

66

4th Edition



Magazine

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A word from our Principal, Ms. Ní Bhroithe

Once again, its May and the whole school community is busy preparing for our end of year festivities. Our first year students are coming to the end of their first year in second level, a year which saw each student excel and shine in the pursuit of their full potential. Our second year students have had a busy year preparing for their final junior cycle year and consolidating their learning to date. Our third years are busily working towards their first set of state exams, and may I wish them the very best. We have had a hugely successful and busy Transition Year programme this year and our fifth year students are now half way through their senior cycle. Our LCA students have had a superb year and have really set the bar high for all those who will follow in their footsteps. Finally our sixth years are about to become our very first graduates and we will all miss them terribly. I wish them the very best as they face into their Leaving Certificate examinations and wish them all the best for the future, which I hope will be bright for each and every one of them.



The current school year has by far been our busiest year to date. We have had success in the classroom, on the sporting field and right across a whole range of extra-curricular activities. The year has seen innovative projects created in Ratoath College, represent Ireland at the European Innovative Teaching Forum - and win! We have shown that our students can compete with the best that Ireland and Europe has to offer.

I'm delighted to be associated with this publication and I'm sure you will be amazed with the huge range and scope of curricular and extra-curricular activities which have been taking place at Ratoath College over the past academic year.

Ar scath a cheile a mhaireann na daoine

Le gach dea-ghui

Maire Ní Bhroithe
Principal

A word from our Deputy Principal, Ms. Prendergast

As we near the end of another academic year, there is no doubt that 2009/2010 has been another great year for our school. It's been a year full of learning, fun and friendship, a year in which our students have had the best possible opportunities to demonstrate and excel in their wide array of talents. We have had so many activities and student led initiatives throughout the year. Not a week went by when we weren't busy taking part in a wide variety of sporting, academic or cultural endeavour. This year saw the college's first ever musical - and what a musical it was. Our students showed that they are truly gifted, and committed to perfection. Long hours, days and weeks of preparations went in to presenting the musical and it was an incredible experience for those who attended.



This 2010 edition of "66" magazine is a production that not only showcases the huge variety of exciting and interesting activities taking place at Ratoath College, but its quality epitomises the very essence of the school and what we are about in Ratoath College. Great credit must go to the many teachers who give so willingly their time to ensure that students are given every opportunity to achieve their potential.

Teaching and learning at Ratoath has gone from strength to strength with our students embracing their lessons and subjects with a real enthusiasm and energy. Our staff have shown tremendous commitment to our students and this is to be recognised and commended. Their innovative, energetic and professional approach has ensured that Ratoath College is to the fore in providing a quality education to all our students. The staff and students at Ratoath College have shown this past year that no recession will hold us back. As we continue to grow from strength to strength, may I wish all our students, staff and community the very best for the coming year and here's to 2010/2011, a year in which we will continue to lead the way in education in Ireland and act as a beacon of good practice and the highest of standards to ensure that each of our students reach their potential.

Finally, I want to wish our 3rd years and our 6th years the very best of luck over the coming weeks as they commence their exams. I have no doubt that all your hard work and commitment to your studies will see you successfully through the weeks ahead. Many thanks to the students and staff of the school for their continued exceptional commitment to Ratoath College. Their huge contribution to life here at Ratoath College continues to make our school, a school that we can all be rightly proud of.

Maith Sibh!

Oonagh Prendergast

Deputy Principal

A message from the editorial team

Thank you for purchasing this years 66 magazine. We hope that you enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed preparing it for you.

We have been busily working behind the scenes over the past number of months to produce what we think is our best magazine yet! We couldn't believe the amount of activities and events that took place throughout the year and we appreciate that this production can only give a glimpse into what has been a hugely successful and busy year at Ratoath College.

From the first week of the current school year last August, right up to the final week of school, Ratoath College has been in top gear with regard to events, activities and projects. We have been lucky enough to witness at first hand, the massive variety of opportunities available to all students at Ratoath College. We only hope that this production can do justice to the many hours of training, studying and preparations that our teachers and students have put in over the past year.

Finally, a huge thanks to Ms. Daly and the Art Department for their brilliant front cover design. Every year, it seems to get better! We would like to wish everyone taking exams this summer the very best, and to all students, have a great and safe summer holidays. Take care of yourselves and we will all catch up again soon for another great year at Ratoath College.



The Editorial Team (Transition Year)

The Student Council 2009-2010

This year in the Student Council we have kept the same people from last year's council except the new first years who joined us in February of this year. This is because we are changing our election system for next year. The way to explain the Student Council is a voice for the students and we have done a lot this year such as talking to the canteen on topics like what the student's want and ways to make it more efficient. We also have met with the Board of Management and Parents Association for the first time and hope to build on these relationships, meaning the students have a bigger role in the school but our biggest achievement was getting the student cards from the ISSU (the Irish Second level Students Union) which gets students discounts on things like movies and haircuts. We are planning a summer song day where we play songs that remind you of the summer and will be playing them on the last day of school. We'd like to thank the teachers who keep us on the right track Ms. Mc Quillan and Ms. Judge and are looking forward to working with them again.

Written by: Jake Colfer



Drum Workshop

Date: Tuesday 2nd March

Company: Drum Nature by Neill Dowling

Location: Room 44/45 in Ratoath College

When we first went in Neill showed all the drums to us and we all picked one each. He then explained how they are made by goatskin and a particular wood (mango). He said



the goatskin takes a lot of time to stretch out and he doesn't like doing it. He then showed us the different ways of playing. There are three different sounds but he only thought us two because one of them is very hard he said. The bass is when you have your whole hand hitting into the middle of the

drum and you have to let your hand bounce back up. The tone is hitting the edge of the drum with your 4 main fingers keeping your thumb up because it hurts if you hit your thumb off it. We played three different rhythms and we put them together by splitting the class into three different groups and getting the three rhythms played together. This took a lot of teamwork so it sounded good. He then introduced a break into the rhythm and when we got used to that he changed it that when the break was on 1 group would keep playing and then on the next break the next group would play. You really had to listen to be able to play at the right time. The main thing to be careful for was not to be playing the rhythm too fast. The drums come from Africa and they are called djembes. We also played some different instruments like the maracas, agoga bell, agoga bells, wood block and the samba drum. I really enjoyed playing the drums and I would definitely do the workshop again.

Written by: Cheryl Kiely

Young Social Innovators-Peer Education

The TY Young Social Innovators group finished their peer education training on substance abuse and they are currently taking classes in 1st and 2nd year to talk to them about self-esteem, peer pressure, smoking, alcohol and substance abuse. Their project on substance abuse was selected for National Showcase in Croke Park on May 5th where they presented to a large theatre of young people and educators. They also presented their project to the YSI Dragons' Den at the offices of KPMG in the IFSC at the end of April. The Dragons were very impressed with the work the students had put in and assured the school that they should be proud of them as 'confident and articulate young people'. They agreed to grant the group the €200 they had pitched for in order to pay for the running of a competition for 2nd years on the theme of 'the effects of cannabis on the young brain.' The students have learned a lot through the Peer Education Programme and have honed their public speaking and communication skills. They are pictured here with Edel Maughan, one of the YSI Dragons from Youthbank. Well done to Conor, Rebecca and Ethan-our Dragons' Den team!

Written By: Conor Hughes



Transition Year Students presented with an Award at the Young Social Innovators Exhibition

Ratoath College Trad' Group

The Ratoath College Traditional Irish Music Group was founded four years ago. It comprises students and teachers of the College. They meet weekly to practice a wide range of tunes. The Trad Group have played at numerous concerts, ceremonies and events this year including the Official Opening of Ratoath College, the school Talent Show and, most recently, the VEC concert in Solstice theatre. They also performed for the school during Seachtain na Gaeilge earlier this year.

All of the members of the Trad Group are dedicated and enthusiastic and extremely talented! For any students who are interested in playing traditional Irish music, new members are always welcome. This year we would like to welcome many of the first years and also Mr Connolly who has joined Mr Garrett, Ms O'Dwyer and Ms Kilrane who help run the Trad Group.



Members of the Ratoath College Traditional Irish Music Group

Seachtain na Gaeilge

From 12th-19th March we had Seachtain na Gaeilge in the school and everyone was using their cúpla focal. We had activities such as table quiz for 2nd and 5th years, a puc fada for seniors, and a spelling competition and treasure hunt for 1st years. The week also included a trip to the Solstice Theatre in Navan for 6th years to see An Triail, the dráma Gaeilge by Mairéad Ní Ghráda, which they are studying as part of their course. The highlight of the week was of course the Céilí Mór on the Thurs' night, where students of all years came together to display some of their finest Céilí dancing. Entertainment was provided at the interval by some of our fantastic Irish dancers from 1st and 2nd year, while the Ratoath College Trad Group gave a brilliant performance at a full school assembly the following morning. Throughout the week, there was a competition running for Cainteoir na



Seachtaine, with students who made the best effort at using their 'cúpla focal' all over the school that week gathered special slips from teachers. The week ended with an awards ceremony, with prizes (of the chocolate variety!) for all our winners and a breakfast of scones, sausages and tea for the whole school. Chomhghairdeas to all who made the week such a success!

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta

The 4 half-scholarships to the Gaeltacht were up for grabs last month and some fantastic entries came in to Foireann na Gaeilge. The winner's were Cormac Glynn from 5th yr, Shane Woods and Karen McCabe from 2nd year and Aoife Quinn from 1st year. The students have already booked their places on courses in Coláiste Lurgan, Coláiste Chámuis, Coláiste na Rosann and Coláiste Naomh Eoin. Well done to each of them. We know that they will they will benefit greatly and have an enjoyable time this summer.

Maith sibh!!

Young Historian

The Young Historian competition took place between all Meath VEC schools last month and 9 first years represented Ratoath College in the final, which took place in Navan on May 4th.

Ratoath's talent enjoyed amazing success this year, with Amy Lawlor's model of the Ardagh Chalice coming 3rd in the county and Colin McPartlin's Medieval Townhouse coming 2nd! The awards were officiated by Mary Coughlan, Minister for Education and all students enjoyed meeting and chatting with her on the day.



The Minister talked to the students about the importance of the study of history and praised the high standard of the projects submitted. She also noted the exceptional quality of the work on display by the Ratoath students. Well done to all our student historians, who represented Ratoath College by participating in this year's competition.



The winning projects are on display in the library of Ratoath College, where they can be viewed by all who visit

the school. Well done to all students who took part in this superb project and here's looking forward to next years competition already.

TY Camping Trip (September)

On the 10th of September we were brought on a camping trip to Collon, Co. Louth. It is a small village about 40 minutes from Ratoath. There is lots of farmland and forests in Collon, it was a great place for a camping trip! We camped in a scout's campsite just off a little country road. In the campsite there was a small log cabin, 2 toilets and a campfire, the rest was just a green field. There was also an entrance into the forest beside the campfire.

Day 1:

When we got there on the Thursday, we unloaded the bus and started to put up our tents. The girls got started on putting up their tent straight away and were the first to finish (although they did have the teachers help so it was a bit of an unfair advantage). The boys had to put up the tents themselves with a little help from the teachers so it took them longer to finish. The tents were much bigger than we had thought they were going to be and it took a group effort to put them up.



After both tents were put up, we all came together and played some games. One game was called "The Swiss Roll". Everyone had to stand holding hands in a circle and then we wrapped up together like a Swiss roll! When we were all squashed together in the roll, we had to walk to the log cabin, which was about 30 meters away. That was not easy! We hadn't even moved 10 meters when we all fell

over each other. It was hilarious! We also played games like setting the stick on the ground with only using one finger each...that was hard but we got it eventually. The dizzy game and 4-way tug-of-war were also a lot of fun!

After we played the games, we collected lots of firewood and started our fires using flint and a knife, (this took over an hour!). We had to keep them lit for the 3 days we were there. We then cooked our dinner in groups of five or six. We cooked on little camping pots, which had a small flame burning underneath. We had sweet and sour chicken, it turned out really well...for most groups, one group (of boys) ended up eating Ben & Jerry's!! After dinner we decided to walk to the shop, which was about 20 minutes down the road. We got some sweets and drinks and walked back.

By the time we got back it was dark. Mr. Walsh and Ms. Cullen set up a Forest "Night-Line Game" for us. We were put into teams of five or six and went into the forest blindfolded

(with our jumpers on backwards and hoods up over our faces). We had to follow a rope that led us all around the forest. Each person in the group had to have a go at leading. It was a lot of fun. When everyone had had a go, we started a big campfire and roasted marshmallows. We then sat around the fire for a little while before going to bed!

Day 2:

We woke up at 8:30 the next morning, we were wrecked! Lucky for us, the teachers had cooked us a lovely fry up in the log cabin...yum! After breakfast, we all got dressed and went to build up our fires again. We had been told that a couple of teachers were coming to join us for dinner and so we had to build tables and chairs from wood spars and rope! Mr. Walsh helped us to get started and then we were flying at it! The tables looked great! We also had to build a friction bridge over a ditch and then each walk across it! It was very difficult and required a lot of teamwork but we got there in the end!



That night, the whole group of us went on a midnight hike! It was so much fun. We each brought our flashlights and had to search our way through the forest. We went through grass up to our hips, mucky swamps and even ran into a herd of cows! It was like nothing we had experienced before! Because it was our last night, we decided to set up a huge campfire and have a singsong. Mr. Walsh had us all singing and dancing around the fire like lunatics! It was great crack. After all the singing was done, we eventually went to bed and that was the end of day two.

Day 3:

It was our last day. We woke up bright and early at 7:30 to go rock climbing but before we could do this, we had to pack up all our things and get on the bus! The rock climbing was a lot of fun, one-by-one we put on a harness and tried to climb the wall as fast as we could. After that, we went to the beach and did water sports. The water was pretty cold but we got used to it pretty fast! We were split into 4 groups and each group was doing different water activities. We got to learn how to kayak, the basics of surfing, and jump off and battle on surfboards. It was a lot of fun.

After the water sports, it was time to go back to Ratoath. We boarded the bus and were on our way home. We arrived back at Ratoath at 2 o'clock that afternoon and that was the end of our wonderful TY camping trip! Thanks to all the teachers who joined us on this great activity. (Mr. Walsh, Ms. Cullen, Mr. McAuley and Ms. Brennan)

Christmas Village Mini Company

This year the Transition Year students set up a Christmas Village as their mini-company for the local primary school children to come and visit. This was a very successful and thrilling project for the whole class. The TYs had to go through grueling hours to create the make-believe village, including different factories such as a puzzle factory and bakery. The students took over a double room to create the village using slabs of plywood. With help from Ms. Kierans from the art department, the students painted the various factories to complete the scene.

Almost 600 primary school children visited our school to take part, over 2 days. They saw a Grinch (Tuan O'Carroll), who was trying to steal



Christmas, and the children were 'saved' by the magic singing elves, who brought them to the entrance, but in order to enter to Village, the children had to sing as loud as they could to make the magic gates work. Once inside, the students got to visit a number of different 'Christmas Factories' including a 'Card Making Factory', a 'Sweet Factory', a 'Puzzle Station' and a 'Christmas Bakery'. They also met with lots of elves who helped them to write their Santa letters and then went on to post them in our specially constructed 'North Pole Post Office'.

The sheer scale of the village dazzled the teachers from the primary school.



Mr. Walsh, our Mini-Company teacher, was overjoyed with the successful result saying "This year's TY students have shown that they can do anything when they put their minds to it. The students should be very proud of themselves and its great to see their mini-company being such a huge success".

The Christmas Village Mini-Company has gone on to win two separate awards at the ESB sponsored Mini Company Competition. The Enterprise has also represented Co. Meath at the National Mini-Company Final's where we did ourselves proud. This was one of our most memorable and fun projects this year and we learned lots about how to run a business as well.

Written by: Katie Kelly

Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) - Rang Qualter

We are the first Leaving Cert. Applied class in Ratoath College. It has been an eventful journey so far this year. We are all really enjoying the course with a wide variety of subjects to study. On top of our core classes like English, Irish and Maths we do courses in Engineering, Art, Hotel Catering and Tourism, Office Administration, and Vocational Preparation.

One of the key aspects of LCA is the Student Task. We have to do 7 tasks during 5th and 6th Year. These tasks are worth 35% of our overall marks. Our task was no doubt helped by each of us having our own laptop to work with. This year we have completed tasks in Office Administration, Leisure and Recreation, and Vocational Preparation. Below you will find details and pictures of some of these.



LCA Mini Companies

As part of our Vocational Preparation course we had to set up an Enterprise. The three companies we set up were:

- Munchies
- Cineplex
- Squeaky Clean Car Wash

All of our companies made a profit. The car wash company set up a teacher car wash day and our teachers were delighted as their cars were spotless (except for a few cars where we forgot to wash a few doors!! :)).



Finally, the Munchies Company attempted to satisfy the chocolate cravings of our fellow students by setting up a company to sell hot chocolate and cakes.



The Cineplex Company set up a cinema where we showed a video to first year students and sold them sweets and popcorn.

We never realised that there are so

many hungry first years out there!



1st Year Table Tennis Competition

With the school getting so big, it was decided that this year's competition would be limited to first year students. As ever, it was a knock-out format and the competition was fierce.

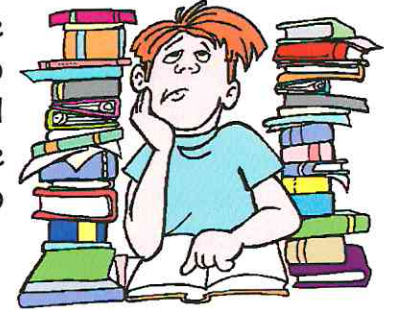
The competition first ran among each class, with members of the different classes playing each other and the winner from each game went onto the next round. After a few of rounds there was an overall winner from each class. The winners from each class then went against each other to determine an overall winner from first year.

TY students helped run the competition, one person had to make out the score/match sheet. We took turns supervising the matches, with people being responsible for paddles and balls as well as time and score keeping.

Taking part in such a prestigious competition is the school undoubtedly helped the first year students integrate into the school community and was a great way for the Transition Year students to get to know them. Congratulations to the various winners who represented their classes very well. The overall winner was Niall Donnelly from Rang Reid. Other winners were Neil O'Dowd from Rang McAuley, Callum McCormack from Rang Judge, Kevin Roche from Rang Martin and Brian Murphy from Rang Garrett. Well done to everyone who took part!

My Study Mate

The Transition Year Digital Media Studies class gained much acclaim during the year with their innovative online learning and sharing project. Mystudymate.ie is a website created by the class, which provides students from all over Ireland and beyond, with free online learning tutorials. The difference is that these tutorial presentations are presented by students, for students. The students prepared the project by breaking up into various working groups including: video recording team, video editing team, website development team and a marketing team. Working with Mr. Walsh and Ms. Hynes, the students created a wonderful online learning resource which to date has had over 2,600 internet hits and over 12,000 video views.



So innovative was the project that it was selected to represent Ireland at the European Innovative Teaching Forum, which took place in Berlin, Germany in March. The project received much praise from the European judges and Ms. Hynes was delighted to accept the 2nd prize in Europe for 'content' on behalf of the project.

Mystudymate is all about sharing teaching and learning and provides students with a free and unique opportunity to revise using student-produced videos. In his final act as Minister for Education, Minister Batt O'Keefe also recorded a video praising the project and the students involved. Minister O'Keefe said "I want to commend Mystudymate for its innovative approach to sharing teaching and learning with students from all over Ireland. 'It is an excellent project which brings learning from the



classroom". The students who met Minister O'Keefe at Dail Eirean to record the video, were impressed with his interest in the project and their work.

Mystudymate.ie has a bright future with plans to include new subjects and videos over the coming months, as well as podcasts of notes and a student welfare section. The project hopes to continue its tradition of student-produced video and podcasting by inviting and encouraging other schools from all around Ireland to record and publish their own learning resources.

Next years Transition Year Digital Media Studies students will take over the management and running of the project and they will have their work cut out to maintain the high standards which the project has already established. For more information on the project visit www.mystudymate.ie

A Day to Remember...

On 30th September, our school was officially opened by Minister for Education and Science, Batt O'Keeffe. It was a day we had all been looking forward to ever since Ratoath College opened its doors in September of 2005. From those humble beginnings at Fairyhouse Racecourse with a student population of 66, Ratoath College has grown and developed into one of the finest centres of education in Ireland. Our new home in Jamestown was not only suitably equipped with the latest in education technology, but, it gave us the space and room in which to grow. It gave us a home. It was a proud day for us to showcase our new home.

The Minister arrived to a tumultuous welcome from our whole student population as we stood to attention to mark his arrival. The Minister said a few informal 'hello's' and was quickly whisked off and into the building to begin his whirlwind tour of the college.



The Minister and guests enjoyed a whistle-stop tour of every department at Ratoath College, with students and teachers delighted to show off their work. Minister O'Keeffe also took the opportunity to visit Rang Qualter, where he spoke at length with the students. So impressed with what was on offer, the Minister soon cancelled his afternoon plans to spend more time talking with teachers and students alike. Once the tour was concluded, The Minister took centre stage in the General Purpose Area in order to officially cut the ribbon. This was truly a magical moment, as with the cutting of the ribbon, we all became a fully fledged school with our feet firmly grounded in Ratoath forever. Following a few quick speeches Ms. Ní Bhroithe, Ms. Prendergast, Mr. Peter Kierans (Meath VEC CEO), Mary Wallace TD, Cllr. Nick Killian (Board Member), Bishop Smith, who performed the official blessing of the school, Diarmuid Marron (Parents Council) and a number of other special guests headed for our Gym to join in with the students in the formalities of the day.

Fortunately, the speeches weren't too long and they were in fact very interesting and entertaining, and the choir was great too. You got a real sense of local history in the making. The CEO, Mr. Peter Kierans spoke of his admiration of the students at Ratoath and of his "Super Principal", Ms. Ní Bhroithe and the "wonderful Deputy Principal", Ms. Prendergast. The day belonged to Ms. Ní Bhroithe, who spoke of her immense pride in Ratoath College and the students duly responded with the loudest applause of the day. All in all, it was a great day and one, which will go down in local history as the day Ratoath College 'officially' joined the community.

The BIG FREEZE

As if our Christmas holidays weren't enough, our kind Minister for Education and Science, Batt O'Keefe laid on a few more days to enjoy the weather and postpone the inevitable return to studies. It was like a dream come true for students and although our teachers weren't exactly 'over the moon' with missed teaching opportunities, they took the opportunity too - to write up and email us with 'catch-up notes'.

With snowmen to build and snowballs to throw, our thoughts were elsewhere however. We played in the snow all day and whiled away our evenings checking teletext and watching the news for updates, all the time, secretly (and some openly) hoping that Minister O'Keefe would continue our extended break for "just one more day". We hoped that somewhere down the country, the children or grandchildren (or even nephews and nieces) of Minister O'Keefe, would be busy canvassing their father/grandfather/uncle like a well oiled political machine, for the snow days to continue.



Although our joy was short-lived, as we had to come back to school after two more days, we were very grateful to Mother Nature for her intervention and thankful that our Minister for Education granted us a temporary reprieve from our inevitable return to school.

Within a week, it was as if we were never away - the snowmen had long since melted into our memories and the studies were back on track, but we won't forget the Big Freeze of 2010 that provided us with the ICE(ing) on the cake for what was our Christmas holidays.

Oisín McGann

As part of the Transition Year English course we read and studied the novel; 'Small Minded Giants' by Oisín McGann.

Oisín McGann is a Dublin-born writer. He is a very successful fiction writer and some of his other books include: *The Gods and Their Machines* and *Under Fragile Stone*.

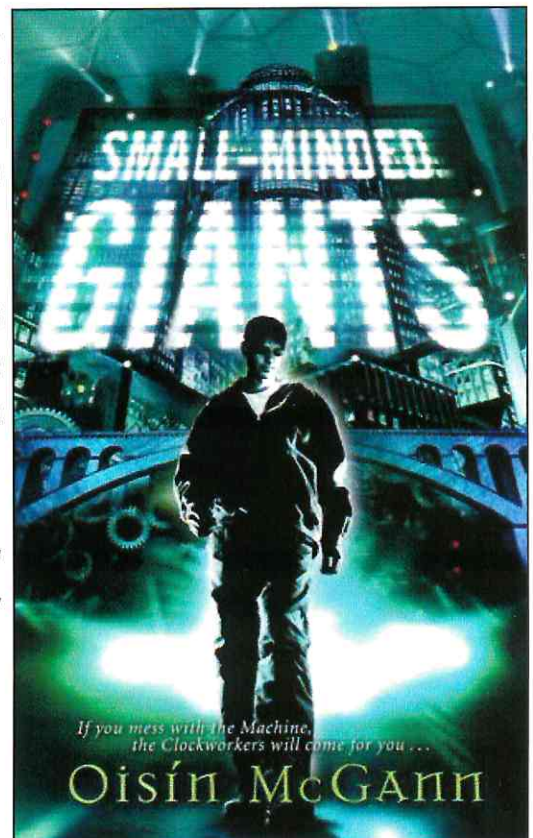


'Small Minded Giants' is about a boy named Solomon. He lives in a futuristic version of the earth in a town called Ash Harbour. His father is taken and the story follows his search for him.

During the visit Mr. McGann talked about his experience of being an author. He told us that he constantly carries a notebook with him in case he has any sudden inspiration.

He told us about becoming an author. He was always interested in writing and art and eventually began writing books. He gave us advice on becoming an author.

We then asked him questions and he answered any queries we might have had. It was a very inspirational visit and we got some great advice.

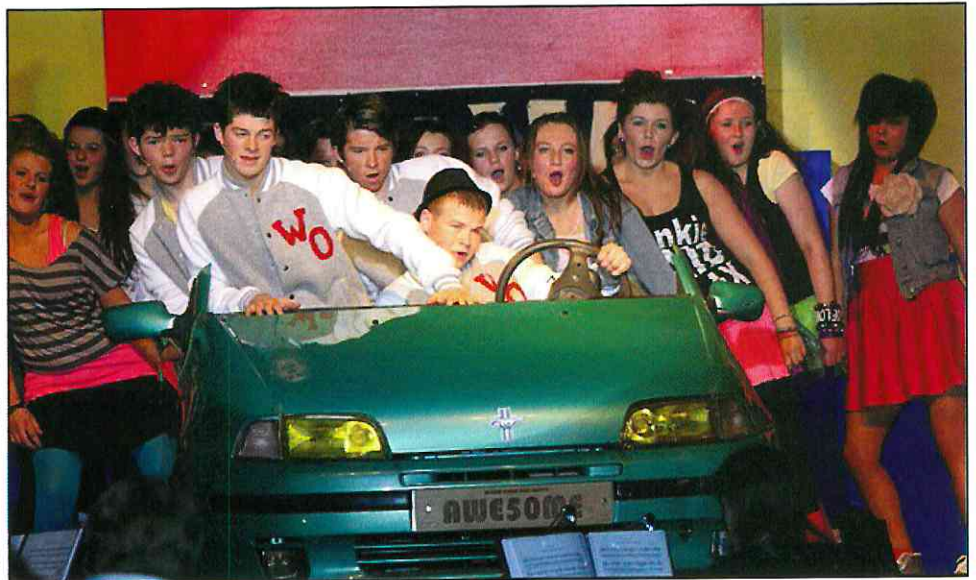


Back to the 80s!

This year Ratoath College presented its very first school musical, 'Back to the 80s' which took place from February 24th- 26th. It was a huge success and a lot of hard work was put into it. The cast, crew and the band were made up of a mixture of students from First, Second, Fourth and Fifth year.

It all began when Ms Cullen organised talent shows that became an annual tradition. She realised there was a lot of talent within our school and what better way to showcase it all than with a musical!

Our director Adam Lynch was hired. He was funny, a great actor but knew when to be serious and get to work. He was hired to help make it a fantastic show and auditions took place in October with a large amount of students interested in taking part.



There were separate auditions for singing and acting skills. Once lead roles, band members and the ensemble were cast, scripts were handed out and it was time to get straight into rehearsals, which took place every Tuesday and Thursday for two hours. It took weeks of practice to get songs and harmonies right especially as there were over 12 songs to perfect and only 20 weeks to do it, as well as learn dance routines and the script. This was the hardest part because we had to know our lines, sing and dance all at once which was a challenge

at times. We were lucky enough to have huge help from several teachers who worked on different areas with us. As the show drew nearer and nearer, Aisling Toher, another outside dance expert was added to the team, assisting Adam with dances such as "Get Outta my Dreams", "Material Girl" "Centrefold" and "Footloose". She was fun, exciting, and had a sparkling personality!



With all the rehearsals going on there was still a lot of work going on behind the scenes with the painting of the sets in the art room and lots of students took up their own time after school to help get them done in time for the show, as well as our woodwork teachers and engineering teacher taking time to cut the car!

The hard work paid off as the Musical was a huge success, the cast bonded as a group, friendships were made and the memories will last forever. "It was the most radical time of our lives!!"

Written by: Laura Gribben

Ice Skating Trip

Earlier this year the school went ice skating in the Dundalk Ice Dome. We went out for the day on the 17th of December. It was the very first time that the school went ice skating as a full school, from 1st years all the way to 6th years. Music played while everyone skated; students and teachers. Some sped along while others went at a much steadier pace! But regardless of skills everyone had fun and enjoyed the day.



The French Exchange.

This year marked the first ever French exchange trip for Ratoath College. 18 senior students, from Transition Year and Fifth year, were partnered up with students from France. These students attended Lycée Joliot-Curie, in the city of Rennes in Brittany, on the north east coast of France. The French students first came to Ireland back in October, where they stayed with us for a week. They had a great time over here, visiting Belfast, Dublin and even spending a day in school with us. Over the weekend, we entertained our students and all of us went for a meal in The Mix, where we all had a great time. The next Wednesday the students all went home and left us all looking forward to March and our return visit.



We awoke at around 3 in the morning to get onto the bus that would bring us to the airport. It would be the start of a 12 hour trip, that involved a plane trip and a 5 hour bus trip! We arrived at the school to



meet our partners and depart towards their houses. Some of them lived miles from the city, some of them boarded and stayed together in one of their houses and a few even lived by themselves. We arrived on the Friday and spent the weekend with our host families, partaking in the activities that they had planned for us. On the Monday we spent a riveting day in their school, before having a party in the school later on that night. On the Tuesday, we went on a trip to the beautiful Mont Saint Michel, an

Island that is accessible by land and is steeped in history. It is a tourist hotspot, and features a giant castle which we climbed up. We then travelled to another historic town, Dinan, on our way back, before leaving to spend our last night with our families. When we left early the next morning, everyone was sad to be going, but we still keep in touch with our new friends from France.

Talent Show 2009/10

Ratoath Colleges Talent show was a great success, as usual. The judging panel consisted of Benjamin Hayes (last year's winner), Ms Ní Bhroithe (Principal), Fr Gerry (our Local Priest) and Colm Curran (our equally Local Garda) and Mr. McAuley.

The talent show was set in the hall as per usual. It was a sell out meaning the place was packed. This could only lead to a great night.

The show started off with a great performance from Benjamin Hayes, who was last year's talent show winner. He got the night off to a terrific start and set the standard for performances very high! Benjamin then went and took his place on the judging panel. This year the talent show was presented by four TY students. Jack and Katie led the events in the first half and then Conor and Shannon took over for the second half. The presenters brought some witty humour to the night and made sure the atmosphere was electric.



All the acts performed their pieces perfectly. There was some great talent on show, ranging from dancing to singing to Instrument playing.



The winner on the night was Rachel Walsh who song blew the crowd away. Second place went to Tuan O'Carroll and Conor Hughes who sang a comedy piece, which had the crowd in stitches by the end of it. Colm and Shane woods, talent show veterans came 3rd doing some breath-taking Irish dancing. These performers showed the diversity of talent in Ratoath College. To wrap up the show, Rachel was asked to

perform for the second time; she was clearly blown away and enjoying the moment that was unfolding, but gave another great performance. And that was it. The talent show was over for another year. We're looking forward to the new talent and performances that 2010/11 will bring.

Ratoath College Show Jumping Team

Ratoath College show jumping team started last year. It is a small team consisting of 4 members, Connie Crowe (who used Zara in the shows), Rachel Stowe (who used Sammy in the shows), Mary Mahon (who used Buttons in the shows) and Sarah Murray (who used Duke in the shows). The manager of the team is Ms Mannering. As a show jumping team we had no practice inside school so all our training was done in our own time. We trained together a couple of times as a team before each show and always helped each other out with our training.

We were a very close team so we didn't mind going to shows together. Our first show went great we done really well and came 2nd for the school. The next show also went terrific and we came 2nd again.

Although Ms Mannering and ourselves were delighted with our achievements so far, we still would have loved a

win. This win came around on 21st of February in Broamedow Equestrian Centre. We were the last team to go and it was the worst place to be as we got to see how well all the others had done before us. Still though, we went in to the ring with determination and showed what we were made of.

We all did really well but didn't think we won until the commentator announced the winners were Ratoath College. We were amazed and delighted. Ms Mannering was delighted. It showed us all the early mornings to go to these shows and the training had really paid off. We went back into the ring and got rewarded with rosettes and trophies. We are all happy to be on the team this year and feel it was a great year for the show jumping team. Looking back on the year we are really glad our brilliant manager Ms Mannering set up the show jumping team.

Written by: Rachel Stowe



Kairos Film-making Day

This year the Transition Year students were introduced to a film student named Oisín who would help them to make their very own live film production. The students decided to do a skit on the teachers of the school. The basic story line was that the teachers had won the lotto and they all wanted the money for their own departments.

The students began by assigning each other the various roles to be performed on the day. These included camera-man, sound technicians, a director, floor manager, video mixer, audio mixer and of course the actors. Laura played Ms. Cullen, Rob - Mr. Hannon, Brian - Mr. Horan,



Ross - Mr. Nelson, Tuan - Mr. Keane among a few of the more memorable ones.

At Kairos filming studio, Oisín showed the students around the set which was an old one from TG4. They also got a tour of the sound and video mixing rooms. This was very cool because you could pick which camera would actually be shown on the DVD.

The students then sat back down with Oisín to finish writing the script and what they came up with was that it would start off with Ms. Cullen complaining about the TYs not doing their portfolios and Mr. Horan would be giving out to Mr. Walsh for making all his teaching YouTube videos. The teachers would then be told that

they have won the lotto. Mr. Hannon would want to buy hair gel, Ms. Cullen a personal assistant, Ms. Kelly and Ms. Hynes would want to go shopping and Mr. Keane would want gym equipment. While the teachers were fighting over the money Mr. O'Hare would make a return visit to the school with his own intentions for the money.

On the final take everything went really well and at the end, the students were really pleased and proud of it. They burned their copy of the movie to DVD and watched it on the bus on the way home. All the student agreed that it was fantastic day. The movie got its Premiere the following day in the staffroom, much to the amusement of the teachers (especially those who's characters were played). Everyone in the staffroom agreed that the students had done a very professional 'hit' job on them and congratulated them on a job well done.

Written by: Ciarán O'Connor

TEACHERS INTERVIEW with Mr Connolly

What age are you?

21

What is the best thing about working in Ratoath College?

The staff- always positive, funny and up for a laugh

What is the worst things about working in Ratoath College?

Too many holidays!!

If you were to be stranded on a desert island, what three items would you bring with you?

My Business studies book, the project maths syllabus and my calculator.

If you weren't a teacher, what would you be?

A Newsreader



TEACHER INTERVIEW with Ms Casey

What age are you?

26 and 11/12th's

What teacher at Ratoath College do you fancy?

They are all far too handsome just to pick one.

What was your most embarrassing moment?

I was only working here a few weeks, I was teaching rang Daly and I went to kick a football, slipped and fell on my bum!

If you won the lotto, what would you do?

I would look after the family of course, buy an Audi A5, buy a nice big house, go on holidays but sadly I would still probably want to work at the end of it all!

Favourites: Album/Movie/Drink

Album: Robbie Williams,

Movie: Dirty Dancing,

Drink: Coca Cola



TEACHER INTERVIEW with Ms Daly

What age are you?

Log (21+vat/ 160 x 64)²

What teacher at Ratoath College do you fancy?

My days of window shoppin' are over....sob sob!!

What was your most embarrassing moment?

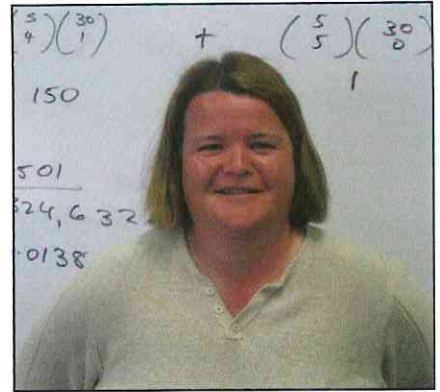
Teaching about speed and acceleration in room 20 when a crow crashed into the window!

What is the worst thing about working in Ratoath College?

It finishes at 3.20 pm and ye're not around for June, July and August.

If you won the lotto what would you do?

Sponsor a proper Meath football team, the full back against Offaly recently, needs a serious talking to. Wait till he meets Donaghy!!!



TEACHER INTERVIEW with Mr. McCormack

What age are you?

Old enough to remember Pacman and Tiffany.

What is the best thing about working in Ratoath College?

Diversity. Every day brings something new.

What is the worst thing about working in Ratoath College?

The rain on my skylight during an interesting Maths class.

If you weren't a teacher what would you be?

I'd be broke, ha!

Favourites: Album/Movie/Drink

Album: Day and Age by the Killers,

Movie: Pulp Fiction,

Drink: Water



TEACHER INTERVIEW with Mr Horan

What age are you?

16

If you won the lotto, what would you do?

Buy a desert island

If you were stranded on a desert island, what three items would you bring with you?

2H pencil, a sat nav, swimming togs!

If you weren't a teacher, what would you be?

A gym instructor

What is the best thing about working in Ratoath College?

Being able to work with myself!



TEACHERS INTERVIEW with Ms. O'Dwyer

What age are you?

32..... REALLY!

What teacher do you fancy?

The Science Department skeleton

If you won the lotto what would you do?

Get someone to clean my house

If you weren't a teacher, what would you be?

A pilot

What was your most embarrassing moment?

Doing the 'Gangsta Rap' at the Ratoath College Talent Show (cringe!)

What's the best thing about working in Ratoath College?

The teachers and the students.

What's the worst thing about working in Ratoath College?

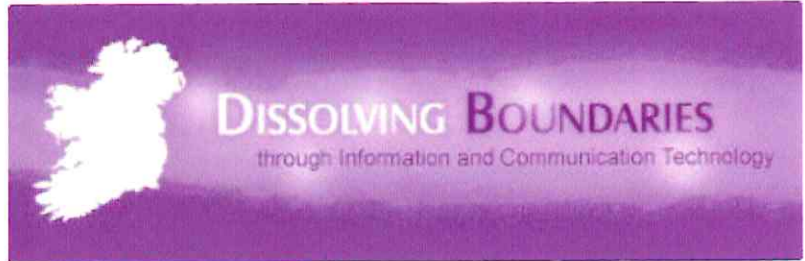
All the fire alarms!



Dissolving Boundaries

As part of our Transition Year course we participated in 'Dissolving Boundaries'. 'Dissolving Boundaries' is an organisation that was set up to break down the barriers between schools in the North and South of Ireland by using technology.

We were paired with a school from Monkstown in Belfast. We were each given a username and password



to access the 'Dissolving Boundaries' website. On the website we could use the chat forum to talk to the other pupils.

We also participated in a mini company project with them. Everyone from both schools designed Valentine's Day cards. We then had to sell the other school's cards in our school and vice versa.



As a conclusion to the program, we went on a trip with them. We travelled to Belfast on Monday the 10th of May. When we arrived we had breakfast and were given a brief tour of the school. We then all headed to the Giant's Causeway and we also participated in a rope-bridge walk, which was pretty scary. The aim of the day was to get to know the pupils from the other schools and interact with a group from

Belfast and enter into a cultural and social exchange.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable experience and we gained a lot from it. At the end of the year, two students (Katie Kelly and Ethan Barker) travelled to Maynooth University with Mr. Walsh and Ms. Prendergast to present our years work to other schools in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

We outlined how we interacted using the internet and video conferencing and how we worked together. Our presentation was very well received and we were delighted with our years work with our partner school.

Ratoath College in preparations for the Flora Mini Marathon 2010.

Ratoath Colleges' students are entering a team in the upcoming Flora Ladies Mini Marathon 2010. The Flora Mini Marathon takes place on Monday June 7th and everyone involved is training hard and getting fit for their 10k run.

This is the fourth time the school is taking part and there are 65 entrants including teachers, parents and students. The entrants are raising much-needed funds for Aonad Arkle, the Autism Unit, which forms part of the school so we are asking everyone to get involved by sponsoring a student to take on this challenging task.

This is a very worthwhile cause and it is wonderful to see so many people supporting their local school and community. Hopefully the sun will shine on the day and everyone taking part will have an enjoyable and worthwhile day out.



The scene from last years Min-Marathon, which Ratoath College Students took part in.

Prize-Giving 2009/2010

May 27th saw our 5th annual Prize-Giving ceremony. It was the first time in the history of the school that we had a full compliment of year groups with students from first year right through to sixth year, receiving awards for various activities and endeavors. The proceedings started off with the Attendance Awards and there were plenty of applause and congratulations for those students who had the best attendance records. These awards were followed by the Caomhníor Awards, where students in each class voted for their preferred winners. These awards were given in recognition of student's effort, enthusiasm and overall ability to embrace a positive life at Ratoath College. Once again, congratulations to all the winners, and indeed the nominees.

The Renee Weldon Award for sewing skills was awarded next and this year the winner was Nicole O'Carroll from Rang McQuillan. Her craft-work was exceptional and she fully deserved the title.

The BIG 4 came next and these recognise a students overall contribution to life in Ratoath College under four separate categories; Culture, Sport, Academia, and the overall 'Student of the Year'. This years lucky (and fully deserving) winners were as follows:

Cultural Award 2009/10:

Shane Woods (2nd Year)

Sports Person of the Year 2009/10:

Patrick Haslam (6th Year)

Academic Student of the Year 2009/10:

Samantha Santillian (3rd Year)

Ratoath College Students of the Year: 2009.10

Ian Conlan (5th Year)



Shane Woods



Patrick Haslam



Samantha Santillian



Ian Conlon

Technology - Junior Cert' Projects

Here is a sample of the great work which our third year Technology students have put together in preparation for their Junior Certificate exams. The students worked very hard throughout the year and Technology teacher, Mr. Nelson, said "the students have shown that with commitment to detail and a little patience, they can create and finish excellent project pieces." Well done to all students and good luck with the written paper.



Out & About 2009/2010



II GIORNO ITALIANO / ITALIAN DAY

Wednesday 24th of March was Italian Day - "Il Giorno Italiano". It was also coincidentally a no uniform day. It was an eventful day full of sport, quizzes and art.

The biggest event was the football tournament (Il Torneo do Calcio). It was held in the P.E. hall at lunch time, a fiercely competitive affair! The Verona team consisting of Roberto Grall, Kevin Roche, Glenn Doyle, and captained by Eleonora Bolger came out on top beating Inter Milan, Fiorentina and Juventus on the way. The champions' hard work was well worth the biscuit and chocolate prizes.

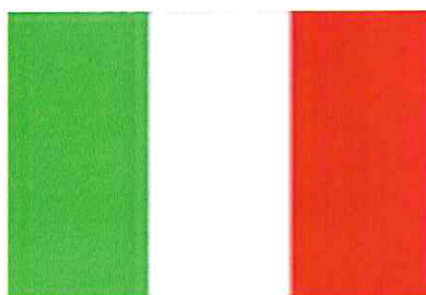
Another competition on the day was the art competition. There were some great posters handed in, but the winners stood out against the rest. Emanuelle Guerrero, who produced a work of art suitable for the Louvre, was the overall winner but some beautiful pieces of work were handed in by Jian Paolo Fabian, Arianna Persechini, Kevin Roche and Kelly McGuinness. The winning posters are currently proudly hanging outside the Italian room.

A difficult cultural quiz was also handed out as a part of Italian Day. It had a number of questions on Italian culture, from art to history and from food to sport. The completed worksheets went into a draw for more Italian goodies as prizes. The winners were a group of Second Years Conor McDonald, Shane Clayton and their Capitano Conore Duncan. Their completed sheet boasted their vast knowledge of Italy and got the win they deserved.

A number of other activities took place during the day, everyone arrived at school with Vivaldi, Pavarotti and Ennio Morricone blasting out of the intercom while Jelico Bachin and Matteo McClean of Second Year read Italian prayers at Assembly. It was an altogether very pleasant day giving the school a taste of La Bella Italia before the Easter Holidays.

Written by: Kevin Roche

THE END - II FINE



1st Year Carlingford Trip

During the Easter holidays, the 1st years went on our eagerly awaited trip to the Carlingford Adventure Centre. We had a great time, with lots of memorable moments. We participated in lots of different activities, rock climbing, abseiling and also kayaking. The activities were challenging, but they were most enjoyable. We learned



how to rock-climb up a cliff and then how to abseil back down.

It was great fun! We particularly enjoyed the kayaking, apart from when the kayak toppled over and we all got completely soaked. The highlight of the day was the big "pirate battle" where everyone battled it out, boarding each others kayaks and knocking their opponents out of them and into the

water. The rock climbing and the abseiling were also great fun. Some students (and teachers) were even able to climb the advanced level rocks, which was a lot more difficult than the beginners climb. Others struggled to even make it to the top, but everyone did their best and achieved their goal by reaching the top. We really enjoyed the day and had tremendous fun. We have some wonderful memories of our 1st year trip to Carlingford. Thanks to our teachers who came with us, especially Ms. Casey and Mr. Keane. Both teachers showed that they can do more than just teach us a thing or two in the classroom with their climbing and kayaking moves (haha!).



Written By: James Gallagher & Brian Murphy

1st Year's Tour to Italy

This year over eighty students of Ratoath College went to Italy on our school tour. We spent five days away, leaving on the morning of the 26th of March and arriving back on Tuesday the 30th.

Our trip began outside Super Value in the dark at half four in the morning. There was so much excitement that this was one of the memorable moments of our trip and many others followed.



I know everyone will have their favourite memories from the trip but these are just some of mine. I'm sure no-one will forget the rain during our boat ride across Lake Garda or standing outside our hotel with our bags on our very first night.

My favourite day was Saturday when we took our tour of Verona and the trip to the water park followed by a walk to the restaurant to have pizza, pasta

and ice cream.

On our third day we took a cable car ride at Monte Baldo. Although not many people seemed too interested in the beautiful scenery, many did confront their fears of heights by taking the cable car to the top of the mountain.

Afterwards all the students and most of the teachers took part in the climbing exercise at the Adventure Park, where we swung high, through the trees on harnesses.

Our week finished with a trip to Venice where we saw a few of the sights and also took a gondola ride. All of the students have wonderful memories of our fantastic week in Italy and I know I can speak on behalf of all of us when I say thanks very much to the teachers for giving up their time to bring us.

Muireann O'Shea



Model United Nations

During the Easter break a group of Transition Year students represented Ratoath College at its first SAIMUN conference in Dun Laoghaire. The students travelled from Ratoath each morning to represent their respective countries. The M.U.N. aims to be just like the U.N. complete with a Security Council and General Assembly.

Each student was assigned a delegation (a country), which they had to represent. The countries that Ratoath College was assigned were Japan, Syrian Arab Republic and Jamaica. Each delegation had its own ambassador who acted as the leader of the delegation. Our Ambassadors were:

- Katie Kelly
- Emma Costigan
- Aoife Tomkins

Each delegate came armed with a resolution that they had written, about topics like: rebuilding post conflict countries, stem cell research, discrimination against women, and abortion, to mention but a few. Each resolution represented the delegates' ideas on how to solve the problem of this or how to improve upon it depending on your countries position on this topic.

Each of our delegates chose an area in which they would specialise and argue their countries case for e.g. Human Rights. On our first day we had to lobby (or gain support) for a resolution, which we had written. For the next few days we were 'in committee' where we debated our resolutions and tried to get ours passed.

For the last two days of the conference we were in general assembly this was when the whole conference came together to debate what had been debated in committee.

Model U.N. was a great experience that required hard work and dedication. To be successful at the conference you need to improve on your reading skills, researching, ability to discuss world affairs, writing resolutions and, of course, persuasion. For the duration of the conference every participant or delegate represented a member state of the U.N. in one of the committees of the U.N. system. Delegates representing the same state stay together for a delegation. In their individual committees, delegates debated a wide range of topics relating to issues as diverse as international peace and security.

Overall, we had a great time and learned a lot more than we had expected from the outset. If you ever get the chance to take part in M.U.N. grab the opportunity with both hands.

Written by: Katie Kelly

Redefining Arts

Redefining Arts is one of the most exciting extra-curricular activities in Ratoath College and is coordinated by Ms Hynes and Ms Martin. This is the groups fourth year in existence and its members are growing each year.

Our group meets every Friday and we spend lunch break creating new ideas for the many different events in our school. We have been very busy with work this year, as you may have noticed around the school. This year we opted for a more colourful Christmas around Ratoath College by decorating the whole school along with individual classrooms using our new decorations and tinsel.

The group also worked on Valentine's Day and delivered Valentine Rolo's and cards, made by the Transition Year students, to many lucky students and a few romantic minded teachers! We were also involved in designing the School Calendar which was also a huge success.

We have plans to renovate the garden beside the staffroom in school and we are currently working on a few designs for it. Finally, we have also been busy decorating the school for the various graduations taking place at the end of this school year.

Written by: Sadbh Kellett and Laura Donohue



TY Student's, pictured with Ms. Ní Bhroithe, delivering Valentine Rolo's

La Semaine Française

This year's French week was a great success with excellent participation from our pupils. There were the junior and senior students table quizzes held at lunch time contributing good fun and a fair dose of culture to the week's activities. Lunch times during the week saw pupils gathering in The Music Room for some highly entertaining French Cinema. Assembly was concluded each morning with 'Je Vous Salue Marie' (Hail Mary) read out by pupils giving them the chance to show off their beautiful French accents.

Visits from the French Drama Group on the Wednesday and the Thursday gave 1st 2nd 4th and 5th year pupils the chance to perform a few lines in French as well as enjoy a great show. The other highlight of la semaine was on the Friday when we had our annual Petit Déjeuner Français in the General Purpose Area. The pupils and staff were treated to des très bons croissants, pains au chocolate et du jus d' orange.



La Semaine Française was concluded with a prize giving in assembly, prizes were given out for the winners of the various competitions including Le plus beau parleur, the pupils who made the greatest effort to speak en français throughout the week. The prizes given out this year calendars, key-rings, mugs etc came courtesy of our own Assistante Française Natacha Decamus who spent the year with us in Ratoath College.

Natacha has just finished her year and has returned home to France she really enjoyed working with the staff and the pupils and wishes 'Bonne Chance' for the exams to both the 6th Years and the 3rd Years, of whom she was very fond.

1st Year Basketball

We played six games in total and won four out of the six games. We played Boyne and won 24 - 10. Next up we played Coláiste na hInse and we won this game well on a scoreline of 32 points to 2. We were improving every game and when we played Dunleer we played very well and won by 3 points in the end. The score was 24 - 21. This was the toughest game in the group and we were delighted with our win. Our last group game was against Dunboyne and we won this game 42 - 6.

We played O Carolan College that were in a division above us and although we lost it was a great challenge for us going into the final. Our opponents in the final were Dunleer again and we knew from the group stages that it was going to be a very tough task. We went to Gormanstown and we played a very close game from start to finish. It was a great team performance but unfortunately we lost out by 3 points in the end. Jane Flood and Niamh Delanty defended very well while Deirdre Healy worked her socks off for the whole game. Upfront Ellie O'Neill and Amy Lawlor scored some brilliant baskets



Overall it was a great experience for us as 1st years and we would encourage everyone to join. We enjoyed training with Ms Sweeney and Ms Reid. The matches are really exciting and challenging and we get to represent our school. We enjoyed learning basketball formations and skills and are really looking forward to next year

Panel: Danielle Power, Sarah Doran, Kayla Dwyer, Helen Ryan, Rivie McCormack, Jane Flood, Niamh Delanty, Ellie O'Neill, Amy Lawlor, Sharon Etakudo, Oksana Harvey, Louise Gaffney, Deirdre Healy, Ann Eng

Written by: Ellie O'Neil

2nd Year Basketball

The 2nd year basketball team had a fantastic year. Unfortunately they didn't start training until January of 2010 never the less the team was amazing and we were glad that practice had started. We were eager to start playing also; our team was placed in the D league.

The first match was on Friday the 12th February against Coláiste na hInse from Laytown. They are also in the D league. Ratoath's players were outstanding in the match and we walked to victory, winning with the final score Ratoath- 26, Coláiste na hInse -4. The 2nd match was against O'Cardon College. O'Cardon College are in the C league and although we put up a great fight we lost. Even though we lost it was good practice for us as a team and our standards grew in that game. We kept practicing with lots of encouragement from our coaches; we were determined to win the next match.

Our next game was supposed to be against Dunboyne but unfortunately they couldn't produce a 2nd year team. We were disappointed we didn't get a game as we would have enjoyed it and used the match to improve our playing. Later that week at training Ms Reid and Ms Sweeney told us great news; we were through to the final! We were ecstatic; the team which we had to defeat in order to win the final was Coláiste na hInse. Ms Prendergast warned us not to arrive back without the cup!! No pressure!! On the morning of the 25th March we met at the school early and took the bus to Gormanstown where the match was to be held.



We were quite confident that we would win; after all we had already beaten them. The danger in this was that we could become too complacent and not play to our best abilities. It was a different team that we met, Coláiste na hInse had obviously trained very hard and it showed. It was a difficult match with every point hard won and luckily for us we came out the victors. We beat them by 6 points. We had the cup!! The only challenge now is to keep it, so no pressure on the incoming 2nd years, but you have big boots to fill! A special word of thanks to our coaches Ms Reid and Ms Sweeney who encouraged us and helped us become the amazing team we are.

Well done to the panel. Rachael Rourke, Emma Scroope, Ellen Hogan, Katie Doyle, Lauren O'Regan, Shauna Mc Donnell, Melissa Hogan, Niamh O'Riordan, Nicole O'Carroll, Sadie Fitzgerald, Shauna Mc Dermot, Mary Eng and Michelle Mc Loughlin.

U16 Girls Basketball 2009 - 2010

The U16 girls basketball team had a fantastic year for the 2nd year running. They brought home the first ever cup to Ratoath College which is something that will never be forgotten in here in the school. Gormanstown College were first to visit Ratoath and take on the might of the U16 girls. Although Ratoath started slowly, they found their pace and cruised home to 24 points to 14 points victory. This win was thanks to a great team effort and great performances from Ashling O'Brien, Orla Gannon, Laura Gribben and Kira Mortan.

Inver college from Monaghan were next to visit Ratoath. Inver were in the division above us but it was a great challenge for the girls as they continued on their path to the final. They were narrowly defeated in this game. Breanne Nolan, Shannon Fagan, Ursula Cullen and Ashling O'Brien impressed in this game. We headed to Dunboyne next to play



a game that we had to win to reach the final and after a very tough encounter we emerged with 22 points to 25 victory. This set us up for a place in the final against what we knew would be a very strong Dunleer Team. Erica Coombes, Megan Witter Nolan, Aoife McGoldrick, Niamh Corrigan and Zoe Lynch all playing very well in this game. We headed to Dundalk to play our final and we were determined that we were not going home without the cup. It was the toughest game of the year and we were very slow to get started. We were trailing by 2 to 3 points at half time and we knew we could play better. We improved in the 3rd quarter and going into the final quarter we were only a point behind. We had 7 minutes to change this around and that's exactly what we did.

We put every last bit of energy we had left into the final quarter and when the final whistle went we had won by 5 points. Ashling O'Brien proudly accepted the first ever cup for Ratoath College and we headed off home delighted. Well done girls

The U16 panel was: Erica Coombes, Ashling O'Brien, Ursula Cullen, Zoe Lynch, Laura Gribben, Niamh Corrigan, Megan Witter Nolan, Breanne Nolan, Orla Gannon, Kira Mortan, Shannon Fagan, Aoife McGoldrick

First Year Soccer

At the start of the year the school held trials for all the first years who were interested in playing on the team. More than 40 students showed up that first day, meaning there was an ample supply of talent for the team. The team was led by Mr. McCarthy, ably assisted by his coaching staff made up of Brian O' Connor and Jack Dunphy.

The first event of the year for the team was the FAI school's Futsal competition. Futsal is an indoor version of soccer using a smaller ball and goals similar to those used in Olympic Handball. It emphasizes skill and ball control.

10 players were then selected to take part in the tournament, held in Trim. It was a successful tournament with the boys finishing third - an excellent achievement, given it was their first time playing together. The player of the day that day had to be Daniel Chochlinski because of his excellent skill, class and finishing.



For the Good of the Game

After the successful tournament the lads were training hard for their cup debut against old rivals Dunshaughlin. Ratoath had never beaten their rivals in all previous games over the years. So the squad of 16 headed off to Dunshaughlin on a sunny afternoon hoping for the best.

The team was picked the previous day and lads had time to focus on the task in hand. When we arrived in Dunshaughlin the lads were put through their paces in an intense warm-up. The match got underway and Ratoath had a great start when Ryan Watters slotted home the opener. Five minutes later it was two nil with Brian Murphy grabbing a cracker of a goal and Ratoath were in dreamland. The second half did not go to plan at all as the tiring Ratoath side conceded 6 goals over a 20 minute period.

The atmosphere didn't help as it was very intimidating for the lads playing in front of nearly the whole school. A disappointing end to what started off as a great game. As it was a cup game the lads were knocked out in the first round and for good. The outstanding players on the day were Brian Murphy and Aaron O' Toole who gave two great performances.

A good season for their first and I'm sure the lads will come back next year more focused than ever. The lads enjoyed the year and would like to thank their fantastic manager, Mr. McCarthy and his assistants for working with them throughout the season.

Written by: Jack Dunphy

Second Year Soccer

The start of the year the school held trials for all the second years who were interested in playing on the team. There was also a large attendance and, as with the first year team, there was a large supply for talent to choose from. This team was also led by Mr. McCarthy, Brian Murphy and Jack Dunphy.

The management team had the a very tough decision to make in picking a captain for the year and they finally decided on centre-half Keith McCabe, who proved to be an inspirational leader all year.



The lads had a few training sessions before their first game of the Leinster Cup against Gormanstown College. The game was played at their wonderful sporting facilities near Balbriggan. The lads got kitted out and headed for the pitch where they were put through paces in an intense warm-up led by the coaches. Ratoath took the lead in the first half with Cormac Goodman firing in from close range. The lads went into half time in the lead but still had some work to do to kill the game off and Gormanstown pulled level shortly after the break. With 15 minutes left and the game still tied at one-a-piece, Ratoath won a corner out of nothing and up popped Joey Wallace to put Ratoath back on top. Gormanstown had a glorious chance to level it at the death but they missed the opportunity. That was how it was to remain until full time and Ratoath ran out 2-1 winners in what was a cracking game. The outstanding players on the day were Joey Wallace, Glen O' Reilly and Keith McCabe.

The next game in the Leinster Cup didn't come for a while so the lads had plenty of time to prepare for the tie with Colaiste Choilm, Swords. The day finally arrived and the lads were confident of a win. The game started at a fast pace with Ratoath struggling to deal with the high tempo. Colaiste Choilm took the lead with a well worked goal and doubled the advantage minutes later. Half time, two nil down, the signs weren't good, but Ratoath managed to grab a goal that might just get them back into the game not long after the break. They were pressing for the leveler when Swords hit them on the break to put the game beyond doubt. They went and added another for good measure and they ran out deserved 4-1 winners.

Despite this defeat, the lads showed a great fighting spirit and I'm sure they'll be back next year, more focused than ever. The lads enjoyed the year and would like to thank their fantastic managers for helping them out during the season.

Written By: Brian Murphy

Boys U16 Gaelic Football

In September 2009 Mr. Qualter and Fr. PJ started up the U16 boys Gaelic by holding training every Tuesday in Ratoath GAA club for a few weeks until our first match. The U16 competition uses a knockout format, so if you lose one match - you're gone.

In the first match we were playing a school from Oldcastle managed by Mr. O'Dowd, a former RC staff member. It was an away match and the conditions were really bad. The starting line up was:

Michael King	Darren Mulvanny	Keith Mc Cabe
Eoin O Brian	Adam Griffiths	Jack Wiley
Conor Hughes	Aaron Mc Donnell	Brian Power
Brian O Connor	Eamonn Wallace	Cian Carey
Conor Rooney	Andrew Flinter	Glenn O Reilly

It was a great match considering the conditions. At half time the sides were level, although we had missed a lot of goal chances in the first half and should really have been ahead.

In the second half we also played well but in the end we lost by two points. There was a great performance from nearly everyone especially Conor Hughes, Eamonn Wallace, Brian O Connor, Aaron McDonnell, Brian Power and Eoin O Brian. It was unfortunate that we lost and had only one game this year having felt we could go very far in the competition. Having said that, we look forward to the U18 next year!

U18 Boys Gaelic Football

The u-18 boy's Gaelic football team is managed by Mr. Qualter and Fr. P.J. Most of the lads on the u-18 team are in sixth year and this was their last year to play with the school so it was a big year for those students - their last chance to bring back some silver wear to the school. It started well because we got a bye in the quarter final so we were straight into a semi-final.

In the semi-final we were playing a team from Dundalk, with the match taking place in Louth at the home of the Louth juvenile inter-county team. It was a great match but unfortunately we lost by 3 points. There were great performances from Bobby O'Brien, Paddy Hasalm , Cian O'Brian , Gavin Eiffe and Brian Mc Mahon .

The Rugby Report 2009/10

This year Ratoath College enjoyed quite a successful year in Rugby especially considering the many obstacles that were met along the way. Between having nowhere to play or train for spells of the year, having a very small pool of senior players to choose from and having games called off due to bad weather it was indeed a challenging year for Rugby. The school year started badly with the loss of two of the school's most influential rugby players from last year Adam Pusciewicz and Jonathan Grall. With Adam moving school and Jonathan being ruled out for the foreseeable future due to a serious injury, Ratoath had lost its two captains before the season had even begun.



The Senior Team performed very bravely in their matches going out in the Developmental Cup in October to Drogheda. Despite the loss the team had two good tries scored by Paddy Flood and William Ross to cheer and the two scorers even got a mention in The Irish Times for their efforts. The Seniors went out of the Developmental Shield on a cold wet day in Longford town in December despite another heroic against the odds display. A special mention has to go to the always reliable heart of the team Jack Scroope, Hugh Maloney, Ross Gillen and Wayne Doyle and particular credit goes to Patrick Haslam and Donal O'Connor who having never played Rugby before embraced the spirit of the game with the necessary courage and right attitude.

The Junior Team enjoyed more success this season making their way to the Quarter Finals of The Developmental Cup and could have progressed further only for bad weather and other circumstances out of their control meant they had to pull out of the competition without actually losing a game. The highlight of the season was the second round victory against St Mary's Dundalk in Dundalk in October. A game into which every player put their heart and soul the particularly impressive performers on that day were Alex Coakley, Harry Rooney and Eoin Murphy. The First and Second Year team proved themselves ready to step up to Junior Rugby next year with some scintillating performances this year. The highlight of the season was the blitz played in Malahide in February. The Ratoath boys won the first game against the hosts Malahide running in over 8 try's and conceding no scores. Exceptional tries scored by Kevin O'Driscoll and James Dervin were the highlights of the day. Despite losing the second match our lads still qualified for the Blitz Final a game which was eventually lost 22 points to 10. It was a tiring day but the team went home happy with many great Ratoath tries still fresh in the memory. The other success of the day was the impressive displays of the First Years notably Paraig Magee, Gareth Cooke, Tomás Witty, Ben Scroope and Robert Grall to name a few, who weren't at all afraid to get stuck in to the action.

All in all it was a tough but satisfying year of Rugby for the school. We already have great participation, interest and heart and in the next year we'll have a bigger school with more pupils and better facilities for training, the future of Ratoath Rugby is looking bright.

Written By: Jonathan Grall

Cross Country/Track & Field: A student Report

I joined both the cross country and Track & Field this year. We trained every Thursday for cross country since September. Ms Reid did the training with us. Some days we went for a run down to Tesco and back to the school but most of our training was on the Athletics track. About 60 students competed in Gormanstown, Oldcastle and in the North Leinsters in DCU in the cross country. Deirdre Healy was the only student to qualify for the Leinsters. She came in a hugely respectable 2nd place.

When we finished the cross country we started the Track & Field training. This was on both Tuesdays and Thursdays. It was great fun. We tried out lots of new events like high jump, javelin and shot putt. We all competed in the Meath championships in Navan. We got loads of medals. We then all



ran the North Leinsters in Santry. There were people from all years in the school doing different events. It was great fun. Deirdre Healy, Sarah Healy, Laura Gribben, Eamonn Wallace, Brian O Connor, Jonathon Grall, Jack Wiley, Graham Jordon, Josh Byrne Bourke and Mark Wiley qualified for the Leinsters. They did really well. Deirdre came 2nd in the 500m finals which was a great achievement. I'm looking forward to competing again next year.



Written by: Graeme Reynolds (1st Year - Rang McAuley)

Farewell 6th Years...

As the summer approaches and exams beckon, Ratoath College students will, for the first time, be facing the Leaving Certificate exams. A long way from their carefree days in Fairyhouse, 39 students from 6th Year, will become the first students ever to graduate from Ratoath College. May we wish them all the best in their exams and indeed in their futures.

We'll miss you around the place, but hope that you come back to visit sometime and let us know how your getting on.



Some of our 6th Year's as they 'take a break' from their studies

Best Wishes...

(Get your friends to sign here)

Greetings from An Cinnirí

Hello, Grace and Darragh here, and this year we were appointed as Ratoath College's second Ard Cinnirí. It is indeed an honour and a privilege as Eric and Charlotte said themselves last year. After becoming Cinnirí we put ourselves forward for Ard Cinnire and were elected through a student and staff vote followed by an interview. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who voted and aslo say a huge well done to all the Ard Cinnirí candidates. We would also like to thank you the students and all staff for all your support during our induction period. We hope to fuffill the role of Ard Cinnirí to the best of our ability and hopefully become future role models for the students of Ratoath College.

As we are the second Ard Cinnirí it has been easy to step into our roles as we knew what was expected of us thanks to last years group of Cinnirí.

We also have the privilege of working with a fantastic group of Cinnirí. We would like to congratulate them on their new positions and their hard-work, we are looking forward to all working together next year. The Cinnire room is still in use by last years Cinnirí but we have assembled a room committee and are looking forward to putting our own touch on the room over the summer. We are going to be given huge help by Ms Ní Bhróite, Ms Prendergast and of course Ms O' Dwyer who we would like to thank in advance.



If it wasn't for them we wouldn't have any of these roles or facilities. Also we want to say a special thanks to them for believing in us, encouraging us and giving us the opportunity to let us prove ourselves and our school that we have the leadership skills needed for the development of Ratoath College and looking after our fellow students. Grace and I, are honoured to have been appointed Ratoath College's second Ard Cinnirí and we both hope to fulfill our new roles to the best of our ability. On behalf of the entire Cinnirí, may we extend our best wishes to the current third years as they sit their Junior Certificate, and also to the sixth years who will sit Ratoath College's first Leaving Certificate. We hope they get the results they want and wish them every success in the future. We would like to forward our best wishes to Parents, Staff and of course, our fellow Students. We hope you all have a fantastic (and safe) summer and we look forward to seeing you all next September

Slán go fóil,
Grace and Darragh.
Ard Cinnirí