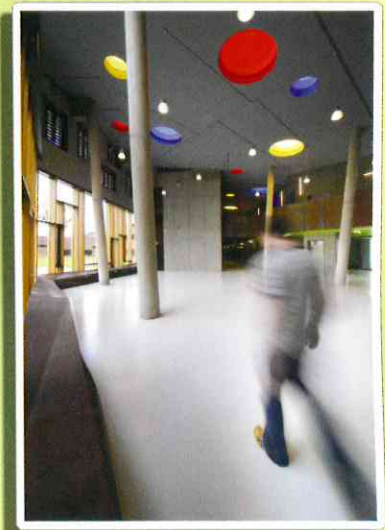
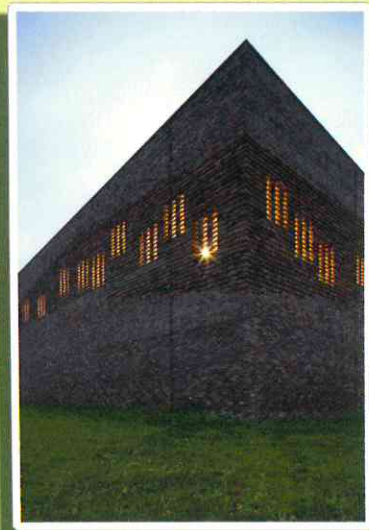


66 magazine

welcome to
Jamestown

Mol an oige Education Culture New School
Farewell to Fairyhouse Eco-friendly Reviews
Sports Music Spirit and much much more.
All the News of Ratoath College...



Ratoath College through the lens of Richard Hatch

Editorial



A Word from the Editor

Hard-work, pleasure and enthusiasm are among the few ingredients used to make this year's yearbook. As our year comes to an end we acknowledge all the memories and wonderful times that have taken place this year. Last year it was only first and second years

who enjoyed all the memories of Ratoath College, but this year we had another addition to the school, and so we were able to share good times with our new first years. We hope that within this book you can remember and relive your best moments of the year. We the media club hope that as you read through the pages you will find games, articles and activities for you to enjoy. We have something for everyone's interests such as sport, fashion, health, games, school events and much more!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people involved in helping us to put our yearbook together, especially the media club teachers and organisers who without their help the yearbook would not be possible. We would like to give a big thanks to Ms. Hitillambeau and Ms. O' Dwyer, who gave up numerous lunch breaks to help us in the making of the yearbook. Also we would like to thank Mr. Ball who was involved in the financing of the magazine. We would also like to thank our other teachers who volunteered to be interviewed and lent us personal photographs. Thanks to our fellow students who produced articles and shared memories with us. Thanks to our many sponsors. A special thanks to our committee (pictured below) who did tremendous work and were great to work with. Without you all this yearbook would not have been possible.

We hope you all enjoy the great entertainment within this second addition of our yearbook.

Darragh O' Connor
66 Magazine Editor



Our Media club students who worked hard to bring you this year's edition of The 66 Magazine.



A Message from the Principal

I am thrilled once again to be associated with this excellent production. This is our third school magazine and the standards are rising each year. As a school, we have a bunch of very enthusiastic young students and a group of highly dedicated and hard working teachers. Their work is reflected in the pages of this magazine

Well done to our media group and in particular to Darragh O'Connor who is the editor of the magazine this year. Thank you so much to Ms Hitillambeau who put in such an effort to make sure that this production is of the highest standard. She was supported by Ms O'Dwyer and Mr Ball in this venture and I would like to pay tribute to them as well.

This year we have moved to our new permanent home with all our fantastic ICT facilities. Thank you to Mr Hannon who facilitated the students to submit articles through the use of our computer room. This has made life easier for the media group who have received numerous articles for the production. The problem facing the group is that they have had to make difficult decisions and have not been able to publish every article in its entirety.

I am sure you will all agree that they have done a wonderful job. This publication is an outstanding advertisement for our school.

Congratulations to you all! I am so proud of you.

Maith sibh!

Máire Ní Bhróithe
Principal

Message Board

Ratoath College

Each year in the short life of Ratoath College has been remarkable and has filled us all with memories to recall and cherish.

There are so many milestones in the school year 2007/08 that we are in danger of running out of stones; leaving Fairyhouse on horseback, worrying over the building being ready, kitting out the school for September 1st, snag lists, furniture, equipment, circuits, assemblies, new staff, the official opening, first state exams, to name but a few.

The big event of course is the wonderful new school designed by one of Ireland's leading Architects, Michael McGarry and his wife Siobhán Ní Eanaigh and built by Midland Construction under the guidance of Mark Kerrigan. It is unique, exciting and modern. It is a landmark in school design and is used by Architects as a template for their work.

Behind the events and the razzmatazz the real business goes on – exceptional teaching by a gifted and dedicated staff and their really generous contribution to the growth, maturing and social development of our students through sports and activities.

The Board of Management with its Chairman Cllr. Nick Killian has continued to be a steady and thoughtful body, guaranteeing the physical and educational welfare of staff and students. The Parents Association are also a great face for good, supporting the school at every opportunity.

We had one year of Anthony Malone as Deputy and he made a real difference. He set a very high standard for Oonagh Prendergast the next Deputy and she has more than surpassed that standard. Thank you both.

A final word of congratulations to the irrepressible, irreplaceable Principal Máire. She has led the school with a remarkable dedication and skill. The community in Ratoath and County Meath VEC are blessed with her leadership, vision and commitment to the best for every student.

Peter Kierans
Meath VEC CEO



Meath VEC CEO, Mr Peter Kierans on one of his many visits to Ratoath college with Ms. Wilson who received an awarded after her Irish exam.

Oonagh Prendergast

I am truly delighted to be able to contribute to this the 3rd edition of "66". Once again the Editorial Team have produced a magazine of exceptional quality. On being appointed as Deputy Principal last August one of the first things I was presented with was a copy of last years magazine and I was immediately struck, not just by the content, and that in itself was very impressive, but also by the extremely high quality of the publication. This years production is every bit as impressive and continues to build on those very high standards.



As is clearly evident from this production we are an extremely active and busy school and although we are still in our infancy we have already established a reputation for ourselves in many areas, academic, sporting and cultural. Reading through this magazine we get a glimpse of the kaleidoscope of activities available to the students of Ratoath College and an insight in to the students' involvement in all aspects of school life, as well as the huge commitment shown by staff who give so generously of their time, efforts and expertise in providing such a wide range of extra-curricular activities for students.

This has been a year of firsts, our first rugby match, our first debaters and our first (of many we hope) basketball finalists to mention but a few. To the First Year Girls and Boys Basketball Teams who have reached their respective Finals we wish the very best of luck!

I would like to wish our 3rd Years, our first State Exam candidates, the very best of luck in their study between now and June and I hope all the good work which is being invested in the exams will produce excellent results for them.

A production like this involves a huge amount of work and organisation and I would particularly like to pay tribute to the hard-working Media Club and Editorial Team, who together with Ms. Hitillambeau, Ms. O' Dwyer and Mr. Ball, have done another outstanding job with this publication.

This school is going from strength to strength and we all have every reason to be proud of the very fine reputation that is being established here.

Go n-eirí libh go léir

Oonagh Prendergast



Chaplain's Message

"Will you write a few lines for the school magazine?" Miss Hitillambeau asked. I knew immediately that there was only one acceptable answer to that question. "When do you want

it?" I enquired. "Tomorrow" she replied and smiled as she walked away. I sat and pondered for a few minutes. Aware that the magazine will record the great variety of events which go to make up the richness of school life and aware also that this particular issue will, no doubt, focus on our new school building I decided to steer clear of those topics.

Stories have always fascinated me and have left an indelible mark on my life. They have inspired and motivated me, stories of heroes and villains, stories of the life of the saints, stories heard both at home and at school. I would like to recall a story I heard Mons. Thomas Waldron tell at Knock Shrine some years ago. It said something to me and I hope that it will have a similar effect on you. It revolves around a story we have all heard, the story of the Ugly Duckling but he relates it to our baptism and the transformation this brings to our lives.

You remember the famous story- the duck hatches out her eggs, and she has lovely fluffy yellow ducklings- all except one that came from a very big egg- and this one is a big awkward bird and all the others laugh at it- the ducks laugh at it, it can't quack, the hens laugh at it, it can't cluck, the cat laughs at it, it can't purr. They call it the Ugly Duckling. Nobody wants it, it has no friends. It's an out-cast and when winter comes it can stand no more of the mockery, and it goes off to live alone in the woods. But ugly as it is it has dreams. One day it sees big white birds flying gracefully across the sky, and it thinks "if only, if only I could be like that. But unfulfilled dreams are a frustration and one winter, cold and alone the ugly duckling sees three of the great white birds sailing majestically on the lake. And wonder of wonders, the three swans, for that is what they were, said "come and join us" but he says "I couldn't. I'm only an ugly duckling. I have no friends and I'm no use. Please kill me and put me out of my misery". And the three swans say "what do you mean "no use". You are beautiful and you are one of us. Look at yourself in the water. And the ugly duckling looked in the mirror water and saw himself for the first time as he really was graceful, white, and beautiful. He said "is that really me?" "You're a swan", they said come and join us. And his heart beat very fast with excitement and he was so happy that he almost did not dare breathe.

Do you think you'd ever look at yourself in wonder like that and ask what am I? - And hear a voice which says, "You're one of us come and join us". And would your heart beat very fast with excitement and would you be so happy that you almost would not dare breathe? Anyway, you don't, and neither do I, and yet if we really understood our Baptism, if we really looked into the waters of Baptism and saw who we really are, we would give thanks and breathlessly. For that is the first meaning of Baptism. It's the voice of God saying: "You're one of us, you're made in my image, you look like me. You're not an ugly duckling. You're a swan. I love you. Come and join us.

Mons. Waldron pointed out that Baptism was like going into a house where they make you welcome, God's arms are open wide to welcome us into the family of God, into the light and love and life of the three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

"Come on in says God, make yourself at home, this place wouldn't be the same without you". And God means every word of it. So Baptism is the end of exile, it is also the beginning of a new life,

a new person, a new identity. It was only when the ugly duckling looked in the water that he saw himself in all his reality and possibility. It is only when we look into the water of Baptism that we see who we really are, sees the person God loves and dreams of- the possible you not the impossible you, the possible you meant for eternity, the you who can reflect God, you kind, you forgiving, you generous, you merciful, you thanking. "Come and join us" said the three swans, "you're one of us".

Farther PJ

Ratoath College Parents' Association

It is with great pleasure that I write this short piece for the second Ratoath College school magazine. Since the first publication the pupils have taken up residence in their magnificent new college building at Jamestown.

The Parents' Association is a vital component of our College. This effectively means the Parents' Association works with the Principal, Deputy Principal, staff and Board of Management to build an effective partnership between home and school. The Association is involved in the development of school policies and it also has two representatives on the Ratoath College Board of Management. We also help to promote and support the role of parents as the prime educators of their children. It gives parents an opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas on the education of their children and issues within the school community.

One of the ways that Ratoath College Parents' Association has tried to achieve this in the past is by providing 'talk nights', which have embraced a variety of speakers and topics. Some of the guest speakers we've had to the College to date are Mr John Lonergan, (Governor of Mountjoy Prison), Community Garda Colm Curran and Mr. Neil O'Brien, a life coach who spoke about the value of self worth for ourselves and our children. We would hope to organise more 'talk nights' in the future and would encourage all of the parents of Ratoath College to support us by attending.

The Parents' Association provides a wonderful support system to help us all navigate the challenges of our children's passage through adolescence. I encourage us all to participate in the activities being run by the Parents' Association over the coming years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our former Deputy Principal Mr. Anthony Malone for all his help and hard work which he provided to Ratoath College and to wish him continued success in his career.

On behalf of all parents, I want to thank everyone at Ratoath College that contributes to the outstanding educational experience available to our sons and daughters. I want to pay particular tribute to our principal Máire Ni Bhróithe, our new deputy principal Oonagh Prendergast and the teaching staff whose continued energy and commitment makes such a difference.

Barbara Fennessy
Chairperson, Ratoath College Parents' Association
March 2008

Mol an Óige

The school motto for Ratoath College is Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh Sí. This means praise the young and they will succeed. As a student I definitely feel that every teacher in Ratoath College embraces this on a daily basis. As a result, all students have great enthusiasm for what they are doing whether it is sporting achievements, academic or extra curricular. Students are always recognised for their talents. This can be in class or at assembly. We have Student of the Month awards every month. This is when three students are nominated by their Caomhnoir and a winner is then chosen. The winner then receives a certificate which is designed by one of our students.

Every student has a Dialann and in it there is a comments section for your teachers in the different subjects to write very positive comments. This can be for good homework, a test result or excellent behaviour.

There are two main award ceremonies held each year. The awards are for Academic, Cultural, Sporting achievements, full attendance and Spiorad an Choláiste!

There is a great relationship between teachers and students and everyone gets along and respects one another.

When I began secondary school, going into 1st year, I myself felt very, very welcome. After one week I immediately settled in and most certainly did not feel like a visitor.

The teachers of Ratoath College really do take an interest in all students and as a result there is a wonderful atmosphere all around the school.

By Eoin Joyce

Student Council

Ratoath College's student council is a select amount of students, voted by their peers (that's you) to be in an important position in the school. The student council concerns itself with student problems, and we will give student solutions. Student Councils' one concern is the happiness and safety of every student in the school. This means we deal with a lot of issues, like bullying, exclusion, or if one of the school policies is not fair to all students.

But not everything can be solved with weekly meetings, and you have every right to not want to share your problem with the whole school. You can approach any student council member with any query, problem or suggestion, or indeed anything we can help with. Usually, we will be wearing badges. Here is a list of our members: Ethan Barker, Shane Williams, Colin Fennessey, Laura Stockwell, Sean Cooling, Mark Darmody, Cathal Donnelly,



Some of the lucky recipients of awards at christmas prize giving ceremony



Students receive awards from their caomhnoir. Nuala Ní Mhurchú & Bryan McMahon, Derek Ball & Donal O' Connor, Eric Hannon & Aoife Kavanagh, Dave Nelson & Amy Simpson.



Our Student Council who give our students a voice!

Mark Farrington, Lauren Maguire, John Crofton, Shannon McConway, Brian Power, Gemma Baggett, Brianna Nolan, Shannon Fagan.

We are happy to help anyone at anytime, so don't hesitate to ask us for help!

By Mark Farrington and Ethan Barker.



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Memories of Fairyhouse

The Walk

Last year, an extremely memorable journey took place. It has come to be known as The Walk. To be more specific, it was the walk from Fairyhouse Racecourse to our current home in Jamestown. The whole school set off from the beloved racecourse to the state-of-the-art new building that awaited us. However, we were not alone. The Garda Band walked along side us playing spectacularly inspirational music! Here is what one student had to say:

“It felt great showing our school pride. I was one of the students holding up the Redefining Art group’s banner, and it was as if we were showing our talent and achievements to the whole village”

Although that banner was truly wonderful, it was not on its own. Two representatives from each class held up a banner for their Caomhnóir group. Another student said:

“It really made me feel like a part of the village as we walked through it. I thought it was really inspirational, it felt like we could do anything”

A truly momentous occasion, my favourite part was all of the residents coming out of their homes to wave to and encourage us on our spiritual journey as well as our physical one! Nothing was more empowering than almost the entire village of Ratoath, young and old, supporting our beloved school, as a sea of red jumpers poured through the area.

The thing that made it all, though, was stopping by the old primary school building, for most of us, this brought memories back, especially as the future students of Ratoath College joined us on The Walk. There was also a small amount of refreshments there and I think that is exactly what some of us needed!

The crest and uniform of our school seemed to shine out even more than usual that day, as the words Mol an Óige were spoken



Chairperson of our Board of Management, Nick Killian is seen here planting a tree which he presented to the school on our first day in Jamestown.

with pride around the village.

When we got to Jamestown, our crowd was considerably larger as there were teachers and principals from both schools, parents and siblings, all of the students from Ratoath College and Ratoath Primary school, not to mention the Garda Band, Mary Wallace and Nick Killian.

I, for one, found school pride at its strongest that day, as we listened to speeches from parents, principals and politicians. It was, surely, a day I will never forget!

By Ethan Barker

From Fairyhouse to Jamestown. A walk filled with emotions by all those who participated.



Farewell Mr. Malone

Mr Malone has been a major part of our school, in a way he was like part of the foundations of Ratoath College. He is a man who would go to any length to help you. He is an inspiration, a man who brought an enormous presence of joy, confidence and who made teaching and learning fun. He is confident, fun, fair and he has right-judgement. He is the ideal teacher, he knows how to make a class enjoy the subject and even though he only taught history, English and C.S.P.E, I'd say he could have taught any subject in a way that made the subject enjoyable. This fun in teaching is a great quality that he has.

When some of the second and third years heard that Mr. Malone was leaving we were shocked and surprised. We thought he was going to stay for a long time, for he looked so happy where he was. Many of us were sad and upset that he was leaving to go to Maynooth College. When I went to Maynooth College for a two day student leadership course with Mr. Malone and Ms. Ní Bhroíte I could see that the College meant a lot to him. He told us stories about the college and he knew the grounds of the college so well. He said he had spent some of the best years of his life in this college, so when I heard he was going to work in Maynooth I was happy that he was going to share his experience and teach others I knew he would do a great job and that he would also enjoy this new job very much.

On the day of Mr. Malone's departure there was a great sadness throughout the school and every single person was sad even the



Mr Malone with some of the Third year girls.

first years who only knew him for a few weeks. It was the second and third years who had the privilege of knowing him for a year, and I think it was harder for us to see him go. For the staff it was also hard to see him go, he had been good friends with so many of his colleagues. It was hardest of all on Ms. Ní Bhroíte who had to find a replacement who had to fill very big shoes, and that person was our new Deputy Principal Ms. Prendergast.

The whole school gathered in the hall for the ceremony. Before he went he said a few words that I think touched everybody's heart. We had presents for him which was a Liverpool jersey and a Dublin jersey. Our loss is Maynooth College's gain. We all hope the students there are as good as we were, for we all care for him. We all wish him well in his new job and we hope his future is bright

For the first years it has been a great couple of weeks but for the second and third years I know it has been a great couple of years. We are all going to miss him very much and we hope he does very well in Maynooth.

By Hugh Daly and Darragh O Connor

Fairyhouse Poem

Fairyhouse
When we first heard
We were shocked.
What would these kids bring upon us?
What would the world think of a school?
Who studied English in the arkle room?!
What if they screamed and keyed our cars?
What if they took what was ours?
A 10ft regulations list put in place
The strange thing is we still didn't feel safe.

They didn't.
It was unusual, we all agreed
But these kids felt no need.
Before ours eyes the racecourse changed
From school
To
Racecourse
And back again.

We began to love the toll of the bell.
We would hear
Laughter, chatter,
See one colour
Bright red.
For the first time in a long time, Fairyhouse
Was more then a racecourse
More then a school
It was alive- everyday.
We watched them laugh, play, study, create.

Run the racecourse, cross the bridge.
In the restaurant, the healthy lunch-
No curry chips for this bunch.

They left.
With a garda band, bright coloured banners
And a sea of red.

No more do they come.
Yet
We can still hear the toll of the bell.
The laughter, the chatter.
The ghost of their footfalls on the stairs.
The maths class are still in room four.
We stop to hear the bell; it will never come.

The ghost of a school is still here; will always be
here.
With every old red jacket and sock we find
We are reminded of the loneliness they left behind.

By Amy Brady

The Opening Night

The opening night for the first years who will be joining us in September 2008 was on the 28th of January. It was our first opening night of many more to come, to be held in our brand new school here in Jamestown. It was a brilliant night and a great success, with both students and teachers enjoying the night.

We had 243 students from our new first year and our current second year helping out on the night. We displayed the work we had done in each of our subjects. This consisted of posters, projects, equipment we had used and much more! We also had a new addition to the subjects in Ratoath College as this year we were lucky to get Mr. Hannon, who teaches metalwork, computers and technical graphics. Next year the incoming first years will have a choice of doing metalwork. Also next year there will be a choice of, French, Italian or German. We currently have brilliant French teachers such as Ms Hitillambeau, Ms. O' Dwyer and Ms. Cullen who also teaches Italian, but this year we were lucky to get Ms. Ryan who currently teaches Geography but will be also teaching German to the incoming first years. We had students as guides who gave a tour of the new school to the parents of our future students. They got to go into each subject room and they got to see exactly what the subject was about, the work we had done and they also got to meet the staff of Ratoath College. The main rooms the incoming students were interested in were the option subjects which are their own two choices of subjects. Science and Home Economics were among the favourites of the night. The science lab had numerous fun experiments in which the incoming first years could interact with. The home economics room had delicious cakes and other foods cooking.

We had pictures of the 2007 French exchange and trip to Paris displayed on the plasma flat screened television in the main area. We gave out a quiz to the visitors which in order to complete, they had to go around all the rooms and answer the questions on that subject. The prizes were great! On the night we had fantastic entertainment from both the choir and the traditional Irish group. The choir which was led by Ms. Cullen produced great songs, and the traditional Irish group which was led by Ms. O' Dwyer and Ms. Kilraine played many fantastic jigs, reels and polkas.

In all the night was great fun for the students, the staff and the visitors. Everyone enjoyed the night and hopefully we can produce another magnificent opening night next year.

By Darragh O Connor

Our New School

The colourful lights
The bare brick walls
The rusty balconies
The busy halls

The lime green ceiling
The shiny floor
The golden number
On every door

The science labs
Home ec. room too
Everything in them
Is clean and new
Lockers

Lots of lockers
Standing tall
Knock one down
They all might fall

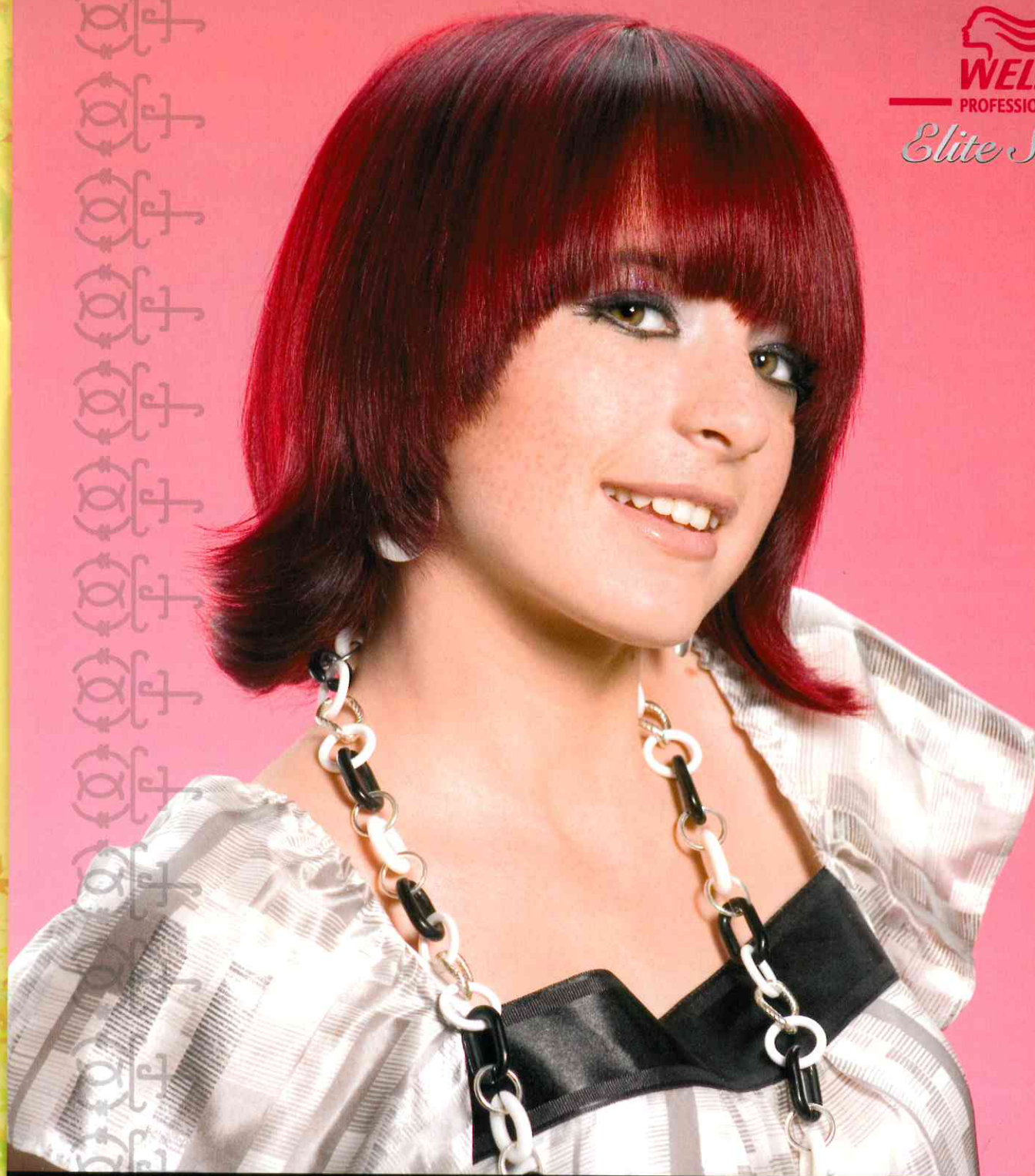
By Sarah Healy



The English department getting ready for the for our first subject inspection in Ratoath college.



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School Trips

CSPE Trip to the D.S.P.C.A.

We started studying animal rights and decided to undertake an action project on it. We set out to form the committees to do different jobs which were the following.

Transport-Sarah Healy, Claire Keenan, Cheryl Kiely they had to organise the bus and collect the money, which cost 12 euro including a donation to the animal shelter.

Permission committee- Colm O'Riordan, Eamon Wallace, Rebecca Lawless they had to get permission from the teachers and principal and parents so we could go on the trip.

Co-ordinating committee- Samantha Mulvey and Adam Walsh they had to organise the schedule of the trip and list everyone's jobs.

Enquiry committee- Lauren, Shannon, they had to ask the shelter if it was ok to go to the shelter and they also found out what to wear and what time to be there.

Research committee- Patrick Eiffe and William Geraghty they had to look up the internet to see what we were going to see and what to expect.

Personnel committee- Luke Stowe and Ciaran O'Connor they had to do a check list for the buses and see how many were going and to do the roll for the day. Reporting committee- Alicia Law and Katie they had to write an article on the trip and type up the facts that we got on the day.

Thank You committee- Claire McLoughlin and Zoe Lynch they had to make a thank you card and give flowers to our guide and also made a speech.

The Photo committee- Adam Doyle and Aaron Crosbie had to take photos of the trip and display them afterwards.

The Question committee had to ask questions on the day and then had to record them after.

We got on the bus at 9.15am and it took us one hour to get to the shelter in Rathfarnham getting there at 10.15am. We then went into the lecture room, where we listened to the woman telling us about the animals and the cruelty to them and the question committee asked their questions. She told us about some of the horrific stories about some of the serious incidents of cruelty to animals. We also watched a video outlining the main effects of cruelty. At 11 we got shown around the animal shelter seeing 40% of the animals because the rest were in operations. We mainly saw cats and dogs and geese, goats, birds, hens, Shetlands, and many more. It was very interesting, after that we went back to the lecture room for lunch until 1.30pm and then headed home. Before we left, we gave a presentation to the animal shelter of the money we raised for them and a thank-you gift to our guide. We were also given pictures of the four lovely animals we sponsored. (Damien the Cat, Buster the Dog, George the Donkey, and Sage and Onion the Turkeys)



Rang Brennan and Cullen at the DSCPA outing.

I thought it was a great project to undertake because it was very interesting to hear how some people treat their animals. It also makes you think about animal rights. Some of the animals we saw were really badly treated which will always happen in our society unfortunately. However I feel that the more people that are educated about it, the less likely animal cruelty will happen in the future.

By Alicia Law

School Trip

Ratoath College has had many brilliant school trips such as Paris over the years.

Ratoath College has been open for nearly three years. All of its students work very hard and our teachers recognise our hard work. We were awarded through student of the month but I have to say school trips are our best reward. First years are heading off to Milan and Venice in Italy. Wait! Can you believe it? China for next years fifth year class. Now that is what you call spoilt! Who knows? If the third years are going to China try and imagine where the second years will go when they are in third year or where the first years will go when they are in third year.

There are so many different places to go and learn from on school trips. Don't forget when you are on a foreign trip you'll pick up a bit of the spoken language and you will learn about the country's culture and the country's lifestyle. It opens up our mind so much.

Who knows maybe our teachers will take us to Lapland? I wouldn't be surprised.

By Cian Mc Evoy



Barry Carr, William Ross, Colin Fenessey, Gavin Eiffe and Cian O'Brien at the ice rink in Dundalk.

Ratoath College Traditional Music Group

The trad music group was started last year with Ms. O'Dwyer and has continued this year with Ms. Kilraine also helping out. We have most of the members that played last year and also a good number of new members have joined since September, with a good mixture of fiddles, flutes, whistles, concertinas, guitar and uilleann pipes. Many of our members are experienced in traditional music but we also have some students that are taking it up for the first time! We have been having group practices at least once a week at lunchtimes as well as some individual lessons for the beginners. The trad group have been working very hard on a variety of pieces from Planxties by O'Carolan to lively jigs and polkas and they put on fantastic performances at this years' talent show, award ceremonies and the open evening. They have also performed for visitors, such as the French exchange students and played for occasions such as Seachtain na Gaeilge. Ms. Kilraine and Ms. O'Dwyer would like to commend them for the commitment they have shown in giving up their free time; we're very proud of the progress they have made. Thanks also to any parents of these students who are supervising practice at home.

Members of trad group: Amber Higgins, Sophie Ryan, Niamh Corrigan, Megan Witter-Nolan, Kevin Finnegan, Andrew Checkley, Anna Brennan, Lauren Marlowe, Rachel Stowe, Liam Hayes, Sarah Healy, Laura Gribben, Niall Hayes, Jqiao Wei Chen, Connie Crowe, Tuan O'Carroll

School Calender

This year Ms. Hynes came up with a great idea of having our very own School Calendar. With the help of the Media Club we produced a personalised calendar which featured every class in the school for one particular month. The winning picture was picked by Ms. Hynes and this class made it on to the front cover of the Calendar, well done Rang Hitillambeau! Classes came up with some great ideas for example, Rang Kelly covered themselves with leaves to represent Autumn and Rang Nelson did a wonderful December picture with Mr. Nelson even dressing up

as Santa, we thought you looked great Mr. Nelson! Rang McNally made us all quite jealous when they all dressed up for June, in their summer outfits and beach towels. We hope to do it again next year where only the best pictures will make it onto the 2009 calendar. A big thank-you to Ms. Hynes and Amy Brady who put a lot of work into this project.

By Conor Davis



The Trad Group, proud to be Irish

Re-defining Art Group

The Re-defining Art Group was set up by Ms. Hynes and Ms. Hitillambeau in 2007. This is an exciting and dynamic group who are eager to make Ratoath College look its best with art work. The group are presently working on designing a visual display for the main entrance of the school. This 'Welcoming Display' will catch the attention of every visitor to Ratoath College and will greet them in many different languages. Students from other countries in this school will also be represented by their country's flag and we hope to add to the collection of flags for many years to come. Ratoath College prides itself as being an inclusive school and we hope our 'Welcoming Display' will highlight this fact. The Redefining Art Group are very excited about our new project and hope it will be another great success! Kristiana Strujevica (Redefining Art Group)

By Kristiana Strujevica

Mini Marathon

Preparations are well underway again for this years "Women's Mini Marathon". Last year Ms. Hynes organised a group of athletic students and even more athletic teachers to be the first group from Ratoath College to run the Marathon. Our group made it to the finishing line in record time and everyone finished within 1 hour 10mins. This year we have a very enthusiastic and sporty group who are training hard and hope to run the 10k in under an hour. Best of luck girls! We all raise a lot of money for the "Niall Mellon Township Trust". The Niall Mellon Township Trust was established in 2002 to provide homes to the impoverished communities in the townships in South Africa. Their Building Blitz in 2007 took place in Freedom Park. This beautifully named township is near Tafelsig in Mitchell's Plain, around

40 kms from the city of Cape Town. The charity has promised to build 493 homes for the community who live here. In the Blitz week, 1,350 volunteers completed a staggering 203 houses in just one week.



Our Mini Marathon Runners posing proudly.

New Subject

MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY METAL (METALWORK)

is a new subject to Ratoath College. Fourteen students are currently studying this subject in the school and we will have a new class of metalwork students in the new academic year of 2008/2009.



Whats the subject about?!

- This is a subject that sixth class students can choose to complete for the junior certificate. This subject gives pupils an opportunity to work with a range of metals and plastics in a safe workshop and design environment.
- The main focus of the subject is to develop practical skills which they can carry forward and develop further in later life. Projects include keyrings, jewellery, toy cars, clocks, mobile phone holders and door locks.
- Group work is encouraged where students work together to investigate and design so to solve specific real-life tasks.
- In 3rd Year, students design and manufacture their own artefact as part of the Junior Certificate Examination.
- Materials Technology Metal can be seen as an excellent base for students who wish to peruse careers as engineers, interior designers, architects, mechanics, artists and designers in general.

This subject produces the skills to craft metal into accurate as well as artistic pieces. Real life examples of this craft can be seen on the hit show "American Choppers" where the craftsmen fabricate amazing motorcycles using both basic and high tech machinery.

By Eric Hannon

Ratoath College Library

The grand opening of the school took place on World Book day. Thursday 6 March. Mr. Peter Kierans, the C.E.O. of Meath VEC attended, aswell as Grainne Lowe from Ratoath Bookshop who donated €350 worth of books to the library. Ms. NiMhurchu, Ms. Prendergast and Ms Ní Bhróithe also attended and Fr. PJ gave the library a blessing.

Students crowded in to avail of the opportunity to borrow from the library (nothing to do with availability of orange juice and biscuits). Ruth McLoughlin of Rang White was the first to borrow a book!! The Student Library Group are in the process of making the library a peaceful haven from the madness of school life! Plans include wall murals; a chill out corner complete with magazines and periodicals,



a reference section...the list goes on! The group plan to visit Kings Hospital School in April where they can see how other school libraries are run. All in all the future looks very bright for Ratoath College library.

By Ann Daly

Ms. Daly and the Library Committee

The Grub Club

The Grub club is a club that is held after school on some Wednesdays. It goes on until 5 o' clock. It is a really good club especially for people who don't do Home Economics because then they get a chance to learn how to cook. Miss White, our Home Economics and Religion teacher, very kindly gives up her free time to run this class. There are about ten students in the Grub club. We have cooked a lot of tasty food like biscuits, buns, chocolate chip scones and loads more. In the near future we will be cooking food like burgers, chocolate cake and Smoothies. We even cook for special occasions. For Christmas we made these festive biscuits decorated in star, angel and Christmas tree shapes and then covered them in colourful icing. The grub club is highly recommended. Hopefully next year it will still be running.

By Eva Rowen and Dubheasa Lawlor

Charities

Jersey Day

Well what can I say - it was the best Jersey Day I've ever seen. The amount of different jerseys were amazing! There were Rugby, Gaelic, Soccer, Aussie Rules and for some reason American basketball (not Irish!) jerseys. There were also the international jerseys. Ms. Hitillambeau was wearing a Spanish jersey! Fr. PJ was wearing a Mayo jersey, and Mr. O'Hare was wearing a Meath and Dublin jersey. This year's Jersey Day winner was Conor Hughes wearing a Monaghan jersey. Overall it was a great day and a break from the uniform. Of course Mr. O'Hare organised this for charity. We made alot of money and had great fun at the same time.

Operation Christmas Child

By Hugh Daly

Yet again Ratoath college took part in Operation Christmas Child. It is an organisation that was set up to give poor children all over the world something for Christmas. Our aim this year was 450 shoe boxes and we got 200 boxes. We will do better next year!

Students got ideas and information from their teachers and friends. The teachers were very helpful if you needed help in



Ms Sweeney and Conor Hughes winner of the Jersey Day

any way! When some people didn't know what to put in the box they used ideas from their friends. The shoe boxes go to children all around the world who don't get any Christmas gifts but only the shoe box sent from you!!!!

Imagine how excited you could make a poor child feel if you just filled a small box with little gifts! It was a great success for our school and we are all looking forward to doing it next year!!!

By Amy Battersby

Teachers Interview



Miss Prendergast

What age are you?
I'm over 25!

What is your pet hate?
Litter.

What is it like being the Deputy Principal?
It's a great job and it's very rewarding! You do all sorts of different things and never the same two days in a row.

Did you ever get the cane at

school?

No. Oh actually I did yes. It was a bamboo stick.

What do you do at weekends?

I do housework, I play golf and I relax!

Any Deep Dark Secrets?

“Loads of them!”

What was your childhood ambition?

To be a teacher.

If you had two wishes, what would they be?

- 1) That I would ski for Ireland in the Olympics
- 2) That the students of Ratoath College would not leave any litter lying around anywhere

What's the weirdest food you have ever eaten?

Worms and they were absolutely disgusting!

If you could be one person for a day, who would you be?

Mmmmm... That's a tough one... I would be Michael Shumaker

What is your biggest obsession?

Definitely skiing!

What has been your most embarrassing moment?

It's too embarrassing to discuss?

If you won the lotto, what would you buy?

A chalet in the Swiss Alps.

Who is your favourite teacher at our school?

Too impossible to choose!

What do you think of our school in comparison to your old school?

Ratoath College is out on its own. This school is an excellent school and I'm most impressed by the good manners and excellent behaviour of our students!

By Conor Davis



Ms. Prendergast with Luke Ennis modeling the new school uniform.

Miss Kelly



What school did you teach in before?

Colaiste Eoin Finglas for 9yrs

What do you think of your class?

Great, spirited, hardworking and motivated

What do you think of Ratoath College?

Fab facilities, better students, great sense of community

What made you become a teacher?

June, July and August of course!

What's your favorite car?

Porsche!

What is it like to have a brother in the premiership?

Handy when looking for tickets.!

What is your ambition in life?

“To continue to be happy and
WORLD DOMINATION!”

What has been your most embarrassing moment?

Walked into a glass panel door at a wedding!

If you were to be anyone who would it be?

Oprah Winfrey- Lady O

What's your best experience in life so far?

Becoming a mum

What's your biggest fear?

Moths

Who is the best looking fella in the staff room?

They're all such studs!

What's most annoys you?

People who litter

What age are you

On the good side of 30!

What do you do on weekends?

A. Spend time with my family and watch trashy TV i.e.: X- factor and Americas Next Top Model!

If you won the lotto what would you spend it on?

Buy a New Ireland manger ha ha ha!

What is your wildest fantasy?

To travel the world

If you had one wish what would it be?

Have a self cleaning house!

What's your favourite holiday?

Italy

Where would you like to live?

Italy, on the coast

By Jake Colfer and Darragh O' Connor



Creating a Master Piece

Our Masks...



With the first year art class we embraced the autumnal festivities, by investigating and exploring masks with a view to creating our own. We researched north American tribes and how they used masks as a form of worshipping the gods as they called on their spirits to pour down good weather and excellent harvest.

The North American masks were varied in their style and decorative features but we learnt that pattern and both relief clay work and carving were used to great effect.



Using all our new found information, we went about creating our own designs based on the masks we had investigated. Students explored and manipulated the clay and learnt all the various techniques which are used to create 3d art. After a lot of effort the first years finally got them finished and produced a beautiful display of masks. Ms Judge and I had to pick one winner from each class and these were Jasmine and Reineil. Well done to one and all for a project well done!



Freddy Kavanagh, Robert Noonan, Danny Ennis, Kate Carr, Amy Simpson and Danielle Gannon showing off their masks.



A Splendid Feast!

Everybody loves food and so it was with this in mind that we decided to use it as our theme for a clay project. We looked at images of a wide range of foods which appeal to us, both sweet and savoury, and discussed what made the presentation of the food attractive as a visual image. Strong colour, details, and contrast were observed as important elements. The plate on which the food was presented was seen as being vital in communicating more about the food, or the sense of occasion around it.

With this in mind 2nd year students investigated food through pencil and colour studies culminating in one finished design which was to be rendered in clay, life size, and had to include a clay plate.

As you can imagine this required a lot of skill and hard work but they rose to the challenge fantastically.

After around 6 weeks we were able to produce a table laden with delicious delights which continued to make us hungry each time we looked at them.

A big well done to the 2nd years for their effort and diligence, plenty of talent there!

Denise Kierans



These artworks looked like they are taken from Willy Wonka's Factory



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge took place in the school the week before the Easter holidays and bhí go leor spórt agus spraoi againn. A competition took place for 1st and 2nd years for designing the best posters to decorate the school for the week. There were many excellent entries which were commended but the overall winners were in 3rd place Grace Cunningham, Meghan Whitter-Nolan in 2nd place and Aoife Tomkins in 1st place.



Kiera Egan, Katie Kinsella, Lauren Maguire, Katie O' Reilly & Rebecca Scott having the craic at the Ceili.

Dé Luain, the comórtas began for all students for Cainteoir na Seachtaine (speaker of the week) with students who made big efforts to speak Gaeilge around the school being given special slips. Those students with the most slips at the end of the week were Claire Mooney (3rd), Clíona Grall (2nd) and Ciaran Tierney (1st), who received their duaiseanna (prizes) on Friday.

Tuesday saw the Tráth na gCeist (Table Quiz) for 2nd years. In a close few rounds, great fun was had by all and the prizes went to two teams that were super-cliste on the day.

A pictiúrlann was set up in the library in order to show some great short films as Gaeilge to all years during various lunch breaks, including 'Yu Ming is Ainm Dom', 'Lip Service' and 'Iníon an Fhiaclóra'.

Déardaoin saw the arrival of the scéalaí Seosamh Ó Maolaile, who thrilled first years with stories and riddles as Gaeilge agus as Béarla. The afternoon was enjoyed by all present.

After several practice classes in Céilí dancing Thursday night arrived, bringing with it the Céilí Mór, the highlight of Seachtain na Gaeilge. Joined by our visiting French exchange students on their last night, students arrived decked out in some fabulous bréig éadaí (fancy dress). With the gym brightly decorated and Mark Darmody in charge of the sound system a night of dancing and fun was had. En-



Our students during the Ceili in action

ertainment was provided by Colm and Seoirse with a fantastic display of Rince at the interval. Winners of the fancy dress competition were rewarded with Easter eggs while several of our best dancers enjoyed spot prizes.

Seachtain na Gaeilge ended with a prize-giving ceremony and a Bricfeasta Mór for all staff and students at the



Ms. Kilrane, who organised this successful event and Helena Malone and Shannon Fagan. Michael Flatley can go back to the dressing room.



small break where a feast of scones, ispíní and juice were a fitting end to a great week.

Míle buíochas from Ms. Kilrane and Roinn na Gaeilge to all of the staff who helped make the week a success and comhghairdeas (congrats) to all the prize-winners!

By Aimee King



La Semaine Française

The last week in January was 'French Week' or in French 'La Semaine Française'. Every year for one week we have a French cultural week where we participate in French related activities such as French quizzes, French movies and a French speaking competition, where students receive slips for talking French. When the students receive a slip they put it into a box and from there the teachers pull out a winner. We also have our French breakfast which consists of the whole school receiving croissants, pain au chocolats and juice. We are very lucky to receive a French drama which came into the school last year and this year, all thanks to one of the French teachers Ms. Hitillambeau. The play is performed completely in French and it is performed in a way that lets the students interact and learn French in a fun environment. Some students are selected to take small roles in the play. In all, French week is a fun and educational week that lets us learn French while having lots of fun. Here was the 2008 agenda.



Katie Kelly franchising herself and one of the French actors.

Monday 21-01-08 was the start of this year's 'La Semaine Française'. We were given announcements from the French staff Ms. Hitillambeau, Ms. Cullen and Ms. O' Dwyer and also announcements from one of our first year students Ian Marron, who lived in France for four years and who can speak the language fluently. On Monday we had the qualifying French quiz in each class to see who would make it to the final on Wednesday and we also had French programmes showing during big-break.

On Tuesday we had French movies again during big-break and many people were involved in poster making for the 'Opening Night' which took place on Monday 28-01-08. Many people were also busy making French posters for the French poster competition.

On Wednesday the finals of the French quiz took place during big-break. Many of the teams had good a knowledge of French culture. Taking part in the final were last years reigning champions 'Team Hitillambeau'. The team consisted of Darragh O' Connor, Michael Santillion, Michael O' Brien and Jake Colfer. The winners for the second year in a row were Team Hitillambeau.

On Thursday there was the French drama. The same actors as last year came to our school to perform another brilliant French drama. Again a select few students got to take part in the drama. The drama used French that some second years and even some first years could understand. It was a brilliant day and a good way to learn French. It was all thanks to one of our brilliant

French teachers Ms. Hitillambeau.

Friday was the last day of 'La Semaine Française'. We started off the day with the 'La Semaine Française' award ceremony. There were awards for the best French actors which were awarded to Mark Farrington from Rang Hitillambeau and Conor Hughes from Rang Mc Nally. The poster competition was won by Ting Lok Chang from Rang Kelly. The French quiz which took place on the Wednesday was won by Rang Hitillambeau for the second year in a row. The team consisted of Darragh O' Connor, Michael Santillion, Michael O' Brien and Jake Colfer. Also Friday was the day of the French breakfast. The whole school got to have French breakfast which consisted of croissants, pain aux chocolats and juice.

This year's French week or 'La Semaine Française' was bigger and better than ever. The whole school enjoyed a week full of French speaking, quizzes, movies, posters, the French breakfast and the brilliant drama.

I hope everyone enjoyed this year's French week and that we can have an even better one next year!

By Darragh O Connor



Richard Greer Trying his acting skills and another French actress.

The Franco-Irish Exchange

Last June I travelled to France with twenty of my fellow third year students for an exchange with our French pen pals who live in the north of France. We had been exchanging letters for the best part of the year before our trip to France. We were all very excited for our trip to France but still we were nervous because we did not know what to expect our French pen pals to be like. This in its own way added to the excitement and anticipation of meeting new people.

The French school held a welcoming party for our arrival, which was a good way in helping us to settle in. After saying goodbye to the other Irish students we went to the homes of our French pen pals. For the first night it was difficult to settle in because it was hard to understand what they were saying to me in French, as they speak very quickly. During the weekend we spent a lot of time with the family sightseeing and travelling so we got to know them very well.

We were treated to a surprise when we all met up in different places such as the market. This was fun because we got to discuss with other Irish students about our houses, friends, families and all the wonderful things we had done over the weekend. Monday morning was a shock for us all as we were introduced to the French school routine. I woke up at seven o'clock every morning during the week and had breakfast,



Clare Lawless and her French Penpal Melanie on their way to Slane

which was good for me because I was introduced to the French cuisine. For example baguettes: croissants, petit-pains and much more.

After this my French pen pal and I took the local school bus to school, this was a very interesting experience for me as I had never taken a school bus to school before. In France we went on many trips with our French pen pals who came on every trip with us except for the last. We visited places such as coalmines near Lille, Cambrai famous sweet factory in France called 'Les Betises de Cambrai' and we went to see the city of Lille. The whole week was a fantastic experience and it was very sad to leave. I feel that I learned a lot from the exchange and my French improved immensely. I would highly recommend it to others.

The French return to Ireland

From the 7th-14th of March the French we had been expecting a visit from our French pen pals. When they arrived we greeted them with great hospitality of the school, the trad group, the teachers and parents who offered to serve drink and food at the welcoming. As we knew our French pen pals well it didn't take long for them to settle in and there was no awkward situations.

During the weekend it was up to our family to organise entertainment for our French pen pals. Many people had different activities planned but personally I brought my pen pal to Blanchard town shopping centre, the cinema, and bowling. Others went to places such as Howth and

Glendalough that gave a great variety to and a lot for the French to talk about. We met up together in small groups in each other's houses or sometimes in housing estates.

On Monday morning the French students were introduced to our school routine and the type of food we eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner. For example: bacon, sausages, cereal, toast, coddle, and steak, stew, Sunday roasts. During the week French students had many trips organised. Although our French teachers tried their best, unfortunately we were not allowed to go on any trips with them except for the trip to Trim castle and Slane Hill. We really enjoyed that trip but it was very disappointing that we couldn't sight see more with them.

The whole week was very enjoyable and there was a great bond formed between the French and Irish students. On the final day, it was very sad to see them leave. We all said a very quick goodbye outside the school before being whisked off to assembly. Although from both schools point of view the exchange is finished but because of the great friendship that we had we will be persistent in keeping in touch with our pen pals and we are all hoping that we will see them again in the very near future. All the Irish students feel that we have greatly benefited from the exchange and we are very thankful to Ms. Hitillambeau who organised it as well as Ms. Cullen and Ms. O' Dwyer. We are also thankful to other members of staff and parents who helped out during the week. We hope that this exchange will lead to many more exchanges in the future.

Grace Randles and Eric Lawless.



The Irish and French Students having some cultural fun at the Ceili.



The Franco-Irish Exchange Group of 2007 - 2008.

VERSEAS EXPERIENCE



Where I come from...

G'day here from Conor Davis. I am going to tell you all about the wonderful country Australia and where I came from within it.

Australia is a beautiful country which is located in the southern hemisphere. It is the only continent which consists of one country and is very popular for tourists all over the world. The most obvious thing most of you would know about Australia is of course the weather! The seasons in Australia are opposite to those in the Northern Hemisphere. That means Australia has its Christmas in mid-summer. Just think about having a traditional roast dinner in 40 degree heat. There are many different species of wildlife in Australia which are native including the kangaroo, the koala, the dingo, the Tasmanian devil, the emu, and many species of snakes as well.

I am the only member of my family who was born in Australia. My mother is Irish and my father and sister are English. So I am the only true blue Aussie!

The place where I lived in Australia was called Lisarow. It was a small suburb of the Central Coast region of New South Wales. It was mainly a residential area and contained a small railway station which I used to travel on. The main shopping area (Lisarow Plaza) contained a supermarket, a bank, a hairdresser, a dentist, a café, a take-away food, a restaurant and many other shops. It was a very rural area and I loved it there. Our house was very big and I miss it very much. We had a pool in our backyard which made it easier to enjoy the long restless nights of the scorching summer.



"So I am the only true blue Aussie!"

My school was called Lisarow High School. It was a very big school with about 1,500 students. School is very different over in Australia compared to Ireland. First of all the school day began at 8:30 and finished at 2:30. We had five classes a day which were an hour in length. Recess was at 10:40 which lasted for 20 minutes and lunch was at 1:00 and it lasted for 40 minutes. When I left my old school I was in year 9 (third year). The subjects year 9 studied were English, Maths, History, Geography, PE, Health (SPHE), Science and the subjects I studied as an elective were Food Technology and Business. The way the subjects worked were that the students of the year group were graded, for example each subject had classes from 1 to 8, 1 being the top class and 8 being the lowest class eg. 9S1 (Year 9, science, class no#2). Of course I was in the top class for every single subject! In years 7 and 8 we had a specific class which we would have all of our compulsory subjects with but we did not have a tutor, instead we had a teacher that marked the roll. Roll call was organised by the last letter of each of our names eg. A-C were a roll call group. This happened every morning. As you have probably noticed we didn't study any languages (Japanese in year 7), religion or CSPE.

We had three PE classes in two weeks which was a nightmare. Each year we had a swimming carnival, an athletics carnival and a cross country carnival. The timetable for year 9 went over a two week period unlike the Ratoath College timetable which is only for one week. Our uniform was a yellow short sleeved shirt, a brown jumper, a brown pair of shorts or trousers for the winter, and a pair of black or brown shoes. Our PE uniform was a yellow polo shirt, a pair of black basketball shorts, and a pair of runners of our choice. I really do miss school but luckily I am happy at my new school in Ratoath College.

Moving was very hard for me because it was the country to which I belonged and I had to leave all my friends behind. It was a very sad day and I still think about it quite regularly. Since I have moved to Ireland I have settled in very well and I have made many new friends. I am very happy at my school and I like all of my teachers. I have been doing very well in school and I am pleased with my progress.

I would recommend to anyone to go to Australia on a holiday.

By Conor Davis



School in Malaysia

To talk about the school in Malaysia, we have to look back to the history of Malaysia. In the 3rd century BC, Indian traders came to Melaka to trade with the merchants from China. Since then, many Indians and Chinese settled in Malaysia.



There are different types of school in Malaysia-National schools, National high schools, National type schools, Vision schools, Private Schools, Mission schools and International Schools. I am going to tell you about the National type schools because I went to a National type school when I was small.

There are two types of National type school- Sekolah|Jenis Kebangsaan (SJK) for primary schools and Sekolah Menengah Jenis Kebangsaan (SMJK) for secondary schools. SJK is used for vernacular Chinese and Tamil primary schools. SMJK is only used for vernacular Chinese secondary schools because there are no vernacular Tamil secondary schools.

There are seven main subjects - Malay, Chinese or Tamil, English, Science, Maths, History and Geography in primary schools. At the end of primary education, students in national schools are required to undergo a standardized test known as the Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR) or Primary School Evaluation Test. The subjects tested are Malay comprehension, written Malay, English, Science, and Maths, Chinese or Tamil comprehension along with written Chinese or Tamil. There are no geography and history tests until you go to a secondary school. Most of the subjects are taught in Malay except maths, science, Chinese and English (of course they can't teach in Malay! How do you teach Chinese and English in Malay??!!)

When you go to a secondary school, you will take Penilaian Menengah Rendah (PMR) in 3rd year and Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) in 5th year. There are just like our junior cert and leaving cert. After your SPM, you can either studying 6th year or the matriculation. If you are accepted to continue studying 6th year, you will have to take the Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (A Level). It will take two years to study. After that, you can go to a college if you are accepted by the college.

By Jqiao Wei Chen

Holiday in Latvia

Recently I came back from my holidays in Latvia. I had to miss one week of school, but it was worth it!



As I come from there, it was great to go back for holidays and meet my family and especially my friends, who I missed a lot.

I went alone. My flight was on 29th December. The flight was calm and peaceful. We landed right before midnight, and my uncle already waited outside. The way from Riga to my hometown Kuldiga was three hours long, but really good fun.

The first week I was staying at one of my best friends Eva's house. She waited for me outside her house. It was the best feeling to see her after a half of a year! We talked in her room all night long.

The next day I met my other two best friends, we were just hugging, talking and hanging around in the town.

All week long I was just meeting my old friends in different parts of Latvia and partying around.

Of course, I celebrated the New Year with my friends. We were in Riga, in a place called "Black Friday". We watched the fireworks and listened to good music all night. I met new people all the time and it was just great! I met my grandparents, aunties and uncles. I was just driving around with my friends and having an amazing time with everyone.

It's fantastic to go home and meet the people I've missed. I always wish it would never end, but now I'm sitting in the school and just wishing that the summer would come faster!

I came back on 11th January and it's also great to come back to my friends here and get back to the nice and calm Irish people.

It was excellent time and I would give it 9 out of 10, because you can always see more, do more and have a better time.

By Kristiana Strujevica



Green Schools

This year we have a new committee in Ratoath College it is called:

“The Green Schools Committee”

Each class has two representatives and in one case three representatives. The aim for Green Schools is to make our school a cleaner place. At the end of the year we hope to receive a green schools flag for our efforts for helping the environment. We held a poster competition to raise awareness of global warming. We also studied stewardship in C.S.P.E and watched the movie “An Inconvenient Truth” made by Al Gore. Only recently have we put bins in the school and have bins for recyclable and non- recyclable items in the class. In the lunch area we have recyclable, non-recyclable and bottle bins. In every class we have a poster saying what can be recycled and what can't. We also remind our teachers to turn off the lights and pull down the blinds at the end of the day.

By Jake Colfer

So Be Green everybody.



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Sport in Ratoath College

Cross Country

Ratoath College travelled to Gormanstown College for the annual Meath Cross Country Championships which were held on September 26th last.

As we arrived to Gormanstown College everyone started to get very nervous as throngs of people started to arrive.

In some of the races there were well over 100 competitors. All the First Years found the going quite tough but there were some exceptional performances.

Second Year Girls won the Bronze medal in the team event with fine performances from Shannon McDonnell, Lisa Scally, Sarah Healy and Katie Kelly.

Second Year Boys: Saw a fantastic individual performance by a very talented athlete Eamon Wallace who finished in a very impressive 2nd place. He helped his team to also take the Bronze medal. Their team comprised of Eamon Wallace, Brian O' Connor, Karl Hynes and Aaron McDonnell.

Third Year Girls team finished in a very respectable second place the team comprising of Claire Lawless, Laura Wall, Lorna O. Ryan and Seoirse Mc Donnell.

Third Year Boys also won Silver Medals: Cian O' Brien, Gavin Eiffe, Mark Wiley and Colm Nugent.

A big well done to all. Training continues after school on Thursday's.

Looking forward to the track season which starts in April.

Ms. Brennan



The Athletics Team with their coach, Ms. Brennan

First Aid

Accidents happen and they can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any time, no matter how careful we are.

Most accidents and injuries happen in the home and even in Sports. Minor injuries can be quickly and safely treated at home with a little basic first aid knowledge.

Minor cuts and grazes

If the wound is dirty, clean it with an alcohol free wipe or rinse under slow running cold water. Usually you will only need to put a plaster over the wound but if the bleeding doesn't stop, lift the injured part above the level of the heart and apply pressure - don't touch the wound with your hand - and then cover it.

Toothache

For temporary relief before treatment at the dentist, a hot water bottle held against the face relieves the pain as does a pad of cotton wool soaked in oil of cloves against the tooth.

Minor burns and scalds

Burns are caused by dry heat, friction or electricity. Scalds are caused by moist heat such as steam or boiling water. Burns are classified by the depth or damage to the skin. There are three depths: superficial, partial thickness and full thickness.

For minor or superficial burns which have caused little more than reddening of the skin, hold the affected area under slowly running cold water for at least 10 minutes to calm the burn and soothe the pain. Cover the burn with a sterile dressing and bandage loosely. If a blister does form NEVER burst it or you could make it infected.

Stings and insect bites

Bee: If you can see the sting get rid of it by brushing it sideways with your fingernail - don't use tweezers as more poison might enter the wound. Then apply an ice pack.

Wasp: A wasp doesn't leave its sting in the wound, otherwise the treatment is the same as a bee sting.

Nettle: Rub the sting with a dock leaf as soon as possible. Aloe vera gel is excellent for soothing the sting.

Nose Bleeds

Get the patient to breathe through the mouth and sit down and lean forwards to prevent the blood going through their throat. Pinch the end of the nostrils. After 10 minutes release pressure.

Emergency Numbers

In case of a serious injury or emergency dial 112 (this number works everywhere in the EU)

By Sarah Healy

Sport in Ratoath College

Since the school was founded in September 2005, we have made strides in establishing Ratoath College as a force in sport in inter school competitions. We currently have teams representing the school in Gaelic football, basketball, hurling, soccer, pitch & putt and athletics.

Gaelic games are one of the more widely played sports in the school. We currently have eight teams that represent the school in the various inter school competitions and we also place an emphasis on Gaelic games in our PE programme. We currently provide Gaelic football & hurling for the boys and camogie & football for the girls. Our teams have regularly reached the play-off stages of the Leinster competitions but so far, we haven't reached the ultimate reward for our endeavours. Our numbers of students in some year groups are still quite small, but hopefully it won't be long before we can fill the school's trophy cabinet.

This year, our involvement in basketball has increased significantly due to the involvement of some dedicated teachers who have lent their expertise to basketball coaching. Their efforts have been further enhanced by the fact that we now have our very own school hall. Our second & third years can remember the days when we had to play outside in Fairyhouse with portable basketball nets!

We have been very successful in Leinster soccer competitions with the U14 team reaching the Leinster final in 2006 and the semi final in 2007. This was an outstanding achievement by such a small group of students who dedicated many evenings & mornings to training. This year, our first girls team was established and it is hoped that more girls & boys will take up playing soccer next year.

We have also been quick in establishing a strong tradition in athletics. We have competed in competitions within Meath at both track & field and cross country. We have also competed at the Leinster cross country championships and some of our teams have won medals.

This year saw our first time in competition at pitch & putt. One of our teams qualified for the Leinster final and performed very well. We hope to increase our students' involvement in pitch & putt next year.

We have been lucky over the last three years in establishing important links with the local sporting community. We are very lucky to have the use of the playing facilities in Ratoath GAA club and Ratoath Harps soccer club. We are indebted to these clubs for not only the use of their facilities, but also their kind sponsorships of sports equipment & Jerseys. We look forward to developing this all important relationship in the years to come. We have also had Ratoath Rugby club helping us with some coaching and we look forward to developing our links with the club in the future.

In Ratoath College, we realise that the importance of sport is about participation and the development of the student's holistic needs. We value the enjoyment that students get from participating in the games and encourage them in their efforts. We hope that all students will continue to get involved at some level during their time here in Ratoath College.

Ciaran O'Hare

Boys' U14 Gaelic Football

Boys' u14 Gaelic football started up this year with a fantastic win over rivals Ashbourne. This was the first time Ratoath College ever beat Ashbourne. Managers Mr Nelson and Fr. PJ picked a strong team to start the game.



U14 Gaelic Football

In the first half it all went according to plan with Ratoath having a big lead at half time. Ashbourne came out in the second half fired up and ready to put some points on the board. This is exactly what they did as they stormed out in the second half and put four goals into the back of the net.

Ratoath looked for inspiration on the bench but they all they could find was a Curragha man recovering from a broken wrist, so they just threw him on to see what he could do.

Good second half performances from Brian Power, Eamonn Wallace, Cian Carey and Johnny Clarke provided some power in attack. With a few extra points on the board, it was very tight coming into the last couple of minutes.

With only two minutes remaining Johnny Clarke scored a nice point which left Ratoath trailing by one point. It looked like Ratoath were heading for another defeat to Ashbourne but all of a sudden, Cian Carey picked up the ball, played an excellent ball through to Aaron McDonnell, which left him one on one with the goalkeeper, and he slotted home the winning goal.

It was an excellent performance from the whole team, especially Jack Wiley and Darran Mulvany which left encouragement for the Championship ahead.

The Championship started up nicely with a good win in Duggan against Trim. It was a freezing cold day and extremely windy; Tough conditions for a match. Ratoath proved better in the end and headed into the next game with a bundle of confidence.

But that bundle of confidence went bundling downhill as Ratoath were completely outclassed by Nobber. Nobber were extremely tough and up for the match as they beat Ratoath off the pitch with strength, pace and their annoying accents. Ratoath were under pressure now, needing to win to proceed to the next round. Ratoath were up for it, with minds on the game and a good attitude, while Ardee came out messing and laughing and not warming up properly.

Girls' U16 Gaelic Football 07/08

The match started well, with Eamonn Wallace and Conor Rooney getting a few points on the board early on, but the match then started to turn around as Ardee kept the ball in Ratoath's half for a long period of time, popping over a few scores and also getting a couple of goals.

At half time, Ratoath were trailing by over ten points and had to get their act together. A good team-talk from Fr. PJ sent Ratoath out revved up and looking to get back into the game. With nothing much changing in the second half, a substitution needed to be made, but once again all they could find on the bench was a Curragha man wearing Ratoath shorts.

It proved to be a good substitution as he managed to score two goals which put Ratoath right back in the game. Ratoath were playing with a spring in their step as they came within two points with a couple of minutes to go.

Ratoath caught Ardee on the break and Conor Rooney picked up the ball in the Ardee box, he flashed it across the goal and the keeper was left in "no man's land" as Aaron McDonnell was ready to tap the ball in for a Ratoath win and send them into the semi-final... but he missed!

Ratoath were sent on a long journey home with no semi-final place and the Ratoath College boys' U14 Gaelic football team could rest for another year before they come back with a bang.

By Brian O'Connor & Aaron McDonnell



U16 Gaelic Football

Boys' U16 Hurling Team 07/08

The Ratoath College under 16 Hurling team took part in a league in 2007. They trained a few times before they played Dunboyne community College away in Dunboyne. Things didn't go to plan though and we lost by a few scores and the performance wasn't too good. Over the next few weeks, we trained harder and by the time we played the next game, the training showed in our performance. We didn't win, but we played really well with an excellent second half and came close to beating Boyne Community School.

In the last game, we played St Pats of Navan. We played fairly well but St Pats proved to be too strong for them. Although we didn't qualify for the knock out stages, it was a fairly good improvement on the year before and hopefully will be even better next year.



Boys U16 Hurling Team

We would like to thank Mr O'Hare & Mr Bruton as they managed the team for the season. Roll on 2008!

By Conor Falvey

The U16's girls Gaelic football team have now had a team for the last two years and we've had many victories as a team. In 2007, we had our great coach and teacher Ms Sweeney who helped and guided us towards victory.

We played many teams but one of our most memorable matches was against Dunshaughlin. We were coached by Ms Kennedy and the laugh we had was unforgettable. Niamh Leonard and Grace Randles played very well that day.

We trained in the hall but one day we even trained in the car park! What better way to toughen us up than training in the car park where we learned our skills and tactics. This year, not many third years were able to play & train because of the junior cert but we'll all have great memories of the times on the football field representing Ratoath College.

By Lorna Osbourne Ryan

U16 Gaelic Football

It was another busy year for the U16 football team. After the last two years of most of our players getting increasingly bigger and stronger, we all knew that this year we were in with a big chance if we all played to our full potential. However we were drawn against a host of good teams with reputations in this competition. Despite this we caused a few upsets by knocking out some of the big names. But just as we all thought the team was starting to hit some winning form and consistency we were drawn against a well fancied Drogheda side. The game was one of two halves with and against the wind. In the first half they had the wind and they built up a lead. It was matter of catch up for our young Ratoath side. We battled hard for the remainder of the thirty five minutes, but it proved too much and came out losers.

However with the construction of our Gaelic pitch underway and in use gym we are sure to improve once again and hopefully go one further.

By Bryan McMahon

Sport in Ratoath College

Girls' Soccer Team

We Shannon Fagan and Cliona Grall are on the girls' soccer team. Ms. Ryan and Ms. Daly are the girls' soccer team coaches. They teach it very well and we have a great time. At the start of the training session, we do lots of warm ups and stretches. Training starts at 3.30 every Wednesday after school and finishes at 4.30. It's not just a first year team, it is also for second and third years. It's quite hard but if you work well you will be able to do it. We played our first match last year but sadly we lost to a very big 5th year team. During the training we learn how to communicate with each other when playing football.



Girls Soccer Team

We practise kicking, passing, communicating and aiming the ball towards the goal. Sometimes to make training more fun and we play a bit of music. As well as the two of us there are many other students on the team, but sadly we can't name them all. Training is great exercise and the teachers are excellent coaches! Our goals for the future are to represent the school, win many games and do the best we can! We hope you enjoyed reading this article on the girls' soccer team and hopefully you might like to join and help us win some matches.

By Shannon Fagan & Cliona Grall

Rugby World Cup

The Rugby World Cup got off to an explosive start when Argentina trashed France in the opening match. The favourites were New Zealand or "the All Blacks" and Australia or "the Aussies".

Unfortunately Ireland didn't play the world cup that they intended to. They barely won against Namibia. Then they drew against Georgia and they lost to France. Finally, after a rubbish world cup, they played their hearts out against Argentina but the Argentinians were just about enough to knock us out of the cup. Then something else happened, the favourites, Australia were beaten by England! If that was a shock to you, then gets this, the All Blacks were knocked out by France. France was then knocked out by England. Argentina, having played so well in the cup, was beaten by South Africa. The last ten minutes of the game was a disgrace. Two people {one from each side} were sin binned in less than two minutes and a very disturbing row happened. There was unfortunately contact involved, violent contact.

So it was England versus South Africa in the finals. It was a very good match. No tries were scored, but in the end there had to be a winner. The score was 6 - 15 to...South Africa! England took it like civilized people, shook hands and clapped. All in all South Africa were the winners of the 2007 Rugby World Cup.

By Callum McMahon

Athletics

In Ratoath College, there are a lot of sports going on and athletics is one of them.

Athletics is a good sport to do because there is something for everyone. Whether you can run for a really long time or are fast at running or can jump far or high, there is an event for you!

From September to January or February is cross country season. Cross country is hard because you have to cope with the bad weather conditions. It is normally very cold and wet and the ground is soft. The races are quite long and get longer the older you get. Although it is hard, its very rewarding when you cross the finish line. Ratoath College has done very well in cross country with many teams getting medals. Eamon Wallace and Laura Wall have also done really well as individuals, qualifying for the Leinster.

From February to the Summer Holidays is track and field. Track and field is very enjoyable as the weather tends to be better and you can choose what event you want to take part in. In track and field there are long races, short races, walking races, long jump, high jump, shot putt, discus, javelin, pole vault, steeplechase and much more! They also have relays and hurdles. Ratoath College has done very well in track and field as well with one of our students, Laura Gribben getting to the All - Irelands in walking!

Of course, in order to do this well, the athletics team train very hard each Thursday with Ms. Brennan. We are looking forward to when the track in front of our school opens as it will be a great asset to the community and we will be able to train there.



By Sarah Healy

Our World Cup 07 Team in France

Boxing

I have been interested in boxing since I was eight years old. My dad used to bring me to boxing matches in Dublin but mostly to my favourite boxer Bernard Dunne. I have gone to a lot of his fights with my dad. I am starting up boxing in a club in Clondalklin in Dublin where a few professional boxers used to train. I aim to stay involved in boxing my whole life. When I am older I want to train boys in boxing. My favourite fight was when Bernard Dunne won the world super bantamweight Title in the Point, but my least favourite was when he fought Kiko Martinez from Spain. Bernard Dunne lost in the first round of the fight and lost his super bantamweight title. I was very angry because I paid 60 euros for a ticket to the fight and he had to forfeit in the first round.

By Robert Kavanagh

2nd Year Boys' Basketball

The second year boys' basketball team which is coached by Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Kilrane got off to a brilliant start. The team who have played three matches so far are going strong and are playing good as a team, with the help and support of Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Kilrane.

Their first match was against Boyne Community College in Trim. It was a home match played in our new gym. The match got off to a good start with Ratoath taking an early lead, with Aaronn Mc Donnell scoring the first points for Ratoath College. Jack Scroope and Joner Gavia also had a good game with Jack scoring getting many rebounds and scoring good layups. Joner showed us his amazing dribbling skills and scoring ability. Our first ever three pointer was scored by Richard Greer, made the ball swish through the net. Boyne had many chances, they also scored two three pointers but Ratoath just kept on scoring baskets with Darragh O' Connor scoring Ratoath's first free throw and who also scored a good two pointer and layup.

The match finally came to an end. Both teams gave it their all, but it was Ratoath who came out on top with the final score being 31-12 to Ratoath. The nominations for man of the match were Darragh O' Connor, Joner Gavia and Jack Scroope. All three players had an amazing game but the man of the match was Jack Scroope.

Their second match was against St. Olivers in Drogheda. This was a much tougher match but once again we took an early lead, Aaronn Mc Donnell scoring a great layup and many more baskets throughout the game. Going in to the second match we all wanted to up our game and that's exactly what Darragh O' Connor did. As soon as he got on he scored a great layup, he also got many rebounds and managed to get the basket. He scored four baskets altogether in the second quarter. Mervin played a great second quarter with his height playing a great advantage. He collected many rebounds throughout the match. St. Olivers battled back, scoring layups and two pointers. In the end Ratoath came out on top once again with the final score being 28-14 to Ratoath. The nominations for man of the match were Darragh O' Connor, Joner Gavia and Aaronn Mc Donnell. All three played magnificently but the man of the match went to Darragh O Connor who scored an amazing five baskets.

Their third match was away to Virginia College in county Cavan. The game started with both teams neck and neck. In the first quarter Virginia scored two baskets. Darragh O' Connor scored a good two pointer to keep Ratoath just trailing by two points. The second half was tough on both teams the scores kept close with both teams scoring one after another. Mark Farrington and Johnny Fagan showed their amazing defences skills in the second quarter with both players getting steals, interceptions and rebounds. The third quarter was the same there were only a few points in it. Aaronn Mc Donnell and Joner Gavia played great, both on the offense and scoring some great baskets. In the fourth quarter the game was heading to an

end. There were only two points in it, and then Ratoath managed to make the game level which meant we would have to go into an extra period. Going into the fifth period Ratoath were already on team fouls so they had to be careful with their tackles. Ratoath gave away four free throws which Virginia only scored one out of four. We were trailing by one point with just more than a minute to go. Suddenly Virginia went on the offense and scored two good layups which ended Ratoaths winning streak. The final score was 26-23 to Virginia. Both teams played brilliantly. Ratoath never gave and fought hard throughout the game but unfortunately they had a narrow defeat. I who was playing in the game against Virginia was very proud of all my team mates who played brilliantly. The man of the match was Aaronn Mc Donnell. We look forward to our next match and hopefully we can make the qualifiers.

By Darragh O Connor



2nd Year Boys Basket Ball Team

Pitch and Putt

This was our first year entering into the Leinster pitch and putt team competition. We entered three teams into it.

Then due to the amount of teams entered from Meath there was a preliminary round to pick three teams to go through.

The Meath preliminary round was held in Newtown pitch and putt with each player playing two rounds. After that all scores off the team of three players were added together.

After all scores were checked and double checked Athboy were first, Nobber were second and there was a tie for third between two Ratoath teams. With the team of Peter Darmody, Cian O'Brien and Conor Falvey, the eventual winners.

They went on to represent the school in the Leinster. Although putting up a strong performance and playing very well, sadly they did not challenge the eventual winners, Athboy.

By Ciaran O'Hare

Sailing

Hi, my name is Ian Marron and this article is about my hobby, sailing. When I was living in France, I did two or three sailing camps which got me interested in sailing. When I came back to Ireland, my Dad and I joined Malahide Yacht Club. We bought a boat called a Topper Topaz which is a dinghy boat. There are two types of boats at Malahide, cruisers are the big ones with cabins and larger sails and dinghies are the small ones which can only hold up to about three people. During the summer, I went to Scotland to a sailing summer camp.

Dinghy sailing is quite an expensive sport to start. Prices for new boats start at €1000. You can also buy a second-hand boat for a bit less. There is also a lot of gear and equipment needed to sail, you at least need a wetsuit, a life-jacket or buoyancy aid and

a cag and gloves for winter sailing. These together costs about €100 - €200.

The best boat for beginners is the Optimist; it's small and will fit 1 child or small teenager on board. For more advanced sailors there is the Laser 4.7 which is larger but will go a lot faster. During the winter, my Dad and I came 3rd in my club's Frostbite Series which is the winter series. When I am older, I would like to have a Catamaran which has two hulls and can go really fast!

I would recommend sailing to anyone because it's very exciting and great fun!

By Ian Marron

Talent Show

On the twenty ninth of November Ratoath College had its annual talent show. There was a wide range of acts such as Megan-Witter Nolan's Irish dancing, the second year band singing 'Sweet Home Alabama', hoods up, Aisling O'Brien and many more. I tried to enter the competition but unluckily for me I didn't make it through but one of my friends did, Matthew O'Boyle. Ms Cullen and a few other teachers arranged everything, with a little help from her trustworthy music class. This included the stage, lights, and Ms Cullen arranged the acts. Many went in for the auditions but only twenty seven got through. It was both a joyful and a sad day. Ms Cullen helped along with all the acts but when she was interviewed all she said was that "every act is extremely good I think this talent show will be the best of them all". Wise words Ms Cullen, very wise.

Our Star



Kevin Hartnet, last year's winner hands over the trophy to Martha Hayes The Ratoath college Star of 2008, who clinched the prize with Somewhere Over the Rainbow

Ms Cullen gave up all her time to practice with the acts. She even stayed back after school and we know how much we all like going home. The hall was packed with people it was a great turn out. Matthew was second last to perform and I thought he did very well he said it himself he could not compete with the outstanding Martha Hayes who went on to win the talent show. Well done Martha!. There wasn't a dry eye in the house. She was a very worthy winner. We thought it was all over but then a teachers band came up. They called themselves T4. Singing the saw brothers we had the bulboy Bruton on drums, the no nonsense Mr Nelson, the Mr Drifter O' Dowd on lead guitar and then Mr Harmony Hannon on vocals. A great night had by all spectators and performers. A Big thank you from all the school to Ms Cullen, all the other teachers involved. Some of the people who saw the show thought that the crazy sixty's dancers were excellent. Also some others thought that Matthew O'Boyle's guitar playing and singing was excellent. What can i say but there is just too much talent in Ratoath!

Martha Hayes has been awarded the trophy

By Hugh Daly



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COCO CHANEL

“Fashion Is all around you, In the Streets, in the Houses, In the Sky and in the Air”

Coco Chanel. Brainstorm those words. What comes into mind? No.5 of course, the LBD (Little Black Dress) and 20's BOB HAIRCUT. Chanel changed the Fashion Industry, when it would never go back to normal.....

From her first millinery shop, opened in 1912, to the 1920s, Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel rose to become one of the premier fashion designers in Paris, France. Coco replaced the corset with simple dresses and suits, with comfort and casual elegance, costume jewellery, perfume and textiles.

She claimed a birthdate of 1893 and a birthplace of Auvergne; she was actually born in 1883 in Saumur - her mother worked in the poorhouse where Gabrielle was born, and died when Gabrielle was only six, leaving her father with five children whom he promptly abandoned to the care of relatives.

She adopted the name Coco during a brief career as a cafe and concert singers 1905-1908. First a mistress of a wealthy military officer then of an English industrialist, she drew on the resources of these patrons in setting up a millinery shop in Paris in 1910, expanding to Deauville and Biarritz. The two men also helped her find customers among women of society, and her simple hats became popular.

Soon she was expanding to couture, working in jersey, a first in the French fashion world. By the 1920s, her fashion house had expanded considerably, and her chemise set a fashion trend with its "little boy" look. Her relaxed fashions, short skirts, and casual look were in sharp contrast to the corset fashions popular in the previous decades. Chanel herself dressed in mannish clothes, and adapted these more comfortable fashions which other women also found liberating.

In 1922 Chanel introduced a perfume, Chanel No. 5, which became and remained popular, and remains a profitable product of Chanel's company. Pierre Wertheimer became her partner in the perfume business in 1924, and perhaps also her lover. Wertheimer owned 70% of the company;

Coco Chanel received 10% and her friend Bader 20%. The Wertheimers continue to control the perfume company today.

Coco Chanel introduced her signature cardigan jacket in 1925 and signature "little black dress" in 1926. Most of her fashions had a staying power, and didn't change much from year to year -- or even generation to generation.

She briefly served as a nurse in World War I. Nazi occupation meant the fashion business in Paris was cut off for some years; Chanel's affair during World War II with a Nazi officer also resulted in some years of diminished popularity and an exile of sorts to Switzerland. In 1954 her comeback restored her to the first ranks of haute couture. Her natural, casual clothing including the Chanel suit once again caught the eye -- and purses -- of women. She introduced pea jackets and bell bottom pants for women. She was still working in 1971 when she died. Karl Lagerfeld has been chief designer of Chanel's fashion house since 1983.

Coco Chanel has changed the World of Fashion, and will always stay that way. The 'little boy look' is all you seem to see on the Runways, thanks to Coco.

By Ruth McLoughlin.



All the Science behind Cosmetics.

Looking your best may be as much a science as it is an art especially in the makeup business. Think of all the cosmetics you see on display; Nail Polish, Body Cream, Shampoo, Lipstick, Eye-shadow, Blusher, Hair Spray, Face Powder, Glitter, Eyeliner, Mascara. Everyone one of these items is a chemical concoction.

Steve Hasher from Estee Lauder "Formulating cosmetics is a cross between it sounds nasty real chemistry and cooking,"

The men and women who create cosmetics have to know science, especially chemistry, Hasher says. But a product's success also depends a lot on how it looks and feels.

The men and women who create cosmetics have to know science, especially chemistry, Hasher says. But a product's success also depends a lot on how it looks and feels and all that tinkering adds up to create the big industry of Cosmetics.

Chemists and engineers such as Hasher are constantly working to create new products and improve old ones. Every tube of lipstick, face powder, and anti-wrinkle lotion contains a finely tuned mixture of ingredients the product of intensive research with advanced technologies.

Building a Cosmetic.

Nowadays, just about every cosmetic product on the market has a unique formula created to meet specific needs. Some are designed for people with dry skin, others for oily skin. Colors vary widely. And companies have to keep up with a constantly changing sense of style. "We're always looking for something new," Hasher says. "We want to make something that feels different from what everyone else has."

Many modern foundations start with a combination of water and silicone, a very stable type of chemical. Substances called emulsifiers are then added to hold the water and silicone together. This keeps the ingredients from separating.

To the base, cosmetic formulators then add pigments for color. The Romans used tin oxide, Hasher says, because that was just about the only thing available. Today, iron oxides produce crisper colors.

Modern makeup companies also steer clear of ingredients that come from animals. Today's materials come from plants instead, or they're created in the lab.

One of the biggest advances in the past decade or so, Hasher says, involves synthetic materials called pearls and micas. These are tiny round particles that change the way light bounces off the face. The result is a soft, blurring effect that supposedly makes people look better. New techniques that allow scientists to grind ingredients into extra-small pieces have also fed a trend toward more comfortable, longer-lasting foundations. Londinium cream would have been thick and cakey. Like other ancient makeup, it probably cracked after a while and hurt to wear. Today's products don't have that problem.

Testing:

Before cosmetics companies can sell new products, they put them through all sorts of harsh trials heating, freezing, and keeping them at high altitudes to see how they hold up, for example. The companies also hire people to wear the makeup for a while to make sure it interacts with skin in the way it's supposed to. Sometimes, cosmetics are tested on animals to make sure they are safe for people. And even though makeup is purely for appearance, makeup scientists draw from discoveries in other fields, Hasher says.

At Estee Lauder, researchers work with companies that study street-sign technology, for example, to find better ways to make bright colors that glow at night even in dim light. They talk with people in the car industry about the science behind paint colors. And they follow research on the eye, to better understand how people see makeup on others.

Still, despite all the advances that have changed makeup formulas during the last 2,000 years, some things haven't changed. Just like in Roman times, many people today think that covering their faces with creams and colors will make them look better. In the end, though, the old adage is probably true: It's what on the inside that really counts.

Make-up through out History:

More than 4,000 years ago, ancient Egyptians had a variety of beauty aids, including body oils, face creams, perfumes, eye makeup, face paint, hair dyes, and lipstick. Women in ancient Greece applied a white powder to lighten their skin and used powdered charcoal as eye shadow.

Recently, archaeologists from Bristol University dug up a pot of grayish cream in south London dating back to the second century A.D. At that time, Great Britain was part of the Roman Empire, and many Romans lived in the area where London now stands. The plain little pot was just 6 centimeters wide and 5 centimeters tall, and there were still finger marks on the lid and fingerprints in the cream. The cream inside the container was amazingly well preserved.

At first, the researchers suspected that the substance, dubbed Londinium cream, might be toothpaste or even a ritualistic smear for goats that were about to be sacrificed. After analyzing the cream, however, they concluded that Roman women used it as a type of face makeup called a foundation cream.

Fashionable Roman women valued an unnaturally fair complexion, and it would have taken a special cream to achieve the white appearance they were aiming for. To get the necessary white color, the Romans must have taken some care in formulating the cream from animal fat, starch, and a chemical called tin oxide. The fat came from animal carcasses, and it was probably heated to remove any color. The starch was obtained by treating roots or grains with boiling water. Tin oxide was produced by heating tin metal in air.

By Ruth McLoughlin.

SIZE 0 TREND...



What is it all about ??When designers start producing teeny miniscule clothes, the models have to squeeze into them then normal girls will think they're 'fat' when they can't fit in the tiny clothes. Sizing it up size zero is about the size of your holy communion dress so just think how hard it is for a 6ft model ,no matter how naturally willowy they are to squeeze into it.

"I'm naturally size zero"

Two words "yeah right "there is no possible way that a fully grown healthy woman can naturally be size zero. They still protest models like Lilly Cole are determined to convince us that they are naturally the size of a girl making her communion once again "yeah right".

Wait a minute !! this is how the size changes from American sizes to Irish sizes.

Basically all this makes you feel "fat " even though you really aren't .

By Aoife Tomkins

Dior

History of a House

Born in 1905, Christian Dior would have been 100 this year. Many think Dior was a woman, but was actually a man. Dior has become a household name. His house is still the top French house since 1946. In 1946, he founded his house and launched the New Look, whose incredible popularity lasted well beyond the designer's disappearance in 1957. The Dior style has carried on since then, thanks to talented designers like Englishman John Galiano. In charge of women's fashion since 1996, he has managed to revisit the label's codes with a visionary spirit and a pinch of eccentricity. Hedi Slimane has been artistic director of the Dior Homme line since 2000.

The early years:

In 1905 Christian Dior was born in the town of Grenville on the French coast and when he was 5 years old, his family moved to Paris. From 1923 to 1927 he was studying and in 1927 he did his compulsory military service. In 1928 Dior and his friend Jacques Bonjean opened an art gallery on rue de la Boetie.

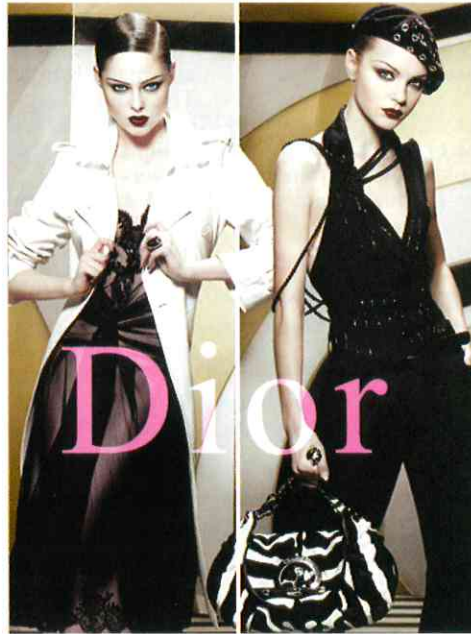
In 1931 Dior's beloved mother died, his brother also died and his family became financially ruined. After all the stress Dior became seriously ill and left Paris for a year. He returned in 1935. His friend Jean Ozenne gave him a place to stay and helped him to start sketching dresses and hats. Dior started to sell his sketches some of which were purchased by milliner Agnes. He also meets Robert Piguet, who bought some sketches, and some were published in "Le Figaro".

In 1938 Robert Piguet opened a fashion house, and Dior took his first job, when he joined him as a designer. However as the war had started, he had to leave Piguet and joined the military after a year.

The Revolution:

While women all over the world embraced Dior's 'new look' many were against it. Models were used to showing their skin. Some of Dior's skirts had 35 or 40 metres of material on them. The British government tried to get women to boycott Dior. However when Princess Margret, who was head of the British fashion house wore the 'new look' so did everyone else.

When Dior went to the U.S, he was



greeted by protesters who had boards saying "Mr Dior, we abhor, skirts to the floor". Soon they were seen wearing the 'new look' like everyone else.

Christian Dior presented in all 22 collections. Every 6 months he chose a theme around which most of the designs were formed. These are detailed hereunder:

Some dates and facts

1947 Spring/Summer The Corolle/New

Most of the dresses required between 10 and 25 yards of material, some using up to 80 yards. They were as wide, as long, as sumptuous and as costly as they could possibly be made. Evening dresses were made with bouffant skirts, layers of tulle over more layers. Pleated skirts, Gibson Girl bodices were much in evidence.

Never had been seen such an extravagant use of fabric. Women said "it is impossible to exaggerate the prettiness of the New Look. We are saved, beauti-

ful clothes are back, gone are those stern padded shoulders, in are soft rounded shoulders, small waist, wide skirts four inches below the knee, little hats, and such well-made armour inside the dress that one does not even need underclothes."

One design called "Bar" of a shantung silk jacket over a black pleated skirt, became the most well-known of Dior's New Look creations. It is shown here on the left.

1947 Autumn/Winter Figure 8

Skirts became even wider and waists tinier, until the body did become somewhat similar to a figure 8. 1948 Spring/Summer Envol (Flight) collection. This showed Dior experimenting with asymmetry, which was absent from earlier designs and through gathering the skirts in sideswept or backswept folds, the designs resembled stiffened wings, thus the Flight theme. Also airborne were pointed and turned-up collars and suit jackets with tails jutting out. Daytime dresses reverted to the shorter lengths of 2 years ago.

1948 Autumn/Winter Zigzag

Dior explained that this theme was meant to animate the figure, demanding that the eyes follow the lines of folds boned, wired and lined to stick out as far as 2 feet from the body.

1947 Christian Dior perfume company is set up and he christens the first perfume "Miss Dior".

1949 Spring/Summer Trompe l'Oeil

This made use of separate panels to create an illusion of a fuller skirt, when the dress or coat underneath was actually narrow. Wide lapels

and collars made the bust seem much wider.
1949 Autumn/Winter Milieu du Siecle (mid-Century) collection
Dior bloused the top of dresses to make them look two-piece.

Pierre Cardin joins Dior and remains there until 1950.

1950 Spring/Summer Vertica

Dior lengthened the appearance of the body by using long narrow lapels, vertical tucks and pleating and showing boxy suits with pleated skirts.

1951 Spring/Summer Naturelle/ Oval

Here curves predominated with collarless, cutaway jackets used to connect faux-Empire and natural waistlines.

1951 Autumn/Winter Long or Princesse collection

This did away with the intensely bifurcated waist

1952 onwards Dior salons are opened in London, Caracas, and many other cities.

1952 Autumn/Winter Profile or Stream-lined

This line had emphasis on the hips, accomplished by using stiff fabrics, manipulated by cut rather than by gathering or draping.

1953 Autumn/Winter Vivante (Alive)

Here we had shorter, narrow skirts which caused a lot of males to bellow "are women sheep".

spring of the flower into every dress as it went out to be presented. The collection based on the flower was light and spring-like, what the press called "relaxed".

1954 Autumn/Winter H-line

Dior introduced his elongated torso moulded from hip-bone to bust, which Time Magazine called the "second look". The idea was not to make the bust flatter, but higher and more youthful as well as less pointed. The waistline was now free and an era of loose-fitting shapes started to come in.

The master dies.

In 1957 suddenly Christian Dior dies of a heart attack and Yves St. Laurent takes over as the firm's artistic head. The fashion world was stunned The house of Dior employed over 1200 employees, spread among 28 workrooms and it's own police force to prevent pirating. It was a million dollar firm and his death represented a very great challenge to the house of Dior and even France itself.

But there was no need to worry. The house of Dior had within it two young designers who would ensure the future of Paris as the capital of fashion as well as the future of the house of Dior. One was Yves St. Laurent, who took over and presented a fantastic first collection, the Trapeze line and the other was Marc Bohan who followed YSL and remained nearly 30 years as head of Dior and himself had a very well received first collection the Slim line.



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and Dizzy Daisy to name only those.



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Angels



Old painting of Archangel Michael



Modern animation of Archangel Michael

Introduction: Nowadays, our fascination with angels is becoming more and more evident. Humanity is beginning to work in much closer co-operation with the angels. Angels' books, tapes and workshops are on the increase and angels now feature in films and in popular music. Many people have claimed to have experienced some kind of angelic encounter.

What are angels?

The word angel comes from the Greek word *angelos* which means 'messenger'. Angels can also be thought of 'divine messengers' or 'messengers from God'. Each person has their own guardian angel who journeys with us throughout all of our numerous incarnations. They are there to look after and protect you. Angels are genderless beings since they possess both male and female qualities.

Archangels: The archangels are referred to as the 'over lighting angels', since their function is to 'over light', or watch over and direct groups of angels, as well as all aspects of humanity. There are seven important archangels they are: Michael, Raphael, Chamuel, Gabriel, Iophiel, Uriel and Zadkiel. Michael is the most renowned of all of the archangels. Some consider Michael the leader of Archangels. He protects us physically and emotionally. Here is a sample of what the archangels do.

Archangel Michael:

Meaning of Michael: "Who is like God". "Like unto God". "Who is like the divine".

Colour: Blue/Gold. Michael is often depicted with a sword, holding the scales of justice or carrying the blue flame of protection.

Key Words: Protection, courage, truth.

Protection:

If your car has broken down late at night along a dark country lane.

If you are alone in a house and are fearful of burglars.

If you are embarking on a car journey.

If you are in an unsafe environment.

If you are being physically attacked.

If you are being sexually abused.

If you are under psychic attack.

Archangel Chamuel:

Meaning of Chamuel: 'He who sees God'.

Colours: Pink/orange.

Key Words: Unconditional love, Relationships.

Protection:

If you find it difficult to love yourself.

If you are unable to feel love for others.

If you feel lonely and broken-hearted.

If you are judgemental and cynical.

If you do not appreciate the love that you have in your life.

If you have lost someone you loved due to death or separation.

By Niamh McCormack

Dreams

Take this little survey to see what your dreams mean, or what part of it meant! If you dream in Colour, What colour was the Strongest?

Red:
Can indicate anger/passion, perhaps if something is bothering you, stay Calm until you sort everything out!

Orange:
Is a bright colour for outgoing people. You are adventurous, and Definitely not afraid of encountering new things or challenges.

Yellow:
Is the Colour of Hope and Optimism. You are a positive person and knows how to look on the bright side of life!

Green:
Is the Colour of Progress or Healing. It can symbolise if you are a confident person who continues to grow and learn about themselves.

Blue:
Shows you are great at expressing yourself! It is a Calm, Tranquil colour and shows you are trustworthy of your Deepest Instincts.

White:
It can mean you are embarking on a New Situation/Adventure, or leaving a Bad one! Have Fun!

Black:
Symbolizes the unknown, which sometimes is frightening. Learn to trust yourself and dreams should become more comforting.

What ANIMALS were in your Dream?

Dogs:
Protective and dependable, you must be Surrounded by loving friends. But if it is a mean or angry dog, you may be questioning a friend's loyalty.

Dolphins:
Carefree, though Trustworthy, dolphins often appear to soothe or guide us through rough times. You have the Support of your friends and things will get better Soon!

Cats:
Uh-OH! Cats mean you are in for some bad news. Be careful sharing secrets. But Don't worry, if you LOVE cats (like me), cat lovers usually just dream about their favourite pet!

Bees:
Bees know how to work together, in harmony, so you may need that harmony for a Group Project or Sports Team. Working together has its UPS and downs, but keep it up and it will pay off!

Lions:
Lions can show how you feel about yourself, you may be the Social Leader of the Group or proud of yourself for doing something Requiring a great amount of courage!

Bears:
Have you been in a Funk Lately? Well, you are ready to move on!! Or maybe you are competing with a rival?! Like a Bear, you are aggressive when provoked.

Sharks:
Sharks can symbolize your anger. Try talking it out and you are SURE to overcome the obstacles lying in your way.

Are you moving around in your Dream?

Flying:
Flying may symbolize that you are trying to make changes in your life or things you aren't so happy about. Or you are so positive you are flying above the little problems in the World!

Falling:
Falling often happens in dreams when you don't feel in control. If there is family tension or fighting with a friend, your dreams can reflect this anxiety.

Running Forward:
This usually occurs in Pleasant dreams, that indicate things are going well for you at the moment. You probably feel safe and secure!

Being Chased:
This can mean you're avoiding a Problem. You feel guilty about something, or anxious about confrontation. Get it over with! You will sleep better!

Unable to run:
This is frustrating and when you are trying to get closer, and CLOSER to something, and terrifying to get farther away. You need a boost of self-confidence.

Driving: (Hopefully a Porsche)
You are taking control of your life (when you are awake). You know yourself well and are comfortable at making decisions.

In a car, but cant see where you are going!
You might be a bit unsure of a recent decision or agreement. If you are in the backseat, it could show you depend on others a lot and are shy from taking control.

What does your Handwriting Say about You?

The way you write can decode some secrets about yourself. Grab a Pen and find out what yours is telling you.

First, copy the paragraph on unlined (blank) paper:

I wonder what my handwriting reveals about my personality. Will it show that I am serious or Silly? Calm or Hyper? Maybe it will show that I love to have fun.

[Your Signature]

Now, take this Quiz!

HOW DOES YOUR HANDWRITING SLANT?

- A. To the Left
- B. To the Right
- C. Somewhere in between.

A right slant is the most common and means that you are a warm, outgoing person. It can also mean you are impatient or wrote in a hurry. Writers who slant towards the left are generally more reserved. It is important for you to be true to yourself; you don't like being pressured. An in-between slant (or vertical) shows you are disciplined and focused.

THE INK IS :

- A. dark. You pressed down hard on the pen.
- B. light.

People who have dark penmanship often have a good supply of inner strength. Pressing lightly on your pen may be a sign you are a little unsure of yourself.

WHICH BEST DESCRIBES YOUR LETTERS?

- A. Tiny
- B. Large and easy to read.
- C. Neither large or Small.

Small letters are often signs of modesty. You don't like to share your emotions. Large handwriting signals an outgoing person who loves to socialize. Medium-size letters show a well balanced person. You have the ability to think through situations and would be great in business!

LETTERS IN EACH WORD ARE:

- A. connected.
- B. broken.

If you connect your letters fluidly, you are a perfectionist and have a positive attitude. Gaps between letters can mean you're a dreamer and are very expressive!

THE SPACE BETWEEN EACH LINE IS :

- A. wide
- B. narrow.

If you leave a lot of space between each line you are an observant person. You like to watch what is going on around you before you make decisions. If narrow, you are a calm person and don't lose your cool!

Ruth McLoughlin

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YOUR CREDIT UNION IS WORKING FOR YOU

CELEBRITY ROLE

Ever since the beginning of the entertainment business, there have been celebrities in the spotlight and thousands of us young fans to adore them. Ask any of your friends, and chances are there is one particular musician or movie star that they look up to, who they wish they were...their role model.

Some may make their devotion to their role models a little more obvious than others. They may plaster their walls with pictures; line their shelves with souvenirs and autobiographies, or collect mini-dolls that resemble their idols. They might even dress like their celebrity idol by wearing the same clothing and shoes, jewellery and hairstyles.

Whether you're a crazy fan or a quiet admirer, the fact remains that nearly everyone has some kind of idol and for a lot of people that idol is a celebrity.

These celebrities could be singers, actors or sports stars. Some people are only famous because of their wealth and it is sad that many people idolize them even though they have not done anything to be worthy of this title 'role model'. They might even be a bad example.

Take Paris Hilton. Some people say that she isn't a good role model as she has been charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and served a widely publicized sentence in jail. But others may argue that she is a successful actress, model, writer and business woman. She has also claimed that she is a vegetarian and doesn't wear real fur.

A role model doesn't have to be a celebrity though; it could be a family member or someone who lives near you.

Tips

Keep in mind that having a role model does not mean you become exactly like that person. Remember to retain your individuality.

A role model should be someone who you want to be like, and someone you admire.

MODEL



You shouldn't change yourself to be like your role model. Be like them, but put your own individuality into the things they do.
by Sarah Healy

“Believe in yourself, fulfil your potential, be your own Role Model”.

EGYPTIAN GODS



The Egyptians believed in many gods, they believed in 100s and 100s of gods. Here are a few of them.

Horus, son and avenger of Osiris, hawk-headed Horus became king of Egypt after his father's death. He ruled justly and many temples were raised in his worship. Seth, the enemy of Osiris, his brother Seth coveted the throne of Egypt for many years. It is said that after he killed Osiris, Seth cut the body into pieces before hiding them in 14 secret locations.

Bes - despite the grotesque appearance of this dwarf god, He was a benevolent deity, protector of pregnant women and children. Usually shown with a lion's mane, protruding tongue and long tail, Bes's role was to scare away evil forces which might threaten those in care. His consort was Tawerat, who was depicted as a pregnant hippopotamus. Unlike the male of the species, which was regarded as a

force for evil and a bringer of chaos, the female hippo was praised for its fecundity. Even so, like bes, Tawerat had a ferocious appearance which helped her fulfil her protective role. Both were extremely popular house-hold deities.

Isis - Wife of Osiris, Isis found the scattered parts of her husband's body. She used them to make the first mummy, which she buried in secret, and protected them with powerful magic spells.
Osiris.

Legend tells that Osiris, the murdered king of upper Egypt and Lower Egypt, ruled for a great many years before becoming lord of the underworld after his death. Could this be a memory of a real king?

By Eva Rowen

Book reviews

A song for summer

by Iva Ibbotson.

The book is set in 1940s Austria for the greater part of the novel. The story focuses around a young English woman called Ellen Carr. Her mother and two aunts, who were and still are passionate suffragettes, have raised Ellen in London. To the great surprise of all her friends and family, Ellen grows up to be a lover of all things domestic. She loves cooking and other domestic pursuits that her mother and aunts have abandoned in their academic and feminist pursuits. She is inspired by her grandfather's servant/partner Henny. She is very close to Henny. She wants to go to a home economics college. However, her mother and aunts have other things in mind. Ellen goes to university to please her family. Ellen soon leaves before her final exams on account of bad news...Henny has cancer. Sadly, Henny doesn't make it.

Usually this is how most books end. However, this is but the beginning of an amazing story. After Henny's death Ellen takes her life in her own hands. She goes to the economics college and comes out with top marks. She goes to Henny's homeland of Austria and becomes the homemaker of the school Hallendorf. A progressive school full of wild children... and wilder teachers. In the Austrian countryside Ellen discovers a world of eccentrics, plays, experimental dancers and a tortoise on wheels. She also discovers the mysterious gardener Marek. Is he all that he seems?

However the shadow of Hitler's Reich is already destroying the peace of there quiet world. Can Ellen and Marek survive the threat of coming war?

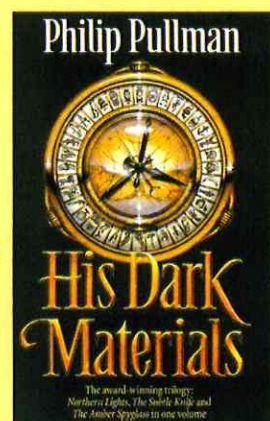
The strength of the book is the way it shows Ellen's suppression and instead of going on about it, it releases her to live the rest of the story without the plot seeming too typical. The plot of the book is well thought out in the fact that the story unravels nicely with plenty of surprises. The plot is strong because it is realistic and is not idealistic as most Historical fiction. Also the relationship between Ellen and Marek hits its highs and lows. Unlike other historical fiction, this story is more real because the characters are written as real people and not as just people from the past. Iva Ibbotson gives the characters their own story. Also the relationship between Ellen and Marek doesn't sentimentally smother the story. It is one of many threads in the story.

The dialogue was realistic because the characters talk like real people. I found the relationships quite believable. I feel the ending was more than satisfactory.

I really enjoyed this book. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys historical fiction. This book is more suitable for teenagers than children. I wouldn't recommend this book to anyone who doesn't like a fast moving plot.

By Amy Brady

His Dark Materials



His dark materials is a series of books written by Phillip Pullman. The books are the northern lights, the subtle knife, and the amber spyglass. However, book one is filmed as "The Golden Compass" but if you want the best experience, read the books, as they go into a lot more detail and events.

The books are centred on a girl named Lyra Belacqua and her animal shaped dæmon Pantalaimon. In Lyra's world, a dæmon is her soul who walks along side her. Lyra lives in Jordan College, where she soon discovers of the mysterious substance called Dust. After obtaining the rare "alethiometer" she sets off with the elegant Miss Coulter to the north. But is there more to this entrancing woman than meets the eye?

In book two, we are introduced to another character, Will, who is actually from a world separate to Lyra's. Lyra and Will attempt to set off and discover more of Dust, but discover Lord Asriel's true intentions instead. Can he succeed? And what is Miss Coulter going to do now?

In the final book, Lord Asriel's plan slide into place, but can his war with the authority really be won? Lyra and Will journey to the land of the dead, but has their relationship changed?

These are spectacular books, displayed masterfully by Pullman. The characters are well thought out and displayed, and relationships are realistic. Pullman is the perfect writer for anyone who enjoys mild fantasy that doesn't go over the top but focuses more on the plot. Another plus to these books is "exploring His Dark Materials" by

Lois H.Gresh which is a very good walkthrough guide for a bit extra information, especially if you are dying for more. It is suitable for everyone, from eight to eighty.

There are currently hints of a second film being released, which should be as exciting as the last, I would definitely recommend these books to someone who wants some good bedside reading.

By Ethan Barker



Ever felt like nothing goes right in your life? Or can you only think of the negative thoughts rather than the positive ones? Well then, the secret might be your shortcut to success!

Behind the secret: Where did the secret come from? How did people find out about it? People have been using the secret for thousands of years. However figures in history realized this was how powerful it really was. Therefore they believed they should keep it for themselves, no one else could find out.

The making of the secret: Towards the end of 2004, and following a string of traumatic events in her personal and professional life, Rhonda Byrne discovered a great secret - the secret laws and principles of the universe. Rhonda's daughter had given her a copy of *The Science of Getting Rich*, a book written in 1910 by Wallace D. Wattles. Of that moment, Rhonda says, "*Something inside of me had me turn the pages one by one, and I can still remember my tears hitting the pages as I was reading it. It gave me a glimpse of The Secret and it was like a flame inside of my heart.*"

What followed was a two-month odyssey of research and investigation as Rhonda traced *The Secret* back through thousands of years, incorporating almost every religion and field of human endeavour throughout history.

Almost immediately her life was transformed, as she began to put into practice all she had learned. And in that moment her greatest wish, and new life mission, was to share this knowledge with the world.

With a successful background in international television production, Rhonda was perfectly placed to make that dream come true. She vowed to make a movie, to carry joy to every corner of the Earth, to share this knowledge with billions. And so the great journey that was *The Secret* began.

From the outset, conventional filmmaking procedures involving endless meetings, tight schedules, strict budgets, deadlines and revisions were dispensed with in favour of powerful Secret processes such as intention, visualization, appreciation, gratitude and faith. Or more simply, the team would Ask, Believe, and Receive.

As a result, right when the company was ready to begin produc-

tion, as if by magic, the perfect people began to appear to help make *The Secret*. Suddenly the office was filled with brilliant, creative and talented people, all working to complete the most ambitious project any of them had ever worked on. Without exception, every single person was taught *The Secret*, and together they collaborated in total harmony working towards the goal of joy to billions.

When the team arrived in the United States to film the living masters of *The Secret*, they only had one interview lined up. But they brought with them an entire crew, and the firm intention that they would film every person they needed for the film. Wherever the team went, more and more amazing teachers would emerge - great writers, leaders, philosophers, doctors, and scientists. And in a matter of a few short weeks, fifty-two 'teachers' of *The Secret* were filmed.

Back in Australia for post-production, normally the most arduous process of any film production, *The Secret* team continued to use *The Secret* to make *The Secret*. The ensuing four months saw daily gatherings of the team to set intentions for one another and for the project, enabling the Law of Attraction to work its universal magic. The aim was to dream big, set ambitious goals, and truly believe in endless possibilities.

Use The Secret To Make The Secret

These "Intention Meetings" came to be a source of creative inspiration through the completion of the film, and more than anything else, injected *The Secret* with a pure intention of spreading joy to billions. With this in mind, celebrations were held early for the imagined great success of the film around the world, several months before it had even been released. The team envisaged screenings in exotic cities in far-flung places, being heralded by the world's media as an unprecedented phenomenon, even appearing on Oprah Winfrey!

Today, when people talk with Rhonda and the team about the great success of *The Secret* all around the world, the most common question asked is whether we could ever have imagined how big this would become. The answer is always the same... YES!, we knew it would be so because we used *The Secret* to make *The Secret*.

Putting the secret into practice: See how easy it is! Your life is like a canvas just waiting for you to explore what you could do with your life! The secret has three main elements: Money, Love and Health. Of course you can add in your own elements too. It is *YOUR Secret!*

By Jesse Nette

A close-up of the name 'Rhonda Byrne' written in a white, elegant cursive script on a dark brown, wood-grain textured background.

Book reviews



Continues...

Here are some inspiring stories

New Guitar
By Jesse Nette
from Billings MT

One day, I was having one of the worst days I have had in a long time. A friend and I were in a book store and I saw the book from across the store, it just stood out to me. I knew a few people who had read the book and a few who saw the movie, and I had never given it a second thought... until that day. I needless to say bought the book and decided I was going to read one chapter a night so I could take what I read the night before, and put it to work in my life.

One thing that I started to do was, when I was feeling down, mad, sad, or just anything not good, I would think of a new guitar. I had seen a very nice Fender Strat in a guitar store, and when I was in a bad frame of mind, I would see myself holding that guitar, playing that guitar, I could even hear the guitar.

One day I needed to get a new guitar cable and went to the shop and told the guy working, "That guitar right there is my guitar". From there I asked him how much do I have to put down on this guitar for it not to be sold so I could have it. He told me I could put down whatever I wanted to put down on it. I told him I wanted to put down \$20 (not even really a dint in what the real cost was). He said he was fine with that and took the guitar up to the front counter and started to fill out a receipt for me. And then he looked at me and asked, "How much and how often are you going to pay for this?" I looked at him and with all honesty I told him, "I will pay him \$150 every 2 weeks until I have it paid off." Then he looked at me and said, "When you walked in here I could tell you were a good person, tell you what. Every 2 weeks bring me \$150." Then he did something I never expected. He hands me the guitar and says, "Take it today, I know you are a good person and that you really want this." I got in my car holding my new beautiful guitar that brought me up in so many down times, and I yelled "THANK YOU". I said it over and over.

And that was the day I had affirmed to myself: MY THOUGHTS BECOME THINGS.

About Jesse Nette from Billings MT:
21, Writer, Musician, Worker, HUMAN

41 in the Memory Game
By Annette
from Glasgow

When I was 21, I assumed that at this age (I turn 30 in two days) I would be 'comfortable', have a career, marriage, kids, and a semi in suburbia. In reality I have a portable CD Player and about 12 CDs. "Woe me, woe me..."

My plight is made worse by the fact that not only did I not get an interview for my 'dream job', but when I went to the bank to treat myself with the birthday money that my sister had kindly

gifted, it had been consumed by my overdraft. "Could life get any worse?"

Luckily for me, before I sunk down any deeper into my self-imposed depression, I caught sight of the book that my lovely, gorgeous, generous boyfriend had bought me for Christmas. Reading through it reminded me of the DVD my best friend had shown me a few months back and the obvious wisdoms it contained.

Before long I was smiling again and logging on to print out some 'blank cheques'. But before I did, I played the Memory Game, and I know you will believe me when I say that it came up with '41', which reminds us to be happy now, regardless of our finances, and to try and avoid projecting the 'needing money' vibration - something I have been doing for most of my adult life - as all you will attract is 'needing money'. To say I was freaked out is a bit of an understatement...

In my attempt to take this lesson on board I came across a story from 'Annette' who reminded me that if we stay focused on the good things then the bad things don't seem to be there.

I have a fantastic life; great family, great friends, and a great partner. I am fully aware that money cannot buy you any of these things. But I can't lie to you; I have printed out those blank cheques and when the Universe cashes them in, I can't wait to take them all out and spoil them rotten!

Here's to health, wealth, and happiness in 2008!
About Annette from Glasgow:
About to be 30; keeping focused on all that is good!

People in history who used the secret: Ludwig Van Beethoven, Alexander Graham Bell, Buddha, Joseph Campbell, Andrew Carnegie, Winston Churchill, Robert Collier, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Ford, Victor Hugo, Carl Jung, Martin Luther King, Isaac Newton, Plato, W. Clement Stone, Hermes Trismegistus.

Messages to get you through the day: 'We are shaped by our thoughts, we become what we think. When the mind is pure joy follows, like a shadow that never leaves.' - Buddha.

'Follow your bliss' - Joseph Campbell.

'Never, Never, Never, Never give up on your dreams' - Winston Churchill

'Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up' - Thomas Edison

'Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions' - Albert Einstein

'We become what we think about, all day long' - Ralph Waldo Emerson

'Until you make the unconscious conscious, it will direct your life and you will call it' - Carl Jung.

'We will not build a peaceful world by following a negative path. We must concentrate merely not on the negative expulsion of war, but on the positive affirmation of peace.' - Martin Luther King.

Niamh McCormack

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

I chose to read this book, as I had read the previous six books in the series and really enjoyed them. I bought the book in the Borders book-shop, minutes after it was released at midnight, on the 20th July 2007. It was an exciting occasion, as lots of people were dressed up as characters from the books and there was a really great atmosphere. People were queuing from early evening, for the very first copies of the final instalment in the story of Harry Potter. When midnight finally came, those of us in the middle of the queue tried hard not to listen as some people from the front started shouting out the opening sentences, or even worse, the closing ones of the book!

The Harry Potter books were all written by JK Rowling, who first thought of the character of Harry Potter, on a trip to Edinburgh in the early 1990s. It took her several years to complete the first book, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, which was published in 1998. The book introduced us to Harry, his new friends Ron and Hermione and Hogwarts, the school of witchcraft and wizardry. At Hogwarts, Harry has many adventures, makes lots of new friends and a few enemies too, including Draco Malfoy and his side-kicks, Vincent Crabbe and Gregory Goyle. Harry is always prepared to take on anyone or anything that comes in his way. While in the first book, Harry is at first unfamiliar with spells and lessons, he learns fast and soon discovers he is great at flying a broomstick and playing Quidditch. In later books, Harry becomes a teenager and faces many challenging, sometimes frightening situations and difficult choices.

In the Deathly Hallows, the seventh and final book in the series, Harry is seventeen and has left Hogwarts, to try destroy what remains of his evil nemesis, Lord Voldemort. He travels with Ron and Hermione to various places, such as Gringotts, the Wizard Bank, No. 12 Grimmauld Place, the home of Harry's deceased Godfather and the village of Hogsmeade. They discover many things connected to Voldemort and are soon close to defeating the dark lord. As there is about to be a war between wizards and Voldemort's servant, the terrifying death-eaters, the trio decide to return to Hogwarts. Harry plays a big part in the ensuing battle, as it is he who must fight Voldemort. While Harry realises this might result in his own death, he feels he has no choice but to pursue the fate that awaits him.

The Deathly Hallows is a darker and more mysterious tale than earlier books and the deaths of some well-known characters makes it a difficult read at times. However without giving the

ending away, the book provides the reader with a sense of satisfaction and reassurance that good always eventually triumphs over evil.

By Oisín MacNamee

Somewhere in between

is Ruth Gilligan's second novel. Her best seller is a great read for fourteen to sixteen year olds (preferably female). The book is quirky and eye catching from the very first chapter. Ruth uses language that any teenager will understand. The book is set in Ruth's native Dublin. This book is like a love story for the text generation.

This book addresses lots of problems teenagers are forced to face during their lives in a witty way that makes it easy to read. It shows in a fun way how Alex and Chloe (the twins) and all their mates cope with drink-driving, pregnancy, drugs, eating disorders and death.

The book begins when Alex is in a car crash on the way home celebrations in the pub with friends. Miraculously Alex escapes with a few cuts and bruises, but unfortunately this isn't the case for the driver, Alex's friend Barry. Alex's easy and free ways are put to the test over the weeks following the crash but Alex constantly re-assures him self that it is only a matter of time before his friend Baz "wakes up".

For Chloe her insecurities begin to show when she is also tested. She constantly worries about Sam and their relationship and her ambition to go to study drama in college. Her weight is a worry that consumes her every thought and begins to take over her life. For the twins a holiday to Aya Napa with their mates promises to be the escape that everyone needs. It is in the Cypriot resort that they (Alex and Chloe) realise that there are some things that you can't escape from, as they struggle to find the 'somewhere at the other side of somewhere in between'.

This book was an easy read with a good plot, easily interpreted language. It was a generally good read; I would give it 9/10.

Aoife Tomkins

The ultimate teen book guide

This is a book that every teen book fanatic should have in his or her own personal library. Famous authors as well as many teen readers have helped write this book.

The ultimate teen book guide is a kind of travellers guide to teen fiction. Its brilliant!!! With over 700 short book reviews, this book is filled with reviews that tell you how it is. You will never be stuck for anything to read again. No more searching the library reading misleading blurbs. To bring the book home to find the book is really rubbish. With this book you can stop wasting time. With the ul-

timate teen book guide there is something for everyone. There are 13 features on the most popular types of fiction and several opinion polls. All the reviews have a "next?" section attached so that you can figure out what to read next if you liked the book, so that you can find more like it. The titles in the book are sorted A-Z.

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes book or doesn't you're bound to find something you like with this book even if you hate reading or love it. This guide is suitable for ages 12-16+. I think this book is really great and can be found in most good bookstores. It is up to date as it was only published in Christmas of last year.

By Amy Brady

TOYS 4 BIG BOYS

Toys 4 Big boys is an event held in the RDS every year, it show many things from cars to jacuzzis. There were many activities to choose from. There was paintball, cyber penalty shootout, archery. There was also an electronic Irish sea life expedition. As one of the first people there we saw a lot of the show. The main attraction to Toys 4 Big Boys is the cars. The cars varied from Porches to Aston Martins to Dodge Vipers and even a Ferrari Enzo!

They also had a Xbox 360 exhibition promoting such games as Halo 3, the Simpsons Game and much more. We had a lot of choice when it came to buying various gadgets and other goods. We wanted to buy the tank from James Bond Golden Eye but the Credit Union was closed on a



Sunday so unfortunately we were not able to drive back to Ratoath in what could have been our monster of a vehicle!.... and we didn't have €1500!

There were many other items for sale such as a very cool sculpture of Ghost Rider made out of car parts, mini helicopters which could be flown inside and out, posters of cars and miniature model cars made out of wood. Among car products there were car cleaning solvents and that was about it.

Just as we were leaving there was a brilliant bike stunt show. The crowd which consisted of young and old motor fans was gigantic! The tricks he performed were wheelies, skids and many more dangerous stunts that we would not advise anyone to do at home. The wheelies he performed were high speed front and back wheelies. The skids he pulled were made moments before he reached the crowd. He also drove through a line of blazing hot fire. It was spectacular and a real crowd pleaser! We easily gave the stunts 10 out of 10!

The day in all was brilliant. We got to see some rare cars, some being one of a kind. We enjoyed the paintball and all the other activities. The stunt show just made the day all the better. We would definitely recommend Toys 4 Big Boys to anyone who loves cars and a good day out! We are definitely going next year and I hope you manage to go too!

By Darragh O' Connor
Jake Colfer



MANGA



What is anime and manga?

Anime and manga are very popular in Japan, though some people don't know about them here. They are Japanese comics and TV shows which are often funny and action-packed.

Manga

Manga is very like the Japanese version of comics. They are in little books, and they are read the opposite way to ours, so you start reading at the back of the book. It's not just kids who like them, Japanese business men are often seen reading manga books on trains or buses on the way to work! In fact some manga or anime can be unsuitable for kids! The authors usually include a lot of jokes in the books, making them funny and serious at some times too. Some famous manga is Naruto, Bleach, Death Note and more. To get some good manga, the "borders" shop in Blanchardstown sells it.

Naruto

Naruto is a famous anime/manga, focussing on the life of an ninja (or shinobi) named Naruto Uzumaki who is the underdog ninja with his friends. It is very funny, but also serious, and is predominately action. It is the author's (Masashi Kishimoto) view on modern day ninja, which makes things amusing to watch.

Naruto, the main character, was a young boy when a Demon was trapped within him. Though he is the weakest, craziest (and always up to mad antics) this magical demon within him makes him a very promising genin (or rookie ninja).



Naruto is just my favourite manga/anime and there are, of course lots of others.

You can catch Naruto 8.30 and 9.30 on channels 607 or 608.

Why should we like Anime/Manga?

Anime and manga are very original, unique and enjoyable pass-times and are a good way to get something a little different. I really enjoy reading and watching them, and I think anyone else would too.

THE TOP TEN ANIME

1. Neon Genesis Evangelion
2. Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind
3. Castle in the Sky
4. Mobile Suit Gundam
5. The Castle of Cagliostro
6. Mushi-Shi
7. Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex
8. My Neighbor Totoro
9. Fullmetal Alchemist
10. Ghost in the Shell

THE TOP TEN MANGA

1. Slam Dunk
2. JoJo's Bizarre Adventure
3. Dragon Ball
4. Fullmetal Alchemist
5. Doraemon
6. Phoenix
7. Black Jack
8. Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind
9. Mushi-shi
10. Death Note

Anime

Anime is a very common type of Japanese T.V show. It has a unique, realistic style of art. Again, it's usually very funny and enjoyable. Most anime is based on popular manga. There are lots of topics, like action, comedy, or even romance. It is a lot more popular in some other countries like France, the United States and Japan, but anime can be found in Ireland for sky viewers on channel 199.

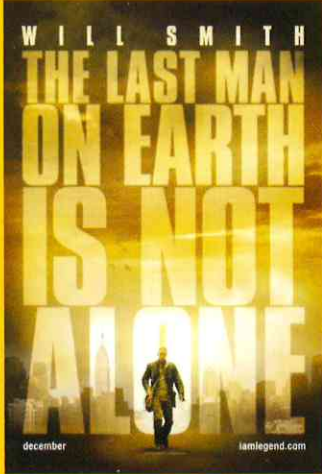
AKIRA

one of the first ever manga that made it world wide.



FILM reviews

I AM LEGEND



Genre: Action Thriller
Directed by Francis Lawrence. With Will Smith, Alice Braga, Charlie Tahan.

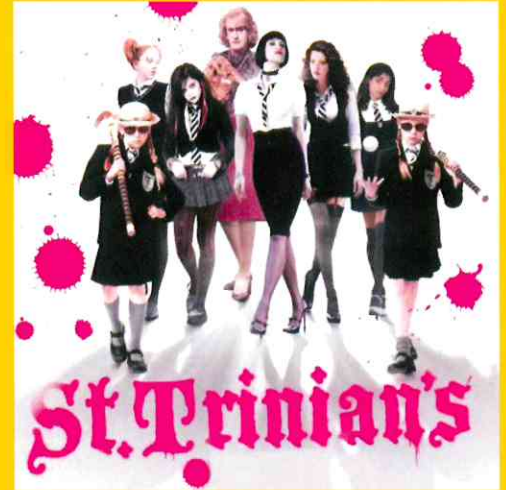
“I Am Legend” is an Action Thriller film. Starring Will Smith as Robert Neville. It is directed by Francis Lawrence.

It is the year 2012. In the ruins of New York City, Robert

Neville is a scientist who is the lone survivor of a biochemical man-made disease which was supposed to cure cancer 3 years before. With only blood thirsty zombies as his neighbours and his dog, Samantha, Robert is trying to discover a cure for this disease. He maybe the last person to survive this disease in New York City and possibly the world. For three years, Neville has faithfully sent out daily radio messages, desperate to find any other survivors who might be out there. Mutant victims of the plague “The Infected” lurk in the shadows watching Neville’s every move waiting for him to make a mistake. Perhaps mankind’s last hope, Neville is driven by only one remaining mission: to find a way to reverse the effects of the virus using his own immune blood. But he knows he is outnumbered and quickly running out of time.

We thought this movie was very fast paced and caught your attention straight away. The plot was easy to follow and kept you interested at all times. The graphics were outstanding and there was great acting from Will Smith. I would recommend this film to anyone who likes science fiction movies. It would not be suitable for children as it contains violence and some mild language, also they would not be able to follow the plot.

I would give this film a 9/10 because it really captures the attention of the viewer watching right from the start.



We went to see St. Trinian's. St Trinian's, a school for “young ladies” with its anarchic doctrine of free expression, brings together a motley crew of ungovernable girls who, using their wit and ingenuity, save the school from bankruptcy.

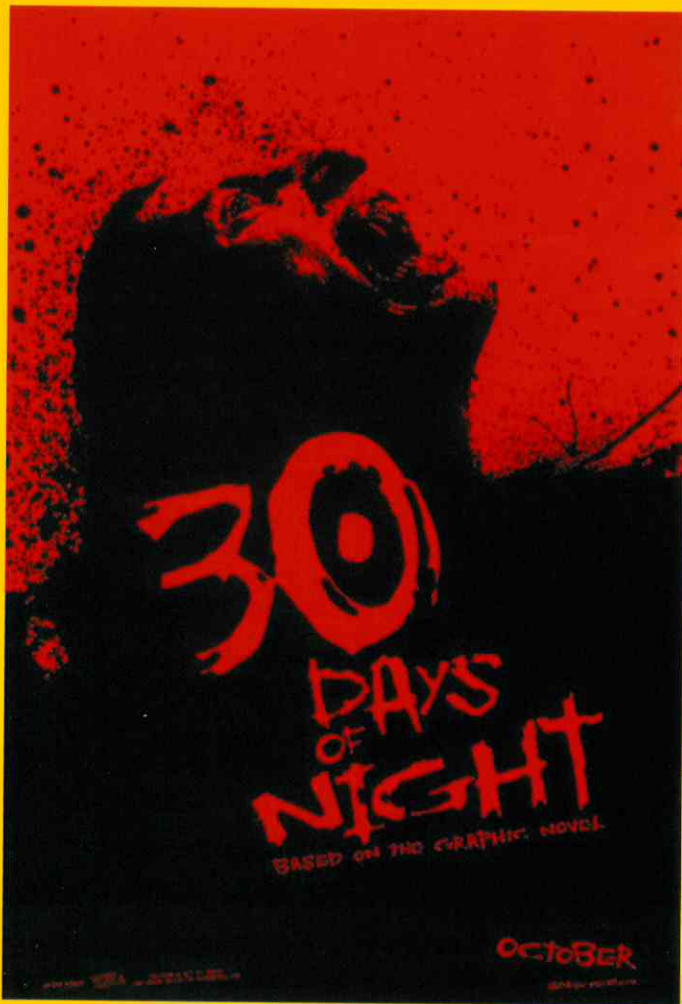
We chose to see it because we thought it looked funny and interesting. We went to see it at UCI Blanchardstown. It was released on 21st December 2007. It was written by Piers Ashworth, Nick Moorcroft and Ronald Searle. It was directed and produced by Oliver Parker and Barnaby Thompson.

The all star cast includes Rupert Everett as the crazy headmistress, Miss Camilla Fritton and also Carnaby Fritton. Russell Brand as Flash Harry. Mischa Barton as one of the ‘Posh Totties’ J.J French. Gemma Arterton as Kelly ‘The Head Girl’. Lilly Cole as the ‘Geek’ Polly. Talulah Riley as the main person in the film, Annabelle Fritton. Girls Aloud also give a performance in the film.

St. Trinians is about a school for young ladies that is on the verge of bankruptcy. The girls decide to steal and resell the famous painting ‘Girl With A Pearl Earring’. They enter a competition called ‘School Challenge’ which is held in the museum where the painting is kept. Will their plan succeed, or will they be found out?

We would give it 10 out of 10 because we think it is a well thought out plot. It is funny and entertaining. It shows all the different groups in a school and how they feel about each other.

By Emma Costigan
Jqiao Wei Chen



This year's biggest Halloween movie in the cinema was '30 Days of Night'. It topped the box office in America when it was released. The biggest and most well known actor in it is Josh Hartnett, who has starred in big movies such as 'The Black Dahlia' and 'Lucky Number Slevin'.

The movie starts by showing the most northern town in America, a small isolated town in northern Alaska. Every year during winter the town suffers from "30 days of night". Those who can't survive 30 days without daylight

go to visit relatives and wait there until the nightmarish 30 days are over, but for those who stay it becomes the worst 30 days of their lives.

Strange things start to happen once the night comes to cover the town in darkness. Josh Hartnett's character is the local sheriff, he's the man who keeps this isolated town in order. One night he gets a call from some local dog breeders whose dogs were viciously slaughtered, but by what? Then some of the local townspeople start disappearing and then reappearing looking like, well just say death!!!



Suddenly a suspicious looking character appears warning the townspeople they're coming, but who or what exactly is coming? It then becomes a war between the people and a bunch of supernatural, ravenous vampires with super strength and speed. It becomes a survival of the fittest as the townspeople have to try and stay alive until the sun comes out to get rid of the vampires.

It is a great movie which I would highly recommend to anyone who wants a night of little frights and jumps. I would give this movie 8/10 because of its great story and brilliant special effects.

By Darragh O Connor



P.S I Love You

'P.S I love you' is a definite chick flick for any girl. I saw this film with my friends. It was very good, funny and sometimes sad. This movie is about a married couple. A woman called Holly (Hilary Swank) and a man called Gerry. Gerry dies of a brain tumour. Holly gets a letter from him at the end of every week, even though he is dead. In the second last letter he sent Holly and her two friends to Ireland. When she was in Ireland Holly visited Gerry's parents. When she comes back home she gets her last letter. What does it say? If you haven't seen it girls you'll have to get it on DVD or see it in the cinema. Have some tissues ready!

By Helena Malone

Our Ratings: Mark: 9 / 10 - Richie: 8 / 10

Forza 2 Motorsport has received rave reviews from critics worldwide with ratings such as 10/10 and was called ' Best racing game ever on the market '. We here at Ratoath College have our own opinions on this game.

The Good

A phenomenal driving model that has a good range from beginners to more experienced drivers . With a range of cars from the Kia Rio to Ferrari Enzo and beyond and with racing cars barely available to the imagination racing around real world tracks available to the public, there's no stopping what you can do !!

The Bad

Personally we have mixed views on game. The gameplay may appeal to some more than others as some find it very slow and hard to take control. They could have used a few more tracks but the tracks they have used are very good. Even the sounds could be a little improved.

Our Opinion

Mark:

This game is a Wonder to play and one you'd find very hard to get bored of. With cars for everyone from old classics to the most modern on the market it's a joy for young and old car fanatics!!!

Richie:

Personally, I feel it is a good game but with too many minor difficulties. I found it hard to get into at the start but overall a

need for speed

Pro street is the latest game in the need for speed range. It follows a racer named Ryan Cooper who made a switch from Illegal Street racing to more legal track racing. The storyline is you begin as a nobody with a bad car. But like in all games as you progress both the cars and your reputation get better.

This game has a lot of races. There are about forty race days with about four races each. This really is needed to keep the viewer satisfied as there is no more being chased by cops. The race days are completed all over the world. All very entertaining with race drivers worldwide, from the Tokyo dockyards to our own Mondello park to the Nevada highway.

When you come very far you will be invited to the elite races for the four different types of races ; Grip , Drift, Speed, Drag . Each dominated by a king (Ray Kreiger, Aki Kamara, Nate Denver and Karol Monroe). You will unlock these as you complete the elite races you can challenge these kings and take their titles. When you finish the kings you can challenge Ryo Watanabe; **THE BEST RACER IN THE WORLD!!!**. Beat him and you are the world's best racer.

The graphics in NFS: PS are good on PS2. The area simulation is very lifelike along with the cars looking the exact same as they do in real life. However on the PS2 the crashes are disappointing. Even if you flip through the air or skid across a tarmac track and nothing falls off you only get smoke and a scratched up car. So for crashes it is better suited to the PS3 or XBOX. The cars in NFS: PS are very well detailed and resemble their real counterparts excellently . The developers also brought in a new concept of the parts will affect them in different ways. Even if you equip turbo the car will give of a great roar.

Overall this game has topped the need for speed range but is more suited to the PS3 or XBOX360.

We give this game a good 8.5/10.

By Mark Farrington and Richard Greer

CALL OF DUTY 4

Modern Warfare

Xbox 360/PS3/PC

Call of duty 4 is a first person shooter (see through the eyes of the soldier) by the critically acclaimed Infinity ward's Call of Duty series. The team once again brought to us a compelling storyline blended with a fast-paced action thriller that will shock you with its amazing realism and keep you at the edge of your seat until the end. The game is set in modern times in the Middle East and parts of Ukraine and Russia.



The story begins with the assassination of Yasir Al-Fulani who was president of an unnamed Middle Eastern country. The "televised" assassination was carried out by Khaled Al-Asad, the commander of the revolutionary forces in the Middle East. The Russian Ultrationalists and the revolutionary forces had joined forces and become allies. The leader of the ultrationalists was Imran Zakhaev and his son Victor Zakhaev. Together, they took the president out of the picture. Now the S.A.S and the U.S.M.C. are on a crackdown for these men using stealth and recon experts of the U.K. and U.S. assault task forces.

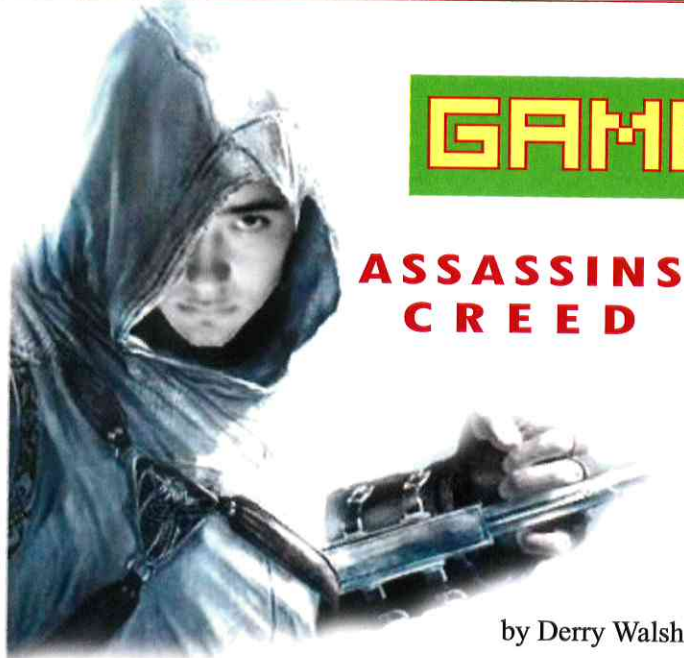
First, I will now explain with the single-player campaign. The single-player in this game has a compellingly excellent plot to it. Unlike most First Person Shooters (FPS) this game actually has a story. The sound quality in this game brilliant and if you have Surround sound, hook it up! It really feels like a bullet has just whizzed past your head! One disappointment about the single-player campaign is the game-play value is weak. You will get a mere 5-7 hours out of this game which is horrible compared to Oblivion (80-100 hours! Amazing!).

The multiplayer in this game shockingly brilliant. There is an excellent community to join groups or clans with friends and play against/with them. Also you can have chats with them on your headset (not sure about a PS3 headset but I'm sure there is a one). There are many different modes in which you can play online and each one is unique in their own way. There is a great ranking system in this game and if your in a group or clan, the higher ranked you are, the closer you are to being the leader of the clan. These clans can have clan wars with each other as well which is absolute mayhem! The more kills in a row you get, the better bonuses you achieve, these could be anything to radars to show where the enemy is to air strikes and helicopters with an arsenal of weaponry attached to them. There are sometimes tournaments on online games where you can win cash prizes ridiculously big for just a game (sometimes prizes up to €5000!) for competing against "the best". There is a flaw though. Sometimes you may get frustrated, like me, about the extreme (and when I mean extreme, I mean to the extreme!!!) gamers who have lightning fast reactions and are literally..... a God. Besides that this game is truly a work of art, an epic, and I would seriously advice buying this game in the near future.

If you are buying this game for the online multiplayer side of life, I would advice getting it for the PS3 or PC. PC's online and PS3's online is free compared to the €50-60 rip-off for the Xbox live community every year.

By Kevin Finnegan.

GAME REVIEWS



ASSASSINS CREED

by Derry Walsh

One of the largest game releases of 2007 was "Assassins Creed", a game where you take control of an assassin named Altair. The game is set in the Holy Land in the age of the Crusades. You are caught between the warring factions of the European Christians, and the Middle Eastern Muslims.

This game has an amazing, if confusing, storyline. You are part of a creed of assassins, and there are rules to be followed. But Altair got too big for his boots, and thought he was above the rules!!! After a disgraceful disregard for your Creeds rules, you are stripped of your rank and equipment. Your Master, however, is a generous man, and gives you a chance to redeem yourself, and you are given a list of high-profile targets to assassinate. Every time you eliminate one of the targets, you are given back a rank and a piece of your equipment.

When you are making an assassination attempt, you have to do investigations. These include eavesdropping; pick pocketing, and a mild form of torture (beating the living daylight out of a person until he talks!!).

This game has many new perks, which include an interactive loading screen (so you don't have to sit looking at a blank screen for ten minutes) and impressive enemy A.I., or Artificial Intelligence, which means that guards aren't brainless zombies who run in and get slaughtered. They fight like real people, and if they feel the fight is getting out of hand, they run or beg for their life. The sword-fights are very realistic, and one strike could finish either you or the enemy. The game is also very open, because you can scale almost every building that has handholds on it. There is no limit to the actions you can perform, whether it is assassinating a guard to rescuing a citizen from a group of unruly savages.

But with all good, there is bad. The game gets a little repetitive, because after the first three of four assassinations, you find yourself visiting the same locations and performing the same actions. The game is also a little short, and I think the reason for this was because the production team rushed the making of it in order to get it on the market. The game is also slightly predictable, as roughly half-way through the game, anyone who has been paying attention can nearly guess the ending.

Overall, this game has surpassed all recent releases, both in graphics and game play in general, but in the end, it's a matter of personal choice. This game is for those who enjoy stealth and strategic games, but for the more violent gamers, I'd suggest a nice war game, preferably Call of Duty 4, which doesn't require any brain power at all as you just run around killing terrorists with assault weapons. No offence.

FIFA08

Type of game: Football
Up to 8 players
at once

Games modes:

Quick game, manager mode, my fifa 08, create tournament, training mode.



Graphics:

Much better than any other FIFA games ever.

Game play:

lot more realistic compared to other fifa games. Compared to other football games: Pro Evolution is usually better than fifa but this time around fifa has got the better of them. The game is more realistic and has better graphics than Pro Evo.

New Features:

The Eircom League has been added to the game with teams such as Bohemians, Cork City and Drogheda United included.

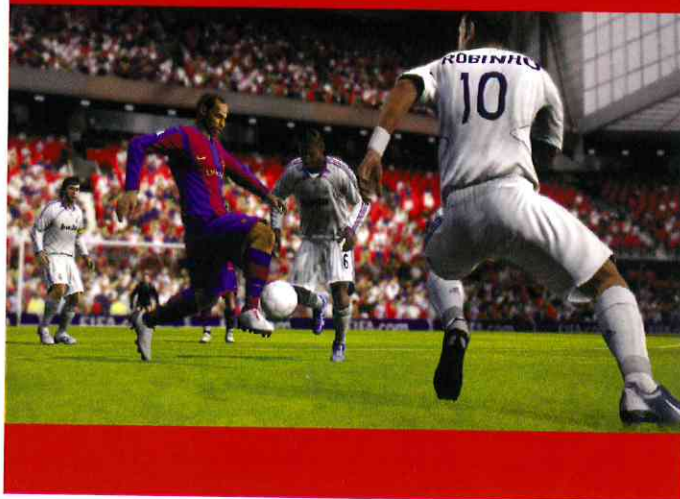
Marks out of ten: 10 out of 10.

"We would recommend this game to anyone who likes football games".

Available on:

PS2, PS3, PSP, X Box 360, Wii and Nintendo DS.
Price: Ranges from €50 to €80.

By Mark Daly



g How to get a good Karma

What is karma?

Karma is the universe's system of payment. According to the Buddhist practise, the law of karma states that: "for every event that occurs, there will follow another event whose existence was caused by the first, and this second event will be pleasant or unpleasant according as its cause was skilful or unskilful". Confused? Well it basically means that if you do good things that good things will happen to you; do something bad, it will result in bad things happening to you.

Rules to get good karma:

1. Be aware of your environment and the people around you.
2. Give without expecting to always receive.
3. Take part and get involved in things.
4. Be kind and generous.
5. Keep your thoughts positive for yourself and other people; nobody likes a pessimist. Be cheerful.
6. Be selfless.
7. Help other people.

Bad karma can be caused by:

1. Stealing boyfriends/girlfriends off other people/
2. Bullying
3. Talking behind other peoples backs
4. Stealing, fighting.
5. Greed
6. Envious and jealous of other people

The Golden rule of good karma:

Don't expect anything in return. You must be motivated to care for the people around you other then your own motives. Also, if you send out good vibes to people, you will receive good vibes.

The good effects of good karma:

1. Inner peace
2. An easier flow of energy
3. New positive outlook on any situation can lead to better motivation for yourself and others, better motivation leads to better achievements because of good karma; eg) good grades and better social relations.
4. People will like you better for being kind and thoughtful.

Picture this...







*SNAP-SNAP-SNAP, there goes the camera after the pictures you took to post onto Facebook, bebo, myspace;

Great sites, But it can lead to a whole lot of hurt...

Ok, Think about it. Email and text messaging are basically "nothing" in the shadows of Bebo, Facebook and Myspace. These three are the whole new world of Communication, and 'personal info'. Great craic and fun, posing for photos you are going to post the next day...for about the whole world. Yes, sure, you are going to get excited, you can't WAIT for the comments you will receive from your mates, but Remember who else is viewing your Profile. Sometimes, someone from a different country all together can find out these "personal deets" and/or comment on them too... but that is to say it won't be bad? People out there (bullies, in other words) want to bring you down, usually to low self esteem/confidence; this can lead to serious bullying. Sure, you may think you can laugh it off, but it can get serious. A survey over four years of more than 11,000 children found nearly 15% had received nasty or aggressive messages from sites such as Bebo or Myspace. No-one is trying to stop you from going on this site, but you need to be aware. Thanks to certain software, people can store these personal details, and "remember" who you are.

But not ALL is bad! Thanks to these great sites, you can keep in touch with friends who moved, or who are far away, be your own photographer, (haha!) and even make NEW friends. Not ALL people out there are bad.

You can make a new e-pal,(but just keep in mind how you don't know EXACTLY who they really are), you can share your memories, through message boards, profiles or even pictures.

It is really a great world out there, the internet, just remember to be safe and think twice before you do anything.

By Ruth Mcloughlin



g How to get the Part-time job you want

1. Be well prepared- find out the address of the place you want and write a good letter of application (look in your dive in/take the plunge book) being polite and inclosing your CV. Don't turn up personally unless you are called for an interview.
2. If you receive a letter for an interview go appropriately dressed. First impressions are everything and can't be changed. What do I mean by appropriately? Not in a tracksuit. Make the effort and wear a suit or a least jeans and a shirt/top. Don't go for a top that says, "I live for money" "I'm a snooty princess" or "I love playboy" ETC.
3. Lastly, if you do get the job, remember that the minimum wage is 7.65 an hour and to arrive on time and work hard.

By Amy Brady



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Fri 6th June. (Adm €24)

Des Bishop

Wed 9th July. (Adm €25)

JOKE



Why are pirates pirates?
Answer: They just **arrrgh**

Why is a mosquito like a fly but a fly is not like a mosquito?
Answer: A mosquito can fly but a fly can't mosquito

Knock knock
Who's there?
Answer: Let me in and you'll find out

Why are ET's eyes so big?
Answer: Because he saw the phone bill

What does a dog and a tree have common?
Answer: bark

Did you hear the tip about the horse?
Answer: it is red hot poker it can't be touched.

A man wanted to know what was in the top room
Of the church and so he went up to the priest
And asked him what the priest was in there
Said I can't tell you because you're not a priest
So the man went of and became a priest
He went back to the church and went to the top room
And went in and saw
Answer: can't tell you you're not a priest

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

What's the longest word in the dictionary?
Elastic (because you can stretch it)!!

What did paper clip say to the magnet?
I find you very attractive!!

Doctor! Doctor! I swallowed a pin
Mmmm! I see your point

What did the traffic light say to the other traffic light?
Turn around I'm changing!!

Riddles

What has a tongue cannot walk but gets around a lot?
A shoe

What word looks the same upside down and back
wards? (not S.O.S)
Swims

If a man rode in on Friday, stayed in a hotel for three
days and rode out on Friday how's that possible?
Friday was his horses name

If two trains where leaving the station at the same time
on the same track going towards each other at 7 o'clock
how did they not crash?
One left at 7am and the other at 7pm

A man walks into a doctor's office. He has a cucumber
up his nose, a carrot in his left ear and a banana in his
right ear. "What's the matter with me?" he asks the doc
tor. The doctor replies 'You're not eating properly'

"Doctor, Doctor, I fell like a needle".
"Hmm" replies the doctor "I see your point".

"Doctor, Doctor, everyone says that I am a liar".
"I don't believe you" replies the doctor.

What's gray has four legs and a trunk?
A rat going on holidays.

Kerry!!!

What do you call a Kerry man who keeps bouncing his
head off the wall?
Rick O'Shea

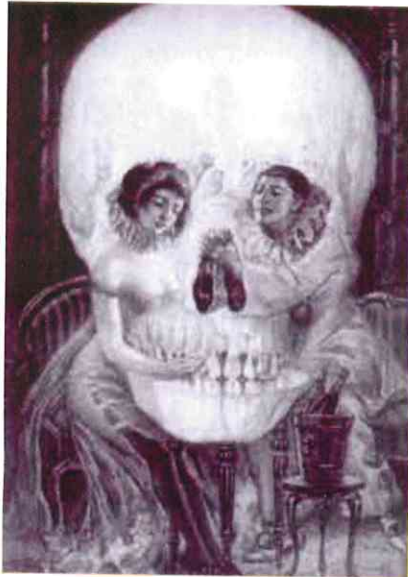
What do you do if a Kerry man throws a pint at you?
Run like mad because he probably has a pint in his
mouth.

How do you recognise a Kerry man in a car wash?
He's the one sitting on a motorbike.

Mrs O'Flatherty goes into the pet shop. 'Have you any
dogs going cheap'
'Sorry Mrs O'Flatherty all our dogs go 'woof'

By David Campbell O'Connor

Cartoon Riddles



As you first look at this optical illusion, you will instantly see a skull staring you in the eye. But after closer examination you'll realize that it is actually just a few Victorian women spacing wine glasses on a table, with a round mirror in the background.

They must have been fairly bored before the invention of the internet and the creation of optical illusion web sites!

Strange or really Funny?

An **ambigram** is defined as a word that reads exactly the same upside down as it does rightside up. Just turn your head to the left or to the right (or do a headstand or handstand) and you'll see that the word "Funny" appears exactly the same no matter which way you turn your head.



"Demons & Angels has a few good ones as well"

What is the difference between a bull and a tax collector? The tax collector charges more ha ha!!!!

What do you call a monkey with two bananas in his ears?
Anything you want because he can't hear you ha ha!!!!

How do you get a one armed person out of a tree?
Wave at him ha ha!!!!

What is blue and smells like red paint???
Blue paint!!!!

Doctor doctor I feel like a strawberry
I think I have some cream for that

Doctor doctor I feel like a pair of curtains
Pull your self together

Doctor doctor every time I touch myself it hurts
That's because your finger is broken

Why did the cow cross the road?
To go to the moooovies

Steve Staunton sees an old women struggling with her bags.

He goes over to her and said can you manage,
And she said yeah right!!!!!!!

What's the difference between a BMW and a hedgehog?
On a hedgehog the pricks are on the outside.

Why are E.T's eyes so big?
Because he looked at the phone bill!!!!

By Adam Griffiths and Ryan Graham

Word Search

You have to try and find the words in the word search below. Mark the off using a straight line.

Q	R	E	L	I	N	E	C	U	E	P	M	S
S	R	E	L	I	G	I	O	N	F	B	E	O
W	T	E	G	F	C	U	E	A	O	A	T	C
O	O	P	N	R	E	I	K	N	M	G	A	K
O	S	B	N	C	S	P	E	G	A	N	L	P
D	C	U	O	F	H	E	L	J	T	L	W	L
W	I	I	R	P	I	R	I	S	H	D	O	H
O	E	S	W	U	S	L	S	P	C	I	R	F
R	E	I	E	N	T	O	T	H	K	M	K	G
K	N	N	D	I	O	S	H	E	D	A	S	I
N	C	E	C	F	R	I	O	Q	Z	T	G	P
R	C	S	P	O	Y	U	F	U	L	F	F	G
O	E	S	C	I	E	N	C	E	N	N	H	U

French
Woodwork
Cspe
Irish
Science
Metalwork

Religion
Business
Sphe
History
Math



Win By Guessing Who is Who

How to play this game. You will simply need to find out who is behind those eyes. If you see one of your teachers wearing a pair of shades in the next few weeks you'll guess why!! Then move on to the other pics and try to guess who are represented in those baby photos. Once you are done please submit your answers in a sealed envelope with you name and your class to Ms. Hitillambeau, before the 27th May. Good luck to all



Class Photos



Class N'Barokáin



The Staff



Class Sweeney



Class Daly



Class Nelson



Class Brennan



Class Coffey



Class White



Class Ball



Class O'Hare



Class Kelly



Class McNally



Class Ni Mharaigh



Class Hillman

Stop Press

Italian Trip

Dear diary, Ciao!

Italy was amazing. There was so much to do and learn about such a different country. From beautiful sights and buildings to tasty food and glorious weather.

Day 1.

4.00a.m. on Friday morning the whole school stood outside The Ratoath Inn anxiously waiting for the bus to arrive. Sadly we had to say goodbye to our parents for four days, although we knew we would have a great time without them! Finally, the bus had arrived and we were called into our groups. Half of us were put on one bus whilst the others were put on a different bus. Everyone was so excited and the flashing of cameras began.



At 5.00a.m. we arrived in Dublin Airport and checked in for our flight. After checking in we got breakfast in the upstairs restaurants while discussing our flight seats. Our breakfast was finished and our stomachs were full, so we decided to get some shopping done. The girls headed to the makeup and perfume shops whilst the boys ran to the sports shops. At 7.10 a.m. we departed Dublin Airport to arrive in Milan Airport for 10.45a.m. People were very tired but the day only got better when we felt the warm sun on our shoulders.

At 12.00 noon we arrived in the Stadio San Siro. We went into the museum and looked at the football history of A.C. Milan and F.C. Inter. The museum had historical shirts from legendary footballers, boots, footballs, trophies, cups and art objects such as a model of the stadium itself. Then we had a guided tour of the gigantic football stadium. It could hold up to 85,000 people. There were many different sections of this stadium for all the different supporters, journalists, reporters, T.V. news crew and the manager and players themselves. We visited the unbelievable dressing rooms of both teams. They had huge plasma screens, massage tables, showers, decoration and couches.

After a great time in the Stadio San Siro we stopped off to grab a bite to eat at Mc Donalds restaurant. We got our food and then went out into the little plastic shelter to eat. Unfortunately we had unexpected company, they were small (not all of them), had wings, claws, feathers and could fly. It was our first BAD experience of pigeons in Italy but not our last. The pigeons first struck at Mr. Ball's head as he jumped up screaming like a girl. It was very funny.

At 16.00p.m. we arrived in Splendid Sole Hotel. We unpacked our cases and got ready for dinner. Some people (Shannon and I) liked the food while others (Aoife, Katy) did not. We had an early night to prepare for the long, busy day ahead.

Day 2.

We got an early morning wake up call at 8.00am. Everyone was very tired, but delighted to be in Italy. Breakfast was at 9.00am and we left straight afterwards. We arrived in Malcesine (Lake Garda) and got ice cream! We then had a 2 hour cruise over to Prada Montebaldo Cable Cars. The cable cars took us over Baldo Mountain for 10 minutes, showing us panoramic views of Lake Garda, the Venetian and Lombard Prealps. At

the top of mountain we were wearing our sunglasses, while having a snow fight at the same time. It was very strange, but very fun.

After a long day we went back to the hotel. We had our meal and then played some really fun games with the teachers and students. Everyone had a great time and had great laughs when Mr. Ball fell on the ground when we played 'Last Man Standing'. He was the first teacher to fall and he didn't even get pushed. Everyone went to sleep no problem because of our long, warm, tiring day out.

Day 3

Day 3 was by far the best day. We got up nice and early to go on a bus to Gardaland. We arrived at about 10.00a.m. and went straight in to the roller coasters. The biggest roller coaster in the park was 'the blue tornado'. It is 109 feet tall and from the highest point you can see the whole of Gardaland with your feet dangling in the breezy air. It was definitely one of the favourites with the students. Even the teachers loved it. Except for Ms. Daly! Another ride was 'Magic Mountain'. It was another roller coaster standing 98 feet above the ground at its highest point. In this you are sitting down so it is not as scary. There was a few water rides as well as roller coasters. Some were 'Fuga da Atlantide (Escape from Atlantis)', 'Sequoia Adventure' and 'Jungle Rapids'. After we spent a good few hours at Gardaland, we started on our journey home. We got home and jumped straight into the freezing cold swimming pool. After about ten minutes we had to run in and get ready for dinner. After dinner we packed our bags and went to bed.

Day 4

Monday morning was very confusing. No one could make up their mind whether they were happy to be spending the day in Venice or sad to be going back to Ireland. We said goodbye to our hotel and put our keys in reception for the very last time. At 11.00a.m., we went on a vaporetto (waterbus) to meet our guide. We then got a guided tour of Venice and learned lots about the gondolas, St. Marks Square and other wonderful



Group photo of the Italian Trip organised by Mr. Ball and Ms. Ní Mhurchú

buildings. Wow! We had never seen as many pigeons in one place as in St. Marks Square this day. They were everywhere. There were also lots of stands where the Italians sold carnival masks and Italian souvenirs (This is where Ms. Cullen did her bargaining!). Some groups went on the gondolas while others shopped. Everyone had a great time in Venice and bought lots of things for their family and friends at home. We got to the airport earlier than we thought we would get there so we had plenty of time. We did some more shopping in the duty-free and then got on our flight at 20.30p.m. The flight was fine and we arrived home on time at 22.10p.m. We arrived back in the Ratoath Inn at ten past eleven and got greeted by our happy parents. The trip was amazing and everyone enjoyed it.

Gracie,
Arrivederci

By Amy Simpson and Shannon Fagan

Carlingford Trip

On Friday 25th April, 40 first year students travelled to Carlingford Adventure Center with Ms. Ryan, Ms. Cullen and Ms. Galbraith. Everyone had a super day and took part in lots of activities. In the morning we went rock climbing or kayaking. Most people did kayaking and it was great fun despite the freezing cold! After a well earned and much appreciated lunch, we were all divided into teams and did various tasks on an assault course. The more tasks the team completed, the more treasure they collected and in the end this determined the winner. The winning team got the much coveted prize of back-seat of the bus for the return journey to Ratoath! Everyone was very tired after the fun-packed day but since it was Friday we had all weekend to recover



Preparing for the canoe trip at Carlingford



Various activities were proposed during the day



All was worth it when we see the smiles of those chaps

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To all the students of Ratoath college:

For their contribution and production of great articles. Unfortunately not all articles were published. However all articles were of a great standard. We fully appreciate all efforts.

Ratoath College Staff:

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Apologies to all those I forgot to mention. We do hope you appreciate and enjoy this issue of our mag '66'.

Thanks to all
Alma Hitillambeau
66 Co-ordinator

Autographs

A friend
is one who's
always there, to lend a hand,
Who simply understands.

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