

66 Magazine



Features

Sport

Events

News

Interviews

Entertainment

Mol an Oige

Ratoath College

Third Edition

Contents

Welcome from our Principal.....	2
Best Wishes from our Deputy Principal.....	3
A message from Our Chaplain.....	4
A Message from the Editorial Team.....	5
Student Council.....	6
First Year Class Pictures.....	7
Green Schools Committee.....	9
Mol an Óige.....	10
Project Maths.....	11
French Week.....	11
Seachtain na Gaeilge.....	12
The Italian Dream.....	13
First Year Carlingford Trip.....	13
Second Year Class Pictures.....	14
Debating Club.....	16
N.C.C.A. Fón Project.....	17
Out & About 08/09.....	18
Online Bullying.....	19
Canteen.....	20
Redefining Art Group.....	20
Irish Dancing.....	20
Out & About 08/09.....	21
Memoirs of a Year in Science.....	22
Third Year Class Pictures.....	23
C.S.P.E.....	26
Fashion Show.....	27
Transition Year Class Picture.....	28
PAL.....	28
Transition Year Gaisce Hill-walking Trip.....	29
Delphi Trip.....	30
Young Social Innovators.....	32
Lights, Camera, Action.....	33
Teacher Talk.....	34
Out & About 08/09.....	38
Fifth Year Class Picture.....	39
Career Guidance & Counselling.....	40
Night School.....	41
Choir Report.....	42
Ratoath College' Got Talent.....	43
Meath V.E.C. Extravaganza.....	43
China Trip.....	44
Farewell to Mr. O'Hare.....	46
Sports Round-up.....	47
James Scully Interview.....	57
Notes.....	58
Message from An Cinniri.....	Back Cover

Greetings from our Principal

Once again, I am delighted to be associated with this wonderful production. Well done to our media group who have been directly involved all year.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the magazine. You are an excellent group of students and I am very proud of you all.



A special word of thanks in particular to the teachers involved- Ms Kelly and Mr Walsh. This could not have been achieved without you. Míle Buíochas. Thanks also to all the other teachers who encouraged their students to contribute articles.

The magazine gives you a flavour of all the activity which has gone on in Jamestown in the past year. It has been a wonderful year with many memorable events, our first Junior Certificate results, our lively talent show, our first ever fashion show, our success in athletics and at the YSI competition. It was a challenging year for the staff with the introduction of the LCVP and TY programmes along with the established Leaving Certificate and two very successful inspections in Maths and Art. We were so lucky to have the community lands positioned beside the school as the rugby pitch and athletics track have really enhanced our extra-curricular programme.

Despite all the gloom and doom, let's look forward to 2009-2010, a year in which we will introduce our LCA programme, complete our Meditation and Prayer Room, complete our own football pitch and produce our first school musical. It is the good working relationships between all of us which characterises the ethos of this school and which allows us to achieve all of our goals. May these positive relationships continue long into the future!

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Máire Ní Bhróithe
Principal

Best Wishes from our Deputy Principal

Summer has arrived (theoretically at least!) and yet another academic year is approaching its conclusion. And what a year it has been - I don't think a week went by without some event or activity taking place involving the students of Ratoath College. From our wide and varied sporting endeavours, the choir's success in the Community games and at the Solstice, the Talent show, our first and very successful Fashion Show, our 2nd Year scientists representing us at Sci-fest, to Hip hop clubs, debating, the school table-tennis competition or anyone of the myriad of activities that students have participated in over the past year -the school, as usual, has been a hive of activity all year.



This year saw the introduction of Transition Year and I have to say a special well done to the class who have certainly set the bar high for the future for the Transition Year programme in Ratoath College. They were involved in a wide range of activities and projects and were very worthy winners at the recent YSI awards. Well done to Ms Kilrane and all involved.

This 2009 edition of "66", is a production that not only presents an exciting collage of the variety and vibrancy of life in Ratoath College but the exceptional quality of the production epitomises the very essence of the school and what we are about in Ratoath College. To all who have contributed to the magazine, to those involved in the Media Club, and particularly to Ms. Kelly and Mr. Walsh who have coordinated this production my heartiest congratulations on a job superbly well done!

Finally, I want to wish our 3rd Years the best of luck over the coming weeks as they commence their exams, I have no doubt that you will do your best and will be successful in your endeavours and I would like to thank all the students and staff of the school for their exceptional commitment and the huge contribution they make to ensuring that Ratoath College is a school for us all to be proud of.

Maith Sibh!
Oonagh Prendergast

A message from our Chaplain

Once again, the summer holidays are approaching and soon the memories of the past year will fade in the new found freedom of the long summer months. The publishing of another school magazine will help to jog people's memories as they dip into its pages on those not so sunny days of summer.

Summer gives us the opportunity to rediscover the great outdoors. Those of us that enjoy hill walking, or more accurately those of us that enjoyed it in fitter healthier days, know the pleasure of reaching the summit. The beauty of it all is staggering when you get there. And yet, somehow you knew it would be right from the start. Of course, the going was rough, the climb difficult, the mountain steep, but now that you look out over the valley you realise how worthwhile it all was. Many people have climbed life's mountain. Some of them are even now beginning to look back and they aren't too happy with the progress they have made. If only they could have another go, they think, things would be so much different. But there isn't a second edition. We have only one life to live. But most of you are just starting out on life's journey. You're different. There is nothing to stop you from attempting to climb to the highest peak in the range. Remember what the late Dag Hammarskjold said: "Never measure the height of a mountain until you have reached the top. Then you will see how low it was."

My favourite mountain is Croagh Patrick in County Mayo. It is a tough climb but when you reach the summit the views over Clew Bay are amazing. Many people are satisfied with reaching the statue of Saint Patrick, they no sooner start the climb than they give up. This may not satisfy you, though. You weren't made for life on the ground floor, for a drab existence. You were born to reach. You weren't born to sit on the fence and let life drift lazily by. Many today are concerned solely with what they can get out of life - with achieving fame and fortune by the easiest means possible. But today's headlines become tomorrow's wrapping paper. You have only one life to live and you have to make it count. No use piling up riches if you can't take them with you. You want to make a mark that nobody will erase. Start today by putting one foot in front of another and in time you will reach the summit.

Is mise le meas,

Fr. P.J. Nyland

Tionchar Group

In September a new group was established in Ratoath College. The group are called "Tionchar" and they help the Chaplain in various projects throughout the year. The group come from the fifth year students who have shown leadership qualities over the past few years. The group have organised a very successful indoor soccer league for first years. This competition has now reached the semi-final stage. Some of the more promising referees to emerge are Eric Lawless, Gavin Eiffe, Patrick Haslem and Andrew Gorman. The group have also helped out with liturgies both in the school and in the parish.



Students of the Tionchar Group

A Message from the Editorial Team

Thank you all for purchasing this year's magazine-we hope you will enjoy reading it as much as we did creating

We have all worked really hard and showed great enthusiasm throughout the year and we know that you will find something of interest in this year's magazine. We the media club hope that you will find a variety of activities, articles and photographs that you will enjoy.

Ratoath College was a hive of activity this year and the college was buzzing with events such as the talent show, the fashion show, French week, Seachtaine na Gaelige, Jersey day, operation Christmas



child and much, much more. As our year comes to an end, we would like to look back and remember all of the great times that have taken place during the year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who helped us to create this year's magazine, especially Miss Kelly and Mr Walsh who were generous with their time and encouraged us to stay focused and on target.

Thanks to all the other teachers who

volunteered to be interviewed and kept us informed of the various events throughout the year. A huge thanks to all the members of the team who worked really hard to make this an exciting and enjoyable magazine yearbook.

Finally, we would like to extend a special thank you to members Kira Morton and Ursula Cullen, for designing and creating the artwork on the front cover. Well done girls!

Best wishes for a safe and fun summer,

The Media Club

Students Council 2008/09

This year's student council representatives are; Chairman Adam Puszczewicz Vice Chair Conor Hughes, Secretary Shannon Fagan, Tice Darren Cummins, Treasurer Ciaran O'Connor, Vice Conor Cunningham, PRO Stephanie Barry, Vice Garreth Keily, other representatives are, Michael O'Connor, Patrick Haslam, Jake Colfer, Ian Marron, Lauren Munnely, Andrew Checkley, Sean O'Hanarahan, Jonathan Sheilds, Jack Stockwell and Sam O'Connor.

The student council meet during lunch hour every second Wednesday and have been very busy this year. Some of the issues been addressed by the council include, the new canteen for lunch time. They also arranged to have the chairs returned to the GP area and they are currently busy supporting the mini marathon fundraiser for Aonad Arkle.

There are other issues they have in the pipe line, such as a jersey day, a bake sale and they work constantly to represent their fellow students' needs. Remember, get to know your student representative and make sure you share your great suggestions on how to make Ratoath College an even better place to be!



Members of this years Student Council



Front Row L-R: L. Cahill, S. O'Connor, D. Walsh, E. Dempsey, J. Walsh, J. Dempsey, A. Kelly, S. Smith, D. Dooley
Middle Row L-R: D. Treacher, P. Healy, E. Duffy, D. Toner, H. O'Toole, C. Barnes, S. Lee, A. Pevsechini, S. Mahon Smith, P. Byrne
Back Row L-R: D. Jones, A. Maloney, A. Kelleher, A. Farrell, H. McMullen, L. Crawley, J. Eiffe, K. McCabe, S. Murray, A. McDonnell

Green Schools Committee

Its been another busy year for the *Green Schools Committee!* With the committee being made up of at least one representative from each class, the group has really become a school wide organisation in its own right.

The *Green Committee* have undertaken a large number of projects and initiatives this year including supplying a recycling centre to each class room in the building, creating a short environmental awareness video, which was played for all students, placing posters all around the school, setting up an environmental awareness exhibit.



Needless to say, their enthusiasm towards protecting and their environment continues to flourish and we are very much looking forward to another eventful year at Ratoath College in the 09/10 academic year. Many thanks to all who give up their time contribute to our school being an environmentally friendly one.



By Jake Colfer (3rd Year)

Mol An Óige

"Mol An Óige" is the school motto for Ratoath College. It means "Praise the youth". This motto is expressed on a daily basis throughout Ratoath College. In our school, each and every student is made feel exceptionally welcome from the moment they step foot inside the door. When I first entered Ratoath College two years ago, I was daunted by the fact of going to Secondary school, but on my first week in Ratoath College, I settled in immediately and felt exceptionally welcome.

Students in Ratoath College are praised in different ways. Every student receives a Dialann and inside our Dialann is a comments section. This is where teachers write positive and negative comments. The positive comments can be as a result of good behaviour, great test results or good homework done. Also, Positive comments can come in the form of commendation slips and postcards.

Student of the Month ceremonies are held every month. This is where each Caomhnóir in the school chooses 3 nominees from their class and a winner is chosen by members of staff. The winner then receives a certificate and a voucher. A picture of the winner goes up on the Mol An Óige notice board for the rest of the month.

Finally, there are two main award ceremonies held throughout year. They are the Christmas prize giving and Summer prize giving. At Christmas the main award is the Spiorad an Choláiste award. At summer there are prizes presented for attendance, the



Caomhnóir awards, Rogha Na Daltaí (Students awards) Extra-curricular awards and the 'Big 4' Cultural student of the year, Sport student of the year, Academic student of the year and Student of the year.

All of these different forms of praise encourage students even more and helps encourage us to remain enthusiastic about our school work, which is the main objective of Ratoath College. Based on the exceptional results in the Junior Cert 2008, where Ratoath College surpassed the national average in many subject areas, Mol An Óige is extremely effective.

Mol An Óige is expressed by each and every teacher in Ratoath College towards each and every student on a daily basis. Mol An Óige is the heart and soul of Ratoath College, and is why Ratoath College is a school of excellence.

By: Eoin Joyce (2nd Year)

Project Maths

Project Maths is the second N.C.C.A. project that Ratoath College are participating in.

Ratoath College welcomed Dr. Ann Brosnan (National Co-ordinator of Maths) to Ratoath College on Friday 6th February 2009. Dr. Brosnan addressed all students in assembly and spoke about how Project Maths was a fantastic opportunity for all students in Ratoath College.

Her visit was a particularly special occasion as she had come to Ratoath College to present the first Project Maths on line prize to Karen Mc Cabe, a first year student from Rang O Dwyer. Karen was presented with a certificate and a digital camera. This is an excellent achievement for Karen as she was competing against students from all years in this competition. Ar fheabhas! Karen.



Project Maths is the phased implementation of changes to the Maths curriculum over a 4 year period. The project commenced in January in 24 pilot schools and the focus of the project is to make Maths more relevant to the lives and experiences of students by promoting more practical and student centred learning.

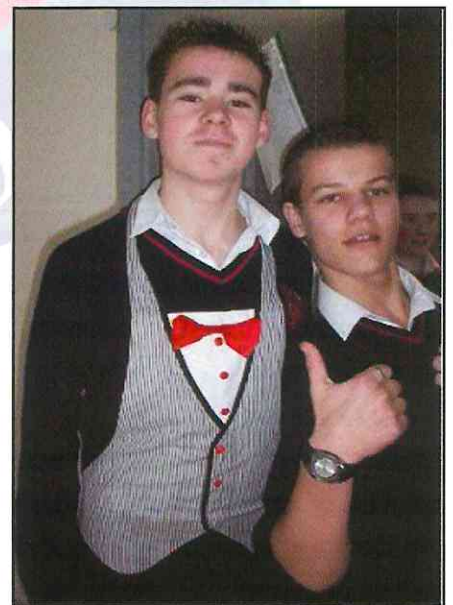
Our 1st years and 5th year students are all involved in this project. Next year our 1st, 2nd and 5th and 6th year mathematicians will be involved.

La semaine Francaise

French Week or 'La semaine francaise' took place during January again this year. This French cultural week included plenty of activities for students to get involved with the French language and culture, movies, quizzes, a best-speaker competition, drama group.

We also had French breakfast for the whole school on the Friday morning which is always greatly enjoyed, the smell of fresh croissants and pain au chocolat really brought the French experience alive for us!! Thanks to the Transition Year students for being excellent hosts on the morning.

This fun, educational week was another great success, and a big thanks to both the students for getting involved and the French teachers for making it happen! We look forward to an even bigger and better semaine francaise l'année prochaine!



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2009!

Seachtain na Gaeilge took place in the school the week leading up to St. Patrick's weekend and bhí go leor spórt agus spraoi againn. A competition took place for 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 Lauren Marlowe, Clíona Grall in 2nd place and Jasmine Fahy in 1st place.

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 Matthew McClean (3rd), James Dervan (2nd) and Grace Coyne (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. We also had a comórtas litriú for 1st years and the top spellers proved to be Wayne Reilly agus Cathal O' Carroll, Dillion Dooley, Ciara McCabe, Tim Ryan and Jelico Balchin.

A pictiúrlann was set up in the Rm 28 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 first Puc Fada competition in Ratoath College. This was for 4th and 5th year



students who showed off their hurling skills in style. The winners of the final were Cian O'Brien, Bryan McMahon, Andrew Gorman and Jack McGabhann.

After several practice classes in Céilí dancing Thursday night arrived, bringing with it the Céilí Mór, the highlight of Seachtain na Gaeilge. As always, 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. 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 small break where a feast of scones, ispíní and tea and sú oráiste were a fitting end to a great week.

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



The Italian Dream

First Year School Trip 3rd April 2009.

What a blast! In the dark of the night we set off from Ratoath to Dublin Airport. We were on route to Milan Airport. Having travelled through the night we went directly to the San Cero Stadium which was a lovely experience especially for us footie fans.

Time away together, away from study, books and the homework was great. From the stadium, to Lake Garda, to our wonderful cable car ride across the panoramic views of Lake Garda we had a fabulous time -such laughs.

The highlight for me had to be Gardaland Fun Park. The rides were incredible. Time flies when you are having fun and we had plenty of that. And so the day went by in a flash!



The last stop on the last day was Venice. It was very hot that day and a little smelly it has to be said. The ride on the gondolas was very enjoyable. We rocked the gondola and the poor gondolier in turn. He managed to hold on though.

We shopped 'til we almost dropped and cleared the remaining funds from the wallets and then it was

time to leave for the airport for our journey home.

We returned exhausted, happy but safe and sound to our families. Many thanks to all the teachers who planned our trip for us and those who came with us. They were fun and took great care of us all.



BY Nathan Mc Aloon.

1st Year Carlingford Trip

First years also went to Carlingford Adventure Centre for a day trip and it would certainly be true to



say that all who attended thoroughly enjoyed their day out. Activities included abseiling, rock-climbing, water activities and more. Mr. Qualter was particularly good at the rock climbing. A big thanks to all the Teachers who came with us and helped make it a great trip.



Second Year Class Pictures

Rang Nelson



Front Row L-R: R. Moore, A. Kinlan, E. Gubbins, D. Connolly, C. Falvey, A. Leonard, S. Fagan, C. Grall, H. Daly
Middle Row L-R: N. Samson, L. Daly, N. Corrigan, H. Malone, A. Simpson, C. Mooney, V. Manrique, C. Joyce
Back Row L-R: G. Brennan, G. Tarpey, J. Bourke Walsh, A. Flinter, J. Tallon, S. Kavanagh, B. Kiely, G. Lynch

Rang Sweeney



Front Row L-R: S. Halpin, M. Mahon, K. Smith, C. Watters, A. White, Katie Fanning, J. Fahey, N. Pike Potter
Middle Row L-R: C. Darcy, G. Coyne, D. Lawlor, J. Maher, D. Byrne, N. Doogan, J. cooney, C. McMahon, C. Cagney
Back Row L-R: A. Chekley, M. Crawley, E. O'Brien, D. Kelly, A. O'Brien, L. Hall, D. Ennis, M. Hannes Paara, L. Byrne

Rang Savage



Front Row L-R: V. Browne, S. Nouzem, O. Gannon, D. Grehin, Z. Skelly, D. Gorman, E. Rowan, D. Clarke, M. Witter Nolan
Middle Row L-R: R. Quinn, D. Gannon, K. McCormack, E. O'Connor, M. Haore, R. McLoughlin, A. Browne Moore, C. Marlowe
Back Row L-R: R. Williams, N. Randels, R. Watters, M O'Boyle, A. Coakley, E. Halpin, B. Power, R. Fagan

Rang Kelly



Front Row L-R: A. Devine, C. Crawford, S. McGarry, S. Dillon, B. Nolan, K. Morton, J. Clarke, R. Timoney
Middle Row L-R: D. Griffen, A. Battersby, E. Hill, E. Joyce, C. McEvoy, C. McClaren, A. Flannagan Gannon, M. King, J. Wiley
Back Row L-R: R. Lynch, T. Chang, C. Tormey, S. McGuinness, U. Cullen, C. Carey, R. Nonan, C. Tierney, E. Doody



Front Row L-R: L. Lawless, K. Carr, A. Higgins, I. Marron, S. Morris, M. Carr, A. Brennan, R. Daly
Middle Row L-R: K. Collins, G. Baggett, C. Rooney, C. Lowe, K. Murray, D. McMullen, N. Hayes
Back Row L-R: L. Lynch, L. Marlowe, J. McLean, D. McBrinn, J. Dunne, C. Martin, O. McNamee, A. Griffiths

THE DEBATING CLUB

The Debating Club was founded in 2007 by Ms. Daly and Ms. Kelly. This year, the Ratoath College Junior team made history when they became the first ever Inter Schools Debating Champions of Meath.

The team have showed huge commitment and dedication throughout the year and have shown super skills in speech-writing, presentation and communications. We reached another milestone when we entered our first ever senior team into the Concern Debates. For most of the members of the team, this was their first experience of debating and of addressing a large audience. They made us very proud and did a great job.

The ability to communicate is an extremely important skill and we would encourage new members to join us next year as we strive to defend our well earned and much loved Junior County Debating title.



Ethan Barker Receiving his Debating Award

The N.C.C.A. 'Fón' Project

The project began following a visit from Dr. Ann Looney (CEO) of the N.C.C.A. in March 2006 as part of the colleges 'Visitors' Programme'. In their discussion with Dr. Looney, the students of Ratoath discussed how they considered how I.T., and in particular, mobile phones would be an invaluable tool for learning languages particularly Irish.

The project began in earnest from then on and is now, at present in Phase 2. Nine other schools are participating in Phase 2 and Phase, 3 in Northern Ireland and 3 in the South. This has been a very successful learning initiative for Ratoath College. Two students along with their múinteoir Gaeilge Áine Ní Bhrolcháin were chosen to attend the N.C.C.A. /C.C.E.C. conference in Cavan in January '09 which was held to assess the impact of their pilot project entitled 'Fón'.

This project sees teachers incorporate mobile phones into the teaching and learning strategies and methodologies in Irish. It has been very successful in Ratoath College to date. The college was the first and only school to participate in the Phase 1 of the project in 2007.

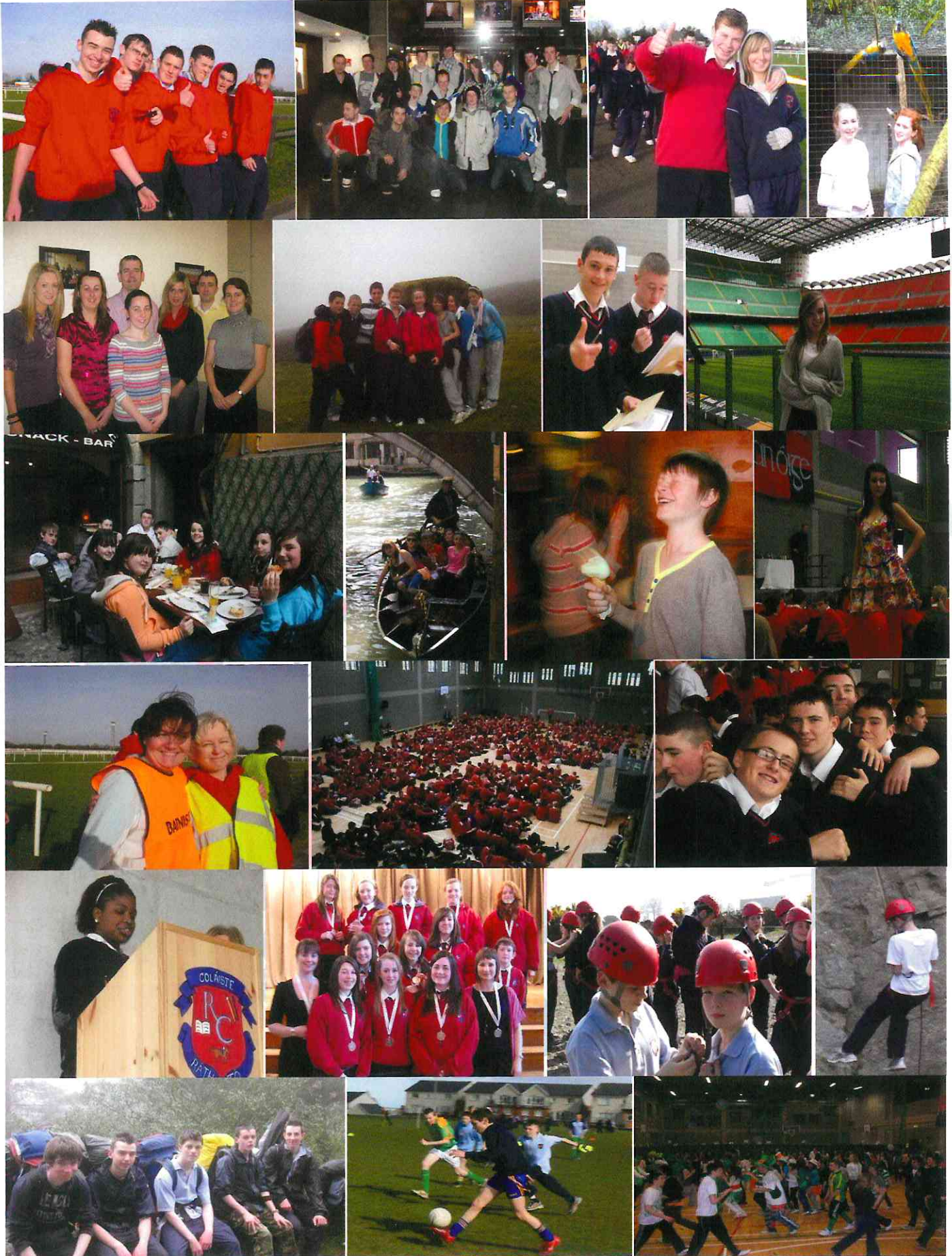
Jeaic Wiley, Edel An Chnoic and their Irish Teacher were chosen to present their findings on the project to the Council. The presentation was a great success and students and Múinteoirí Gaeilge.

The project has been entered into the national Euro Languages Competition and Ratoath College has been short-listed to the final 15 schools. We look forward to beginning Phase 3 in September 2009.



Pictured above: Ratoath College students Jeaic Wiley, Edel an Chnoic at the conference.

Out and About '08/09



Online Bullying

Some 22% of Irish teens have experienced online bullying, with four out of ten experiencing it frequently, according to a recent Microsoft Ireland summary published in February. In Ratoath College we acknowledge this phenomenon and have put in place preventative measures through our Anti-bullying programme.

Seven out of ten teens who have experienced bullying online experienced it while instant messaging, and under just under half were bullied on social networking sites. One worrying statistic arising out of the report was that 76% of those surveyed have never reported online bullying, and 52% believe the internet makes it easier to bully. When asked who they would report bullying to, 41% of those surveyed would approach their friends first for advice while 33% would turn to their parents.

Another report by the Anti-Bullying Centre in Trinity College Dublin has found that girls were more likely to fall victim to cyber bullying than boys, with one in five female respondents claiming to have been cyber bullied.

Cyber bullying can in some instances prove more damaging than traditional or offline bullying according to Dr Seamus Sweeney, special lecturer in Psychiatry at St Vincent's University Hospital, UCD. "Cyber bullying can have immediate and permanent consequences," according to Dr Sweeney. "People from outside a person's social circle can see it". He said victims of cyber bullying could feel as though the universe they created online had been invaded. "For young people a Bebo page or a MySpace page is literally their space. It's a place to express themselves." said Dr Sweeney. He said that in some way if a student is being bullied at school they can get away from it when they go home at the end of the day but that it was more difficult to escape cyber bullying.

With this in mind it is important for students to know that supports are in place in Ratoath College for students who may have fallen victim to bullying or know someone who is being bullied. Our Anti-bullying programme, as established by the Anti-bullying team, has implemented the following strategies:

- Anti-bullying zoom day
- Sticks and stone workshop
- School leadership team workshops. (This involved our TY Mentors giving anti-bullying presentations to first year students)
- Anti-bullying poster competition
- SPHE classes on bullying and its effects
- Peer Mediation

Ratoath Colleges' Anti-bullying email address: bully-line@rc.meathvec.ie

Canteen News

Ratoath College recognises that healthy food plays an important part in student's learning and performance and so has started looking at providing canteen facilities for the student body. Together, School Management and the Parents Association have been involved in piloting a number of options available to the school, in an attempt to determine the needs of the students and to highlight the course of action which should be taken in the future to fulfil these needs.

After Christmas, the first pilot scheme was introduced where local business SPAR (Corbalis) sold a selection of soups, sandwiches & rolls, scones, fruit and bottled water to students. This scheme operated a voucher system replacing cash. The second pilot scheme commenced after the Easter Break. This scheme is run by a company called "LunchPak" and it provides sandwiches, wraps & rolls, soup, pasta dishes, popcorn, bottled water and milkshakes. Students pay for the products using cash.

The school is very proud of its Healthy Eating Policy and this is reflected in the canteen facilities provided for the students. To date these facilities have been very popular among both staff and students and we look forward to continuing this success in the future.

The Re-defining Art Group

The Re-defining Art Group was set up by Ms. Hynes in 2007. This is an exciting and dynamic group who are keen to make Ratoath College look its best with art work and exciting projects. This year we undertook many projects such as the "Ratoath College School Calendar", the "Christmas Theme in Ratoath College" and our very romantic "Valentines Day Rolo Theme".

The group are currently working on designing a visual display for the main entrance of the school to be presented on our official opening evening. 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 countries flag and we hope to add to the collection of flags for many years to come.

The Redefining Art Group is very excited about finishing this project and hope it will be a great success. Here is a picture of Laura Burke and Romy Higgins from Rang Hynes on their way to deliver some very special Rolo's and chocolates to the students and teachers in their classes!

The Irish Dancing Club

The Irish Dancing Club was founded by Ms. Hynes and started in 2006 in Fairyhouse Racecourse. Every year new dancers join and we now have a small group of committed and talented young dancers. Ms Hynes and Ms Kelly meet us every Wednesday to practice for important events that take place in the school. Everyone enjoys it and its great fun. Young people are attracted to Irish Dancing for many reasons. Some enjoy the music, others the physical exertion or the beauty of the movement. Many enjoy the social side, others the excitement of competitions. Whatever the dancer's reasons, the benefits of Irish dancing are great. Dancing can develop body control and coordination and it is great exercise. It can also increase your confidence and develop "stage presence". Anyone can dance and everyone is welcome to join our group!



By Shane Woods. (1st Year Student)

Out & About '08/09



Memoirs of a Year in Science

2008/2009 has been a very exciting year in the science department in Ratoath College. It got off to a start last September with the addition of two members of staff Ms Kelly and Ms Garcia and later on in the year with Mr Nissar. They were delighted to be joining Mr O' Hare, Ms Burke and Ms Brennan in the colourful laboratories of the "science corridor".

Memorable experiments

There's a lot to learn in science but what students seem to like the best is to learn from their own experience. That's why the practical experiments are always so popular. Spitting in to test tubes, blowing in to a sheep's lung and digging deep for the left ventricle were among the highlights of this year's experimental work. A special mention must be made for the exploding manganese dioxide. The student's tell me that the gothic look would suit Mr. O'Hare! Also remember all those fire drills? You have the science department to thank for at least half of those. We should all be experts now on building evacuation!

Science Question of the Week

This proved to be a popular competition with the first and second years in the first term. Our first winner was Jelico Bachin. Others included Vincent Brown, Ryan Quinn, Zoe Brady to name but a few. Test yourself and see how many you can remember the answers to:

1. What is an animal called when it can live on both land and sea?
2. Name the scientist who developed the laws of gravity.
3. The Aurora Borealis is the correct name for what phenomenon seen in the sky of the northern part of the world?
4. Is a snake a vertebrate or an invertebrate?
5. What was the name of the sheep that was a clone of her mother?
6. What element derives its chemical symbol from the French word plomb?
7. Name the scientist who developed the theory of evolution of the species.
8. What is the short for Deoxyribonucleic Acid?
9. Which chocolate bar is the name of the galaxy we live in?
10. Sodium chloride and ethanoic acid is the scientific name of what two common substances that you would put on chips?

Science Week

This was celebrated back in November. We had some speakers visit the school and the second years had fun with a science table quiz. Many of the first year students were taken to an exciting show in the RDS. But the highlight was the "Fire and Fun" demonstrations hosted by Ms Kelly and the fifth years where students witnessed bubbles go on fire, explosions, colourful flames and much much more.

RDS Young Scientist Exhibition

The first years had the privilege to spend a day at this year's young scientist exhibition. We nearly went in to panic stations when two of the first years failed to turn up for the bus but with a dedicated man search they were found amongst the crowds in the RDS. We are hoping that some of the first years will have got some ideas to represent us in next year's competition.

Sci - Fest

Many of the second years will be heading off to Blanchardstown in May to display the projects they have been working on for the last few weeks. We wish them every success.

And so it's been a busy year in the world of science here in Ratoath. The laboratories (and you the students) will take a rest for the summer but let your mind's not rest entirely. Always be curious, always ask questions and if science can help, use it to find answers!

Answers to Science Questions (on previous page)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Amphibian | 2. Isaac Newton |
| 3. The Northern Lights | 4. Vertebrate |
| 5. Dolly | 6. Lead |
| 7. Charles Darwin | 8. DNA |
| 9. Milky Way | 10. Salt and vinegar |

Third Year Class Pictures

Rang Ball



Front Row L-R: J. Mooney, M. Hayes, S. Barry, S. Eiffe, R. Kavanagh, L. Gribben, E. Clarke, C. Crowe
Middle Row L-R: Mr. Ball, D Campbell O'Connor, K. Mc Guinness, D. Walsh, B. O'Connor, A. McDonnell, C. Woods, K. Finnegan
Back Row L-R: R. Allen, D. O'Connor, J. Fagan, J. Crofton, J. Scroope, C. Davis

Rang Hitillambeau



Front Row L-R: M. Santillian, J. Rogers, R. Murray, R. Caprani, A. King, K. Kinsella, N. McCormack
Middle Row L-R: K. Cooley, D. Mulvaney, J. Binigay, M. Farrington, D. O'Connor, P. Fanning, A. Tompkins, R. Walsh
Back Row L-R: M. Daly, R. Greer, M. O'Connor, J. Colfer, H. Maloney, S.J. Sabby, S. Connell, W. Doyle

Rang Martin



Front Row L-R: J. Scully, K. O'Reilly, A. Brady, J. McCormack, R. Kinlan, J. Creegan, J. Doody
Middle Row L-R: E. Barker, S. Cullen, F. Dolan, L. Duncan, T. Brady, B. Donnelly, G. Cunningham
Back Row L-R: J. Grall, G. Meyler, R. Gillen, K. Hynes, G. Reilly, S. Quinlan

Rang Mc Nally



Front Row L-R: A. Mallon, S. McConway, D. Conlon, K. Egan, K. Striyevica, O. O'Brien, O. Connolly
Middle Row L-R: J.M. Cruz, L. Skally, S. Ryan, R. Stowe, R. Scott, J. Mc Queen, J. Wei Chen, R. McCue
Back Row L-R: M. Manrique, B. Lee, R. Staunton, C. Glynn, E. Mc Fadden, J. Dunphy, R. Lannigan, T. O'Carrol, C. Hughes

Rang Cullen



Front Row L-R: W. Geraghty, S. Mulvey, S. McDonnell, P. Eiffe, C. Keenan, C. Kiely, L. McGuire
Middle Row L-R: G. Flannagan, C. O'Connor, A. Crosbie, Z. Lynch, C. McLoughlin, K. Kelly, S. Healy, A. Law
Back Row L-R: L. Stowe, A. Walsh, A. Doyle, C. O'Riordan, I. Conlon, R. Lawless, E. Wallace

C.S.P.E. Project – D.S.P.C.A. Visit

In April all second year classes were given the opportunity to visit the D.S.P.C.A - Dublin Society For Prevention Of Cruelty to Animals. We went to view and understand the kind of voluntary work



undertaken by all members of staff and to see some of the animals who pulled through their injuries with the help and support of the staff. We watched a very informative yet moving film that showed us the history of this fantastic organisation.

By the end of the visit we were all very aware of the great responsibility we had in caring for and protecting all animals. Arnold the pig, Maggie the three legged dog and Beckham the dog are just

some of the animals that we had the opportunity to sponsor.

We really learned a lot about all the fabulous work carried out by the D.S.P.C.A. They care for all sorts of animals and they do their best to find homes for them. I would encourage anyone who is interested in supporting the D.S.P.C.A. to contact them at the following website: www.dspca.ie

A huge thanks to Ms. O Dwyer, Ms. Mc Quillan, Ms. Gilligan

and Ms. Benville for such a great day.

By Edel Hill
(2nd Year Student)



Fashion Show

Part of Ratoath College was turned into 'Milan' on Friday 27th February as Teachers; Parents & Students took to the catwalk to showcase the latest fashion trends for spring/summer 2009.

This event was an accumulation of hard work by a large group of people over the past few weeks to raise funds for Meath Hospice and Ratoath College. All the latest trends were provided by the main sponsors 'Debenhams' and other local boutiques such as 'Shabby Chic, Ever Elegant, Tiger Lilly, Blondelles, New Look, Fats & Cone, Elvery Sports, and Dunboyne Sports & Leisure'.



The school itself was transformed into a garden paradise thanks to Garden Works Designs, Clonee. The night was hosted by Miss. Ireland (Sinead Noonan) & Mr. Brendan 'Doc' Savage of 'The Joe Duffy Show'.



Guests were treated to a 'Cheese & Win' reception before they soireed around the numerous Mini-Makeover stands compliments of Debenhams. Other entertainment was provided by some of the college students and the Purcell-Darcy Academy of Irish Dancing. All models looked spectacular thanks to the hard work of local hairdressers (Antonio Gavin & Coyotes) and beauty salons (Beauty by the Mill & Belle Femme), 'America's next top model' is definitely amongst the ranks of Ratoath College students & staff!!!!.

The main event was the fashion show which presented the latest trends in categories which included 'Day in the Country, Summer Fever, Young & Trendy, Day at the Races, Occasion Ware & Sports'. Spot Prizes were given out galore for 'Killer Heals, Handsome Hubby, Handbags & Glad rags, and Most Glamorous Lady etc'.

A spectacular raffle was also held with fantastic pieces of jewellery by Catriona Hanley & Hyland Jewellers of Ashbourne, as well as a designer dress from Shabby Chic. An amazing night was had by all who attended and partook in the show and we look forward to presenting our donation to Meath Hospice in the near future.



Transition Year Class Picture



Front Row L-R: Ms. Cullen, P. Flood, K. Hartnett, P. Darmody, E. Grall, B. McMahon, C. McIntyre,
Middle Row L-R: M. O'Connor, C. O'Brien, B. Carr, K. Gorman, L. Hayes, E. O'Connor, G. Jordan, L. Ennis
Back Row L-R: M. Wiley, S. Luons, E. Baker, W. Ross, S. Mc Donnell, S. Cooling, S. Griffin, P. Costigan, K. Judge

Transition Year Students Head for Court

The transition year students were given the opportunity to have their day in court thanks to the hard work of Ms. Heneghen, Ms. Daly and Ms. Savage. Following a training day they had an exciting day in the Four Courts where they got the chance to carry out a mock trial. T.Y. Student, Philip Costigan (pictured here on the left) was right at home as he displayed his debating skills for the prosecution team.



Mark Wiley and Liam Hayes had the difficult job of defending Kevin Hartnett (pictured here on the right) who was accused



of murdering his wife. Thankfully his smiles were enough to convince the jury and he was found innocent!! Kiera Judge, William Ross, Eavan Baker, Eoin O'Connor and Bryan Mc Mahon all played important roles on the day and we look forward to more P.A.L days in the future.

T.Y. Takes to the Hills!!!

On the Fri 15th of May, we went on a camping trip to the Mourne Mountains as a part of our Gaisce awards. Considering the weather forecast a night in a forest up the mountains without any hair straighteners did not sound like the girls idea of fun. Despite the atrocious weather conditions we had a fantastic trip with memories that will forever be in our hearts.



Struggling to pitch our tents with the winds howling was eventful to say the least, but once we all laughed our way through the chaos we were starving and ready for a feast. The menu surpassed all our expectations and with Miss Cullen around there was bound to be music and entertainment to follow. Michael, Barry, Peter and Liam took turns playing the guitars while everyone else sang. To say we

got little sleep is an understatement - we spent the night chatting until the early hours of the morning (apologies to all we kept awake!).

The next morning we headed out on our trek up the mountain. We reached our destination and got to see the famous Mourne Wall. We stood around and tried to make out what views we could through the clouds and tested our storm shelter, which actually worked and kept us warm. After a few minutes on the mountain, we headed back to our base camp along the same route, only to find on our return, that Ms. Cullen's and Ms. O' Dwyer's tent was attempting to float down the river.



This was too good of a Kodak moment to miss so after we laughed a 'LOT' and took some snaps we rescued the tent and brought it back onto land. We had a great trip and it was a fantastic way to end a fantastic year. Huge thanks to Ms Cullen, Ms O'Dwyer, Mr Mc Auley and Mr Walsh for organising it for us.



By Kiera Judge and Saoirse Mc Donnell

Transition Year - Delphi Trip

On the 24th of September 2008 the TY class, and two Teachers headed for Delphi at half eight in the morning. None of us expected it to be half as fun as it was!

We all arrived at school earlier than usual and put our bags, sleeping bags, and pillows in the back of the bus. Our principal and vice principal came onto the bus along with father P.J to wish us luck. We left the car park and waved to the other students on the way down the avenue. We were all very excited and didn't really know what to expect. Some of the lads brought guitars with them and we all joined in to sing 'Wonderwall' by Oasis. Some of us tried to get some sleep on the long 4 hour journey but no one really could with the noise of the others!

When we arrived we all went up to the conservatory where we put our bags and the 24 of us were split into two groups of 12. We were told we would be going kayaking straight away. We were all really excited and we got our towels and swim suits ready. We were brought to the lake on a bus and were given our kayaks, helmets and life jackets. Before we even stepped foot into the kayaks, we got to jump off the pier. Scott showed off his diving skills while the rest of us held our breath and jumped! We eventually got into our boats and started our games. All of us had a great time and we could tell the rest of our trip would be great.



After kayaking we all got home and had our showers. We had dinner and then we were told what our night time activity was. We were told not to wear good clothes! Our instructor James came to get us and we left for the forest. The activity was called night line and all we knew about it was it had something to do with a rope and a forest! We were told about a game called sniper that we would play along the way. When James called sniper we had a few seconds to hide in the bushes so he couldn't see us. We walked



for a while and got to a gap in the trees. We were all given blind folds and the task was explained to us. We had to hold onto a rope and follow it through the forest with our blindfolds on! We stood in water and muck and walked into trees! While doing this task, we needed to rely on other senses such as touch and sound. We listened to the people in front of us and tried to figure out where the drops in the ground were and tried not to walk into trees! When we finished we took off our blindfolds and looked at our shoes and tracksuit bottoms. Some of us had completely fallen into the mud and water and the others and just stood in it.

We walked for a bit longer until we got to a river. James told us we could drink the water from the river so some of us climbed down some rocks and scooped up water with our hands. The water came straight from the nearby mountains and was really nice. We kept walking until we got to a big rock where we sat until everyone caught up. We could see all the stars in the sky and some satellites! The sky looked really different from home because there are no lights around! We got to another night line challenge which was even harder than the last one, even without blindfolds on!

We fell, knee deep, in muck and rolled down muddy, wet hills! This challenge took a lot longer than the last one and some people took much longer to finish than others. When the first few of us finished we found a large flat rock that we lay down on and looked at the stars again. When everyone caught up we told ghost stories and James told us one about the famine and the death of 450 people. We made our way back to the centre and our feet and shoes were cleaned with a power hose! We went to our rooms and all had showers to clean all the muck off our legs!

When we got up the next morning we went for breakfast and we were told what activity we would be doing. The group I was in was going surfing with another school from Dublin. When we arrived an instructor showed us how to 'catch a wave' before we actually got into the water! Some of us had already surfed before but most of us hadn't got a clue! After trying and failing lots of times, Shane Griffin told me how to do it and I eventually got the hang of it. At the very end I stood up on the board and it felt great. There's a first time for everything! We went back on the bus and went for lunch.



After lunch, our group went to the low ropes and Jacobs ladder and the other half of T.Y went surfing. We headed for the forest and got to the first challenge, the low ropes. We were given helmets and split into 2 groups of 6. We had to work as part of a team and get a cup full of water from one side of the ropes to the other. Our team captain had to wear a helmet with a cup of water attached to it and the rest of our team had to help him across. We had to communicate and work together to overcome the obstacles.

After that we went to one of the harder challenges. The spider web. Using team work we had to get the 6 of our team members through the web but we could only use each gap twice, and we couldn't touch the strings! After a number of failed attempts we started to communicate properly and we eventually got 4 of us across by picking each other up and lifting each other through the web. We had to try again when one of our feet touched the strings! But we finally got it using good communication and team work.

Our next challenge was Jacobs's ladder. Jacobs's ladder is just like a normal ladder - except this one is for Giants! This challenge required a lot of team work. While two people are climbing the ladder, other team members need to belay the ropes. It took me a while, but I eventually finished it! I loved it so much I wanted to do it again! Everyone had a go and Scott beat Leon's record breaking time of 18 seconds by one second! We headed back to the centre for dinner.

After dinner we had our last night time activity. We went to the gym and played doctor dodge ball and football. Everyone noticed the difference in our group. We were all much closer than we had been before the trip. In doctor dodge ball we had to protect one member of our team so they didn't get hit with the ball. The doctor had to save anyone who was hit by a dodge ball. Then we played football and there were a few casualties! When that was over the other schools all came into the gym and we were told to pack our bags and clean our rooms. When that was done we could go to the conservatory. In the conservatory we talked to the other schools and got to know them a bit better. We were all sent to bed at half 11.

The next morning after breakfast we went on our last activity. Archery. We went through the rules and had some practice shots. Some of us weren't very good at it but there were some bull's eyes! We were split into two groups of 6. Team sexy and pot noodles! Team sexy won the first round...And the second! We went back to the bus when we were finished and waited for the others to finish their activity. Our time in Delphi was over! But at least we had a big bus this time! All of us agreed it was an amazing trip and it really brought us closer as a class.

Young Social Innovators

In September the Transition Year class began the Young Social Innovators module. They began the year by looking at different social issues through examining news reports and local newspapers. The area they chose to investigate was the facilities available for the young people of Ratoath. They then took part in a survey which was based on facilities in Ratoath and how young people felt about them. The results of this survey confirmed the beliefs of the YSI class; that the village is in need of a social facility for teenagers between 15 and 18 years of age.

In order to move this project forward the YSI group joined forces with CRY (Challenging Ratoath Youth), a group of adults from the community who want to develop amenities for teenagers in Ratoath. During the first public meeting which took place in early November in the community centre, members of the community who wanted to become involved in this area came together to put forward their ideas, including Mary Wallace, Nick Killian, members of Foróige and the Garda Síochána. It was decided that the next public meeting would be chaired by the young people so the YSI class asked for the help of Joanne O'Brien from Foróige. She came to the school and helped the TYs to set an agenda, pick a chairperson and secretary and prepare for the meeting, which was very successful. At this point, a core committee was set up, consisting of five adults and five young people, who have led the way since then in making plans to set up a Youth Facility in Ratoath.



Having visited Corduff Youth Café and investigating available grant possibilities, the YSI class asked Mary Wallace and Yvonne from her constituency office to meet with them in the school. This visit was a great success, thanks to the hard work of the visitors, for obtaining information on the statistics of young people in Ratoath, as well as several other issues to be considered in setting up a Youth Café.

The next step was to put together a business plan for the venture, in order to apply for various funding such as the Leader Programme through Meath Partnership. Some of the TYs spent their community work experience week compiling this with other community members, having already surveyed all senior students on the facilities and resources they would like to see in the Youth Facility 'Pulse'.



In February, the class presented their project to the North Leinster schools at a Speak Out Forum in Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, where they also opened the proceedings with a great performance of music and song. As part of the YSI class also, the group set up a movie night in the Venue with the support of Nick Killian which was a great success. While some grants have been applied for, the students have already been involved in fundraising efforts and hope to continue these in the future.

The group's project was selected to exhibit at a National Showcase in the RDS in May, where they were excellent representatives of the school both on the stage and at their exhibition stand. They were invited to pitch their project in the Dragon's Den at the Showcase and the students up for the job were Philip, Cian and Scott. The boys managed to impress the Dragons enough for them to offer the Y.S.I. class €1,500 towards their fundraising efforts; **Well done to the whole group!!**

Lights, Camera, Action !!

The Transition year class displayed some fantastic talents and skills when they visited Cairos Studio in Maynooth. As part of their English programme, the students were given the opportunity to create and shoot their very own live T.V. programme.



well be in our midst as all the students wholeheartedly got involved in the production.

Special thanks Rachael Kelly from RTE for all her support

and advice in helping us produce our movie

'Take

Away' and just so you know, there was a copy of our mini movie available for 'Everyone in the audience!'



During the day, the group learned all about pre-production, script writing and storyboarding, using a camera, writing credits and performing sound engineering. The next presenter of The 'Late Late Show' may



****Thumbs up! Ready for Action****



****T.Y. Students Filming at the Cairos Studio****

Teacher Talk: Mr. McAuley



Question: What's your full name?

Answer: "Patrizo Giuseppe Garibaldi McAuley."

Question: What age are you?

Answer: "My agent says I'm not at liberty to divulge such data."

Question: What was your most embarrassing moment?

Answer: "One morning I was like - at Assembly - and this like pupil totally asked me to fill out a questionnaire - I was just - like - so O.M.G - and stuff - like you know? I was like so scarlet and stuff."

Question: If you were stranded on a desert island what 3 items would you bring?

Answer: "A football, My MP3 player and an encyclopaedia."

Question: What's your wildest ambition?

Answer: "The bring about the reunification of Meath and West Meath, one super county stretching from the Shannon to the Irish Sea."

Question: What are your pet hates?

Answer: "Food being wasted, Avarice, Gluttony, Envy, Sloth, and of course Ire."

Question: Who do you think is the best looking teacher?

Answer: "Sally - (from Home and Away)."

Question: Have you ever met someone famous? Who?

Answer: "I bumped into Ian Dempsey once it blew my mind, I was completely Starstruck; having never before met a genuine A-lister. My voice just failed me."

Question: Why do you enjoy working in Ratoath College?

Answer: "Enjoyment, Respect, Pride - It's a special school."

Teacher Talk: Niamh Mc Quillan



Question: What age are you?

Answer: "29; 30 On the 14th of July :("

Question: What's your most embarrassing moment?

Answer: "Not really sure but once I was looking for my phone while I was talking to someone on my phone!!!"

Question: Who would be your ideal date?

Answer: "My boyfriend.! Of course."

Question: If you were stranded on a desert island what 3 items would you bring?

Answer: "A Library, a Vineyard and me Fella!!!"

Question: If you won the lottery what would you spend it on?

Answer: "I'd get a massage every day."

Question: What's your wildest ambition?

Answer: "Win the lotto."

Question: What are your pet hates?

Answer: "Rats and snakes."

Question: Who do you think is the best looking teacher?

Answer: "Mr. McAuley..!:O "

Question: Have you ever met someone famous? Who?

Answer: "Paul McGrath (my hero), Gabriel Byrne."

Question: Why do you enjoy working in Ratoath College?

Answer: "Because I get to teach bossy students like Breanne who made me do this!!! "

Question: If you had one wish what would it be?

Answer: "For everyone to have enough food."

Teacher Talk: Áine Ní Bhrolcháin.

Question: What age are you?

Answer: "21."



Question: What was your most embarrassing moment?

Answer: "When I was working as a student in the Dingle Skellig hotel as a waitress (a very bad one at that). I was serving the American Ambassador who was an absolutely HUGE man with an enormous appetite. When I was clearing his table he said to me "Honey the hotel is very busy tonight". And without thinking I replied "Yes Mr. Ambassador we have a lot of "Big People in"". I nearly died of embarrassment and hid inside until he had gone"

Question: Who would be your ideal date?

Answer: "Brad Pitt - he could babysit."

Question: If you were stranded on a desert island what 3 items would you bring?

Answer: "My husband, my children and my mobile phone."

Question: If you won the lottery what would you spend it on?

Answer: "I wouldn't like to win a big sum of money so I'm not sure."

Question: What's your wildest ambition?

Answer: "To see Rang Ní Bhrolcháin graduate from 3rd level - All of them."

Question: What are your pet hates?

Answer: "People speaking English sa Rang Gaelige."

Question: Who do you think is the best looking teacher?

Answer: "The entire staff. Being good looking is a criteria for the job as a teacher in Ratoath College."

Question: Have you ever met someone famous? Who?

Answer: "Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, Bertie Ahern and my ultimate favourite Liam O M'aonlaoc."

Question: Why do you enjoy working in Ratoath College?

Answer: "Because we have a good staff and excellent students."

Question: If you had one wish what would it be?

Answer: "Health and Happiness to all."

Teacher Talk: Declan Qualter

Question: What age are you?

Answer: "Not as old as you think - don't be fooled by the hairline!!"



Question: What was your most embarrassing moment?

Answer: "Pulling down the basketball hoop in front of Rang Nelson."

Question: Who would be your ideal date?

Answer: "Sharing a cup of tea with Miss Wilson in the staffroom."

Question: If you were stranded on a desert island what 3 items would you bring?

Answer: "A volleyball, A volleyball net and The Argentinean Ladies Beach Volleyball team."

Question: If you won the lottery what would you spend it on?

Answer: "Bringing the whole school on a skiing trip."

Question: What's your wildest ambition?

Answer: To be as cool as Mr. Nelson.

Question: What are your pet hates?

Answer: "People trying to sing along to songs that they don't know the words to."

Question: Who do you think is the best looking teacher?

Answer: "Ms. Wilson :)"

Question: Have you ever met someone famous? Who?

Answer: "Mr. McCarthy - The world famous Human Dictionary"

Question: Why do you enjoy working in Ratoath College?

Answer: "All the students are a pleasure to teach!!! "

Question: If you had one wish what would it be?

Answer: "That Santa Claus will come to me this Christmas. :)"

Out & About '08/09



Fifth Year Class Pictures

Rang Ní Bhrolcháin



Front Row L-R: A. Costello, C. Hayes, A. O'Reilly, N. Cunningham, M. Persichini, K. Johnson, A. Odobescu
Middle Row L-R: J. O'Reilly, A. Kavanagh, L. Walsh, P. Haslam, C. Donnelly, P. Cleary
Back Row L-R: B. O'Brien, S. Gribben, M. Darmody, S. Williams

Rang O'Hare



Front Row L-R: S. Kennedy, C. Nugent, A. Gorman, M. McDonald, T. Sibanda, L. Osbourne, N. Doyle
Middle Row L-R: L. Wall, O. Mc'Donnell, J. Cooley, G. Eiffe, J. McGowan, G. Randels, D. Cummins
Back Row L-R: B. Kinsella, E. Lawless, B. Hayes, N. Leonard, J. Byrne Burke

The Career Guidance & Counseling Department

Growth Areas in recessionary times!

Given all the economic doom and gloom that is highlighted in the news headlines almost daily, students should not be entirely disheartened as to their future job prospects. There are a number of sectors in our economy which could be classified as 'growth areas' offering potential employment prospects for those of you with an interest and an aptitude for these areas.

Careers in Technology

Ireland has been facing a growing shortage of graduates in technical disciplines, even though computer scientists, electronic engineers, and IT professionals have excellent career options.

According to a recent report from IDC, a leading consultancy firm, this lack of graduates in technology is forcing high-tech firms to recruit from overseas. This confirms the alarming gap between the supply of Irish-trained graduates and the demand from the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector. Official figures from the CAO show that the decline in interest in technology/computers is evident as numbers of students accepting third level computing places fell from 4,097 in 2000 to only 1,791 last year. Director of ICT Ireland, Kathryn Raleigh, says the figures have prompted alarm within the industry. "This is happening at a time when the high-tech sector is increasing in importance and offering more employment opportunities."

She added that "Graduate salaries in the sector are very attractive. According to the HEA graduate survey, 16.5pc of graduates with engineering degrees now earn €33,000 or more."

Students interested in this area of ICT have an abundance of choices at third level as there are over 100 ICT-related courses, offered at all levels through the CAO process. Apart from computer degrees, which are widely available from both the universities and institutes of technology, there are computer and software engineering options, computer games programmes, software development programmes, multimedia courses, computer network and systems courses, digital media programmes and computer science with a language options. Details of all these courses are available on www.qualifax.ie or from your School Guidance Counsellor.

Points for honours degree programmes (Level 8) currently range from 250-350, although a small number of programmes will require 400-450 points. At certificate and ordinary degree level (Level 6 & Level 7), courses are on offer from as low as 100 points, to in or about 200 points.

All of the above indicates that there are genuine employment opportunities for technology graduates in the future. Students who pursue a third level course in a technical discipline may have employment opportunities as a electronics engineer, software engineer, computer/IT consultant, computer analyst/programmer, applications developer, database administrator, information systems manager, IT trainer, multimedia programmer, systems/business analyst, technical support officer, information scientist, IT sales professional, multimedia specialist, network engineer, and technical author.

Many of the world's leading technology companies have operations in Ireland, which employ a very high proportion of graduates. Google has created hundreds of high-quality jobs for technology graduates. Graduates are also employed in software development in Microsoft, Oracle, Iona Technologies, Hewlett Packard and Havok; in hardware design and manufacturing with Dell, Hewlett Packard and Xilinx; and in the telecommunications sector with Vodafone, Ericsson and Eircom.

Sustainable Energy

Going green and the lingering doubt over the global deposits of oil have contributed to the worldwide pursuit of alternative energy sources. As a result Sustainable Energy is the buzzwords at the moment and this sector is widely reported as one which will experience growth rates well ahead of National averages.

Over 10,000 people are already employed in the energy sector in Ireland. The National Development Plan (2007-2013) has placed a strong focus on addressing energy issues by allocating €8.6 billion for energy. Ireland has also published an Energy White Paper for the first time in thirty years with targets for energy efficiency (20% energy savings by 2020) and for renewable energy usage in electricity (33% renewable energy penetration by 2020), in heat (12% by 2020) and in transport (10% bio fuels penetration). Globally the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates €20 trillion invested in the energy sector over the period 2005 - 2030.

Third level courses currently available in this sector include Energy and Environmental Engineering in IT Tallaght, and Mechanical and Renewable Energies Engineering in Athlone IT. New courses announced in April include a Bachelor of Engineering in Energy Systems in NUI Galway and Galway-Mayo IT has also launched an Energy Engineering programme. Similar courses are expected to come on line in the future to respond to the growing needs of the market. Alternatively, students could also study any engineering degree and then specialise in sustainable or renewable energy for postgraduate study.

For further information on any of the above please do not hesitate to contact your School Guidance Counsellor. Information is also available on www.qualifax.ie

Students affected by bullying also are encouraged to seek help from your Pastoral Care team members, School Guidance Counsellor, Chaplain or any adult you feel may be of assistance to you.

What to do if you are cyber-bullied?

- Tell your parents or a member of the school community
- Do not retaliate. This only feeds into the cyber-bully and could make other people think you are part of the problem.
- Try to ignore the cyber-bully.
- Block the bully from your site.
- Save the evidence. Keep a record of every message but do not reply to any bullying messages.
- Show or give the record of the bullying messages to your parents or school staff
- Email bully-line@rc.meathvec.ie

Night School Opens in Ratoath College

This year saw the commencement of Ratoath College's Adult Education Classes. A series of courses ran for 10 weeks before Christmas and a second series ran for 8 weeks after Christmas. There was a great variety of courses on offer including Computers (Beginners & Advanced), Photography, Jewellery Making, Cookery, Pilates, Computer Maintenance, Spanish & Italian, Acrylic Painting and Psychology. The classes were well supported and participants enjoyed the classes while gaining valuable knowledge and skills in a relaxed setting. Classes will resume again in the autumn and we look forward to introducing an even greater variety of courses under our new Director of Adult Education.

The Choir Report

Ratoath College Choir was formed a year ago by the fabulous Ms. Cullen, who is now this year joined by the wonderful Ms. Garrett. The choir consists of two sets; altos (people with lower voice), and sopranos (people with higher voices). Practice is on every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15 straight through to 8:45.



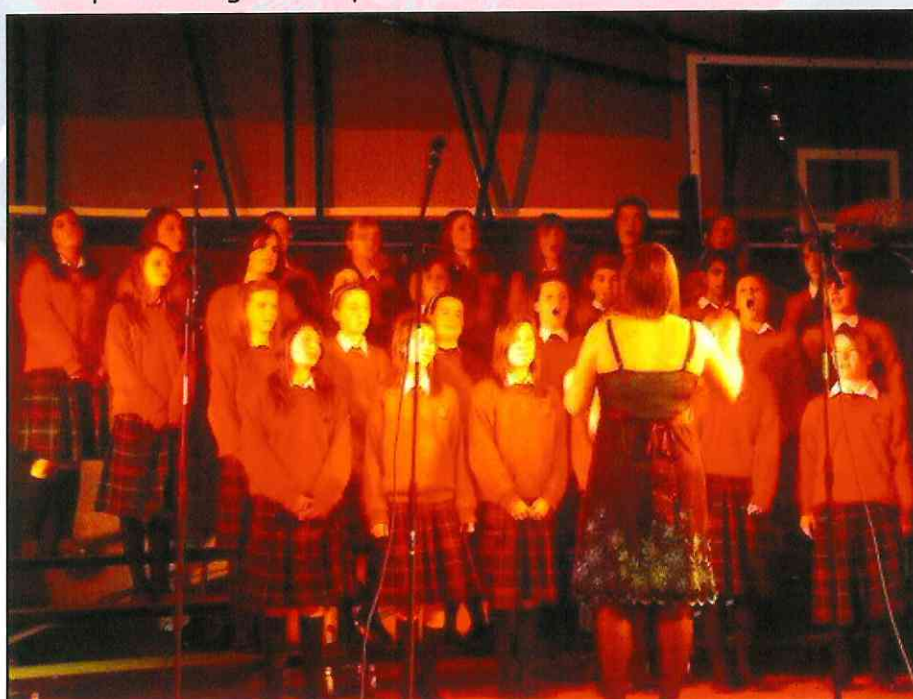
The first thing on the choirs' agenda was the awards ceremony for the first student of the month, Meath's got Talent and of course the School Talent Show. They sang a version of 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' by Diana Ross; they were successful in all three events. After that they helped bring about the Christmas Spirit by singing in the Nursing Home after they went back to the school to celebrate with a Christmas party. There's no stopping there; up next was the fantastic Meath V.E.C. Music Extravaganza in the Solstice Arts Theatre in Navan. The Choir practiced every day in order to prepare; they even went to Dunboyne for a short practice.

On Thursday the 29th and Friday the 30th of January they took part in the Music Extravaganza, singing the motown hit from the musical sister act; "shout" and taking part in Dunboyne's fantastic Queen Medley singing songs like "We Will Rock You", "Radio Gaga" and "Under Pressure". Both nights went fantastically well. And there's no stopping yet, next on the agenda was the Choir Exam in which the choir sang "Lark Of The Clear Air", "Shout!" and "Panis Angelicus". Then twenty people from the Choir were entered into the Community Games Choir Competition in which they came 2nd place beating the choir whom had beaten them last year! Up next is the next part of the Community Games Choir Competition. Watch this space.



The Choir is open to everybody. It is a fantastic way to show off your musical talent and great fun. Pictured below is the Choir performing at this years School Talent Show.

By Sadbh Kellett
(1st Year Student)



“Ratoaths’ Got Talent!”

The talent show this year was a huge success which brilliantly portrayed our school's talent. All twenty



two acts showed great courage as they performed in front of hundreds of people. The Transition Year group worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the night was a success. Their effort and energy did not go unnoticed. Our own resident technician, Mark Darmody, was fantastic on the night and showed real talent in operating the sound and lighting equipment.

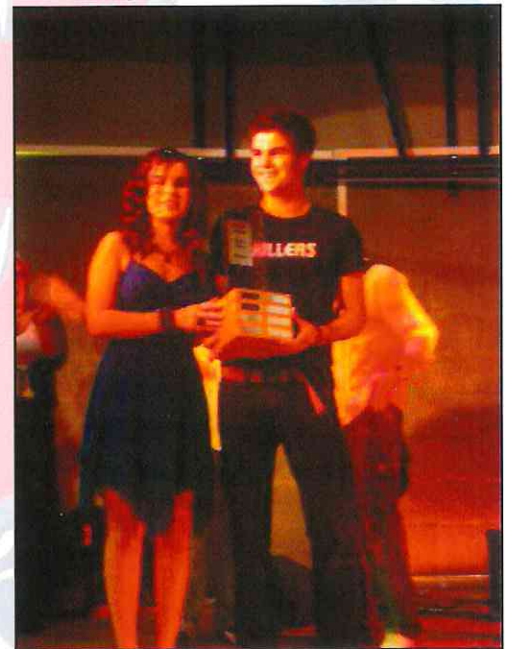
The outstanding talent represented made the judge's job very difficult. They eventually named **Benjamin Hayes** (pictured below), the winner for 2008 for his brilliant performance of The Killers' 'Smile Like you Mean It'

Kiela Whelan came second with her flawless rendition of 'Hurt' by Christina Aguilera. Jonathan Grall and Richard Greer's upbeat and inspiring choreography secured for them a 3rd place prize.

Kevin Hartnett's hugely entertaining act secured a 4th place accolade for himself, Claire Lawless and Charlotte Hayes.

Mr. Nelson and Mr. Hannon made a surprise appearance on the night and entertained the crowds with their musical medley. They were also joined on stage by the 'Britney' tribute group who entertained us all with their powerful performance. Girls Aloud watch out!! A massive well done to all the acts that took part. They were all outstanding and we can't wait to see what next years show will bring.

By Cian Mc Intyre



Meath V.E.C. Talent Extravaganza!

Ratoath College were proudly represented in the Meath V.E.C musical extravaganza that took place in the Solstice Arts Theatre in Navan.

Sarah Louise Adams, Kevin Hartnett, Claire Lawless and Charlotte Hayes and the Ratoath College choir practiced for weeks to perfect their performances on the night-and pitch perfect they were!

Congratulations to Ms Cullen and Ms Garreth who continue to support and encourage the tremendous talent in Ratoath College and we look forward to more musical extravaganzas next year.

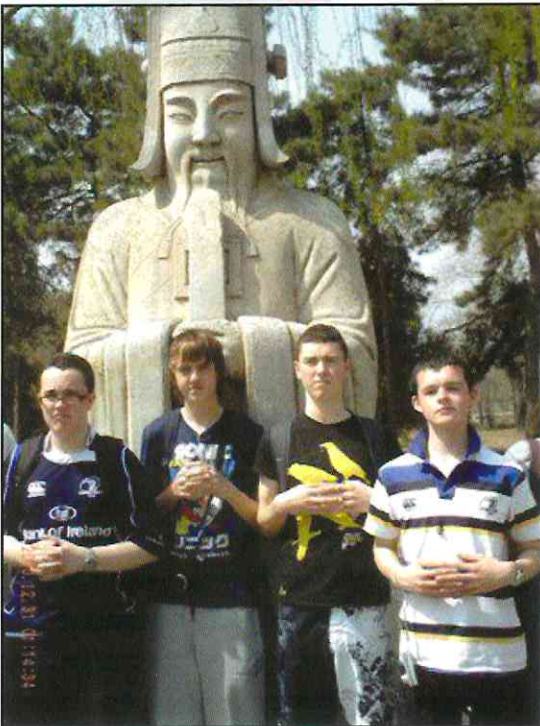
From Ratoath to the Orient!



On April 3rd 2009 32 students and 6 teachers left Ireland and headed for china. The flight was long and boring and with the delay at Dublin airport, it seemed like we would never reach china. But we finally did! We were all so tired and hungry and after the trip to the museum we reached the hotel. We had a few hours before dinner to sleep, shower and unpack. When we went for dinner everyone was still so tired but once we reached the night markets it finally sunk in ... we were in china! We were allowed go around the night markets looking at all the different weird foods like shark, scorpion and dog and we could practice our haggling In some of

the other markets. Everyone was so tired and we were all asleep as soon as we got back to the hotel.

The following day we started off by visiting the Beijing zoo where we all got to see panda bears for the first time. It was really crowded but was a really good experience. We took tons of photos and got back on the bus and went to the summer palace. The view was amazing and we learned about the manmade lake and the hill made from the left over soil. We went for lunch and after we left for Olympic city. This was amazing and seeing the birds nest was one of the main highlights of the trip. It was designed in the summer of 2008 and cost \$423 million. After that we headed for the silk factory where we were shown how they make silk and where



it came from. We got a chance to buy clothes in the gift shop and all the lads (and some girls!) bought silk boxers. We headed for dinner and after that we went to a kung fu show which was very good and exciting... But not exciting enough to keep everyone awake! We tried our hardest but we couldn't keep our eyes open. We went back to the hotel and slept the whole night.



On Monday we went to Tiananmen Square and we learned about the different buildings and historical events that happened there. We took tons of photos and went through an underground tunnel to get to the Forbidden City. The city was designed with lots of amazing gateways to the next section and the roofs and entrances to these gateways were painted and decorated with amazing Chinese designs. After the Forbidden City we walked to lunch and from there we went to the temple of heaven. The temple was another highlight of the

trip. After the temple of heaven we had our first shopping experience. We had the chance to go haggle

and buy designer clothes for unbelievable prices. The boys got tailor made suits for €70 and the girls bought handbags and shoes. They had everything you could think of there! Shoes, clothes, jewellery, lasers, swords, and jackets. We couldn't walk through the markets without being pulled into a stall! It started to get a bit annoying after a while but we learned to say no. we left for dinner and went to the acrobatics show. We all stayed awake this time!

The next day started with a trip to the jade factory. No one was really that interested and we all just wanted to get to the great wall! But before that we went to the Ming tombs and walked the sacred way. This was lined with stone animals guarding the walk. It was a beautiful walk and we took tons of photos of all the animals. We went onto the bus and off to the great wall! We arrived at a part of the wall called balding. When we got to the start you could go two ways, left (the lazy way) and right (the highest part of the wall) I turned left with 5 others and we strolled along the great wall and got the chance to see the amazing view and take tons of photos! This was defiantly the best part of the trip and I know I won't forget it soon.



Next stop was a visit to optical city. This was a huge market full of different types of glasses and all the girls bought really cheap sunglasses.

After that we went to the hutongs which is the old Chinese towns. This was a really weird experience as it is very different to the Beijing we had seen so far. We took a rickshaw ride through the streets of the hutongs and had dinner in a family house cooked by the family. We visited the bell tower which gave us a great view of the town. After that we went to the English college where all the Chinese students asked us tons of questions and we played lots of sports with them and took a tour of their school.



On our last day we went shopping... Again and all the boys got their suits. We were allowed over to mc Donald's which tastes exactly the same as Ireland! We went to the CCTV tower which had an amazing view of the city.

It was really windy and unbelievably smoggy out. After that we went back to the hotel to have a shower and get ready for the farewell dinner that night. Most

of us left it packed but some of us for the night time. We went to a buffet dinner and we talked about the past week.



The trip to china was amazing and I would defiantly recommend the trip to students. It was great to experience china with friends and it's a great way to get to know different students you may not have known very well before. Definitely, a holiday to remember!

A Farewell to Mr. O'Hare

On Wednesday 13th May, we heard the fantastic news that the great Mr O Hare has been appointed as the new Principal of St. Kevin's College in Dublin. We are delighted for him but sad to see him to go. St. Kevin's are a very lucky school and we wish him the best of luck in his new position.



A teacher isn't someone who just teaches. They are the ones who inspire us to do great and Mr O Hare really did inspire us to reach our full potential. He constantly helped us to improve our life skills. We are so grateful to him for all the hard work, dedication and commitment he has shown to us over the years. We feel very lucky to have had such a dedicated, committed and genuine mentor in Mr. O. Hare He has played a major role in the development of our school and was one of the first teachers appointed when Ratoath College opened in 2005. He made learning Science and Maths great fun for all of us who attended his classes.

We want to congratulate him on his great achievement and thank him for all that he has done for us over the last four years, we really appreciate it. We wish him the best of luck as a principal in his new school, and we hope that he comes back to visit, because he will be greatly missed.

Here are some of our fondest memories:

- Chasing us around the race course in his car.
- The snow day when we threw all the snow into his car.
- When he was talking about D4.
- How he always organized a brilliant sports day.
- Him wearing the Meath/Dublin in for Jersey Day.
- When we were in Fairyhouse no one rang the bell and he shouted out his door "ding a ling a ling"-a classic O' Hare moment!!

By Rang O' Hare



mol an óige

Sports Round-up

Ráth tó



Girls Gaelic Football - U-14 and U-16 Football

My name is Ashling O' Brien and I'm in Second Year. I play football for our school teams, The U-14's and the U-16's. We started training in September and we train once a week, on Wednesdays. At training we

do ball work, Drills, a match and we work on our fitness. Our trainers are Ms. Sweeney and Ms. Reid. They are a big influence in how we perform as a team because they encourage us.

The U-16's have played two matches. We all showed great commitment, and enthusiasm on the field, working as a team and were proud to be wearing our blue and yellow jerseys for Ratoath College. Our team consists of Third Years, Second Years, and First Years.

The Third years set example for all of us. Our U-14 team played a match and we also took part in a blitz in Dunganny. We were

unfortunate to not win all our

matches. We won against Dunboyne, it was a team effort and with Ms. Reid cheering us on the side line, but there was one person who stood out in this and this was Louise Lawless, She fought for every ball and set up many chances in the forward line. We also played against Loreto Navan, They were a very strong side, and it looked like we'd met our match.



Orla Gannon was our *Superstar* in that match, and scored a Brilliant goal, unfortunately it wasn't enough, and Loreto Narrowly beat us. Our Players of the Match were Louise Lawless and Orla Gannon. They played exceptionally well and showed great leadership on the field.

Our season isn't over yet, we're still training, and I hope maybe next year we'll get into a final and bring back a cup-before the Boys do!

By Ashling O' Brien
(2nd Year Student)



Pitch and putt 2008/09

This year was the second year Ratoath College entered teams into the Leinster Schools Strokeplay competition. This year Ratoath entered eight teams of three ranging from first to fifth year students. Each player plays two rounds with all scores being added together. It was a successful campaign with two teams qualifying from Co. Meath on a tough day in Newtown. Team 1 consisted of Andrew Gorman, Conor Falvey and Mark Daly while team 2 consisted of Ian Conlon, Ryan McCue and Bryan Mc Mahon. Andrew Gorman achieved a remarkable milestone in Newtown when he had a hole in one on the second hole in both rounds he played.

The Leinster finals were held in Portmarnock on the 15th October. There were a number of good teams there from all over Leinster. All players did their best in windy conditions but both teams narrowly lost out on the day to a very good team from Westmeath. Well done to everyone who took part.

By Andrew Gorman (5th Year Student)

Hill-Walking Club

This year saw the introduction of a Hill-walking Club for the students of Ratoath College. The Hill-



Walking Club is open to all students and new members are always welcome. This year the students headed for the hills on two occasions.

The first hike was to the summit of Claremont Cairn in the Cooley Mountains. The students hiked from the village of Ravensdale and enjoyed the views across Carlingford Lough.

While at the summit

the students cooked sausages and had enjoyed break by the RTE mast, before returning through the woods to the village.

The second hike was a bit more challenging and saw the group foray into the Mourne Mountains in Co. Down. Departing from the town of Newcastle, the group trekked up through Donard Forest and up to the Mourne Wall, where they stopped for lunch before continuing on along towards the 'Hares Gap'. After reaching the 'Hares Gap', the group turned



around and

headed back along the same route to the Mourne wall and on to Donard forest. The total height climbed on the day was 2,100 feet and thankfully the weather held up and the sun shone the whole way down the route.

Both hikes were thoroughly enjoyable and gave students a perfect opportunity to explore the out-of-doors in a safe and challenging way. Next year the Hill-walking club has big plans and new members are welcome as always.



Rugby in Ratoath College

Early Days

At the start of the school year two teachers, Mr. Keane and Mr. McAuley started rugby in Ratoath for junior boys. We started training in the hall every Tuesday and with the help of the Y.D.O. (Youth Development Officer) Doug Gibson the numbers playing grew each week. Soon enough there were between 25-35 pupils out training each week. Training in the hall was difficult but all players showed great enthusiasm and strength playing what was pretty much full contact. Fortunately after a few weeks the local rugby club generously gave us permission to use their brand new state of the art all weather pitch next to our school.

On the beautiful playing surface the team were improving each week and the training sessions became much more enjoyable. Unfortunately Doug had to leave us for personal reasons at the end of December, we were all very sad to see such an excellent coach with such a great personality leave. James Fay joined the coaching team bringing with him an infectious enthusiasm for the sport and invaluable expertise.

Our First Ever Rugby Match.

Ratoath College performed extremely well in what was their first ever rugby match, away to Dunshauglin Community College. Before the match began captain Jonathan Grall gave an amazing speech to get Ratoath pumped up for the match to come. When the match started we spent a lot of time in Dunshauglin's 22 with some great rucking. The opposition had turned the ball over and kicked into touch but Ratoath came back with a lineout to Adam Puszczewicz who managed to find Jack Scroop who ran in the corner to score a great try. A few more tries were to follow and the game went very well.

The scrum held strong with players such as, Graeme Meyler, Alex Coakley, Wayne Doyle and Conor Crawford being particularly brave. Our out-half Mark Farrington also played very well topping off his performance by kicking a few nice conversions. It was a great day for Ratoath College as they emerged victorious scoring a total of 4 tries.

The Christening of Jamestown Rugby Pitch

The Rugby Team made history when they won the first ever home game played at Jamestown. It was a wet December day with a very strong wind but as many of the lads will tell you it was 'perfect conditions for a game' and our first visitors for a game of Rugby were Castleknock Community School. It started off with a try score against Ratoath College as the Castleknock fullback put one up on Ratoath. However within 5 minutes the captain Jonathan Grall scored a beautiful try by breaking the Castleknock defence and running in from his own half. Mark Farrington scored the conversion putting Ratoath ahead by 2 points at the end of an enthralling first half. Soon after the break our pack leader Adam Puszczewicz scored a strong determined try to put Ratoath 12-5 up.

All the subs were used during the game including some great impact players like Adam Walsh, Darragh Grehan, Michael Judge and Owen Connolly. There was great support from parents, teachers and especially from the coaches Mr.Keane and Mr.McAuley. Before the match ended Ross Gillen scored a great try by finding space and running over from just outside the Castleknock 10 meter line. The match ended at a score of 17-5 to Ratoath, an excellent beginning to what will hopefully be a long and proud tradition of Rugby played in Ratoath College.

Rugby Season Review

It was overall an excellent first year of Rugby in the school. The other games of the season included an inspired 12 - 12 draw with Ashbourne C.S., a disappointing yet proud performance in Dundalk against St. Mary's where we lost narrowly in the Cup to a very good established Rugby school, and an excellent win by our First Year team against Dunboyne in which we scored a hatful of tries. The emphatic victory in Dunboyne was led by our first year stars Dylan Doyle, Owen Murphy, Daire Gannon and James Dervin, four players who despite their years managed to hold down regular places in the junior team alongside the 2nd and 3rd Years throughout the whole year.

It was a rollercoaster of a year with the highs and lows of any season, but the overall feeling is that it was a very successful year, which has set the standard good and high for the future of Ratoath College's Rugby teams. On behalf of all the rugby players in Ratoath College, we would like to thank both Mr. Keane and Mr. McAuley for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Written By Jonathan Grall, Ross Gillen and Jack Scroope and Mr. McAuley



Pictured Above: The Schools Rugby Team alongside Coaches Mr. Keane and Mr. McAuley

Athletics in Ratoath College

It has been another great year for the athletics team with the team winning lots of medals and having lots of fun along the way. The Ratoath College athletes trained very hard every Thursday and their efforts were greatly rewarded when they took to the race tracks.



The first cross country race was held in Gormanstown. Ratoath College did extremely well with the Under 14's and Under 15's receiving medals. Outstanding performances came from Conor Duncan, Keith McCabe, Jack McDonald, and Eamonn Wallace.

Next around, was the north Leinster's cross country race in UCD. Ratoath College did very well, considering the standard was so high, and conditions were very wet. We all tried our best, and had a great time.

We proved to be one of the most athletic schools around after their performance at the Meath Championships in Claremont Stadium,

Navan. Many medals were won, in every event. There were medals in 100 meters, 4x100 meters relay race, Long Jump, High Jump, middle distance,

Shot Put, and long distance. There were many outstanding performances including from, Conor Duncan, Keith McCabe, Josh Bourne Burke, Tracey Sibanda, and many more.



A special mention to Ms. Reid who supported us in our training every Thursday and kept us all motivated during the wind and the rain! Everyone of any standard is invited to join the team, and train after school on Thursday.

I hope Ratoath College can continue their success, for the rest of the term, when we will be competing in the

North Leinsters, which is sure to be a great day out. Hopefully you will join us in our quest to compete to the best of our ability and to have some fun too.

By Philip Healy



Staff Indoor Soccer:

Every Monday afternoon after school, an elite group of footballers gather in the gym. But these aren't any ordinary group of footballers, these are the teachers!

As most of the teachers are old (Mr O'Hare in particular), they ask some of the younger students to play in order to make the game exciting. Many battles occur, such as the towering full back displays of Mr. McCauley against the blistering pace of top scorer Mr. McCarthy!

The game usually starts off with a humorous atmosphere but soon the rivalry kicks in (literally!). By the end of game when Mr. Nelson and Mr. Keane are saturated in their sweat and Mr. Hannon does some chin ups, Mr. Nissar & Mr. Horan are still getting ready for the warm-up! The outcome is the same every week with Benjamin Hayes & me on the winning team!

By Gavin Eiffe
(5th Year Student)

All Things Equestrian

Ratoath College has 1 novice team in the inter-schools' show-jumping competition. They compete against other schools around the country. This is our first year to enter.

The team consists of four very talented and committed riders, Connie Crowe, Sarah Murray, Mary Mahon and Rachael Stowe. Ratoath College's novice team have entered three competitions this year and have displayed great skill and talent. Commitment, regular attendance at training and team work are just some of the requirements if one is to be successful and enjoy this sport.

Training takes place on Saturday mornings and all are welcome to attend. Ann-Marie Mc Laughlin is the trainer for Ratoath College's team and our Chef d'Equipe is Roisin Mannering. This has been a very successful year and we are looking forward to next year, and perhaps entering even more teams.



Some of the Ratoath Students in Equestrian Action

U-14 Boys Soccer

The U-14 soccer team enjoyed reasonable success this season. The league campaign got off to a flying start with a 3-2 win away to Coolmine C.S. goals coming from Jonathan Clarke, Robert Waters and a well taken penalty from Eoin O'Brien. The game was played in blustery wet conditions in Blanchardstown and Ratoath were deserving winners.

The second game of the campaign was played away in Finglas to St. Kevin's. Ratoath took the lead seconds before the half time whistle with a well taken goal from Cormac Goodman. Against a tough wind in the second half Ratoath struggled to maintain the lead with Kevin's equalising with 20 minutes played in the second half. For the remainder of the game Ratoath were on top. Conor Lowe hit the cross bar, Jonathan Clarke came close on a few occasions and Eoin O'Brien also forced a good save against from the St. Kevin's keeper. With seconds left on the clock and completely against the run of play St. Kevin's broke forward and managed to beat Andrew Flinter in the Ratoath Goal. It was heartbreak for Ratoath in a game where the referee did Ratoath absolutely no favours.

The third league game was a must win for Ratoath as it was also, for their opposition St. Peter's of Dunboyne. This was an epic game played at a ferocious pace. Ratoath were again narrowly beaten 3-2. Goals coming from a Conor Lowe free kick and Adam Griffiths. It was a game where Ratoath had the majority of the possession but again couldn't take advantage of it.

The cup campaign got off to a flying start with a 2-0 win over Tallaght C.S. In truth Ratoath should have scored more goals that day but the blustery conditions prevented a bigger margin. Goals were well executed that day by Robert Waters and Eoin O'Brien. First year Joey Wallace made a huge impact as a sub that day with several chances and had a goal disallowed for a very debatable offside.

The second round of the cup brought Ratoath away to Salesian college of Celbridge. This was a thrilling game which ended 1-1 after extra time and the game went to penalties. Ratoath went on to be narrowly beaten on penalties 5-4.

Best players this season were Keith McCabe, Brian Power, Jonathan



Clarke, and Adam Griffiths & Eoin O'Brien.

Training for this team for the following season's U16 team will start back first week in September so **HAVE YOUR GEAR READY!!!!!!!!!!**

Table Tennis Tournament 08/09

With an entry list of over eighty students and teachers, it was definitely going to be a tough battle for whoever wished to be crowned Table Tennis Champion of Ratoath College. Eoin O'Connor, winner of the cup last year entered again this year and he was definitely going to fight hard to retain his title.

Our very own Ms Ní Bhroithe got through to the third round but was stopped in her tracks by a first year student, Shane Clayton. Mr O'Hare's steady progress through the rounds was finally halted by Andrew Gorman, a fifth year student. A special mention must go to the talented Conor Falvey, of 2 Nelson who battled his way to the quarter final only to falter at the hands of eventual finalist Brian O'Connor of Rang Ball.

Eoin O'Connor, on form and widely tipped to retain his title was eventually knocked out at the quarter final stage by Cian O'Brien, who showed great skill to defeat the reigning champion. However, this left Cian with a tough semi final against Mr Hannon, last year's beaten finalist. In a tough, tight and tense encounter, Cian claimed a final berth with a narrow victory.

The three game final drew hundreds of excited spectators to the gym where Mr Hannon was on hand to keep the game clean. Brian O'Connor kept the large crowd enthralled with his accomplished and skilful play as he overpowered Cian O'Brien to claim a deserved victory.

So, although Eoin O'Connor failed narrowly to make it two-in-a-row, the cup nevertheless returned to the O'Connor household for the second year running.

Pictured here, is Mr. Hannon presenting Brian with the Table Tennis Trophy. Many congratulations again to Brian O'Connor of Rang Ball who has not only earned himself the title of Ratoath College Table Tennis Champion, but has also earned a very fine piece of silverware and a distinguished place in Ratoath College folklore.



Camogie at Ratoath College

When the school first opened in 2005 there was no Camogie team for the girls, and those interested with the sport had to play Hurling with the boys. Last year due to the number of girls who play Camogie with their local club the school started a Camogie team managed by Ms. Brennan. The Camogie team trained every Thursday with reasonable numbers turning out. These sessions were great and a fantastic way for us all to get to know each other. Unfortunately we have only played one match, which was a friendly however, with such great Camogie players already eager to represent the school and with many more coming in next year Ratoath College would be looking forward to competing with the best, in the years ahead.

By Katie King (3rd Year Student)

Girls' Basketball

This academic year the girls' basketball team has made amazing progress !

Last year we made it to the finals and we were fearless as a team. Although, in the final, we were in defence of two things, our reputation and our basket!

Thorough-out this year, our teachers, Ms. Sweeney and Ms. Reid , have kept us motivated, kept our eyes on the goal and have created the perfect example for our school motto, "Mol An Óige". Without their hard work and dedication, we as a team we would not be where we are today.

This year the league posed to be a far bigger challenge than in previous years. With local teams improving, we no longer felt as fearless. As the year progressed we soon learned that basketball was no longer a breeze. We had improved greatly, as did other teams. We were shocked, by the amount that the other schools had 'upped their game'. We would like to congratulate all of our opponents; they gave the basketball team a



bit of a challenge this year, compared to last season.

We'll be back strong as ever next year and ready to compete.



We had an outstanding year, with hard work and team work we have built the best team we possibly could have. Well done to all of the girls who took part in this years' basketball team.

Next year promises to be another great year for girls' basketball in Ratoath College. As always, new team members are always welcome and we look forward to welcoming basketball players from among the ranks of next years first years.

On behalf of the basketball team, we hope you enjoy "66" and wish you all the best for summer!

By Kira Morton & Ursula Cullen
(2nd Year Students)

Interview with our very own Sporting Legend - James Scully

- What age were you when you got really interested in Swimming?

I was around 10 or 11 years old when I really got interested. I took training lessons before.

- How often do you train?

I train three times a week for an hour each time. I train in the Aquatic Centre.

- What was your biggest achievement in Swimming?

It was probably when I won two gold's and silver in the Junior World Games in America.

- How many medals have you won in all of your competitions?

I have won altogether around 25 medals.

- What countries are most of the major competitions held?

Most of the competitions are held in Britain, America and obviously Ireland.

- What does the future hold for you at this moment?

I hope to go Paralympics in 2012 in London and I also hope to go to the world games in Holland.

- What advice would you give to people about being dedicated to their chosen sport?

Just stick with it through the good and bad times, always try your best and just live the dream really!

- What is more important, swimming or school?

They are equal, but I always look forward to swimming, it keeps me going.

- Do you have a particular diet for swimming?

I have to eat a lot of protein and carbohydrates.

- How long would a major competition take?

Not too long, only about two or three days long.

- Where are you ranked in the world?

I'm in the top 20. I think I am about 17th.



Greetings from An Cinnire

Hello, Charlotte Hayes here, and this year I was appointed as Ratoath Colleges first Ard Cinnire along with Eric Lawless. Being an Ard Cinnire is an honour in itself, it is a position which is elected by the student body, teachers and interview process. To be elected as such a school representative is a great privilege and a role which we fulfil with pride and commitment. We have been treated and supported so well by our teachers and fellow students during our induction period, and we would like to truly thank our teachers and fellow students for giving us the chance to be Ratoath College's first Ard Cinnire and hopefully future role models for the students.

As this is a new position, Eric and I have been very busy trying to develop our roles, we have the privilege of working with a great team of Cinnire who were also elected by the whole student body and teachers. We would just like to thank them all and let them know they are doing a great job. To facilitate us in our role and duties, Cinnire have been given a special workroom, this is a great privilege and allows us to hold meetings, debate issues and plan for the future. We have been given such nice things for the workroom and we really want to thank Ms Ní Bhróithe, Ms Prendergast and of course Ms Ní Mhurchú for all their support and encouragement.

If it wasn't for them we wouldn't have any of these roles and facilities. Also we want to thank them for believing in us and letting us prove to our selves and our school that we have leadership skills and can play a role in the development of Ratoath College and look after our fellow students. Eric and I, and all the Cinnire, are honoured to accept our new role and we all hope to fulfil the position to the best of our abilities. We would also like to extend best wishes to our Junior Cert students as they sit their state exams and we look forward to another year of outstanding results. Every Best Wish to Parents, Students and Staff, we hope the rain stops and that you all have a lovely (and safe) summer.

