



Ratoath
College

2012

66 Magazine

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Welcome from the Principal and the Deputy Principal

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

Thank you so much to Mr Mc McCarthy who put in such an effort to make sure that this production is of the highest standard. He was supported by Ms Ní Mhurchú and all the students of Rang Casey and Rang Walsh (Our Excellent Transition Years) in this venture and I would like to pay tribute to them as well.

It has been a fantastic year for the school, in particular in the area of sport. Our school musical "West Side Story" was also a highlight of the year. The number of extra-curricular activities increases year on year and I would like to say a particular thanks to the teachers, without whom none of these activities would be possible.

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

Congratulations to you all. We are so proud of you.

Maith sibh!

Máire Ní Bhróithe and Oonagh Prendergast

Principal and Deputy Principal

A Reflection from Father PJ

It was while the school musical *West Side Story* was on that I was reminded again of a slogan used to advertise a popular film from many years ago, “Love Story”, which said “Love means never having to say you’re sorry”. It sounds nice but I never really believed it to be true.

Perhaps, if we really loved someone we would never have to say sorry because we would never do anything to hurt that person; there would be no occasion when we would have to apologise. Things, however, are not like that. We may love somebody very much, but within all of us there is self-love and selfishness and, all too often, instead of putting the ones we love first we think only of ourselves. Our self-love causes us to say and do things which hurt other people, even those we love. The pain and suffering that loved ones inflict on each other is immense, as I know from my ministry. Parents tell about the hurt they sometimes feel when a son/daughter is causing trouble at home. Likewise some young people have been deeply wounded and damaged by parents and adults. When we hurt someone by word or deed and then behave as if nothing had happened, just think what damage we would do. We would damage or even destroy the relationship we had had. We would also damage ourselves because we would become more and more self-centred and, eventually, we would lose the power to love anyone but ourselves.

When we have damaged a relationship through our selfishness, the only way in which it can be restored is if the failure is admitted and an apology is made. If we find the love and the courage to do that, there can be a fresh start, the relationship can be restored and healed.

Love does not mean “never having to say you’re sorry”. If we love we will want to heal a damaged relationship and tell the person we have hurt that we really do love and care. Love means that, when it is necessary we have the courage, the confidence and the love to say sorry.

PJ Nyland,

Chaplain

Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance is not just a goal achieved, but rather a dream being sewn - a first step, if you will. (A. Einstein)



Greetings to all and congratulations on completing another year on your school journey.

Congratulations to the student body for having an excellent rate of attendance in Ratoath College. Special tribute is due to Cliona Grall (Rang Nelson), Ting Lok Chang (Rang Savage), Adrian Whyte (Rang Cahill) and

Anna Brennan (Rang Hannon) who have achieved the enormous feat of having full attendance in their entire time spent in Ratoath College. This is a remarkable achievement and one which will stand to these outstanding individuals in the future.

As mentioned we are excellent attendees in Ratoath College. Just to give you an idea of how good we are please read the following statistics. The national average for attendance at second level schools is 92%. We currently have an average of close to 95%. Congratulations are due to our 1st years who are the year group with the highest attendance in the school to date. A special word for Rang Brennan of 1st year who have the

best attendance as a class group in 2011/12.

This year we have introduced a new initiative to reward students who have full attendance in 2011/12 and in previous years. All students who do not miss a day between September to Christmas and January to summer are entered for a draw to win a bumper prize of €20 phone credit. In an effort to further reward students for their dedication and commitment to school, we have designed some additional awards to recognise student's achievements. At **Junior Cycle** we have the **Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards**.

- o The gold award is for any student who full attendance for all of junior cycle.
- o The silver award is for full attendance in two years of junior cycle.
- o The bronze award is for full attendance in one year.

At **Senior Cycle** we have the **Diamond and Platinum awards**.

- o The Diamond award is for any student who has full attendance for one year in senior cycle.
- o The Platinum award is full attendance in both years of senior cycle.

Any student who **full attendance throughout their school life** will be forever immortalised in a school attendance shield which has been kindly sponsored by Franic Construction.

Winners of the Gold, Diamond and Full Attendance awards will receive their prizes at the summer prize giving ceremony.



Left: Gold Awards winners for full attendance in Junior Cycle are Ana Dunne (Garrett), Deirdre Healy (Barry), Sharon Etukudo (McAuley), Shauna Brohan (McAuley), Aislinn Cooney (Reid). **Right:** Adrian Whyte (Cahill), Cliona Grall (Nelson), Matthew O'Boyle (Savage – winner of Platinum Award) and Ting Lok Chang (Savage)

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE AT THE DSPCA

This year the second year students went on a trip to the D.S.P.C.A. This trip was part of their CSPE course and they will write up a booklet about this trip for their CSPE Junior Cert exam. As usual this trip was a great success and the whole year enjoyed it.

The classes set off with their CSPE teachers to the DSPCA, which is situated in the foothills of the Dublin Mountains in Rathfarnham. As the students arrived to the DSPCA, they were greeted by one of the staff members, Miriam. She took them to the educational room where they received a talk. Miriam spoke to the students about the role of the DSPCA and how they care for animals, which range from domestic cats, dogs and rabbits to farm animals such as pigs, goats, donkeys and horses. The students also got to hear many interesting, and some heart wrenching stories about animals that the DSPCA have worked with. The students also learned a lot about the history of the DSPCA which will benefit them greatly when writing their booklet. When Miriam was finished the talk the students had an opportunity to ask her questions too. Afterwards, the students were taken on a tour of the centre where they got to see the animals that the

DSPCA are caring for. Not only did they get to see domestic animals such as cats and dogs, but they



were also shown other animals such as donkeys, pigs and chickens. The dogs and cats which they saw had fully recovered from any injury or trauma that they have been through and they are now ready to be adopted and re-homed. When the tour was over the students were then given the privilege to sponsor an animal. They decided to sponsor a pig named Arnold.

The visit complete, the students and teachers headed back to the coach for the journey home. The students thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the DSPCA. It was a great opportunity to understand how this valuable organisation takes care of ill-treated animals. It also gave an awareness of how much money is required to run such an important organisation.





We Remember

Leah Halligan

*“When you part from your friend,
you grieve not;
For that which we love most in her may be
clearer in her absence, as the mountain to the
climber is clearer from the plain.*

*And let there be no purpose in friendship
save the deepening of the spirit.
For love that seeks aught but the disclosure
of its own mystery is not love but a net cast
forth: and only the unprofitable is caught.*

And let your best be for your friend.

*If she must know the ebb of your tide,
let her know its flood also.”*

from ‘The Prophet’ by Khalil Gibran

Ratoath College says NO to Cyber Bullying

This year along with Mr. Walsh, the Transition Year students put together a video saying no to Cyber Bullying in Ratoath College.

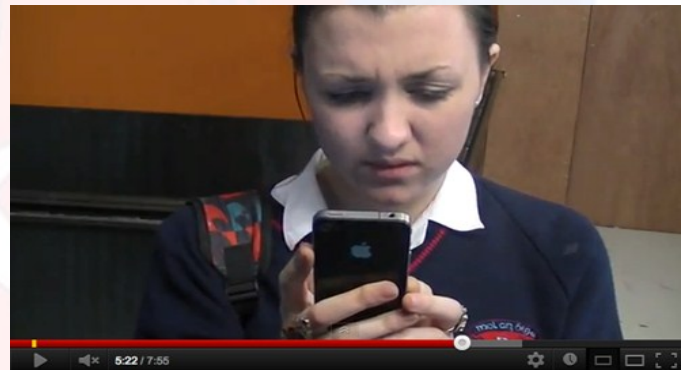
The video was written, directed and produced by both Transition Year classes and it stars student from both Rang Walsh and Rang Casey. It follows a girl (played by Sadbh Kellett) who is being harrassed via text message and in school by two other girls (played by Shauna McDonnell and Jenny Dempsey.) The video goes on and as the girls continue to harras Sadbh, she finally tells someone. In the end the Police are involved and both girls are seen getting into a police car and being driven off at the end of the video.



It also contains facts about Cyber Bullying, and simple ways in which it can be prevented. It gives tips and



websites that specialize in dealing with Cyber Bullying and it also shows students how to block or report someone for bullying on facebook. The video took a few weeks to make and it can be found on the school website or on YouTube by searching 'RC Says NO to cyber bullying'.



Green Schools

The Green schools committee

have had another fantastic year. As a committee we have grown in strength with a number of new comers.

This year we focused on our new flag which will be "Energy ". We have been busily informing the school on environmental issues with weekly messages at assembly, website updates and classroom signs. It is an important focus for Greens Schools to keep the school informed and we will continue to do so. As a committee we our currently undergoing an audit on the consumption of energy and examining means of cutting back.

After last year's performance and achieving our green flag we are still very much committed to



maintaining our policies on litter. As you can imagine we as a Green Schools are faced with challenges and as a vibrant committee we will ensure our school stays green.

Keep Ratoath College Beautiful!

MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

TOM'S TOGARIFIC OPEN NIGHT

On 5th March 2012 the school held our annual **open night** for all incoming first years. They all came and had a look around our school.

The open night is a chance for all the incoming into the school to have a chance to look around. They arrive and are greeted into the school by the principal and are assigned a guide to show them around the school, which is shaped in a question mark—?.

The guides are there to answer any questions that the students have. They also brought them on a tour of the school showing them all the different classes and the different subjects on offer. They give them their opinion on what they think is good about the school and the subjects they chose.

The new students got the chance to look around the building and got the chance to see what secondary school is like and how different it is. They got to see what option they wanted to chose between the 12 different options. In each of the rooms they got to talk with the teachers and in certain rooms they got to sample what they would be doing the different topics.

Sixth Class student *Tara Brazil* offers us an insight into open evening from the perspective of an incoming first year...

My First impressions of the school were that it was really colourful and bright and it looked really inviting. I was a bit nervous at first but then after a while I started to get really excited and looked



TY student Tom Gannon gets into the spirit of things during open night this year

forward to it even more and more. The tour of the school was really good especially the art and home economics rooms. The guides were also really helpful and answered all the questions me and my family asked, they also knew their way around the school really well and were patient with me and my family.

Even though I didn't see all of the school I have a good idea of where some of the rooms are so that's really good. My favourite room would probably be the art room because of the pictures on the wall looked nice and colourful and I also liked Italian and home economics because of the students and teachers were really helpful and there was some lovely food!

I was really happy that I picked the subjects home economics and art because the teachers and students were really helpful in both rooms, I was pretty sure I wanted to do home economics and art but the open night really confirmed my decision for definite. I was very interested in doing Gaelic because I do it for the local team. I was also going to try horse riding as it seemed interesting. I thought the open night was a great success and really helped me and my friends understand the surprise that is secondary school.



On the 17th of August 2011, the previous 6th year classes received their LC results.

Sarah Healey with her parents Ger and Flor on results day.



It was a beautiful, sunny morning as students arrived up at the school, not without some last minute nerves.

"All those months of hard work came down to this, I'm just so glad the wait is over! I'm delighted with my results" commented one student.

These were RC's 2nd group of 6th years to complete their Leaving Cert and scored fantastic results. It was also Ratoath College's first year to have a LCA class collecting their results.



There was a high number of 'A' grades in subjects such as Construction Studies, Business and English. The LCVP students received in total, 18 distinctions. The LCA classes received both wonderful and well earned results, including 7 distinctions and 10 merits.

(Left to right) Cheryl Kiely, Sarah Healey and Eoin O'Connor alongside principal Ms. Ní Bhróithe

A special mention and congratulations goes to Eoin O'Connor and Sarah Healy for being the highest scoring male and female student in 2011's Leaving Cert Examination. Further congratulations go to Cheryl Kiely who was also one of the highest scoring students of 2011.



Former 6th years receiving their results on the day



Wood You Believe It?

Ratoath College student Dáire Gannon achieves highest grade in the country for Woodwork

A huge well done and congratulations to Transition Year student Dáire Gannon who scored the highest marks in the country for his Junior Certificate Woodwork exam and project.

Out of a total of 15,168 students who sat the



exam last June, Dáire scored the highest overall mark in the whole of Ireland.

This is a huge honour for Ratoath College and a huge individual honour for the Transition Year student. A huge well done also to Dáire's woodwork teacher, Mr. Horan, who guided Dáire to this success over the past three years.

By Peter Byrne and Conor Cunningham

Dáire also met with Ciarán Cannon the Minister for Training and Skills and Padraig Cawley the Chairperson of the TechnoTeachers Awards in NUI Galway.

They really appreciated Dáire's work and efforts in the subject of woodwork, "Dáire's,



RESOUNDING RESULTS

By Tom Eiffe



The weather on the day was a possibly a good omen for what was to come for the students awaiting their **Junior Cert Results** on September 14th. The sun was out in full force and may have helped ease the mood of the nervous students.

It was such a glorious day that the staff decided that the students would receive their results outside the main entrance.

The students were all given a brown envelope containing their results and there was many uneasy looks upon their faces.

Then came the call for the students to open their envelopes and with that came a mixed reaction from all present.

"I am absolutely delighted with myself and I never thought I would get such good results"

Tim Ryan— 11 A's

The general conclusion from staff and parents was that these results were indeed astounding. One fact that amazed all was how every single student passed their Junior Certificate which of course includes every single student passing in maths. In

fact, 60% of our students took maths at higher level, well above the national average of 45%.

Standout results on the day included:

Tim Ryan with 11 A's

Jenny Dempsey 10 A's

Dáire Gannon 9 A's

It should be noted that Dáire Gannon had the best Junior Certificate Woodwork result in the country.



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

After the results were received the students were very excited as they were then going on a trip to Funtasia in Drogheda where they would be undertaking a numerous amount of activities including "Ultimate Sky Climb" and bowling.

The "Ultimate Sky Climb" was not for the faint-hearted as it was an obstacle course set 15 metres above the ground, including a zip slide, traverse wall, hanging logs, jigsaw, swinging rungs, swinging platforms, a cargo net, a Burma bridge and rope ladders!

The bowling was a hotly contested event with many skilled bowlers players but bowlers of the mediocre variety played too.

Overall, it was a highly enjoyed outing and it also let people not too happy with their results to take their mind off it for a few hours.

That evening, the students celebrated with family and friends and were in bright and early for school the next day.

"It was good bant"

Gytautas Sikarskas

"Unbelievable fun was had by everyone"

Michael Leonard-Higgins



POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

IT'S BEEN A BUSY YEAR FOR THE College.

STUDENT COUNCIL, *WRITES EOIN JOYCE*

2011-2012 has been an exceptionally busy but successful year for the Student Council. Elections took place in September for class representatives from 2nd – 6th Year. A new officer board was elected; Chairperson: Yasmin Halpin, Vice-Chairperson: Andrew Checkley, Secretary: Eoin Joyce, PRO: James Dervan.

The Student Council meet in Room 1 every 2nd Tuesday. The Secretary emails the minutes from

This year, the student council have campaigned on a number of issues. Eoin Joyce, Cathal Moore and Louise Foley held meetings with the School Management and Parents Association representatives to discuss the canteen.

The ISSU (Irish Second Level Students Union) is an organisation which represents second level students in Ireland. The ISSU have been an invaluable support to the Ratoath College Student Council this year.



the previous meeting to all members so everyone has a record of items discussed at meetings. Meetings are always very engaging and fuelled with debate and discussion on various issues affecting students in the school.

A number of significant events took place this year. Members of our Student Council were chosen to work with the ISSU to advise the Minister for Education on possible new names for the new Junior Cert due to start in 2014. Four of our members; Yasmin Halpin, Darragh Hoare, Andrew Checkley and Lucy O'Doherty were invited by the ISSU to Áras An tUachtarain for a reception with Ireland's new President Michael D. Higgins. At the ISSU AGM at Easter, Mark Caffrey was elected as Equality Officer. Mark will sit on the ISSU Officer

Board and will represent all students of Ratoath

All Students are urged to become members of the ISSU – Log on to www.issu.ie.

All members of the student council are extremely grateful to Ms. O'Neill and Ms. Quinn for their tireless commitment to the student council. Everyone appreciates the time they give up to facilitate the student council.

If any student is interested in becoming a student council representative next year, the process is entirely democratic! Elections take place in Caomhnóir classes and students vote if there is more than one candidate. Being on the student council is fantastic for your CV!

The Student Council would like to wish best of luck to all students doing the Junior and Leaving Cert Exams. We hope all students and staff have a great summer and a safe one also!

MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

THE I.S.S.U. AGM



By Mark Caffrey

During the Easter holidays the I.S.S.U. (Irish Second-level Students Union) held their annual general meeting in the department of education and skills in Dublin. Mark Caffrey, Yasmin Halpin and Emma Dempsey represented our students..

This year's AGM was focused on the development of the organisation, both in the past 4-5 years and for the future. The creation of the ISSU was in a sense a rebirth and renovation of the former U.S.I., Leanne Caulfield and Niall Deheany told the story to the collapse of the U.S.I to the delegates and how it was felt that a new body needed to be set up to act as a voice of second level students in Ireland.

Amongst those who were speaking to delegates were James Doorley (Assistant Director, NYCI), Anne Looney (CEO, NCCA), Sally-Anne Kinahan (Assistant General Secretary, ICTU), Jillian Van Turnhout (Independent Senator and chaired the meeting also) and last but not least the minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn T.D. The minister's address was one of the most important and the ISSU was very glad that it was getting recognition for its role in helping to develop the education system in Ireland. Now as the AGM was focussed on development, the speech the minister gave was also.

We in the ISSU are very glad that the minister hopes to make the organisation a partner in education working with

teachers and the department itself by next year if we were to increase our membership to above the 51% mark of second-level schools nationwide.

Of course the National Student Executive elections were taking place at the AGM too; students from all across the nation put their names on the ballot paper and gave a 3 minute speech to everyone at the AGM. Mark Caffrey was running for Equality Officer and Yasmin Halpin was running for secretary. Both speeches were well written and spoken with very convincing arguments for electing each to their positions. However, Yasmin was narrowly beaten with stiff competition of 7 other nominee's. On the bright side Mark Caffrey was successfully elected as the Equality Officer, and he now is a member of the N.S.E. for one year. This will be the first time we in the school have someone on the N.S.E. and Mark is one of only 2 junior students on it, as well as being the youngest person on the executive.

Two out of three motions suggested by the students of this school were passed at the AGM as well as ones from other schools. The motions passed from our school were increases in the teaching of CSPE and making it more detailed and also making modern language and gaeilge classes to become more interactive. The latter was spoken before in the day and future students will be using online flip lessons particularly for languages. As a part of education reform the TY course will be revised, the junior cert. renamed with smaller courses but more subjects and last but not least... Classes will be made longer!!! Don't worry, none of us will have to go through that but you can give the good news to your brothers and sisters in primary school.



Ratoath College's Mark Caffrey among delegates at the ISSU AGM at the Department of Education & Skills in April.

DEFINITELY NOT A PAIN IN THE ÁRAS!

Student Council members meet
President Higgins on a visit to
the Áras **writes Lucy
O'Doherty**

On the 29th of February I visited Michael D. Higgins in the Áras with Ms. O'Neill And 3 other students, Darragh Hoare, Andrew Checkley and Yasmin Halpin. We arrived there at 11:30 and we had lovely refreshments—tea and scones.

Michael D. then came out for us to meet him. We got to take some photos with him then he had to go for a meeting. We got a lovely tour from John Grennan. We saw most of the ground floor.

We all got to sit on a priceless sofa, from Russia, it was made in the 1400s.

In the entrance hall there was a magnificent



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mahogany wine cooler. It was designed by Francis Johnston in 1810. It was built in the 19th century by Dublin cabinet-makers. In the State Reception Room, the centrepiece was the ceiling. It's a plaster coat of a Lanfranchini panel from Riverstown House.

The carpet was made in Donegal to the design of Raymond Mc Grath. It depicts the rising phoenix from the flames and the four heads on each of the corners represents the riverine figures of James Grandon's custom house.

The State Drawing Room is part of the original house built in 1751. The chandelier is made from brass.

The council of State Room was built in 1751 and is mostly used for receptions but it was originally a dining room.

Áras an Uachtaráin is now officially the home of Michael D. Higgins and is open to the public every Saturday. I really enjoyed being in the Áras because it had never dawned on me about the people who had passed through the doors of this famous building before me.

Thanks to the ISSU for the invitation, to Ms. O'Neill for driving us and to John Grennan for the tour!

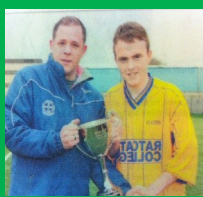


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66 SPORT



**ALL-IRELAND
GLORY FOR
FIRST TIME**



**U17 SOCCER
TEAM TAKE
LEINSTER
TITAN**



**HURLERS
CLINCH
FIRST
CROWN**

THE BATTLE OF HAWKFIELD

RATOATH'S VALIANT HEROES SECURE ALL-IRELAND GLORY FOR THE FIRST TIME

Ratoath College 1-12

Coláiste Cill Mhantáin 0-04

All-Ireland Voc. Schools Senior 'B' Football Final.

Hawkfield Centre of Excellence, Newbridge, Co Kildare.

Saturday 24th March 2012.

Hawkfield Centre of Excellence was an appropriate venue for this game; not because of the admittedly sterling facilities on offer at Kildare GAA's training and development HQ, but rather because of the connotations it evokes: the Hawk – one of nature's most skilled hunters, stalking its prey from above before pouncing in the blink of an eye and leaving nothing behind to betray its magnificent presence. The performance of Ratoath's heroes very much echoed the illustrious beast that leant its name to the final venue – fast, focussed and clinical.



The day began in beautiful sunny conditions for the Ratoath boys as Ratoath GAA Club hosted the Heroes for a light brunch. Bedecked resplendently in their newly acquired, Louis Copeland designed match-day outfits, they reminded one of the famously dressed Liverpool FA Cup finalists of 1996. After their semi-final demolition of St

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Brendan's of Belmullet, the chief concern of Ballinlough a week previously, was in the form of bainisteoirí Qualter and Carey – as well as the his life. masses of supporters gathered for the send-off – was complacency.

"I hope to God they're not taking this for granted" commented one anxious partisan, "these Wicklow boys will be out for blood".

Out for blood they were. After suffering the ignominy of Leinster Final defeat, the amalgamated might of Coláiste Cill Mhantáin were frothing at the mouth as they ran through their punishing warm-up routine. Rumour had it the Wicklow backroom team had decorated the match day dressing room with images of Ratoath's post game celebrations to focus the aggression and anger of their players.

The mood in the Ratoath dressing room was considerably calmer – too calm one thought. Were these boys really up for this? As Qualter & Carey left the players behind for their traditional final dressing room huddle, worry and doubt were etched on their faces.

As the players emerged into the fiery cauldron of the main arena, clad in a changed strip of all Gold, the capacity crowd erupted. Qualter and Carey exchanged a brief smile for they knew their 16th man, that had made such a difference in

"...the Ratoath keeper leapt high with the energy of a salmon starting its journey upstream to spawn..."

Conditions under foot couldn't have been better, with the sand-based pitch freshly cut. The wind, however, could easily make the difference. Frantic calls to Met Éireann confirmed record wind speeds for a south Kildare springtime. Carefully designed big-day-out hair styles fell by the way side, flags struggled to cling to their poles and one particularly slim child was tied securely to a roof column in the stand for fear of blowing away. This was the wind the Heroes would face into for the first half. Surely, damage limitation was the order of the day – keep the Wicklow lead down and hope the wind direction holds for the second half.

With the first attack of the game, these prevailing predictions seemed to be ringing true. Wicklow's big number 9 was fully 80 yards from Andy Flinter's goal when he let fly. The Ratoath backs could nought but look on in wonder as the ball sailed, straight and true as an archer's arrow, between the posts for the game's first score. Anxious encouragement was offered from the sideline: "Come on lads, heads up". How long could the Ratoath goal withstand this kind of bombardment? Had the Heroes finally met their *bête noire*?



The Ratoath College Panel on duty on All-Ireland Final day at the Hawkfield centre of excellence. **Back row (l-r):** Glenn O'Reilly, Gavin McGowan, Keith McCabe, Eoghan Doody, Eoin Halpin, Brian Joyce, David Toner, Rob Watters, Shane Clayton, Darragh Kelly, Adam Griffiths, Ross Gillen, Ger Brennan, Brian Power, Aaron O'Sullivan. **Front row (l-r):** Brian Power, Conor Ward, Joey Wallace, Conor Rooney, Brian O'Connor, Ben Newe, Eamonn Wallace, Andy Kiernan, Andy Flinter.

Moments later, more worry. A sideline near the 45 curled ominously in under Flinter's crossbar but the Ratoath keeper leapt high with the energy of a salmon starting its journey upstream to spawn and plucked the ball from the air. Battling the elements, he cleared his lines with a roar of encouragement to his beleaguered team mates.

This and the shock of going behind seemed to stun the Ratoath Heroes into action for even being behind was as anathema to them as defeat itself. The quick passing and fluid motion their committed band of followers had come to expect suddenly reappeared as Shane Clayton, outstanding at full back, began breaking up Wicklow attacks and carrying out of defence. Building from the middle, Toner and Kelly fed the forwards where the Wallace brothers and Griffiths sprang like jacks-in-the-box for the quick ball. It was less a lack of discipline and more the sheer speed of movement of the Ratoath forwards that led to Wicklow backs giving away frees, duly dispatched by Glen O'Reilly. Point after point, slowly but surely Ratoath edged into the lead.

But with the wind still very much at their backs, the Wicklow team sprang time and again into attack. It was in this phase of the game that Ratoath's final victory was assured.

Many supporters commented on the similarities with the Battle of the Bulge. Surrounded, much like the 101st Airborne in Bastogne, the Ratoath backs intercepted and beat back wave after wave of Wicklow attack. With speed and accuracy, reminiscent again of nature's Hawk, Newe and Kiernan, O'Connor and Daly frustrated the Wicklow forwards. With Clayton masterfully controlling the square and Power breaking up the middle, the Wicklow resolve seemed to fade as they went in at the break 0-7 to 0-1 down. Were it not for an outstanding display from their goalkeeper, Ratoath's lead would have been much more substantial.

After a stinging half time scolding from their coach, Wicklow burst out for the second half. But with a couple of quick scores, the thin Wicklow resistance began to crumble. The final nail in Wicklow's coffin seemed to be delivered by Rob Waters when he casually stroked a 45 over the bar. From the moment it left his boot, Watters' graceful strike was destined to score. Wicklow heads dropped. Beaten, the Wicklow players resorted to ill-discipline and it took all their courage for the Heroes to maintain their composure despite frequent provocations.

The *coup de grâce* was finally dealt by Eoin Halpin. As he expertly rounded the brilliant Wicklow keeper and slammed to ball to the next,

*"...Men who had not shed
a tear at the birth of
their children wept
openly for joy..."*

euphoric scenes erupted on the sideline and in the stand. Men who had not shed a tear at the birth of their children wept openly for joy. Those who had dared not hope could now finally accept the truth of

their fate: the All-Ireland was coming home.

At the final whistle, the stewards wisely abandoned their efforts to contain the hoards of Ratoath supporters as they poured in their thousands through the barriers and flooded on to the field to celebrate with their Heroes. For some the reality began to sink in as Conor Rooney and Andy Flinter raised the the *Corn Uí Bhroinn* aloft.

Others remain incredulous.

Balladeers and poets are already hard at work penning their records of this achievement but in reality it may take these artisans many years of labour to adequately capture the grandeur and the glory of the victory.

For those who were there to see it, one thing is certain: they will remember, forever, the day Ratoath's Heroes fought their way to glory and in blood, sweat and tears etched their names squarely into the history books as the victors of the Battle of Hawkfield.

ALL-IRELAND ODYSSEY: A Year in Pictures



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

BEWARE THE BITE OF THE UNDERDOGS!

The Ratoath College U-16 Hurlers get in on the act in the year of the underdog *writes Daragh Walsh*

It has been another exciting year in sport but it will probably known as the year of the underdogs. From Newcastle defying all the odds to be within touching distance of Champions League football to Chelsea actually getting to the Champions League final. From Darren Clarke lifting the Open Championship to Tim Tebow becoming the most celebrated American footballer in the world. Yes, it has been the year of the underdogs but one side stand much higher in achievements and that is the Ratoath College Hurling team, who not only became Meath Champions but also became North Leinster champions for the first time in the history of the school. This was some achievement for a side who didn't even compete in the tournament a year ago. Led by manager Mr Carey and captain Conor Ward, the Ratoath hurlers definitely swam into unmarked water but in the end came out victorious.

It was mid November when the hurlers took to the field to take on the might of Longwood and then Dunshaughlin in the Meath Championship. Longwood were a breeze for this side with RC putting 4-12 points on the scoreboard and Longwood hardly troubling the Ratoath defence. The final however was a different story. Ratoath underestimated the skill of Dunshaughlin and the



Rising from the fog – Midfielder Gavin McGowen beats a defender before lashing over another score.

“...the Ratoath hurlers definitely swam into unmarked water but in the end came out victorious...”

sides went in at half time with very little between them. Though from a spirited half time talk from Mr. Carey the lads came out for the second half and destroyed any Dunshaughlin hopes of silverware. And so the Meath Championship was ours.

The semi final of the North Leinster Championship then brought us to Westmeath where we played against a side from Westmeath who were full of passion and belief. Once again Ratoath were all over the opposition but we couldn't shake off the Westmeath side and we went into the break only 2 points up. Again, the spirited halftime team talk made us full of belief



Ratoath College: North Leinster U16 Hurling Champions. **Back row (l-r):** Gavin McGowan, Ciarán Phelan, ???, ???, Chris McLoughlin, Conor Duncan, Darragh Kelly, Johnny Shiels, Conor Ward, Sean O'Hanrahan, Gavin King, Shane Clayton, Glenn O'Reilly. **Front Row (l-r):** ???, ???, ???, ???, ???, David Toner, Tom Fadden, Joey Wallace, ???, Daragh Walsh.

and the Westmeath side didn't know what hit them in the second half with Ratoath running out 12 point winners.

Roll on the final!

The final took place in Dungany, Meath and the opposition for Ratoath were Ardscoil

Chiarain, Clara of Offaly.

With usual starters such as David Toner, Daragh Walsh and Glen O'Reilly missing, Ratoath had to field some of the younger lads on the panel. This though did not make a difference to their performance.

Clara got the first score of the game but Ratoath forged into the lead with a Brian Daly point and 1-1 from Darragh Kelly. A couple more points for Ratoath were then cancelled out by 2 goals from Clara which meant the sides went into the break 1

-4 to 2-1. Even though fog started to descend, it did not affect the quality of hurling. An early goal from Sean O'Hanrahan in the second half but Ratoath back in the lead but 20 minutes later the sides were level at 2-6 to 3-3. Two well taken points put them ahead with 5 minutes remaining. Ratoath heads were not down yet and after Gavin

"...one side stand much higher in achievement than any other and that is the Ratoath College Hurling team..."

King was fouled in the square, Darragh Kelly scored a goal from the penalty spot, and he then topped off the evening with another point to guarantee the victory. Full time score Ratoath 3-7 Clara 3-5.

Huge congratulations are due to Mr Carey

and his panel for this outstanding achievement. Against the odds and despite adversity, they overcame every challenge that was put in front of them and reminded all comers to beware the bite of the underdog.

Girl's Rugby Kicks Off for First Time!

For the first time ever in Ratoath College, there has started a brand new Girl's Rugby team for all girls in Junior Cycle, which in just one short year has already had huge successes and had a massive turnout for players from 1st, 2nd and 3rd year! "When I first put up the sign-up sheet, I thought that nobody would sign it... But it really



was wonderful, there were over 30 girls who wanted to join!" said Ms. Kearney, the coach and manager for the team. The team will definitely try to enter the Leinster Girl's League competition next year. She also said that they would by then have both a Senior and Junior team, with growing interest in the sport shown by girls from all year groups ever since it first started.

"...it really was wonderful, there were over 30 girls who wanted to join!"

The current team played both tag rugby and full-contact rugby- at the beginning of the year, a vote was held and overall the girls decided that contact rugby was more competitive than just tag rugby. Already they have competed in two "blitzes", one in Tallaght which happened during November, and one in Naas in April, both of which were tag rugby blitzes and in which they excelled spectacularly.

Girl's Rugby in Ireland has definitely been on the rise in popularity over the last few years; just this spring, the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) announced that there is now going to be a new Sevens Teams structure in place, due to a rising popularity and competitiveness within the sport in Ireland. They hope that this will help them to reach the IRB Rugby World Cup Sevens which are to be held in Moscow next year. Ireland has one of the most highly-dedicated and competitive women's rugby league in Europe, thanks to more publicity about the sport and a general rise in interest for playing shown by women across the country.

"Girl's Rugby in Ireland has definitely been on the rise in popularity over the last few years..."

Maybe soon, some of the girls from Ratoath will make it to the National Team and represent us in future international competitions... With girl's rugby now becoming a well-established sport in Ireland, who knows?



Members of the ladies rugby squad pose with the Heineken Cup alongside their coach, Ms Kearney.

STALLIONS FOOTBALL KICKS OFF



The Ratoath Stallions American Football squad kicked off recently, with coaches from the Irish Flag Football Association-American Football's version of Tag Rugby—visiting the school. Watch this space for more developments in the new year!



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

For the first time ever Ratoath College was involved in a First Year and Second Year league write *Gytautas Sikarskas and Daragh Walsh*.

There was a total of six teams in the league. Everyone thought that it will not be easy.

It turned out that the future of Ratoath is indeed bright as the team made light work of Dunboyne in their first game. Everyone played extremely well and they put 50 points on the board.

Their second game was an amazing encounter as Trim were destroyed by the boys in red and navy, although it was Trim's first match. Ratoath were

The Junior Rugby team had a great season this year by getting the furthest a Junior Rugby team in Ratoath has ever got before.

Their season started off way back in September with their first match in the cup against St. Mac Dara's at home. They were no match for Ratoath and we ran out 59-5 winners. From the display Ratoath gave, you knew it was going to be a good season.

Their second game was a much tougher tie against a well established rugby school, Dundalk Grammar. On a cold Monday morning, the boys made the trip north. It was a very even contest with both sides giving it every thing they had. The



asked to go easy on them, but our boys don't know how to let up and they put 40 points on the board once again.

Ratoath were doing great in the league, still undefeated and top of the table. Their third match was against Balbriggan. The match was away but the lads pulled through and won by 12 points in the end.

The biggest test yet was to come however, against fierce local rivals Ashbourne. It was an enthralling encounter, finishing 5 a piece.

The team has qualified for the final of the league and the whole school wishes them the best of luck, safe in the knowledge of another victory!

only score of the game came at the start of the second half from Robert Grall. Ratoath did go over a second time but the referee disallowed it. Full time score 5-0. Portmarnock were next for Ratoath but luckily Ratoath had home advantage. Once again it a game for the forwards. A great try from Ben Scroope put Ratoath in the lead 5-0 but just before halftime Portmarnock got a converted try to lead 7-5 at the break. The second half was very tense with both sides coming close to the try line but with 3 minutes remaining, Gavin King slotted over a penalty to put Ratoath back into the lead and in the end win the game 8-7. A fantastic win set up a semi-final game against St. Finians of Mullingar who sadly ended Ratoath's run in the cup.



**JUNIOR
RUGBY TEAMS
IN ACTION
THIS YEAR**



TWO WISE MEN...



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

THE BOYS IN NAVY AND RED STANDING STRONG



It's been a hugely successful year for the **SENIOR RUGBY** squad *write Gytautas Sikarskas and Daragh Walsh.*

The first challenge for the boys in navy and red was against their biggest rivals Ashbourne. The two teams have met before and they were going to give it all. Ratoath College was lead by Ross Gillen.

The match was hard, it was tiring for the players who were exhausted at the end. There were 3 minutes left in the game when Ashbourne went over the line, Ratoath were sure that they held up the try but the referee blew his whistle. Everyone was shocked. This made the score 12-10 to

Ashbourne. We thought that all was lost when we got a penalty just outside Ashbourne's 22 yard line. Ger Brennan took the ball to try and kick it over the bar. It

was the last play of the game, if he missed it would all be over. The ball went over the bar and Ratoath College won their first match of the season.

The school was delighted with the win against Ashbourne.

The biggest challenges were yet to come, however, as the team faced the daunting challenge of the senior Development Cup, bringing with it new and challenging opposition, as well as a the much coveted prize of a place in the senior cup.

Johnny Grall in action for the senior rugby team this year. Opposite:

Robert Waters, starting full back for the senior team.

Above: The senior rugby squad pose with the beloved head coach, Dave Nelson.



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

FIGHT FOR GLORY BEGINS!



'Choady Carr number 8, taking the ball off the back of the scrum'

The team's first match in the cup was against Dundalk Grammar. The match was really hard and the guys were loosing by half-time but there was only a score in it. The team pulled themselves together and ended up winning by a score.

The second match was against Dunboyne. The team was pumped for this match, it was at home. Dunboyne had some hard hitters but Ratoath dominated them for the whole game and the score line showed, the final score was 39-3 to Ratoath. Man of the match was Alex Coakley, who ran in a hat-trick of tries.

The school was in the quarter finals now, we had to play against Gormanstown College and

everyone wanted a win. Alex Coakley wanted a win so badly that in the first tackle of the game he landed an opposing player on the neck, which was a straight red because it was considered to be a dangerous tackle. Ratoath were down to 14 men, it was hard and it was difficult to defend with only 14 men. Once again Ratoath came away with a win, the final score was 22-14 to Ratoath.

'The best season our school has had in Rugby so far.'

The boys did well to get to the semi-finals and everyone on the team could imagine winning but it turned out the other way. The school lost by a considerable score. Everyone on the team was shocked, the players were having an off day that day. Maynooth progressed to the final of the cup. The lads made the school proud.



Left: Gerrard Brennan, scrum-half, takes a penalty to win the game for Ratoath. **Right:** Richard Fagan, in the air, fights for the ball in the lineout.

MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ



NO BASKET CASES ON RATOATH TEAM

This year was a good year overall for the girls in basketball writes Shauna McDonnell.

The U16s and the U19s teams started training before Christmas and had intense and tiring training sessions in order to achieve what they wanted to achieve....the CUP!!! The U16s played with great style and made it into the semi-final against Nober, known to be a tough team. On the day, everybody was excited and couldn't wait to get on the court. Unfortunately, they fell at the last hurdle and lost by a few points losing out on a place in the final.

The U19s showed great enthusiasm in every game they played which included games against Dunshaughlin and Dunboyne. They, also, made it into the semi-final against Moyne, a Longford team. After a long bus journey, the Ratoath team were tired but raring to go.

They battled very hard to make it into the final but it was just not enough and they were defeated by a few points. After the match, Celine, one of the players, said...

'We tried our best but on the day we just weren't up to scratch.'



Team-talk at half-time



The U19s in action

After Christmas, it was the first and second years time to shine! The first years were first to have a match and played Dunboyne. They played excellent and everybody could see that they had potential to win the cup! They were through to the semi-final against Carolan College and the tension was rising as the game began. The first quarter didn't look too good for Ratoath as they were losing by a lot of points but they came back to finish with only a few points in the difference losing out on their chance in the final. One player showed great potential for the future and exclaimed...

'Well there's always next year!'

The second years were up next and played other teams in Meath and made it to yet another semi-final. They played great in the first quarter but as the game went on, Monaghan, the opposing team, came back and dominated the last three quarters. In the end the girls basketball teams lost out to reaching four finals but have high hopes for next year. Overall it was a good year for the girl's basketball but unluckily there was no silverware. Hopefully next year, we will see them bring home a cup ... or two!

CHARLIE COOMBES: IRELAND'S ANSWER MAGIC JOHNSON

International basketball player Charlie Coombes is on the U16 Irish team. He will play in the European championships in the summer and looks to have a very bright future. He took time out to answer some of the questions of 66 reporters at large Joey Wallace and Tom Gannon.

Q1. How did you first get involved in basketball?

-I first got involved in basketball as a child in Morocco because one of the coaches in a basketball camp saw me watching and offered me a chance to play. I have loved it ever since.

Q2 . How many years have you been playing basketball ?

-I first got involved at the age of four so 11 years ago.

Q3 what has been your biggest achievements in the sport?

-My biggest achievement in the sport throughout my life has been making the Irish national team.

Q4. What are your future goals ?

-My future goals in my basketball career are to play first division NCAA in the states (college basketball)

Q5. What does this sport mean to you?

This sport means a lot to me because it's the thing I am best at.

Q6. Can you see Irish basketball getting competitive with the big countries like USA and Spain?

-No because there is no senior national basketball team in Ireland.

Q7. Who is your inspiration in the sport and why ?

-Magic Johnson is my inspiration to play the game because he was the first player I saw play on TV

and I was amazed at what he could do and I wanted to do it as well.

Q8.What is the worst thing about playing basketball and the best thing ?

-The worst thing about playing basketball is that it involves a lot time and commitment and you have to sacrifice a lot in order to play the sport. The best part about playing it that you have a lot of fun and it is good to see yourself progress.

Q9. Do you train a lot ?

-I train almost everyday. But that is what I have to do in order to become better!



HEROES ALL

The 2011/12 soccer season saw Ratoath College crowned as U17 Leinster Champions. The team were on fire all season and consistently produced the performances and results which would see them into the final for the second year in a row.

Never let it be said that Ratoath College are a beaten team, for their heroics in this years historic cup run shattered any such illusion. The 2011/12 season U17 Soccer Team of Ratoath College will go down in the history books as heroes, one and all. Right from the first match of the campaign, it was clear that this was a very special group of players. They seemed to have everything required to become champions. They played their football freely and with a spirit and determination that would prove to be unbreakable. The Ratoath lads campaign was an old style smash and grab story of epic proportions. No matter who they faced, they had one goal in mind – to banish the ghosts of the previous years Leinster Cup Final defeat.

After a challenging campaign, mostly on the road, the final itself did materialise for the Ratoath lads. They had spoken about reaching the final before a ball had been kicked back in September and thanks to their undefeated run, they found themselves preparing for it against an excellent St. Banildus College side from Stilorgan.

There were nerves and a few injury scares in the run up to the final, but fate would have it that everyone was available for selection on the day of the final.



As it turned out on that faithful day in Leixlip, it was more a battle royale than a final as the legendary powers of Royal Meath recovery were alive and well with the Ratoath heroes recovering from a two-goal deficit to clinch the FAI Schools Leinster Junior Boys title with a truly stunning 3-2 victory.

Leinster Cup Final – Match Report

After falling 0-2 behind inside 32 minutes, the odds were very much stacked against Ratoath College and everyone in attendance that day believed that St. Banildus would see out the rest of the game as a matter of formality. However, those who knew the Ratoath team knew better, for we had seen this teams remarkable depth of spirit in previous matches on the journey to the final and we knew that it wasn't going to be a day for the formalities.

The coaching team on the day of Mr. Walsh and Mr. Murtagh were feverishly working out how best to stop the Banildus system and they toyed around with a few ideas before settling on switching the wide players around in order to provide stimulus to the Ratoath attack. Sure enough the team pulled together and managed to pull a goal back six minutes before the break through excellent full-back Joey Wallace. Joey's goal was straight out of the Roy of the Rovers dramatics manual such was the silky skill required for the tight finish to score. With a few minutes to half time, hope had been restored.

The Ratoath team had weathered the initial storm and had seen off the worst that St. Banildus could throw at them and when the half time whistle came, the Ratoath lads were eager to regroup and prepare for what would be a truly historic second half.

Coaches Mr. Walsh and Mr. Murtagh spoke and offered the team their thoughts at half time. It was clear to both coaches that something was brewing in the hearts of the players. This Ratoath team had not come this far to get to this day, only to be beaten. The team had a motivation and a drive, which, both coaches knew couldn't be matched by any opposition. A few text messages and phonecalls back to



Ratoath College Soccer Academy Director of Football, Mr. McAuley, steadied the ship during the half time interval and the lads were ready for action. When the whistle sounded for the second half, the Ratoath lads immediately seized the initiative and were playing like men possessed.

The St. Banildus team had no answer as they were being brushed aside. Sure enough our lads were level 12 minutes into the second half when Jason Tyndall converted a penalty after one of the St. Banildus defenders had been sent-off for making a deliberate goal saving handball on the line. By now the tide had well and truly turned and suddenly Ratoath Colleges' 'Mission Impossible' task began to take on more of a 'Die Hard' tone.

With a numerical advantage now and the scores level, our lads piled on the pressure in the final 28 minutes and produced wave after wave of attack on the opposition goal. David Toner, who had an excellent cup run was stood down to allow for the fresh legs of Mark Meyler and his introduction stemmed any lingering hopes that the Banildus boys had of a recovery. It was only a matter of time before Ratoath College delivered the knock-out punch and that knock-out punch came in the form of a superb headed goal by Glen Armstrong goal on 80 minutes. Glens killer goal would prove to be the winning goal. The game was up for St. Banildus. Ratoath College had completed a dramatic and heroic turnaround and all that was left was to see the game out and send Captain Eoghan Doody up to collect the Cup.

The final 10 minutes provided a pulsating finish to an outstanding game during which the Ratoath side served up some teak tough football combined with excellent passages of silky skills and golden chances.

For much of the opening period of the match, St Benildus looked the superior outfit, but class always prevails and Ratoath College were destined be the winners on that day in Leixlip.

It was surely a final to remember for the squad, teachers and students who were in attendance. Having suffered the heartbreak of a Leinster Cup Final defeat last year, Ratoath College were finally and deservedly about to be crowned champions of Leinster. There were emotional scenes at the end for both sets of players with the Ratoath College lads clearly delighted to have performed to their best and the St. Banildus

players and teachers were clearly and vocally angered by their teams demise.

To select a man of the match would be to diminish the contribution of every Ratoath College player on the pitch that day. Each and every player was superb in every department. There were however a few notable moments during the match, which will always be remembered. Midway through the second half, the emphatic Jonathan Clarke gave an example of his skills with a long range effort which brought the best out of their keeper. Likewise how could it go without mention that throughout the 90 minutes playmaker Eoghan Doody displayed his outrageous array of passing talent combined with two excellent free kicks (both of which came off the crossbar).

Joey Wallaces wonder-goal late in the first half was the stand-out moment of the entire first half and his goal started the fightback will that go down in the annals of Ratoath soccerlore as being the stuff of dreams.

Ben "The Rock" Newe out-muscled, out-thought and out-played his opposing number

throughout the entire match and was justly rewarded with one of the biggest applauses at the final whistle.

Jay Tyndall held his nerve from the penalty spot to restore parity early in the second half and ensured that the fightback continued apace while being a constant thorn in the side of the Banildus defenders and keeper throughout the match.

And what of the match winner, Glenn Armstrong who showed on the day that not only is he a giant of the defence, but that he's not half bad up front either.

Shane Clayton, Glenn O'Reilly, Mark Meyler and Goal keeper Dan O'Sullivan proved as dependable as ever throughout and made no small contribution to Ratoath Colleges most successful day ever on the soccer pitch.

For this team, the objective was never about doing their best. The objective was about being the best and each member of the team made history in doing so. The discipline, spirit and guile shown by the players of the U17 soccer team of 2011/12 will forever be remembered as the key to becoming Leinster Champions for the first time in our history.

Coaches Mr. Walsh, Mr. Murtagh and Mr. McAuley would like to thank the lads for their hard work and commitment throughout the season.



Eye of the Tiger!

Michelle McLoughlin interviews Transition Year student and rising golf star, Matthew O'Neill McPartlin

How long have you been playing golf?

I've been playing golf for four years.



How did you first become interested in golf?

I was watching the movie Happy Gilmore, and I thought it looked like fun so I gave it a go!

How often do you train?

I train everyday, from when I get home from school until nine o'clock. I go to Carton House, and during the summer for ten or eleven hours a day.



What achievements are you most proud of to date?

I got a hole in one in the President's Prize, and I won €250!

What is your sporting goal?

I want to become the best golfer in the world. And win the Masters !

How do you intend on pursuing golf in the future?

I practise constantly, hours and hours of practicing daily! And I'm going to the Darren Clarke Golf School next year in Antrim, which will be brilliant.

Who is your sporting idol?

Tiger Woods. He's some man. What a Man!

What's the worst injury you've gotten from golf?

Probably a neck injury. And I get constant shoulder injuries and my left knee.....

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

In Forbes magazine. With Playboy bunnies!

Pitch and Putt team gets the Birdies

THE All-Ireland venue for the pitch and putt was set. All that was needed was a good performance from the Ratoath College team, comprising Matthew McPartlin, Jack McDonald and Keith McCabe.



(Photo—The world class signature 7th Hole at the All Ireland Venue.

The pitch and putt season began with 10 budding teams in Laytown P&P course, where 4 teams qualified for the Leinster Competition. From the Leinster Competition, only one team from Ratoath College emerged victorious, the team comprising Matthew McPartlin, Jack McDonald and Keith McCabe.

“It was good crack hitting those balls round the place”-Matthew McPartlin

The All Ireland Competition was tough to say the least, and the boys did Ratoath College proud, shooting -3(Matthew McPartlin), +6(Keith McCabe), and +8 (Jack McDonald) respectively. The team came in 8th place in Ireland, just 6 shots shy of the lead. Fair Play Lads!





Sports Day 2011

Sports Day this year, for the first time ever, was held in September. As usual, It was a huge success. The day was organized by the P.E Department mainly and was split into 5 different sections, each year group moving together and competing among one another. Ultimately It was a team competition, each class making up one team, but in many of the events students competed by themselves to gain points for their class. It was a great day for all involved.



Year Group	Winner
1st Years	Carey?
2nd Years	O'Shuiceagh?
3rd Years	Garret?
4th/5th Years	Walsh
6th Years	Nelson?



The 5 sections this year were :

Team Sports (Football and Rugby)

ATHLETICS (RACES ON THE TRACK)

Individual Events and fun games

Individual Athletics (Jumps and throws)

THE 1000 MILE RUN AND BOUNCY CASTLES



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

Ratoath College Athletics

Running on Full Power

It's been another successful year in track and field for Ratoath College. Well done too the many medal winners in competition this year.



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

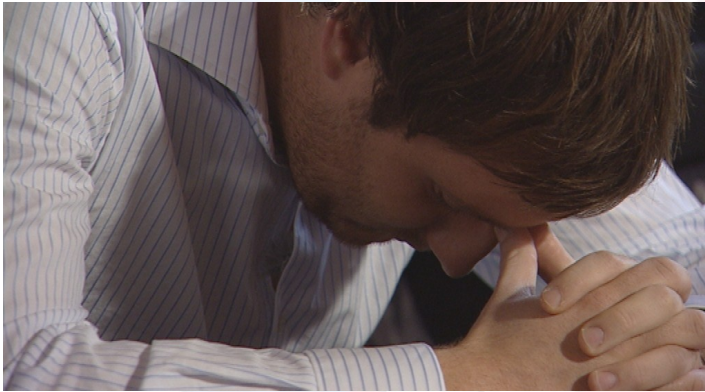
Teacher's 7-a-Side



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ



This year as part of a new government initiative to encourage more people to speak Irish, TG4 set up a new TV show called An G-Team and our own Mr Ó'hEochaidh led his town of Donabate into the battle.



It challenged traditionally non-Gaeltacht communities against each other for a chance to win €40,000. The challenge was for the communities to start using their native tongue in their daily routines. It was the biggest Irish language competition in history with over 120 towns from all over Ireland entering to win the top prize.

Domhnach Beatach Abú!!



As part of the first round each town had to host their very own G-Day where the community had to try and speak Irish for a day. Donabate held a market which was all through Irish, including stalls, street performers and Irish song and music.

They came flying through the first round and into the next round. In the second round the two towns had to make a leaflet outlining what they there is to do in the community and Mr Ó'hEochaidh overcame all the obstacles and problems with the printers to get through to the final (only after ripping the opponents brochure!)

After putting a tremendous effort into their radio show broadcast in Irish as part of the final they narrowly were beaten by Lisvernane from Tipperary. Mí-ádh Máistir Ó'Eochaidh !!



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

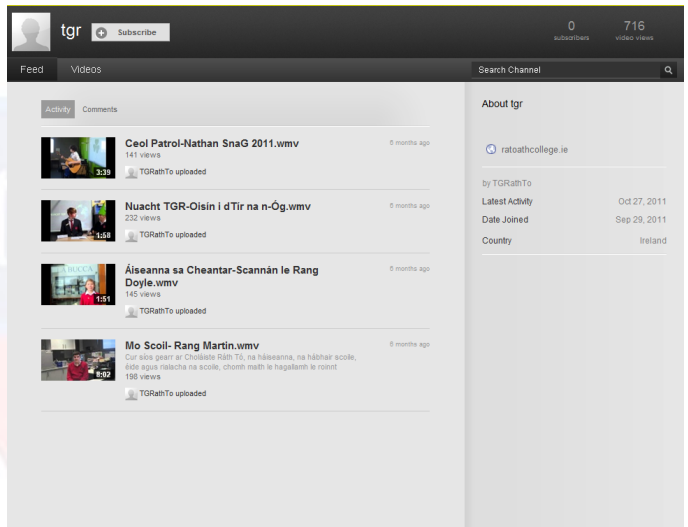
The G-Team Wasn't Enough...

There's been a lot of ambition floating around in the air this year as Mr. O' hEochaidh appears on national television. But just when you think he's had his fill, Mr. O' hEochaidh pairs up with Ms. Kilrane to create TGR.

For those of you that haven't seen the signs, TGR is our own Irish committee for the students to actively engage in Irish through different means such as music. A post-box was set up outside Mr. O' hEochaidh's room for student applications and ideas for TGR. A whopping number crammed into room 4 for TGR's first meeting. A head committee was set up of the best Irish speakers whilst everyone else took on a role they would prefer such as working on camera, singing as Gaeilge and much more.

No sooner had it begun were videos being shot up onto YouTube such as our head boy Matthew reading 'An Nuacht' and Nathan Mannion singing 'I'm Yours' as Gaeilge.

"It was a great opportunity but really nerve-wracking! The judges were really kind." - Karen McCabe



Lo and behold Mr. O' hEochaidh had another Irish competition up his sleeve. This time the prize of three thousand euro was up for grabs. The judges came the week of the musical and some of the committee who were taking part in the production being the dedicated souls they were (that or the teachers had promised them something in return!) marched in at 8:00 to greet the judges. The meeting went fantastic and everyone was proud of themselves.

Unfortunately we didn't win but nonetheless it was a stepping stone for TGR and the judges had nothing but good comments for the committee of TGR. Keep an eye out for TGR next year!

Sadbh Kellett

MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

The BT YOUNG SCIENTIST 2012

This year Ratoath College was lucky enough to have a student, Mark Caffrey of Rang Kelly in second year, competing at the **BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition**.

Mark's project was entitled "What Influences a Young Person's Political Opinions", and his project was a part of the "Social and Behavioural Sciences" section. There were 194 exhibitors in this section and just over 500 exhibits on display at the R.D.S. in Dublin. Just like every year there were a total of 4 main categories in the exhibition, these included "Social and Behavioural Sciences", "Chemical, Physical and Mathematical Sciences", "Biological and Ecological Sciences" and of course "Technology".

The competition is 49 years old now and began in 1965 in Dublin. The exhibition is hosted annually inside R.D.S. and it draws crowds not just from Ireland but also abroad. For example some of the many visitors' to Mark's exhibit came from many foreign countries including Britain, Germany, France, Australia and the United States of America (Iowa to be specific). This year's competition was very special for one highly important reason, which is because Dublin was awarded the title "European City of Science".

Students from all over Ireland compete in the competition, both north and south of the border. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of projects in the exhibition came from Dublin and Cork. Believe it or not but one school (Kinsale Community College) had 17 out of 22 initial entries in the exhibition making them the most represented school this year.

As part of his project, many people from across Co Meath VEC schools took part in Mark's survey. A total of 290 gross with a final net total of 232 responses were counted, many from students in this school. This survey provided plenty of



interesting information for Mark's project and it in many cases changed how young people's political views should be seen.

The fascinating results of the project also were cross-referenced by case studies and the opinions of many politicians from across the political spectrum (excluding Sinn Féin due to the fact that their deputies didn't respond at all). Case studies included "Monopoly", for example did you know that it was invented by a true socialist who wanted to teach people the evils of capitalism! (Obviously it didn't achieve its goals). The humorous part of the story is that by the time she had made a couple of new editions of the game she couldn't afford the patents. So in the end another man stole the idea off her, sold it to Parker Brothers and became a millionaire!!

Marks project had shown that parents have a huge influence on young people's opinions and that young people aren't as left wing as you might think. For example both communism and conservatism poled equal at 9%. This also shows the vast majority of young people are either moderate on the left or right or are centrists.

Many politicians had visited Mark's exhibit and they were very keen on getting copies of the results of the survey taken by students. Of course it was probably only a general interest. God forbid that they would have wanted them to try and see if they could get some more votes in the next election!

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE AWARENESS WEEK



Mr Qualter acts as mediator while Ms Prendergast & Mr Ball do battle in the kitchen with Ms Ní Bhróithe & Ms Heaney.

Ratoath College held its **very first Healthy Lifestyles Awareness Week this year**. The week kicked off with the **Ready Steady Cook Challenge** at lunchtime on Monday. Principal Máire Ní Bhróithe and Mr Kevin Heaney went head to head with Deputy Principal Oonagh Prendergast & Mr Derek Ball in a cook-off in the kitchen! It was a very close contest and after careful examination of video evidence, Ms Prendergast & Mr Ball were declared winners and presented with the awards at assembly on Tuesday morning.

Wednesday morning all students were wide awake in assembly after a refreshing walk to school. The **Walk on Wednesday** campaign meant all students had to walk to school, no parents cars were allowed enter the grounds of the school. This was a great success, not only did it help reduce traffic congestion and help the environment, it also meant students got some of the 60 minutes physical activity they need each day!

Throughout the week students had the opportunity to take time out from their busy timetables and reflect in the prayer room at

lunchtime. Alternative activities such as yoga and yogalates were offered to senior students by local instructors who gave freely of their time. Activities such as Chess and Sudoku were organised at lunchtime to stimulate the young minds. The canteen was careful to ensure that all food served that week included lots of vegetables where possible and 5-a-day was further promoted by the canteen by providing free fruit on Tuesday. The week came to an end with a walk around the village for all First Year students. They had the unique opportunity to leave the school grounds at lunchtime and get some fresh air and exercise. All in all the week was a great success. Students were reminded through a variety of fun activities that healthy living is much more than just eating healthy, one must look after their body and mind.



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Monday 14th of November until Friday the 18th was host to Ratoath College Arts Week writes Zoe Brady.

Arts week strove to represent all aspects of the arts, world culture included. And started off at Monday's assembly with three students reading a poem in their native Polish to the school.

Tuesday brought a greatly anticipated art exhibition, in which art from students of junior and senior cycle was displayed at the Venue, the community centre found at the heart of the village.

During the evening, the different areas of artwork were judged and a few which stood out from an all-round outstanding collection were awarded. Winners on the night included Ciara Egan (a previous 6th year), Sadbh Kellet (TY), Emily McGlynn (2nd year), Danielle Chapman (2nd year), Lauren Mc Conway (5th year), Lauren Crawley (5th year) and Breanne Nolan (6th year).

"I 'm just so highly impressed, by the standard of work on show".

The exhibition was officially opened by local artist John Fitzgerald, who was "highly impressed by the standard of work on show". The exhibition remained in the Venue until the end of the week.

A 2nd year student Emily McGlynn who has displayed amazing artistic skill was awarded the honor of having her artwork displayed that the Meath VEC headquarters. A special thank you for the success of Ratoath College's first ever art exhibition at the Venue goes to the art teachers, Ms. Mortimer and Ms. Daly. But also a huge thank you goes out to Ms. Kilrane, Ms. O'Donohue, Ms. Richardson and Ms. Barry who helped with the running of the art exhibition.



Ms. Daly presenting Emily McGlynn's work to Meath VEC.

Singing with Glee!



Members of the Junior Music Group perform at this year's Talent Show

The Junior Music Group had another very successful year, **writes Naoise Collins.**

Previously known as the Choir or the Glee Club, the Junior Music Group has had a whirlwind of a year. In September, most of last year's members were joined by a huge influx of eager first year students ready to join the group.

We basically started to prepare for the school talent show as soon as we returned to school. When it came around to show time in October we had an amazing night where we performed a cover of, "Every Tear is a Waterfall" by *Coldplay*. Myself and Emmeline O'Malley played along on the guitar while Ms. Cullen played the Piano.

"A huge influx of eager first year students"

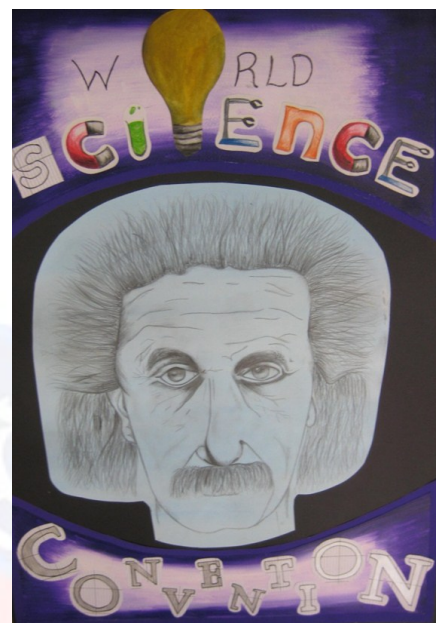
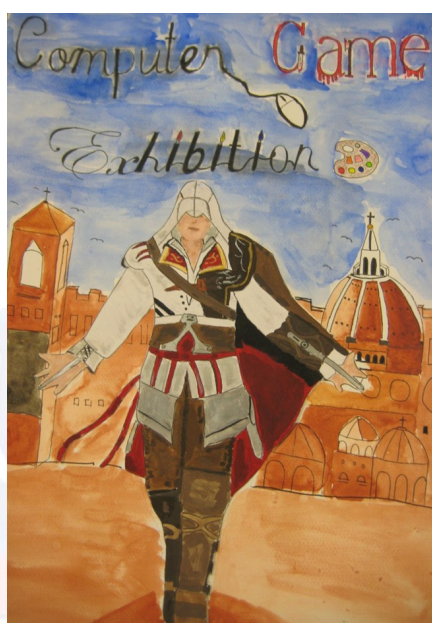
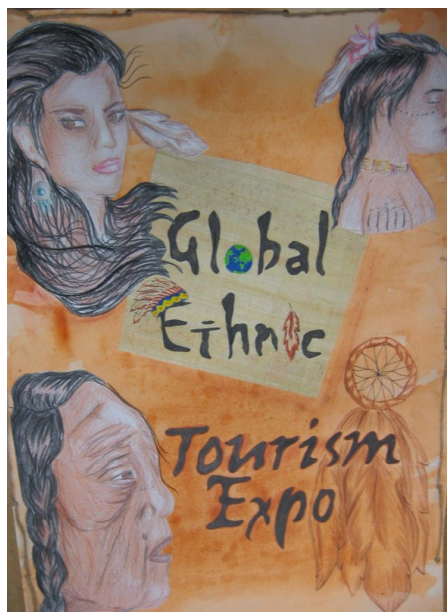
After the mid-term break it was all systems go as we rehearsed Christmas songs. When December finally came around we walked down

to the nursing home in Ratoath to perform a carol service. Everyone there was very nice and had a really nice time. We performed many well-known songs like Silent Night, Jingle Bells and All I want for Christmas at the school's Christmas Awards which everyone seemed to enjoy!

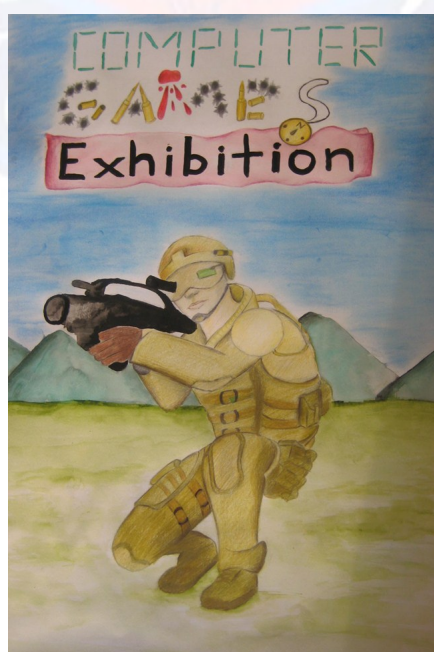
Since January 2012 we have been working on many songs including "Fearless" by Taylor Swift and we are hoping to do a mash up soon. Hopefully we will also get to perform at the Summer Awards Ceremony in the school.

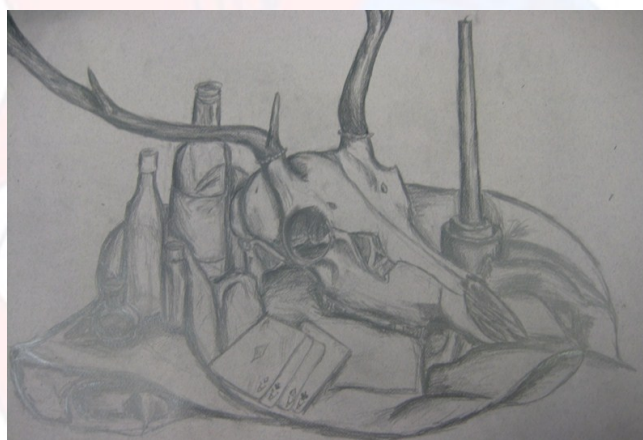


Ms Cullen accompanies members of the Junior Music Group in performance.



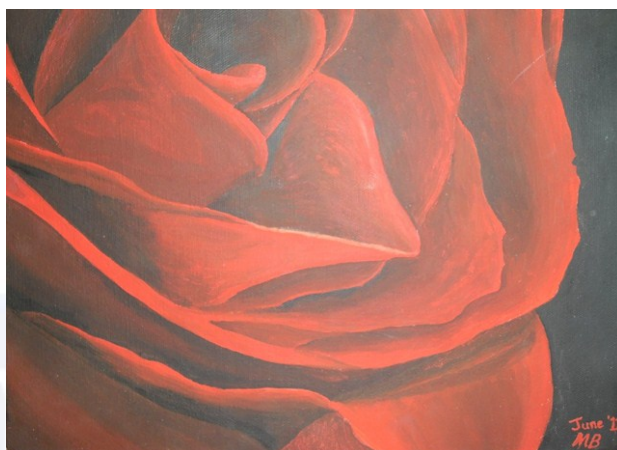
Leaving Cert Art Work





The work featured is by: **Opposite page**, clockwise from top right: Ruth McLoughlin, Glenn Tarpey, Laura Gribben, Amy Simpson, Rachel Stowe, Reiniel Samson, Denise Griffin, Breanne Nolan. **Above**, clockwise from top right: Megan Carr, Sarah McGarry, Amy Simpson, Tuan O'Carroll, Ursula Cullen, Aaron Devine, Reiniel Samson, Denise Griffin.

Junior and Leaving Cert Art Work



Art Work by Junior Cert Art Student Mikaila Beirnes.



Leaving Cert Applied Pottery



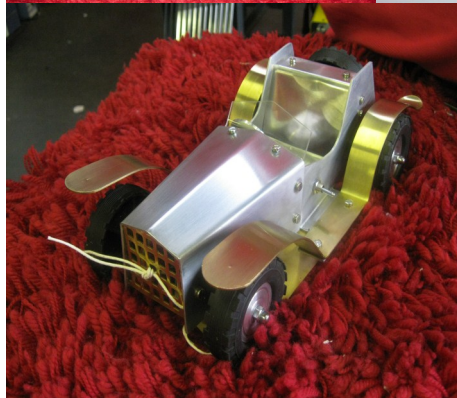
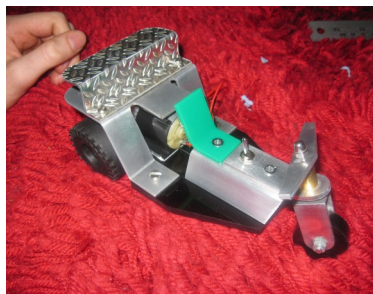
First Year Design a Chocolate Bar Project.



Above: 2nd Year Clay Projects
and Right: 2nd Year Painting
Projects



Technology Projects



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Doodle for Google

This year all Ratoath College art students took part in the “Doodle for Google” competition and two of our students were lucky enough to make it to the final.

The two finalists were Sarah Smith from 5th year and Fionnuala McCormack from 1st year and with this year's theme being “I wish” They told me a little bit about their designs. “My design was on fairy tales because there is always wishing in fairy tales especially in Cinderella which was my inspiration” says Sarah Smith. “Well my design was basically me looking into water on a bridge,

then in the water my wish was reflected. My wish was to sail off in a boat with my dog Ben” says Fionnuala McCormack.

They got a day off school to attend the final and while there they attended talks and participated in drawing activities put on by the artists who draw the different variations of the Google logo, as well as finding out who the overall winners were. “It felt exciting to be in the final, I would have been happy even to be in the semi-final but it was a really good experience” says Fionnuala McCormack. “It was really good. I would definitely do it again” says Sarah Smith.

Both girls did an amazing job and showed us all the incredibly high standard of artistic talent that exists within our school.

By Tara McCamley



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More Photos From Junk Couture & Doodle for Google



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It's not just a load of Rubbish!

This year two TY students, Michelle Mc Camley and Hope Courtney entered the Junk Kouture Competition with TY student, Laura Donoghue as their model.

Junk Kouture is an all-Ireland competition for second level students, where they are challenged to create High Fashion Couture outfits from recycled materials. The competition has only been going on for two years but has gotten a great response so far. This year Junk Kouture has become ERP Junk Kouture following a sponsorship with ERP (European Recycling Platform). They are hoping that this partnership will make Junk Kouture bigger, better and will hopefully encourage more recycling.

This year Michelle and Hope decided to enter the competition. The winner of the Junk Kouture would get €500 for the group, €1,000 worth of electronics for the group, €1,000 for the school and a week course in Grafton Street Design School.

They firstly came up with the design for their dress and what materials to use. They eventually decided on using quality street wrappers for the skirt of the dress and shredded leaflets, which are weaved, for the corset. When asked how they came up with the idea they said 'We eat a lot of sweets over Christmas and wanted to do something with the wrappers so we decided to use them on the dress'. The sweet wrapper shoes, lollipop bag and sweet box hat were added towards the end for the semi final show.

Hope and Michelle qualified for the semi final and showcased their dress in the Hudson Bay

Hotel in Athlone on the 25th of March this year. They met the other competitors and got to see the different materials used in other creations. We were told that 'It was really busy backstage getting everything ready but it was nice to meet other people who entered as well'. When the time came their dress 'Sweet Thang' was shown on stage along with the music 'Lollipop' by Mikka. They qualified for the final. 'I was so happy we got through and it was nice that all our hard work was recognised. I felt so proud'.



'Sweet Thang'

The final of Junk Kouture took place closer to home in the Citywest Hotel on the 20th of April. 'We got to miss school that day because we had to be at the hotel for 11:00 so that we could get Laura ready. We had less time to do this because there was a non-dress rehearsal and we had to meet the judges for scoring and to tell them about our dress'. Once all of that was done all they had to do was sit and wait for their stage time. 'The stage was way bigger than the semi final and there were also a lot more people. Laura coped really well. She didn't look nervous at all. Fair Play'.

When the time came Laura wore the dress out onto the stage. 'We were so happy with the way it looked'. When it came to the results it was disappointing not to win. When asked about the results they said 'although we didn't win it was still such a fun and rewarding experience'. Finally they say 'Even though it was stressful I'm happy we did it, it was really good fun'.

Michelle and Hope are the only students from Ratoath College to have entered the competition.

'It was such a fun and rewarding experience' -Hope Courtney

By-Michelle Mc Camley



'Even though it was stressful I'm happy we did it, it was really good fun' -Michelle Mc Camley



FIRST YEARS DO THEIR BIT FOR CHARITY

First year students bring in record amounts of shoe boxes in annual Christmas charity appeal.

Operation Christmas child is a project that first years take part in every as part of their CSPE project. For this project they must choose whether they will send their shoebox to a boy or a girl and they must select the age group. They must fill up a shoebox which has been wrapped with Christmas wrapping paper. They must fill this shoebox with multiple little gifts that will help a child in a developing country have a Christmas to remember. First year students and their teachers from the CSPE department contributed 192 boxes for Operation Christmas Child in November.

The teachers of the CSPE department and the first year students were delighted as they passed their target of 166 boxes that they achieved in 2010. This is a very worthy cause. Students enjoy carrying out this project as part of first year. Well done to all from the CSPE Department.



First year students alongside Ms Prendergast and Mr Connolly show of their huge and their stack of Christmas shoe boxes!

"Well done to everyone who took part!"

MATH-a-MAGICIANS!

This year, Ratoath College sent a team to the annual Applied Maths quiz, held this year in Maynooth Post Primary School. Led by their teacher, Mr Cahill, Ratoath's Maths Olympians performed admirably.



THE YOUNG HISTORIAN Competition

Once again this year first year Historians put a huge amount of effort into their Young Historian Projects and the members of the History team had a very difficult time trying to choose nine projects to go forward to the Co Meath VEC level of the competition. After much deliberation, the projects chosen were Rebecca Byrne's Archaeological Dig, Vicky Ballon's Medieval Pillory, Kevin Stewien's Motte and Bailey Castle, Antonina Tcacenco's medieval dress in box, Diana Ludusan's Roman Legionnaire's uniform, Stepehn Smith's early Christian beehive cell, Katie Courtney's medieval siege tower. Zuza Grzeszczuk's intricate Arch of Constantine took first prize in the Co Meath VEC competition model category, while we also took first prize in the written project category thanks to Katie O'Brien. Well done all!



Lots of TALENT on SHOW!

The Ratoath College Talent Show is a must see every year writes Laura Donohue with Sadbh Kellett.

And with stellar performances year of course it was no different. There was a wide variety of talent showcased this year including dancers, singers and musicians. All of the acts were amazing and one can only imagine how hard it must have been to have to pick the winners from the extraordinary talent. Both halves of the show were packed full of superb musical performances from people like Karen McCabe and Sadbh Kellett singing their rendition of "Pumped up Kicks" by Foster the People or Enda Cahill's slow, but moving cover of "Dance with my Father" by Luther Vandross. Each act brought their unique style to the show which really made it a great night out!



The show this year included a special First Year Prize which encouraged a lot of first years to enter!

Sadbh Kellett gave me her inside view into what it was like for the acts:

"The show was a great success with really deserving winners"

"Karen and I were just playing around with stuff from Foster The People one day and just started singing "Pumped Up Kicks" and it just kind of came together. We decided we had to audition for the talent show with it, why not? Of course, I was sick the day of the auditions.



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and we were waiting for a while trying to get my voice to co-operate and not randomly fly off tune. We were pretty nervous but Karen and I have gone the whole audition process before for drama and things so it made it easier. We didn't mess up so it was ok but we weren't sure if we'd get in, so many talented people auditioned. I was away when Karen got the news we made it in and I was so stoked when she text me saying we got in! We practiced a lot and changed things up, improving our version of the song as much as we could. Karen learned a really cool version of the introduction riff and now she can't pick up a guitar without playing it. Ms. Cullen was our mentor and she suggested we harmonise. I took the harmony which only made me extremely nervous. However on the night I feel we had a really good performance and even though we didn't win we both had such a great experience!"

When the show concluded it was time to announce the winners. Last year's winner and former student, Kevin Hartnett presented the awards alongside Ms Mannion. The First Year prize went to Alannah Webb who sang "Stay" by the Shakespeare's Sister. In 3rd place were Ivan and Neill Mather who had played an epic version of the Pirates of the Caribbean on the violin. In 2nd place was Ellie O'Neil who sang her own song called "On your Birthday". In 1st place was Keila Whelan and Lauren Crawley who performed the song "Titanium" by David Guetta ft. Sia, it was a brilliant performance and they were well-deserved winners.

Over-all it was a great night out full of amazing

talent! After the show all the music teachers that mentored the different acts all had really positive things to say about the show. Ms. Cullen said, "The show was a great success with really deserving winners although it was really hard to pick from such an amazing line-up".



(Above): Keila Whelan performed Titanium to win this year's Talent Show; **(Below left):** Ryan Hill and Ryan Graham gave a ... colourful performance!; **(Below right)** The Mather brothers Ivan & Neil; **Opposite Page (Top):** Keila Whelan and Lauren Crawley are presented with their winners prize by judges Kevin Harnett and Ms Mannion **(Below left):** Alannah Webb on her way to winning the first year prize; **(Below right):** Luke Quinlan and Louise Adams.



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ARE YOU A SHARK OR A JET?

EITHER WAY, RATOATH COLLEGE'S SECOND MUSICAL PRODUCTION, **WEST SIDE STORY**, WAS A HUGE SUCCESS.

By Hope Courtney

This year Ratoath College took on the huge challenge of performing "West Side Story" as this year's musical. The school holds a musical every two years and it was 2010 when the school took part in their first musical "Back to the 80s" which was a huge success and was a tough act to follow, and West Side Story brought it's own challenges, including the complex orchestrations of Leonard Bernstein and complex staging requirements.

Auditions took place in late September at the start of the school year, with many students getting callbacks, It wouldn't be long before we found out

"...It was truly a magnificent event..."

who would take the parts of Tony and Maria in the musical adaptation of the famous drama "Romeo and Juliet" in which we see two groups battling over territory in New York during the 1960's.



The entire school was nervously waiting to see who would lead the show, and the whole school was surprised when they found out that first year Alannah Webb had gained the role of Maria and second year Enda Cahill, as it was such a young cast for such a grown up story, but when both students where seen in the school talent show everyone knew they could pull it off, though not before months of rehearsals!

Rehearsals started promptly with students from first, second, fourth and fifth year spending hours learning lines, songs and dances. The musical opened on the 7th of February and ran until the 10th of February. We had four amazing shows thanks in no small part to an extraordinary amount of hard work from many quarters. In particular, Mr Horan and Mr Nelson must take great credit for their work building the stage and set. Along with the kind assistance from Bobby White and the team from *Scenemaker*, they turned

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our school gym into a real life theatre. This wouldn't have been possible either without the professional assistance of Terry O'Dea and his team from the Bare Bodkin Theatre Company who installed the tiered seating and professional lighting rig. All in all, nearly all the teachers in the school were involved, from organising costumes to selling ticket. This was also a whole school community effort, with parents like Grainne Flynn and Orla McNally from the Ratoath Musical Society lending a hand as well. Aisling Toher was

responsible for the amazing choreography.

An 11 piece professional orchestra (including the X-factor drummer!) conducted by Ms Garrett added immensely to the show as well.

The real stars though were the students, and everyone who attended was astonished at the amazing talent and hard work on show over the four nights. All this bodes well for the future, so who knows what we'll find when Musical 2014 comes around!

MUSICAL MEMORIES OF MINE!

An inside look at the musical from the point of view of a member of cast, second year student *Niamh Costigan*

I was a Shark dancer and appeared in scenes such as "I Feel Pretty". It was a great experience for me because this was my debut appearance in a school musical production and it was a wonderful to experience, the thrill of performing on stage in front of a packed house each night. I attend a stage school in my spare time and it was great to bring my stage experience to this production.

"...I can't wait for the next musical...!"

My favourite memories are of the rehearsals I attended because despite the demanding schedule, it was great to be involved in something that was so much fun. I also have fond memories of getting to know the other girls from rang Carey who were in the production, Grace Annis, Rachel Eiffe, Sarah Dempsey, Caoimhe Kellet, Fionnuala McCormack & Corrine McDermott. As you can see we are quite a talented bunch of ladies in rang Carey! Our class were of wonderful support and enthusiasm for all of us.

I would love to be a part of the next Ratoath



Dáire Gannon as Doc does his best to keep the peace as Abraham Zaidan's Bernardo and David Toner's Riff meet to arrange the rumble.

College musical but sadly I will be in 3rd year and look forward to many more years threading the boards of the stage!



Above: The cast celebrate backstage after our final show. Opposite page; Top: The Shark Girls in full flow. Bottom: Enda Cahill as Tony and Alannah Webb as Maria.

The Travelling Christmas Pantomime!

As you may or may not know, for the last few years the TY's here in Ratoath College have held a "Christmas Village" in the school for the children of Ratoath Primary school every year as part of their Mini-Company class, with outstanding results. However, with growing numbers in the school population, they couldn't do the same this year again.

So this year, the school's TY students instead decided to do something different for the children at Christmas, and came up with their very own Travelling Christmas Pantomime!

"However, with growing numbers in the school's population..."



Santa's "Elves" with Granny Claus on stage

They wrote their own script, made the scenes and sets themselves and organised visits to several of the local schools including Ratoath Primary and St. Pauls NS. They even decided to perform for the College's first year students before wrapping it up for the year!

Work on this fundraising idea began early in October, when the TY's began to pull their financial resources together in order to start buying supplies for the event. Soon, two students, Karen McCabe and Zoe Brady, began to

come up with the plot of the pantomime, and started to write the script with the aid of Mr. Walsh, the main coordinator of the Panto and the go-to guy for any problems or issues that arose throughout the project. They incorporated many of our Christmas favourites, including Mrs. Claus, Santa and the evil Jack Frost, as well as having a few surprise characters starring such as a Granny Claus and even Jedward!

Committees in both Rang Walsh and Casey were created to organise and coordinate the production of the Panto, and so work got underway in designing and painting in the set-backgrounds for each scene. Students came in over the weekend and after school during the week to draw the backgrounds and paint in the details, and were rewarded with pizza on the final night! It took several days, but in the end they had everything ready for the real thing, and the class then appointed actors and actresses to each role. Rehearsals were initiated immediately, as time was running out and the first performance from Rang Casey to the school kids at St. Pauls was due to take place in just under a week!

"starring a Granny Claus and even Jedward!..."

Thankfully, they managed to ensure that everything was completed and that everybody was prepared in time for the live performances, and the entire project was a fantastic success! Both classes performed really well on the days that they acted, and together raised a huge amount of money to go into funding for their day trip to London. A good time was had by all, both TY's and kids, leaving next year's TY's with a lot to live up to!

IN-TENTS EXCITEMENT!

Jenny Dempsey
reports from the TY
camping trip.

At 9.00 am on the 8th September 2011, the TY's set off on their camping trip. After a bus journey that took about 40 minutes we arrived at the campsite where we would be staying. We couldn't wait to explore the area and the surrounding woods.

Our bags were dumped inside the cabin straight away and we were allowed to do as we liked until we heard the whistle. Once we were called back we had a snack then started on the task of making the benches and tables that we were to eat our lunch, dinner and breakfast on.

"At around 2 o'clock in the morning we had our late night hike through the woods"

It was daunting at first, trying to make tables and benches out of just pieces of wood, but we soon realised it wasn't that hard and they turned out pretty well.

When that was completed and we had eaten our lunch we set about making our tents. My idea of a tent is small and fits maybe two or three people, but that was not the case. These were huge and fit ten to twelve people and I didn't know how we were going to put them up! However, like the benches and tables, they weren't as difficult as they looked and after a while and a bit of help, all the tents were up and we

could take a break for an hour or two. Some lay in their tents and relaxed, others sat around chatting and having fun, a few went traipsing



The tents that the students made.



TY Student Jamie Walsh gives a thumbs up as students behind him queue up for food served by Ms Casey and Mr McAuley.

through the forest and most of the guys played football.

We played a few "team-building exercises" that were a bit of fun.

After about an hour, some of us had to go hunting in the forest for wood to light a fire to cook the food with, while others had to prepare the food and the fire. After we had our dinner we all sat around the campfire singing, chatting and joking around with each other and basically just having a great time.

We were then taken on a walk down to the local shop where we could buy whatever we wanted.

At around 2 o'clock in the morning we had our late night hike through the woods. It was completely dark so we all had to bring our torches so we could see. Mr. Walsh and Mr. McAuley attempted to scare us, which didn't work but which made it all the more funny.

Everyone was finally asleep by around 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning and we all woke up at around 8 for breakfast. We cooked sausages and had cereal and then took down all the tents, tables and benches, packed up our bags and left in the bus at around 12 o'clock.



One of the tables with benches made by TY students.

TITANIC TENACITY

TY STUDENTS LED BY MR HORAN GET IN ON THE TITANIC CENTENARY, *writes Dáire Gannon*

At the start of the year Mr.Horan asked his Transition Year class, Rang Walsh, what they would like to make during their year in Construction class. A member of the class, Daragh Walsh had a vision of building a boat. The rest of the class supported this idea but they were told it could not be done...

In early March, Mr.Horan announced to the class that they were going to fulfil Daragh's vision from the start of the year and build a boat. But not just any boat, a replica of the Titanic.

Mr.Horan had been contacted by the local, free newspaper, The Forum, to see if he could build a float for them for the St.Patrick's Day parade in Ratoath. It was at this point that he remembered Daragh's dream of a boat, and he came up with the idea of building the Titanic, to commemorate the

100th year anniversary of the sinking of the vessel.

Transition year students started the project with only 2 weeks until the deadline of St.Patrick's Day. They recruited the help of the enthusiastic Mr.Heaney, to give advice on the designing the great chimneys. They worked tirelessly to get the boat scaled to size, built and then painted.

They took time out from the action to pose with the boat for a picture that made it onto the front cover of the Forum.

“It took the pinnacle of team work to finish”

The boat was finished just on time thanks to the efforts of the Transition Year students and their teachers. It took the pinnacle of team work to finish the boat so well in only two weeks. It was a proud moment for everyone involved to see it glide gracefully through the streets of Ratoath. A tear came to Daragh Walsh's eye as his dream had become a reality.



Titanic sails through Ratoath during St.Patrick's Day Parade

MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

The Moher the Merrier

By Sam O'Connor

This year's Transition year students went on their geography field trip to the cliffs of Moher and to Ailwee cave. It was an early start for them as they left the school on a coach at half seven in the morning. It was a long journey as they reached the cliffs at twelve o'clock. They walked around to different parts of the cliff to get the best view possible. After looking around the cliffs they went in to the centre which is in a hill so that they don't ruin the landscape of the place.

After lunch the TY's headed out of the Burren to the Aillwee cave. The students found out that this cave was founded by a Farmer who followed his dog that went chasing after a rabbit in the 1940's.



Since the 1970's it has been open for the public. Three hundred metres of the passage is open to the public. After the visit to the cave the transition year students headed home after a short stop off at McDonalds.

Driver Theory

For the first time this year, Driver Theory was a compulsory subject for all TY's.

Once a week, the students were taught the rules of the road and towards the end of the year, many put this newfound knowledge to the test and tried their hand at their driver theory permit.

Congratulations to the many students who passed their test.

"It was easier than I thought!"

Some of the students described it as easier than

they'd thought it be, while others missed out by merely one or two small questions wrong.



"It was the part of looking after your car that you really have to know, but the road signs are really easy."

According to some of the students who'd passed, the most Important part to study for was car maintenance and looking after your vehicle. While road signs remained a favourite for how easy to remember they were.

MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

CHRISTMAS DOOR COMPETITION COMES KNOCKING!

The inaugural Caomhnóir Christmas Door Decorating Competition took place during the first few weeks of December of last year.

The students prepared their decorations and took the opportunity in their tutorial class to decorate their tutorial classrooms door for Christmas.

As you can see the results of the students hard work is sensational and it certainly added a bit of Christmas Cheer to the whole school. Well done to everyone who took part, particularly Rang Walsh who were judged to be the overall winners with their Rang Walsh's Workshop (picture below).



RATOATH STUDENTS SHAVE OR DYE FOR CHARITY

This year many students in Ratoath College took part in Today FM's Shave or Dye in support of cancer research.

As you can see in the picture attached the students came up with many different mad and dramatic hairstyles such as pink hair, Mohawks, and even going completely bald. All of the students raised money for the charity that has so far raised €1,680,000.

The students came up with many different mad and dramatic hairstyles such as pink hair, Mohawks, and even going completely bald.

All the students had different reasons for taking part in Shave or Dye be it a relative or friend who is fighting cancer, survived cancer or sadly died of cancer or even just to help in the fight against the disease. The school also had a wear your own clothes day helping Shave or Dye (€500) and the Marie Keating Foundation (€800).

"The school also had a "Wear Your Own Clothes Day" helping Shave or Dye (€500) and the Marie Keating Foundation (€800)"



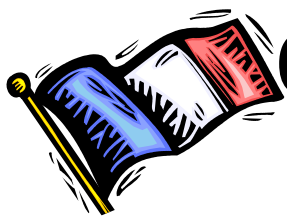
Students who took part in Shave or Dye.

"dramatic hairstyles such as pink hair, Mohawks, and even going completely bald."

The money raised will go to vital research on cancer which affects 1 in 3 people and takes the lives of many of these. There is 100s of types of cancer but this money will go towards research of the disease and for treatment of patients from this

disease. Well done to all involved.





POÙ EST LA BIBLIOTHÉQUE?

Senior students enjoy an amazing time on the French Exchange *writes Celine Fox.*

The Exchange Programme between Ratoath College and Lycée Joliot Curie was hugely successful this year. Approximately 35 Irish students travelled from Ireland to France for a week on Wednesday 2nd November. They spent a week with their French exchange partners, experiencing family life and French culture. Students from Ireland went on many trips to see some of the famous sites in Brittany. These excursions included the navel ship-building yards of St Nazaire, the city of Nantes, Mont Saint Michel and the Brittany Museum. Mont Saint Michel was particularly enjoyed by all. The French and Irish students received a guided tour of the rocky tidal island located on the Brittany/Normandy border.

“It was solid banter. I’d recommend it to all the lads”

The French students also hosted an evening soirée for all their “correspondants” on Tuesday 8th November. All the students arrived at the school for a group dinner and entertainment. The students of Ratoath College returned home on Thursday after having a fantastic week in France.



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On their return visit in the month of March, students from Lycée Joliot Curie spent a week with their exchange partner and their family in Ratoath. They enjoyed many different trips while they stayed here including a guided tour of Croke Park, shopping on Grafton Street, a trip to Glendalough and Bray and a ceili organised in the school.

“It was class!”

The French students also got to experience St. Patrick’s Day in Ireland by seeing a hurling match in Croke Park and the day was enjoyed by all. Daire Gannon described the whole experience as ‘solid banter’ and ‘would recommend it to all the lads’. Conor Fitzpatrick said he said ‘It was class and I was overwhelmed by the unbelievable craic that is French exchange.’ They returned to France in the early hours of morning and were missed greatly by all their correspondents at Ratoath College.

Scientrific Week!

"You'd swear it was Valentine's Week because chemistry was in the air. ;)"

Science week took place in Ratoath College from 21st to 25th of November with a wide variety of activities

Rocket Launching competition: The competition took place in the gym on Monday. Participants showed off their design skills and dexterity with sell tape and paper to produce their own rockets. The eventual winners were Sam O'Neill, Kyle Clinton and Ivan Kelly, who managed to launch their rocket an amazing 72 feet. They are sending their CV's to NASA next week.

Heart dissection: Not for the squeamish. There were several fainters at this activity, but all are recovering well.

Bath Bombs: There were various levels of success with some bombs being a little mushier than others. Winners for the most successful bombs were Nadia Merrigan and Antonina Tcacenco

Volcanic eruptions: A keenly contested activity. The eventual winners were Adam Fagan, Andrew Daly and Michael Kenny.

Science week was very explosive and thoroughly enjoyed by all!!



La Semaine Francaise

This year's French day was a roaring success. Organised by the French department, consisting of Ms. Cullen, Ms. Hittilambeau and Ms. Witter, Ms O'Dwyer.

There were many activities on during the day with the highlight as ever being the legendary French Breakfast.

French day is one of the main events during the year and is considered very important.. It fills the school with French culture and most importantly, encourages everyone to

do their best to speak French.

Italian day will also take with a vast array of fun and exciting activities. This will be organised by our Italian department and we are looking forward to it!!



ITALY & CARLINGFORD TRIPS

On the 30th of March, the Friday before the Easter Holidays, First year Students had a early start as they headed off on our annual trips to Italy and Carlingford.

In Italy, students enjoyed the 'Gardaland' theme park and a day at the sinking city of Venice where they got to get a tour around the city by gondola and also a trip to the village of Verona where Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet was based.

In Carlingford, students and teachers alike were treated to a day of intense and exciting activities.

As ever, a great time was had by all.



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

An tSeachtain craiceailte

This year, Foireann na Gaeilge organised yet another very successful Seachtain na Gaeilge 12th -16th of March 2012 for the whole school to enjoy.



Mr O'hEochaidh at the céilí

On the Tuesday the 13th, as part of welcoming the French Exchange students to the school, a céilí mór was held in the gym. The French

Students huddled in the corner, terrified as the Irish students showed them all the dances with much enthusiasm. There were many spot prizes on the night given to the best dressed students and the best dancers. Each winner got their own Easter Egg.

On the Wednesday, a Tráth na gCeist was held for the fifth years. After some very hard questions and a lot of brain-wracking, the real winners emerged. The victors were Foireann 1: James Mulvany, Darragh Jones, Dylan Dooley, Luke Scully, Damian Cunningham. Foireann 2: Emma Duffy, Ryan Graham, Darragh Grehan, Dylan Kelly, Ashley Fitzsimons. Foireann 3: Adam Farrell, Ian Marron, Callum McMahon, Bill Kelly.

The winners of the puc fada were Gavin McGowan, Conor Ward, Niamh O'Riordan and Nicole O'Carroll. Each winner had very



impressive puc and have a bright future ahead of them in hurling and camogie.

Na buaiteoirí of the Puc Fáda Conor Ward and Nicole O'Carroll.

On the Thursday the 15th, the first years got the opportunity to participate in a treasure hunt as Gaeilge. They started off with a clue that led them to an area of the school where the next clue would be waiting for them to lead them onto the next location. The first years raced around the school, desperately searching high and low for the next clue. With each location that they went to, they received a letter. The whole Toraíocht Taisce was

over in a matter of minutes and the six letters altogether spelt Rath Tó. Congratulations to the winners; Ailise Lyons, Lucy O'Doherty, Alison Gleeson, Kate O'Brien.

Comórtas na bPóstaer winners were:

In 3rd place Róisín McConomy & Emma Sweeney

2nd place Sarah Sturzel

1st place Danielle Chapman

Comhghairdeas to all the winners.

The real highlight of the week was the Bricfeasta on the Friday morning. Who doesn't just love free food? We got sausages, scones and jam, tea and Capri Suns. A real Irish Breakfast.

"Bhí sé an-bhlásta! Is aoibhinn liom ispíní!" – Laura Donohue, 4th Year Rang Walsh

And finally the most important and prestigious competition: "Cainteoir na Seachtaine". All week long, students and teachers alike spoke as Gaeilge in the hopes that they would be noticed and have the great honour to win the title of Cainteoir Na Seachtaine. Congratulations to Emma Sweeney and Mr Walsh who were the overall winners of Cainteoir Na Seachtaine.

By Karen McCabe

MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ



TEACHER INTERVIEWS

This year, Gavin Boyle and Dylan Treacher had the onerous task of speaking candidly to some of the new staff of Ratoath College...

Name: Ms Neilson

Subject: English & Italian



If you could meet any famous person who would it be?

Kate Middleton—I am obsessed with her after the wedding last year

If you won €1,000,000 what would be the first thing you'd buy?

A holiday for all my family and a new car! I might also fit the odd shopping spree in there too!

What would be the three things you'd bring if you were deserted on an Island?

A never ending supply of chocolate, diet coke and some books and magazines!

What's your favourite movie?

The Shawshank Redemption or Casino Royale

What is your favourite and least favourite thing about being a teacher?

I love when learning is fun in the classroom and students are happy but learning at the same time. I hate giving out!

As a student, what was your favourite subject and why?

English. My teacher was amazing and I loved writing essays, going to see plays and reading different novels. I love everything about it really!

You are in charge of the school for a day, what changes, if any, would you make?

Teachers to get good notes and post cards sent home!



Name: Mr Burns

Subject: Science

If you could meet any famous person who would it be?

Madonna. I have been to all her concerts and she is amazing in concert.

If you won €1,000,000 what would the first thing you'd buy?

A holiday to the Bahamas.

What would be the three things you'd bring if you were deserted on an Island?

Ipod for my music, a knife and equipment for a fire.

What's your favourite movie?

Any great horror movie eg. Last house on the left and SAW.

What is your favourite and least favourite thing about being a teacher?

I love the fact that being a teacher helps to motivate someone's life and Career. I dislike bad manners.

As a student, what was your favourite subject and why?

Biology and Latin: I had great teachers who were very enjoyable to be around.

You are in charge of the school for a day, what changes, if any, would you make?

Create a day to celebrate being happy in Ratoath College.



Name: Mr Murtagh

Subject: Business Studies

If you could meet any famous person who would it be?

Denzel Washington

If you won €1,000,000 what would the first thing you'd buy?

A new house as the market is good for buying.

What would be the three things you'd bring if you were deserted on an Island?

A pet, fishing rod and Black Keys album.

What's your favourite movie?

Really liked 'The Town' with Ben Affleck and Jeremy Renner.

What is your favourite and least favourite thing about being a teacher?

Favourite: Everyday is different which we can bring into the class.

Least Favourite: Correcting Exams.

As a student, what was your favourite subject and why?

P.E. : because I have always been keen on sport.

You are in charge of the school for a day, what changes, if any, would you make?

None. I think everything this year has been great.



Name: Ms Farrelly

Subject: History

If you could meet any famous person who would it be?

Morgan Freeman — I would make him read stories to me.

If you won €1,000,000 what would the first thing you'd buy?

I would pay off my debts, get a new car, visit friends in Oz and share the rest with friends and family.

What would be the three things you'd bring if you were deserted on an Island?

A solar powered iPhone, a supply of Jaffa cakes and Diet Coke.

What's your favourite movie?

It's between I Love You Man and One flew Over the Cuckoos Nest

What is your favourite and least favourite thing about being a teacher?

Favourite thing: Having the craic with the students.

Least Favourite thing: seeing students fail just because they aren't bothered enough to work.

As a student, what was your favourite subject and why?

Home Economics because I had an amazing teacher, and the making of cakes and buns wasn't so bad either!

You are in charge of the school for a day, what changes, if any, would you make?

Eh..... an 10am start would be nice.



Name: Ms Bourke

Subject: Business Studies

If you could meet any famous person who would it be?

Nelson Mandela.

If you won €1,000,000 what would the first thing you'd buy?

A great hurling manager to lead Limerick to an All Ireland final.

What would be the three things you'd bring if you were deserted on an Island?

Some nice food, a tent and my phone.

What's your favourite movie?

Not really a big movie person, but saw the Avengers movie, its good.

What is your favourite and least favourite thing about being a teacher?

Favourite: Seeing my pupils improve and achieve their best. Least favourite: Correcting exams.

As a student, what was your favourite subject and why?

Accounting: Its logical and at the end you know if you are correct.

You are in charge of the school for a day, what changes, if any, would you make?

Make a bigger staffroom and more space for pupils to eat lunch.

SUBJECT DEPARTMENT REPORTS

GEOGRAPHY

This academic year got off to a flying start with the announcement of the fantastic Junior Cert results. The geography department received an impressive 12 A's and all the pupils continue to impress us all with their vast geographical knowledge. Highlights of this year included the T.Y's trip to the Cliffs of



Moher and the Ailiwee Caves in the Burren with Mr. Doyle. The classes managed to converse with the locals due to learning the Clare accent from Mr. Keane! Thankfully everyone arrived back safe and



sound and equipped with first-hand experience of a very impressive limestone landscape created by the influence of carbonation. The 6th year class completed their field-trip in November when they travelled to the Wicklow mountains to do a river study. They donned the waders and got in the water to measure the effects of river deposition and transportation. It's wonderful to have 20% of their leaving cert exam finished and we all wish them the very best of luck in May. We are sure that we have some super geographers in the making!

HISTORY

It's been another great year for the History team at Ratoath College. We were delighted to welcome Ms Dinsmore to the team in September and we send her our congratulations on the birth of her new baby.

We've enjoyed great success in the Young Historian competition again this year. The competition is run by Co Meath VEC and first year students from all Co Meath VEC schools enter. Zuzsanna Grzeszczuk, Rang McTiernan, won the overall prize in the Model Category for her extraordinarily detailed rendering of the Arch of Constantine. Kate O'Brien, Rang Brennan, also won the overall Prize in the Written Category for her project on the Middle Ages. Students put a huge effort into their entries again this year, and we offer them all our congratulations.

Second year historians were fortunate to attend a screening of the historical drama *Luther* starring Joseph Fiennes about the life of reformer Martin Luther at the Venue Theatre. The film helps to put a significant historical figure from a significant historical period on their course in a new and interesting context for the students.

Transition Year students enjoyed a marvellous trip to Belfast organised by Mr Ó hEochaidh. Students toured both the nationalist Falls Road area of the city as well as the loyalist Shankill guided by former members of paramilitary organisations on both sides of the divide. The students visited many significant sites on their tour, notably Milltown Cemetery and the site of the 1993 Shankill bombing. The visit will prove particularly illuminating for the many TYs who chose to study History at Leaving Cert next year.

Leaving Cert Historians have long since put the finishing touches to the Research Study Reports (RSRs). The research study involves students producing an extended report on a research topic of their choice. The RSR is pre-submitted and accounts for 20% of the final Leaving Cert grade. As ever, there were many intriguing studies this year, including Aoife Tompkins' *'The Miami Showband Massacre, 1975'* and an examination of the executions of Tsar Nicholas II and his family during the Russian Revolution by Rachael Walshe entitled *'One Night in Ekaterinburg – the End of the Romanov Line'*.

We wish all Ratoath College History students the very best of luck in their exams and a happy and enjoyable summer thereafter.

Photo

ITALIAN



Highlights of this academic year include the adventure TY trip to Donegal to go surfing and learning Italian, The unforgettable First Year trip to Lake Garda and Venice, and our first full Junior and Leaving Cert oral exams. As the number of pupils studying Italian continues to grow each year our teaching community also continues to expand as Ms Flattley and Mr McAuley were joined by Ms Neilson and although we were sorry to lose last year's Italian Assistant Susy Presidente we were lucky enough to have the bravissima Serena Sautto with us for the year along with her charm and Italian authenticity.

As we prepare to say *'arrivederci e buona fortuna'* to our two Sixth Year groups doing Italian in the Leaving Cert (one Applied class and one Traditional class), a couple of pupils deserve special mention. Ethan Barker, Tuan O'Carroll and Sophie Ryan are the first Ratoath College pupils to complete 6 straight years of studying *'La Bella Lingua'* no doubt this will stand to them when they go out into the big bad world. Oisín MacNamee of Rang Hannon has also been studying Italian since First Year and is about to conclude his Italian Odyssey. Congratulations to Gary Lynch and Branka Tvrda who were shortlisted for the Post-Primary Schools Languages Award for their e- projects on their modern language last year. Branka (Rang Witter) went on to win the award - a two week scholarship to The Adriatic Coast near 'La Bella Città' of Rimini last July a holiday which included a couple of hours Italian Lessons each day with students of Italian from other European countries- Brava Branka, complimenti. We look forward to next year and *'Lo Scambio Italiano'*-our first Italian Exchange. *Avanti !*

HOME ECONOMICS

The Home Economics Department have had a very busy and exciting year. The Junior Certificate students recently had their practical exams and did very well, producing many wonderful culinary delights as well as producing some very decorative craft items. They are working studying very hard now for their exams as are the Leaving Certs, we wish them all every success in their exams.



First and second Year students have produced some great craft pieces again this year and we are all awaiting the announcement of this year's Rene Weldon Craft Award winner at the awards ceremony this month. Rene Weldon was a seamstress and a close relation of Co Meath VEC CEO, Peter Kierans. He donated the trophy in her memory to Ratoath College so that each year, 2nd year students who display excellent sewing skills may be recognised and rewarded for their hard work.

Transition Year students were given the opportunity to bake and decorate their own Christmas cakes in the run up to Christmas. The students really enjoyed working on the cakes and produced some wonderful designs!

Rang Heaney and Rang Hannon have had a very good year, working hard on their key assignments. Best of luck to Rang Hannon and the Leaving Certificate Home Economics students in their final exams!



CLASSICAL STUDIES



It has been a memorable year for our Classics Department as we took the great leap from a subject available in TY to a mainstream subject with our first Fifth Year class. A group of 20 Fifth Year pupils were more than up for the challenge presented by what was for most of them a completely new subject. The Corinthian Helmet Award for best Christmas result was shared between Emma Dempsey and Ellie Bolger, while in TY the awards went to Tara McCamley of Rang Casey and Shauna McDonnell of Rang Walsh, four fine Classicists of the future.

The community of Classics teachers also grew significantly this year as Mr McAuley was joined by Ms Dinsmore in September with Ms Farrelly also on board after Christmas. The Department looks forward to September and another big year as we'll welcome our first class of First Year Classics pupils as well as our first Leaving Cert class.



MUSIC

This has been another very great year for the Music Department. We had our first full Leaving Cert class results which were fantastic. We were also delighted with the outstanding Junior Cert results that our students achieved. There were lots of trips organised throughout the year.

Our 3rd Year class attended a Junior Cert Concert in the National Concert Hall. The 6th Year music class had a trip to The Sound Training School and Studio

in Temple Bar followed by a concert in the National Concert Hall. Rang Walsh and Rang Casey, our Transition Year classes, had a bodhrán workshop in school which went very well. Earlier in the year they made their own bodhráns. Rang Heany and the 5th 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 5th Year students Keila Whelan and Lauren Crawley being very deserving winners. They won a recording session in the Sound Training School studio. The Junior Music Group and Trad group performed at the many services and ceremonies throughout the year.

We put on our second school musical "West Side Story". It was a fantastic production and an unforgettable experience for all the students and teachers involved. Outside of school, many of our students took part in the Ratoath Musical Society's production of Annie and their Panto. David Toner, Ellie O'Neill and Helena Malone did very well in the School Stars Competition and Allanah Lennon Fitzgerald and Étaín Collins got through to the Irish Youth Music Awards in Navan. Other students took part in Meath's Got Talent. All in all it was a very busy, but very enjoyable year.

CSPE

The CSPE Department have had another great academic year. It started on a high with last year's Junior Certificate students achieving 79 A's in September. Well done to all. In October the first year students produced 190 shoe boxes for team hope another record beaten. January, all second year students attended the DSPCA in Rathfarnham as part of their action project for their Junior Certificate exams.

First and second year students have been helping out with Ratoath Tidy Towns throughout the year cleaning rubbish up in the village. In April, our current Junior Certificate students completed their projects and submitted them for correction to the Department of education. We hope that the next academic year will be as good as the present. Have a wonderful summer everyone and we will see you for another record beating opportunity in the next academic year.



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

TECHNOLOGY

This year has been an exceptionally busy year for the Technology department. The year started off on a high, with the news that of the 63 Students who took Materials Technology Wood, 51 of them received an 'A' and of the 22 students who took Materials Technology Metal, 17 received an 'A'.

These results were followed with the news that Daire Gannon, one of our students in Materials Technology Wood had got first place in Ireland with the highest amount of marks in the country. Daire and his teacher Mr. Horan went to an official awards ceremony in Galway to receive the well deserved recognition.

Straight after Christmas, The construction of the Set for the school musical began. 8 5th Yr students under the guidance of Mr. Nelson & Mr. Horan put together a magnificent set worthy of the West End.

Following on from that, the Transition year Construction Studies class constructed a float for the Ratoath St. Patricks Day parade. The float took on the guise of the H.M.S Titanic and "sailed" successfully through the village on St. Patricks Day.



The West Side Story set under construction

The project work this year has surpassed all that of previous years. 24 Junior Cert Metalwork projects, 48 Materials Technology Wood projects, 24 construction studies projects, 24 Engineering projects & 15 Design & Communication Graphics projects all submitted on time and all of an exceptionally high standard.

FRENCH

This school year has been a wonderful, action packed, busy year for all French students and teachers, Alma Hitillambeau, Paola Cullen, Aoife O Dwyer and Loraine Witter.

Once again we had our 'Journée Française'. Petit déjeuner in the morning as well as our French drama in the afternoon. A special effort to speak French throughout the day was made. Lots of prizes were won and Ratoath College was immersed in French Culture. French club has taken place once a week in room 10 at lunch on Tuesday- an excellent opportunity for students to practice spoken French, watch French movies as well as get help on areas they find difficult!

Last November we took part in our 3rd Exchange Programme with Lycée Joliot Curie in the beautiful city of Rennes. Mr McAuley and honorary French Department member Mr. Qualter set off with 35 students (our biggest exchange yet) for 8 unforgettable days in Brittany. Such highs as visiting the great port city of Nantes, L'Isle Saint Michel on the Normandy boarder and the picturesque medieval city of Dinard were all wonderful highlights. However the pupils and teachers will probably hold on to the memories of living with a French family more fondly than the visits to the sights. Spending a week as a welcome part of a French family for meals, pass times and everyday life is an experience unique to an exchange type programme -- a special holiday that many people never get to enjoy. The programme was a great success this year and we had the pleasure of welcoming our exchange partners in Ratoath for the week of Saint Patrick's Day when we got the chance to repay *nos amis français* with the warm hospitality we were given in France. 'Allez—' we look forward to next years exchange 'avec impatience'.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

This has been another action packed year for the PE department within both Junior and Senior Cycle PE classes, and well done to all pupils' who gave 100% throughout the year. Firstly, our Transition Years Rang Casey and Rang Walsh took part in a range of activities; they were seen moving and shaking to Zumba; appreciating the skills and difficulties faced in disability sports by partaking in a workshop on wheelchair basketball; practicing their self-defence skills with Martial Arts; and finally, developing their Fencing skills.

In 5th and 6th Year, classes saw the introduction of new sports into the PE curriculum; Ultimate Frisbee, Lacrosse and Cricket. With such great interest and success in these sports, we foresee them becoming an extra-curricular activity in the near future. A special thank you goes to Stephen Cooley and Elaine Barry who kindly gave up their time to do a Fitness Class and Krav Maga with our 3rd, 5th and 6th Years in May. Well done to Rang Hannon who organised a first ever external trip as part of their Leaving Cert Applied Leisure and Recreation Module. A great day was had at The Zone, Navan doing Go Karting and Archery and well done to Cian Carey who was the overall winner of Go Karting.

Finally, we would like to wish the best of luck to Mr David McCarthy in his bid to qualify for the London 2012 Olympics. Go n-éirí leat!!!



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

ENGLISH

This has been another very busy year for the English Department. We welcomed a new member, Ms. Gráinne Lyons at the start of the year.

1st year students entered a poetry competition competing against other students in Meath. They produced wonderful work and we are very proud of them.

2nd year students once again studied the great war poets and produced magnificent work as part of their war poetry projects.

Recently Rang Heaney went to the theatre to a production "Men are from Stoneybatter, Women are from Phibsboro" in the New Theatre, Dublin. A fun evening was had by all.

During our once again hugely successful Arts week in October, we ran a poetry writing competition which saw students from all year groups write beautiful works of poetry. Our winner was James Dervan of TY, congratulations James.

We were delighted with the outstanding Leaving & Junior Cert results that our students achieved. As always, we are very proud of their hard work. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our current 3rd and 6th year students the very best of luck in June.



ART



It has been a very busy and successful year for the Art Department in Ratoath College.

In November we held our very first Ratoath College Student Art Exhibition at The Venue in Ratoath. It was fantastic to see the wide range of talented art student's work finally come together in one showcase. The exhibition ran from the 15th to the 19th of November. There was a great buzz on opening night and we were delighted to have local Artist John Fitzgerald officially open the exhibition. A number of students received awards on the night for their talent and creativity. Also on the night a beautiful piece of art work by second year art student Emily McGlynn was presented to County Meath VEC to mark this special event. In all it was a great success and we would like to thank all who helped and supported us in making this event possible.

Art Teachers Ms. H. Mortimer and Ms. J. Daly strongly encourage their students to take part in Art/Design Competitions, at local, regional and national levels. And so it really has been a very successful year in such events. Early in the year Adam Comerford had success in the Credit Union Art Competition. Fionnuala McCormack, 1st year and Sarah Smith, 5th Year reached the finals of the highly competitive Doodle4Google competition. Emily McGlynn, 2nd Year received an award for reaching the final of the Mental Health Ireland Design A Cover competition. And Transition year students Hope Courtney, Michelle McCamley and Laura Donohue reached the finals of the Junk Kouture fashion competition.

Also during the year Transition year students enjoyed a trip to Collins Barracks, Dublin where they visited the Ground Zero exhibition commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of 9/11. Fifth Year students visited Newgrange in October while in January 6th Year Art students visited the National Gallery and National Museum in Dublin.

More recently 6th year and 3rd year Art students completed their practical exams and we wish them every success with these.



Left: A beautiful piece of art work by second year art student Emily McGlynn was presented to Peter Kierans, CEO, County Meath VEC in marking the Ratoath College Student Art Exhibition and **Right:** Art Teacher Ms . H. Mortimer with students Sarah Smith, 5th year and Fionnuala McCormack 1st year who reached the finals of the Doodle4Google Art competition.

GAEILGE

Ba bhliain an-ghnóthach ar fad a bhí ann i mbliana do mhuinteoirí agus do dhaltaí na Gaeilge. Ní amháin go raibh go leor ag dul ar aghaidh sna seomraí ranga ach bhí pairt an-mhór ag cuid mhaith don Roinn sa chomortas 'G-Team' ar TG4. Rinne an t-Uasal Ó hEochaidh an-jab mar urlabhraí Dhomhnach Beathach ar an gclár. Bhí pairt lárnach ag Iníon Kilrane agus Iníon Garrett sa seó freisin. Bhí Nathan Mannion an-ghnóthach mar Bhusker Ghaeilge freisin.

Ar ais sa scoil bhí na daltaí an-ghnóthach ag taifead físeáin do TGR, Teilifís na Gaeilge Ráth Tó, cainéil úrnua na Gaeilge ar Youtube. Tá fíor obair déanta ag na ranganna éagsúla maidir le seo. Tá idir greann agus oideachas le feiceáil sna físeáin a bhfuil faoi eagarthóireacht faoi lathair.

Bunaíodh an Coiste Gaelach i mbliana freisin. Chuir níos mó ná caoga dalta isteach ar an gCoiste a tagann le chéile chuile Luain i gcroílár Gaeltacht Rath Tó, seomra 32. Ghlac an Coiste páirt sa chomrtas G i mbliana agus d'eirigh go geall leo. Chuaigh an Coiste Stiúrtha faoi agallamh sa seomra bhoird. Bhí orthu insint do mholtóirí an chomortais cén sort rudaí a bhí ar siúl ag an Coiste agus ag TGR.

I Mí an Mhárta bhí Seachtain na gaeilge den scoth sa Scoil. Bhí an t-uafás imeachtaí ar siúl, ina measc bhí, Toraíocht Taisce, Comórtas na bPostaer, An Puc-Fada, Tráth na gCeist agus an Céilí Mór. Bhí an-chraic go deo againn ag rince sa cheilí mór. Ghlac na Fraincigh páirt freisin agus thaispeáin Gaeilgeoirí Ráth Tó dóibh conas seiteanna rince a dhéanamh. Chríochnaigh Seachtain na Gaeilge le Bricfeasta Ghaelach mór mílteach.

Trís is tríd ba bhliain iontach é an bhlian seo. Bhí an Ghaeilge le cloisteáil ó cheann ceann na scoile agus mar is gnáth tá daltaí na scoile ag dul i bhfeabhas ar a dteanga dúchais féin. Ag tús na scoil-bliana seo chuir an Roinn fáilte roimh Gráinne Lyons, agus tá fíor obair déanta aici le daltaí an sraith Shóisearach go háirithe. Ag an am céanna fágann an Foireann slán le gníomhaire teanga den scoth, Matthew O Boyle a bhfuil ag imeacht uainn i mbliana.

Guíonn an Roinn gach rath ar gach dalta a bhfuil ag déanamh na Scruiduithe Stáit i mbliana.

Tá réabhlóid na teanga faoi lánseol i Ráth Tó. Bí linn.

MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

CLASS PHOTOS

2011-2012

1st Year: Moltóir's Message

As we approach the end of the year and what was your first year in Ratoath College, we would like to congratulate each and every one of you on a fantastic year. The transition from primary school to secondary school is not easy when you are 12 or 13 years of age and we feel that as a year group you carried out this transition with excellence. When you think back to September it was all about lockers, books, timetables and finding your way around what was back then "this massive building". This is but a distant memory now.

It has been a very successful year for you as a group. We enjoyed such events as the trip to the young scientist exhibition, the first year service, sports day and who will forget the trips to Carlingford and Italy. We had academic, sporting and cultural success in first year this year.

Well done to all of you on great summer reports and to those of you who may be a little disappointed, next year is a new beginning.

We have thoroughly enjoyed this year with you and are very proud of the way you conducted yourselves over the past school year. We would like to wish you a relaxing and enjoyable summer break and we look forward to late August when you come back as 2nd year students.

A Sweeney, D. M Brennan, G Carey, A Doyle, A Hitillambeau, F McTiernan, B O Dwyer, C Smith (The first year team)

Rang Brennan



Rang Carey



Rang Doyle



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

Rang Hitillambeau



Rang O'Dwyer



Rang McTiernan



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

Rang Smith



2nd Year: Moltóir's Message

To the students of second year I want to say a very well done on completing what can be a difficult year. You are about to start on a well deserved break having just completed the summer exams, for those of you who are happy with your results well done. To the few of you who could have done a little better its time to make some New School Year resolutions; it's not too late to recover and aim high for 3rd year. Remember you are going into a very important year and it's important to set goals to ensure you get the very best results in your Junior Cert.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with each and every one of you; you do make my day more enjoyable and always manage to make me smile. We've had some wonderful achievements this year, with a huge amount of you partaking in the school musical, we've also had students take part in Tae-Kwon-Do, ice skating, debating and diving championships, to name but a few. You inspire me with your vast range of activities and achievements.

Before I finish I would like to take this opportunity to thank the superb 2nd year team of Caomhnóirí and assistant Caomhnóirí. We are very lucky to have such a supportive and strong team, who work very hard and always have your best interest at heart. I hope you all have a wonderful break, mind each other, have fun and be well rested when you return to us next year.

Gretta Judge & the Second Year Team

Rang Connolly



Rang Daly



Rang Flatley



Rang Kelly



Rang Nissar



Rang Ó hEochaidh



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

3rd Year: Moltóir's Message

Go n-éirí go geal libh

Well, our countdown is nearly over and the 6th of June 2012 is fast approaching. Who knew back in August 2009 that our time together would pass so quickly??! I have loved my time working with you as a year group. It has been a joy for me to see you develop into the wonderful young men and women you have become. There is no doubt in my mind but that you will do well in the state exams and that you are now ready to move on to senior cycle.

I wish our two new Transition Year classes, Rang O' Donohue and Rang Cahill the very best of luck – I know that a wonderful year awaits you all!

To those of you progressing on to 5th Year I really look forward to working with you in senior cycle as you embark upon the exiting coursework for your Leaving Cert and make those all-important decisions such as what you are going to do with your life!!! We look forward to welcoming the current Transition Years to our year group and getting to know them as our classmates. We also look forward to welcoming Mr Qualter to our year team as he will be one of our five Caomhnóirí next year.

I want to say thank you to “The Fantastic Five” who have worked tirelessly with you over the past three years – their commitment and dedication to you, their students, on a both a personal and an educational level has been truly inspiring. We wish Miss Martin all the very best as she begins a new adventure in her life. We will miss her as part of our Caomhnóir Team but we look forward to welcoming her back to school towards the end of next year and I know her “Martins” will always hold a special place in her heart.

A word of thanks is also due to your parents who have helped and encouraged you along the way and the 3rd Year team would like to express our thanks to the parents/guardians who supported us over the years.

Last but not least, **thank you to you**, our 3rd Year students. You have been an absolute pleasure to work with. Congratulations to you all on your commitment to our school over the past three years and your many successes to date. Our school is a richer and more diverse community because of the contribution you have made and so I have to tell you all one last time – YOU ROCK!!!

Go n-éirí go geal libh.

Nuala Ní Mhurchú & the Third Year Team

Rang Barry



Rang Garrett



Rang Martin



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

Rang McAuley



Rang Reid



Transition Year: Moltóir's Message

What a year! Transition Year has flown by and now 5th year beckons! It has been a fantastic year and we have enjoyed the great attitude, commitment and positivity from both Rang Casey and Rang Walsh. You worked hard all year both in the classroom and in your extra-curricular activities...in the school and around the country! Highlights included trips to Belfast, Dublin Zoo, both Camping trips, Surfing in Donegal, the Panto, Kairos...the list goes on!

It has been wonderful to see you bond as two class groups coming from separate Junior Caomhnóir classes, sharing fun and laughter, supporting each other in tough times and creating memories that you know will last a lifetime. You will only ever do one Transition Year in your lives and you have certainly put your hearts and souls into making it an unforgettable one for yourselves and for each other.

As you move into 5th Year and start on the road to Leaving Cert we hope you will make the best possible use of your new skills, stay focused on your goals and dreams and maintain the new friendship bonds that have developed in TY. An exciting road is in front of you and you have such potential to do great things in your lives...make it happen!

We would like to thank you for just being you this year; we cannot believe how quickly the year has gone and wish you the very best for yourselves as you move on to the next chapter. Have a great summer, you deserve it!

Aoife O'Dwyer, Ciara Casey, David Walsh and Paola Cullen
4th Year Team

Rang Casey



Rang Walsh



5th Year: Moltóir's Message

Where has the time gone, at this stage you are half way through your senior cycle programme, this time next year you will be leaving us!. As always it has been a trouble free year thanks to your (students) positive behaviour and attitude towards school. There were some amazing achievements throughout the year both academically and extra-curricular, too many to mention individually. There were also some very challenging times to which the students reacted with extraordinary maturity.

As always you have maintained 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.

As we keep impressing upon you, you are a year group with serious potential both academically and socially. Once again we implore that you maintain and build upon your ethics of hard work that you have developed this year. You are too well aware that you will be entering a badly damaged economy and that the importance of going to college or gaining an apprenticeship has never been greater.

A word of thanks is also due to your parent(s)/guardians who have helped and encouraged you along the way. The fifth 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 all your hard work and comradery over the last year. Most importantly, enjoy the summer recess and mind yourselves. We look forward to seeing you late August as final year students!!!

Derek Ball, Eimear Kilrane, Mairead Ryan, Niamh O'Neill, Ursula Hynes, John McCarthy, Kevin Heaney, Eimear Clare, Eoghan O'Reilly—(The Fifth Year Team)

MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

Rang Heaney



Rang Hynes



Rang McCarthy



Rang Kilrane



Rang O'Neill



Rang Ryan



6th Year: Moltóir's Message

I can't believe it's been 5 years since we all became members of the Ratoath College family. I remember watching you all nervously and excitedly pose for photographs on the front steps of the campus with your neatly combed hair styles and shining shoes. You made a wonderful first impression- your good natured spirit and your enthusiasm was palpable even then. Over the years (6 for some of you) you have grown and matured into wonderful young adults and you have proven yourselves to be hardworking, caring and talented. I am, and forever will be, proud of your achievements to date and amazed at the potential you have all shown.

It has been a real pleasure getting to know you all over the past 5 years and although I will be sad to see you leave I am very excited about all the wonderful opportunities that lie ahead for you. I am 100 % confident that you will all find happiness and success in whatever path you chose to lead. As a year group you have been very committed to your studies and I've no doubt that your results will reflect that dedication. I wish you all the best in your exams- stay focused and you will all do great.

Over the past 5/ 6 years you have become the best of friends- laughing together during the good times and supporting each other during the tough times. Your generosity of spirit is something you should be very proud of and remember to embrace this unique quality as you face new challenges. Always remember to try your best and seize every opportunity that comes your way.

It has been a great privilege getting to know you all and I am grateful that I had the wonderful opportunity of working so closely with you. I will really miss you and I hope your years here with us have helped shape you into confident, mature and conscientious young adults who feel ready to embrace every opportunity that comes your way.

Stay positive and stay in touch.

Wishing you all the best of luck and happiness.

Ms. Kelly & The Sixth Year Team

Rang Hannon



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

Rang Nelson



Rang Witter

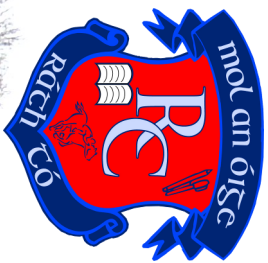


Rang Savage



Rang Cahill





CHAMPIONS



Katoath College: All-Ireland Vocational Schools

Senior Football B' Champions, 2012



Ratoath College

*Class of
2012*

Yearbook

Name: _____

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The Yearbook Committee

The graduating Class of 2012 originated the idea for Ratoath College's first ever Yearbook and they have driven it to completion, taking valuable time from their studies to prepare a publication that we hope is worthy of recording the Class of 2012, both for themselves and for posterity.

Particular credit must go to Breanne Nolan and Ursula Cullen. They have expended a great deal of time and effort making sure everything fits and looks as well as possible. If they never have to crop a photo again, I think it will be too soon! Well done ladies.

While every effort has been made to include images of as many graduates as possible in the pages that follow, we offer our humble apologies to anyone who has been omitted.

The Yearbook Committee: Breanne Nolan, Ursula Cullen, Ross Gillen, Katie Kelly, Andrew Kiernan, Conor Hughes, Matthew O'Boyle, Cliona Grall, Jonathan Grall, Jamie McClean, Claire Mooney, Jack Dunphy, Helena Malone.

J Mc Carthy, May 2012

A Farewell Message

From Ms Ní Bhróithe & Ms Prendergast

It is with a tinge of sadness that we write to bid farewell to you, the Class of 2012, but also with a great deal of pride in what you have achieved and what you have become and with great hope for your future.

You mark a watershed in the history of Ratoath College. Among you are the last students to have started their journey through Our School at Fairyhouse, while the majority of you were the first group of 1st Years to pose for that now traditional first day photo on the steps of our new campus in Jamestown. Our journey together has been full of ups and down, laughs and tears but a journey we consider ourselves privileged to have shared with you.

As much as we have endeavoured to guide and encourage your development into adults of conscience, character and confidence, so you in turn have helped to shape the development of our school into the thriving, bustling and caring community it is today. For this, we owe you a great debt of gratitude.

We hope you take with you fond memories of your time with us—of school tours, talent shows and musicals, of morning assemblies and sports days, of student of the month ceremonies, extra-curricular successes and, yes, even of your teachers! Chiefly though, we hope you take with you the friendships and positive relationships you have forged amongst each other these last five or six years. Cherish them dearly, for although time and space may grow between you, the bonds you share will last a lifetime.

We wish you good luck as you embark on your Leaving Cert examinations. Trust that the hard work, commitment and positivity you have shown to your learning will serve you well.

Finally, remember: once a part of this community, always a part of this community. Ratoath College will always be your school and its doors will always be open to you. So come back and say hello every now and again and regale us with the tales of the lives you will build for yourselves beyond these walls. We can't wait to hear them!

We leave you to ponder the words of Walt Disney when he said:

"all our dreams can come true....if we have the courage to pursue them"

Good luck,

Máire Ní Bhróithe & Oonagh Prendergast

Principal & Deputy Principal

Thanks and Good Luck

from Ms Kelly

I can't believe it's been 5 years since we all became members of the Ratoath College family. I remember watching you all nervously and excitedly pose for photographs on the front steps of the campus with your neatly combed hair styles and shining shoes. You made a wonderful first impression-your good natured spirit and your enthusiasm was palpable even then. Over the years (6 for some of you) you have grown and matured into wonderful young adults and you have proven yourselves to be hardworking, caring and talented. I am, and forever will be, proud of your achievements to date and amazed at the potential you have all shown.

It has been a real pleasure getting to know you all over the past 5 years and although I will be sad to see you leave I am very excited about all the wonderful opportunities that lie ahead for you. I am 100 % confident that you will all find happiness and success in whatever path you chose to lead. As a year group you have been very committed to your studies and I've no doubt that your results will reflect that dedication. I wish you all the best in your exams-stay focused and you will all do great.

Over the past 5/ 6 years you have become the best of friends-laughing together during the good times and supporting each other during the tough times. Your generosity of spirit is something you should be very proud of and remember to embrace this unique quality as you face new challenges. Always remember to try your best and seize every opportunity that comes your way.

It has been a great privilege getting to know you all and I am grateful that I had the wonderful opportunity of working so closely with you. I will really miss you and I hope your years here with us have helped shape you into confident, mature and conscientious young adults who feel ready to embrace every opportunity that comes your way.

Stay positive and stay in touch.

Wishing you all the best of luck and happiness,

Donna Kelly

Moltóir, Class of 2012

A Parting Reflection

from Father PJ

A time you have talked about, dreamed about, sometimes wished would happen sooner has arrived. I pass 1st years on the corridor and wonder, as you look down on me, were you really that small only five years ago? You, the Graduation class of 2011/2012, are about to face into one of the most important examinations of your young lives and the uncertainty of the challenges which will follow this. You move with fears but also with hope and joy as you are released from second level education and move to new horizons and new vistas.

I am deeply grateful to you all. This Graduation Class have co-operated so well with the staff and contributed so much to the ethos of our College. The spirit of good will and enthusiasm of this Graduation Class has had a major influence on the remainder of the students. You have laid a very solid foundation for future development and I would like to thank you for that.

God blessed each one of you with unique talents and abilities, and you have used those gifts well. You have worked hard to prepare for a challenging future. Just as important as the lessons that you've learned in the classroom are the ways that you have grown as a person, the friendships you have formed and the deeper understanding you have acquired of yourself and others.

As you celebrate this milestone in your life and look towards a new horizon, never forget what has brought you this far. Remember the love of your family and friends, remember your own sacrifice and hard work and remember that God has a special plan for your life. You have so much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to! May today mark the beginning of many new joys and accomplishments and a continuation of all the good things that you have already achieved.

God bless you, Graduate.+

PJ Nyland, S.D.B.

Chaplain

A Valediction

by Ard-Cinnirí

Shannon Fagan &

Matthew O'Boyle

We are delighted to be the valedictorians for this year. This is our valediction to you guys, in case you don't know what a valediction is, it's a type of farewell. A goodbye in which we say how much we'll always love you all and never forget you, and we'll always keep in touch! Not really, that would be vale-fiction. SEE WHAT I DID THERE?! Courtesy of Matthew, I bet you're all gonna miss my jokes. In all seriousness, I love you guys. Shannon and I never thought we'd be writing a goodbye to our year, if this was hand written you'd see tear drops on the page! And they wouldn't be Shannon's. MEN CRY TOO. But I'm a sexy crier; sorry I'm being a vain-edictorian now. Indeed you are Matty.

It's mad to think that at one point we were two separate year groups, who rarely mixed. It feels like we've all been friends since day one. We both felt intimidated going into class with the big kids, (and no, we're not calling you fat) as we both came from such small schools but our year groups gelled instantly. And it's sad for us to say that it's all over: getting shouted at to get into lines for assembly, various long-winded speeches at awards ceremonies, getting a large bell rang in our faces mid-way through lunch to make us go outside, GOING OUTSIDE; maybe change won't be so bad?

However, there will be a lot of things we're going to miss, the talent shows, gawking at the first years and feeling superior, actually forming a weird friendship with the teachers, laughs in class, and the chats at lunch, and the trips together such as Italy, France, Carlingford and China for those of you who went. The only trips we have left now are the leaving cert, the debts and our graduation. Graduation is the last time we're going to be together as a year group and the last time we're going to see all our teachers' smiling faces; probably why they're smiling.

We've had such an amazing time together as a year group. Between Italy and Paris, Gardaland and the Eiffel tower, China and, well, a retreat day in the school... which not too many attended. We've had some serious bants! And we've had the bants together <3 (N'AWWH MATTY). We've made each other laugh, cry and at times we may have been mad at each other but we were there for each other when it mattered the most. Over the last 5 or 6 years, we have become much more than a year group of students. For most of us we've made friends for life and got to experience the wonderful, embarrassing and funny moments from first to sixth year. We have become an amazing group of friends and we hope that we'll stay this way forever.

Congratulations to the class of 2012,

From Shannon and Matthew.

xoxo

We Remember

Leah Halligan

*“When you part from your friend,
you grieve not;*

*For that which we love most in her may be
clearer in her absence, as the mountain to the
climber is clearer from the plain.*

*And let there be no purpose in friendship
save the deepening of the spirit.*

*For love that seeks aught but the disclosure
of its own mystery is not love but a net cast
forth: and only the unprofitable is caught.*

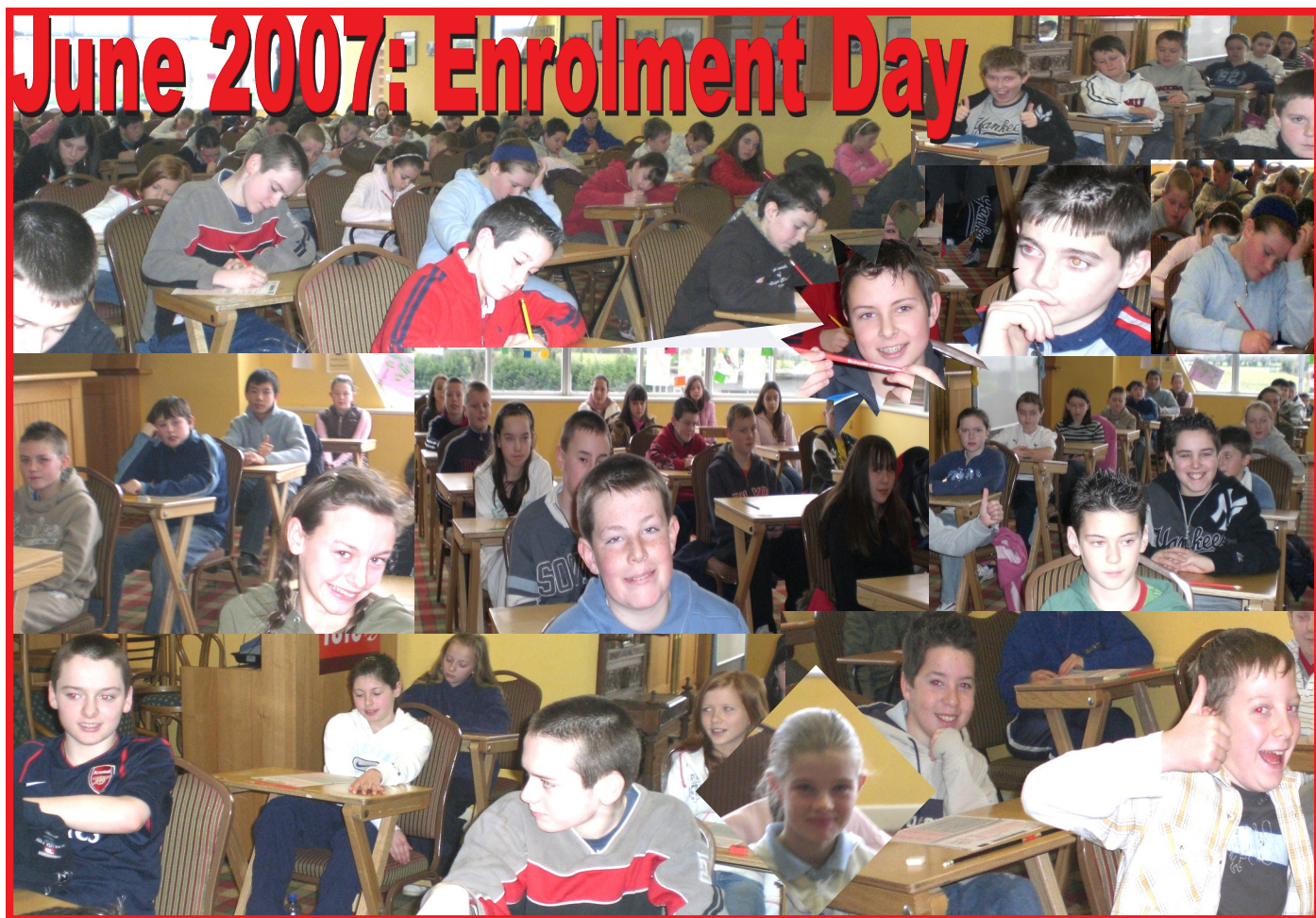
And let your best be for your friend.

*If she must know the ebb of your tide,
let her know its flood also.”*

from ‘The Prophet’ by Khalil Gibran

Class of 2012 - Timeline

Part 1





**Late 2007:
Settling in**



The Class of 2012

Rang Cahill



LUKE BYRNE
"Lukie"

Moment: The Mr. Mc Carthy cricket incident...

Quote: "Someone once told me death smiles at us all. All we can do is smile back"

What I'll Miss? School trips (were awesome)

Ambition: Explore the world, become a doctor.



JACK R. COONEY

Moment: Mr McCarthy getting hit in the crotch.

Quote: "Denial is the best form of preparation"

What I'll Miss? Luke's random comments in tutorial.

Ambition: Set up a software company and make millions.



MICHAEL CRAWLEY

Moment: Came third in Leinster shot putt

Quote: Johnny's cat noise: "meow"

What I'll Miss? Boo getting smashed in the face with the ball at break

Ambition: Become a member of the Gardai



CLAUDIA DARCY
"Clouds"

Moment: Shanelle hitting her head off a fire extinguisher

Quote: "Thug life"

What I'll Miss? Locker bant

Ambition: Marry Justin Bieber.



JASMINE FAHEY
"Jaz"

Moment: Pushing Shanelle into a fire extinguisher hehehe...

Quote: "At least you're pretty :)"

What I'll Miss? Free biology with Danielle Gannon.

Ambition: Married to Karl with tanned babies :)



AARON FLANAGAN GANNON
"Barcelona"

Moment: Tantrums, stories and falls

Quote: "You won't get enough points to go on the Doll!" Barcelona

What I'll Miss? Craic in Irish class

Ambition: To play professional football.



DENISE M. GRIFFIN

Moment: Getting my hair lit on fire in 1st year wood.

Quote: "Everything's just exploded."-Chemistry class.

What I'll Miss? The delicious canteen food.

Ambition: Sail merrily onwards keeping everything without ever embracing doubt.



EDEL HILL
"Dellboy"

Moment: Getting chosen as one of the Cinnire

Quote: Do what you love. Love what you do.

What I'll Miss? Chats in tutorial. Mr. Ball's positivity.

Ambition: Working as a psychologist, helping people with life issues.

Class of 2012



ANDREW KIERNAN
"Drewbles"

Moment: Winning the All Ireland final.

Quote: "Thanks for coming!!"

What I'll Miss? Ms. McTiernan's Irish class #Bant.

Ambition: To get the shift off Georgia Salpa.



MARY MAHON

Moment: China and 2nd year

Quote: "What?"

What I'll Miss? Mr Cahill with a big smile at assembly

Ambition: Travel the world and help animals



AARON MCDONNELL
"Ernnnnnnnnnnnn"

Moment: Winning the All Ireland Final! :D

Quote: Kiernan's cousin's fit, cousins fit, Kiernan's cousin's fiiiitt! Na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na!

What I'll Miss? The bant in Irish!

Ambition: Team teaching with Ms Mc Tiernan!



BRIAN O'CONNOR
"Brains"

Moment: Ross's many falls during the year #oaf

Quote: "It was a good match" – Conors touching speech after the final

What I'll Miss? Clowns getting the prayer wrong

Ambition: Join the priesthood with Ross #onthepull.



MAREK - HANNES PAARA
"Bunny"

Moment: 1997

Quote: "A sword day...A red day...and the sun rises! Ride now... Ride! Ride for ruin, and the world's ending! DEATH! DEATH! DEATH!"

What I'll Miss? The lovely uniforms

Ambition: To become a religious poet.



NICOLA PIKE POTTER
"Nickles"

Moment: Mouse at the Lockers.

Quote: "Shake It!"

What I'll Miss? Ryan Quinn. <3

Ambition: Travel the World. Get Taller.



SOPHIE RYAN

Moment: All of TY

Quote: "I've no signal"

What I'll Miss? Exciting accounting class with Mr Connolly

Ambition: To get the points for collage and hopefully move to Dundalk



ZACH SKELLY
"Skelly"

Moment: First Day of school.

Quote: Is an apple recyclable.

What I'll Miss? The bant at break.

Ambition: To live in America.



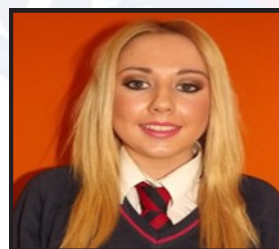
KELLY SMYTH

Moment: Taking part in the 1st year talent show. I used to think I could sing.

Quote: "How do you spell...?"

What I'll Miss? Absolutely nothing, can't wait to embrace college life.

Ambition: To be an Olympian.



RACHEL STOWE

Moment: Completing Transition year

Quote: "Risk it for a biscuit"

What I'll Miss? Meditation in the prayer room.

Ambition: Successful hairdresser and make up artist.



ADRIAN WHYTE

Moment: Jamie falling backwards off his chair in Irish... poor aul shhlane!

Quote: "Are you well? Cause your lookin well!!"

What I'll Miss? The Countless chats +Sports day

Ambition: Good weather, good women, nice job, health and happiness.

Rang Hannon



GEMMA BAGGET
"Jimbo"

Moment: Exploding spray paint.

Quote : "This class will send me into early labour"

What I'll Miss? Finding food at lunch with Kelly.

Ambition: In Australia, healthy, happy, loved and in love.



ANNA BRENNAN
"Annie"

Moment: Going to the recording studio.

Quote: "Smile and the world smiles with you"

What I'll Miss? Baking, Classmates, Teachers, Everyone in Aonad Arkle

Ambition: Have my own house, purple beetle car, a good career in baking and maybe a pet dog.



DYLAN BYRNE BURKE
"Dill"

Moment: Killing People in Dodge Ball

Quote: "Are you well, because you're looking well."

What I'll Miss? Have the Crack with the LADS

Ambition: In Ten years time I see myself being 28 years old



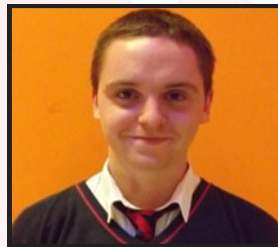
CIAN CAREY
"Carey"

Moment: Whipping everyone at karting!

Quote: "Rubbing Is racing!"

What I'll Miss? Having the Crack with the lads.

Ambition: Working in Mooretown Engineering, driving in the British touring car Championship.



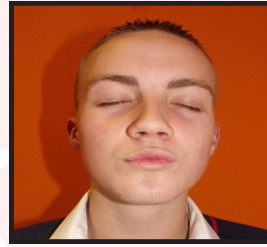
FIACHRA DOLAN
"Dolan"

Moment: Doing Mr Hannon impressions with the lads.

Quote: "That is perfectly fine."

What I'll Miss? The craic with the lads.

Ambition: In 10 years time I hope to be partying it up in Australia with Macker.



NIALL DOUGAN
"Dougie Bear"

Moment: Being made scrape a tampon off the wall with a brush...

Quote: "Home Ec should be called wife preparation studies."

What I'll Miss? Having the bant with THE LADSS

Ambition: I see myself being taller and older.



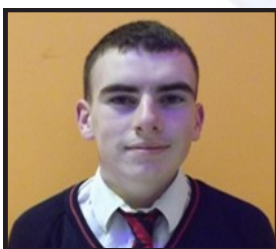
KATIE FANNING

Moment: Going Go-Karting, people in class making impressions of Mr Hannon :D

Quote: "Boom"

What I'll Miss? Nothing

Ambition: Having a good job and a nice place to live.



MICHAEL KING
"Mick"

Moment: Winning sports day in first and third year.

Quote: "What you want to do is..."

What I'll Miss? Having the crack in class with boys.

Ambition: In 10 years I see myself beating Cian Carey in the Formula 1 championship.



LAURA LYNCH
"Lola"

Moment: Going go karting with the class.

Quote: "Prove it"

What I'll Miss? Having fun with my friends.

Ambition: In ten years I want to have a good job and to have visited New Zealand.



OISÍN MACNAMEE
"Crusher"

Moment: Cooking in Home Ec.

Quote: "Okay, that's perfect. Thank you class"

What I'll Miss? Having the craic with my classmates .

Ambition: I see myself as a DJ for a local radio station.



VICTORIA MANRIQUE
"Aya"

Moment: Going to go-karting with my class.

Quote: "Really"

What I'll Miss? I will miss being with my friends in school.

Ambition: I want to be a Chef and have my own restaurant.

Class of 2012



CHARLOTTE MARLOWE

Moment: Winning Student of The Month last year

Quote: "Mol an Óige"

What I'll Miss? I will miss my LCA class and my friends

Ambition: My Goal Career is to be a Receptionist



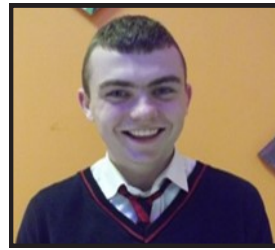
LAUREN MARLOWE

Moment: Being nominated for student of the month last year.

Quote: "Mol an Óige"

What I'll Miss? My LCA Class, and my friends.

Ambition: To have a Secretarial Career and to travel in the future.



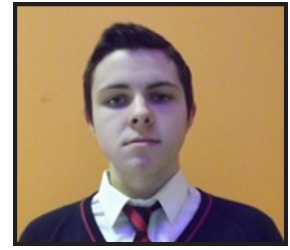
ALAN Mc ENTEE
"Macker"

Moment: Doing Mr. Hannon impressions.

Quote: "What you want to do is..."

What I'll Miss? The crack with the boys.

Ambition: In ten years I hope to have won the Isle of Man senior TT.



CIAN Mc EVOY
"Makks' Macker"

Moment: Couple of other students and I throwing snow balls at the staff room window.

Quote: "Oookkk that is no problem at all"

What I'll Miss? The banter at the debs last year.

Ambition: Employed in business.

LAURA RUSINA

Rang Nelson



JASON BOURKE WALSH
"Jay"

Moment: Playing Ukulele down the halls

Quote: "It's so mathematical." "Derp."

What I'll Miss? Trying to convince teachers to let us in at break.

Ambition: Come back as a teacher in Ratoath College.



GER BRENNAN

Moment: Kicking the winning score v Ashbourne and wining the All-Ireland

Quote: "Kills me!! Clearly"

What I'll Miss?

Construction class and the Bant with the lads and a few teachers

Ambition: Playing for Leinster and Ireland



CONOR CRAWFORD
"Craw-Dawg"

Moment: Man Cave...

Quote: "Are yah normal" "Do you speak Spanish" – Meg (Mc Evoy) chat-up lines.

What I'll Miss? Watching Nicky cycling to school.

Ambition: Have enough children to field a professional football team.



SARAH DILLON

Moment: Irish teacher slipped on water.

Quote: "Igh thats minging"

What I'll Miss? Friends & some teachers!

Ambition: Getting a kiss from Chris Brown & having twin girls!!



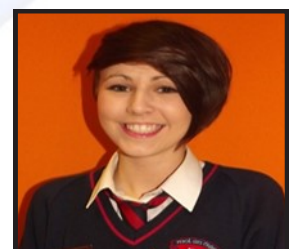
DANNY ENNIS

Moment: Semi-final with rugby team

Quote: "If you open and close the window the wind will stop making noise"

What I'll Miss? Robbie's noiseless laugh

Ambition: Successful lawyer



SHANNON FAGAN
"Shanfan"

Moment: The bants in CHINA 2011! And Ross ripping his trousers.

Quote: "Bing Danny Day Hoe"

What I'll Miss? I'll miss my 3rd year French class and Rang Nelson.

Ambition: Living the dream in New York City.

Class of 2012



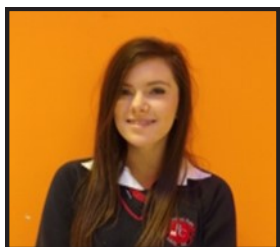
ROSS GILLEN
"Rosco"

Moment: Having the big horse race of students then ripping my trousers.

Quote: "I love her, I really do"

What I'll Miss? Giving the Shark a hug everyday

Ambition: Be in the priesthood with "Brains" #onthepull



CLIONA GRALL
"I put the C in the KCB"

Moment: When Helena cried after falling off her chair in class.

Quote: Anything Adrian says. 'Love triumphs all!'

What I'll Miss? Not a day of school anyway! Full attendance bro. I'm cool...

Ambition: To travel, and to become Mrs Qualter.



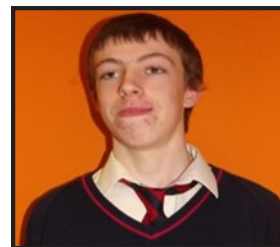
LAURA GRIBBEN
"Gribbles"

Moment: Giving Mr Walsh a lesson on the facts of life camping in TY!

Quote: "The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you can't do".

What I'll Miss? Gossiping the Monday morning after a party that weekend !

Ambition: Rich & famous living in L.A.



EOGHAN GUBBINS
"Gubbstep"

Moment: Glenn being trampled after falling coming in from Lunch

Quote: "Watch out for dead fish".

What I'll Miss? The tension in Mr Ball's class

Ambition: President of the Falkland Islands



SEÁN KAVANAGH

Moment: Mitching under the stairs in second year with Jess.

Quote: "Ehm she had a face, with some eyes, think it was two eyes."

What I'll Miss? 3rd year French

Ambition: Live abroad.



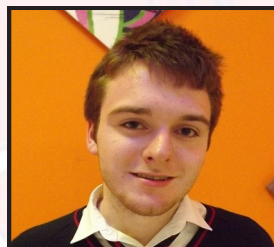
AOIFE LEONARD
"EEEEEF"

Moment: Jessica getting the purple ink on her forehead.

Quote: Are you having a laugh?

What I'll Miss? I'll miss my teachers and my class.

Ambition: Living in a foreign country and being successful.



GARY LYNCH
"Gaz"

Moment: Getting hit in the face by Doug's 'drop goal' attempt

Quote: "Are you normal?"

What I'll Miss? A lot of the students and some of the teachers

Ambition: I would like have a good job but I'd love to travel for a few years



HELENA MALONE
"Ginger"

Moment: Falling in the goals at assembly

Quote: "Reach for the moon, even if you miss you'll land among the stars"

What I'll Miss? French in 3rd year and being with my friends everyday.

Ambition: to be on Broadway, living in a



SHANNON MCCONWAY
"Finches"

Moment: All of TY!

Quote: "Keep your feet on the ground when your head's in the clouds"

What I'll Miss? All the amazing friends I've made over the last 6 years

Ambition: To be successful and happy in life.



CLAIRE MOONEY
"Frosty"

Moment: Andy K choking on water in Irish

Quote: "On every street in every city there's a somebody who dreams of being a somebody".

What I'll Miss? 3rd year French, sixth year Irish

Ambition: Accepting my third Oscar in NYC



ROSS MOORE

Moment: French class 3rd year. "You alright Glenn, are you hurt?"

Quote: "Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy?"

What I'll Miss? Friends, good teachers, fun classes, all that Jazz.

Ambition: Ruler of a small south pacific island.



ASHLING O'BRIEN
"Barel"

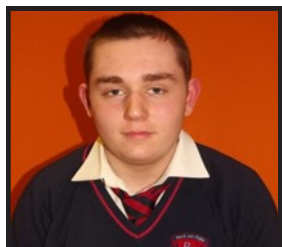
Moment: Calling Breanne out of class and punching her in the boobie.

Quote: "Take out your homework pleassseee".

What I'll Miss? Mr O hEochaidh's red bullet

Ambition: Working in a jam factory!! Abroad loving life!!

Class of 2012



NICKY RANDLES
"Nickster"

Moment: Winning sports day 2 years in a row.

Quote: "I did not tell you to log on!! Log off please!!Now log on"

What I'll Miss? The bant in Construction.

Ambition: First black President of Ireland



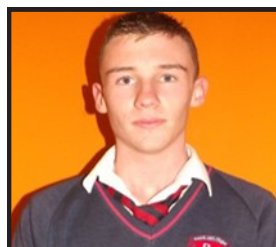
AMY SIMPSON
"Nnnnnamy"

Moment: Modelling ugly pinstripe trousers in assembly in front of the whole school. Awky momo.

Quote: "Don't cry about it!"

What I'll Miss? Jojo Daly

Ambition: Rescuing puppies, having a six pack and travelling the world. Also married to millionaire.



LUKE STOWE

Moment: TY camping trip

Quote: "It's called acrylic because that is its name."

What I'll Miss? Mr Ball's smart comments in business.

Ambition: To get through college without liver failure.



GLENN TARPEY
"Mr Yellow Fellow"

Moment: The barbershop quartets in biology

Quote: "I swear to drunk I'm not god"

What I'll Miss? Decorating Quinny's locker with funny pictures (sorry Ryan)

Ambition: Pursue my lifelong dream of becoming Super Mario/Ezio.



EAMON WALLACE
"Wally"

Moment: All Ireland champions this year.

Quote: "Are you there????"

What I'll Miss? The bant in Irish class/ Mr.Hannon.

Ambition: Making millions in casino's, living abroad, Managing Barcelona to many champions leagues.

Rang Savage



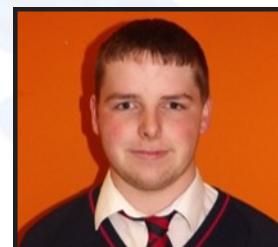
ETHAN BARKER
"The Barque"

Moment: Super Epic Closing Speech Debate Victory

Quote: "Aoife's Qorner"

What I'll Miss? Cinnire Room!

Ambition: To become a writer.



JORDAN CARR
"Choady"

Moment: Playing with the rugby team

Quote: "Are ye serious".

What I'll Miss? The bant

Ambition: In the army



TING LOK CHANG
"Ting Man"

Moment: Roared like Godzilla to Ms. Brennan.

Quote: "Fail to prepare, prepare to fail."

What I'll Miss? I will miss anyone that taught me anything good at all. (everyone!)

Ambition: Computer Engineer & A chic Designer.



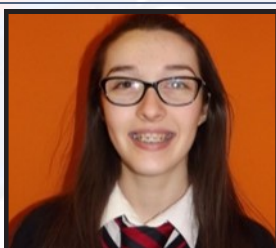
NIAMH CORRIGAN

Moment: The Cinnire Room bants

Quote: "It's for the bant".

What I'll Miss? Rang Savage

Ambition: Go to college, become a millionaire, get married and live happily ever after.



EMMA COSTIGAN
"Emz"

Moment: Setting off the fire alarms in Chemistry!

Quote: "Throw up that W"

What I'll Miss? The chats in tutorial

Ambition: Getting a PhD, travelling all over the world and owning an apartment in Manhattan.



URULA CULLEN
"Urs"

Moment: Mr. Keane trying to 'slam' the door.

Quote: "AW YEAH, LACROSSE YEAH!"

What I'll Miss? Rang Kelly! Sitting outside in summer. Mr Ó hEochaidh bullying Ash

Ambition: Happily Married and Minted/Successful..

Class of 2012



LAUREN DALY
"Lozzy"

Moment: Sneaking jelly beans in business class

Quote: "Here, I'm class..."

What I'll Miss: The long chats in religion

Ambition: To visit every Disneyland theme park.



JACK DUNPHY
"JD"

Moment: Winning the PE award for participation, not sporting ability.

Quote: "Don't believe the hype".

What I'll Miss? Irish class, clearly.

Ambition: to be an advisor to Pep Guardiola; to visit the beach at Koh Phi Phi.



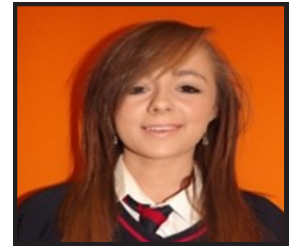
DANIELLE GANNON
"DaniBbz"

Moment: Latvians speak Latin duhh.

Quote: "Wahhhh?"

What I'll Miss? Strolling around the school like dizzy fools with Jasmine Fahey.

Ambition: Married to some hottie of a man with loads of money. Yummy



ORLA GANNON

Moment: Building blocks with Breanne in maths.

Quote: "Love, Live, Laugh"

What I'll Miss? The chats around the school

Ambition: Happy and successful.



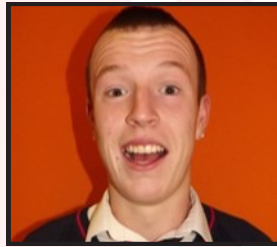
DAVID GORMAN
"Boo"

Moment: Jack fainting in class

Quote: "Arivaderci"

What I'll Miss? My Knee

Ambition: To be an Engineer.



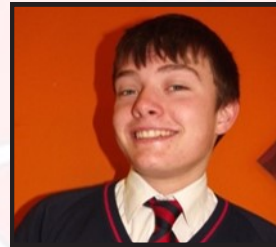
MARK HOARE
"Ultimate News"

Moment: Wrestling "Prendo" and losing. Our recent engagement too <3

Quote: Roightttt Goyyysss

What I'll Miss? Interesting Question, I'm stumped.

Ambition: Owning a string of clubs named 'Mark's Hoares' in the heart of Kells.



CONOR HUGHES
"Nerd"

Moment: Captaining us to victory in the RC Ashes.

Quote: "That's one of my petty hates."

What I'll Miss? Quoting TV and films endlessly. My acquaintances

Ambition: Have a theorem named after me. Be famous. A lot of money.



KATIE KELLY
"Kat"

Moment: Walking home everyday with the crew

Quote: "You could cause a seizure!" - Daz

What I'll Miss? All of the memories I have made here.

Ambition: To be a huge film-maker and drive a calasssss car.



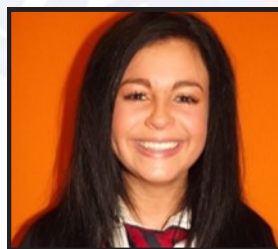
AMY KINLAN
"Der Dit Dit"

Moment: Italy in first year.

Quote: "And that's how you will get your answer".

What I'll Miss? The banter in class.

Ambition: having a great job, get married and have kids.



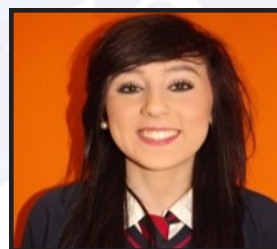
KELLY MCCORMACK
"Kel"

Moment: When spray-paint sprayed all over Gemma's face.

Quote: "I'm going to study today ...actually no I'm not, I've loads to do today"

What I'll Miss? Nothing

Ambition: Married to a millionaire with 4 kids.



SHANNEN Mc DONNELL

Moment: Camping in TY, a sheep bashed off our tent, China- the songs on the bus

Quote: "That is acrylic because that's its name"

What I'll Miss? Mr Mc Auley's singing

Ambition: To marry someone rich and have a family



SARAH MCGARRY
"Seerrdaaa"

Moment: Water fight with Lauren, made a teacher slip and fall

Quote: "Jayysusss"

What I'll Miss? Listening to the teachers at assembly in the morning

Ambition: Any where but Ratoath & fitness instructor !

Class of 2012



RUTH MCLOUGHLIN

Moment: 5th year business Pauly D rave

Quote: "WT"

What I'll Miss? Deep tutorial convos

Ambition: Travelling the world, being happy.



HUGH MOLONEY
"Lanky"

Moment: Going into the forest during the TY camping trip with the lads.

Quote: "It's called acrylic, cause that's it name".

What I'll Miss? Seeing everyone in the same place

Ambition: Guinness world record holder for "World's tallest male model"



BREANNE NOLAN
"I put the B in the KCB"

Moment: Playing Ultimate last man standing in Maths with Ash. BOD.

Quote: "You're reeeeeeaaally pretty, will you meet me?"

What I'll Miss? Jojo, Miss Casey BANT & Good News Guys! Abusing Katy <3

Ambition: Travel the World, & Be Minted :)



ROBERT NOONAN

Moment: Sitting beside Sarah Dillon in biology

Quote: "No way... yea serioussss!"

What I'll miss: You

Ambition: To be a bigger playa



MATTHEW T. O'BOYLE
"Hard Cinnire"

Moment: Claire M crying over Harry Potter. CLASSIC.

Quote: "Who's Ron Burgundy? I don't watch the news..."

What I'll Miss? My lady - Miss Savage <3

Ambition: To become Mr. Prendergast.



REBECCA SCOTT
"Bexter"

Moments: TY camping midnight hike and China!

Quote: "Happy times may come and go, but the memories will last forever!"

What I'll Miss? Friends, teachers and Cinnire-room

Ambition: To become a successful T.V Producer.



AOIFE TOMKINS

Moment: Our first snow day at the Racecourse.

Quote: 'Nitwit! Blubber! Oddment! Tweak!'

What I'll Miss? The people and Caomhnoir time!

Ambition: To take part in some form of aid work and make a difference in the world.



RACHEL WALSH

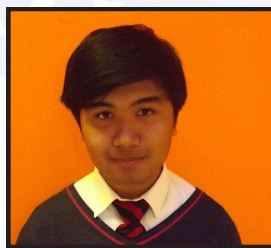
Moment: Conors very honest remark in religion

Quote: Love Triumphs all- Adrian White

What I'll Miss? The Savage Family

Ambition: To drink pina colada's and get caught in the rain, as often as I can

Rang Witter



REINIEL SAMSON

Moment: Ryan letting it rip in math class accidentally loud

Quote: "What you see is what you draw"

What I'll Miss? Friends and Classmates.

Ambition: Being in an ARMY.



DAVID CAMPBELL O'CONNOR
"Georgie"

Moment: Paris

Quote: The tear jerking motto about bullying in the dialann (by me)

What I'll Miss? Mr Ball's "funny" comments

Ambition: Pope



KATE CARR
"Cait"

Moment: China without a doubt!

Quote: "There's the haribo there..."

What I'll Miss? Ms Daly's sarcasm.

Ambition: On a beach in Australia, catching a few rays..

Class of 2012



MEGAN CARR
"Egg Megonnaise"

Moment: Ms Daly headbutting the whiteboard

Quote: "I Don't like fun"

What I'll Miss? Katy's Stress, Taking Dave's lunch.

Ambition: Working in a hospital, Rich husband, living in a hot place! ;)



EWELINA CHOCHLINSKA
'Enelina'

Moment: Losing my LSVF USB key

Quote: "It's for your benefit not mine."

What I'll Miss? The moments when I realized that there was homework on Sunday night.

Ambition: Find golden fish and make my dreams come true.

KIERAN COLLINS



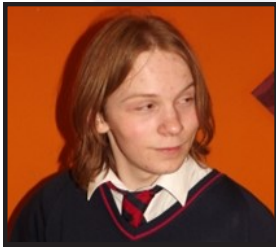
REBECCA DALY
"Becky"

Moment: Killing Ryan Graham in Maths with a duster; laughing my way through the prayer at the 3rd year ceremony.

Quote: "I did not ask you to log on"

What I'll Miss? Getting up at half 7 in the morning.

Ambition: Racing in the Derby



AARON DEVINE
"Aaron Da Fine"

Moment: Celebratory middle finger to my Irish class after getting a question right.

Quote: "Why does it have to did?"

What I'll Miss? The lamentations of the women

Ambition: First Emperor of the Moon



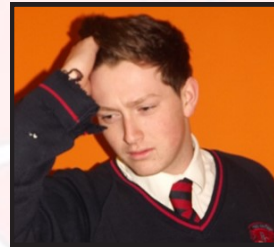
JOHNNY DUNNE
"Jett Strongman"

Moment: Mitching sports day and then going into a teacher-infested Spar...

Quote: "Hey, if you're normal, you're boring".

What I'll Miss? Literally nothing.

Ambition: To fail my Leaving Cert and do an Art course.



JONATHAN GRALL
"J GRA"

Moment: Dancing in front of the school for the talent show.

Quote: "Eh YEHHHHH..... WHO IS SAYING THAT!"

What I'll Miss? Crackin up The BOY D Nelson in D.C.G and having class with The God Hannon.

Ambition: Working as a pilot, maybe on Tallafornia.



KARL HUGHES

Moment: Leaving school

Quote: "The Lads"

What I'll Miss? Ms Daly's English class

Ambition: Get ripped and go Australia



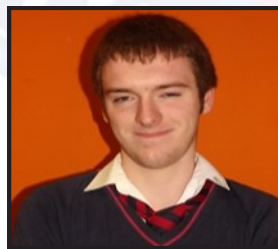
LOUISE LAWLESS
"Lou"

Moment: CHINA!

Quote: "Mon chien s'apelle kiki."

What I'll Miss? Katy Murrays daily dilemmas, the banter & Mr Connolly!

Ambition: Living the thug life!



RYAN LYNCH
"Gary"

Moment: When we watched Batman and Robin

Quote: "Miss, is Shakespeare still alive?"

What I'll Miss? I'll miss there being a place where everyone can go and definitely see each other

Ambition: I honestly couldn't say



DYLAN Mc BRINN

Moment: Geog field trip when my waders ripped.

Quote: "MARTY!!, Hot Wols!"

What I'll Miss? *The smell of stale cheese in the Cinnire room*

Ambition: Don't be back repeating, and hopefully be one year older. Oh and maybe college



JAMIE McCLEAN
"Shlane"

Moment: Falling off my chair In Irish

Quote: "What won't I do about it"

What I'll Miss? The banter

Ambition: To be successful in the music business

Class of 2012



KATY MURRAY
"I put the K in the KCB"

Moment: Winning the choir award, 2008... so awkward.

Quote: "STRESS OF MY LIFE!"

What I'll Miss? Locker chats, class banter, having the giggles in English and bio buzz!

Ambition: Have loads of babies :)



TUAN O'CARROLL

Moment: Performing in Talent Show with good friend Conor Hughes.

Quote: "Qorner"

What I'll Miss? All the prayer services...

Ambition: Working as a Zoologist somewhere.



CIARÁN O'CONNOR
"COC"

Moment: China & Ross having the runs at TY camping.

Quote: "Aaron you're going to end up sweeping the streets"

What I'll Miss? 6th year business

Ambition Start own company + learn to backflip.



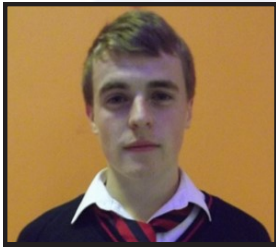
RYAN QUINN
"Quinnybear"

Moment: Asking Mr. Hannon to the debs.

Quote: "ARE YOU NOT ENTERTAINED!?"

What I'll Miss? Mr. Hannon

Ambition: To marry Aaron Devine and "Turnip Turnin' Tarpey".



CONOR ROONEY
"Rooney"

Moment: Leading the school to win the All-Ireland

Quote: "Legs"

What I'll Miss: All the good times...

Ambition: Being like Darren Mulvaney #hero



ROB STAUNTON
"Legs"

Moment: Conor Hughes on *Frenemies*— 'gosh, talk about digressing'

Quote: "Sex is not the answer. Sex is the question. 'YES' is the answer!"

What I'll Miss? Friends

Ambition: To be loaded with cash



JESSICA TALLON
"Jess"

Moment: French shenanigans. Burning ink!

Quote: "She doesn't even go here!" "You'll like it, its sweet" "Help me, I'm Poor"

What I'll Miss? Friends, Construction banter.

Ambition: Relax and chill! Good job, not to be a bum, I needs dosh! Travel too!



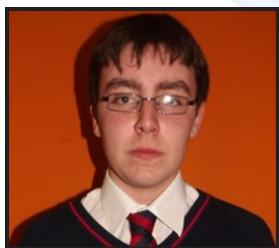
BRANISLAVA TVRDA
"Branka"

Moment: Ms.Hynes getting scared by the projector when it sparked! :D

Quote: "For instance"

What I'll Miss? Mr.McAuley and uniform...not!

Ambition: Become rich and famous, own my company.



DERRY WALSH
"Darvil"

Moment: Ross receiving a literature-related beating from Ting Lok.

Quote: "They don't think it be like it is, but it do"

What I'll Miss? Kicking in Gary's locker every day.

Ambition: Being the first graduate of Dundalk IT that hasn't been stabbed.

Fun Times!



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

Fun Times!



MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

Most Likely To....

Results of the Class of 2012 Survey on the people most likely to...



If you want 600 points, you need this attitude

Get 600 Points

Conor Hughes

Wind up Back here in 5 years

1. Sarah Dillon
- 2 Jack Dunphy
- 3 Andy Kiernan

Become a Criminal Defence Lawyer

- 1 Danny Ennis
- 2 Aaron Devine
3. Marek Paara

Win the Nobel Prize

- 1 Emma Costigan
- 2 Conor Hughes
- 3 Denise Griffin

Appear on The Jeremy Kyle Show

- 1 Mark Hoare
- 2 Danny Ennis
- 3 Jamie Maher

Become a millionaire

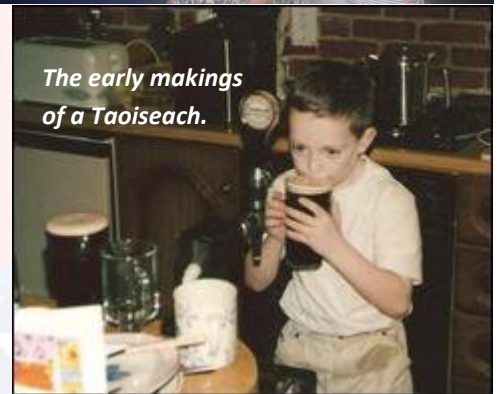
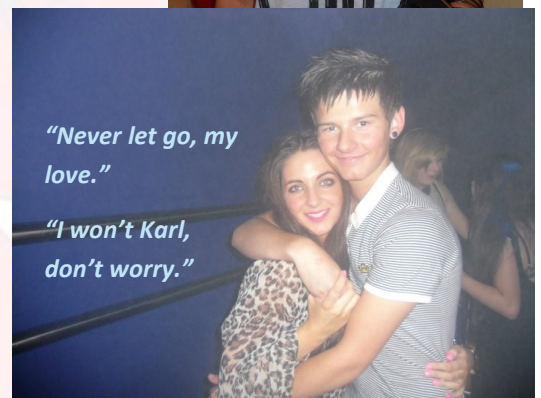
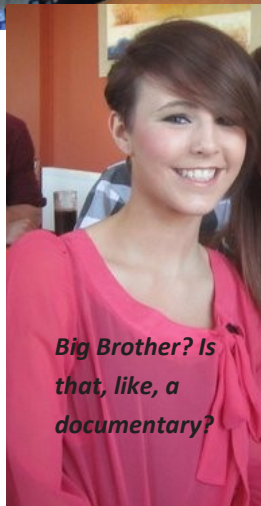
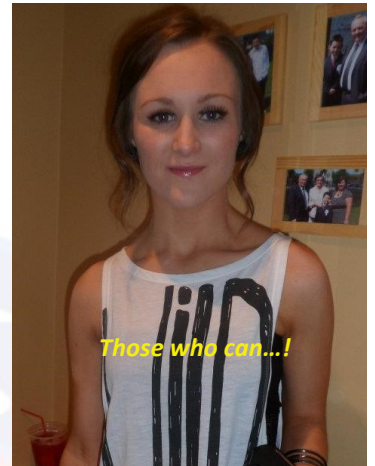
- 1 Ciarán O'Connor
- 2 Ethan Barker
3. Nicky Randles

Marry a millionaire

- 1 Louise Lawless
- 2 Orla Gannon
- 3 Claire Mooney

Be first married

1. Jasmine Fahey & Karl Hughes
2. Jack Dunphy & Breanne Nolan
- 3 Cliona Grall & Martthew O'Boyle



Where's Wally?



Represent Ireland in sport

Kelly Smyth

Eamon Wallace

Be A Reality Tv Contestant

1 Shannon Fagan

2 Kelly McCormack

3 Ashling O'Brien

Have a Number 1 hit

1 Matthew O'Boyle

2 Helena Malone

3 Jamie McClean

Win Lottery (and lose the ticket)

1 Nicky Randles

2 Katy Murray

3 Tuan O'Carroll

Write a best seller

1 Ethan Barker

2 Luke Byrne

3 Aoife Tomkins

Leave Ratoath, never come back

1 Kate Carr

2 Gemma Baggot

3 Ruth McLoughlin

Win an Oscar

1 Claire Mooney

2 Shannon McConway

3 Conor Hughes

Become President

1 Adrian Whyte

2 Jonathan Grall

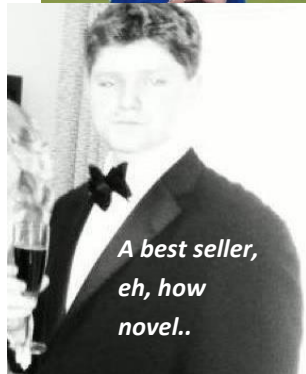
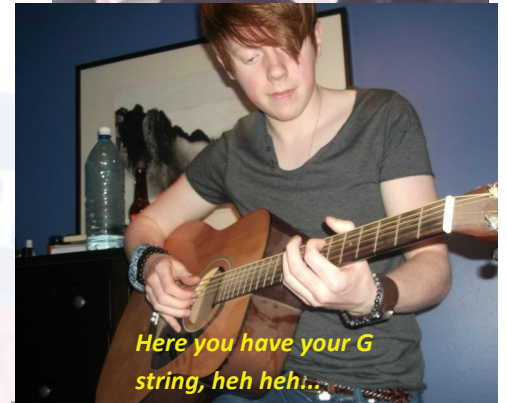
3 Ting Lok Chang

Have a thought of the week at Assembly

1 Tuan O'Carroll

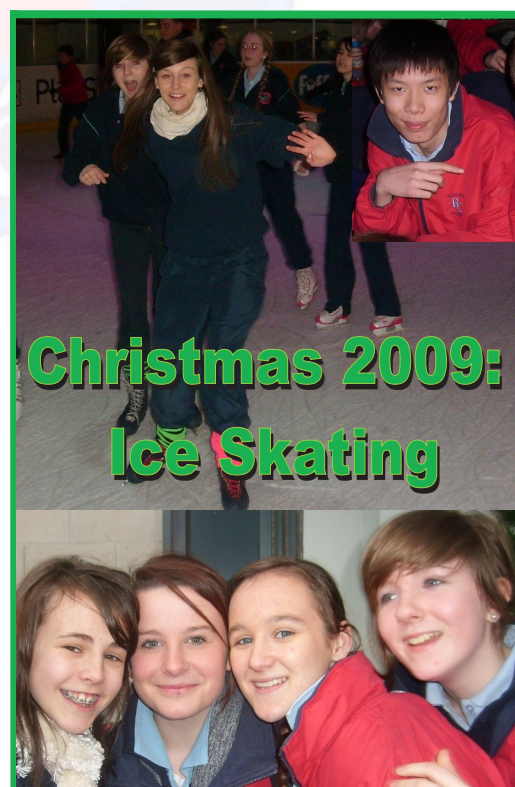
2 Adrian Whyte

3 Matthew O'Boyle



Class of 2012 - Timeline

Part 2





Rang Cahill



I can't believe this day has come and it is time for you all to move on. It only seems like yesterday when you came in as first years to Rang Sweeney in 2007. It certainly has been an eventful journey. For me it has been a joyous journey. I thoroughly enjoyed being your caomhnóir for a little over 3 years. The memories I have of all the time we spent together will always remain with me. Who could forget such memories as the first year tours to Carlingford and Italy, the annual sports days which every year we vowed we would win but it never did work out that way! And of course how proud we were as a class in 2009 when Adrian was "Student of the year".

I am so proud of every single one of you and the way you have grown and how you have conducted yourselves over the last five years. You are a talented, unique group of individuals and I have no doubt that a number of you will go very far in life. I hope that you have enjoyed your time here as much as I have enjoyed being your caomhnóir. I hope you have made everlasting friendships and that you all leave with fond memories, memories of which you will never forget, treasure forever and take with you as you all go on different paths and journeys in life from this day on.

I would like to wish each and every one of you the very best of luck in the Leaving Cert. I wish you every health and happiness in your lives and I hope that whatever path each of you take it will be an enjoyable and successful one

Amanda Sweeney
Caomhnóir, Rang Sweeney

Rang Sweeney were the first class I met when I started working in Ratoath. To a person they are a great bunch and have been a pleasure to deal with. I have to say that I probably had the easiest Camhnóir group of the school because they have consistently been respectful to both themselves and the staff. A number of students have left us over the two years (Shanelle, Grace, Miguel, Gianni and Alan) they have all been missed.

I would like to wish the whole class the best with their futures. It was a privilege to work with you all.

Gary Cahill
Caomhnóir, Rang Cahill

Rang Hannon



I would like to congratulate Rang Hannon on achieving such high grades and also complement them on completing secondary school. I have taught most of Rang Hannon since they were in first year and I have some very fond memories of their learning journey. In that time, I must admit, I still have difficulty in telling Charlotte and Lauren apart! It was a pleasure to be a Caoimhnóir for such a vibrant, upbeat bunch of students and I will be sad to see them leave Ratoath College. Some are going to follow a trade; some are going to pursue a college course. I wish them all the best.

Always remember that my door is always open, so come in for a chat! Thank you class

Eric Hannon
Caoimhnóir, Rang Hannon

Rang Nelson



I am genuinely emotional, even sad as write this piece. I have had an amazing 5 years as Caomhnóir to Rang Nelson. I remember clearly your first day in this school as I stood at the top of the assembly hall where I called your names out like the scene from Harry Potter. Since then I have watched you all grow and mature from children into fine young adults. The class has so many brilliant characters that collectively make Rang Nelson unique.

I will miss the rugby and football chats with the lads on Monday after the weekends' sport, the gossip from all the girls, the stories of your trips in the Gaelteacht and abroad, the tips on the horses around Cheltenham time and the various bizarre explanations as to why you may have received an "undeserved" bad note. But above all I will miss your energy and enthusiasm every day in school and all of your positive attitudes to school life here. It has been a fantastic example for the younger students and you all have been the perfect role-models.

I hope that when you look back on your time in the school that you have no regrets and that you made the most of all that this school has had to offer. I hope you have fond memories of musicals, talent shows, football matches and so on, these are the memories that you take with you forever.

Guys, I wish you all the luck in the world in your Leaving Cert and hope that all your hard work pays off and you all get the college places you want. I will genuinely miss you all. .

Dave Nelson
Caomhnóir, Rang Nelson

Rang Savage



Alas, we part dear children, it has been fun. For some of you we began our journey in your second year. In 5th year we welcomed some new faces and have enjoyed 2 years of fun and laughter that I hope you will all look back on with fondness. I know I will.

To Ethan, Jordan, Ting Lok, Dylan, Níamh, Emma, Ursula, Lauren, Jack, Conor, Katie, Amy, Shannen, Sarah, Hugh, Breanne, Robert, Rebecca, Aoife & Rachel: Thanks for all you have brought to Rang Savage. I will miss you, it feels like you have always been a part of the gang. I hope you found the transition easy and I hope you are ending this journey with warm memories of your time as a savage!

To Danielle, Orla, David, Mark, Kelly, Ruth & Matthew, it has been fun and I cannot believe how quickly time has passed us by. You are all grown up now and it is time to fly the nest and leave your school Mammy behind. Take with you the laughter and lessons you have shared with each other. Tutor Tuesday afternoons will never be the same again.

The memories I have are warm and ones I will treasure....remember when Matthew's name appeared on the powerpoint in English...remember when we went for our 3rd year dinner, remember all the times in RE & English Conor had to dig himself out of a tricky comment....remember when Katie dressed up as an elf....remember Rob he's gonna be on Take Me Out in years to come... girlyies remember all the fun talk of nail varnish, I still need to try that white undercoat for yellow polish! To finish, here are some things I've learned and my Mam has taught me....

A cuppa with a friend is the best end to a difficult or a brilliant day at work.

The grass is not greener on the other side, it is only greener where it rains, so don't spend your life wishing you were somewhere else.

As my Mam always says...choose your husband (or wife) wisely. This is the person you will spend your brightest and darkest days with, be sure they are kind, caring and a team player.

Success is not happiness, happiness is success. Jason Donovan said that, who knew he was so wise.

And finally: "don't delay the happy", if taking a certain path will bring you happiness then why wait, life is short.

Aisling Savage

Caomhnóir, Rang Savage

Rang Witter



It has been my privilege and pleasure to have taken over the role of Caomhnóir to Rang Daly for the past two years. During that time I had the opportunity to get to know the lovely young students which made up Rang Witter and share the journey with you towards the end of your secondary school life. I am both proud and sad to see you go! What does the road ahead hold? What will life be like without Ratoath College? No more nagging teachers, no more school uniforms!!! You are all starting a new life with hopes, dreams and expectations. However, you have all shared so much together over the past five/six years – worries, struggles and tears, as well as fun times, laughter and joy. One of the most precious gifts you will leave here with is the friendships you have developed and nurtured, friends you have laughed and cried with, and friends you trust. I remember a teacher once telling my class, at graduation, that we would never again be as lucky to have such a big, close group of friends having similar backgrounds and so much in common. She was right. So when you go from here cherish that friendship.

I wish you the very best of luck in your Leaving Cert and I know that all of you who have put in the effort will reap the rewards. I also wish you success and happiness in life. Be true to yourself. Find your passion in life and pursue it. Follow your heart and live life well whatever you choose to do. As Mary Lou Retton, the Olympic gymnast, said: *“Each of us has a fire in our hearts for something. It’s our goal in life to find it and keep it.”* Live life to the fullest, be careful and be safe. Contribute in life and have compassion for others and it will come back to you one hundred-fold. And if you ever need a helping hand you know where to find me!!

Lorraine Witter
Caomhnóir, Rang Witter

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Class of 2012 - Timeline

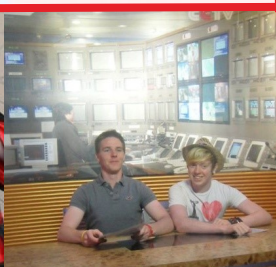
Part 3





March 2012:

**All-Ireland
Champions**



Autographs

Autographs

