

Ratoath College

2011

magazine

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*Coming This Spring...*

**"A Masterpiece of  
Musical Theatre"**

**"A Musical  
LandMark"**

**"Broadway's  
Greatest Musical"**

**Ratoath College:  
Musical 2012**

**JUST PLAY IT COOL BOY,  
REAL COOL**

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*66 Magazine is produced by Transition Year Students as part of their English and Media Studies courses.*

*Cover by Kira Morton, Rang Casey.*



# Greetings from our Principal & Deputy Principal



Once again, we're fast approaching the end of the school year, and it's been a very busy one. Our first year students are coming to the end of their first year at second level, a year which saw each student excel and grow in the pursuit of their full potential. Our second year students have had a busy year, as they prepare for their Junior Cert next year. Our third years are busily working their way towards their first state exams—we wish them all the best. We've had a busy and active Transition Year programme, with two TY classes for the first time this year. Our fifth year students are preparing to move forward to their final year in the school. This is also the first time we've had two LCA groups, with Rang Hannon joining Rang Qualter. We wish Rang Qualter and all the sixth years the very best of luck with their exams, now fast approaching. We wish them well also as they head out into the world and we hope the future will be bright for all of them.

This has certainly been our busiest year to date. As the school continues to grow, this year we welcomed six first year classes for the first time. We tasted our first success on the football field with our u-16 boys taking the Leinster championship. Our u-16 boys soccer team were very unlucky to lose out in the final, as were our u-14 girls in their Leinster semi-final. We're very proud of them all.

Many of our students also had success in sport outside of school. James Scully continues to take medals as he prepares for the London games in 2012. We wish him all the best. Eve Byrne, Arstem Saldatsenka, Dylan Connolly and Kelly Smyth have all also taken part in international competitions in their various disciplines, taking home medals. We offer them all our congratulations, and wish them well for their future endeavours in sport.

It's been a busy year for many of our teachers too. Ms Kelly, Ms McQuillan, Ms Garcia and Ms Heneghan all gave birth to healthy babies during the year. As the magazine is going to print, Ms O'Dwyer is expecting any day now. We offer them all our heartfelt congratulations. We congratulate Ms Kilrane too who got married over the Easter break. We also send best wishes to Ms Smith and Ms Collins, who are both looking forward to their weddings in the summer.

This year also saw our first whole school inspection. Three inspectors visited the school before Easter and sent out questionnaires to parents and students. The results of these surveys are very encouraging indeed. Both parents and students responded very positively about the school. The inspectors returned this past week and their initial feedback is also very positive. They praised the school and in particular our teachers for their hard work and commitment, singling out the school's work in subject planning for particular praise. We're very pleased with the results. The full report should be published early in the new school year.

We're delighted once again to be associated with this publication. You'll be amazed with the huge range and scope of curricular and extra-curricular activities that have taken place again this year. We wish all parents, students and staff of the school all the best for the summer.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine

Le gach dea-ghuí

*Maire Ní Bhroithe and Oonagh Prendergast.*

Principal & Deputy Principal



# Reflections

*As the school year draws to a close, our school chaplain, Mr Donnelly, reflects on the year just gone and looks to the future...*



And so we come to the end of our year in Ratoath College. Like every journey we take, the time spent here from September to May is a walk into the unknown. Every day brings a new experience, a different challenge, meeting new friends, looking to the horizon of exams. The story of our year has almost reached its end but our journey of life continues.

Every New Year is begun in hope, every New Year opens up the path of possibilities for us, and every New Year begins with the burning of expectations. As we look back on our year, we look to our achievements and also to our failings. It's good to acknowledge our high and low moments in this past year.

As we look back on our journey here in Ratoath, we can be filled with hope as we walk to the summer and beyond, either as a sixth year going out to the world or as students who will return next year to continue along the road of secondary education. God is with us no matter where we go or what we do, in night clubs, sports fields, summer jobs, at home, with friends or even when we feel alone. As we walk from here to our individual paths let us remember to be people of hope in the fact that our steps are never made alone. May all we have learned this year guide our way and may we appreciate our gifts and talents as we sit exams or use our ideas elsewhere.

I think it's only right at this point that I mention the fantastic effort made by students who took part in the 'Give it up for Trocaire Day' in March where they raised a huge €5,662.47!!! Well done to everyone involved!!

exams and I hope that the 6<sup>th</sup> Years fulfil their potential in whatever path they may choose in life.

On a personal level I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Staff and Students of Ratoath College who have made me feel so welcome here since I arrived in November. You have all been great and I've thoroughly enjoyed my time here.

The final FINAL thing is to wish FR. PJ a speedy recovery to full health

Cheers,

*Mark Donnelly*

*Chaplain*

## A Note from the Editorial Team

We hope you enjoy this year's edition of the school magazine. A lot of hard work has gone into its production and we would like to offer our thanks to all those staff and students who contributed this year, whether in the form of an article or by providing photographs.

It's never possible to include absolutely everything, so if we've left anything or anybody out, we offer our heartfelt apologies.

That being said, what's contained within these pages provides just a small glimpse into the huge range of activities, both curricular and extra-curricular that go on in our school. Our thanks in chief must therefore go to all those students and staff whose hard work and effort in the classroom and on the playing field produce the great events and achievements that this publication attempts to record.

Well done everybody!



# Farewell from outgoing Cinnirí

Well another year has past and this time next year the new cinnire will be writing this but we as the cinnire would like to thank everyone in the school who has helped us through our time here in Ratoath College. First and foremost we would like to thank Ms. O'Dwyer, from the very beginning Ms. O'Dwyer has been there to help with any problems that have come our way and been able to show us how do deal with it. We also like to say a special thanks to all the students of Ratoath College for being so co-operative and believing in us, encouraging us and giving us the opportunity to be their representatives to the school. Lastly we would like to thank both Ms. Ní Bhróite and Ms. Prendergast as they have given us this chance to represent the students of Ratoath College and given us the chance to work with them.

We would also like to say good luck to the incoming cinnire, we hope they enjoy the privileges of being the cinnire of the school such as the cinnire room which we have left in great condition for them and hopefully they will add a touch of their own personality to the room.

Lastly we would like to say good luck to the third year and sixth year's in their summer exams. We hope that every student gets what they and what they deserve. We would like to wish parents, teachers and most of all students of the school a great summer and we hope you enjoy your years in Ratoath College like we did.





# Greetings from the new Cinnirí

The group of Cinnirí here in Ratoath College are a group of engaged, enthusiastic and determined students. We are proud and honoured to take on the role of leaders and motivators and be ambassadors of this school.

We are here to help all students of Ratoath College and liaise with the staff and Board of Management about any issues or topics that arise in our Cinnirí meetings. Throughout the next year we will be the role models and friends that the students of this school need. We promise to set a great example and inspire our fellow students to strive for the best.

We hope to earn the admiration and respect of the staff and students through hard work and effort. We will gain the trust of the students and we will take care of anything they need in confidence.

It is important for us to fulfil our roles to our full ability. It is our mission to prove to you all that you did not make a mistake in choosing us to be your Cinnirí. It is our privilege to complete any duties or tasks that are set for us and we as a group are delighted to hold this prestigious position in our school.

We vow to encourage our school's motto of "Mol an Oigé agus Tíocfadh Sí". We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and optimism in helping us to become the new Cinnirí. We look forward to working with you all throughout the next year and we want to compliment the Cinnirí team of 2010/2011 for the fantastic work they have done to assist in upholding the magnificent reputation our school has within the wider community.

We will take this opportunity to say that we foresee great things in your future and we hope you reach all your aspirations and ambitions.

Again, we express our gratitude in your decision to make us a team of students that can guide and respect everyone at this school.



***MOI AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ***



# Joyous Junior Cert Results

## The Students of Ratoath College Celebrate their fantastic Junior Cert results.

On the morning of the September 15th 2010, 4th and 5th year students across this proud nation rose out of their beds and began to prepare themselves for a day of their lives that they would never forget. The school doors opened up on a dark autumn morning allowing the students to get ready for the hours ahead. There was an air of many emotions, some eager, some exited but most... were terrified.

After the first two classes every post examination student in the school was called down to the gym/assembly hall so that they could all receive their results at the same time as one and other. Along with the teachers and other members of staff, the RTÉ crew were rolling the camera as each student in the hall began to countdown and unseal that brown paper envelope that contained their well deserved results.

An earth-shattering surge of noise erupted throughout the hall as worthless envelopes were shredded in moments in order to get to the second most valuable piece of paper the students have ever received next to money. Hands were shook,

embraces were exchanged and tears were shed as many read through the sheet before their eyes many a time. Some stayed, some wrung family and friends while others vacated the school grounds in order to celebrate elsewhere.

Many of the departed arrived back just in time to get the bus all the way out to Drogheda for much needed celebrations in the establishment

known as Funtasia. The journey over to it was filled with expressions of happiness and joy and was mainly uneventful apart from the bus which

**“There was an air of many emotions, some eager, some exited but most were ..... terrified”**

opened its side panel and left it swinging freely, it was of no concern to us until we noticed what it had written on the side of it. It was something to do with the fuel as far as far as anyone could remember.

We arrived on time and waited for about 10 minutes before we got in. We spent time bowling, rope climbing and just generally wandering around doing what we do most decently, trying to stay out of trouble. Many memories were captured during our time celebrating. Eventually we had to go home so onto the bus we got and on our way we went.





***4th and 5th year students receiving their results on Wednesday, September 15.***

Our bus arrived home as it was getting dark. Some said goodbyes while others said see you later and they all went their separate ways for their own personal celebrations whether it was mischievous or questionable deeds with friends or an outing with family.

From the results received this year, the school has very high expectations for all future students to continue the excellent work that as our school is known for.

By Callum Mc Mahon



***MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ***



# Our Brilliant Leaving Certificate Results

2010 was the first year of the Leaving Certificate in Ratoath College. Many of the 66 students who were the first to start in the school who had begun secondary school in the temporary accommodation of Fairyhouse Racecourse sat the Leaving Certificate.

The results from Ratoath students were very good and students were very happy with the majority of their results.

Ratoath college was used as one of the pilot schools for the new maths course called project maths. Students seemed to find this new subject quite difficult because it was the first year of a new type of maths paper, but most students were happy with their results. In the practical subjects like construction there were many very impressive projects made.

The highest score in Ratoath college was five hundred and thirty points. The average points scored in the Leaving Certificate in Ratoath College was very high and this is a great achievement for the first students in the school doing the Leaving Certificate.

Next year the results are expected to improve even further in Ratoath, following the first year of great results, and we wish everyone in sixth year in Ratoath College the very best of luck in the Leaving Certificate in 2011.

Principal Ms. Ní Broithe had this to say about the results:

*"It is with huge pride that we congratulate our first set of students to complete their Leaving Certificate at Ratoath College. Throughout their five years at Ratoath College, these students showed that with hard work and continuous study, rewards would follow. Ratoath College was a place of excitement, joy and celebrations on Results Day and we would like to wish all our past students the very best in their chosen paths."*



Some Ratoath College students showing off their brilliant results with Deputy Principal, Ms. Prendergast.

***MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ***



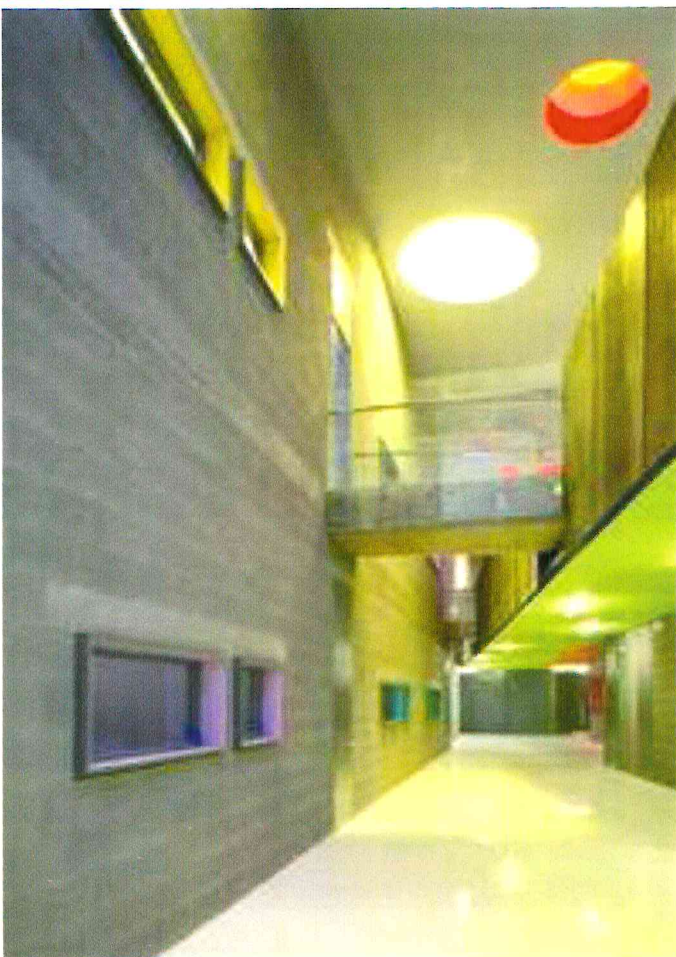
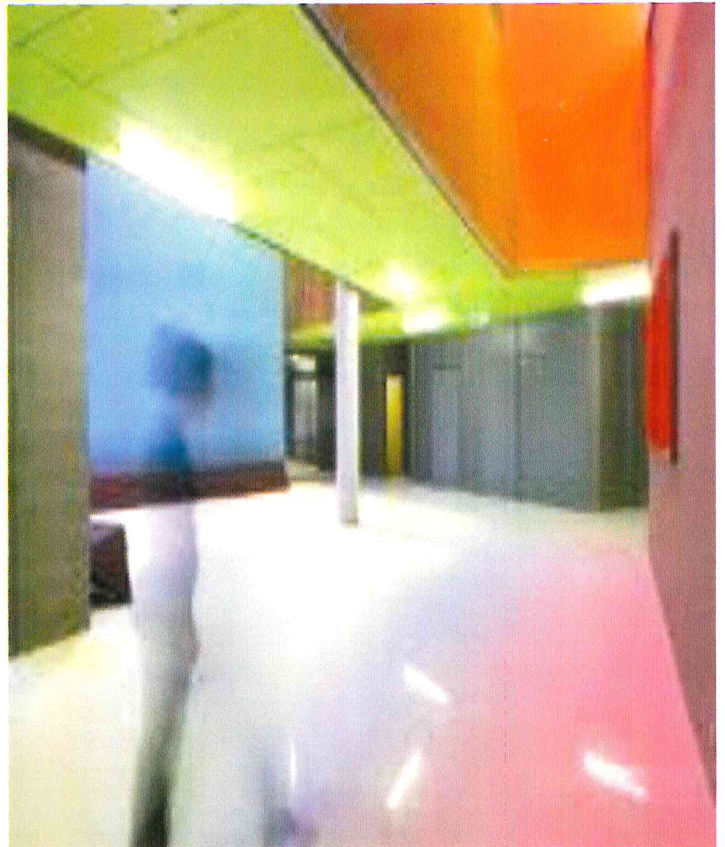
# Very Positive Results From Our First Ever Whole School Inspection

Ratoath College had our first ever Whole School Inspection just before the Easter holidays. Three inspectors came to the school in the middle of April. The first part of the inspection involved parents and students being surveyed on their views of the school.

The students looked extremely smart all week in their polished shoes, their clean uniforms, and wearing their ties, they looked the part.

It was a big occasion in Ratoath College, as it was the first inspection ever, and it only comes around very infrequently. The school looked immaculate as it was completely litter free and the walls were covered in colourful posters done by the students.

The inspectors met with the school's board of management and Parents' association as well as spending time speaking to Ms Ní Bhróithe and Ms



Predergast along with the assistant principals and teachers with posts of responsibility. Finally, the inspectors spent two days observing teaching and learning in action, visiting various classes.

The inspectors returned after the Easter break to make their initial report on their findings. They brought fantastic news with them that our school had shone in the inspection. The inspectors praised both staff and students for their hard work and commitment and for the very high quality of teaching and learning in the school. There was praise also for the board of management and the parent's association.

The results of the survey performed as part of the inspection were also returned to the school. Responses from parents and students were both very positive.

The official report should be published early in the new school year.



# THE BIG FREEZE

Over the winter 2010/2011 Ireland saw its **"biggest freeze since the mid 1700's."** It was one of the coldest Decembers ever recorded! With treacherous driving conditions and slippery paths and walkways that always accompany such weather, the school was forced to close for about a week and a half altogether. JCBs were called in to try to clear the school of snow. Fortunately the school escaped most of the burst pipes and heating problems that many people suffered.

Just when we thought the snow was gone , it came back heavier then ever and we got our Christmas holidays 2 days early !

Lets hope we don't see snow again for a Long time...



*The Snowy Sunset in Curragha (Picture by Danielle Clarke)*

**MOI AN ÓIGE AGUS TÍOCEAIDH SÍ**



# New Pitch Brings Good Luck in Sport!



The new pitch was ready for the sports year in Ratoath College this year. The pitch was being made for the last 3 years leading to the school teams playing in the Codless and in the Brownstown pitches. It was a long time coming but it is a fantastic pitch which is fenced all the way around and it has nets behind the goals as well to stop the balls flying into the fields.

The first game played on the pitch was against Athboy, which we won. The under 16 Gaelic team who won that game went on to win the Leinster championship so the new pitch has been a blessing to everyone.

The new pitch has been a lift for the school and everyone involved with the school is very proud to now have a pitch of our own and we look forward to plenty of success in the future. Thanks to everyone who contributed to making the new pitch and it is greatly appreciated by the school and the community.

We also look forward to hosting our first ever sports day in the school this year.

*By Jack Wiley*



*Above: The sun sets over our new pitch. Top: Mr O'Toole at work measuring the new pitch.*

***MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ***



# Pitch and Putt on the rise in Ratoath College.

The pitch and putt was organised by Mr. Cahill this year. Many students played pitch and putt this year in Ratoath College. The first competition was the Leinster qualifier in Kells pitch and putt club. You had to enter in teams of three. Ratoath entered 10 teams.

It was a beautiful weather that day and 3 teams qualified for the Leinster championship from the Meath qualifier. A special congratulations to Andrew Gorman, Mathew O'Neill and Ian Conlon who not only qualified but won the Meath qualifier overall and they won it comfortably too. Next up was the Leinster qualifiers for the All-Ireland.

The competition was in Tullamore pitch and putt club. The weather was absolutely atrocious, it was nearly impossible to swing the golf club.

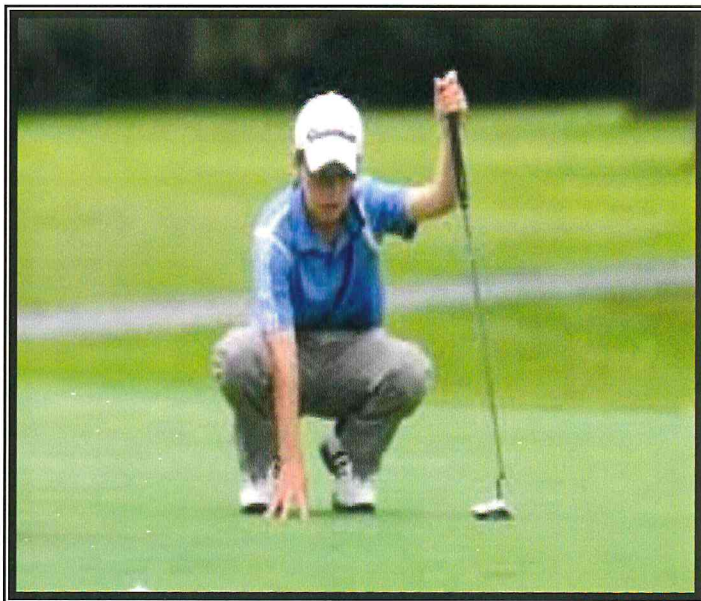
The weather stopped 2 Ratoath College teams

Mr Cahill on the pitch and putt team this year:

*"The lads did fantastic, I'm really proud of them, it was a huge improvement all round this year".*

*Why did the golfer wear 2 pairs of socks to the course??*

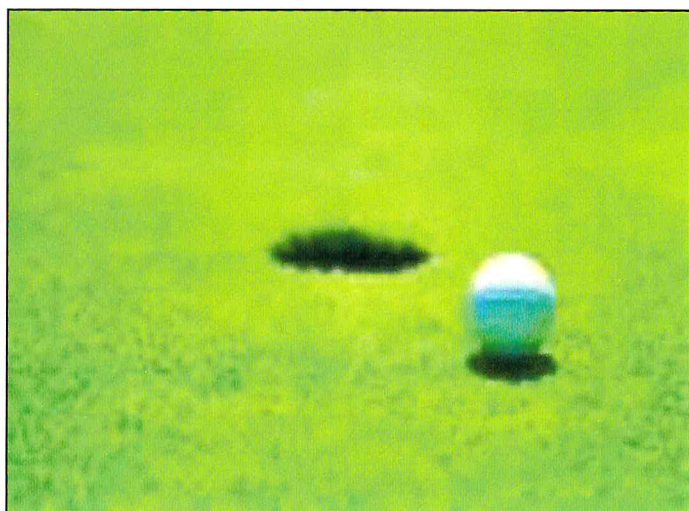
*In case he got a hole in one!*



Above: Enda Cahill lines up a putt in Kells.

progressing but this did not stop the team of Andrew Gorman, Mathew O'Neill and Ian Conlon who qualified through Leinster and made it all the way through to the All – Irelands. Unfortunately they did not win the All – Irelands, but they did fantastically well.

Well done to everyone who played pitch and putt this year, and a special thanks to Mr Cahill for making it all possible. We look forward to further success next year in pitch and putt and hopefully a lot more students will take part.





# Fantastic Start To Senior Rugby

## In Ratoath College

Ratoath College had its first ever Senior rugby team this year. This was the last chance for some of the players to play school rugby. The team was put together based on strengths of the last few years, with rugby developing all the time in the school. The team this year was very strong and determined.

The first match of the year was against Dunboyne. They played and won the game in front of the school. The game was close at the beginning but they ran out comfortable winners in the end.

The next match they played was against St Marys of Drogheda. They once again played in front of the school but against a much tougher opponent. In the first half they crossed over for two tries and they were in the lead at half time. But Drogheda came out fighting and scored two of their own. It took us until the dying seconds to find the winner with Wayne Doyle crossing the line for the winner in the last play of the game.

The next match was against Balbriggan which was to be played away from home in Balbriggan. This match was to determine who was moving into the quarter final to play Dundalk. The match began and both teams traded possession. But then Ratoath went over to score. At half time we were three scores up and cruising. But in the second half Balbriggan came back at us and scored two tries. But Ratoath were too strong for Balbriggan and in the end came out of the match winners.

The Quarter final against Dundalk was the hardest match they played yet. It was played in Dundalk. They started out the better of the two sides scoring a penalty in the opening moments. But Dundalk came back and scored two tries without reply. In the second half Dundalk scored one more as we tried to go on the offensive. In the end they crossed the line in the shape of Jordan Carr. They were out but they had played really well to get there and we are all very proud!



*The senior rugby squad model their new kit*

***MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ***



## First Days of School...

# Under 19s Looking to the Future

Our under nineteen basketball team started with training after school on Mondays. Ms.Kelly and Mr.Qualter started off and with some hard training trying to get us ready for the up and coming season. We were entered in into league C, In the league we only had three matches. The first match that we had was against Boyne of trim. We had to travel out to trim but we beat them very convincingly which was a great start to our season. Eoin Halpin was given man of the match and was top scorer. Our second match was against St. Marys Drogheda. They were a very strong side and they beat us by a very convincing margin. Joner was given man of the match and he also was top scorer. Our third and final match was against St.Ciaran's Kells.

It was an away match which we had to travel for an hour or so. Once we arrived we seen that our opponents were very good and a lot bigger than us much like every team we played. They beat us quite badly as well. Joner also got man of the man in this game aswell. Rob Watters and Brian Power top scored for ratoath in this game. At the end of the season we had one win and two loses. This wasn't a great result for the season but seeing as our team was made up of mainly 5th and 4th years it looks like we will have a good team for the future. We will also have the third years coming onto the under 19 team aswell so hopefully we will fair better next season.



# Under 16s Strive For Success

The under 16 boys Basketball team had a great season this year, They started the competition with a fantastic victory over Boyne Community College. They went on to meet and beat St.Ciarans Kells, St Marys Drogheda and St Pats Navan with some key performance's from Charlie Coombes, Joey Wallace, Jay Tyndall, Keith McCabe and Dara Kelly to name a few. Having made it out of the group they went on to meet Virginia College Cavan in the semi final. Unfortunately after a mighty fight they were narrowly defeated, I have no doubt that they will be back next year to have another shot at the title.

By Ms T. Kelly





# More Success on the Track for RC

This year was, once again, was a very successful year for the school athletics team. They took part in the Meath championships in Navan. The team returned with a wide array of medals for track and field events.

Training took place after school on Mondays and Thursdays under the excellent guidance of Ms Reid. The team trained for a variety of events including sprints, middle distance, long jump, high jump and shot putt. There was a good turnout to each session, particularly from first year students.

On Friday 8th of April, the athletics team travelled to Claremont Stadium in Navan to take part in the Meath Championships. There was a great number of students who showed up to represent the school from all year groups.

The first of the day's events began with sprints and long jump. Ratoath College did well in these events. Graham Jordan won a silver medal in the long jump and Patrick O'Hanlon also won a medal in this event.

In the middle distance running, there was also success for Ratoath College in the middle distance running. Patrick O'Hanlon, Ciaran Murphy, Eamonn Wallace and Brian O'Connor all put in great performances.

There were also a number of strong relay teams in all age groups who ran very well but unfortunately did not win any medals.

There were also a number of students representing us in the high jump who all did very well too.

As well as track events, students also took part in field events such as the shot putt.

It has been another very successful year for Ratoath College athletics. A very high standard was set and all students enjoyed taking part. Special thanks goes to Ms Reid, as well as Ms Collins and Ms Dwyer, who helped the team to train and improve over the past few months.



## CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross country team had another eventful and exciting year this year. The athletes trained on Mondays and Thursdays and were trained by Ms Reid, Ms Dwyer and Ms Collins. The first race of the year took place in Drogheda, County Louth, and the boys and girls that took part in the U13,U15,U17,U19 competitions respectively and everyone did extremely well in the first race of the year.

After Christmas training got back into full swing and everyone once again put huge commitment into training and the second event of the year took part in Gormanstown College, County Meath. We once again had athletes participating in every race and we had some outstanding performances from Deirdre Healy of second year and Paddy O'Hanlon of first year. Everyone enjoyed the day and were all very pleased with there performances.

That was the last race event of the year, but everyone continued training very hard as some of them were preparing for the school Athletics that was taking part before the Easter holidays.

It was an extremely successful and very enjoyable year for the Cross Country team and a big thank you to Ms Reid, Ms Dwyer and Ms Collins who gave up there time to train and prepare the cross country team.



# U16 Underdogs Run To Final

***This year Ratoath College went very far in their search for a first Leinster soccer title but were narrowly beaten in the final by De La Salle of Wicklow.*** We started off training early in the year with hopes that a Leinster Title was realistic.

## First Game

In our first game we beat a weakened Dunboyne team 2-1 with goals from Eoghan Doody and Eoin O' Brien and a great performance from Adam Griffiths.

## Last Sixteen

In the next round Ratoath played a very strong De La Salle side from Dundalk which went to extra after it finished 3-3 in normal time with goals from Adam Griffiths, Jay Tyndall and Brian 'Poacher' Power. Tyndall got that crucial goal in extra time to send Ratoath into a quarter final.

## Quarter Final

In a very anticipated quarter final Ratoath played Chanel College from Coolock. With Andrew Flinter, Rob Watters and Ben Newe missing from the team Ratoath were forced to make changes with Eoghan Doody going into goals. With Chanel College playing like 'Barcelona in disguise' Ratoath took a very surprising lead when Eoin O' Brien finished very well. Chanel College then went on to score twice to put them in the lead with only minutes left. But from an excellent run and cross from Jonny Clarke, Brian Power was there for the second game in a row to put Ratoath level and bring the game to extra-time. After a very nervous extra-time the game went to penalties, with keeper Eoghan Doody saving three. Cormac Goodman then stepped up and scored the clincher to put Ratoath into a semi-final against Collinstown College from Clondalkin.

## Semi-Final

On a sunny day Ratoath travelled to Leixlip to play Collinstown on a great artificial pitch. Ratoath were very focused on the game and took an early lead with Jonny Clarke heading in from a corner. Clarke got his second soon later, finishing a great move from Ratoath and a great ball from Conor Lowe into the box. Ratoath's third goal came from another corner and again it was Brian Power to score a header leaving Ratoath 3-0 up at half time. The second half started well again with Eoin O' Brien finishing very well and the game was wrapped up when Adam Griffiths poked the ball past the keeper to end a great 5-0 win for Ratoath, with every Ratoath player playing great and no one putting a foot wrong.

## Final

A week later Ratoath were back in Leixlip to play De La Salle of Wicklow in the Leinster final. The game was evenly contested at the outset with both sides quick to every ball. Ratoath got the break through in the first half after a half cleared corner fell to one Eoghan Doody who played a perfect cross to Brian Power who scored a great diving header to get his fourth goal off the year. In the second half it was more of the same with both sides playing a great game but near the end Ratoath started to tire and De La Salle came up with more and more chances. After an unbelievable amount of added time De La Salle had a free kick at the edge of the box which was saved brilliantly by Andrew Flinter but was then put in by a De La Salle player in the very last minute to break Ratoath hearts and bring the game to extra time. After a tiring extra time De La Salle got the winner close to full time.

Ratoath went home very disappointed but knowing they had done themselves very proud. It was a great year for the players and the school. We would like to thank Mr McAuley, Mr Nelson and Mr Horan for training us all year and bringing us to the final.





*The u16 soccer team that were so unlucky to lose in the Leinster final against De La Salle of Wicklow.*

## Fancy Futsal Tournament

The fantastic facilities at Gormanston College played host to the Meath Post Primary Schools Futsal Event on Friday, November 4. The competition is for first year students. Ratoath College and 9 other schools took part. The competition once again had a very high standard indeed

The boys event was contested by 10 teams split into 2 groups of 5. Ratoath were in a tough group with St Peters, Oldcastle, Gormanstown and Beaufort college.

The boys team consisted of Brian Joyce (GK), Calvin Kavanagh, Colm McIntyre, Enda Cahill, Josh Newe, Ross Newe, Mark McCormack, Daniel Eagan.

The first match Ratoath lost to Dunboyne due to nerves and high expectations the players had put on themselves.

The second match Enda Cahill scored early to settle nerves and then Ross Newe settled the match with a second goal against Beaufort college.

The final match was a character test that the boys came through with shining colours against the home team Gormanstown who had players who had represented Barcelona and Real Madrid on the team sheet. With the crowd cheering for the home team,

RC took a 2 goal lead. Then Gormanstown got a goal back and then proceeded to try and impose their will to win on Ratoath but like true Spartans we hung in there till the bitter end. What an epic game. This

game of soccer made the battle of Cannae look like a walk in the park for the great Hannibal of Carthage.

The semi final was against a very fancied Olivers side. Once again the skill and organisation of Ratoath edged us through to the final with Ross Newe once again scoring the winning goal. However the shot stopping of Brian Joyce won us the game.

The final was a tight affair against our arch rivals St Peters of Dunboyne. Neither team wanted to lose and this was apparent in the early skirmishes. St Peters took the lead but Enda Cahill put us level a few minutes later with a screamer of a shot. The scores locked at 1-1 deep into the game, Dunboyne stepped

## U18s Left Dissatisfied

up the tempo and scored two quickfire goals to stun Ratoath and the game finished 3-1 to Dunboyne.

The U18 manager this year was Mr McCarthy. The training had been going well this season and there was a great turn up and team effort in both training and in the match that the team had played.

The team brought the effort in training into the first match of the year. The team started well and took a 2-0 lead with goals from Eoin O'Brien and Brian McMahon. The lead was short lived as two goals from their opponents had brought it back to 2-2. Ultimately, extra time penalties were needed.

Unfortunately we were unlucky and lost 3-2 on penalties so we were out of the cup at that stage. Well done to the team on which was an unlucky match.



# U-16s DO THE DOUBLE

This year, for the first time ever, Ratoath College tasted success on the GAA field—with the U-16 team taking home the silverware...



The boys u16 gaelic team had an extremely successful year this year, winning both north-leinster and leinster titles. They started training in September, with the team struggling with commitment issues. Their first match was a friendly against Dunshauglin. Ratoath's lack of training showed that day, although they only narrowly lost the match.

Their north leinster campaign began in early November, with a tough match against Nobber. Ratoath knew this match would be tough with Nobber being a very well-known footballing school. Ratoath won the match in the second half with goals from Conor Rooney and Darragh Kelly which killed the game. It was a solid performance from the team, with Adam Griffiths getting man of the match with a brilliant performance from midfield.

The final score was Ratoath 2-11 Nobber 0-9. Next for Ratoath was St. Olivers of Dundalk. Ratoath thought this would be a tough game but they ran out easy winners on a scoreline of 4-18 to 0-01. Ratoath's back line were excellent on the day only conceding a point. Their forwards were as good if not better with Cormac Goodman winning man of the match scoring a great 1-4. The lads were now in the semi-final against Boyne community school of Trim. The match was played in Dunganny on a wet day. Ratoath came back from a slow start to win quite comfortably this wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for great performances from Eoghan Doody, Darragh Kelly and Ben Newe with Ben getting man of the match. Ratoath were now in the north-leinster final against Granard of Longford.





They had come a long way since not having enough lads for training. The match was played in Dunganny on a sunny evening. Granard were a very strong team having some exceptional players. They showed this when they raced into a five point lead. It looked like Granard would win easily But Ratoath fought back. Granard led by two points at half time, it was all still to play for. Granard then pulled out a seven point lead which made it look like it was over, but unbelievable heart from Ratoath got them back into it, with Joey Wallace and Adam Griffiths scoring 6-4 between them. Ratoath won on a scoreline of 6-6 to 3-11.

They were north-leinster champions and would now advance into a leinster semi-final to face Clonkeen college of Dublin. This was a very tough match, with Ratoath having to come back from big deficits. Captain Brian Power led the way with a superb performance from centre back, also Glenn o Reilly's free taking helped hugely. Rob watters capped a two point victory with a brilliant score to win it on a scoreline of 3-13 to 4-08

The lads were now into a leinster final to face Heywood of laois. The match was played in Kildare, it was a wet windy day. Ratoath got off to a very slow start falling six points down after 5 minutes.

At half time it was a five point game in Heywood's favour. Ratoath heads were dropping but with an inspirational speech from Andy Flinter and the lads were ready for the second half. Jason Tyndall came on for Conor Ward who unfortunately got injured while playing well. Shane Clayton slotted into full back and did very well keeping everything together. With the wind behind them Ratoath got into their rhythm with Brian Daly making a good run through the middle to set up Jason Tyndall for a point. Joey Wallace and Jason Tyndall both then scored great goals to help Ratoath also David Toner and Robert waters scored two brilliant points to win the match and leinster title for Ratoath. Huge thanks must go to Mr Qualter Mr Carey Fr. PJ and Mr o Heochaidh who mentored the lads the whole year and helped them win the first G.A.A. trophy for the school. Team: Andrew Flinter, Brian Daly, Conor Ward, Ben Newe, Shane Clayton, Brian Power, David Toner(0-2), Adam Griffiths, Darragh Kelly, Eoghan Doody, Conor Rooney(0-1), Glenn o Reilly(0-2), Joey Wallace(1-4), Robert Watters(0-1), Cormac Goodman, Jason Tyndall(1-1), Richard Timoney, Conor Joyce, Sean o Hanrahan, Conor Duncan, Ryan Graeme, James Dervan, Gavin Mc Gowan

Mentors: Mr. Qualter, Mr.Carey, Mr. O'Heochaidh and Fr. PJ



# Sporting Success for RC Students

## Ratoath College students achieve medal success in multiple disciplines.

It's been a hugely successful year for a number of Ratoath College students in the sporting world, with students taking medals at international competitions in a variety of sports.

Eve Byrne (2 McAuley) took part in the 2011 International Traditional Taekwon-Do Federation (ITTAF) World Championships in Umag, Croatia. Eve took home two bronze medals in the Pattern and Sparring events.

Artsem Saldatsenka (1 Ó hEocaidh) also won two medals this year. He took bronze at international Judo competitions in Southend and Belgium.

Kelly Smyth (5 Sweeney) has also tasted success in Judo this year. She took gold in the 52kg category at the 2010 Irish Open and placed 5th at the English open this year.

Dylan Connolly (5 Savage) took bronze at the ITF World Championships in New Zealand in March.

Perhaps our most successful athlete, however, has been James Scully (6 Brennan). James has taken a huge haul of medals at a plethora of national and international events over the last number of years and his success was recognised by Swim Ireland, the governing body for swimming in Ireland, at their annual awards ceremony this year. James can now add the swimmer of the year award to his already burgeoning trophy cabinet.

Keep an eye out for James in London in 2012!



Top: Eve Byrne (left) in action for Ireland at the ITTAF World Championships in Croatia.

Above, James Scully accepts his swimmer of the year award from Wally Clarke, president of Swim Ireland.



# Rising Stars...

International athletes Kelly Smyth and Artsem Saldatsenka took time out from their hectic study AND training schedules to talk to 66 about their experiences in sport and their hopes for the future.

## Kelly Smith

Q1: What achievements are you most proud of to date?

Winning the gold in U20s in 52kg category in the Irish open 2010 which meant I had a space on the Irish national team and got sent to the English open 2011 where I placed 5<sup>th</sup>.

Q2: What does your sport mean to you?

Judo is my life, basically. It's a break away from academics and I want to make someone of myself from it.

Q3: How many years have you been doing Judo?

Only 3.

Q4: How often do you train? Do you enjoy it?

I do four judo sessions a week which range from an hour and a half to two hours. Then I do my own personal training as well as that like going on a run and doing my weights. I love training.

Q5: What sacrifices have you had to make (if any) to further your training?

I have sacrificed a big chunk of my social life. But I don't mind too much because roaming around the village won't really get me anywhere in life but if I continue to train I will be ranked in the world.

Q6: What is your sporting goal?

To represent Ireland in the Olympics 2016.

Q7: Who is your sports hero?

Katie Taylor. She is my idol.

Q8: What's the worst injury you've gotten?

I've been lucky by not having any serious injuries but at the moment I have torn ligaments in my shoulder. I was unable to train for about two weeks but I'm back now.

Q9: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Still competing with a world medal under my belt.



Above: Kelly (left) in action for Ireland. Below: Artsem shows off his Bronze medal with his coach.

Q10: Who or what (if any) is your inspiration to persevere?

My mam and my coach, they are behind me every step of the way and push me to strive to the best of my ability.

## Artsem Saldatsenka

Q1: What achievements are you most proud of to date?

I am proud of my bronze trophy which I won in Belgium.

Q2: What does your sport mean to you?

sport means everything to me.

Q3: How many years have you been doing Judo?

I have been doing judo for two years.

Q4: How often do you train? Do you enjoy it?

I train four times a week. Of course I like it!

Q5: What sacrifices have you had to make (if any) to further your training?

I give up a lot of my free time for Judo.

Q6: Who is your sports hero?

My coach is my sports hero.

Q7: What's the worst injury you've gotten?

I have hurt myself a lot. But my knee hurts the most as I fall on it a lot.

Q8: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Hopefully on the Olympic team.

Q10: Who or what (if any) is your inspiration to persevere?

My coach and my friends in judo.



# OUR OWN SPORTING LEGEND: SIXTH YEAR STUDENT JAMES SCULLY



There aren't many schools that can boast about having one of the top athletes in the world as one of their students, but Swim Ireland Disability Swimmer of the Year James Scully, ranked in the world's top five in his discipline, means Ratoath College is the exception to this rule. As James prepares for his Leaving Cert and for the London games next year, he took some time out to talk to 66 about his life as an athlete and his plans for the future...

**How did you first get interested in swimming? Was it through your family or because you were interested in it yourself?**

*Yes, I liked swimming but it wasn't until my dad suggested it and we went to a nearby competition that I got into it.*

**How many years have you been swimming for now? Has it been hard?**

*I have been swimming competitively for 6 years but at senior international level for 2 years. Yeah it has been very hard! It has been a rollercoaster of a journey for me with many ups and downs. Swimming is an extremely demanding sport and takes a lot out of you.*

**What have you achieved this year?**

*So far this year I have managed to keep my performances consistent remaining inside the top 5 in the world despite the Leaving Cert. I have qualified for the European championships which will*

*take place in July, and I have also achieved qualifying times in 5 events for the Paralympic games in 2012!*

**Do you have to train lots?**

*Yes! This year I am still keeping 5 sessions a week, totalling 10 hours, however once the leaving cert ends I will return to 16 hours a week. The training is extremely demanding and requires a huge amount of concentration and commitment!*

**What's the worst injury you've had from swimming?**

*As a non-contact sport swimming doesn't usually cause many injuries, however I am still suffering from a neck injury almost two years after pulling the muscles there.*

**And what would you consider your greatest achievement to date?**

*This year I won swim Ireland Disability Swimmer Of The Year 2010/2011!*





**Have you had to make many sacrifices to pursue your interest in swimming?**

*Yes! Almost everything in my life except school comes second to my sport, therefore I don't have as much free time for socialising or partying. Also, as an athlete I have to watch what I put in so I can't afford to enjoy as many "treats"!*

**Do you have any heroes that inspire you to work so hard at this?**

*The Dutch swimmer and Olympic champion Pieter Van Den Hoogenband is my ultimate role model. He is a middle distance swimmer just like me. Also my head coach Dave Malone is my true hero! He is arguably the most successful Irish*

*Paralympic swimmer with 3 Olympic medals from 4 consecutive Paralympic games and 3 world records!*

**What are your hopes for the future in relation to sport? What's the plan for next year and in the long term?**

*Well my goal this year is to perform and represent my country to the best of my ability at Europeans as a lead up to London in 2012, where I hope to final and perhaps medal. My long term future in the sport is not yet decided however I would love to foundling Ireland and maybe even make it to Rio in 2016!*



**MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ**



# U-14s in semi-final heartbreak

**There was heartbreak for the under-14 girls Gaelic Football team, who narrowly lost out in the school's first ever Leinster semi-final...**



A huge congratulations to the Under 14 Girls Gaelic team who reached a first ever Leinster Semi Final for Ratoath College. Having won their three games at group stages, a squad of 24 first and second year girls travelled to Hollywood in Wicklow to play Hackettstown of Carlow on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of May.

The girls fought tooth and nail throughout and led on a few occasions. Hannah Coakley of 2<sup>nd</sup> Year held together a very strong back line with great support received from all, in particular 1<sup>st</sup> Years Emer Cooke, Clodagh Higgins and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Louise Gaffney. Our midfield consisted of the ever energetic Amy Gaffney and Ellie O'Neill who contributed hugely to an exciting and hard fought out game. Louise Gowran played a huge role in the forward line along with Emma McNerney and Gillian Markes.

The injury of our captain Eimear Griffiths was a huge loss to the team and unfortunately Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> was to be unlucky for the girls of Ratoath College, losing by a mere 2 points to a very strong Hackettstown. Ms Casey and Ms McTiernan are very proud to be part of a team that has such a dedicated and talented bunch of girls and we are certain our days of receiving silverware are only around the corner.



# Arts Week



Above left: Ellie Bolger and Ethan Barker star in the comedy 'Ruby of Elsinore'. Top right: An ensemble cast tread the boards in a classroom scene based on *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's nest* written by our own Mr Dockery and Bottom Right: Matthew O'Boyle plays the title role in the hilarious 'Babysitting Calvin.'

Arts Week is a major event every year in Ratoath College and this year was no exception, with the week getting bigger and better. The theme for this week's Arts Week was 'Imagine'.

Posters made by students are posted around the school in order to remind everyone that arts week is in full swing, these posters were very colourful and bright which made them stand out. There are loads of different activities that the students can engage in during the course of arts week.

TY students designed and made birds out of clay in the art classes to be displayed during arts week.

There was a short story writing competition that students could take part in, there were large amount of entries and it was very difficult for the teachers to decide who would win. Ultimately, Luke Byrne took first place in the senior category with Cian McIntyre coming in second and Liam Hayes third. In the junior

category, first year student Katie Murnane took first place, with Orla Purcell second and Ana Dunne in third.

During the lunch breaks students performed on the Arts Week stage set up in the general purpose area.

Wednesday Lunchtime—1st and 2nd year Spelling Bee. Throughout the week heats were held in English classes and the final two contestants were sent on to the finals which were held in Room 5. A total of 20 contenders entered the final with many spectators coming along to support their classes.

The highlights of the week though were the Musical Showcase and the evening of Comedy and Drama that took place on the Thursday and Friday night of the week in the Venue Theatre. These events provided the perfect place to demonstrate the huge area of musical and dramatic talent in the school.



# TY Students Take Part in Modul UN Conference

Model United Nations is a Transition Year module. It is a conference that takes place each year in the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoighaire where students from schools around the world come to debate issues in the world today.

This year, the conference was attended by three students from Ratoath College TY: Eoin Joyce, Christopher Waters and Ian Marron.

## Preparation

Every student (or delegate) who attends the conference goes with a resolution, a plan which proposes a solution to a United Nations topic. In Modul UN class, we wrote resolutions and debated them. This was very useful for developing our public speaking and communication skills. Ms Savage, our teacher, helped us out and made suggestions for us to improve.

## Conference

Model UN took place from the 18th to 21st of April. We arrived with our resolutions and went inside. We were representing the countries of Croatia and Nigeria. Our task was to lobby to get people to sign our resolution to support it.

The following day, there was an opening ceremony which included music and a speech from the Australian ambassador. The conference was then opened by the Secretary General.



After this, a delegate from each country made a short speech to introduce themselves and to welcome everyone to the conference.

Next, everyone went in to their committees and we began to debate the resolutions. Delegates could speak for or against the resolution and it was then voted on and either passed or failed. This process went on for the next two days.

On the last day, all the committees came together for General Assembly, where the best resolution from each committee was debated. This was followed by a closing ceremony with more music and a speech from the Latvian ambassador. Awards were presented to the best delegations and the conference was brought to a close.

## Conclusion

The conference was a big success with the TY students playing an active part in debating. Special thanks goes to Ms Savage who made it possible. Model UN will be available for all senior students next year.

*By Ian Marron*



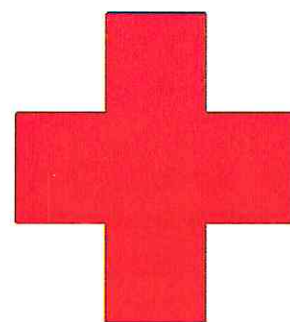
# TY Business Breakfast

As part of the TY subject V.P. we attended a BNI business breakfast in the Marriott hotel. A number of TY students from both classes attended to see how the meetings worked and what it was like for each business to attend this meeting. Before this meeting we were given breakfast and we then went into the meeting to listen and learn from what they were saying.

We had to take notes and we then had to decided which business made the best presentation on the day. We chose who was the best and we then got to go back to school for the day as the meeting was in the morning.

This was a great experience for all the people involved.

## First Aid in Transition Year



This year for the first time in Ratoath College the Transition Year students got an opportunity to take part in the order of Malta First Aid. It was an optional course for the students. Twenty-four students in transition year took part in first aid. It took place every Monday lunchtime and Thursdays after school. We were taught it by Ms. Smith one of the teachers in the school who gave us this opportunity to learn first aid. Many of the students who took part in the first aid course were doing it as part of their Gaisce award which was really helpful as it got them their 13 weeks of community or skill.

There it was an 8 module course. And students learned many different things such as knowing the signs of a stroke/heart attack, how to put someone in the recovery position. We were shown how to give CPR and how to save someone's life if they are choking and how to tell if they are. We were also shown how to treat a casualty if they have fallen and are unconscious.

At the end of the 8 module course we had to sit a theory test and then we also had to do a practical



*TY students get into the spirit of things during the first aid course*

test in order to pass and get a certificate. 19 students out of the twenty-four students got their certificates.

I think having to have been able to learn about first aid was a really good opportunity for us in transition year and we will definitely benefit from knowing basic first aid!

***MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ***



# TY CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

**This past Christmas** for the second year running the Transition Year students of Ratoath College ran the Christmas Village for the primary school students. Ratoath College became a winter wonderland once again, which was a huge success.

Rang Casey and Rang Walsh built the village in two days and the young excited visitors began to enjoy the experience of seeing Santa Claus and going to each work shop. Within the village was a chocolate fondue, bun decorating, puzzle work shop, post office, letter writing and Santa's Grotto.

On their arrival the younger students were greeted by two elves who brought them to see Jack Frost before going into village. Once inside Santa elves brought the children to each workshop and let them experience the fun! At the end they went to see Santa Claus and he told them a few stories about the dilemmas at The North Pole around Christmas time.

Overall it was an enjoyable experience for the primary school students and the Transition Years making it a great success!



*Children waiting to see Santa Claus and Below Santa reading to the young children!*



**“Overall it was an enjoyable experience”**



*Above left: Richard and Alex stamping the letters! Right : A few of the elves from Rang Walsh!*



# Positive Youth Education

Positive Youth Education is a programme aimed at educating and informing young people about the dangers and effects of substance abuse. Many Secondary schools all across Meath, Louth and Cavan take part in this excellent programme. Only a small number of students from each school can be involved in the workshops as there are limited places.

The Peer Education Initiative was set up by Samantha Teather and Lee O'Neill in 2007. Previous to setting up their own business, both Samantha and Lee worked as youth workers with the HSE & HSCL. Setting up the 'Peer Education Initiative' has provided Samantha and Lee with a job, doing the work that they love.

At the beginning of this academic year, all of the transition year students were given the opportunity to apply for a place in the Peer Education programme. There were only four places available for our school, so we had to write a formal application letter to Ms. Cullen. The letter should have included your reasons for applying for the programme, and what you hope to gain from the programme.

Quite a few students applied for Peer Education so in the end, Ms Cullen just pulled four names out of a hat. The students who were given the opportunity to take part in the programme were Meghan Witter-Nolan, Aoife McGoldrick, Bill Kelly and Eoin Joyce.

These four Transition Year students spent five days in total learning in detail about smoking, alcohol and drugs.

The five days were spread out over several months from October to January. We were also taught how to teach the first year students about these issues. We were given a booklet at the beginning,

## What's in a cigarette?

**BUTANE**

Lighter fluid

**ARSENIC**

poison

**CADMIUM**

In batteries

**AMMONIA**

Toilet cleaner

**STEARIC ACID**

Candle wax



*Example of PowerPoint presentation given by the Peer Educators.*

which contained all of the information we needed about the topics. It also included some fun activities that we could incorporate into our lessons.

Once the training was over, we started to teach the six first year classes. The four TY students split up into two groups, as they would be team teaching. Each pair had to teach three classes. Each class was taught all four modules; Introduction, Smoking, Alcohol and Drugs. At the last lesson for every class, the peer educators had to hand out a review for the first year students. This would help to improve the programme for future years.

At the end of the year, the Peer Educators receive a certificate to say that they have completed the Peer Youth Education Programme.

**By Meghan Witter-Nolan**



# Transition Year Bodhran Trip



The Michael Coleman centre

This year the transition year group went on a trip to the Michael Coleman centre in Gurteen, Co. Sligo. They went down on the train to the local train station where they were greeted by a bus that would take them to the Coleman centre. When they arrived at the centre they were greeted by a speaker who told them about Irish music and how it evolved in this part of the country. He spoke for a few minutes on what happened in recent times of Irish music and the different styles of music.

After this they split into groups to take part in the different workshops that would be on. The first one was the accordion one. Here they were shown what the instruments looked like and what they sounded like.

They also got a chance to play the instrument and hear for themselves what it sounded like. This was quite interesting to learn and it was enjoyable getting to play them as well. After this they went to the bodhrán workshop to learn to play their bodhráns.

They learnt the basics of it and this was good as we got to play what we had made and it made them feel accomplished being able to play something they had made.

Learning the bodhrán was a great experience as we were taught by a legend of the instrument, Junior Davey. He is a multiple world champion at the instrument and it was a great honour for them to be in the same room as him as well as being taught by him.

After this they got a chance to play some of the string instruments from Irish music. This included the harp, banjo and the fiddle.

These were hard to play but it was good to get a go at each. Overall they enjoyed learning how to play all of these instruments.

Overall the day was a great experience for the TY group and they learned a lot from some of the greatest players of the instruments in the world.

By Darragh Grehan

# TY Work Experience

The transition year students enjoyed a week of work experience between the first of November and the fifth of November. There was a great variation of locations where our students went to work. Some of them stayed local, while some students went as far as Galway and Cork. One student even considered going to Italy as a translator.

Many students worked in family businesses, while others worked in hospitals, hairdressers, car stores

and even in carpenters shops. There were also people working in primary schools and another student worked in the library in Ashbourne. Everybody did fantastic on their work experience and every employer gave back positive comments. One student even got offered a full time job in the hairdressers in Ratoath. They were a credit to their school on their week away from what would be considered a normal week of school.



# TY BLOGGING



This year TY students have been keeping weekly blogs recording their activities throughout the year. A blog is like an online diary where an individual or group of users record opinions, information on a regular basis.

The blogs aim to keep a record of student's learning throughout TY. Each week, students make entries in their blogs, recording their learning and experiences during that week.

Blogging also allows the TY caomhnóirí to keep track of how students are progressing as well as giving students a venue to record their feelings on the TY experience in general.

At the end of the year, students' blogs make up a percentage of their overall grade. Students and teachers alike feel the project has worked very well.

## TY Students Visit Bogside

TY students were fortunate to visit Derry's Bogside as part of their History course this year. Led by Mr McCarthy and Mr Ó hEocaidh, Rang Casey and Rang Walsh visited the Museum of Free Derry where they were greeted by John Kelly, whose brother Michael was killed on Bloody Sunday. After viewing the museum's exhibits and audio-visual materials, the students had a guided tour of the Bogside followed by an informative and engaging Q&A session with John Kelly. This was an invaluable opportunity to engage with primary sources and living History and all students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



## Television Stars of the Future



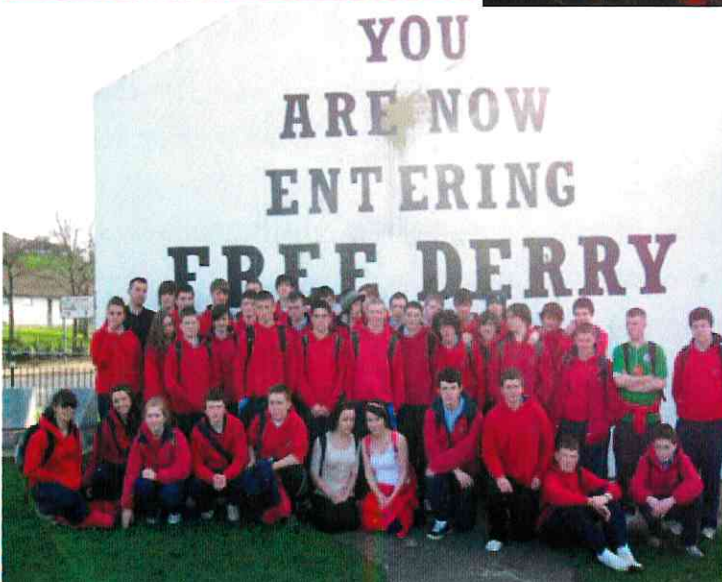
Once again this year, TY students were fortunate to be able to attend the TV production training course hosted by Kairos Communications in Maynooth. The day offers students the chance to design, script and produce their own short TV show. On the left is a screenshot from Rang Casey's version of the Jeremy Kyle Show, with Chris Waters taking the role of the presenter.

The day gives students a valuable insight into the television production process and the hard work and dedication required to succeed in the field.

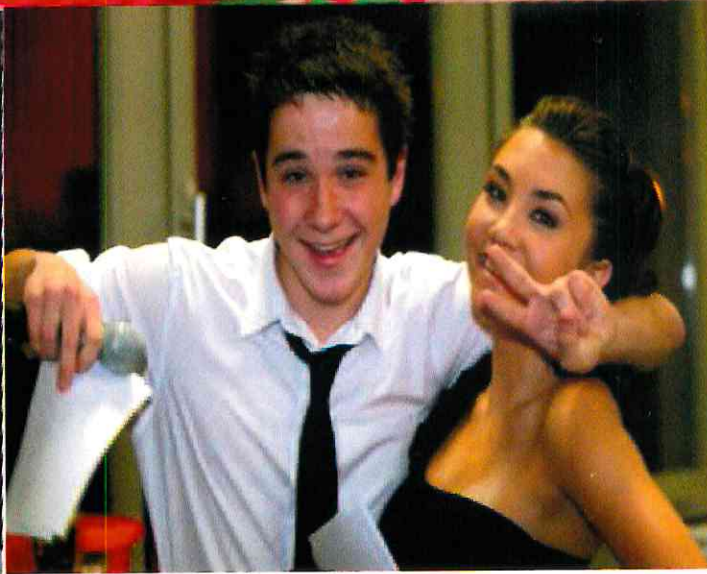
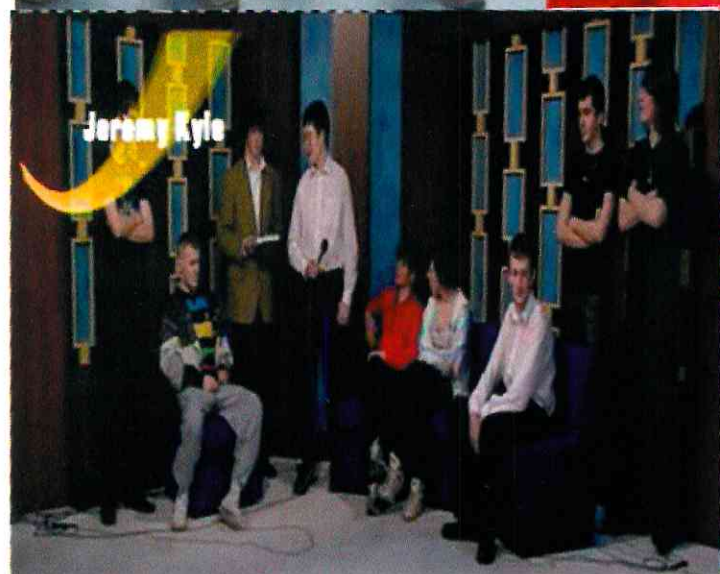
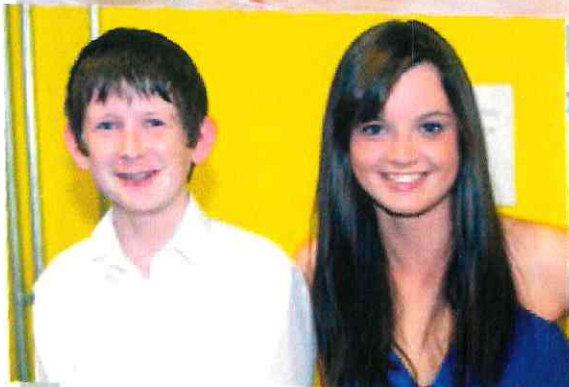
***MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ***



# TY 2010-11: In Pictures





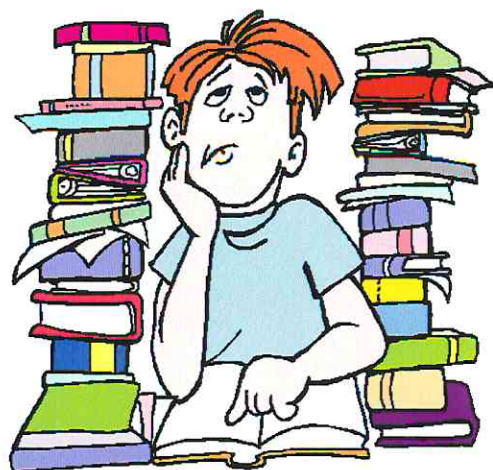


***MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ***



# MyStudyMate

"fantastic achievement for  
the college"



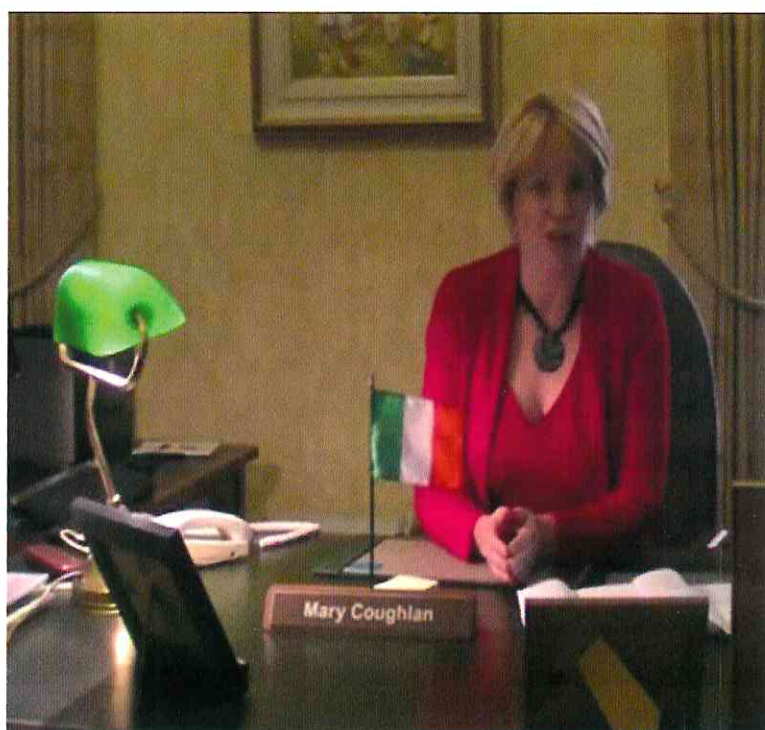
**M**ystudymate.ie is a free and easy to use website set up to help students study and is made by the Ratoath College TY's and Mr Walsh. The current T.Y's have carried on this project from last year's T.Y's and it involves making 'learning videos and podcasts', editing videos, updating the website and promoting the website.

## Making the videos

**W**hen they first undertook the project they were split up into four groups, video editing, video recording, website maintenance and advertising the website. Each group play a key role in updating and maintaining the website. The video recording team record all the videos, they then give the camera and the raw footage to the video editing team who turn it into the finished product. When that is done they give it to the website maintenance team who upload it to the website. The advertising team make posters and also go around to the different Chaomhnoirí to ask students to make videos. That's how the videos are made and get placed onto the website.

## Meeting Minister for Education

**W**hen my study mate was nominated for the innovated education forum and Mr Walsh and Ms Hynes were going to Africa Andrew Checkley, Danielle Clark and Dylan Kelly went to record a video with the Minister of Education, Mary Coughlin so she could promote the website. She said "It's a fantastic achievement for the college".



Minister Mary Coughlin speaking about MyStudyMate.

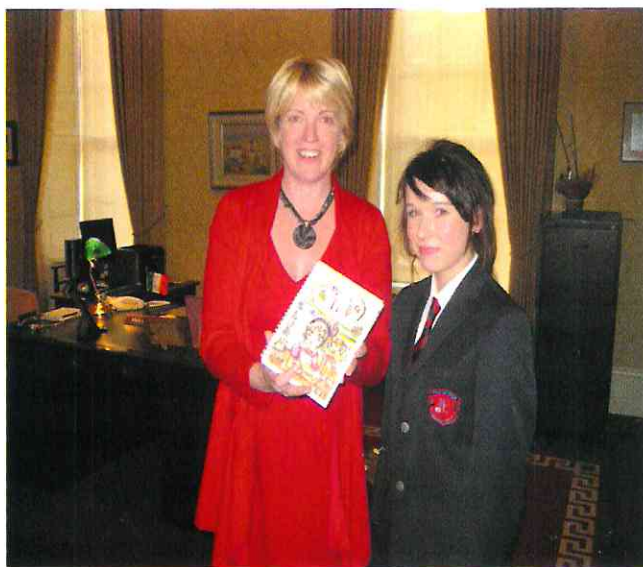


# Ratoath College

## 'Chops To It'

The school produced its very own cookbook this year called 'Chop to It'. The book contains a huge variety of delicious recipes submitted by students and teachers at the school, local parents & members of the community, as well as some celebrities such as Rachel Allen and Niall Horan.

At only €12 per copy (or 5 copies for only €50) it's well worth the buy. It has a multitude of brilliant recipes that'll keep you busy experimenting for quite a while.



'Chop To It' is currently available from the school and a number of shops in the village. For more information contact us on 01-8254102 - Mary (the Economics teacher).



Above: Celebrity Chef, Rachel Allen with Principal Maire Ní Shroithe and Cookbook creators Fiona McDonoghue, Caroline Barry and Aislinn.

Top right: An Tanaiste and Minister for Education and Skills, Mary Coughlan with student Danielle Clarke with the Ministers new Cookbook.

Bottom left: 'Chop-to-it'





# Department Reports

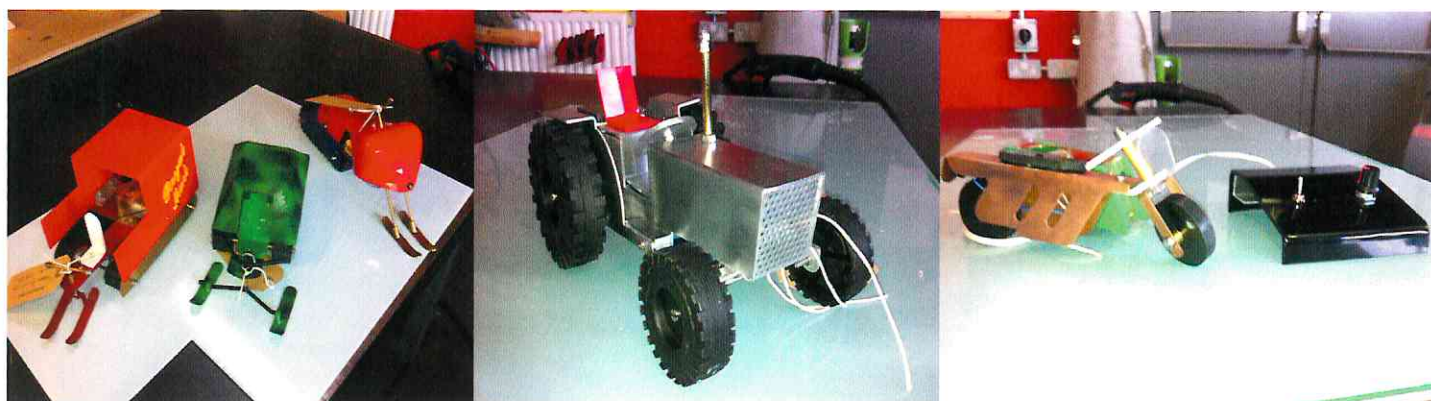
## Engineering and Metalwork

The Engineering department welcomed a new addition this year, with Mr Heaney joining the school. He's been a great addition to the department and has just opened the school's second engineering room.

This year sees our first engineers sitting their Leaving Cert and hopes are high for great results. These students have completed their model snow mobile projects and have just finished their day test as well.

Junior Cert students have completed their model motorcycle and sidecar and tractor projects.

LCA projects are also nearing completion. We're very proud of all our students' work. Well done guys!!



## Geography

Lots of geographical events encapsulated the world over the past year including the earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand.

The Geography department had a very busy year keeping up to speed with these events and learning about the causes and consequences of them. The department also had a very successful subject inspection, where the pupils really impressed the examiner with their vast geographical knowledge. Feedback from the inspector was very positive.

Good luck to all the 6th years and 3rd years in the exams in June and well done to the 6th years on a great field trip to Wicklow- we hope Ian has recovered from falling into the water during the river study- woops!



*Leaving Cert. Geography students working hard on their field trip to Wicklow*





*Aonad Arkle's new sensory room is officially opened.*

## Aonad Arkle

Aonad Arkle were thrilled to officially open the door to the new sensory room in December 2010. Representatives from AIB in Ashbourne came to cut the ribbon and see the fantastic facility in operation. The sensory room consists of bubble tubes, fibreoptics, ultra violet lighting, effects wheels, aroma diffuser and even a revolving disco ball. It's the perfect 'chill out' zone and is another great addition to the fantastic facilities in Aonad Arkle. We also look forward to welcoming four new first year pupils to Aonad Arkle in September.

## CSPE

The C.S.P.E Department in Ratoath College is a very energetic one. There is always a project being completed or something in the pipeline to be introduced. During this academic year the students and teachers have helped out with Ratoath Tidy towns through the concept of Stewardship and in line with our Green schools committee. All first and second year classes go out and pick up litter on the avenue leading up to the school and also on the main road before entering the school on a rota basis.

The first year students carried out their own action project by working with 'Team Hope' originally known as 'Operation Christmas Child'. Over the past six years the students, parents and teachers of Ratoath College have donated kindly to this fantastic charity. Last December 161 shoe boxes were donated to 'Team Hope'. The students and teachers in the C.S.P.E. department were delighted with this success. The project is going from strength to strength every year and we hope to continue this into the future and reach new and higher targets.

The second year students all attended the D.S.P.C.A (Dublin Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals) on five different visits during March and April. This trip is part of the action project which accounts for 60% of their whole CSPE junior certificate course. All students thoroughly enjoy this trip and find it both educational and enjoyable.

The third year students are busy at present learning the global political leaders and revising the concepts of Rights and Responsibilities, Human Dignity, Stewardship, Democracy, Interdependence, Law and Development. They have submitted their action project and they will take the CSPE exam during the month of June worth 40%. Best wishes to all Junior Certificate students in your exams from all the teachers in the CSPE Department.

Next year we look forward to continuing our project and continually enhancing, developing and evaluating all that we do. Wishing you all a lovely summer.



## Music

This has been another very busy year for the Music Department. We welcomed a new member, Mr. Adrian Doyle at the start of the year. We had our first Leaving Cert result with our one student, Ben Hayes, who did very well. We were also delighted with the outstanding Junior Cert results that our students achieved.



*(L-R) Ellie O'Neill and Rachel Caprani perform on stage during this year's talent show.*

Casey, our Transition Year classes, took a trip to Sligo during the year to visit the Coleman Music Centre where they learned a lot about traditional Irish music and got to try out various instruments. They also had a very enjoyable bodhrán workshop there where they got to try out the bodhráns they had made as part of the TY Music module.

More recently they had another bodhrán workshop in school which went very well. Rang Hannon and the 5<sup>th</sup> Year music class also tried out their percussion skills when they attended African Drumming workshops in the school.

As always there were lots of Extra Curricular activities going on in the school. The annual Talent Show was a great success, with 6<sup>th</sup> Year student Kevin Hartnett being a very deserving winner.

A new Music Club was established for students at lunchtime as was a Senior Music Group.

The Choir and Trad group performed at the many services and ceremonies throughout the year.

For the first time we had a Musical Showcase in the Venue Theatre in Ratoath where music students performed to a very impressed audience!

Niall Donnelly in 2<sup>nd</sup> Year will also perform in the Credit Union's Got Talent show this month, representing the school.

We are all looking forward to another busy, but fun-filled year next year as we start preparing for our 2<sup>nd</sup> School Musical. Watch this space!!!!



*The RC students who took part in this year's Meath VEC Musical Extravaganza at the Solstice Arts Centre in Navan: Nathan Mannion, Ellie O'Neill, Sara Sheridan, Katie Bytne and Orla*

There were lots of trips organised throughout the year. Rang Hannon recently visited Jealoustown Studios in Skreen and had a fantastic day. Earlier in the year our 3<sup>rd</sup> Year class attended a Junior Cert Concert in the National Concert Hall. Rang Walsh and Rang



*Students in Rang Hannon take part in a Drum workshop, accompanied by Ms Mannering in the background*



## English

This year we welcomed new members to the dept, Caitriona Smith, Aileen Flatley, Danny Dockery, Aisling Clery & Lisa O'Connell

We were delighted to see our students achieve such excellent results in both the Junior and Leaving certificates. This is a real reflection of our student's hard work and dedication to English. It was particularly wonderful to see our first Leaving Cert students achieve such excellent results; we don't doubt that this will continue with the class of 2011. We would like to take this opportunity to wish both our Junior and Leaving Certificate students the very best of luck in June.

This year once again our English students took to the road on a trip to the theatre...our 5<sup>th</sup> years went to the Helix in March to see a production of Hamlet. While true to the text, the play was set in a modern setting, with a quirky take on some of Hamlet's famous scenes, such as inner city Dublin gravediggers! This was a very well received production by many of our students and tremendous post production analysis was had in class! Our 3<sup>rd</sup> years also attended a viewing of the film versions of their Shakespearean plays, "Romeo & Juliet" and "Much Ado About Nothing" in September



*Above: Fifth year students visited the Hlelix to view a performance of Hamlet, with a modern twist.*

## Maths

Ratoath College's annual Maths Week took place on October 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> last. The week is designed to increase interest and participation levels in Maths, through fun and unusual activities.

Lunchtime activities were organised each day for students to participate in. These included card games, countdown, puzzles and "Who wants to be a Millionaire?" There was also a daily puzzle for students to tackle. This was shown on the screens in the GP area, thus allowing everyone to take part, with winners announced at assembly. The final aspect of the week saw teachers including interesting and unusual topics in their maths lessons, such as the Fibonacci sequence, films about mathematicians and the ever-popular game, "Fling the Teacher!"

Overall, Maths Week 2010 was a great success and was enjoyed by students and teachers alike. Look out for Maths Week 2011 in the new school year when there will be even more interesting activities, challenges and prizes!



***MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ***



## Art

### Junior Cert Art Work

As you know the third year art students have been working since September for their junior cert art exam. It was a long road to walk seeing as they had to create a 3D object, a bag, a painting along preparation and support studies for each. Not only that but they also had an actual drawing exam consisting of life and object drawing! Throughout the year the students worked non-stop on their projects intent on getting the grade they wanted. There was no stopping there; as soon as they finished they began to prepare for the drawing exam and each student excelled in their work on the day! Let's hope they achieve the grade's they worked so hard for! Well done to all!



(L-R) Sadbh Kellett, Luke Quinlan and Emma McCormack's third year work. Below, (L-R) the work of Sarah Murray, Laura Donoghue and Samantha Santillion



Above (L-R), the third year 3D work of Keila Whelan, Sarah Smith and Michelle McCamley. Below (L-R), third year packaging work of Ellie Bolger, Jenny Dempsey, Celine Fox and Cathal O'Carroll



## Leaving Cert Art Work

For the first time ever in Ratoath College leaving cert students sat their craft, still life and life drawing practical exams. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of April they received their papers and spent a lot of time preparing and practicing for the examination. For the craft exam students produced some amazing prep work and posters also two students decided to go down the modelling route and produced some fabulous work. Students also produced excellent still life paintings and life drawing. As you can see the work produced was to a very high standard and we wish them well in their exam. Good luck to all!



Examples of Leaving Cert Art work: Above (L-R), Amy Brady, John Crofton and Terina Brady. Below, (clockwise from Left) Grace Cunningham, Jane McQueen, Kiera Egan, Mark Wiley, Liam Hayes, Bronagh Donnelly and Stephanie Barry.



***MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ***



## LCA Art Work

Art students from Rang Hannon have been very busy in preparing for their craft task interviews. They were asked to design a product, for their task. It was decided they would do stencil printing and tie-dying and so created a finished t-shirt print. The work was to a very high standard and Ms. Mortimer was very proud of the classwork produced. Congratulations to all!



Examples of LCA Art work, (clockwise from top left) Gemma Baggett, Shannon Nuzum, Niall Doogan, Anna Brennan, Alan McEntee, Cian Carey.

## Materials Technology Wood & Construction Studies

This years MT(Wood) projects have outdone previous years gone by. The projects are of high quality with some brilliant flashes of design creativity! There are 63 students in 3rd Year studying MT(Wood) the biggest group yet in Ratoath college but this didn't take from every student creating an original masterpiece. The project is worth 66% of the total mark with students having to sit a theory exam to make up the rest. Students have been working on these projects since November, right through Christmas holidays, midterm break and Easter also. Well done to all students. Some pictures of the projects are shown here.

The construction Studies practicals and project are now finally done & dusted. This year saw an incredibly high standard of project. Students are allowed to make literally anything from any material they so choose. Some of Ratoath colleges project this year include bedroom dressers, drinks cabinets, bedside lockers, model staircase, model of an old Irish stone cottage, coffee tables. The 6th Yr students have been working



on these projects since October and to see them finally finished and looking so professional is a credit to each & every member of the class. Well done all! The project is worth 25% of the overall grade for this subject.

Students in this class also had a 4 hour exam in which they were required to make an extremely intricate shelving unit with 8 different joints. Again this is worth a further 25%. This was a tough exam under very stressful conditions but the quality of everyone's finished exam was exceptionally high (see photo bottom right).



Examples of Junior and Leaving Cert Materials technology wood and Construction Studies Projects, including the Construction Studies day test piece (bottom right)



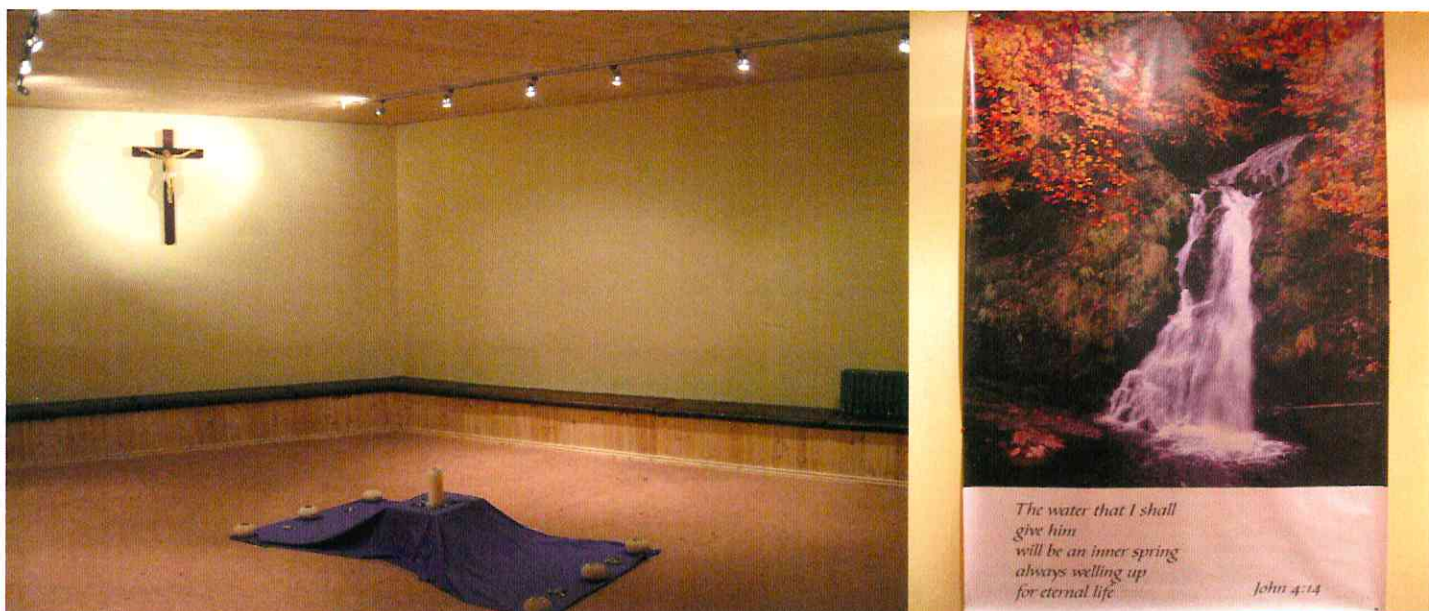
## Religious Education

The Religion Department have had a busy year that started with a bang with the First Year Prayer service. It was great to be able to formally welcome first years to our school and share this exciting new beginning with their families. We continued our tradition of providing a day of reflection and prayer by holding a day retreat for each first year class group. The retreats were a tremendous success and greatly enjoyed by the teachers and students alike.

After much anticipation the Ratoath College Prayer

Room has opened. This is a fantastic peaceful space for Religion teachers to take classes from all year groups for prayer services, meditation etc. We look forward to many futures classes in the prayer room. We hope to develop the interior further to make this as inviting a space as possible.

The highlight of senior cycle has been, as usual, the Open Forum. Students have impressed each other and their RE teachers with their research, enthusiasm and presentations. The year is ending with a prayer service for Third Year students and a Graduation ceremony for sixth year students. We wish all exam students the best in their exams.



*Images of our new prayer room, opened this year.*

## Modern Languages

It was a busy but very good year for the French and Italian Departments. As well as having another successful French Exchange to Rennes in Brittany, in April and another eventful 'Semaine Francaise' in February, pregnancies and babies also played a part in the main events in the French Department 2010-2011. Although we had to bid 'au revoir' to Ms Ricciutti in January this meant the return of the Mammy of the Department Ms. Hittilambeau. This return however was soon followed by Ms O'Dwyer leaving us on her own maternity leave and being replaced by the bébé of the department Ms Daly. There's definitely something in the air in the department Mr McAuley, Ms Dwyer, Ms Cullen and Ms Witter had

better be on red alert.

This academic year was also a landmark year for the Italian Department as not only the number of pupils increased drastically with three new First Year groups. The Department team also grew enormously as Mr McAuley was joined by Ms Flatley, Ms Neilson and of course our 'Assistente' Susy Presidente straight off the plane from Napoli in the sunny south of *Italia*. This was also our first year having a 5<sup>th</sup> Year Italian class and our first year having a 6<sup>th</sup> year class as rang Qualter embraced studying 'La Bella Lingua' for the first time. Culural highlights included the First Year trip to Lake Garda and 'Il Giorno Italiano' in April. Altogether it was a great year's fun and work down in the Modern languages Department and we await next year and it's new challenges *avec impatience*.





*Seachtain na Gaeilge competition winners: L-R: Callum McCormack and Aaron Flanagan, 3rd and 2nd respectively in the Cainteoir na Seachtaine competition; Eve Byrne, who won the Comórtas na bPóstaer and Cainteoir na Seachtaine winner Nathan Mannion.*

## Gaeilge

Foireann na Gaeilge had a busy start to the year, with triúr múinteoirí nua joining the team in September; Ms. McTiernan, Ms. Dwyer agus Mr. Ó hEochaidh, joined after Christmas by Ms. O'Dea. After celebrating the wonderful results achieved by our students in the Ardteist and Teastas Sóisearach, we got straight to work on both curricular and extra-curricular activities. Thosaigh an Grúpa Traidisiúnta ag cleachtadh arís, with new members joining from first year and performing at the First Year Mass, Comórtas Talann and Prizegiving in the first term.

I Mí na Samhna, chuaigh roinnt daltaí ón séú bliain chuig dráma stáitse iontach den scéal '*An Cearrbhach Mac Cába*' san Amharchlann Axis agus tar éis Nollag chuig an dráma '*An Triail*' san áit chéanna. Fíbín a chuir na drámaí ar siúl agus rinne siad sár-jab gan amhras, giving our exam years an opportunity to get a wonderful insight into these texts. An exciting new venture began in Foireann na Gaeilge this year too, with the introduction of film-making with our new Flip Camera, as part of an inter-county initiative among múinteoirí Gaeilge. Rang Martin could be found on both sides of the camera, during the making of their film about Ár Scoil.

In February, the drama group *Brannar* came to the school to run a workshop for Transition Year's Rang Walsh and Rang Casey. Participating in a variety of fun activities trí mheán na Gaeilge, bhain na daltaí taitneamh agus tairbhe as an lá.

Tar éis Nollag, bhronn an scoil seacht leath-scoláireacht don Ghaeltacht ar na daltaí a bhuaigh an comórtas do na háiteanna. The lucky recipients of these scholarships, Robert Staunton, Rachel Walshe, Peggy

Flanagan, Ellie O'Neill, Louise Gowran, Niall Donnelly and Chloe Byrne are all set to head off to the Gaeltacht this summer agus go n-éirí leo! March and April were busy months with our Scrúduithe Béil taking place for both an 3ú agus an 6ú bliain. Students were very well prepared and our examiners were really impressed by them.

The highlight of the year for Foireann na Gaeilge, of course, took place during Seachtain na Gaeilge i Mí Márta. Bhí rud éigin ar siúl do gach duine, with first years racing around the schools solving clues to win the Toraíocht Taisce and seniors displaying their hurling skills in the Puc Fada. Thaispeáin na daltaí sa dara bliain a scileanna i gComórtas na bPóstaer, won by Eve Byrne. Bhí go leor rince agus amhránaíocht ar siúl i rith na seachtaine, with a trad group performance and a wonderful ceolchoirm, while our winning Tráth na gCeist team went on to represent Coláiste Ráth Tó in the inter-schools quiz in Navan that week. As usual, we had our Cainteoir na Seachtaine competition which saw Aaron Flanagan sa 3ú áit, Callum McCormack sa 2ú áit agus Nathan Mannion as our overall winner. Maith sibh!!

Foireann na Gaeilge would like to wish all of our students sa 3ú agus 6ú bliain, the very best of luck in the June exams. Go n-éirí libh!



## History

It's been another exciting and active year for History in Ratoath College. We congratulate all students on excellent Junior and Leaving Cert results last year.

We welcomed a number of new members to the History team, Ms O'Connell, Mr Ó hEocaidh, Ms Cleary and Ms Farrelly with Mr McAuley also joining the History team. We also congratulate Ms Kelly and Ms McQuillan on the birth of their babies this year!

Transition year Historians enjoyed a trip to Derry's bogside where they were fortunate to meet John Kelly, whose brother Michael was killed on Bloody Sunday. John showed the students round the Free Derry museum as well as taking part in a Q&A session later.

We were delighted to welcome Holocaust survivor Tomi Reichental to the school once again this year. This was Tomi's second visit to Ratoath College to speak to students about his experiences at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp during the World War Two. Tomi, originally from Slovakia but living in Ireland for many years, also answered questions from students.

2nd year students visited the venue theatre to watch the historical film 'The Patriot' as part of their study of the American Revolution. This year's young historian competition is ongoing and as usual, first year historians have worked extremely hard to produce some excellent projects.

Finally, the History team wishes all our students and parents an enjoyable summer break and the best of luck to all our Junior and Leaving cert historians in their exams this June.



*Holocaust survivor Tomi Reichental visited the school this year to speak to History students.*



*TY students in front of the Free Derry wall on their trip to Derry's bogside earlier in the year.*



*First year Young Historian competition projects, (left) a medieval manor and (right) a medieval peasant's house.*



## Physical Education

Our year started with the welcome arrival of another new teacher David McCarthy into our department. This was quickly followed by the opening of our new pitch which was much to the delight of all our many extra-curricular teachers and teams in the school. It has also been a welcome bonus to the PE department in addition to our other fantastic facilities including the hall, gym, outdoor tennis courts and two basketball courts. This all helps us to provide a wide variety of activities to enrich our students learning experience in Junior and Senior Cycle PE.

There was great diversity in our TY programme this year. In TY PE we try to ensure students experience new activities that wouldn't have been available in Junior Cycle PE. It began with great antics and fun which was had participating in the latest Dance craze 'Zumba'. There were some great moves from all involved. We might even see some of them in the Talent show next year! All students were challenged to reach their potential in Martial Arts/Self Defence and should have a few tricks up their sleeves if someone was to challenge them. They took one step further when they recently took part in four weeks of Fencing. This is a form of combat using a sword. All instructors of the three activities were very impressed with the interest and standard shown by all students.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> year LCA's led by Ms Casey organised a highly successful Mini Olympics as part of their LCA task. This was a great way for our first years to get to know each other and also created some competition amongst the classes. There were plenty of great athletes amongst them. There is no end to the talent in Ratoath College. Well done to Rang Hannon for organising such a great event.

Finally we are fast approaching our summer holiday now which for the PE department means our annual Sports day is nearly here! This is a great day for both students and teacher alike. For the past few years we have been very thankful to Ratoath GAA for allowing us to use their facilities for our annual Sports Day. However, this year will be our first time to use our own facilities. We are really looking forward to a brilliant day (let's hope the weather is good to us!). Have a great summer

## Science

It's been another exciting year for the science department who this year welcomed Mr Cahill and Ms Collins to the team.

The highlight of the science year was certainly Science week, where a range of interesting activities took place. Students took part in various experiments throughout the week, including on to see how a volcano erupts and the dissection of a heart.

Students also took part in an astronomy evening where we waited until dark and proceeded to examine the night sky, looking at the different stars and the moon with the aid of a telescope.

Ratoath College students also took part in the Young Scientist competition again this year (pictured right). Well done to all the students involved!







**Pulse will provide a safe place for teenagers to socialise as well as provide access to healthy food and drinks at an affordable price.**

**Pulse will be : Alcohol/drug free, a hang out space with an opportunity to surf the net, have a smoothy play pool, play Wii, or just chat with your mates in its funky seating area.**

**Pulse will be open to all young people between 14-19 years of age but actively seeks to engage with the most vulnerable and marginalised young people in the community also.**

**While this initiative is relatively new its main aim is to act as a consistent point of contact for young people, offering a variety of fun activities that will shift focus in order to meet the needs of young people in the local area.**

Pulse is now in its third year of planning and we are so close to achieving our goal of having a building in which young people can socialise and have fun in a safe and friendly environment.

#### **Funding.**

We have applied for funding to build the premises and we are very grateful to our anonymous lender who lent us twenty-five thousand euro which allowed us to apply for the rest of the funding needed to build the premises.

#### **Members.**

Pulse would not even have the possibility of existing if it wasn't for all of the hard work and dedication put in from both the adult members and the junior members of the committee. Many thanks has to be given to Gerry Dempsey, Paul Conroy, Nick Killian, Declan Byrne, Lorna Osbourne Ryan, Scott Lyons, Adam Walsh, Phillip Costigan. There are many more people who have greatly helped Pulse and who are dedicated to this cause. A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped out. And we hope that they continue to help us.

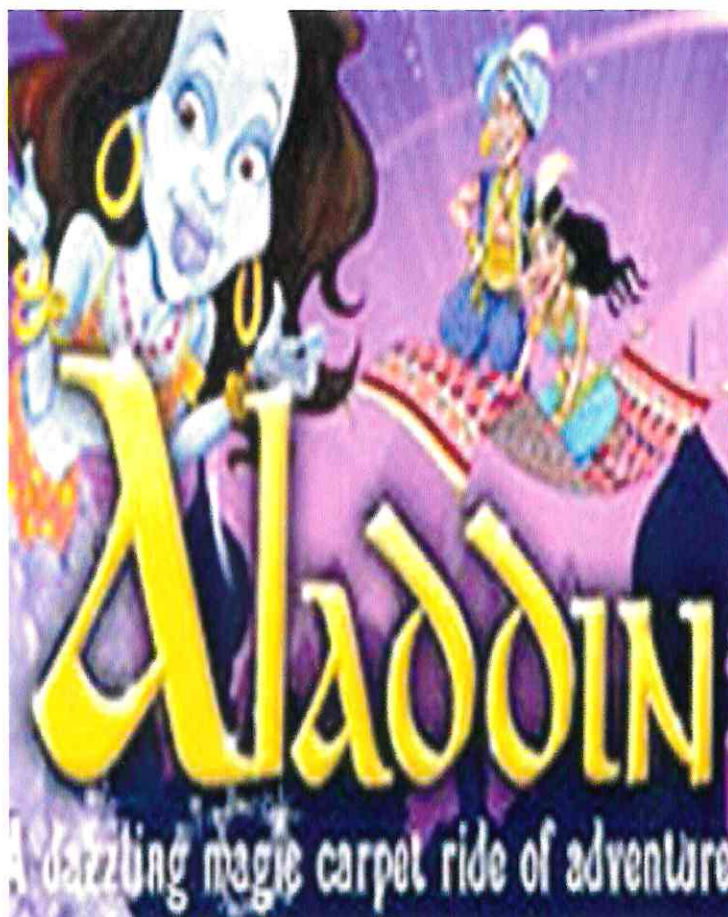
#### **Events.**

So far Pulse has done a lot of fundraising events with great help from the community. There has been a sponsored sky dive by Darragh Dempsey in 2009, cake sales by both primary and secondary schools in Ratoath, sponsored cycle by an Garda Síochána, and many church gate collections the latest being just a couple of months ago. We have raised thousands from these fundraising events and it wouldn't have been without the great help from the community.

#### **Upcoming Events.**

There are many events that we hope to run in the future to raise the awareness of Pulse, some of which include future cinema nights, going bowling and many more. On Friday 6th May there is a workshop with free pizza and soft drinks being held in the Community Centre which is being used to raise awareness and also to make a list of suggestions for future nights and days out. We also hope to include a day in which young people come along to the finished building and they paint it with their friends. There is also the opening night of Pulse which everyone can look forward to because after three and a half years of hard work I think we all deserve a very big celebration.





# The magic of Aladdin!



*“A magical treat for all ages”*

Just before the Christmas break students of Ratoath College had the opportunity to see the wonderful play 'Aladdin' at the Gaiety theatre, Dublin. The panto was brilliant, funny, very entertaining and everyone really enjoyed the play and said it was a must see for all ages .

The rip-roaring adventure story of Aladdin will be brought magically to life in a spectacular production starring Boyzone's, Mikey Graham, in the role of Abanazar and the voice of X-Factor's Louis Walsh as Master of the World. Together with the amazing visual effects, a genie with attitude, a magic flying carpet and a mesmerising cave of jewels, it is set to make Aladdin an unmissable pantomime experience. Join them on a magic carpet ride of adventure!

The Gaiety Theatre's Christmas pantomime Aladdin provides an unforgettable evening of hilarity for the whole family. Packed with brilliant comedy, stunning song , dance routines and dazzling costumes.

Oozing big laughs, tender moments and glittering spectacle, this year's panto at the Gaiety Theatre is a real tonic. This event is most usually remembered as a child's first introduction to Live Theatre and for that reason forms a lifelong bond with many adults in later life and becomes a strong family tradition to bring future generations to Pantomime.

The set was beautiful and very realistic. The singing and dancing was also brilliant. Overall everyone thought it was brilliant and had a great night. Hopefully the school will bring organise for us to go back next year to see the Gaiety panto again.

*“Students were gripped with excitement”*

**MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ**



# Teacher Talk!

Some of the new teachers in the school talk candidly to Eoin Joyce and Bill Kelly



## Ms. Smith

**What's your most embarrassing moment?**

I never sit down in class but the one day I did I fell off a very high chair and landed on my hands and knees. When I stood up I had no shoes on. My shoes got caught in the bar at the bottom of the chair. Ended up with 2 big massive bruises on my knees.

**If you were stranded on a desert island, what 3 items would you bring?**

Soap, Laptop with Broadband a friend

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

Wedding!! And good honeymoon!! Honestly - I'd share it with family and give a lot to different charities

**Have you ever met someone famous? Who?**

Nope - and even if I had I probably wouldn't recognise them. I'm terrible with celebrity names and faces.

**What are your pet hates?**

Bad grammar, nail biting and people chewing on clothes - horrible!!

**Why do you enjoy working in Ratoath College?**

It has great staff, students, atmosphere and building. There's lots going on - there really is something for everyone and lots of encouragement to get involved.

**If you had one wish, what would it be?**

For all those around me to live good, healthy, happy lives and that they always realise and are grateful for what they have. (or is that ???)



# Mr. O'hEochaidh



**What age are you?**

XXVIII

**What's your most embarrassing moment?**

Finishing SECOND in the Mr. Universe Competition 2008.

**If you were stranded on a desert island, what 3 items would you bring?**

2 Giant S's and the Worlds biggest Polo!

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

Pimping out the red bullet! I would buy Pairc Tailteann and turn it into a Car Park!

**Have you ever met someone famous? Who?**

I seem to bump into Santa Clause around the same time every year

Ronaldo asked me for my autograph once!

**What are your pet hates?**

The full list is as long as Fairyhouse Racecourse. Top 3 - Reality TV, "Celebrities" Cling Film

**Who would be your ideal date?**

Sharon NíBheoláin

**Why do you enjoy working in Ratoath College?**

The opportunity to work with bright, young energetic talented people everyday. The Students are ok too!!

**If you had one wish, what would it be?**

WEALTH and HAPPINESS

Is that 2, or is it just 1 little multipack?





# Mr. Heaney

## What age are you?

They say your as young as you feel so... 40!!!

## What's your most embarrassing moment?

I don't get embarrassed very easily but I was quite red when I went up to the man who I thought was Gary Barlow back in 1996 (Just after Take That broke up) looking for an autograph, I said "Hi Gary, any chance of an autograph?" he looked at me quite disgruntledly but signed the paper anyway. It was only afterwards I realised that it was signed "All the Best, Robbie!!!!"

## If you were stranded on a desert island, what 3 items would you bring?

A pool table + my cue (for entertainment)

A Jet-Ski + some petrol (for fresh air)

A spoon (since we are on an island of 'desserts')

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

If I won the euromillions I would buy a 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO and an Island. So if I'm out on Monday you'll know why!!

## Have you ever met someone famous? Who?

Robbie Williams - NOT Gary Barlow!!!

## What are your pet hates?

Untidiness + Clutter, Forms, Bad Handshakes (limp, sweaty ones are the worst), Asking for lucozade and getting pepsi, it's like asking for petrol and getting diesel - It really grinds my gears!

## Who would be your ideal date?

Charlene McKenna - A really good actress and she seems highly intelligent. Plus she's from Monaghan so she probably has plenty of good land!

## Why do you enjoy working in Ratoath College?

I love how new the school is! I Like how well organised and respectful everyone, students and staff are to eachother.



# Mr. McCarthy



**What age are you?**

27

**What's your most embarrassing moment?**

I once broke my ankle trying to jump over a flowerbed on the morning of an important race-that was pretty stupid!

**If you were stranded on a desert island, what 3 items would you bring?**

A television, a book and suncream!

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

Bailing out the banks!!

**Have you ever met someone famous? Who?**

I raced against Usain Bolt in 2002 at the World Junior Championships in Jamaica. You can probably guess who won!

**What are your pet hates?**

Dripping taps, lights left on, Gillian McKeith and Big Brother!

**Who would be your ideal date?**

My wife, of course!

**Why do you enjoy working in Ratoath College?**

Very friendly staff and students, excellent facilities and the beautiful weather!

**If you had one wish, what would it be?**

Three more wishes!





# Mr. Cahill

**What age are you?**

33

**What's your most embarrassing moment?**

As a child on a stage I knocked over the microphone. People laughed.

**If you were stranded on a desert island, what 3 items would you bring?**

Mobile phone (Android xPeria x10 mini), Swiss army pen knife, Solar panels (to charge phone)

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

Pay off mortgage. Visit the Galápagos' Islands

**Have you ever met someone famous? Who?**

I once met Erik Estrada in an airport in Denver.

**What are your pet hates?**

Litter

**Who would be your ideal date?**

Wife

**Why do you enjoy working in Ratoath College?**

Combination of staff and students.

**If you had one wish, what would it be?**

My son (7months) would start sleeping through the night.



# The Talent Show

The Talent Show was a huge success again this year, with a wide range of talented students wowing the capacity crowd in the hall. Mr Hannon and Mr Nelson provided entertainment too with their band, the Flux Capacitors. The panel of judges this year included Adam Lynch, the director of last year's hit musical 'Back to the 80s'. Mr Carey performed the role of head judge. Jack Wiley, Kira Morton, Hugh Daly and Aoife McGoldrick were the hosts on the evening.

Despite huge competition, 6th year students Kevin Hartnett took the honours this year with his rendition of the Nina Simone classic 'I'm feelin' good'. Well done to all who took part!



*MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ*



## The FRENCH Week

Again this year, Ratoath College had its annual French Week. This is the week when the whole school try to speak as much French as possible and when the teachers organise different games and activity's for classes/ students to do. Also, at the end of the week the current T.Y class serve the whole school a French breakfast which consists of a croissant or chocolate croissant, a crêpe and a juice. Another thing that the school organise on French Week is the language slips, where students are rewarded for speaking French around the school.



## Seachtain Na Gaeilge

Seachtain Na Gaeilge took place on the 5th to the 7th of March this year. The event was celebrated by the school along with thousands of many other schools and organisations all over Ireland. In the school we were encouraged to speak Irish during the whole week and we were told that if we were caught speaking Irish we could win a prize at the end of the week.

There were many activities over the week including an Irish quiz and a long puck competition.

These events were taught up by the Irish department and it was very fun for all the students involved. The highlight of the week was the Irish breakfast where everybody was served an Irish breakfast by the TY students.

In at the end of the week prizes were given out for the best speaker and the winner of all the competitions. The main prize winner, Nathan Mannion is pictured below.

## Il Giorno Italiano



This year Italian day was held on Tuesday the 12th of April. The day was punctuated by cultural, linguistic, and musical activities. Everyone was welcomed in the school by the sounds of Vivaldi, Verdi and Andrea Bocelli. There was an Art competition won by Manuel Guererro and an Italian culture Table Quiz as well as a Football tournament at lunch time 'Il Torneo di Calcio' which was won by Fiorentina captained by 'Il Magnifico' Luca Darcy. The spaghetti bolognese served in the canteen and the sun shining outside meant that there was a nice Italian feel throughout the school, particularly for the first year students that were heading off to Lake Garda and Venice 2 days later.



# The Student Council



Since 1998 In Ireland There Has been sustained development of student councils in post primary schools. In 2001 the Union of Secondary Students was founded as the National Umbrella body to organize and coordinate the national campaign efforts of the student councils. The Union of Secondary Students has a membership of 13% of post primary students in the Republic of Ireland, and the number is increasing.

In Ratoath college, to be a part of this team you must be elected by your class mates.

When you won the election you were called up to the front of the school at the morning assembly you were given the badge and a commendation slip by the vice principal. Unfortunately no first years could be a part of the student council. The student council helps share students' ideas, interests, and concerns with teachers and school principals. They often also help raise funds for school-wide activities, including social events, community projects and school reform.

## Adult Education

Adult Education classes are held on evenings in Ratoath College. There is a broad range of courses on offer to including things like: Computers & Technology, Languages - Health & Beauty, Hobbies and Leisure, Personal Development and Professional Courses, Leaving Certificate Revision Courses.

You can enrol online on the Ratoath College website in September. You may pay by laser or credit card. You can send in a postal enrolment form with a cheque, postal order or bank draft. The postal enrolment form is on the back of the brochure or a downloadable version is available on the Ratoath College website. If you prefer to pay by cash you can come along to our Enrolment Night in Ratoath College in September. All enrolment fees must be paid in full before classes commence.

All queries about Adult education can be made to Caroline Barry, Director of Adult Education on 086 125 3661 / 01 8254102 or by email at [adultedratoath@gmail.com](mailto:adultedratoath@gmail.com).



# Holocaust Survivor Tomi Reichental Visits the School

*Survivor Tomi Reichental shared his and his family's experiences of the Holocaust with students*



A Holocaust survivor detailed the unimaginable horror of his experience in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II to our privileged students on December 20. Describing his earliest moments following his birth in 1935 in Piestany, Slovakia, Tomi Reichental gave an insight into Nazi occupied Poland through the eyes of a child.

Tomi began by saying he grew up in a world where Jews had no citizenship. The Nuremberg Laws were passed the year of his birth and his people were excluded from everything. Nazi Germany under Hitler were intent on creating the Aryan race, and set about creating an abhorrence of all things Jewish across Europe.

Tomi was 4 years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and the mass execution of Jews began. He explained to students how the Slovak government sold their own people to the Nazis under laws even more severe than the Nuremberg Laws. Tomi was 6 years old when the Nazis made Jews wear a yellow star on their clothing emblazoned with the letters 'Jude'. As Tomi stuck this to his fleece he reminisced on how he got bullied by his schoolmates because of this yellow star.

The expulsion of Slovakia's Jews to the death camps began in March 1942. Slovak leaders even paid 500 marks for every Jew they departed. Tomi explained how he watched his aunts and cousins being led away not knowing 48 hours later they would die in the gas chambers in Auschwitz.

Tomi and his family came face to face with the Nazi regime when a unit of SS swooped on their tiny vil-

lage. Tomi's father was taken to Auschwitz. After the war Tomi learned that his father had survived by jumping off a moving train en route. The Gestapo came across Tomi's Grandmother in a shop in Bratislava. They beat her up until she gave them details of her family.

When they came for Tomi's family, his brother lied about being Jewish until they began to beat Tomi. Tomi and 4 of his remaining family bound for Bergen Belsen in a cattle carriage with 60 other people in November 1944.

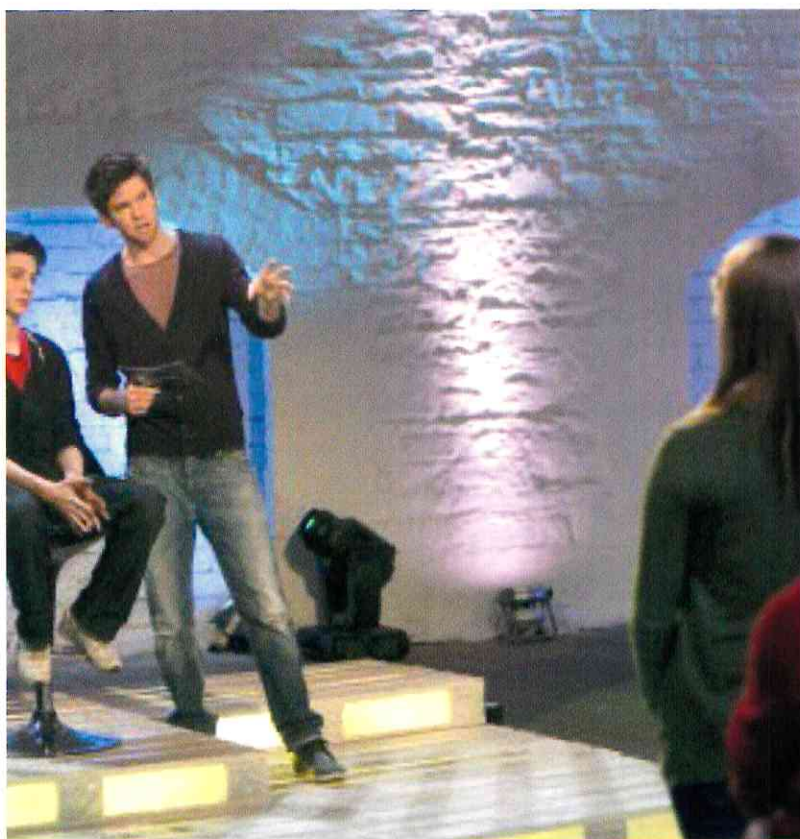
Tomi and his family arrived at a wooden barrack with bunk beds drenched and exhausted. Every morning he awoke to the shrieks of a whistle and sometimes stood up for 2 hours until the SS commander arrived. When people died of hunger and illness the dead bodies were slung into a heap outside the barracks. Tomi being a child just played around them as he knew no different. All he cared about was not becoming one of the decaying corpses.

Tomi explained how food at the Nazi camp was contaminated. He lived on a diet of black coffee, bread, and turnips. He said how some people could not bear the torture of starvation and would climb the barbed wire, before being shot dead.

Tomi described liberation from the Nazis in April 1945 to our students. He explained how one day the camp gates were left open but no one left in fear. Then some jeeps rolled in and the Allies began to film the horrid camp conditions. Tomi returned home and was re-united with his father.



# RC Students On RTÉ Gameshow



*A large group of senior students recently appeared on the new RTÉ gameshow Frenemies...*



For those of you who watch RTE2 on a regular basis, you may have noticed a new programme called 'Frenemies'. Well, believe it or not a group of Ratoath College students in 4th and 5th year star in it.

Frenemies is a debate-type gameshow aimed at teenagers. In it we the teenagers debate real-life dilemmas that are an everyday occurrence.

The host Eoghan McDermott presents us with a whole range of dilemmas from fake IDs to deleting friend requests on Facebook. Oh, the drama!

A contestant is told of one of these dilemmas and must choose a solution to it. But wait, there's a

twist. Two 'Frenemies' must face off to convince the contestant to choose their solution, while backstage the contestant's friends have chosen which solution they think the contestant should pick.

The contestant must listen to both arguments then strip them down in order to pick a solution. For each answer they and their friends have matched they win €50 on a Frenemies credit card.

The Frenemies series was shown over the Easter break and is being continually shown on RTE2. So for heated arguments, dramatic debates and funny results check it out.

**Aoife McGoldrick**

***MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ***





# RATOATH COLLEGE GIVES IT UP FOR TRÓCAIRE!

On the 3-4 March 2011 Ratoath College participated in its very first 'GIVE IT UP FOR TROCAIRE'. The students took part to raise essential funds for development projects in the worlds poorest countries such as Honduras.

Luxury items such as Facebook, listening to music, using their phones were given up, as well as fasting and sponsored silences by the students for one day to show their support to Trocaire!

Through the dedication and will power of the participating students we raised €5,622.47.

This money will help Trocaire volunteers working in the third world countries put in place a sewage

system that will reduce the spread of disease within the community and also securing access to employment programmes for young people, removing the temptation for them to join gangs making it a safer community altogether.

From taking part in 'GIVE IT UP FOR TROCAIRE' we discovered the levels of poverty in Honduras and how we take our basic needs for granted. In the third world countries like Honduras hunger is one of the main issues, they cant afford to be fussy, they have two choices, take it or leave it.

By Leah Halligan & Sarah Morris



Seamus McEaney & Joe Sheridan from the Meath senior football team accompanied by a representative of Tróciare join Ms Ní Bhroithe, Mr Donnelly and the students who raised the most money in the Give it up for Trócaire charity appeal



# RC TEACHERS REPRESENT IRELAND AT GLOBAL INNOVATIVE EDUCATORS FORUM

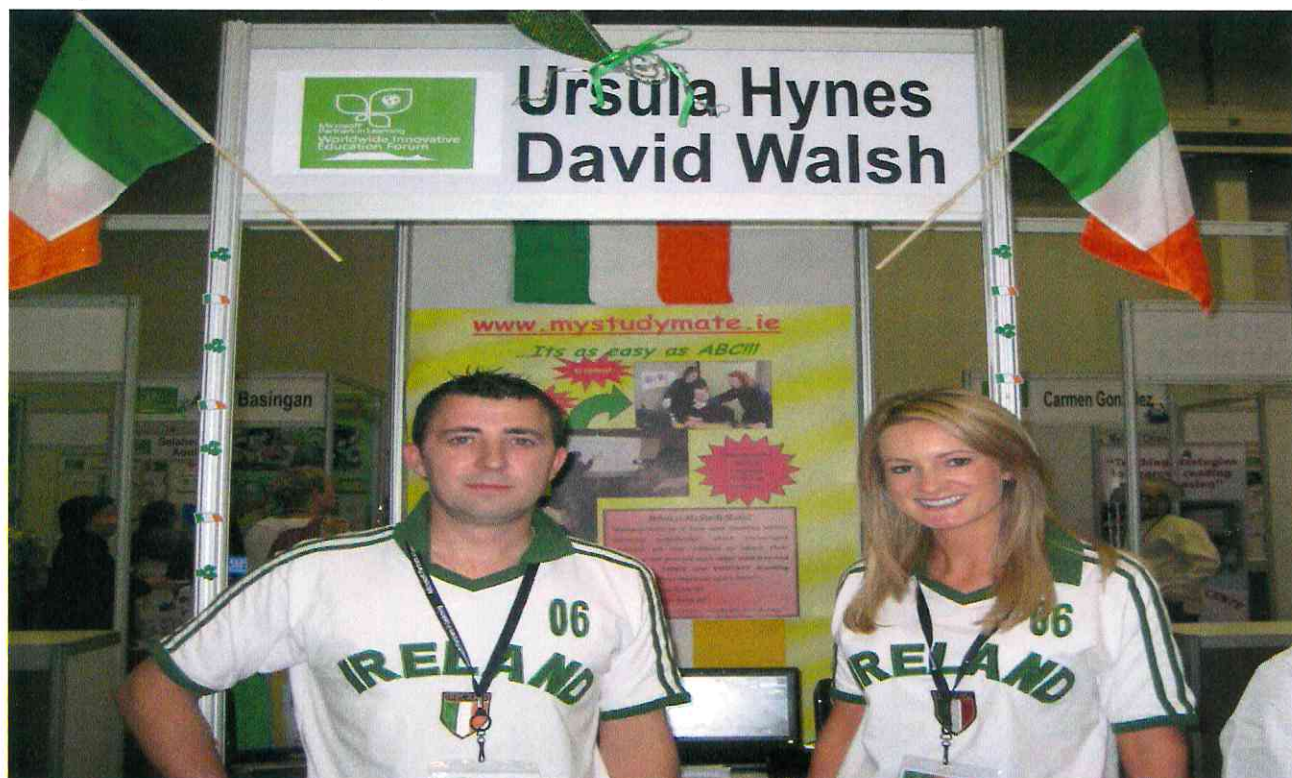
Last November Ratoath College was represented at the World Final of the Global Innovative Educators Forum, which took place in Cape Town, South Africa. This hugely prestigious competition recognised the great work done by the Transition Year Media Studies students in their innovative and highly accredited MyStudyMate project. Representing the school were teachers Mr. Walsh and Ms. Hynes. Having breezed through the Irish and European Finals, the project faced stiff competition from various innovative teaching and learning projects from around the world at the week long conference/forum.

During their time in South Africa, both teachers attended several conferences, presentations and workshops and got to see first hand, the many innovative practices in operation in classrooms throughout the world.

The project itself made it to the final round of 8 (out of a total of over 250,000 entries from 32 different countries), but that is where the journey ended as the project was placed in the 4th—8th place bracket.

While in South Africa, Mr. Walsh took the opportunity to visit a local high school in the township just outside Cape Town and set about building cross-continental links between Ratoath College and the African School. The South African School, Bonteheuwelhs High School, where more than half of the students are living in Niall Mellon built houses, are currently finishing their Matrix exams and after this will be taking part in a number of joint projects and skype video conference classes over the coming months and years as a result of this new partnership. Ratoath College also has plans to raise some funds to help our new found friends at Bonteheuwelhs High School and we are very much looking forward to developing our partnership with them.

All in all, it was a great achievement for a project from Ratoath College to have been chosen to represent Ireland and Europe and you can check out its progress at [www.mystudymate.ie](http://www.mystudymate.ie)



*Mr Walsh & Ms Hynes representing Ireland and our school in South Africa.*

***MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ***



# RATOATH COLLEGE

## TRAD GROUP

The Ratoath College Trad Group was formed in 2006 in Fairyhouse Racecourse. They are under the guidance of Ms Kilrane, Ms O'Dwyer, Mr. Connolly, Ms Garrett, Mr Doyle and Ms Kearney. This year there are over fifteen students who take part in the Trad group. Many first year students have joined the Trad Group for the first time this year. There is a wide range of members in the Trad group from 1st to 5th year students. There is also a variety of instruments in the Trad Group including some fiddles, tin whistles, flutes, guitars, an accordion, a concertina and a keyboard.

Every Friday at lunchtime, the students in the Trad Group gather in Ms Garrett's classroom to practice their tunes for any upcoming performances.

The Trad Group have performed on numerous occasions in the past. They have performed at The Ratoath College Open Night last year for the incom-

ing first years. They have also performed in the Meath VEC Musical Extravaganza which took place in the Solstice Theatre in Navan.

This year saw the Trad Group show their skills in many other performances. Yet again, they were involved in the annual 'Ratoath College Talent Show' in October. They performed two tunes including 'Galway Girl'.

Throughout 'ArtsWeek, there were students performing at assembly and so the Trad Group performed during this years 'Arts Week'. Again, we performed another two tunes in front of the whole school and it was enjoyed by all who took part. We look forward to next years performances!

By Meghan Witter-Nolan





# The Carlingford Trip

On the last Friday before Easter a large group of First Year students headed on their trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre in Co. Louth. It was an early start, with students arriving at the school at 7.15am.

Students took part in a wide range of activities including archery and a range of water based activities. Students also took part in a raft building exercise and tried their boats out in the water—some with more success than others.

As with every year, everybody had a great time.



*MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ*



# The Italy Trip

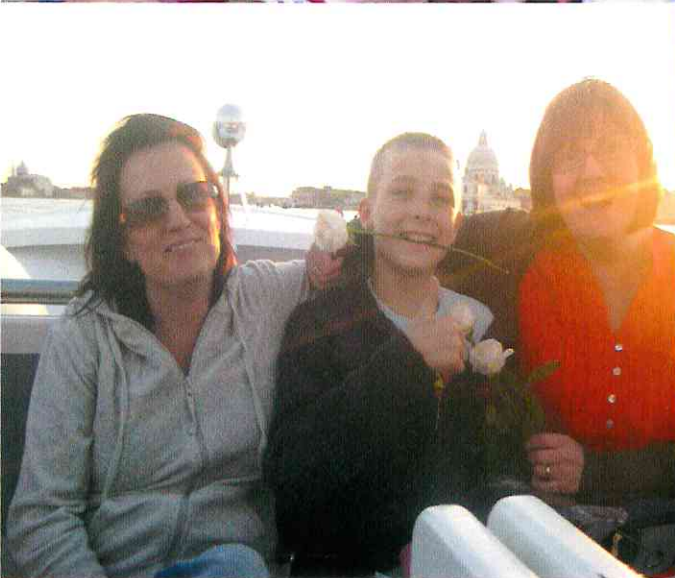
A large group of First Year students headed for Italy at the beginning of the Easter break, led by their Moltóir Ms Judge. The students travelled to the Lake Garda region of Italy, also visiting the historic and beautiful cities of Verona—where they had the chance to visit an intact Roman amphitheatre and the famous statue of Juliet—and Venice where students spent the day shopping and taking Gondola ride.

The highlight of the trip though was the visit to the Gardaland theme park where teachers and students alike braved the rollercoasters and rides. As always, a great time was had by all.



*MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ*



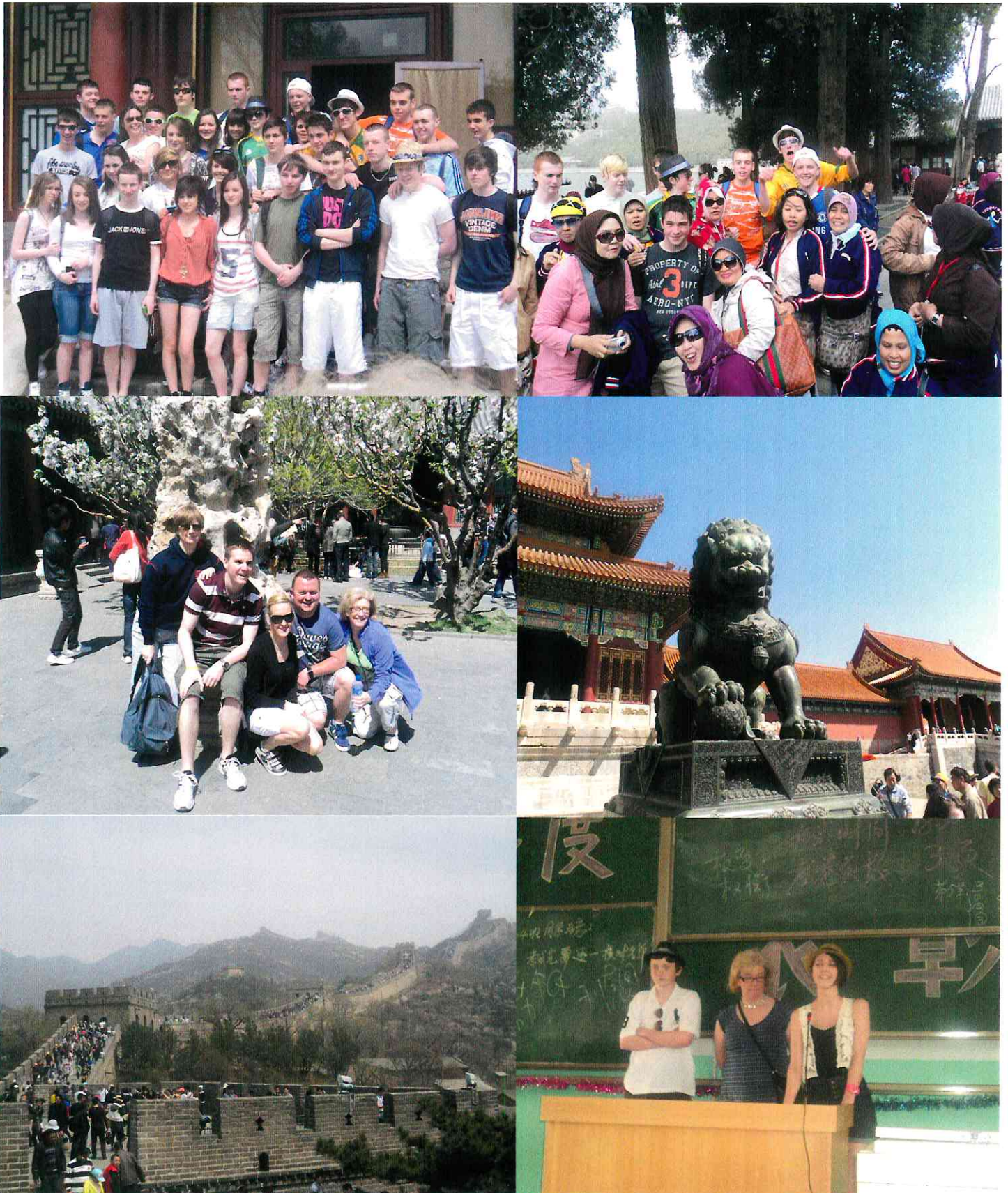


*MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ*



# The China Trip

The other major trip to depart over the Easter break was the senior trip to China. Accompanied by Ms Ní Bhróithe, Ms Predergast, Mr Ball and others, a large group of senior students headed off for the trip of a lifetime to the far east. There, they experienced all the sights and sounds of Beijing, the Olympic Stadium and the Great Wall among many other activities.



*MOI AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ*

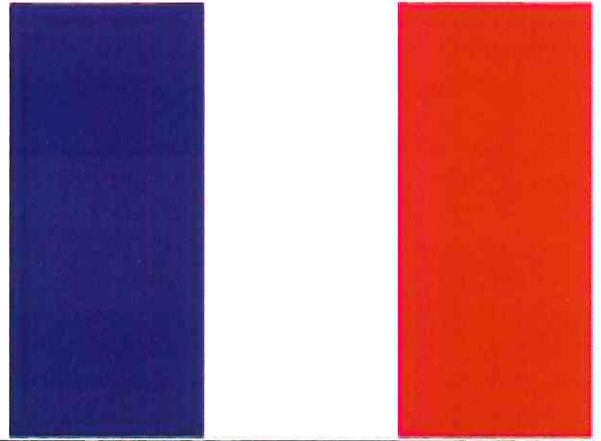




*MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ*



# The French Exchange



*This year once again, a large group of senior students travelled to Rennes in France as part of the French exchange programme. Earlier in the year, we welcomed a group of French students to Ratoath...*



The French Exchange took place on the 13th of April to the 20th and was a great success for both the Irish students and the French students as well as the teachers of course.

Basically the French Exchange programme is a trip set up by the teachers of Ratoath College and of another French school in our case it was joliot curie.

Both of the groups of students mixed, cooperated and worked well together, by the end of the week it was sad and hard to say goodbye to each and every one of them.

All together it was a very successful trip as the Irish students travelled a lot to different historical monuments and places of great importance as well as taking part in the average and daily French life.

Every person who took part in the French Exchange programme benefitted in many ways such as their oral French, aural French, communicating skills, cooperating skills, team working skills and also interacting skills. The French exchange programme is 100% ben-

eficial and I personally would recommend it to each and every person who it is available to. The French exchange programme is a really great idea and opportunity that most schools such as Ratoath College are lucky to have as an option for the students of Ratoath College, most of this opportunity is because the teachers worked hard to make this available for their students who not only need improvement but would like to experience an average daily French persons life. This experience is truly terrific and unforgettable for each and every student, it is also a once in a life time opportunity that is available to these individuals of Ratoath College.

Also I can tell you from a first hand experience that you will have the time of your life when you are over there in France. Also when your French correspondent comes here to Ireland they too will have a brilliant time and you will also build a very strong friendship with most of the French students over there as I and many of my friends have.



# New Spanish Students arrive in Ratoath College

There were many new students who came into our school this year. Most of them came from different areas around Ireland but there was a big group of Spanish students.

There were about 10 Spanish students who joined the school in September. The students liked it here and liked our school. Most of them went back to Spain in November, however two of them decided to stay.

The students say studying wasn't as important in Spain as it is here in Ireland. They also did not have to wear uniform!

Although they miss their friends and family, both students say they have enjoyed their time at Ratoath College and made lots of new friends.



*Gianni Cetrulo and Miguel Mateos De Pablo,  
who joined the school in September.*

## Second Years Visit the DSPCA

During the month of March Rang Barry Garrett, McAuley, Martin and Reid visited the D.S.P.C.A in Rathfarnham. This trip was part of the subject C.S.P.E. 60% of this course is based on a project while 40% is a written exam so we were delighted that we got to go to the D.S.P.C.A.

There were a lot of preparations to be carried out prior to our trips. Committees had to be formed and each student in our classes had a task to carry out. All students were brought to the education centre at the D.S.P.C.A where a talk was given on animal cruelty and survival. Miriam the guide brought all the students around the farm to see the animals.

The D.S.P.C.A was set up in 1840 and it celebrates its 170<sup>th</sup> birthday last year. They moved to Rathfarnham in 1990 after receiving a donation of 38 acres from a kind lady.

The lady's request was that the shelter looked after horses on the land. It caters for all animals except sea creatures such as dolphins.

Miriam our guide spoke to us and told us facts and stories about the D.S.P.C.A. When we were on the trip we were able to see all the facilities that the animals could get help from and the space that they could play in. The staff in the D.S.P.C.A are very well trained as they receive training from American vets. Some even learn sign language for dogs that are deaf. Their slogan is the five animal freedoms: free from fear, have food, space to play, shelter from the cold and to see a vet when they are sick. We would recommend this trip to all students because the animals were all happy and very well cared for. We found this to be a great experience.

Fiona Rooney & Alanna Hargreaves

***MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TÍOCFAIDH SÍ***



# RC STAFF & STUDENTS TAKE PART IN MINI-MARATHON

A large number of Ratoath College staff and students took part in the Flora Mini-Marathon once again last summer. Although the event is usually a woman-only one, a number of male students got into the spirit of things and joined in the fun. All the funds raised by those involved went to the schools Autism unit, Aonad Arkle. Well done everybody!



*MOI AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCEADH SÍ*





*MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ*



# First Days of School...

*Some of our first year students recall their first days in Ratoath College one year on...*



**Ryan O'Connor, Daniel Murphy and Michail Treize**

"In our first day in Ratoath College we were very excited. It was very different to Primary school. The teachers were very kind and nice. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years were also very eager to help us get the right books, unlock our locks and help us find classrooms. It was hard to get use to the school at first, but after a while it was easy. We also made new friends. We enjoyed most subjects especially metalwork and physical education. We're enjoying the extra curriculum as well. So far we've enjoyed my first year in Ratoath College.

**Stephen Cahill**

I felt that the school was very big and hard to find my way around for a while. I felt that the work was much harder than primary school. I also felt that the day went much quicker. I liked the way You don't only have one teacher. I also thought that getting to choose subjects was very good. I also felt that it was good

way that you got to walk around to your classes and not be stuck in the same class room. I also felt that we got a lot of homework, compared to primary school. I felt that we were welcome into the school very well.

**Aoife, Sinead and Hayley.**

On the first day of school we went to our caomhnoirs class to get our books and get sorted out for the day. Miss Daly told us about Dialanns and lockers. The books looked really heavy and the lock were hard to get used to but eventually I guess everybody figured it out. Our first class was history with Miss McQuillan. We just walked in and she told us we had to wait outside, lined up before every class ! We were used of being the oldest in the school so it was really different being the youngest in this school. We've made lots of friends now, so the seniors don't seem so scary...!

**Compiled by Gytis Kavaliauskas**



# Class Pictures

# 2010-2011

## First Year

### Moltóir's Message: Well done on a great year!

I want to wish you all wholehearted congratulations on completing your first year in Ratoath College. This time last year you and your parents were preparing for one of your biggest educational challenges and look at you now, you have all done an amazing job. You have settled nicely into your caomhnoir groups, you have survived two sets of tough exams and you have even managed to get used to using the lockers (eventually). As a year group we have had many successes, the First Year Service, retreats, trips to Carlingford and Italy and not forgetting sports day. We have had some excellent spOrting and cultural achievements as well as the academic. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you all over this year. I am really proud of you particularly when reading the very positive comments your teachers have to say on your report cards

Over the summer as you relax remember to keep safe, mind each other and don't forget our 3 simple rules, respect, respect, and respect.

Well done,

G Judge.



## Rang Ó hEocaidh



## Rang Connolly



*MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFÁIDH SÍ*



## Rang Nissar



## Rang Daly



*MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ*



## Rang Flatley



## Rang Kelly





## Second Year

### Moltóir's Message: Thanks for another great year!

2<sup>nd</sup> Year was another very successful year for us as a year group both inside and outside of the classroom.

We started the year in style with our "Glamping" and the style was very much in evidence when the "onesies" galore were on show. It was a great trip and we all thoroughly enjoyed the team building exercises, the midnight hikes and the sing songs in the Oxygen tent.

2<sup>nd</sup> Years were very much to the fore when it came to the sporting successes we enjoyed as a school this year – well done to all involved! It was also wonderful to see so many of you involved in artistic pursuits during the year – who knew we had so many drama queens??! (and kings!)

Well done to all on the great summer reports – you have worked very hard and the results you achieved were really excellent. To those of you not so happy with your summer reports it is not too late! Next year is a new beginning and if you work with your Caomhnóirí you know that together we will ensure that you realise your full potential. I want to express my thanks to the our Caomhnóirí in 2<sup>nd</sup> Year "The Fantastic Five" who work with you tirelessly on a day to day basis to nurture your learning and enjoyment of school.

Next year will be our last year together as a year group as some of you will opt for TY and some of you will choose to go directly on to 5<sup>th</sup> Year. I hope it will be our best year yet and that you will all engage in the different activities on offer in our school, enjoy your time with us and ultimately achieve all you can.

Here's to 3<sup>rd</sup> Year!

N Ní Mhurchú

## Rang Garrett



*MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ*



## Rang Barry



## Rang McAuley





## Rang Reid



## Rang Martin



*MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ*



## Third Year

### Moltóir's Message: Where has the time Gone?!

Where has the time gone, it only seems like yesterday that you were all sitting in the school assembly hall for the 1<sup>st</sup> year mass as you embarked on your junior cert programme. Alas, here you are three years later preparing for your junior cert examinations and making decisions about senior cycle. What a three years they have been, you have all grown into fine young ladies and gentlemen, all matured in attitude, and developed strong positive personalities, you enter senior cycle as well rounded persons who have grown holistically. You have all excelled in your own individual areas whether that be academic, extra-curricular or both, there have been many notable achievements over the years, to many to mention.

Most importantly you have developed a great sense of comradery amongst yourselves as a year group, we have noted on many an occasion a deep sense of care for each other, always looking out for one another and standing up for your colleagues. There is an evident air of mutual respect amongst you for both your peers and towards staff.

With regards to your upcoming Junior Certificate exams, all we can do is wish you the very best of luck. You have worked hard to date, there has been positive feedback on all your oral's, projects, practicals etc, just stay focused for the few remaining weeks and all will go well.

A word of thanks is also due to your parent(s)/guardians who have helped and encouraged you along the way. The third year team would also like to express our gratitude to the parent(s)/guardians for their support over the years.

As a team we would like to thank you for the last three years, for all the good times and memories that you have given us. Most importantly, enjoy the summer recess and mind yourselves. We look forward to seeing you late August as senior students!

***Derek Ball, Eimear Kilrane, Mairead Ryan, Ursula Hynes, Fiona McTiernan, John McCarthy, Niamh McQuillan, Della Mannion & Pamela Power. (The Third Year Team)***

## Rang McQuillan



***MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ***



## Rang Hynes



## Rang Ryan



*MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ*



## Rang Kilrane



## Rang McCarthy





## TY/Fifth Year

### Moltóir's Message: What an exciting year!

It's been a busy year in Fifth and Transition year. Never a dull moment really-what with getting used to the demands of senior cycle and all: new books, new subjects, some new teachers, new demands and the pressures of new goals. I'm sure it hasn't been plain sailing for the students either. It has been a very rewarding year and I guess I got lucky to work with a great year group. A lot of hard work was achieved among fifth years and Tys and I wish them a very restful Summer so that they are ready for the challenges of the new academic year.

Well done all,

A. Daly

## Rang Casey



*MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ*



## Rang Walsh



## Rang Hannon





## Rang Daly



## Rang Nelson





## Rang Savage



## Rang Sweeney



*MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ*



## Sixth Year

### Moltóir's Message: Thanks & Farewell!

As we approach the end of the school year and what is the end of your time here in Ratoath College, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you the very best of luck with the Leaving Certificate in June and with whatever path in life you choose.

I'm sure you have had good days and bad days here but I hope that in general your time here in Ratoath College has been an exciting, enjoyable and successful one for you all. I hope that you all will treasure the memories of your time here and treasure the friendships that you have made forever. The class of 2011 have certainly left a lasting impression on the school which we as a staff will remember forever.

Although I have only worked with you as a year group for a short period of time I have enjoyed every minute of it.

Finally don't think of this as an ending but as a New Beginning in which you must seize every opportunity that comes your way.

Wishing you all the very best of luck always

A. Sweeney

## Rang Qualter





## Rang Brennan



## Rang Cullen



*MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ*



## Rang McNally



## Rang Hitillambeau







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