly a very inclusive group with a lot of positivity to share.



Article by Ms. Fong

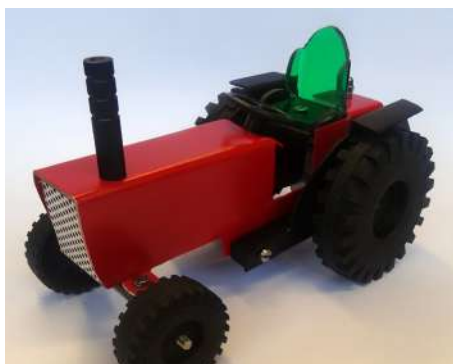
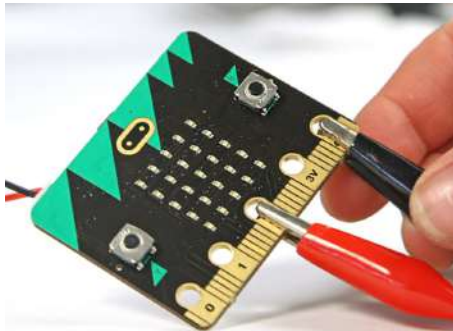
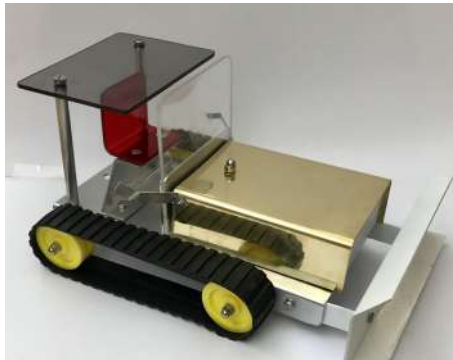
# Engineering in Ratoath College

## Article by Mr.Hannon

It has been a very strange but busy year for the Engineering department with our first year students undertaking a new Engineering course – Personalised Pac Man keytags have been completed and they will soon be moving onto a fighter jet project in future classes.

Our second year students have been very busy honing their practical skills and are finishing a trike project. This has been the culmination of all the new skills and knowledge they have gained using new machines such as the lathe and getting to work with new materials. They have also just completed their CBA task titled “Engineering in Action” where we appreciate and investigate the engineering in our local area,

Transition Year has allowed students to taste what Engineering is all about. Jewellery projects such as 100% silver rings have been produced in class as well as flower basket hangers that are scrolled, welded together and spray painted – well done guys.



Fifth Year students are currently busy learning about structures and mechanisms and well as developing their practical skills by producing a model helicopter and a door bolt lock with receiver.

Leaving Certificate Engineering students have just finished their urban delivery vehicle project. This project awards students with 50% of their leaving cert grade and they can sit their leaving cert exam in confidence that they have a high number of marks achieved already. Well Done Guys!

The engineering department have a bright future ahead in Ratoath College with the completion of a new state of the art Engineering room in the school extension. It is fully furnished with top of the range engineering lab equipment as well as a new suite of mechatronics hardware and software in line with the new Junior cycle Engineering course. Onwards and upwards.

**Follow @Engineering\_RC for more fun updates.**

# CLASSICAL STUDIES



## OUR RATOATH COLLEGE ODYSSEY

**Laoise:** I didn't really know about Classical Studies until the open night. It was Ms Dinsmore's unwavering enthusiasm that convinced me to do it and I never regretted it. It quickly became one of my favourite subjects.

**Evan:** I joined Classics a couple weeks late in first year, I'd initially chosen a subject that didn't suit me and I was thankfully able to swap over! We learned about loads of Greek myths, such as Perseus and Medusa, Theseus and the Minotaur, Jason and the Argonauts and of course the Olympian gods.

We learned about so much leading up to our Junior Cert including Pompeii, The Roman Army, The Iliad and Odyssey, The Acropolis and even an ancient Roman play called the Swaggering Soldier! One of the great things about Classical Studies was that each topic was approached through a different lens; Pompeii and the Acropolis were more history and art based, the Iliad was stories and mythology, the Swagger-

ing Soldier was literature but like the Roman Army also gave us a glimpse into Roman lifestyle. Mr McAuley was a wonderful teacher and we had a great three years.

In TY we got a great taste of what LC Classics would be like, doing projects on the various gods, and learning about the Punic Wars. We were both lucky enough to have the opportunity to go to Italy with the 5th and 6th years on the Art and Classics trip at the time and it was one of the best weeks ever. We got to see Pompeii itself after studying it for years, we toured the Colosseum, saw Trajan's column in Rome and we visited art galleries in Naples and Florence. It was an amazing tour and we had such a laugh while admiring the sights. We're so glad we were able to share the experience with our friends and teachers.



**ARTICLE BY  
LAOISE MURPHY  
AND EVAN MURPHY**

Leaving Cert classics was a big change, with no more short questions, only essays! The topics we've studied over the last two years have been very distinct, from the ancient epics; the Aenied and the Odyssey, to Roman Art and Architecture, Greek Drama and finally Alexander the Great. The course is challenging, but has something for everyone. It really expands your interests and knowledge of the subject, with elements of history, English, mythology and literature.

Even writing this now, we had almost forgotten how long we've been in school and how many great memories we've made through studying Classics. We're so grateful that we were able to study this subject, and we'd like to say a big thank you to all the Classics teachers that have taught us over the years, Mr McAuley, Ms Dinsmore and Mr Toner.

We'd like to sign off with a legendary quote from Alexander the Great himself, which you can even find in Mr McAuley's classroom:

"I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well,"



**I am indebted  
to my father  
for living, but  
to my teacher  
for living well**





# Is linne í an Ehaeilge!

Article by Ms. Donnellan

In a year where so many events timpeall an domhain have been cancelled the múinteoirí Gaeilge were adamant that our celebration of Gaeilge agus an cultúr Gaelach would continue. Colliding with Lá Fhéile Pádraig rinneamar ceiliúradh ar Seachtain na Gaeilge i gColáiste Ráth Tó ó 15ú - 19ú Márta. Níl dabht ar bith ach go raibh neart spórt agus spraoi againn ar scoil agus inár ranganna fíorúla.

We celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge in person with our senior students and remotely with all other year groups. Bhíomar ag iarraidh na daltaí cruthaitheacha a chur chun cinn lenár gComórtas na bPóstaer. I mbliana all students were invited to create a masterpiece to share with the school community. The entries were go hiontach. Students promoted the Irish language, various cultural elements, Celtic script, Seanfhocail Gaeilge presented in vibrant colours. Instead of decorating the walls of the school, this year these posters enhanced the school social media pages!

I rith na seachtaine, we had our cluasa pealed for Cainteoirí na Seachtaine (speaker of the week) students and teachers who made a big effort to speak Gaeilge around the school and in their ranganna. There was a huge effort made by both múinteoirí agus daltaí agus bhí Gaeilge le cloisteáil ar fud na háite. Mar a deir an seanfhocal “Beatha teanga í a labhairt!”



Our dancing shoes were hung up this year as all the teachers are currently camping out in the Dance hall and we could not hold our Ceilí Mór. Under the stewardship of Ms. Monerawela and our múinteoirí ceoil the Seachtain na Gaeilge ceolchoirm was recorded and broadcast across the airwaves to all our students learning sa bhaile. The ceolchoirm is a highlight of the week every year and this year was no different. Bhíomar go léir ar neamh ag éisteacht le ceol binn óna hamhránaithe agus ceoltóirí. The best of RC talent was on show. Éinín Murphy, newcomer to RC, delighted us with a few tunes on the féadóg stáin. She is one to watch out for in future years. Stalwart of the Trad group and all-round cailín álainn Anya Browne played her swansong for Seachtain na Gaeilge. We will miss Anya as she graduates from RC this year! The tone and talent level was set out by Elsa Johnson, whose melodious tones rivalled the greats with her translation of Bille Eilish's popular song. Eve Stears brought the Eurovision to us with her classy performance and Sarah Gallagher's melodious times enchanted and delighted the audience. The eldest Johnson sister Meg not only wowed us with her singing talents but impressed us with her skateboarding proficiency in her video translation of Bjork's "Venus as a boy" Go hiontach ar fad. Bhí bua an cheoil le cloisteáil!

Quick firing questions and answers took place throughout the week as the Tráth na gCeist for an 5ú bliain, designed by Mr. Farrell tested our brains, general knowledge, and language skills. The rivalry was intense but bhí spraoi agus craic ag na hiomaitheoirí!

On the Thursday of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020, the tradition "Tae agus Plé", Our Taoiseach announced the school closures and níor cheapamar that we would still be living with Covid 19 agus na srianta bliain níos déanaí!

This year "Tae agus Plé" looked a little different. Our hard-working 5th and 6th year students who had returned to in-person learning deserved a treat beag. Maidin Déardaoin saw Ms. Donnellan arriving with a carload of cístí cupa and many Capri Suns! Bhaineamar go léir taitneamh as an goíste milis, a little ciorcal comhrá, comhluadar a chéile agus faoiseamh ón scríobhneoireacht!

Seachtain na Gaeilge was shared with the wider school community across our ranganna fíorúla on Teams and through our social media pages on Twitter and Instagram. @RatoathCollege @GaeilgeRathToMíle. Ná déanaigí dearmad muid a leanúint!

Buíochas mór ó chroí Fhoireann na Gaeilge to all the múinteoirí agus daltaí who helped to make the week a success embracing the joyful spiorad of Seachtain na Gaeilge. "Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine!"



# WELL-BEING

## Headstrong Committee

**H**eadstrong is a committee that you can be a part of in TY. We worked hard this year to make our school kinder and better informed on mental health and mental illnesses. Especially with the year in it this year, it's so important for people in our school community to know that there are people who they can talk to and who will support them. In headstrong we divided ourselves into four groups - well-being walls/Instagram, look out how to talk about it, bullying and coping with stress as an adolescent. Each week when we had a meeting we would split into those groups. We made well-being walls all around the school with lots of informative information. Although we have been in lockdown, each week on our Instagram page (@ra-toathwellbeing) we have been doing challenges with the #rctogetherapart. This has been a great way for our school community to get involved.

**I** think that the best thing about being a part of headstrong is doing our part to make our school that bit kinder. There has always been a strong stigma around mental health but the more people who talk about it and share their experiences the weaker the stigma around mental health becomes. Headstrong for me has been one of the best parts of my TY and for anyone doing TY I would say sign up!

**Article by Saoirse Browne**



# TY HEALTHFEST 2021

## Article by Saoirse Browne

Healthfest is normally an event that would take place in person but this year it had to be online. Everyone who is a part of the headstrong committee got to go to Healthfest on the 27th of January.

We all got an email with a link so that we could join. When you joined, you were brought into the lobby where you would then proceed into the auditorium.



**D**oireann Garrihy was hosting it so we got an introduction from her first. Our next event was a lively workout with Greg O' Shea. We had many other very interesting talks to follow this workout. From Paul Gilligan we learned how to best help our friends who are struggling with their mental health.

### Here is how to help a friend who is struggling with their mental health!

1. Stay calm.
2. Talk to them.
3. Listen and respond.
4. Talk about a strategy – “what do you want to happen now?”
5. Basic support – “I’m here for you”.
6. Do you need to talk to someone – talk to an adult or someone you trust if you think they might need further help.
7. Stamina – stay involved as a friend.

### If you are worried about a friend always reach out to them!

#### To keep your mind healthy you should:

**Back yourself** - I am loveable. I am a good person. I am capable of being happy.

**Trust others** - People are there for you and want to help.

**Embrace Uncertainty** - Searching for certainty can increase anxiety. Accept uncertainty and try to find meaning within that.

#### Here is a super quick meditation technique:

**Breathe in for 4**

**Hold for 4**

**And out for 4**

This year in particular we really need to be kind to ourselves and be kind to others. If you feel like you need someone to talk to or you think a friend might be struggling always reach out. There will always be people to listen and help you!

# MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS



**Student Well-being Team 2021**

# WELL-BEING WEEK 2021

This year the well-being team put together a range of activities for our 1st year students as part of well-being week. We worked together to promote physical fitness and mental well-being. The idea was to create a fun day for 1st year students and give them the opportunity to get out and get active.

We had an obstacle course outside. It consisted of hula hoops, hurdles, ladders, and a horse on the end. We had three rows for three different teams, which ended in a relay race.

After completing the obstacle course, students headed down to the astro to compete in a tug of war competition. The students were split into their pods, and competed against each other in a tournament. After the tournament, we also did a classic boys versus girls for every class. The best group for tug of war were the first years. They came up with the most creative names and put in the most effort

The students took part in a dance class. We started with a warm up with a song of the students choice. Afterwards we did some simple dances like the Macarena, Cha Cha Slide, Wobble, Cupid shuffle and more! Then we separated the boys and the girls into 2 different groups and taught them the 'Cruisin for a bruisin' dance from Disney's Teen Beach Movie. When the dance was learned we did a Boys VS Girls dance battle to see who was the best. All of the classes really enjoyed the class and myself and the other students really enjoyed it too.

**Article by Mia Frawly & Jack Tormey**



**Well-being Teacher Team from top left to bottom right: Mr.Sexton, Ms.Huban, Ms.Grogan, Ms.Smith, Ms.Gerrard and Mr.Conlon.**

# THE ARTICLE YOU HAVE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR! (FOR SIX YEARS)

Cue the fanfare! It's FINAL-  
LY here!!! The school's  
brand-spanking new extension  
will be officially opened in 2021.  
Once needed to accommodate  
the large influx of younger stu-  
dents beginning their Secondary School  
journey, the building will re-inject "Wows"  
and life into the school grounds with fa-  
cilities such as new science labs, a new GP  
area and the hotly anticipated Ionad Arkle  
hub 2.0. Not to mention the several new  
classrooms that will replace the prefabs  
entirely. With this, the school will feel less  
like a construction site and more like a  
place for education once again. Unfor-  
tunately, this also means that all future  
Cinnire candidates will have to cut any  
extension jokes out of their "Standup rou-  
tines" prior to student voting. Regardless,  
the wait is finally OVER FOR GOOD!

**Article by Robert Foley**



# MOVING TO RATOATH COLLEGE



## Article by Mia Frawley Transition Year student

**T**his September, I moved to Ratoath college for my Transition Year from another secondary school. I was so excited to join the school as I had a group of friends that I had spent the whole summer with, that were already students here. I walked with them on the first day which made me feel so relaxed coming into the school.

The first thing I noticed when I came into the school building was the atmosphere. All of the teachers and staff members were more than happy to help me and answer any of the questions that I might have. My new classmates made me feel nothing but welcome and made the settling in process so easy.

One thing I love about the school is how colourful and bright it is. Every corridor is decorated with some of the students art work, different murals and paintings.

It really brings the school to life.

During this Transition Year I have gotten to study lots of different subjects that weren't offered at my past school. My favourites have been digital learning and metal work. In these classes we've coded different types of games and have made our own metal rings and hanging baskets. They were so interesting to study. We also went on a trip at the start of the school year to Lilliput Adventure Center. This was a great way for me to get to know the people in my class better.

Moving to Ratoath College was the best decision that I have ever made. This year has made me so much happier and it feels like I was always a student here. From this year I am taking new friends, new experiences and the tools I need for senior cycle.

**MOVING TO RATOATH COLLEGE WAS  
THE BEST DECISION THAT I HAVE EVER  
MADE.**





**T**hird year students were asked to pick any topic from the Junior Cycle Business Course and to do a research project on it. Many chose Entrepreneurship and researched a very successful entrepreneur. One student decided to look at taxation in Ireland and to research where exactly our money goes. Read on to learn more and get some tips for your own future business!

## TAXATION IN IRELAND

I chose to do this research project on the taxes we pay in Ireland. I picked this because I want to research and find where most of the money goes, what taxes and how we pay them. I used desk research to gather my information, as I think it works best and I got information faster.

In Ireland taxes are collected by the office of the revenue commissioners on behalf of the government. The main roles of the revenues are to collect taxes, collect duties on imports and provide information on taxation issues.

There are direct and indirect taxes. Direct taxes are taxes on income (corporation tax) indirect taxes are taxes on expenditure (VAT)

In Ireland you will be taxed through the PAYE (pay as you earn) system this means when you are paid a percentage of your income is deducted by income tax, PRSI and USC. The remainder is taxed at about 40%.

The more money you earn the higher you will be taxed.

The main purpose of Taxation is to raise finance for the government expenditure. Money from taxes can be distributed for the social good like homeless, unemployed, people living with illness. The government has revenues and spends it on services (health, education, welfare).

The money you pay in taxes goes to many places. In addition to paying the salaries of government workers, your tax also helps to support common resources, such as police and fire-fighters.

I learned that there are many taxes people pay that I didn't know of and that taxes can be high but the government spends it on goods/ services that we need. Over all I think taxes are a smart way to get revenue for the government/economy.

Article by Emma Balan

## Who is Jeff Bezos?

Jeffrey Preston Bezos is an American internet entrepreneur and investor. Bezos is the founder and CEO of the multi-national technology company Amazon. He is the richest person in the world according to the Forbes real times Billionaires ranking.

## Childhood

Bezos showed an early interest in how things work turning his parents shed into a laboratory and rigging electrical items around his house as a child. He moved to Miami with his family as a teenager where he developed a passion for computers and graduated valedictorian of his high school.

## So what is Amazon?

Amazon is an American multinational technology company based in Seattle which focuses on e-commerce, cloud computing, digital streaming, and artificial intelligence. It was founded on July 5th 1994.

## How much does Jeff Bezos make?

Each day it is estimated that he makes \$321 million which is \$3,715 per second! Each year he makes an estimated sixteen billion six hundred ninety-two million.

## Why the name Amazon?

Jeff Bezos thought of the name Amazon because he liked the idea of it being named after the longest river in the world

He wanted to call it Cadabra but he was talked out of it.

## Amazon Shops

In the last few years Bezos has expanded Amazon into physical shops some of them are book shops or grocery shops The grocery shops have made headlines after being a checkout free shop.

Customers scan their unique barcode as they enter the shop then scan every item they want to buy then leave and the app takes care of the payment.

# JEFF BEZOS



Article by Sarah Berns

# E L L A

## LIFE AFTER RATOATH COLLEGE



Hi my name is Ella Hussey. I'm a former student of Ratoath College and was apart of the graduating class of 2020. I was a previous Ard-Cinnire!

Since leaving school during unprecedented times back in March when the Covid 19 pandemic hit things haven't been as they usually would be. With missing moments like graduation and our final days it was hard to believe that I was really finished school forever.

However after a long summer of waiting for predicted grades and getting results, I was accepted into Trinity College to study English. I've spent my year taking classes and lectures from my bedroom. It's been an adjustment from secondary school but I'm extremely grateful that my course was enjoyable even online! I have classes in smaller groups so it was easier to get to know each other, even when it was a bit odd online, we made it work. I've studied so much this year from the classics like Shakespeare and "The Cather in the Rye" ( which I would heavily recommend) to more modern known works such as "The Girl on the Train" and "The Shining". We focused heavily on the foundational of English in Ireland and I got to study Eavan Boland again who was on my English curriculum back in 6th year where I fell in love with her poetry.

Overall, it has been an unusual year and having only stepped on campus for the first time in March, it's definitely not what I expected. However, I'm extremely grateful that I'm in a course that I love. I send all my regards to the staff and students in RC. Best wishes to the sixth years. If I've any advice it is to try your best and don't worry because everything will work out in the end.

# IS THIS THE DIFFERENCE WE NEED?: **NUIG ECO TRACKER**

The NUIG Energy Society has taken part in a virtual challenge on the themes of Climate and Community called #Climathon to create a business proposal to motivate students and adults to live more sustainably. This event was organized by What The Hack and the Embassy of France in Ireland.

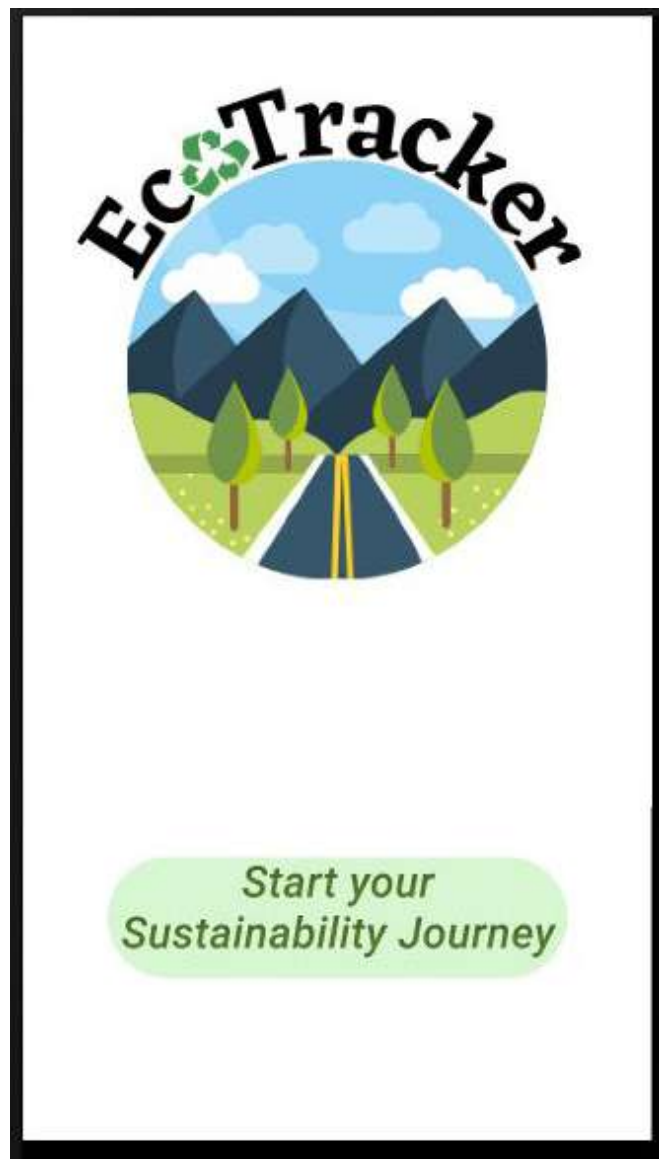
Students from NUIG Dylan Moore, Bogdan Baturov, Hannah Aris, Niamh Killeen, Orla McAllister, and Sinead Leahy, came up with the idea of an app called 'Eco Tracker'.

As we all know the environment plays a vital role in our lives. Therefore, it is crucial for every individual to nurture and protect our environment.

This app will help each individual to develop more sustainable habits, learn more about how and why we should be making changes to our everyday lives. This is done by quantifying the impact of these changes in terms of greenhouse emissions and by creating a positive feedback loop by awarding the user when completing the task.



In other words, this app will help to protect, restore and promote sustainability. It will also help us work towards and eventually achieve the environmental Sustainable Development Goals. It's an innovative idea that provides users with a gamified step-by-step program. Keep an eye out for it in the app stores.



As Greta Thunberg once said, "I've learnt that no one is too small to make a difference," this app will help the users to make the difference that we must thrive towards. The environment and climate change have always been prevalent issues, it's time we take action!! If not us, then who?

**Article by Margarita Baturova**



ARTWORK  
BY ANYA CLARKE CARR

# ART Department

Articles by Ms.O'Neill, Ms.Daly & art students.



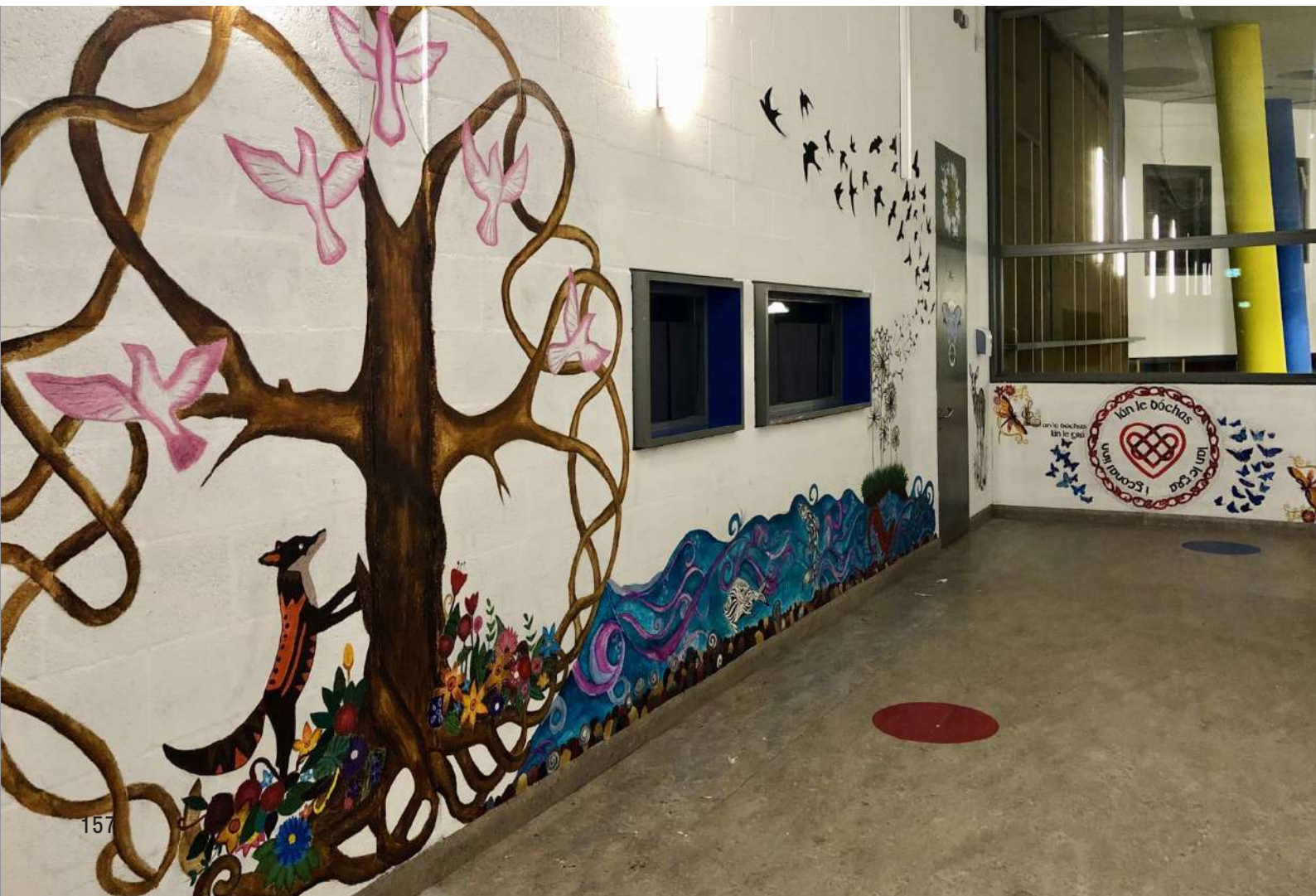
## OUR VISION

The vision of the art department is that every student will not just be encouraged but actively and individually helped to explore, express, and communicate their ideas and develop their skills and understanding of art, craft and design. We support our students to actively engage in the artistic process in order to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.

We believe that our students will flourish in a safe, stimulating and friendly environment where the atmosphere is one of mutual respect, co-operation, support and challenge. Student's involvement in art and design develops confidence, self-discipline, persistence and a capacity for critical reflection. Through the appreciation of art our students develop the capacity for imagination and divergent thinking. Our students are exposed to art and art history which provides them with an interest that will enhance their life in many ways.

# STENCIL PRINTING RANG MCCABE

**A**s part of our Arts Week celebrations this year, Rang McCabe experimented with stencil printing techniques. Students learned how to create a stencil and create a multi coloured print. They also did a lot of research on both Irish and international print artists. Students enjoyed the design process and seeing their designs come to life in colour.



# MURAL FOR MS. O'SULLIVAN



Our fantastic TY students very thoughtfully wanted to create a mural in memory of Ms. Aoife O' Sullivan. This was done as part of the Pay it Forward programme and in conjunction with the art department. The art department worked with a core group of students who were in Rang O' Sullivan. We brainstormed images that were



personal and represented Ms. O'Sullivan. We finished in time for her anniversary in December 2020.

We researched symbolism from Irish folklore, a woodland scene, Celtic knotwork, lyrics in Irish from her song and incorporated a Celtic Trinity knot in the Kerry colours - where Ms. O Sullivan was from. We also incorporated an old fashioned compass to represent her other subject of Geography. Several groups of TY students worked on rotation to complete the mural on the walls outside Ms. Sullivan's old room. She was a much loved and respected member of Ratoath College and will always be remembered.







## PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION

Every year, just before Halloween, the art department in Ratoath College runs a pumpkin carving competition. This year we had some amazing, creative entries from very enthusiastic students. We had prizes for the top entries and were very impressed with the standard. Our 1st year students helped to set up the Halloween display at the school entrance.



## 1ST YEAR VISUAL ART DRAWING

One of the fundamental art skills that first art students learn is how to draw. Students learn the basic art elements, colour theory and drawing skills. They then apply these to finished projects. 1st year students have been working hard all year and under challenging circumstances. They have had to adapt to life in secondary school under limitations and a new way of working. We are very proud of them and their enthusiasm and dedication to their study of art.



## 1ST YEAR AND TY DISPLAY

To celebrate the festive season this academic year, our TY's and 1st year students joined forces to produce a Christmas display. 1st years focused on hand painting wood slices and stencils and TY's focused on Christmas cartoons and animated characters. All students worked very hard on their contribution to the display and the TY's were a fantastic help setting up the display. They were also extremely kind to 1st years who were celebrating their first Christmas as students of Ratoath College.



## 2ND YEARS - OIL PASTEL ANIMALS

Some of our wonderful 2nd years experimented with oil pastels this year. The subject of choice to draw was animals as everyone has a favourite animal and the students were very enthusiastic about their approach to this project. Students learned how to blend oil pastel colours together and create visual texture in a piece. Students really enjoyed working on a large scale and using the vibrant colours in oil pastel to create expressive artworks.



## 3RD YEAR PAINTING

Our 3rd years have been working very hard on their projects all year. They have really progressed in terms of skill and experimentation of different art media. They have learned how to take a project from research stage, brainstorming to mind maps, experiments with drawing to developing a final composition and completing it on a large scale. They have really matured as artists and have developed the skills needed to progress to senior cycle.



# TEXACO ART COMP - SISTER SISTER

Huge congratulations our two super stars Anya (6th year) & Naoise (3rd year). Both students received a special merit award in the Texaco Art Competition this year. We are all so proud of you in the art department. What amazingly talented students.



## 2ND YEAR HARMONIOUS ART

Taking inspiration from artists Robert & Sonia Delaunay, 2nd year students (Sophie and Eve pictured above) have created their own harmonious artworks - A visual oasis of balanced colour, shape & form.



## CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY - ART PACKS

This year things were a little different in the art department. Due to Covid 19 and new guidelines issued to schools, students were not allowed to share material. Thanks to our wonderful management team and teachers all art student received new art packs with a variety of amazing new materials. #grateful

# 2ND YEAR - MAKING FACES

Artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo is known for painting portraits where the heads are made up of a variety of natural objects such as fruit, vegetables, flowers and leaves. Taking inspiration from this famous artist, students were tasked with creating their own face out of objects. Categories included fruit, vegetables, toys, kitchen items, stationary leaves and flowers. Each student created amazing art works.



# 1ST YEAR - POINTILLISM

Our 1st year students had a great time doing an art lesson on Georges Seurat and Chuck Close. After all, who wouldn't have fun with Pointillism. It was such a fun way of creating a self portrait and the students loved it. Students learned some background information on pointillism, took a selfie and applied the techniques learned in class to create striking self portraits using only pen.



# TY'S CREATING GRAFFITI TAGS



# HALLOWEEN OIL PASTEL DRAWING

In October our TY's worked on Halloween themed oil pastel artworks. They focused on a variety of different imagery from Halloween silhouettes to Tim Burton inspired pieces. They had a lot of fun using the oil pastels they got in their art packs. Students also learned about stop animation and the role of the art director in a film.



## CREDIT UNION ART COMPETITION

Every year the art department enters several art competitions. The Credit Union Art Competition being one of them. This year we had great success with some of our student's entries. Students worked very hard on the theme 'Imagine More'. Students really enjoyed entering this competition and were very proud to receive their certificates. Well done Molly, Lucy, Belle, Monica, Vince, Myles, Natasha and Sophie - fantastic achievements in the Credit Union Art competition.

## 5TH YEAR ART - IMAGINATIVE COMP

Our project this year was to create an imaginative composition piece. Our theme for the project was identity. We started by creating a mind map all about ourselves- our friends, family, hobbies and interests, everything that makes us who we are.

We researched artists to take inspiration from. After that, we used our mind maps to find possible primary sources to draw, eg. our friends and objects you'd find at home. We challenged ourselves to try different mediums from what we are used to such as watercolour and even trying liquid latex! We used our imaginative skills to create different layouts for our final idea, we chose a colour palette and annotated our ideas and thoughts.

Once we decided on our final piece we got to work! The duration of the final piece took three weeks and a lot of hard work. Overall this project was very fun and interesting to create as we got to use our imagination and everyone's piece was unique to them!

**Article by Paige Kelly  
& Aoife Casey**



# 3rd Year Visual Art

Article by Katie Smyth and Abi Colgan

**A**t the start of 3rd year we started our CBA2. The three themes that we could choose from were the kitchen, pattern and the shed. We began by planning out three different mind maps for each theme. From there we chose our own theme. We both chose pattern to start off with because to us it seemed like the theme in which we could expand from the most.

After choosing our theme we began on our visual mind maps. From there we took primary sources and drew them out in all different mediums. For example – Watercolor, acrylic paints, colouring pencils, collage and tonal. This was known as our development sheet one.

For development sheet two we came up with three ideas that we could potentially use for our final piece on one page and on the page next to it we combined all the ideas into one large drawing. We completed this around December and after that we had to work from home.

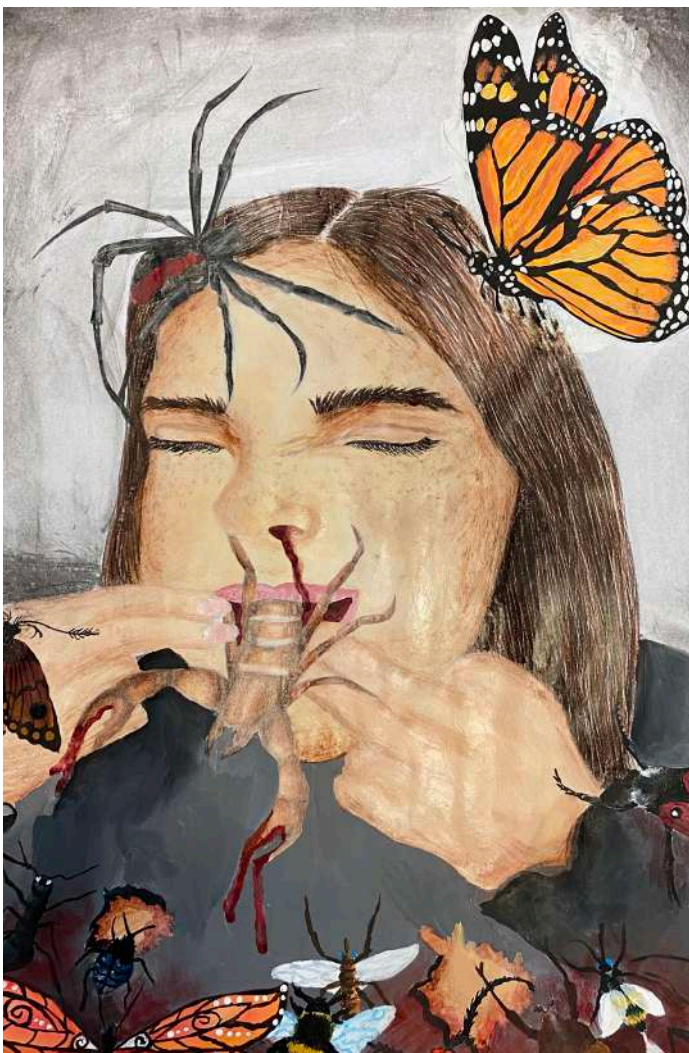
Doing online school was better this time around because we had an idea of what we were expected to do and more time to complete this project. It was still a bit tough to work from home though, because we didn't have access to anything in the art room and had to use our own supplies at home.



While at home, we were asked to complete a variety of primary source drawings, ideas for development sheet two and work on our final artwork piece. A lot of effort was put into creating the pieces and they were all very different and unique. When we returned to school we presented our work in front of the class and explained the thought behind it.

In conclusion 3rd year art has been challenging because of covid but also very enjoyable. It was definitely a different year in art but was also the most fun. We would highly recommend doing Art because it brings out everyone's creative side and it's a very laid back class.

**We would highly recommend doing Art because it brings out everyone's creative side and it's a very laid back class.**







# A

## FROM RATOATH TO TOKYO

One day while walking on Clogherhead beach, I noticed a dead bird washed up on the beach and beside it was a ping-pong bat. I thought this was very interesting – the beautiful bird, with its wings spread, looked like an angel, so I put the bat under its head to give it a halo.

The bat made me think about the game of life and death because it was close to the dead bird which, for me represented the issues of global warming and the effect that humans are having on nature.

I photographed the scene and used this as reference for my painting. Through research, I discovered that the bird was a Gannet, a native Irish sea bird.

Further to being featured in Texaco's national exhibition, this painting was chosen as one of only 4 from Ireland to be exhibited at the 21st International High School Arts Festival which opened in Tokyo on August 5th 2020.

The International High School Arts Festival is one of the most prestigious exhibitions to take place in Tokyo annually. Sponsored by the International Foundation for Arts and Culture, it is described as 'a showcase for the world's best young artistic talent' and featured 400 artworks by students representing nations across the world.

**Article By Anya Clarke Carr**

This is my entry that won 3rd prize in the 2019 Texaco Art competition, entitled 'Gannet on Clogherhead beach with ping-pong bat'. I was delighted to be invited by Virgin Media TV to talk about this painting on 'Ireland AM' in April 2019.



**R**

**T**



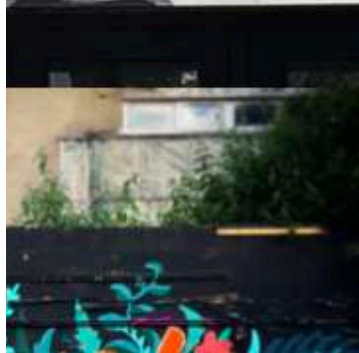
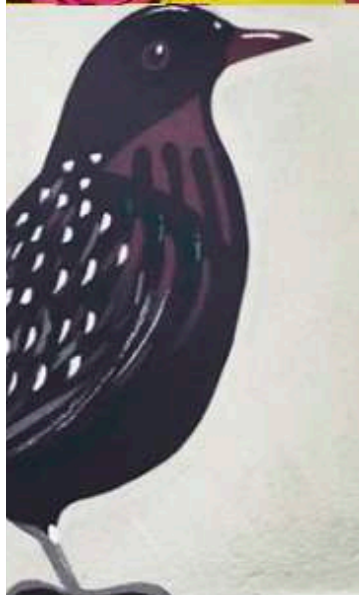
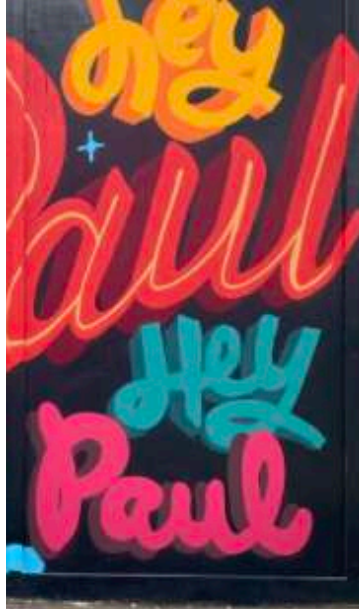


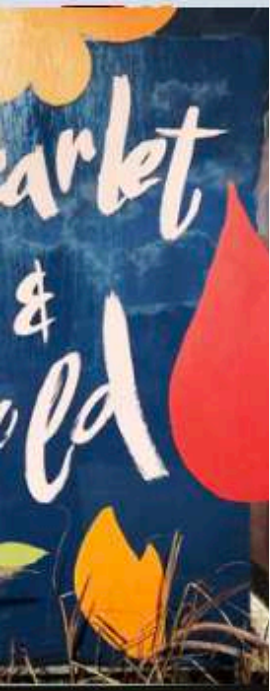
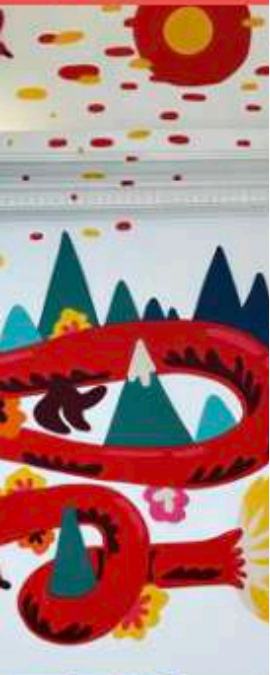
For one of our TY art classes, we watched a documentary all about Irish street art, the stories behind the artists and what inspires them. One of the artists that stood out to us all was Holly Pereira, and we were very lucky that our teacher Ms. O'Neill was able to have her come to talk to us about her work.

Holly Pereira is a muralist from Dublin. She studied sculpture in NCAD and later went on to study animation in Ballyfermot. Taking to murals 5 years ago, Holly takes her inspiration from many different places, such as books. One of the books she told us about was "Where's Wally", how she loved the way the pages were crowded with different people, and how there were so many different narratives.

Being Irish- Singaporean, and from travelling to many different places such as Singapore and Mexico, Holly noticed that the streets of these places were always bright and filled with colour, something that she wanted to bring home with her to Dublin. She told us all about the places she enjoys doing her work, places in Dublin like East wall and Terenure.

One of Holly's first works was based around the repeal the 8th referendum back in 2016. She told us all about what it entails to be a muralist, her struggles of having to work through the winter months and having to use a wheelbarrow to move her equipment from place to place. Because street art is not a formal industry, she said it's really nice

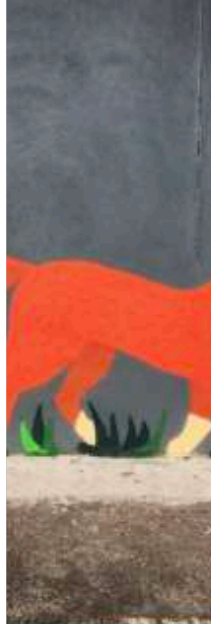




to have the support of fellow muralists. It took Holly over a year for her career as a muralist to take off, and she used time lapses of her working on a piece to earn her recognition. She told us she's very passionate about her work, and that street art is special to her because she loves the scale of the canvas. Holly finds it very special that she gets to work on a piece that's bigger than her body, although in the future she aspires to set up a second career path in animation and independent filmmaking.

Holly takes inspiration from lots of different places. She uses her art to project her voice on many social issues that she believes in. She has done several works highlighting the issues of racism, housing rights, and the 8th amendment, which is very important to her.

Holly taught us all about the different mediums she uses in her artwork, and the different techniques she uses in her pieces. She showed us how she uses drop shadows and cast shadows in her work, along with

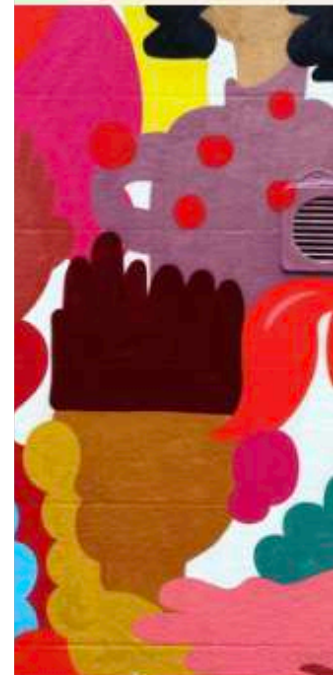


hatching to create depth. She explained to us how she makes gifs, and how she uses adobe cooler to markup her work and to make prints and paintings.

Holly has been very successful in her street art, designing advertisements for many Irish businesses such as Supervalu and the National Gallery of Ireland. We really enjoyed our call with Holly and it taught us to appreciate and understand the work of street artists and muralists everywhere.

On behalf of our class and Ms. O'Neill we would like to take this opportunity to thank Holly for taking the time to speak with us about her art practice.

Article by **Alix Kane**



# STUDENT

## THE BETTER THE STUDENT COUNCIL, THE LOUDER THE VOICE

Our student council plays a huge role in giving the student body a voice in Ratoath College. This can have such an impact on a student's day to day life while in school. The better the student council, the louder the voice and we always make sure to be involved in matters going on in the school and to keep our student body up-to-date.

Despite this year's Coronavirus troubles and the new way of online learning, we have still managed to work on projects within the school. We also had to communicate online because we couldn't meet weekly but that didn't stop us from achieving our goals.

This year our school was selected to take a survey for the ISSU Senior Cycle Reform review.



# COUNCIL

120 student in 5th and 6th year were selected to take part. The results and research will be presented at the ISSU Senior Cycle Reform Symposium in the Spring and the data will be used by the ISSU's advocacy in the coming months and years.

At the beginning of the year, four of our representatives joined the ISSU Meath Regional Council elections. Each school in every region voted for a Regional Officer. There are 22 Regional Councils that the ISSU host all around Ireland which aim to bring student councils in the region together to debate, discuss and determine the issues and problems students face regionally and nationally.

At this online event we started with icebreakers which was a fun and easy way to meet new people. We then discussed who the ISSU are and our student council skills and how to run our own student council in the future.

After, we listened to the speeches of people running for the Regional officer role and we anonymously voted for who we thought would be the best representative for the council. Another topic we discussed was the technology divide in the region. Not all schools agreed on the use of iPads but they felt very lost when stuck at home with no access to one.

This online day was invaluable to us as we learned how to better represent students and gave us some new and exciting ideas for the coming years.

We also reviewed the Code of Behaviour and the students Internet Safety Policy. We studied these and gave our feedback to the school management. The Student Council have to have a chance to review all school policies before they can be ratified to make sure that students' interests are being upheld.

We would like to thank all of our representatives this year for their amazing job in helping the student council. We would also like to thank Ms.Quinn for volunteering her time to help out and to help turn our ideas into reality. As a student council we'd like to wish you all well with the Coronavirus and hope you all enjoy your summer despite the change in our lives, and we look forward to getting back to normality next year.

Y O U R  
V O I C E  
C O U N T S

## Student Council Members 2020/2021

### 6th years

Cian Agar - Finlay  
Mathew Hayes  
Margarita Baturova



### 5th years

Mia Sherry  
Jake Rutherford  
Stephen Kiernan  
Sorcha Broe - Brady



### 4th years

Aoife Hyland  
Anna McSweeney  
Jack Tormey  
Evan Gordon  
Matthew Duff  
Katie Markey



### 3rd years

Amy Kinsella  
Briana Alexis Haruta  
Hannah Murphy  
Sophie Cameron  
Tabitha Mbemba

### 2nd years

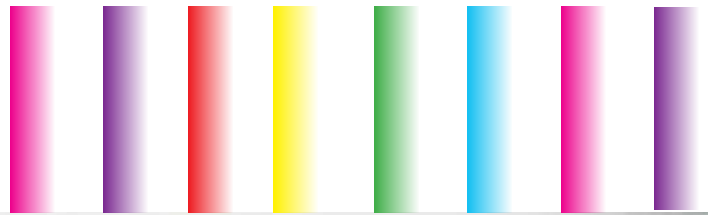
Cormac Tormey  
Monike Santos  
Sivahn Portelas

### 1st years

Alannah Sheppard  
Einin Murphy  
Eve Griffin  
Kyle Pembroke  
Oran Corboy

**STRONG  
TODAY.  
STRONGER  
TOMORROW.  
STRONGEST  
TOGETHER.**

**W**e collectively decided to have this mural go in the GP area for everyone to see saying “stronger together”. This has been such an important message throughout the whole of the Covid - 19 pandemic. We believe that having this message - stronger together - be the first thing that you see when you enter Ratoath College will show people the unity of our school and also brighten people’s day with the bright and vibrant colours of our mural! Although this year has been very challenging, as a school community, have been united as one, strong collective and now as we come out of lockdown we can all look back at our time in lockdown and know that we were stronger together! We wanted to make the mural as big, vibrant and colourful as possible and we definitely think that the finished product fits that brief. We hope that people enjoy seeing the mural everyday as much as we enjoyed designing and painting it!





# STAND

UP



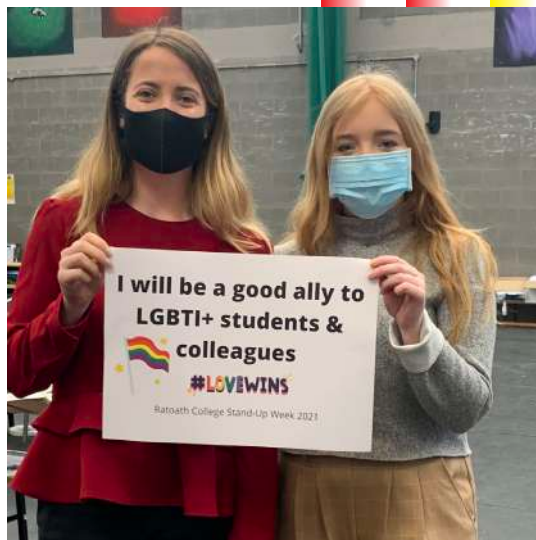
# UP

Stand Up week was held in our school between the 10th to 14th of May. Every day we had different activities to celebrate and raise awareness for the LGBTQ+ community and to prevent homophobic bullying in Ratoath College.

To begin with, on Monday morning a pride flag, with all of the LGBTQ+ colours, was raised outside the main entrance of the building for the everyone to see on their way to school. It flew on the flagpole all week. As well as this, on Monday we had virtual talks for first to fifth year students from ShoutOut to educate us on the LGBTQ+ terms, pronouns, flags, equality and the importance behind them all. It was very informative and it educated everyone in the school.

On Tuesday we decorated the entire school in rainbow bunting, stars and paper chains to raise awareness for the week. We hung posters explaining the different sexualities and flags on all of the noticeboards so the students could stop and take a look on their way from class to class. The Transition Year well-being team delivered a talk to junior students on being an ally and how to support our LGBTQ+ classmates and friends in tutorial on Wednesday morning. They talked about how to treat everyone equally and fairly and to speak out against homophobia when they hear it around the school. The sixth years got their talk from ShoutOut in tutorial also.

On Thursday the Well-being committee ran a Covid friendly bake sale for the school to raise funds for Belong To and ShoutOut which are two organisations that cater for LGBTQ+ students and work places. They delivered the homemade baked goods from year group to year group throughout the day.



For the last day of Stand Up Week we ran a non uniform day for all the different classes and had each year group dress in different colours of the pride flag. The TY's had an obstacle course to finish off Stand Up week on a positive note. Everyone was given a sponsorship card and brought in donations for the two charities. We raised a lot of money over the duration of the week and to top it all off we held a raffle with lots of hampers to fundraise for our charities.

Our first Stand Up week was a total success especially considering we were able to plan a Covid safe activity for each day of the week and we're really looking forward to expanding our activities for the National Stand Up week in November.

Article by Alix Kane

## A message from 1st year Moltóir, Ms.O'Toole

From welcoming you all to Ratoath College on August 31st, with the warm sun beating down as we called your names out on the front steps, I can't believe the school year is drawing to a close already!

It saddens me that as I sit to write this that I have not seen any of you physically since December 22nd when we sent you off for the Christmas Holidays. The first year of secondary school is a strange but exciting time as you start to navigate unfamiliar territory, take on new subjects and meet new friends. It is very unfortunate that a whole term of your first year in secondary school was done remotely. That said, I could not be prouder of each of you for how you have engaged with your online learning. Your commitment and perseverance with your schoolwork throughout such difficult times shows such strength of character and you really should be proud of yourself for all your efforts.

In such a short space of time throughout the first term you have already grown and matured so much. The silence in the caomhnóirí rooms in the mornings didn't last long at all! This is a positive sign of how well you have all settled into first year. It has been lovely to see you already begin to mature and grow into such pleasant and polite young adults. I hope that the friendships you have begun to make will grow over the coming months and years.



I understand your first year in secondary school has been like no other for us all. I am upset for you that we couldn't have extra-curricular activities in the way we usually would. But I do hope next year we can begin to see you all showcasing your skills on the sports field, in choirs, debating or on the athletics track. All these areas make up such a big part of secondary school life and I would encourage you to get involved in the many different clubs available.

I would like to thank your caomhnóirí; Mr Conlan, Ms Flynn, Ms Hynes, Ms McCormack, Ms O'Hanlon, Mr P. O'Neill, Ms Smyth and Mr. Toher. The work they put in to look after you all and the support they show you on an educational level and personal level has been amazing. I want to thank them personally and on behalf of the first-year pupils.

I wish you all the best for your summer holidays, I hope you have a wonderful break enjoying time outdoors with your friends. I look forward to welcoming you back in August as you continue your journey at Ratoath College.

*Aisling O'Toole*  
1st year Moltóir

# ***RANG CONLAN***



# ***RANG FLYNN***



# ***RANG SMYTH***



# ***RANG TOHER***



# ***RANG O'HANLON***



# ***RANG O'NEILL***



# ***RANG HYNES***



# ***RANG McCORMACK***



## A message from 2nd year Moltóir, Mr. Mooney

As we approach the end of second year, I would like to congratulate each and everyone of you on all your hard work this year. You are and continue to be a fantastic year group. I know that this has not been the start to life in secondary school that you would have expected or hoped for. However, despite all the challenges that were put in your way you stood up and met them. Your enthusiasm, resilience and ability to adapt is commendable and we are so proud of you.

As a year group you have carried yourselves with excellence, your behaviour is exemplary, you have built great relationships with your teachers but most importantly you are caring and supportive of one another. We are so proud of the young men and women you are becoming.

I want to thank the fabulous team of Caomhnoiri Ms. Canny, Ms. Conlon, Ms. Gerrard, Ms. McMEnamin, Ms. Huban, Ms. Lyttle, Ms. Gilmartin, Ms. Monerawela, Ms. KO'Neill and Ms. Fong-who work tirelessly looking after your welfare and helping you achieve the best of your ability.

I wish to congratulate each and everyone of you for the dedication and enthusiasm you have shown this year. Next year will be our last year together as some of you will opt for TY while others will go directly into fifth year. The other major event next year is, of course, the Junior Cert. We will look forward to the challenges this brings and embrace them head on, working together to achieve the best we can.



On behalf of all the Second Year Team, have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you all as 3rd Years in late August.

*Andrew Mooney*  
2nd year Moltóir



# ***RANG CANNY***



# ***RANG CONLON/RANG GERRARD***



# ***RANG GILMARTIN***



# ***RANG McMENAMIN/RANG HUBAN***



# ***RANG MONERAWELA***



# ***RANG LYTTLE***



# RANG O'NEILL / FONG



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**As we approach the end of second year, I would like to congratulate each and everyone of you on all your hard work this year.**

”

## A message from 3rd year Moltóir, Mr.Horan

To the 3rd years: at this parting point of your journey through Ratoath College.

How time as flown since you were welcomed into the Ratoath family back on that sunny day in August 2018. As we approach the end of the 'red jumper' stage, I truly hope you can look back and be satisfied with the efforts you have put in over the three years and you can honestly say "I did my best".

As we come to the end of any journey, I reflect, with fondness, on the lows and the highs of the journey we just finished. Some of those highs were to the scaling heights of the 'Raptor' roller coaster in Gardaland, while some reached the very depths of the bog holes in Lilliput. It has been a truly fantastic journey with you and some of those memories will stay with me forever.

I was very privileged to have the opportunity to support and observe you grow into the young ladies and gentlemen you have become. Unfortunately, our journey did have some disruptions along the way, some due to Italian traffic on the way to the airport and some due to the Global pandemic. However, you have faced all your interruptions and found a way to keep moving forward in the direction of your targets. Like in life, we will always be faced with challenges and obstacles, but by finding a route or a path through them, we become stronger for the next challenge that awaits us.

All obstacles are learning experiences so by embracing them and working through them, you become the tougher and more experienced



person.

I would like to take the opportunity to especially thank all your Gaomhnoirí for their tireless effort over the past three years. These Gaomhnoirí took you under their wing from day one and always looked out for you and pushed you to become the young adults you are today. Of course, sometimes you did not always agree with them, but they could see the ability, the talent, and that person you could become, and they always strived to get the best from you. I am gratefully to have worked with such a fabulous, dedicated and talent team of colleagues over the three years.

At this point in our journey, we part on different paths, some for 5th year and some for Transition year. Whichever path you have selected, I'm confident that if you put in the same effort, hard work and attitude similar to the past three years, you will succeed wherever the journey takes you.

Remember to be kind, look out for each other, work hard and be open to taking that step into the unknown. You never know what you are capable of until you take that risk and go for it!

"Feel the fear, and do it anyways"

*Martin Horan*  
3rd year Moltóir

# ***RANG JORDAN***



# ***RANG TONER***



# ***RANG O'DWYER***



# ***RANG DELANEY***



# ***RANG DALTON***



# ***RANG WALSHE***





# RANG CONATY



**Remember to be kind, look out for each other, work hard and be open to taking that step into the unknown.**



## A message from TY Moltóir, Ms.Savage

Our wonderful TY class of 2021, I'm not sure where to begin. I suppose Sept 2017 is a good place, our story began, our first chapter. You were bright eyed and bubbly 1st year students and while you are a little older now, you have continued to be bright and bubbly.

I was delighted to be given the opportunity to remain your moltoir throughout your TY adventure and it has been a truly wonderful adventure. Your caomhnoiri and I have such admiration for you all, the wonderfully positive and uplifting attitude you have demonstrated since August despite the unfortunate circumstances. We know that when you signed up for TY last year, no one expected the class of 2021 to experience TY alongside a pandemic but as we have said to you on many, many occasions your uplifting "making the most of it" attitude has been more than impressive. You have been the life and soul of the building during this challenging time and I hope that despite the challenges and disappointments there has been fun, adventure, new beginnings, new challenges, new friendships and new learning.

Enormous luck and warmest wishes to you all as you begin a new chapter in September. I know that you will continue to be brilliant and while I will no longer be your school Mammy, my door is always open, don't ever be strangers.



*Aisling Savage*  
TY Moltóir

# ***RANG O'NEILL***



# ***RANG QUINN***



# ***RANG DINSMORE***



# ***RANG MCKEON***



# ***RANG FLANAGAN***



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**Enormous luck and warmest wishes to you all as you begin a new chapter in September.**

”

## A message from 5th year Moltóir, Ms.Flynn

What a year to start out my new adventure in Ratoath College as a Moltóir. I could not be prouder of you all as a year group. You have shown great courage, resilience and commitment in such a challenging year. I have enjoyed getting to know you as a group and you have made me smile every day. We have such a great fifth year team of caomhnoiri that have offered some much needed support, guidance and humour so thanks to Ms Bailey, Ms Conlon, Ms Callan, Ms Clerkin, Ms Daly, Ms Doonan, Mr McKenna, Mr Nissar and Mr Spratt.

I will not miss reminding you that your mask must be pulled up, to sanitise your hands, to stop doing laps and where the correct entry/exit door is for fifth years however with that said my step count has been outstanding as a result!

There have been many highlights to my year with you all: conversations that made me smile, my beautiful office door decoration at Christmas, seeing you achieve at the highest levels at award ceremonies, the friendships you all made and Adam being amazed I knew what a skin fade was, just to name a few.

I hope you all enjoy the summer and I look forward to seeing you back as sixth years in August.

*Paola Flynn*  
5th year Moltóir



# ***RANG BAILEY***



# ***RANG CONLON***



# ***RANG CALLAN / DALY***



# ***RANG CLERKIN / SPRATT***





# ***RANG DOONAN***



# ***RANG MCKENNA***



# RANG NISSAR



“

**I hope you all enjoy the summer and I look forward to seeing you back as sixth years in August.**

”

# CLASS OF 2011

# AUTHORGRAPHS



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