# Sixty- Six

# The Ratoath College Yearbook 2015

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# Welcome from Ms. Prendergast, Ms. O'Dwyer & Mr. Ball

As we near the end of another academic year we can look back with pride on another very successful year for our school. This year for the 1st time we have over 1000 students.... A far cry from the the first 66 after whom our yearbook is named.

This 10th edition of "Sixty-Six" is a production that no only showcases the huge variety of exciting and interesting activities taking place in Ratoath College, but the quality of them epitomises the very essence of the school and what we are about in Ratoath College. It's been a year full of learning, fun and friendship, an array of talents. We have had so many activities and student led initiatives throughout the year. No a week went by when we weren't busy taking part in a wide variety of sporting, cultural or academic endeavours and we are immensely proud of all of your effort.

We are indeed fortunate in Raotath to have so many very committed people working to ensure our students have the best possible opportunities for success. A huge thank you to our parent Librarians, the parents' association and the Board of Management who give so willing og their time. Thank you also to all our teachers for the commitment and care and time that they give to their students both academically and extra-curricular.

In a school as big and as busy as ours our secretarial team and our auxiliary staff play a pivotal role in keeping us on track and we want to acknowledge them and thank them for super job they do. Thanks you so much to Ms. Donnellan, Mr. Mooney, Ms. Lyons and our transition year students who have have done a wonderful job. This publication is a wonderful advertisement for our school.

We would like to wish all those witting their junior and Leaving and Leaving Certificate Applied every success in their examinations.

Have a wonderful summer.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Oonagh Predergast, Hoife O'Dwyer & Derek Ball.

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# Editor's Notes:

#### Welcome to this edition of Sixty-six.

By now there are many of you out there that wonder at the name of this yearbook and some have tried to change it.

However this number stands an important figure in the life of Ratoath College. Sixty six is the number of pupils that were enrolled in Ratoath College in the inaugural year of the college. Things have changed dramatically since then with over one thousand students now attending Ratoath College and walking through the hallowed halls. This year is marks that ten years have passed since the establishment of Ratoath College and much has been accomplished over that time. Every year more exciting and busy than the last and this year is no exception. As you flick through the pages of this yearbook you will see descriptions of the many events and activities that took place within the school over the last year as well as pictures of good times and fantastic work. We bid a fond farewell to the class of 2015 and hope that they carry this yearbook with them so that in the future they can dust it down form the shelf, reminisce and have a giggle at times they shared and enjoyed during their time at school.

The Ratoath College Yearbook has been produced by the Transition Year classes under the guidance of their English teachers. Students from other years have also contributed articles. Their help has been greatly appreciated.

The class of 2015 section has been compiled by a small but wonderful group of 6th years. Special recognition has to be given to Aislinn Cooney for her work and dedication completing this yearbook.

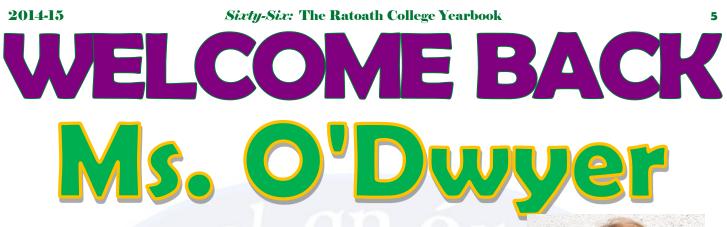
Our cover this year has been created by Emily McGlynn and Katie Byrne as part of their entry into the Newgrange Winter Solstice Art Competition.

Thank you all, a fantastic job all round.

While every effort has been made to include as many students, articles and photographs as possible we apologise for any errors and omissions.

Enjoy this Yearbook, there are a lot of great things in it from the emotive words for the 6th year students, the passion and joie de vivre evident in the department reports as well as the memories and happiness evident in all the pictures. It's been a great but busy year!

Have a great Summer!



In September 2012 we bid an emotional farewell to Ms. O'Dwyer as she moved lock, stock and barrel to Wicklow to take up a post as Deputy Principal. It seems we couldn't go on without her nor she without us, as two years later we were delighted to welcome her back to the Ratoath College family as our new Deputy Principal.

Peter Kilgannon arranged an interview with Ms. O'Dwyer to welcome her home formally and to find out if she really was happy to be back. (*Answer: Extremely happy*)



- 1, What's it like being back in RC as Deputy Principal?
- I am thoroughly enjoying this time. It's a pleasure to have the opportunity to work with both the staff and students of Ratoath College once again!
- 2. Has the role of DP been a big step up from a teacher in RC?
- It's quite different, no two days are the same, and most days no two hours are the same! There's always something new and interesting to be done.

3. Do you think 2014/15 has been a successful year in RC?

- Absolutely! It's been busy and while every school year has its ups and downs, its successes and disappointments, how we live through those as a school community is the measure of a successful year.
- 2014/15 saw the introduction of iPads to 1<sup>st</sup> years which has been a great success and also an important milestone in the history of Ratoath College.

4. What has been the highlight of your school year?

The highlight for me is, and always is our prizegiving ceremonies, particularly the summer prizegiving. The atmosphere, the celebration, the reflection on our achievements as a school community give us the opportunity to remember what we do and how we do it really well in Ratoath College.

5. If you were stranded on a desert island and could only have two items with you, what would those two items be? Sunscreen and my iPad!

6. Who is going to win the All Ireland this year? Who knows?! It definitely won't be Wicklow!!



"For each petal on the shamrock this brings a wish your way. Good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day." Irish Blessing

# A Message from Ms. Judge

As our time together draws to a close.....

I must say how proud I am of the wonderful young ladies and gentlemen you have become. Since that first sunny day when we stood on the school steps together in 2010 (and 2009), I must say you have never let me down. I'm spending a lot of time lately thinking back over our journey together and Sports Day stands out as always being a great day with you. It gave me a chance to see the camaraderie you share and has the added bonus of providing great photos of you up to your eyes in muck after the obstacle course, 2013 photos are fab.

As a year group you constantly bring your good humour and enthusiasm to our day and we will miss you. Your caomhnóirí and I have thoroughly enjoyed watching you mature particularly throughout the last two years. We've been amazed by your wonderful talents and achievements, academically, musically, in the field of sport and we are particularly proud of the recent pieces you have created for your practical exams.

I hope you have enjoyed your time in Ratoath College and that you leave with great memories, rich friendships and of course, some pearls of wisdom. Your mission as students is not to follow in the footsteps of the astronauts, Nobel Prize laureates, and presidents- but to exceed their footsteps. The world is yours for the taking. Aim high don't be afraid of mistakes, they are how we learn. Life is too short for regrets, it's for living, enjoy every moment of this new chapter you are about to embark on and remember you still have us here in Ratoath College. Stop by and say hello from time to time.

Gretta Judge, Colm Connolly, Mary Daly, Hileen Flatley, Teresa Kelly, Mohammed Nissar and Fiachra Ó hEochaidh



# A Valediction from the Árd-Chinnirí





When we took on the role as Ard-Chinnirí of the school nearly one year ago, we didn't realise how fast the year would fly by before our eyes. It seems like we've just blinked and now here we are, writing a Valediction to the class of 2015.

A Valediction is a sort of farewell or goodbye, but that's not how we'd like to view it. This is not a goodbye, this is just see you soon! For us, this is a reflection of our time in this school, where we've had the pleasure of spending the years with some truly wonderful people.

We are overwhelmed with the incredible memories and amazing friendships that we have made over the past 5 or 6 years . It was definitely a fantastic journey in all, and in the cringiest way, we wouldn't have wanted to have travelled this journey with anyone else but the class of 2015 . We always hear people saying that your school years are the best years of your life so enjoy them, and really we only understand this now that our days in school are numbered. As the cliché goes, they truly were unforgettable years in our lives and they have undoubtedly shaped who we are as people today. 6 years ago, we were just a pair of nervous, little first years... We have grown so much since then (In Emmeline's case not quite in height, sadly, but Ben makes up for her lack of inches). Ratoath College has given us so many opportunities to become relatively mature and responsible, and ready to make our mark in the big, exciting world out there.

There are no words to describe the strong bonds we have formed; it's hard to believe how close we have gotten, and even through the thick and thin of it; through the tears and the laughter, the fights and apologies, we have never felt closer to a group of people who are as amazing, strange and most certainly weird in their own way- that's truly what made it so special for us. Hopefully in the years to come these relationships will still exist and perhaps become even closer, and all 151 of the Judge family will stick together. What will be missed the most are those random moments, not huge planned events but those little things like comments people make in class or having a laugh with the teachers. It is such moments that keep us grounded and remind us of our wonderful time here. It's been such a pleasure being your Ard-Chinnirí this year. In the words of Maya Angelou, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you

did, but people will never forget how you made them feel", and as your head girl and boy, we hope you remember us for how we made you feel.

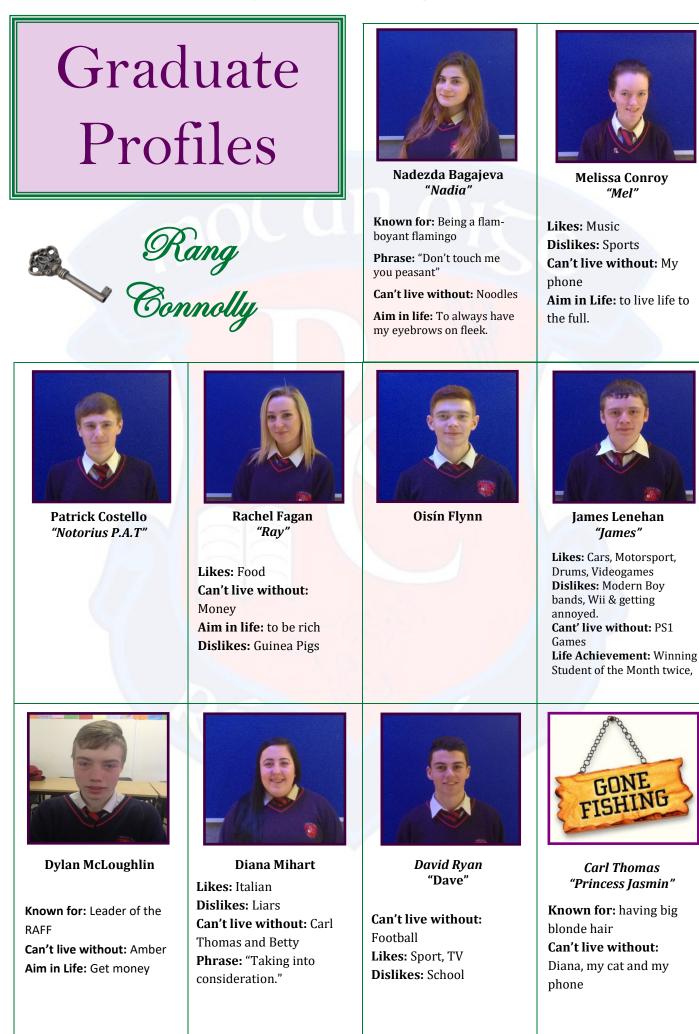
We would like to thank all the teachers who have helped us along the way: our Principal Ms. Prendergast, Deputy Principals Mr. Ball and Ms. O'Dwyer and of course our fabulous Caomhnóiri and Ms. Judge, our Moltóir. We could not have made it through the years without them.

We hope the exams go well for everyone - remember that summer is only around the corner! In a few weeks time we can all take a well deserved break and realise that all the hard work we put in was worth it.

Good luck class of 2015 - the world is your oyster now and you can do anything you want with it!

Ben & Emmeline

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Sinéad Lehane "Nead / Lehane"

Known for: my height Lifetime Achievement: Pulling off Anna's surprise party Phrase: "Hack" Aim in Life: To reach 5ft



Arianna Macari Mancini *"ARO"* 

Likes: My Jellies Dislikes: Having no jellies Known for: Calling all biscuits "cookies" Can't live without: My jellies



Kyle McCann *"Kyler Mc"* 

Known for: Being outrageously good looking. Can't live without: Looking in the mirror each day and telling myself how good looking I am.



Caoimhe McDermott *"Cao"* 

Likes: Ed (bae) Phrase: 'Oh my god guys' Can't Live without: Katie's sambos



Colin McPartlin *"Baller"* 

Dislikes: Don't talk much Phrase: "Nandos would be mint right now Best feature: My chin



Brian Dela Musoke *"Dela Lolonga"* 

Likes: Happiness Phrase: "Have you ever seen an elephant trunk before?"

**Best Feature:** My over-Abundant, Unruly Facial Hair.



Colin O'Neill *"Col"* 

Can't live without: Joey <3

**Best feature:** Perfectly symmetrical eyebrows **Phrase:** "Girl you thicker than a bowl of oatmeal" **Aim in life:** to have salon quality hair and read the



Sinan Ortakcioglu *"Turkish Delight"* 

Likes: Going out, getting mortal and me mums chicken curry Dislikes: Being sober and cellulite Phrase: "I grill more birds than George Foreman."



Jordan Quinn *"Chenzo"* 

Likes: Women, Cars, Music Dislikes: School Best feature: My body Can't live without: Women Phrase: "Nah Miss, that's not my phone."



Katie Ralph

Likes: Anything sweet Known for: Smiling Can't live without: Chocolate Aim in Life: to be happy



Kevin Roche "\$K-Millions\$"

**Can't live without:** Coffee and Pizza **Phrase:** Pretentious? Moi?! **Aims in Life:** Witness the inevitable heat-death of the universe.



Sophie Rooney "Sop"

Likes: Coby D Dislikes: Ketchup Best feature: Elbows Can't live without: Anna Phrase: "I'm not even that bad"





Sara Sheridan *"Snickers"* 

Known for: Chubby cheeks Aim in life: Pass honours maths Phrase: " I don't get it" Lifetime achievement: Did the prayer once



Conor Shortt Doyle "Carlos"

Likes: Noodles, Nutella, Parties, Travelling and experiencing new things. Dislikes: Non-Alcoholic parties and slow internet. Known for: Breaking my arm in Italy in 1st year. Lifetime achievement: Accidentally skiing down a black slope and not dying.



Hayley Todd *"HailBail"* 

Known for: Not making my mind up about my hair colour. Can't live without: Chocolate Milk. Phrase: I don't need an army, I'm a one girl revolution Aim in Life: To achieve my life long dream and kick ass doing it.



Conor Tompkins *"Grandmother"* 

Aim in life: to own my own business Likes: Money, action movies Can't live without: tea Phrase: "If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door" – Milton Berle



Rang Flatley



Greg Brady "#19236"

Likes: Playing guitar and designing computer programmes Can't live without: Pot Noodles and friends, but mostly pot noodles Lifetime achievement: Worlds greatest procrastinator



Simone Canavan *"Simon"* 

Dislikes: People Phrase: "Hey chicken" Best feature: Slanty eyes and yellow skin Aim in life: to find my real Asian parents



Gareth Cooke *"Jesus"* 

Known for: Being "The King of Bad Ideas". Can't live without: Oxygen Aim in Life: To be Anything except an Irish teacher



Liam Delaney *"Liamo"* 

Known for: Being a tall happy predator Best Moment: Knocking Aaron Flanagan out of his chair in the middle of English Likes: Making people smile



Coban Donegan *"Cobey D"* 

Likes: Sop Best Features: Smashing good looks Phrase: "Red Bull gives you wings"



Céile Duncan *"Hia"* 

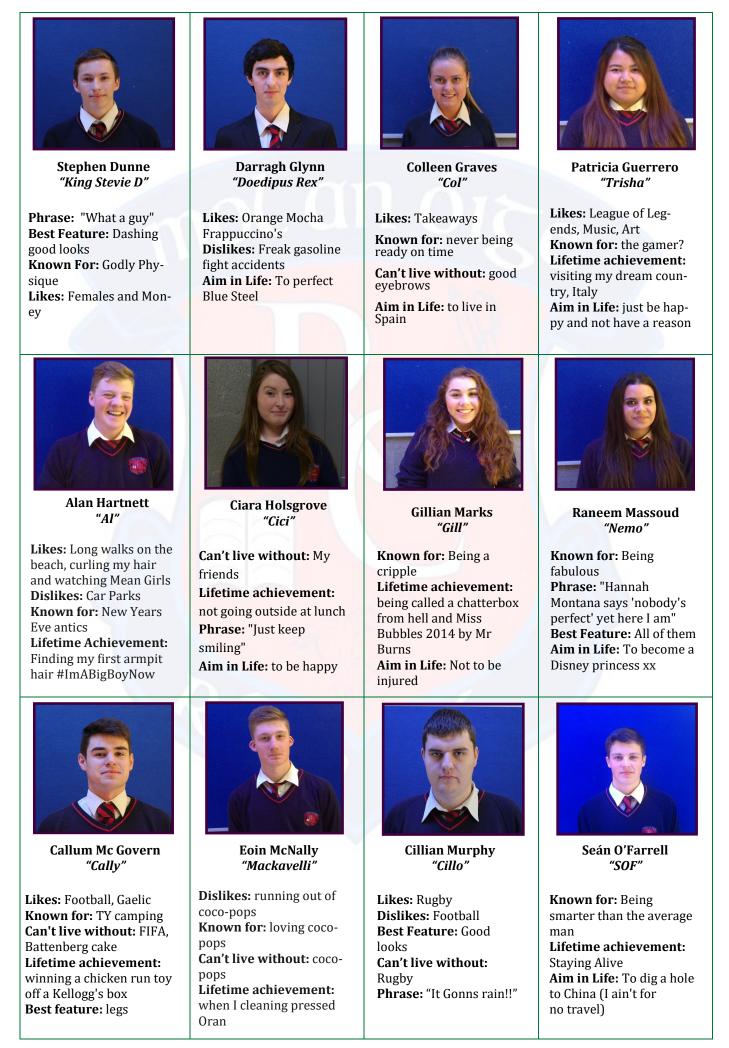
Likes: My dog Gizmo Dislikes: Rats and Mice Best Features: Singing Can't live without Gizmo, Anna Walsh, pizza, steak, the fam bam Phrase: "I'm the same height as Beyoncé (sure look)"



Seán Duncan *"Duncan"* 

**Quote:** "I stopped believing in God when I realised it was dog spelt backwards."





Coláiste Ráth Tó - Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí

#### Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook





Katie O'Sullivan *"KT"* 

Dislikes: Chicken that's not breaded Known for: Laugh Phrase: "I'm not gonna fall tonight". "Does that chicken have the stuff on it?"

Best feature: Toes



Megan Quirke "Chippin"

Known for: Setting my hair on fire Lifetime Achievement: Learning how to read a clock Dislikes: you. Phrase: soooooooo cheeky



Graeme Reynolds "Milky Bar Kid"

Known for: Buying a full 3course meal in the Tesco reduced aisle for 39 cent. Best Feature: Perfectly chiselled hairless legs which the sun embraces so gracefully Aim in Life: To be in an allmale acapella group with Elton John



Richard Roberts "Soup Bandit"

Likes: Every type of biscuit. Dislikes: Potato and leek. Known for: Passion for soup Can't live without: Fluffy socks and biscuits



Helen Ryan *"Pork"* 

Known for: Falling Lifetime Achievement: Learning the location of Helsinki Can't live without: My vital organs Phrase: "I'm a front and back kinda gal sir" - E



Emer Tierney *"Emz"* 

Dislikes: People Known for: Being tall Best Feature: Tallness XX Aim in Life: To own 10 cats



Anna Walsh *"Annaw"* 

Known for: Being the clip lady Can't live without: blending my foundation for about 45mins Lifetime achievement: watching all 6 seasons of Gossip Girl in a month



Tómas Whitty *"Mossy"* 

Best feature: My blue eyes Known for: being the blind fella Dislikes: billy roll Aim: To become the first visually impaired person to drive a plane.



Andy Wong

Likes: Reading





Thomas Baggett *"T-Bag"* 

Likes: Rugby Dislikes: Indian food



**Chloe Byrne** 

Likes: \*jazz hands\* art. Dislikes: being overwhelmed by olives Lifetime achievement: using the gerund in Italian Phrase: "I tripped and accidentally evaluated my sources"





Jordan Callaghan *"Jordo"* 

Known for: Combover in Ibiza Lifetime achievement: Winning under 16 Football League Phrase: #lovemeliofelovemegurlo S



David Caprani *"Dave"* 

Known For: Being an aul one. Best feature: My flawless beard. Likes: Bitta footy, shortbreads and tea. Aim: Eat sleep Dave Repeat



**Danielle Chapman** 



Alexandra Doyle *"Al"* 

Phrase: Hottie tomotti with a swimmers body Aim in life: to travel the world Likes: Rugby players & GAA players Dislikes: Soccer players



Aaron Dunne *"Dunner"* 

Known for: hiding under the table Phrase: "You'd do that to a mate?" Likes: football, food, Aim: be a sick baller with a fresh barnet



Aisling Fahy "Asho Faho Rach"

Can't live without: Chocolate Lifetime achievement: Never breaking a bone Phrase: " The show must go on " Best Feature: Hair



Diana Fit *"Didi"* 

Can't live without: Chocolate Phrase: "Stars can't shine without darkness." Likes: to sleep Aim in Life: To love even when they deserve it least.



Seán Foley *"Foley"* 

**Likes:** Football **Can't live without:** My Laptop



Louise Princess Gaffney "Beyonce"

Likes: Things that sparkle and lots of chickooon Dislikes: Feet, bellybuttons, eyeballs, SPIDERS Cant live without: Waffles & my little kitty cat <3



Peter Gamble "Poder Gumball"

Best Known for: My baking and facial expressions Quote: "Anything you can do with your hand you can do with your mouth...and that's a fact" Hopes for the future: I wanna make cake.



Aoife Gilbert *"Bert"* 

Likes: when girls are sober Dislike: when girls are drunk Phrase: "Stop drinking" Known for: being the mammy of the group



Aoife Gorman *"Gormo"* 

Lifetime achievement: I made the Leinster team in golf Aim in life: to go to New York Known for: the girliest squeeze ever Likes: Jersey pulling





Aidan Griffin *"Aido"* 

Likes: being with friends, laughing, partying, holiday's, sports, good music and Mr Heaney's quotes Dislikes: things involving none of the named above Known for: My laugh and always getting the kings cup

Best Feature: Beard



Seán McCarry *"Son of David"* 

Likes: Money Dislikes: Stereotypes Phrase: "Drop the bass"-Eileán Ní Chuilleanáin Aim in Life: To be as smooth as Jamesy Hagan around 27 year old women



Ava Hogarty *"Hogs"* 

Known for: My laugh Lifetime achievement: Lady Gaga being my 5th Twitter follower Phrase: "Hack" Aim in life: To still be laughing at stupid things with Sinead 50 years from now



Róisín McConomy *"Professor Rach"* 

Likes: AM, TS & CB Lifetime achievement: I've as many Oscars as Leonardo DiCaprio Phrase: "what do you get when you cross a joke with a rhetorical question?" Aim in Life: To be a stay-athome mom without a kid



**Megan Kelly** 

"Meg"

Can't live without: my

Lifetime Achievement:

Aim in Life: to become a

Likes: Dominos

mastering winged

nails painted

eveliner

doctor

Brian Murphy "Murphy/Bruno"

Likes: Football, Sleep and food Dislikes: School Best Feature: Hair Can't live without: Football Phrase: "Keep her county"



Patrick Maloney

"Paddy/Joe"

Can't live without: Celtic

Aims in life: to obliterate

Likes: Gargle

**Dislikes:** THE RAFF

Conor McGregor

Patrick Murphy "Captain Red Beard"

Likes: Comics, metal, movies, gaming Dislikes: Justin Bieber (It) Best Features: eyes and hands Can't live without: games and anime Phrase: "Drink mead, get wenches"



Ellie O'Neill "OodleyO'Noodley"

Known for: Being so bloody poetic Can't live without: Seán Browne, knight in shining Peugeot Lifetime achievement: Freeing the nipple. Hup Phrase: Ey ngirlo!



Benjamin Simon Scroope *"Tard Cinnirí"* 

**Can't live without:** Mr. Mooney's incredible politeness and tenderness when asking the class to be quiet

Lifetime achievement: calf muscles like David Caprani Aim in Life: to care about something like Darragh Glynn cares about his hair



#### Nadia Toner *"Nads"*

**Likes:** makeup, nights out, eminem

Dislikes: nothing really Hopes for future: get my dream job, marry a bloke covered in tattoos, have children, die happy Quote: I promise I look better in selfies.. add me on snapchat nadiaat



Doireann Tormay "Coirey /Dora"

Known for: My horrible man laugh and snort Phrase: Jeapers Piglaaay Best feature: My bum Aim in Life: To get a boob -job and be a wag



Niamh Biddulph "The Entertainer"

Known for: Making my friends laugh Can't live without: Family, friends, JLS and chocolate. Best Feature: Being very chatty



**Ryan Waters** 

"Ioev"

Can't live without: Colin x

more Honeys being fly"

dairy goods at a busy

Aim in life: Sell fruit and

**Phrase:** "You can catch flies with honey but you catch

Likes: Gear

intersection.

Jordan Brennan *"Bubba"* 

Likes: Music Dislikes: School Best Features: Art Can't live without: Food



Rang

Seán Browne *"Browner"* 

Likes: Older Women, Cornettos Best Feature: Massive unibrow Known For: Being the future president Aim in Life: To be as ripped and as huge as Mr. Carey (fight me)



**Aoife Allen** 

"Aoifdurr"

Likes: Tea and sleep

Can't live without: My

Phrase: "Does Africa have

**Dislikes:** Puppets

guitar

a flag?"

Ting Hao Chang *"THC"* 

Likes: Teacher's dry humours and innuendos.\* Friends, families and life.\* Lifetime achievement: Landed the Mountain Dew bottle straight on the top shelf of the canteen window Aims in Life: Climb Mt. Everest! Travel.



Mark Doyle *"Doyler"* 

Known for: Joint leadership of the RAFF Best feature: My ability to look past age Can't live without: Ben Moore Phrase: "Ben is love, Ben is life."



Kayla Dwyer "Kale"

Likes: Nights out Dislikes: Drama and Aftermath of nights out Best Features: Eyes Can't live without: Chocolate and my pets



Dayna-Kate Feeney "Daisy"

Likes: Jersey pulling Known for: Never shutting up Can't live without: De Lil Pussycats Phrase: "Oii Oii atta boy" - Emma Mc



Anna Flood "You Noah a Flood"

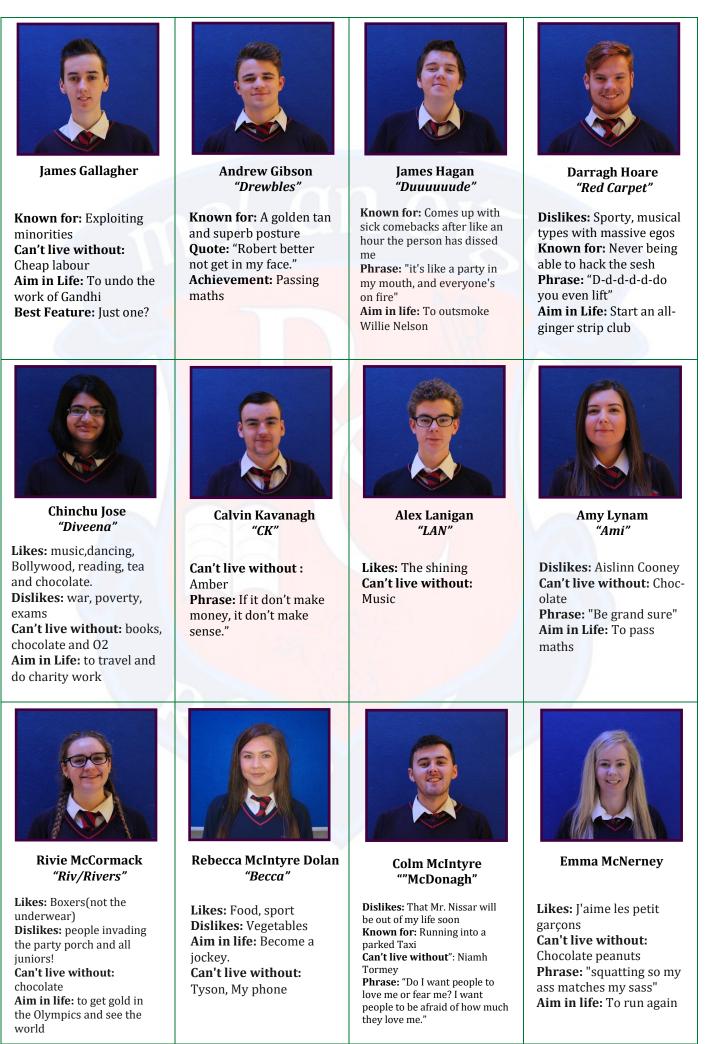
Likes: Writing, fantasy novels and films, friends, deep conversations, puns and cheese. Known for: Excessive hand gestures. Phrase: "This is not what I meant by *send a terrible flood*" - God, probably



Louise Foley *"Lou"* 

Likes: Pizza, The West Wing, and Trees Known for: Quick-fire sarcastic wit Phrase: "You must strive to find your own voice. Because the longer you wait to begin, the less likely you are to find it at all." -DPS Aim in life: To be happy





#### Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook





"Bale"

Phrase: "go hard or go home " Can't live without: cars, money, coffee, women Aim in life: be at the top of wherever my career takes me Best feature: hair?



**Ben Moore** "Bun"

Likes: Traveling, my friends and binge watching T.V shows **Dislikes:** Stubbing toes, stepping on lego, cats and those long awkward silences in lifts Lifetime achievement: Not dying (yet)



Seán O'Neill McPartlin

Likes: Good people and stuff. Dislikes: Bad people and stuff. Lifetime achievement: To be a good person and stuff. Phrase: "I have no idea what I am doing"



**Rachel O'Riordan** "New Girl"

Known for: Constantly singing, even after being told to shut up Can't live without: Twitter and pistachios Phrase: "I'm not even that new anymore" Best feature: My noodlehead



**Orla Purcell** "Orly"

Likes: Food, Sleep,Netflix,Batman **Dislikes:** Early mornings, soggy cereal & spiders Can't live without: My phone & wifi Aim in life: To become a journalist Phrase: "I'm hungry!



Aoife Quinn "Wedding Da<mark>y Rach</mark>"

Likes: The Galway house **Dislikes:** Everything about jelly Can't live without: TLC and Cookie Dough icecream Phrase: "I've had it. Officially."



**Robert Reid** "Robert Reid"

Likes: To Party Dislikes: cold tea Known for: Elbow patches Phrase: "Make reasonable choices" Best Feature: a strong chin



**Niamh Tormey** "Debbie"

Likes: KT **Dislikes:** Spiders Can't live without: KT Phrase: "Anybody going out tonight?"





Jake Brennan "Brake Jennan"

Known for: having excuisite calf muscles Lifetime achievement: Winning the football tournament in 5th year Quote: "Do it for the boys!" Can't live without: Mooju



Óran Carr "K Daddy C"

Phrase: "Yes, Deffinatly" Can't live without: **Ritchie Roberts** Likes: Gym Lifetime achievement: Starting the RAFF



Niall Donnelly

"Niallv"

**Ciara Farrell** 

"Tina Turner"

Josh Kidd

"Bosco / Kiddo"







Coláiste Ráth Tó - Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí





Eva Tobin "Toby's sister"

Likes: Watermelon Dislikes: School Can't live without: Watermelon



Ciara Ward *"Cici"* 

Likes: Frozen Dislikes: When Conor steals my clothes Known for: my pointless tweets Aim in life: For Alan Hartnett to appreciate my tweets about my driving lessons



**Maria Woods** 

Known for: being a pure legend Lifetime achievement: Surviving my time in Ratoath College Phrase: "Be grand, they said"



### Tides

At our feet, we have everything A cliff drop, a tightrope away And behind us A thousand familiar hands, just about to push.

> The abyss ahead could be just black Or it could be lined with silver But the only certainty is that It won't be what we expect.

I can hear the sea singing below And you say there's fish for me But we're both unsure, so we share And we've brought our islands together.

We've stood out, scared, in storms before And prayed the rain would cool our skin But only hands could heal from burning When they turn, end, and begin.

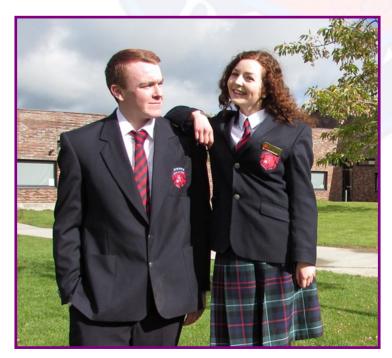
We dare to dare the thousand hands To do their deed at last And only as we're falling, do we see That our time has gone so fast.

Ellie O'Neill

# Na Cinnirí - Class of 2015



Back row (1-r): Keith Conlon, Christopher Dignam, Brian Dela Musoke, Aidan griffin, Ruairí O'Farrell Middle row (1-r) Hayley Todd, Éilis Connell, Helen Ryan, Hannah Coakley, Dayna Kate Feeney, Róisín McConomy, Aisling Fahy Front row (1-r): Heather McDonnell, Daragh Glynn, Emmeline O'Malley(Ard-Cinnire), Ben Scroope (Ard-Cinnire), Louise Foley, David Caprani. (MIA: Dylan McCabe)



Ard-Cinnirí Class of 2015 Ben Scroope & Emmeline O'Malley

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Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook

CLASS 07 2015 - PHOTO MEMORIES

# Sports Days





COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ









COLAISTE RATH TO - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ





**MEMORIES** 

RICHIE





COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ





COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

TRENDS OF 2014/15 Selfies (still a thing) **Selfie Sticks** Bae NETFLIX **Fresh Kicks Kylie Jenner Lip Challenge Uptown Funks Netflix Extra-large eyebrows Pacquia/Mayweather Fight Chokers Dayna's Dramas RKO-ing** Tinder The 'Dress' **Dubsmash The Ice-Bucket Challenge Conor McGregor** 

Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook

**2014-15** 

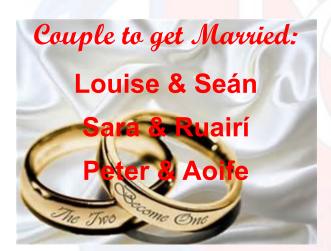
Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook

# MOST LIKELY TO ...





32











Be a Hand Model: Colin McIntyre John Griffin *Win the Eurovision* Mr. Burns Aaron Flanagan



Suffer from a Snapchat addiction: Aislinn Cooney Maria Woods Louise Gaffney Ratrick Murphy

Get over 600 points Brian Dela Musoke Chris Dignam James Gallagher Emmeline O'Malley

Become a recording artist: Alex Lanigan Keith Conlon David Capriani



Emmeline pushing Ms Prendergast off the stage in assembly Eilis falling up the steps to the stage in assembly TY trip to London 2013 Ty in general Mr Connolly getting stuck in a net in Italy (2010) Brian Musoke being Santa in April Brian Musoke breaking his arm at TY grad trying to do a slam dunk from a trampoline Mr Qualter's love for insurance in junior cert Business Chloe Kelly falling down the stairs on Niamh's crutches Megan Smyth bruising her bum on the radiator Aaron Flanagan being accused of stealing a chicken roll from the canteen Chris Dignam coming to school the day after the debs Jordan Callaghan's quotes Economics with Mr Connolly Aaron Flanagan fitting into a locker in first year Megan Quirke's hair going in fire in chemistry Shaking Mr. Nissar's hand (Dylan McCabe) Mr. Hannon playing Uptown Funk Mr. Burn's Eurovision tips Tea with Mr. Nissar

# **Rang Connolly**



And now the end is near  $\Im$ ... we watch you all venture to the next part of your journey. It has been my pleasure to have taught so many of you and I have enjoyed this experience immensely. Over the years I have watched you grow and develop into young adults that I am proud to see leave and conquer your goals ahead.

I hope you enjoyed your time in Ratoath College and that you are leaving with fond memories of the many experiences you have had here.

Your Graduation is a wonderful achievement that in time you will look back with pride regarding the friends you have made, the battles you have both won and lost, the experiences you have enjoyed and the success you have achieved.

Regardless of what your endeavours maybe, the future is yours to take advantage of, to make a difference and to understand what great opportunities there are for the taking.

I had the pleasure of having 30 wonderful students have my surname for their class in September 2010. We said goodbye to Emma and Grace in 2013 and 14 of you joined us for senior cycle. In 2013, I was delighted to be given Leaving Certificate Applied as my Caomhnóir class. David joined me from the old Rang Connolly and I met 12 other wonderful students. Carl, Rachel, Diana, Nadezda, Oisin, Dean, Patrick, James, Melissa, Justina, Ciara and Dylan.

As your Caomhnóir you have given me enjoyment, fulfilment as a teacher, motivation and more importantly I am proud of you all. It has been a memorable experience to have worked with 13 wonderful individual people who have all shone in your own way. May you reach for the moon and shine among the stars. Congratulations on your graduation, follow your passions and the very best of luck. I wish the class of 2015 the very best of luck in your future endeavours!

Colm Connolly

# **Rang Daly**



To the Daly Babies,

On the first day you were blown away by the gigantic sixth years. It is incredible how quickly the years have passed and now you are the awesome ones. But from the start I knew you were going to be brilliant, different and a barrel of laughs. So let's cut to the chase and name and shame ye with a series of flashbacks!

Remember our class symbol and mascot? We were going to blow everyone away with our superhero Buzz Light Year (aka Karl) in disguise with side kick Woody Caoimhe. Hayley, Katie, Sinead Conlon and Arianna designed an infinity symbol so big no amount of glue tack would stick it to the wall. On the big day the mask was put on incorrectly resulting in a blind Buzz groping parents in the hall and instead of the deadly duo roaring "To infinity and beyond". All heard Caoimhe exclaim "Ah Miss, this is soooo embarrassing".

Then there was the secret combination code to open the lockers (apply pressure and it pops open). To this very day certain characters (Jade, Jordan and Sarah Doran) use the lock as an excuse for being late. But our Kyle, the future Mr. Universe, is never delayed with locker trouble. Instead he has his Snapchat adventures in the toilets and tells all "I'm good looking". But others found love amongst their lockers ....ah Sara, Sophie, Claire and Kevin.

We are a class of winners. Once we won a trophy on sports day in tug a war with the aid of Big Daddy Eoin and Andrew. It was a beautiful moment. But since then we focused on the world stage. We have a world champion fighter in the angelic Eve who sees fairies. Our silver screen Oscar award goes to Mrs Sara Browne. Be sure to get the autograph of soccer star Colin, who attracts the attention of younger female fans. Others like Conor Short Doyle play the dustbin. Watch out for the enchanting singing voice of Kevin or the poetic turn of phrase of Kade. Brilliance comes in all shapes and sizes. Best sneeze goes to brainy, jam sandwich lover, Brian. Christopher will sing for us later a John Lennon number. Speaking of numbers, Aislinn I still have your first year powerpoint on maths! It's wicked. Aaron Paddy Power is up there with the Guilford four. Who will forget the time he was falsely accused of stealing the sausage roll? Or who will forget flexible Sinan and the incident. Best gossips and mad for the scandal are Conor Tompkins, Sinead Lehane and Colin O Neill. Oh by the way Hannah, when someone gets keyhole surgery on their knee, it's not through their belly button!

Definitely won't forget you. Get out there, only do what makes you happy and live the dream.

Mary Daly

### **Rang Flatley**



Five years ago everyone in Rang Flatley had something in common, none of us knew our way around the school or how to open the lockers and we were all roughly the same height! For one of us, some things haven't changed! I can barely believe how the last five years have flown by. I still remember with fondness the thirty faces looking at me on our first day together and it is with sadness we now consider our mutual journey to be coming to its end. Rang Flatley quickly settled into the school and injected that special "je ne sais quoi" into every lesson, making every meeting with you a lively, bubbly and unforgettable affair, a fact the teachers involved delighted in reporting back to me.

We lost a few of the original Rang Flatley gang to Transition Year but gained some new students coming from TY, who added a new dimension to the class and lead to the formation of many new friendships, not to mention the Wednesday Morning Biscuit Appreciation Club!

I hope you have gained as much from our relationship as I have from being your caomhnóir and I hope that you have learnt some valuable lessons you will carry with you long after you leave Ratoath College. When I think of my time with you all I will treasure my chats and gossip sessions with the girls and the boys, being called Dora the Explorer, the class mascot Chicktopus taking pride of place on the whiteboard, you convincing the staff at 'La Bucca' to sing happy birthday for me when it wasn't even my birthday as well as winning a trophy at sports day for the obstacle course in 6<sup>th</sup> year.

I am so happy to have had the opportunity to meet you and it has been an honour to watch your growth from timid first year students to confident, capable, mature young adults, gifted in the academics, sports, music, arts and many other fields. I am filled with pride when I consider the amount of change and growth I have seen in all of you and I have every confidence that whatever path you take as individuals, you all have the capacity to succeed.

I will miss each and every one of you.

Aileen Flatley

### **Rang Kelly**



I am so very sad to bid farewell to Rang Kelly. I have really got to know each individual over the past 5 years and each has made such an important contribution to the group. It has to be said that it has been wonderful working with such a lovely group of people. I have no doubt that each one of you has a bright future ahead of them.

1<sup>ST</sup> Year really doesn't seem that long ago on one hand, and on the other so much has been achieved since then. Rang Kelly started out by storming ahead and winning the 1<sup>st</sup> year competition. This was obviously through hard work and exceptionally good behaviour and manners. To be honest I wasn't really that surprised as I was constantly told by teachers that Rang Kelly was such a lovely class. I obviously agreed! As time went on I really got to know each and every personality, from our sport stars, to academics, to musicians, to artists, to chefs to comedians, to fashionistas and much more. What a bunch of talent! While each achievement was recognised from month to month, for me it was just so nice to see that everyone was doing so well and how they were happy in their school and happy with their friends. The group spirit of Rang Kelly really shone through at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> year when we won sports day (for the 1<sup>st</sup> time!). Lets face it we were hard to beat!!!! [Symbol]

It was sad to lose half of the class to TY after 3<sup>rd</sup> year but the foundations of the group stayed strong and we were lucky enough to inherit some fabulous students from the TY group ahead of us. We were delighted to accept them into Rang Kelly and straight away they were part of the family. With the new kids on board we continued our successes, having the Ard Chinnire and many cinnirí hail from our group. We also stormed to victory in sports day two more years with unstoppable force although it has to be said that our motto was never about winning, just about taking part!!!! I believe we hold the record-just saying! I have really enjoyed being Rang Kelly's caoimhnóir, especially in the last 2 senior years. Tutorial time has been as much of an education for me as it has them. I have learnt a lot about many things- reality TV, how to pick a winning horse, juicing, fake tan, snapchat and dubsmash, just to name a few. I will really miss my class, I will miss the "Joe chants" even though I never did understand them-Who is Joe??? I will miss my wardrobe malfunctions being pointed out to me-Who will I turn to now?

I wish each and everyone one of Rang Kelly the very best. It is such an exciting time for you. Everything is in front of you and all is possible...... xxx

Teresa Kelly

#### Coláiste Ráth Tó - Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí

### **Rang Nissar**



I actually cannot believe that it has been 5 years since I met you guys. My eldest daughter was born in the year that Rang Nissar was formed and I cannot believe how much she has grown up and developed her own personality just like you guys have. Every single one of you has added something different to Rang Nissar. This is what makes our class unique.

I remember the first afternoon when I met you guys like it was yesterday. You were so tiny now some of you are bigger than me and keep reminding me of this fact. Some of you were excited whilst others were nervous as you did not know what was ahead of you. Some of you had a friend or 2 in the class whilst others did not. Now all of you can call each other friends in the class and I hope these friendships continues outside of Ratoath College.

It has been a great pleasure to share your journey into adulthood for the last 5 years. I have seen your gifts and talents thrive and develop in so many different areas, whether it be in art, music, sport or something beyond that. I am proud of Rivie representing Ireland in the boxing at her age group. Emma's grittiness in dealing with her leg injury. The multi-talented Darragh cleaning up the trophies with Navan Rugby and performing on a regular basis. Rebecca for winning the all-Ireland Camogie with Meath minors. Andrew getting to 3 finals with Ashbourne Rugby (Hang in there Andrew, your time will come). I will miss the variety of conversations I had with you guys ranging from books, babysitting, boxing, growing your own food, cars, coffee, cooking, Liverpool FC, Arsenal FC, Man U, JLS, Baltimore Ravens, sailing, tattoo design, smoothie recipes, fashion trends, horse racing tips, rugby and yoga to name a few. I am smiling as I write this so thank you for the memories.

To finish off I just want you all to know that I am proud of every single one of you. It has been an honour and a privilege to get to know you guys and to look after you to the best of my ability. I wish you all the very best in life. Room 55 is always open for you to come in and have a chat. I'll leave you with this final quote, from a great author Dr Seuss.

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go."

Ma Nissar

### Rang Ó hEochaidh



And so a time to reflect is upon us as a group and a community. Management, teachers, students and parents sometimes find the 6<sup>th</sup> year graduation an emotional time and the end of an era, and it is to a certain extent for all of us. For you as students though, it really is the beginning, the beginning of a new chapter in your lives and an exciting chapter at that. You are gaining a new independence, you will experience an endless amount of new opportunities and you will learn more than we as teachers and parents could ever possibly teach you.

It is important at the same time to reflect upon your time in Ratoath College, and as a teacher I look back on your time here with immense pride and happiness. I have gotten to know many of you very well and have seen all of you mature, albeit some more than others!

I have witnessed you develop and use skills picked up along the way in many of your subjects. English for example clearly had a profound effect on some of you, drama to be precise. Many of you took a great interest in the areas of History and Geography, using the knowledge you gained from studying the Age of Explorations by circumnavigating the school to find the longest possible route between classes. Who would have thought that drawing attention to yourself was such an integral part of the Art curriculum. The amount of good notes received during those first few weeks of first year prepared you to deal with future calculations involving millions, billions and trillions! And there were of course some students who learned that chemistry was not just a school subject!!

You have come to this point of your lives as members of the same wonderful school and community and it is important to remember that you will always be a part of that community. Your school will always be willing to offer guidance and support as will your parents, just remember to ask.

Traditionally teachers will end with the infamous words of some wise scholar or an ancient fable. You all know me better than that, so in the words of Neil Lennon "This is not the end, it's just the beginning". Go n-éirí le gach aon duine agaibh ón lá seo amach. Live, laugh, love and learn.

Bhur gcara go deo, Fiachra Óh Eochaidh

Ratoath College hosted their 8th Annual School Talent Show last October and once again it proved to be quite a show!!!

2014-15

I'm not really one for corny talent shows or musicals but when I got asked to co-present this year's Talent Show I must say; I was quite honoured. This prestigious show gives all students the opportunity to show off their skills! Whether they are good at singing n' dancing or playing a wicked homemade guitar the Talent Show has a place for everyone.

This year of course was no different, with over 200 of the student-body auditioning at the start of the year; it was bound to be a good one. With numerous prizes up for grabs, everyone wanted in!

And when the big night arrived what a night it was...

The standard was certainly set in the first half with 'Amy Beirns & Ella McCabe', 'David Caprani & Chloe Kelly' and 'Brian Dela Musoke'. And of course our two first half presenters, Áine McGlynn and Kyle Clinton, kept the crowd entertained in between! The standard was set high in the first act!



Going into the second half, it was presented by myself (Alex Fogarty) and Grace Aniss. This was when it all really kicked off and when most of Top Four prize winners performed!

Kicking it off with a magical performance of John Legend's, 'All Of Me', was Megan Nolan & Peter Kilgannon.

2nd place: Hannah Roddy

Moving on was one of our 3rd place winners, Hazel O'Driscoll & Cliodhna Moore, singing a stripped-back, country style, Lady Gaga Poker

Face. And then came the man himself, Conor Brady! Performing a medley of Daft Punk's 'One More



Time' & 'Aerodynamic' on his custom midi guitar, built around a Novation Launchpad Music Controller and housed in a Gibson-style guitar frame he built himself. This was his first year entering the Talent Show, which I must say was very hard to believe. When he took to the stage, he blew them away!

ac our two first halfConor was quite a tough act to follow but thisynn and Kyle Clinton, keptgroup of lads took it in their stride to definen between! The standardthemselves! Battalion, our very own boyband,t act!Nathan Mannion, Eoghan O'Shea, DarraghGoing into the second half,Phillips and Brian O'Farrell; ensured they were(Alex Fogarty) and GraceBen Howard!



Best Newcomers: Amy & Ella

#### 2014-15

#### Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook

Going first can be nerve wrecking but closing a Talent Show can be equally as nerve wrecking. And to leave it to 1st Year seemed 'Ludacris' but Hannah Roddy is no ordinary 1st Year, this young lady had already Meath's Got Talent 2014 before, she was bound to impress. Indeed she did, Hannah brought me to tears singing an amazing cover of Whitney Houston's 'I Have Nothing'.

At the end of the night it was anyone's to win... but Conor's Electric Rocker performance had blown everyone away. And when his name was called, the crowd went wild!

Conor was overheard saying "It was surreal, I swore I was dreaming. Before my name was even mentioned, the crowd was screaming. The cheering in my final performance was insane. One of the best experiences of my life."

Conor is one of my close friends and if you know him well enough, you'll know that before the Talent Show, he was a shy guy that nobody really knew and wouldn't have dared gone on stage this time last year! The story behind this year's winner is inspirational! From Zero to Hero! From shy to confident! From garage player to rock star! Conor was the most unique performer to ever to take to the stage at a Ratoath College Talent Show and a very deserving champion.



Overall this year's Talent Show was a tremendous success and is possibly the best we've ever had! The future is bright!

Talent Show Winners: 1st Place – Conor Brady 2nd Place – Hannah Roddy 3rd Place – Hazel O'Driscoll & Cliodhna Moore, and, Battalion 1st Year Award – Amy Beirns & Ella McCabe

#### **EXCLUSIVE BEHIND THE SCENES PHOTOGRPAHS:**



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

2014-15

Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook

# Hannah Roddy- Songbird

Singing sensation Hannah Roddy blew everyone's socks off when she performed at this years Talent Show. Here Tom Roddy interviews her to find out more about this sweet-singing young lady.

#### At what age did you start singing ? I started when I was 6!

When was your first singing competition? My first competition was Meaths got Talent.

How did you feel when you won ? I felt amazing and shocked.

#### What age did you start to realise you were good at singing ?

I always really liked singing but people started to compliment me when I was around 7 or 8 :-)

What was your best singing achievement ? When I got to be on The Late Late Toy Show !

#### Where have you performed ?

I have performed in lots of places but my favourite place was when I sang for Aoibheann's Pink Tie, a children's charity.

Who helped you in achieving your goals ? My whole family are so supportive especially my mam.

**Do you plan on singing for the rest of your life ?** Yes definitely !

**Do you get nervous while performing ?** Yes, really nervous .

What would you like to achieve next? I'm actually not too sure (a).

**Do you make friends through singing ?** Yes that's the best part:)









COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

2014-15 Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook eacher Intervi Carey 1. What's your starsign? Gemini. 2. What's your favourite colour? Red. 3. What's your lucky number? 9. 4. If you were stuck on Desert Island and could only have 3 things, what would they be? My beautiful wife is all I'd need #EmotionalAnswer 5. Who's your favourite superhero? Superman. 6. What's your biggest pet hate? Children. 7. Cats or dogs? Neither, animals are stupid. 8. Have you ever met a famous person? Does Mr Mooney count? #MooneysWinningMatches 9. Who's your all-time favourite singer? Mr McAuley, he's unbelievable. 10. Where would you most like to live, if you could live anywhere? Two-Mile-Borris, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. 11. Sunrises or sunsets? Sunsets. 12. What's your favourite movie? Braveheart! 13. What's the worst present you've ever got? I got a robot for Christmas when I was younger but no batteries, it was the worst day ever!! 14. Are you right or left handed? Right. 15. What song do you love, but you hate the artist who sings it? We've got the World, Mickey Joe Harte. 16. What's your favourite book? "Ultramarathon Man" (thanks to Mr Horan for the recommendation.) 17. Tea or coffee? Tea, always tea, (I <3 tea), strong, with a teardrop of milk, stirred 8 times clockwise & 6 times anti-clockwise. 18. Do you play an instrument? Does a hurley count? 19. If you could change your name, what would you change it to? My mother's maiden name is Jones, and when I was younger I always thought Ger Jones sounded way cooler than Ger Carey. 20. If you weren't a teacher, what would your job be? A biscuit dunker – determining the dunkability of biscuits.



champ



Managed by Fr. P.J the 1<sup>st</sup> year boys Gaelic football team had a very successful year that culminated with a great victory in the North Leinster Blitz competition at the end of April. Training began in early September with the Under 14 squad and the skill and athleticism of a number of 1<sup>st</sup> year players were rewarded when they not only made the under 14 panel but players like Luke Newe, and Adam Clarke making the starting team. The Blitz was held in Dunganny on a beautiful April day and Fr PJ was confident that we could win the competition. Our first game was against Naas CBS from Kildare and we emerged victorious on a 6-3 to 0-1scoreline. The players of the game were Luke Newe and Aaron Farrell at midfield, Matthew Webb and Reece Quinn in defence and Adam Clarke and Fionn Murphy and Sean Dillon up front. Scorers - Sean Dillon 2-0, Luke Newe 1-1, Fionn Murphy 1-2, Killian Cahill 1-0 and Adam Clarke 1-0.

The second game we played was against Confey, another Kildare school, which we won 4-9 to 0-0. There were wonderful displays from Oisin Fay, the team captain, Cian Murphy, Marc Donnelly, Aaron Farrell and Tiernan Ahearne.

Scorers - Fionn Murphy 1-3, T. Ahearne 1-2, L Newe 1 -2, S Greydon 1-0, K.Cahill 0-1, and J.Farrell 0-1. We knew that a win against Colaiste na hInse would be enough to bring us to the final and although some people were getting tired at this stage they were prepared to give their all for the cause. It was now that

the strong panel came to the fore with each member playing their part, none more so than Fionn Murphy. Oisin Fay and Luke Newe. Craig Abdul Kareem, Jack Farrell Bradley Egan and Conor Eiffe also made significant contributions. We won the game on a 4-6 to 2-0 scoreline.

Scorers- F. Murphy 2-4, Adam Clarke 1-1 and T.Ahearne 1-1.

In the final we met Beauford College. A wonderful display of football by all who took part ensured that we won the competition on a 3-2 to 0-1 scoreline. Fr PJ and Miss Mannion were delighted when the final whistle sounded.

Scorers - F. Murphy 1-1, S.Dillon 1-0, L.Newe 1-0 and A.Clarke 0-1.

This has been an incredible year and the future of Gaelic football in Ratoath College looks promising.

The entire 1<sup>st</sup> year Panel was as follows: Adam Clarke, Oisin Fay, Cathal Sherlock, Tiernan Ahearne, Killian Cahill, Marc Donnelly, Fionn Murphy, Craig Abdul Kareem, Sam Coughlan, Terry Crawley, Sean Dillon, Sean Greydon, Cian Kelly, Conor Eiffe, Aaron Farrell, Cian Murphy, Alex O 'Kane, Luke Newe, Reece Quinn, Jack Farrell, Bradley Egan, Matthew Webb, Chris Joyce, Mark O Reilly, Aidan Mc Larnon, Tom Roddy, Luk- Huynh Hurley.

#### **UNDER 17's Boys Soccer**

Soccer

2014-15

A transitional season made up of a mis-match of 3<sup>rd</sup> Years and TY's showed tremendous potential but lacked the killer instinct to achieve greatness. Luckily these boys will all be here again next season and they'll be bigger, better and stronger so a full on onslaught on the Senior Cup's and Leagues will be expected from September. An early exit in the Cup to Arch-Rivals Dunshaughlin broke hearts but made men out of a few our players and the trauma stood to them as they were battlehardened for the League Campaign.

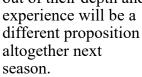
Drawn in The Group of Death of the Leinster Senior League alongside Marist College Dundalk, Skerries Community College and Ardee Community School, our boys finished runners up in the group with two sensational victories over Skerries (4-2) and Ardee (3-0) the strong spine of the team was the key to success with the ever vocal Leigh Sullivan in goal, the man mountain Declan Watters (who enjoyed trials at Sunderland earlier in the year ) leading the defence, Darragh Kelly the feisty Gattuso defensive midfielder, Conor O'Sullivan our creative artist pulling the strings and Sean Keogh, the GAA star, was in rampant goal scoring form up front. The dream came to an end on a miserable rainy day in December exiting the competition in the Semi-Final stage against a talented St Oliver's of Drogheda. The Rock n'Roll loving Viking who refereed the game didn't make any friends among the Ratoath players that day but he was fair enough and the better team on the day won the game.

Our young panel can take heart in the performances of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year wizzkids Sean Peate, Conal Ahern, Sergei Istrati and Matthew Cullen who didn't look out of their depth and who thanks to this years'

#### **Under 19's Boys Soccer**

A dramatic season with a 'What could have been' conclusion. Although the cup dream ended prematurely against our arch rivals from Dunshaughlin, it was in the North Leinster League that the boys showed off all their talents this year. After getting drawn in The Group of Death consisting of Marist College Dundalk and St Mary's of Drogheda. A 4-4 draw in Dundalk was followed by a dramatic 2-1 victory against St Mary's of Drogheda in apocalyptic conditions in the MDL grounds in Navan in December. The torrential rain and hurricane winds turned what should have been a good game into an endurance test that left poor Fiachra Flynn looking like Han Solo frozen in carbonite. The game was won by the strength and resilience of three 6<sup>th</sup> year veterans, the indomitable Graeme Reynolds, Captain Fantastic Colin McPartlin (who also enjoyed a call up for the under age national side this year) and the man of the match Jordan Callaghan who scored the winner from the half way line. Unfortunately a narrow defeat to De La Salle Dundalk in the Semi Final ended this years' dream. But the victory against Drogheda will live long in the memory. Sadly we have to say goodbye to some great servants of Ratoath College, the three aforementioned legends Graeme, Colin and Jordan along with goalkeeper supreme Richie Roberts, the ever reliable Aaronn Dunne, Cool Hand Calum McGovern and Ratoath College's most capped ever striker Dylan McCabe. The lads will however wear the Yellow and Blue one last time as they take on the Teachers in their last week of school, good luck with that fellas.

egends











The Ratoath College under 18 Gaelic team began the year with high hopes of bagging themselves a trophy.

They began the season with a tough away fixture to last year's Leinster champions and All-Ireland semi-finalists, Gormanston College. It was a windy day for football but the mighty Ratoath dug deep to overcome the concession of early goals to run out three point winners. This was a great start for the Ratoath men and their coach Mr. Mooney.

The next fixture lined up for the Ratoath men was a tricky encounter against Colaiste na Hinse, this was a tough quarter final battle against the Bettystown men. The game was played in the hometown of Ratoath's very own Mr. Mooney, Stamullen. Again another windy day for football, it did not look good for the Ratoath lads who trailed their opponents for the entire game until Callum McGovern got on the end of a long ball to flick home a goal and snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

Next up for Ratoath in the semi-final were St.Farnans of Kildare, another huge test for Ratoath and their character. Ratoath started the game at a very high speed kicking some great scores. Conditions were proving difficult for both sides, as it was a very slippery surface, but much to the delight of coach Mooney the Ratoath men got the victory.

And so it was onto the North Leinster final in Kinnegad, Ratoath's opponents would be Ballymahon of Longford. There was much excitement in the build up to the game, with the whole school getting behind the team. It turned out to be a very exciting encounter between the two sides with great support for the Ratoath men. Unfortunately the men from Ballymahon were better and had more on the day and ran out deserving winners. Ballymahon would later go on to add a Leinster and All-Ireland title.

It was a hugely successful year for Mr. Mooney and his Ratoath men and they will certainly be a force to be reckoned with next year.

#MooneysWinningMatches



## From Dante's Inferno to Paradiso: the greatest match of all time



Stadio Grande Torino is renowned in Italian amateur football; not only for that great Torino FC team who, after winning five *Scudettos*, were all tragically killed in the Superga air disaster and who lend the stadium its name, but for the incomparable match day atmosphere it creates. "It's more like the Galatasary or Flamengo stadium" Ratoath's own Torinese staff member Emiliano Sordano warned his team mates, "the crowd there is crazy – flares and intimidating chanting are very normal."

Thus, the Rataoth College staff team could have been forgiven if they had a sense of, dare I say, fear in their hearts as they lined up alongside their Italian opponents in the tunnel under the Ferruccio Novo stand. None of this though was in evidence as the stadium announcer's shrill voice beckoned the teams onto the pitch. Led by team captain, Mr McAuley, the Ratoath charges were a picture of confidence as they jogged out. Mr Mooney paused momentarily to bless himself with the grass of the sideline in time honoured fashion, appealing to the Almighty to intercede on his and his team's behalf. At the time, it seemed as if they would need it: the Stadio Grande Torino was living up to its reputation. The home crowd cheered their local heroes wildly as they emerged. In the terrace behind the goal, a flare was set off. The deafening roar of the rousing Italian national anthem could apparently heard several kilometres away. be In comparison, only the voices of the Ratoath team could be heard as Amhráin na bhFiann rang out meekly. The Ratoath men seemed like a hover of trout in the midst of a great sea of sharks. \*\*\*\*\*

Their odyssey had begun many months previously in a round robin competition involving teams from each province of Ireland. Having been selected after their successful

campaign the last year's Leinster teachers' competition, Ratoath came out on top after a gruelling two day competition, winning the final on penalties.

That led to the knock out phase of the European Inter-Continental Educators Cup, the first part of which was held in Stevenage, near London bringing together the champion teams of Scandinavia, the UK and Ireland. Each game in this phase was a winner takes all situation.

Things did not start well for Ratoath. Their first opponents, The Sir Frederic Osborn School took an early 2-0 lead and held it until the final ten minutes. Sir Fred's were led by their coach, former student of the school and England international goalkeeper David James, James, however, hadn't counted on the resilience of the Ratoath team. With 80 minutes on the clock, an apparently tiring Ratoath side conceded a penalty after Mr Jordan controversially brought an attacking player down in the box. The Sir Fred's swinging corner. centre forward, on a hat-trick, stepped up and Exhausted but with no chance for rest, Ratoath aimed for the top corner. Mr McCarthy, faced next faced a school from the northern city of determined that this would not be the end of Newcastle that afternoon. A specialist sports Ratoath's European adventure leapt high, like a college, the school boasts a £15m sports complex cat, skilfully deflecting the ball onto the post. Mr and twelve PE teachers. The outcome seemed a Gibson collected the rebound and launched a fait accompli from the outset. The Geordie's counter attack, finished in style by a Mr Walsh pounded the Ratoath goal with wave after wave of strike to the bottom corner. With renewed vigour, attack. Putting their bodies on the line for their Ratoath were level within two minutes. As Sir teammates, Ratoath seemed to have secured an Fred's kept ball in midfield, trying to run down unlikely draw as time ran out. That was until Mr the clock, Mr Carey intercepted a tired pass and Giblin, exhausted from two games in one day, raced through, showing great composure to lob missed his kick as he went to clear the ball the advancing keeper. With the momentum allowing the Newcastle forward a clear run on behind them, Ratoath went on to steal it in extra goal. Although Mr McCarthy somehow managed





time as Mr Giblin nodded home a Mr Farrelly in to keep out the initial shot, the rebound was tapped home and with only two minutes left, Ratoath's race seemed to be run.

> Up stepped captain fantastic Mr McAuley. Without a shot on target in the entire game prior to that point, he took off from the kick off like a bullet, rounding three defenders and nutmegging another before launching an unstoppable screamer from 30 yards to level it up. Extra time

#### 2014-15

was more torture as the English team camped for 30 minutes on the edge of the Ratoath box. Through sheer courage and force of will, the Geordies were kept out and the game went to penalties. Showing extraordinary bravery, all the Ratoath kicks found the back of the net, but the Geordie's found Mr McCarthy almost unbeatable, scoring only twice.

That led to the final of the regional round against the Belgian champions from the beautiful and historic city of Bastogne. In 1944 it was the location of the final German counter-attack of the Second World War. In a wonderful historical

Airborne Division in the Battle of the Bulge, way. finding themselves besieged by the classy Belgians. Wave after wave of Belgian attack

seems, are far more successful at creating problem. Two more flairs had been set of by the teachers only football teams than they are stable partisan ultras and the smoke was making it governments. Three down at half-time, it seemed difficult to breath freely for the players. The Ratoath's giant killing exploits had finally met referee and the Ratoath players wanted to delay their *bête noire*. As they sat disconsolately in the kick-off to allow it to clear but the Italian captain, dressing room at half time, the team seemed to Luigi Di Falco insisted the game started on time. collectively admit defeat.

McAuley had always led from the front. His goals kicked off. The Italians were on top in the early and abrasive play had largely been responsible exchanges, with wing-backs Mercandante and for the progress thus far. Thus it was he who took Perucca raiding down the wings. Mr McCarthy the bull by the horns to rouse his disenchanted was forced into an early diving save from the charges from the malaise for one last, great elder of the Volpi brothers, Antonio. His driving recovery. What followed was oratory worthy of left foot strike seemed destined for the corner Ancient Athens or Rome. Appealing to the spirit until the cat McCarthy's gloved fingers managed of past generations, McAuley soon had his team to graze the ball out for a corner. on their feet, believing once again that anything is Quickly though, the tide began to turn. Opting for possible in football.

minutes later, the Belgians were shell-shocked. half. The Volpi brothers, who turned to teaching Mr McAuley's hat-trick had levelled the tie before after a period with the Juventus youth set-up a stunning Mr Mooney free-kick stole victory didn't, it appeared, like it "up 'em". This was from the jaws of defeat for Ratoath.

In contrast to this extraordinary journey, the the younger Volpi, Roberto. As he collected a Italians sailed through their qualifying campaign, forward pass from fellow midfield player overcoming the champion teams of France, Spain Gianluca Da Fre, Giblin slid in cleanly, taking both



irony, this time it was Ratoath, like the 101<sup>st</sup> and Germany conceding only one goal along the

<mark>\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*</mark>\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

pummelled the Ratoath defence. The Belgians, it Back in Torino, the crowd was becoming a

And so, in the oppressive atmosphere of the No one spoke for a long time. As captain, Mr Stadio Grande Torino, the EICEC 2015 final

a 5-3-2 formation, Mr Gibson, Mr Nissar and Mr And so it proved. When the final whistle blew 45 Gibson began dominating Ratoath's defensive exemplified by Mr Giblin's crunching challenge on

53

Italians. Sitting in front of this back three, Mr taking his place up front for the second half. Farrelly bossed the midfield, breaking up The early action of the second half favoured the the Italian crowd didn't let up, and the atmosphere corner, but the Italian captain Di Falco rose high to remained as tense and fraught as ever.

Bursting down the left at lightening pace, Mr Frustrated by a lack of opportunities, some Italian calmly into the bottom corner, giving Italian plainly refused to issue yellow cards. Indeed, the goalkeeper Fabio Trifone no chance.

As the half wore on, the Italians became every chance of getting back into the game, with increasingly frustrated by the physical approach of Mr McCarthy adjudged to be offside when clean the Ratoath players. In midfield, Mr Sordano and through on three occasions when video evidence Mr Carey were using brute strength as their main suggested he had judged the line perfectly, like a weapon. On more than one occasion, the referee young Robbie Keane. half.

This injustice seemed to spur the Ratoath team on memorable 5-1 victory. however, and by half time they were three up. Mr As the clock ticked down, the transformation of McAuley added a second from a corner before the crowd's loyalties was complete. "Irlanda! local boy Mr Sordano burst through the defence Irlanda! Irlanda!" was the cry from the stands. It for the third. Surrounded in congratulations by his reminded some observers of Rocky Balboa's team mates, Sordano refused to celebrate his goal defeat of Ivan Drago and communism in Rocky IV. in deference to his compatriots. This seemed to And so their odyssey was at an end. Returning turn the tide in the crowd as they heartily home as heroes, the Ratoath staff made history as applauded this honourable and respectful gesture. Ireland's first EICEC champions in over 45 years of Unlike the regional final, McAuley's half time teach competition. talk was focussed on putting the lead to bed. For the first time in their odyssey, Ratoath were not

man and ball. Neither Volpi seemed much of a rousing cheers of a team far from willing to give in. threat after that as Giblin's physical presence, Ratoath's problems were further exacerbated by Gibson's speed and Nissar's masterful organisation an injury to Mr Qualter. Unable to continue, it was of the defence proved impenetrable for the decided to put him in goal with Mr McCarthy

increasingly infrequent Italian attacks and starting Italians and they got one back on 50 minutes. new ones in the opposite direction. Despite this, Qualter came to collect as Munegato swung in a beat Ratoath's keeper to it.

The Italians though, had no answer to Mr Mooney This was the supreme test and Ratoath rose to it and Mr Jordan's forays down both wings and it admirably. With renewed vigour and poise, was one of these that led to the opening goal. Ratoath once again took control of the game. Mooney centred for Mr McAuley who passed it players lost their discipline, although the referee officials seemed determined to give the Italians

had to warn the Italians for lashing out after being In the end, it was a mistake in the Italian defence dispossessed by Irish force. These incidents that sealed their fate. Trifone scuffed his clearance almost had serious negative implications for and McAuley pounced, clipping the ball over the Ratoath as Mr D McCarthy, Ratoath's coach, retreating keeper to make it 4-1. With the game demanded the referee take action to protect his petering out, Mr Carey found himself clean players. In response, the referee ordered Mr through on goal with only the keeper to beat McCarthy to the stands for the remainder of the before Trifone savagely brought him down. Mr Farrelly duly converted the spot kick to seal a

the chasers but being chased themselves. From the (Editors Note: Team members were unavailable for Italian dressing room opposite they could hear the *comment due to busy autographing schedules*)

**The Semi-final** 

### curse in Junior Rugby

The Junior Cup team this year was made up of first, second, third and fourth years.

The team was captained by David Caffrey and contained far more first and second years than previous years which bodes well for the future of the team.

The boys started off the season in winning form and played well in friendly games preparing for the cup.

They got a walk through in the  $1^{st}$  round and won comfortably in the  $2^{nd}$  round. They won the quarter final well by scoring four tries against Moat at home.

Once again the semi-final curse hit the Junior Cup team and they lost the semi-final to Boyne Community College.

Hats off to Mr Nissar who had the responsibility of running the team single handedly this year. And did a mighty job of it too.





# Major Potential in Hurling

This year the U16's got to the Final after two very successful blitz days held in Ashbourne GAA club and Ratoath GAA club.

In the final they were up against St Fintinas Longwood who had previous beaten them in the Ratoath Blitz. The match ended level score at the end of normal time, 4-6 to 1-15. Goals from Tom Fadden and Mark Phelan keeping us in the game. Extra time still couldn't separate the teams and it ended 4-9 to 1-18. The replay was held later that week and a lot of our key players ended up playing four and five games in a five day period. Longwood looked a lot fresher and got the upper hand in most areas of the pitch. The game ended with a Longwood win, 2-16 to 2-8. The groundwork has been made and next year's team has some very promising times ahead.

The U16 Hurling Panel 2014/15 consisted of: Shane McGoldrick, Niall McLarnon, Cormac Butler, Pierce Butler, Mark Phelan (C), James O'Brien, Aaron O' Flaherty, Sean Keogh, Brian Kiernan, Paul Donnelly, Johnny Browne, Sean Johnson, Padraic Byrne, Tom Fadden, Sam Fraughen, Darragh Kelly, Ciaran O'Toole, Declan Watters, Ronan Glynn, Conor O'Sullivan, David McGowan, Ruairi Coulter, Tadhg McCann, Harry Haskins, John Foley, Gavin McKane.





#### Girls Gaelic 2014/2015

Over the past year Ms. Grogan, Ms. McEneaney, and two Transition Year students; James O' Brien and Cian McCormack have worked tirelessly with the 3 different girls gaelic teams in Ratoath College. Hard work, dedication and commitment from all parties helped guide the teams to tremendous victories and the under 16 team to a Leinster quarter final. There were many tight encounters along the way- where all teams achieved success and conquered many battles. The year provided captivating points, brilliant blocks and gut wrenching tackles. With progression towards victory achieved this year- we all wait, patiently, to see what 2016 has in store for these talented ladies.



The girls trained every Monday after school for months on end, braving the elements as well as two \*cough\* enthusiastic TY's. Their continued efforts paid off as the **Under 18 team** hammered Ardee in their first game of the year. This was to be the shining moment of the season for this team was the Under 18 team's year was far from spectacular after that, losing to Dunshauglin and Ashbourne in their next two games. These harsh defeats, in the grips of winter, left the team with little chance of progression to further stages, but hey, there's always next year! The dream of lives on!

The Under 18 Panel of 2014/2015: Emily Witter Nolan, Kira Bryan, Sarah McNerney, Louise Rice, Aoife Griffin, Anna Mc Peake, Tara Brazil, Judy Bobbett, Katie Newe, Rachael Eiffe, Eimear Cooke, Ellie O' Neill, Rebecca McIntyre, Lauryn Murray, Vicky Balan, Aine McNerny, Niamh McLoughlin, Hannah Talbot, Fiona McNerny, Clodagh Higgins, Sadhbh Thomas, Aisling Lynch, Clara O' Neill, Sophie Rooney, Alison Gowran, Dearbhla Fairbairn, Shauna Stoney, Jade Conroy, and Jennifer Grehan.

The Under 16 team had a fantastic, successful, outstanding year of football, going all the way to an epic Leinster Quarter Final, only to be unfortunately beaten by Ashbourne in a close encounter. This team really stepped up with vital

leaders across the field- Katie Newe, Judy Bobbit, Chloe Faherty sealed the defence tight; while, the Mc Nerneys and the Mc Loughlins, among others, leaded the way in the frontline. This was a team success with pace, grit and serious commitment shown on the training pitch by all involved. To get to the Leinster Quarter Final, the girls overcame opponents such as Dunboyne, Donabate, Oldcastle, and Nobber. It would appear there's a lot to build towards for next year in the talented group. They really are one to watch!

The Under 16 Panel of 2014/2015: Emily Witter Nolan, Kira Bryan, Louise Rice, Tara Brazil, Judy Bobbett, Katie Newe, Rachael Eiffe, Eimear Cooke, Rebecca McIntrye, Lauryn Murray, Vicky Balan, Aine McNerny, Niamh McLoughlin, Hannah Talbot, Fiona McNerny, Sadhbh Thomas, Aisling Lynch, Clara O' Neill, Lara Power, Aoife O' Grady, Alison Gowran, Dearbhla Fairbairn, Jade Conroy, Marina Kelly, Chloe Flaherty, Aine Cooney, Aoife Tormey, Rebecca McFaul, Shauna Stoney, Yasmin Van Wegan, Ciara Fagan, Rachel Clarke, Sandra Joseph, Zoe Walsh, Siloe Musoke, Orna Kelly, Ciara Gilhooley, Lauren McTigue, Zara Cooper and Ailbhe Whitty.

The Under 14 Team also had a hugely successful year. This team has been tipped to be the next big thing, with huge strides forward made this year. Some of the highlights of the year were wins over Coláiste na Hinse, ColmCills, Maynooth, and Nobber; with a scoreline in one game 11-16 to 1-4. Points were scored from end to end on the 45 metre line; curling winds were measured and high balls judged to perfection. With this upcoming talent and mixture of old experienced heads- 2016 Under 14 team will be a force to be reckoned with.

Overall Ladies GAA in Ratoath College is leading the waytalented skills, consistent training and sheer determination make this group unique- bring on 2016!

The Under 14 Panel of 2014/2015: Lauren Kelly, Aisling Duncan, Lara Power, Ailbhe Whitty, Orna Kelly, Aisling Lynch, Sarah Ashmore, Sarah McLoughlin, Marina Kelly, Fiona McNerny, Cliodhna Griffin, Rebecca McFaul, Ciara Gilhooley, Aoife Tormey, Ciara Fagan, Emily Dooley, Siloe Musoke, Sarah Jones, Chloe Flaherty, Aine Cooney, Trudi Mae Cromwell, and Fiona O' Grady.



# ON YOUR MARKS!

#### Track and Field 2015

#### Meath Championships

There was a great turn out to the beginning of the track and filed season this year. We had many athletes competing and a great medal haul. Matthew Buckley dominated the field in his 100m heat and final and won with ease. Aine Cooney too won her 100m heat and final comfortably in a very impressive performance. Katie Lewis won her 100m heat and finished 3rd in a very competitive race. Brian Kiernan kept the trend and won his 100m heat as well. He came up against some top quality competition in his final and was only beaten in a dip to the line to finish 2<sup>nd</sup>. Karen Hayes was first up in the middle distance events in the junior girls 1100m. She had a superb race and finished first with a great sprint finish really showing her strength. Amber Roche and Aine O'Connor both ran in the intermediate girls 1500m and ran great races. Both of them battled on right to the end. Philip Marron ran in the intermediate boys 1500m which was packed full of some top quality athletes. He had to kick hard in the last 100m to win the race and beat a former Irish team athlete. Eoin Clavton was jumping with joy; excuse the pun, after getting a new personal best of 1m 60cm in the High Jump, which got him 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Aaron Phelan finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the long jump with a great performance.

#### North Leinster Championships

We had our best athletes out for this big day of competition. Aine Cooney has been improving with every run this season and she got proceedings off to a great start when winning the junior girls 100m. Matthew Buckley won his first schools title with yet another impressive run when taking gold in the minor boys 100m. Darragh Casey was 2nd in the minor boys long jump and then followed up on this with an excellent 3rd in the 500m while Emma Coroner took bronze in the minor girls long jump with a personal best of 4.69m. Karen Hayes was one of the favourites for her event but she took a heavy fall at the start and was never able to fully recover despite getting up and finishing a very creditable 8th in the minor girls 1100m. However, in the style of a true champion she dusted herself down and came back out and won the 800m in 2 min 36. Eoin Clayton was 3rd in the intermediate boys 100m hurdles and followed up on this with a 1.55m high jump that earned him 5th place. Aaron Phelan retained his intermediate triple jump title while Brian Kiernan made his competitive debut over 400m and won impressively in 52.7 sec, easing down over the last 50m. Amber Roche was in great form and her third place finish in the intermediate girls 1500m was just reward for some positive running. Aine O Connor dominated the 1100m steeplechase with a gun to tape perforance and a personal best of 4 min 3 sec for the distance and later went on to take the silver in the 3000m. The intermediate boys steeplechase

over 1500m was won by Philip Marron in 4 mins 41 sec despite badly twisting his ankle at the second water jump and having to run another lap to finish.

We would like to thank Ms. Reid, Ms. Lyons & Ms. Tracey for their help throughout the year.







The girls basketball teams did very well this year with the first year team and U16 team reaching semi finals of the North East Basketball league. Unfortunately both teams narrowly lost in the semi finals but showed great determination and team spirit. The second year and U19 girls teams narrowly missed out on semi final places coming third in their groups but also had very successful teams. A huge well done to all the girls and we are looking forward to another successful season next year.



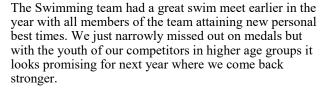
## **Boys' Soccer Higlights**

The U15 boys' soccer team went into the record books this year, securing the school's largest ever victory with a 9-1 triumph over neighbours Dunshaughlin. Aaron McNally's performance in particular caught the eye that day as the striker found the net on no fewer than six occasions. Bendeguz Bosze also had an outstanding year as the goalkeeper saved two penalties during the team's cup run. Other highlights of the year included a 4-1 victory over Ardee C.S and a 3-3 draw with league champions De La Salle, where the side had the wonderful opportunity to play at Oriel Park, home of League of Ireland champions Dundalk FC. A narrow 4-3 defeat to St Oliver's of Drogheda proved to be the team's undoing in the end but the overwhelming feeling of 'what might have been' after that defeat will only serve as further motivation to a talented group of players next year. A special mention must go to Cian Hughes who made his international debut this year, representing the Ireland U15s on their tour of Poland in November. The midfielder impressed the management team with his performance in Poland and earned a second call-up to the international squad, pulling on the green jersey in a 1-1 draw with Scotland in January.

The U13 boys' soccer team had an excellent first year together, reaching the quarter final of the league. While there were a number of impressive team performances, the match against Marist College really stood out. The



players showed great spirit and character to come from behind and win 2-1 thanks to a late winner from winger Adam Clarke. Well done to Luke Newe who was named player of the year after a series of dominant displays in midfield. I have no doubt that all first years who put on the Ratoath College jersey this year enjoyed the experience and made new friends that they will share great moments with both on and off the pitch for years to come.



Members of the Swim Squad are: David Tyrell, Rachel Doherty, Cian Quiqley, Shóna Quigley, Hugh Mohan and Max Davenport.



#### COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

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Pitted in a tough group with our local rivals of Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin and Ashbourne the U16 GAA team began training in early September with the shared goal of bringing home silverware to the College. We began our campaign against Dunshaughlin, minus five players due to a hurling final. Mr. Mooney had to call upon some of the younger players for the game. The lads battled bravely throughout but Dunshaughlin would pull away easy victors, but gave the Ratoath boys some motivation to improve.

The next match up pitted us against Dunboyne, knowing a victory was needed to keep alive hopes of qualifying to the knockout stages. Mr. Mooney decided to implement a sweeper, which had worked so well for Ratoath in the minors, and was a tactic that was to become associated with the minor and U16 teams throughout the season. After a clinical performance by the forwards and a tough, solid display by the backs, Ratoath ended up victors on a 6-16 to 2-3 scoreline.

Our final match saw us up against Ashbourne with the winners progressing to the Q/Final. After a nervous opening by both sides, it was Ratoath who finished the stronger pulling away 2-9 to 1-6 winners and ensuring a place in the knockout stages. It was an excellent all round team performance with Eoin O'Connell in fine form in goals. While James O'Brien, Ryan Kelly and Mark Phelan marshalled the defence ensuring their opponents had nothing easy.

After finishing second in the group, Ratoath made the journey to Stamullen to face St.Mary's of Drogheda. It was a mismatch, with Ratoath dominating in all areas of the pitch. Goals from Sean Keogh, Connell Ahearne, Andrew Battersby and David Ryan paved the way for a safe passage into the semi-final.

In the semi-final, the boys travelled to St. Loman's Park Mullingar to play Moyne C.S. It was a tight encounter throughout with no side ever pulling too far ahead. Goals from Andrew Battersby and Connell Ahearne along with some flawless free taking from Sean Keogh and Connell Ahearne sent the boys through to the North Leinster Final.

The final took place in DCU against Scoil Dara Kilcock. Rataoth started with great energy and were dominating throughout. A well taken penalty by Conor O'Sullivan and a fierce low drive from Connell Ahearne coupled with fine points from Sean Keogh (2) and Leigh Sullivan gave Ratoath 2-3 to 0-3 halftime lead. All was going well for Ratoath, but when they returned to the pitch after half time, things seemed to fall apart. Ratoath were unable to maintain possession of the ball, and when they did, they didn't use it productively. Ratoath seemed to crumble under the pressure being mounted by Kilcock. A series of unanswered scores from the Kilcock saw them run out four point winners and be crowned North Leinster champions.

The U16 Gaelic Football team have done fantastically well this year, but were unlucky not to earn any silverware. With the wealth of quality in the team, there is no doubt that they will be challenging for trophies next year.

#MooneysWinningMatches



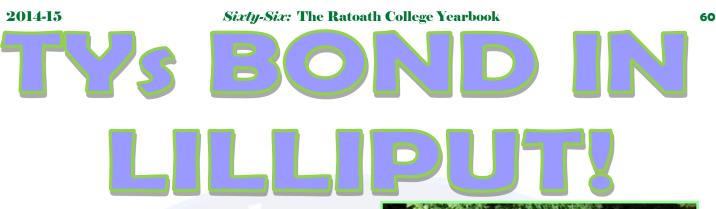


COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

## Teacher Interview Mr. Kenny

1. What's your starsign? Cancer 2. What's your favourite colour? Blue 3. What's your lucky number? 13 4. If you were stuck on a desert island and could only have 3 things, what would they be? Guitar, Chocolate, Eggs 5. Who's your favourite superhero? Neil Armstrong 6. What's your biggest pet hate? People with no manners 7. Cat or dog? Neither 8. Have you ever met a famous person? Yes, Bono. 9. What's your all-time favourite singer? John Lennon 10. Where would you most like to live if you could live anywhere? Caribbean 11. Sunrises or sunsets? Sunrises 12. Favourite movie? Kelly's Heroes 13. What's the worst present you've ever got? Socks for Christmas 14. Are you right or left handed. Right 15. What song do you love but you hate the artist who sings it? The Island, Paul Brady 16. What's your favourite book/series? **Famous Five** 17. Tea or coffee? Coffee 18. Do you play an instrument? Trumpet, Guitar, Ukelele, Piano, Trombone, French Horn. 19. If you could change your name what would you change it to? Sebastian 20. If you weren't a teacher, what would your job be? Astronaut





### Sarah Kate McConway relives the TY trip to Carlingford:

The TY bonding trip was the first trip of TY. It is a great chance for all the TY's to get to know each other and their class. It is a really great trip to start the year with. On the 4th of September all of the TYs headed down to Lilliput Adventure Centre in Mullingar. Once we arrived we were introduced to the people there and then we were shown our beds. The first activity my group and I did was bog hopping. It was a lot of fun but also extremely disgusting and it took a long time to get the mud out of my hair. The other activities we took part in throughout our time there were canoeing, manhunt, lazer tag, archery and rock climbing. We were completely worn ou tbut exhilarated after our day of adventure. After dinner everyone relaxed but when it started to get dark we were brought to the forest to play manhunt, which lasted much longer then it should have. Everyone relaxed and chilled out for the rest of the night. The next day involved breakfast, more activities and the bus journey home. We had a brilliant time, and the trip definitely achieved its goal of building a teamspirit among the TYs.

This trip was in my opinion the best trip we had by far. The trip was filled with fun, good craic and lots of 'bonding'.

We had a brilliant time, and the trip definitely achieved its goal of building a team-spirit among the TYs.









As part of transition year every student is asked to try and complete the Gaisce Bronze award. Gaisce is the President's Award in Ireland. It is a personal development programme for young people between the ages of 15-25. The Gaisce award was made to allow young people to fill their highest potential.

We, as students were asked to try and complete the first and shortest level of Gaisce- the Bronze Award. For the bronze award students have to complete an activity in the following sections.

- 1. Community involvement
- 2. Personal skill

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- 3. Physical recreation
- 4. Adventure journey

This year most students completed all the work they had to do during the year and the last step was going on an Adventure Journey. For our adventure journey we went to Avon Rì in county Wicklow. What we had to do was plan, train for and complete an outdoor Adventure Journey as part of a team. We had to walk 25k, walk up a mountain and camp for one night.

Our journey started off in wet conditions as we began to walk in Wicklow. Even though the weather conditions weren't great everybody kept in good spirits and motivated each other. After walking 14k in the morning everyone was excited for lunch. After lunch we had the chance to canoe across the lake. All 65 students canoed across the lake where our campsite was going to be set up.



raisce

After our canoeing journey we began our hike up a mountain. The weather started to become clear and sunny and it was the perfect weather to go on a walk. We walked for a couple of hours and managed to complete another 14k. Everyone was exhausted by the time we finished and it was now dark.

In the evening when we reached our campsite we began to pitch our tents. With 6 huge tents everyone had a place to sleep. We got a lovely dinner made by the co-ordinators of our journey. Later, before we headed to bed, the group set beside a campfire and we all sang songs, talked, and warmed up. After a very long day everyone was extremely satisfied with all the work they did for the day.

Our last step of the journey was the day after. We cleaned up our campsite and had breakfast. We canoed back to the Avon Rì Adventure Centre and finally our journey was over. With tired but happy faces everyone got on the bus, and we headed home. Gaisce Awards achieved and a good time had by all!



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ



The Trad Group have been meeting at lunchtime on Tuesdays throughout the year, with Mr Connolly and Ms. Kilrane to choose pieces and practice together. This year they welcomed some talented new First Year students. Juniors and Seniors join together to perform. They play traditional Irish airs as well as putting their own touch to more modern songs. They have performed at occasions such as the First Year Mass, the Christmas Prizegiving and Seachtain na Gaeilge and will perform during the Summer Awards Ceremony. The Trad Group brings a cultural flavour to all school events and their toe-tapping beat almost makes you feel like getting up to do your jigs and reels!



# STUDENT COUNCIL 2014/15

This year the student council was elected in October. Each rang voted for their candidates and the council was chosen democratically. Since then the student council has been working hard on different issues, making the school a better environment for everyone. The students council is a member of the ISSU where Alex Fogarty is a committee member.



**Darkness into Lic** 

Darkness into Light is an annual 5km walk/run fundraiser for Pieta House. Pieta House is a support centre for the prevention of self-harm or suicide. The walk starts at 4:15am and finishes just as dawn is breaking. This year Rang Savage organized a Darkness Into Light run in Ratoath. All fourth year students, their families and teachers were welcomed. I feel it was a great experience for me as I know I've contributed and helped aid a really important charity. It was my first time to take part in the event and I have to say it is really heartwarming to see the dedication and inspiration from everyone who takes part annually. I am extremely proud of everyone who took part. Such amazing support and positivity was shown. Well done to those involved. You are really helping to make a difference! Many thanks also to the Parents Association that supplied breakfast to the participants after their walk. -Sam O'Neill



## **TYs and the Chocolate Factory!**

For Transition year, we have the brilliant opportunity to take part in some excellent trips. This trip is certainly no exception. The Food Science trip took us to the chocolate factory, Caffreys, in Walkinstown. While here we were greeted with chocolate upon our arrival and the workers were pleasant and happy greeting us with warm comforting smiles!

The trip itself was a part of a bigger day in which we went into an art gallery as well but the factory was the highlight of the day for me. When we arrived, the welcoming staff began with a presentation about equality for farmers and where chocolate comes from. The presentation was intriguing and informative and really made you think about the background chocolate rather than just another treat.

After the presentation we went making our own chocolate and treats. We created a gift bag of treats, that we designed ourselves, to bring home. This was really enjoyable and was a really worthwhile experience. I really feel that this was one of the better trips. It was really interesting to see how chocolate is made and all the work the brilliant staff put in. Plus we got chocolate so no one can really complain!



# Learning through Art

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November TY students set sail on a voyage to the 'National Art Gallery Dublin' and the 'Musuem of Natural History".

It was an eye-opening experience for us 'protégé artistes' We were greeted with open arms by the tour guide whom I believe was called Francine.

We partook in this life event with Ms Daly and Ms O'Donoghue and Ms Donnellan. My favourite section of the gallery was the 'Dead Art' section. This was filled with stuffed and dead animals of all kinds. These ranged from bats to marsupials even to feathered friends and primates.

This trip made me realise that I want to be an artist and further my artistic capabilities, specifically the perspective of my Medieval style. This has been apparent in my recent Art projects.

My chums and I have received the gift of knowledge in the area of artistry. Unfortunately I am colour blind so I can not fully appreciate all of the picturesque colours in the beautiful world of Art. We were lucky enough to descend on the 'Museum of Natural History" during Science Week when there was a 'See like the animals' project exhibiting. Using a strange space-like helmet, I could see the world as a giraffe, chameleon and a hammerhead shark would. It was enlightening.

I took the liberty to discuss this with a part time TY student, part time Olympic runner, Philip Marron.

"I loved the perspective of what it was like to be a different life form with the use of a head covering apparatus. I also enjoyed the indepth experience of truly being one with the painting. I connected on a physical and emotional level with the exquisite frescos." Some of the TY students took it upon themselves to take some 'creative' photographs in which they mimicked some of these animals behaviour spontaneously.





Pulling all the birds













Transition Year has been both an exhausting and exhilarating year. It has been a worthwhile experience that should be taken into great consideration. The year was filled with anticipation and excitement with the unfolding of each new task and opportunity. It is an excellent year for an increase in maturity and intellect and is definitely a year of self-thought and discovering more about yourself.

Obviously a key component of Transition Year is the trips that accompany the year. It starts off brilliantly with a Bonding Trip that furthers the development of companionships among people who have never spoken to one another. Each school subject gets a spotlight shone on them in each trip and they are organised so that amusement is top priority. Other examples of trips are the science and history trips which occurred in Belfast. The trips bring a fantastic flavour to Transition Year and are one of the highlights!

Transition Year provides you with an extra year before you have to decide on subject choices. This is useful as it gives you the chance to try all subjects beforehand rather than picking without trying. This year has been very helpful in deciding what subjects to take for Leaving Cert. The subjects are expertly taught, giving a distinct taste of knowledge but not actually delving into the core of the subject. It is just enough so you know what the subject is about but not getting confused about it. The entire year is a taster on all Leaving Cert subjects.

As well as days out and time spent in classes some impressive speakers visited us to talk about a plethora of topics. Transition Year allows many people from different occupations to come into the school and talk about what they do. Some of the highlights included a barrister who talked about the law and why it's important. A driver's Ed class in which we actually got to drive a car and the PALs programme which is a four week course about self-acceptance and appreciating others. All these talks were both exciting and interesting.

Overall Transition year has been amazing, it has brought a certain sense of clarity and maturity towards life and I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of it. I hope that the standard at which it is held continues as all the work and effort from our amazing staff is definitely paying off. I wish it could be repeated because it has been the best and most enjoyable year and it will be an experience I dearly miss.



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

## Teacher Interview Mr. Jordan

1. What's your starsign? Gemini 2. What's your favourite colour? Orange 3. What's your lucky number? 4. If you were stuck on a desert island and could only have 3 things, what would they be? Phone, Blender and Toblerone(White) 5. Who's your favourite superhero? Batman 6. What's your biggest pet hate? **Cracking Knuckles** 7. Cat or dog? Dog 8. Have you ever met a famous person? Yes (Mysterious) 9. What's your all-time favourite singer? Freddie Mercury 10. Where would you most like to live if you could live anywhere? New York 11. Sunrises or sunsets? Sunrises 12. Favourite movie? Remember the Titans 13. What's the worst present you've ever got? A spoon 14. Are you right or left handed? Right 15. What song do you love but you hate the artist who sings it? Steal My Girl, One Direction 16. What's your favourite book/series? (No Answer) 17. Tea or coffee? Neither 18. Do you play an instrument? Yes (oooo the mystery) 19. If you could change your name what would you change it to? Tom (Just Tom Sir?) 20. If you weren't a teacher, what would your job be? Salesman





COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ





COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ





COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ



Coláiste Ráth Tó - Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí

## **T'was the night before** the Christmas village

At Christmas time, all the transition years came into school on the weekend to build the annual Christmas village. The task required a lot of Christmas Skillage. There was a feeling of Christmas cheer in the air. Everyone worked tirelessly without a care. The Christmas village had six areas for the children to go through, there was a muffin decorating area, a card writing and post office area, a decoration making area, a sweet area and Santa's grotto. It was so festive we felt as though we had won the Christmas lotto. There was a sense of magic and feeling of joy in the air as TY of students donned their Christmas finery in preparation of visit from the local primary schools. The children came in through the magic portal to be greeted with the sweet scent of freshly baked muffins. They were all very excited and all wanted

himself made an appearance, Old Saint Nic, much

to everyone's joy and delight. It was the cherry on top of a really excellent Christmas pudding. There

were many year groups in from the primary school

to sit in Santa's magical chair.

and every one of them left with few а decorations and a smile on their faces. Everything went smoothly until we reached the deconstruction



f the Christmas

Village where many tears were shed. One TY student was overheard saying "I can't believe it, it felt so real! Christmas is ruined." We personally believe the cleaning fluid fumes got to him.

Although it took longer to build than expected, it turned out to be a wonderful experience.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!



The main man

COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

#### 2014-15

Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook

# The most wonderful time of the year!



And as if the Christmas spirit wasn't already palatable in the air, the annual Christmas Door competition and Christmas Jumper day really added a sense of magic and cheer to life in Ratoath College. The corridors were transformed into a Winter Wonderland as each rang made their bid to out-do each other in Christmas sparkle and imagine. This student isn't sure if it was Christmas magic or competitive anger and frustration that created the unusual atmosphere in the school. Nevertheless many wonderful and some abstract creations decorated the doors. Ms. Dinsmore once again challenged her students to the Christmas limbo as they had to stoop down and creatively make their way into class through the fireplace. Ms. Dwyer made every other teacher insanely jealous as her Rang's tribute to Frozen was a delight to see. Ms. Martin, however, ran away with the competition as she emerged victorious again in the Christmas Door Challenge.

From the moment the first piece of glitter went up everyone, staff and students, felt happy as their serotonin levels increased.

'Tis indeed a season to be jolly.











Ba bhliain stairiúil 2014 do ghaelgóirí Coláiste Is féidir muid a leanúint ar Twitter: Ráth Tó gan dabht. Don chéad uair riamh bheartaigh Roinn na Gaeilge amhrán Nollag a thaifead agus físeán ceoil a chur leis. Comhthionscadal idir foireann na Gaeilge Coláiste Rath Tó, Scoil Neasáin agus TG Lurgan a bhí ann. An chéad rud a bhí lé déanamh ná lirící ghaeilge a chur leis na hamhráin a roghnaíodh. Nuair a bhí na liricí aistrithe agus ath-aistrithe bhí daltaí rang 1 Scoil Neasáin agus daltaí na céad agus dara bliana Choláiste Ráth Tó réidh le dul ag cleachtadh.

Taifeadadh na hamhranaithe in Amarclann an Venue i sráidbhaile Ráth Tó ag tús na míosa. Rinneadh taifead ar na ceoltóirí san fhoirgneamh céanna agus ba mhór an éacht a bhí déanta ag Iníon Garrett leis an dá ghrupa i dtreimhse ghearr ama.

Bhí triúr dalta sinsearach mar

phríomhamhránaithe sa tógra, Nathan Ó Mainnín, Ellie Ní Néill agus Darragh "Rua" Hoare! Ní haon ionadh é gur éirigh chomh maith leis an tionscadal nuair a chloiseann tú guthanna an triúir. Maidin Shathairn amháin thug an triúr amhránaí aghaidh ar iarthar na tíre agus thaistil siad go Co. na Gaillimhe chun a bpáirteanna éagsúla a thaifead. Faoin am seo ní raibh ann ach fiseán a chur leis an gceol. Roghnaíodh Ionad Siopadóireachta Liffey Valley mar shuíomh oiriúnach. Chaith na rannpháirtithe go léir lá lán de spraoi, comhoibriú agus ar ndóigh a dteanga dhúchais féin san ionad. Bhí na haisteoirí ar fheabhas ar fad go háirithe Adam Howley agus na "hElves Dána". Tá os cionn 25 míle hits aige cheanna féin ar Youtube.



@GaeilgeRáthTó

Buíochas mór le: Daltaí 1 & 2 bliana Coláiste Ráth Tó Rang 1, Scoil Neasáin, Baile Hearmain Darragh Hoare, Ellie Ní Néill, Nathan Mannion, Sean De Brún, Ben Scroope, Emmeline Ní Mháille Dearbhla Garrett, Coláiste Ráth Tó, The Venue Theatre, Ráth Tó Todd & an fhoireann i Pirates Cove. Nigel & an fhoireann i UHC Cinemas.







#### Sarah Sturzel and Katie Byrne

First of all, we have a few thank yous to make! Thank you to each and every person who took the time to vote for us! We apologise for the constant reminders and promoting! We would like to thank our school and our community who so willingly helped us with our campaign and ultimately, we want to thank our art teacher Ms. Mortimer for getting us involved in this project in the first place.



Sarah's design of 'My Perfect Day' was travelling far and wide, discovering greater than the world's wonders through both old fashioned and modern means. The design was called 'Wanderlust' as her perfect day was her desire to travel. The doodle included both traditional cartography and space travel.

In March, we both received a letter informing us that we had made it into the finals of the Doodle4Google

competition 2015. We were two of the fifteen finalists in our age category and two out of the 75 overall finalists in Ireland. We were extremely excited to find out that we would be attending a ceremony on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April in Google headquarters in Dublin along with the other finalists.

After getting lost once or twice, we finally made it to Google headquarters on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> of April with our parents, Ms. Mortimer and Ms. Prendergast. We were warmly welcomed and given nametags and t-shirts with our doodles on them. We were then faced with a brightly lit staircase. Our names appeared side by side on one of the steps. We were invited upstairs to browse around the gift shop and then we were treated to a delicious lunch of all different types of strangely fascinating foods from around the world. The google gadgets were astounding,

including a cup that changed colour according to the temperature of the tea. After lunch, the ceremony began. When the audience was seated, the finalists were called in in alphabetical order. We all took our seats at the front as Ronan Harris, the Vice President of Google, Ireland, took to the stage. Each finalist was called up to the stage to receive a framed picture of their doodle before the winner of each category was announced. Each of the five winners and their teachers won a Chromebook. The overall winner was 6 year old Harry Kane from Co. Wicklow. He took home a  $\notin$ 5000 college scholarship and a  $\notin$ 10,000 technology grant for his school.

After the ceremony, we were invited to browse around the various food and entertainment stalls set up around the building. We were pleased to have each other as we explored the amazing offices. We were then treated to dinner in the Google canteen! The canteen was perhaps the most impressive of Google HQ and definitely the most inviting. As we left the building we received a goodie bag.

It was an amazing experience which we are so grateful to have been a part of and we would definitely recommend that everyone should consider entering next years competition!

The theme of the competition was 'My Perfect Day'. This theme was very broad and allowed for creativity. Both our designs were inspired by travel. Katie's design included landmarks she wished to visit 'Around the World in a Day'. The symbols on the Chinese lantern of her design mean the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Her perfect day was to have the ability to slow down time so she could travel the world and explore new places and different cultures.





# 2014-15 Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook 75 MENTAL HEALTH WEEK: Brightening up the day!

As part of Mental Health week, Rang Cahill decided to do a 'Random Act of Kindness' in the community. We started our project by typing up positive, inspirational quotes and printing them on small strips of paper. We then baked cookies in the Home Ec. Room and packaged them in small bags with a quote in each one. Later on, once everything was ready, we took about 5 bags each and set out into Ratoath to deliver them to local people we spotted. We would stop a person and hand them a cookie and tell them it was part of our Mental Health Awareness project. In general, we got a very good response and our project was very successful. We achieved our goal in raising awareness about Mental Health as well as brightening up the day of some people of Ratoath.







## She would you give your last Rolo to?

Love was in the air again this year as the Love Squad were swept off their feet with romantic orders. The Love Squad sends messages of love all around the school by delivering Rolos to students and teachers, who have been chosen by a secret admirer to receive them. It's all very mysterious and exciting!



2014-15



Ms. Mortimer's first year Art group held a "Ceramic Art" exhibition in the school Library on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of May. They were delighted at how their work turned out and with the final presentation in the school Library.



**Exhibitors:** 



Sarah Ashmore Lauren Kelly Megan Clancy Lee Lynch Mia Cunnigham Marcus McAleer Erin Donnely Catherine McCann Saoirse Fanning Eoghan McDonnell Ciarán Feldman Adam McKane

Kieran McPartlan Abby Hesse-mason Lara Power Luke-Huynh Hurley Cara Thornton Ella Hussey Matthew Webb Varsha Joseph Ailbhe Whitty Cal Henderson Zara Kane





Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook



Public speaking is many people's greatest fear. This is a fear not shared by the members of Ratoath College Debating Club. Debating offers students an excellent chance to develop their communication, research, analytical and interpersonal skills.

Over the past year the club has gone from strength to strength in the world of competitive schools debating. The senior debate team, captained by Mark Caffrey, entered the Concern Debates last October. Mark was joined by Emily Ashmore, Stephen Fowler, Katie Murnane, Keela Walsh Fagherazzi and Katie Byrne.

In our first debate we were narrowly defeated by Coláiste Chiaráin, Leixlip. A hat trick followed when the team secured convincing victories over Saint Peter's College, Dunboyne, Coláiste Cois Life, Lucan and Luttrellstown Community College. Unfortunately nine points was not enough for us to advance to the next stage of the competition. We look forward to entering the competition next year and building on this year's success.

In April the junior debate team competed in the LMETB Junior Debating Competition. Team members and supporters travelled to Dunleer for an action packed day of debating. Kurt Scott, Anna Crowley, Cillian Byrne and Nicola Gibson opposed the motion that, "School books should be replaced by tablets and ipads." They delivered four fine speeches but were defeated by an experienced team from Coláiste na hInse.

Debating opens your life up to new possibilities, new friends, experiences, opportunities and ideas. It promotes tolerance and respect. I encourage you to join the team next year and ensure that debating becomes an integral part of life at Ratoath College.



Toby and Leila Clarke-Carr from Rang Hynes have both been awarded 'Special Merit' in the 61st Annual Texaco Children's Art Competition. They will attend the Annual Ceremony on May 28th to receive their awards in category C. Both Toby and Leila have won in previous year's Texaco Competitions.

Leila's piece is titled: 'Portrait of my sister in costume with birds'.





Toby's painting is a self-portrait, although there may have been some creative license taken with his 'pet'!



Earlier this year, our very own Alex Fogarty, made an appearance on RTÉ's PrimeTime. Representing the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) and the Irish Second-Level Students Union (ISSU), Alex spoke about the proposed referendum for 'Extending the Voting Age to 16 and 17 years old.'

Unfortunately the Government announced that it will not proceed with a referendum on the voting age, the week before the PrimeTime appearance. So Alex couldn't actually speak as if the Referendum is going ahead. He did, however, go on to point out that we don't need to a referendum to lower the voting age in Local and European Elections. So although the Referendum has been postponed, NYCI and ISSU will continue to campaign for Vote@16 especially in relation to lobbying the Government to lower the voting age in Local and European Elections through legalisation, without the referendum.

Alex was very composed and well-spoken against his opposition, Noel Howard of the Irish Association of Social Care Workers (IASCW). Noel made the point that not all 16 or even 17 year olds are mature enough or don't have the knowledge to vote. Alex quickly turned around to say, "Well if it's a test of maturity and knowledge, I wouldn't think many over 18 year olds would pass either."

Alex did very well on RTÉ's PrimeTime and we are all very proud!

To see Alex's time on the Tele, check out this link: http://www.voteat16.ie/content/rt%C3%A9-primetime-debate

## Parlez-moi en francais!

#### French Exchange 2015

The Ratoath/Rennes French Exchange was nothing but successful to say the least. A group of 24, 5th Year students, from Ratoath College hosted a French student each for a week in January before we said 'Au revoir' to Ireland and travelled to Rennes in March to be reunited with our exchange partners.

Arriving on a Saturday, the Irish students spent the first two days with their partners to get the full experience of the culture of France. From the food whether it was a bit of canard or a classic baguette to the language, it was an experience that we would not forget. We really got to embrace how the French did things when we received bowls of pasta at our welcome party!! But putting those cold bowls of pasta aside, the trips to the Frenchies' HUGE school, the famous Mont Saint-Michel, the town of Saint Malo, the city of Nantes and the day we met the mayor of Rennes all made for an unforgettable week.

The bond that the Irish developed with the French was great, everybody got along so well together. #TUTU! #Margeux! But although we were in France, trust the Irish to bring our culture to Rennes when we celebrated St Patrick's Day in style with a céilí in the city centre. Even the French thought they were Irish with their "Kiss me, I'm Irish" tattoos. It was fantastic. The trip couldn't have been this successful without the help of our French teachers, Mr Gibson and Ms Conlon. So Merci Beaucoup for the trip of a lifetime and the chance to make new friends. *Abbie O'Flaherty* 



partners at la Place de la Mairie, Rennes.



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POPULATION OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT.

#### Italian Exchange 2015

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, a group of TY and 5<sup>th</sup> year students went to Parma, Italy to participate in the Italian exchange. Here they got the opportunity to experience life as a real Italian, experience Italian school life, and enjoy authentic Italian food, cooked by their host families. Each student was assigned an Italian student who they stayed with in their homes for a week. The Irish students were greeted enthusiastically by the Italian Students who held the Irish flag and wore green clothes when they arrived.

On this trip, the Irish students were looked after very well and participated in many activities including a treasure hunt around Parma to get to know the city, a day trip to Florence where they saw the Il Duomo Di Brunelleschi, the Il Palazzo Vecchio, the beautiful Boballi Gardens and the Pante Vecchio. They also visited the 'Municpio di Parma', Fidenza village and the Fontanellato families' castle. (For one of the Irish students it was quite a splash! *\*I guess you had to be there\**)

They also had the privilege of visiting Parma's town



hall where they met with the council. Some of the Italians even brought their Irish students to different cities such as Bologna, Milan and Viareggio. On the last day, the Irish students were brought to a real Parmeggiono Factory where they were educated on the different processes of making cheese. They also got to taste real, fresh parmesan cheese. Later that same day, everyone went to the Fidenze Outlet, where the students were allowed to shop and visit shops like Calvin Klein, Ferrari and Gucci. The students returned to Dublin on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February. Overall it was a great trip, new friends were made, a different culture experience and all students are left with memories that they will treasure forever.







Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook

**Teacher Interview** 

1. What's your starsign? Libra 2. What's your favourite colour? White 3. What's your lucky number? 7 4. If you were stuck on a desert island and could only have 3 things, what would they be? My phone, my solar powered phone charger and a phone signal! 5. Who's your favourite superhero? Captain Underpants! 6. What's your biggest pet hate? Dogs, just kidding .... Questionnaires!!! 7. Cat or dog? Cat, you don't have to walk it or pick up after it!!!! 8. Have you ever met a famous person? Yes, Hillary Clinton in New York. 9. Who's your all-time favourite singer? Bob Dillon 10. Where would you most like to live if you could live anywhere? Gorse Hill (you may have seen it on the news recently) or Ms Ryan's house!!! 11. Sunrises or sunsets? Sunrise 12. Favourite movie? Dirty Dancing obviously! 13. What's the worst present you've ever got? Tights and a cadburys cream egg from my sister last Christmas! 14. Are you right or left handed? Right, no left, no right!!! 15. What song do you love but you hate the artist who sings it? 'Lady in Red', Chris deBurgh 16. What's your favourite book/series? The Paleo Diet Cookbook 17. Tea or coffee? Green Tea 18. Do you play an instrument? No, but I like to play the 'Spotify' sometimes!!! 19. If you could change your name what would you change it to? Mrs. Beckham!!! 20. If you weren't a teacher, what would your job be? A Personal Shopper (for myself!!!)



## First Year Tours Italy & Carlingford

#### **1st Year Italy Tour**

Rachel Doherty, Nadine Fogarty, Cori Gormley On the 27th of March, 96 first year students made our way to Italy. There was 2 flights, "flight A" and "flight B". Flight A met at Supervalu at 4:30a.m. to get a bus to the airport and "flight B" met at 3:30a.m. "Flight A" flew with Aerlingus and "Flight B" flew with Ryan Air. We took the bus to the airport and checked in their bags. The plane journey was three hours long. "Flight A" landed in Milan airport and "Flight B" landed Venice airport. Once we had landed and collected our luggage we got on a bus and travelled to a small village where we got on a boat to travel across Lake Garda.

The next morning we travelled to Venice. We had to get a water taxi to the Venice. Everyone then split up to get lunch and went on the gondolas. It was a very different form of transport but I enjoyed it. We went shopping for presents in Venice and later we all met up at Rialto Bridge. We all went for dinner in a small restaurant beside the canals. For dinner we had pasta, chips and ice cream. After dinner we went back on the water taxi and made our way back to the hotel on the bus. Once we arrived at the hotel we were sent straight to bed.

On Sunday morning we made our way to Verona. When we got to Verona we went straight to the "Arena di Verona", which is best preserved amphitheater from Ancient Rome. After that we went to see Juliet's balcony, in the courtyard there was a statue of Juliet and a wall that you could put locks on. After we went for lunch in McDonald's. It was very continental! We were then allowed to go shopping for a half an hour. We then got back on the buses and went to the Alps where we went up in a cable car to the top of one of the mountains. There was lots of snow at the top but it wasn't that cold, there was also a shop where you could get hot chocolate and crêpes.

On the last day we went to Gardaland. This is a fun themepark. We were allowed to go off in groups and had to meet back every two and a half hours. We were allowed to go on all the rides and had to get lunch. A lot of students went on the new ride "Oblivion" which had a huge drop. One of the fastest rides was the "Rapter". We then went back to the hotel and were allowed to go to the pool, where Ms. Donnellan and Mr. Ward were pushed in. It was hilarious! I was sad to leave Italy but happy to go home. It was the best holiday ever! Thanks to all the teachers who brought us!

#### 1<sup>st</sup> year Carlingford Tour

The day before the Easter holidays I went to Carlingford on a tour with some other students form 1<sup>st</sup> year!

We had to leave Ratoath at 7.30 so we would have most of the day in Carlingford! When we arrived at Carlingford a few members of staff came to greet us. They gave us camouflage jumpsuits to wear. Once

everyone in my group was in their jumpsuit we headed out towards the mountains to play laser tag. At the tips of some of the guns were red and others were blue. I was handed a gun with a blue tip. The aim of the games we were playing was to knock out all the members of the opposite team. The blue team

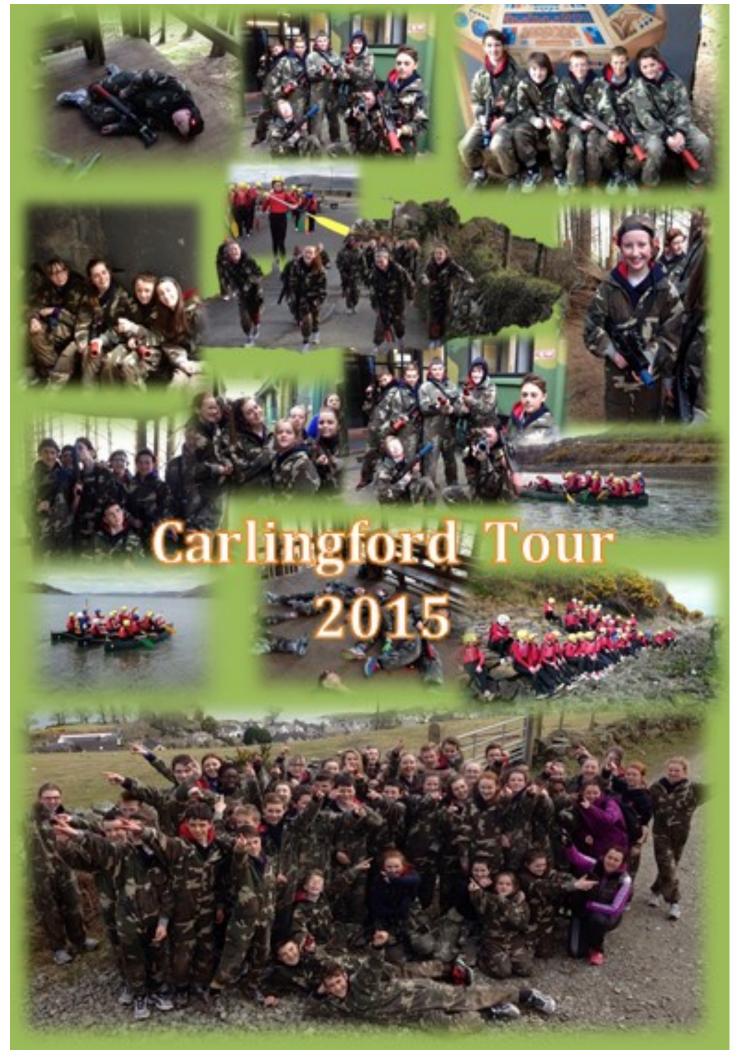
won the first few rounds but then then the staff changed the game to "capture the flag" and the red team won that game.

When we finished laser tag we went back to the activity centre to have something to eat. I had 3 chicken goujons and chips but you could have rice, beans and peas.

Once everyone had finished their food we were guided down towards the sea. As soon as we got to the sea we were handed wetsuits so we went to the changing rooms to get into our swimming togs and wetsuits. When everyone was changed we had to put on life jackets and helmets, the life jackets were left on the ground were as the helmets were left in a high bucket and I couldn't reach to get one of them as I was one of the last people to get one. In the end I got one but I couldn't tighten it so Ms. Leavy had to tighten it for me.

When everyone had the equipment on we went to the beach and were handed oars. We got lessons on how to row and then we went to boats. 8 people could fit on each boat as there was 3 boats attached to one another

Soon the end of the day came and nearly everyone had made new friends which made the trip twice as good as everyone had someone to talk to. I really enjoyed the day. We had so much fun and the sights in Carlingford are beautiful!



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ





COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ





COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook

#### Daryn Browne & Katie Dignam



We met at the school at 8:45 on Friday morning and departed by bus for the airport. After we checked in, we were given some time to wander around the airport before our long flight. We reached Dubai and then got our connecting flight to Beijing and ar-

rived in Beijing in the afternoon, China time. At the airport we met our tour guide Ariel. She brought us to our bus which took us to the hotel, where we freshened up before going out for dinner.

The next day we went to Tian An Men Square and I couldn't believe how many people there were and loads of them wanted to take pictures with us. We then went to the Forbidden City, which was huge and we looked around all the old buildings. Afterwards, we went to the Birds Nest Olympic Stadium and a tea factory where we were shown a demonstration on how to make the tea and tasted all the different teas. We then went to the Silk Market. The next morning we had a long bus journey to the Ming Dynasty Emperors Tombs and a jade factory where we had lunch. We then went to the Great Wall which was breathtaking and very steep. Then we went to dinner and then Starbucks before going to bed. On the Tuesday we visited Beijing Zoo and saw the pandas. Afterwards we went to a pearl factory and McDonalds for lunch. Then we visited a school, where we went into a classroom to see the small kids and they gave us presents that they made for us. They then brought us outside to dance with them and after this we talked with the college students learning English.

The following day, we went to the Temple of Heaven which was a beautiful insight into Chinese culture. People were dancing and playing Chinese games and it was really interesting. We then went to the Pearl Market to shop and get lunch and then we went to the National Museum of China which was huge. We then went to the Silk Market and an acrobatic show in the evening which was really enjoyable. On Thursday we went to the Lama Temple which wasn't on the original itinerary. At the entrance we were given incense to pray. After this, we went on a rickshaw ride around the Hutongs. We went into an artist's hutong and we had lunch in another one. We then went to the Pearl Market for a few hours and we had a Peking Duck Dinner. After dinner we went to a Kong Fu show.



On the last day, we went to the Summer Palace which was beautiful and the weather was really nice, and we went on a boat ride. Afterwards, we went to the CCTV Tower which was really high and had a really good view of Beijing from the top. After this we got on the bus to go to the airport and in about 24 hours we would be home. It was the trip of a lifetime!





COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

## INTERVIEW WITH NATIONAL IRISH CHAMPION IN ATHLETICS: MATTHEW BUCKLEY (Rang Donnellan – 1<sup>st</sup> year)

by Adam Byrne, Tom Fleming and Frankie Read

### What age were you when you started athletics training? I think I was around 9 or 10.

## Tell us about your daily gym routine, does it involve a diet?

I kind of eat whatever I want and I'm pretty lazy so I only train 3 days a week.

#### What age were you when you ran your first race? Did you win?

I think I was eleven and it was the Leinster hurdles and I came second.

## Do you think your height played an important role with your pace?

When I first started I only won because of my height and my long legs but then when I started getting better at it, I won because of my pace.

#### I get to train with you and get an inside view so do you think that other people are important to your success?

Yes, at the start I only went to athletics to see other people and I didn't really care about the running and I suppose I wouldn't go for a run by myself, I would go with other people because it's more enjoyable.

## Do you listen to music before a race? What's your favourite song?

I wouldn't listen to it before a race but I would listen to the radio on the drive up, I like big power anthems from the 80's such as "Don't Stop me Now" or "The Final Countdown".

## Who is your inspiration? Would it be your dad because he is your coach?

My dad never really ran, he was a rower and he did well in it, he's not who I want to be like but I'd like to be successful like him, I'd like to be like my other coach Peter or Usain Bolt.

How many days a week do you train? Which days to you train on?

I train on Tuesday's, Wednesday's and Fridays.

#### Do you have any other hobbies?

I sometimes play rugby, I read and I might play video games.

## Are you good in school academically? Do you study much?

I'm ok, no I only sometimes study because there isn't really time.

What is your favourite subject? If I had to choose one, I like science.

#### So Matthew is there a special someone in your life? Who's your lucky lady?

I had a lucky lady, I don't anymore. It's a bit sad I know but what can you do?

And finally...... The avengers or Justice League. The Justice League.





2014-15

Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook

Have you made your mark?

Last year the walls were brightened, this year they're were coloured in! All students who attended the school 2014/2015 have left a lasting impression in the form of a handprinted wall. (Some staff secretly stamped the wall too) It has really made a difference to the corridor and can only lift your mood as you walk past.



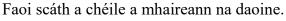


Project

Manager, Conor Brady (TY), had this to say: "Setting out it looked like the project wouldn't be too difficult, despite a mixup in delivery dates for paint, It had a smooth start. By Day 2 we had all of TY, 1st and 2nd Year on the wall, and then things went downhill. Between complaints from teachers and a lack of control at some points it looked like we'd never get it finished, but by the 9th day we had everyone in the school on the wall. It was one of my favourite projects to do in TY and I was really proud of it."

Well Done all!

On a beautiful September day, the staff of Rataoth College gathered to have their photo taken. The 97 strong staff, almost all colour co-ordinated (there's always one) showed their pearly whites for the photo that will hang in the reception area for the next five years. Joining the staff was the thousand plus student cohort. The sun shone brightly and a tremendous sense of community and positivity prevailed. Special praise must go to the students who waited patiently for each stage of the photo and can now admire their loveliness each morning as they arrive into school, and that of their teachers also.







Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook

## **Newgrange Winter SolsticeArt Competition**

Emiliy McGlynn—(Creator of Sixty-Six'c Cover)

In October, as part of our study of Newgrange as a Neolithic Monument, our art class took part in

The Newgrange Winter Solstice Art Competition, run by the Office of Public Works which was open to schoolchildren from 4th Class Primary up to 6th year Post-Primary right across the country, with the winning entrants being present for the Winter Solstice in the Newgrange Chamber on December 21st 2014. I was among the winners of the competition and was given a once in a lifetime chance to experience this. On the day, outside, incense burned as some watchers would have saluted the rising sun, others simply would have watched while the sun set the roof box aglow and just before 9am the beam of amber light would have been seen creeping along the floor. Alas, the sun failed to shine – but Newgrange still looked as pretty as a picture for the hundreds who gathered at the site that morning for



the winter solstice. It was a real privilege and a cultural confirmation of a culture so old.

## Science Week!

This years Ratoath College Science Week's theme was "The Power of Science", which was held in November. Students who studied science made announcements at assembly about famous Irish scientists and their inventions / contributions to scientific knowledge. This year Ms.McNally and the rest of the science teachers did a fantastic job organising Science Week.

Many activities where held in throughout the week including: Fun with Static Electricity Burning Bottles Eye Dissections Heart and Lung Dissections

Many prizes were given to winners of competitions throughout the week. 1st years got involved in a science quiz during tutorial with lots of prizes. Prizes included science rulers, pencils and some funky science week wristbands! Lots of reading material related to science was provided to students to promote their interests in science subjects.





## Mathletes

This thrilling competition for those with a mind for numbers was run during Maths week. Each winner received a RC Mathletes 2015 t-shirt. Each day there was a question Maths brain teaser asked in assembly, students submitted their answers to their teacher and a winner was selected from the correct answers. It was quite a challenge and showed an exciting edge to Maths.



A reflection my 1st year in Secondary School Every year on the brink of returning back to school we all find ourselves pondering on the same question -"What will this year be like for me?" For me this year was nothing like what I had imagined. It was simply very different from anything I had ever experienced before.

The realisation that Secondary was in-fact nothing like Primary school and that I was very much out of my comfort zone first hit me like a bomb on the first day of school. I had arrived early as I did not yet know my way around and wanted to give myself enough time to find my way. It was 8:30 when the first bell rang and within a pened and despite the almost inconceivable amount of matter of minutes the halls were filled with students rushing to their classes. It was truly a sight to behold and as I joined into the crowd I could not help but feel a strange sense of community. Less than 10 minutes later I had my first assembly. This was completely new to me. Assembly acts as a reminder of our pride and unity as a school. During assembly our teachers check our dialanns, a book that catalogues our behaviour in school and Ms. Prendergast, our principal, tells us about the important events of the day.

A major thing I noticed was that there's a lot more homework than in primary but not all of it has to be done by the next day. In secondary school you don't stay in the same classroom for the whole school day. You switch classes every 35 mins, except for break and lunches, you have a timetable in your dialann which tells you where to go next.

At the start of the school year, when you are enrolling for secondary school, you'll be given a choice to pick two subjects that you would like to do, the different subjects are Classical Studies, Business Studies, Home Economics, Woodwork, Metalwork, Music, Art and Technical Graphics. You'll also be given a choice between two languages you would like to learn, French or Italian. Most future students attend an open night were they are guided around the school and shown all optional subjects by a current student of the school. This helps the students and their guardians to make the final decision concerning their options.

I would like to give a word of advice and that is to never make any assumptions about secondary because not only do you change school but your entire social life will change as well. This is usually a result of students mixing more and having more time to talk. Now I'm not going to lie, your year won't go perfectly and to be honest mine didn't, but you should always remember that time goes on and memories are more precious than anything

else in the world and that all it takes is positive attitude to make a bad memory or situation a learning experience and in some cases even fun. When I think about it the highlights of the year are moments I would never have expected. For example on school tour in Italy I was on a ride called "Rapture" with a friend of mine and we were about to go upside down when my left shoe started to slip off and so I while I was upside down I kicked off my shoe and caught it. We then came to the last section of the ride were I held out my shoe with what I'll admit was a very smug look on my face but I dropped and lost my shoe. I was left to wander Gardaland, shoeless, for almost three hours during which random things hapcrazy things that happened in Italy I made loads of friends and had tonnes of fun. This leads me to my final point, Secondary school is a journey and one of the greatest you may ever go on which is why I would encourage you all to enjoy every second of it and expect nothing. Cherish every moment and try to help others on their journey because it is by helping others on their way that makes our journey worthwhile.

by Kurt Scott and Edison Lau



Sixty-Six: The Ratoath College Yearbook

Teacher Interview Mr. Condon

1. What's your starsign? Leo 2. What's your favourite colour? Blue 3. What's your lucky number? 5 4. If you were stuck on a desert island and could only have 3 things, what would they be? Phone, iPod, Boat 5. Who's your favourite superhero? Thor 6. What's your biggest pet hate? Spiders 7. Cat or dog? Dog 8. Have you ever met a famous person? Yes, Irish Rugby team and Britney Spears! (Friends in high places) 9. What's your all-time favourite singer? Love all types of music 10. Where would you most like to live if you could live anywhere? South of France 11. Sunrises or sunsets? Sunsets 12. Favourite movie? Cake 13. What's the worst present you've ever got? Joke Book with no jokes! (Was that the joke?) 14. Are you right or left handed. Left 15. What song do you love but you hate the artist who sings it? Katy Perry, Dark Horse 16. What's your favourite book/series? "The Hunger Games" 17. Tea or coffee? Both! 18. Do you play an instrument? Piano and Guitar 19. If you could change your name what would you change it to? A really long Spanish one! 20. If you weren't a teacher, what would your job be? Someone Famous (A Superstar!)



## Subject Department Reports

### A Super Year For Ratoath College Science Department

It's been another fantastic and busy year for the Ratoath College Science Department. We welcomed a new teacher to our department this year. His name is Mr McCarthy and he teaches Chemistry, Science and PE.

This year's Science Week in November had the theme 'The Power of Science'. A great week was had by all with lots of prizes, fun experiments and even a little bit learned along the way. We look forward to the continued great support and participation of our students in future Science Week.

There were plenty of science trips this year. The 1<sup>st</sup> years made their way to the RDS for the Young Scientist exhibition in January. This proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable day out for all. The students got to see a show and were enthralled by the range of projects on display. The 5<sup>th</sup> years spent a day in March at Dublin Zoo as part of their Ecology course. It was a chilly day but everyone was in good spirits and we had time to take a wander around the zoo at the end of the day. The Transition Year students went to the Planetarium in Armagh for their science trip. This was a great day. The highlight was making bottle rockets!

Our open night in January was enjoyed by all. Lots of activities and demonstrations were made for our incoming 1<sup>st</sup> years. The flaming bubbles proved to be very popular with lots of students volunteering to participate in this demonstration.

This year we also got our new science lab. It's a fabulous, spacious area that students are really looking forward to moving into.



#### **Ratoath College Business Department 2015/2016**

"The Secret to Business is to know something that nobody else knows" Aristotle Onassis

#### Embracing IPad's as a learning device

First year Business studies students are leading the way when it comes to iPads in education. First year students use our own department-produced student ebook hosted on their class schoology account. Students make use of creativity apps including PicCollage and iMovie to name but a few. Armed with iPads, our Business Studies students are fully embracing self-directed learning and creativity, all in the pursuit of Building their understanding and appreciation of the world of Business. Schoology is a virtual learning environment for business studies teachers and students to work collaboratively to share resources, communicate material and to track individual student progress.

#### Second year's entering the mini company world

Ms Hynes's 2nd year Business class carried out a hugely successful mini company called 'Bunny's Bakery' just before Easter. Students delivered on their aims and objectives for the business while working hard to produce top quality Easter treats for students and staff in Ratoath College. Financially students were extremely happy with the dividends they received as shareholders in the company. Ms Hynes would like to congratulate them on their fabulous teamwork and she sees huge potential for their future business endeavours.

Ms Bourke's class decided on a Spring Surprise and a winter warming product of hot chocolate with marshmallows and American cookies. They invested heavily but their advertising campaign and great selling skills paid off which a fine profit, great comments from customers and a mighty business plan to add to their future business ventures. This is has led to many nominations for Entrepreneur of the Year Award which will be presented at prize giving.

<u>TY World of Business</u> Transition Years spent the year learning many key business concepts through project work, peer teaching, self-directed discovery learning and presentations. They focused on the key areas of: helping others through peer teaching of junior classes as social responsibility, online profiles, economists that have changed our worlds and mini companies. Ms Hynes would like to especially thank Rang O'Donoghue for sharing the love with Valentine's Day Rolo's which lead to a fuzzy warm atmosphere around the school.

#### Business at 3<sup>rd</sup> Level

Business is booming at Ratoath College as shown by a recent visit by University of Limerick's Kemmy Business School. In January 6<sup>th</sup> Year students, as part of RC Business Week enjoyed a very informative talk from UL lecturer James Ryan about the virtues of studying Business and the many career opportunities that a Business Degree can present.

Business at third level is the second most sought after area on the CAO and this is reflected in how popular the area is for this year's current 6<sup>th</sup> years. The senior subjects of Accounting, Business and Economics are particularly strong this year and it is very promising for the Business Department as a whole that so many RC students wish to pursue a career in Business.







#### Good Luck to our third years

Ms Judge and Mr Walsh would like to wish the very best to our present third year Business studies pupils on their Junior Certificate Business Studies Exams. It's a challenging yet rewarding course and these pupils are well prepared for their future business options at senior cycle and onto college. In the words of Mr. Connolly "An exam is not only a test of your academic knowledge, it's also a test of your calmness, stability and courage" So go and be courageous!!!

#### Good bye to our fabulous sixth years

Ms Judge, Mr Connolly, Ms Reilly and Ms Bourke are going to terribly miss our current sixth year Business students, you are an amazing bunch and you have worked collaboratively with us since September of fifth year.

Now to give the power to the  $6^{th}$  years with some of the teacher's famous or infamous quotes: <u>Famous  $6^{th}$  quotes</u>

Ms Bourke's  $6^{th}$  Accounting: "Glenn, for the  $10^{th}$  time I am NOT going to debs with you, now focus on your accounting"

Mr Connolly's 6<sup>th</sup> Economics: "When I was in 6<sup>th</sup> year I was eating all this info...... With my mind", "the show must go on"

Ms Judge's 6<sup>th</sup> Business: "*That's purr....fect*" "*it's your leaving cert*" Ms Reilly's 6<sup>th</sup> Business: "*quickly.. quickly*" "*find your study buddy*"

#### **CSPE Department**

The CSPE department had another wonderful year in 2014/2015. We began our year by celebrating some fantastic Junior Certificate results once again. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Years began a new course this year called Digital Citizenship. This is a very exciting innovative subject which takes some of the key concepts of CSPE and incorporates the use of technology through the iPad to give our students a whole new learning experience. DIGC emphasises the practical use of iPads with a large focus on online safety. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Years also take part in the annual Team Hope shoebox appeal before Christmas.

Our second years had a busy year completing their Action Projects. Rang English invited in two guest speakers from Irish Dogs for the Disabled - Mary and Angie Morley who have a stability dog in their family and Mary Broe Brady who fosters a puppy in training. It was a very insightful talk and they are a very worthwhile organisation that needs a lot of support and funding. Rang Hynes and Rang K. O' Neill visited the Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Rathfarnham



and had a thoroughly enjoyable learning experience where they got to witness first-hand the incredible work being done by the DSPCA. Rang Conlon and Rang N. O' Neill invited Gillian Bird, the Education Officer from the DSPCA to the school. She gave a very informative and interesting talk to both classes and they learned a lot about animal safety, animal abuse and the general work of the DSPCA. They discussed how the shelter is run and Gillian told them some very interesting stories about animals that had been found and rescued also. The students really enjoyed the talk and look forward to hearing lots more about the shelter in the future. They presented Gillian with a donation they had collected to help some of the animals in the shelter also.

Meanwhile our 3<sup>rd</sup> Years have been busy writing up their Action Projects, with 60% of their exam already complete they are now focusing on their exam in June. We wish each of these students the very best of luck.

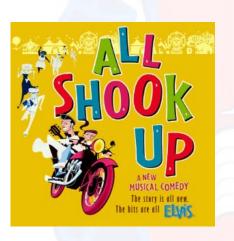
#### **Music Department**

Music is an unique subject where time spent outside the classroom is just as important as inside the classroom. This year students have an excellent opportunity to get involved in music by taking part or helping out with our school musical, 'All Shook Up' which will take place in October.

During a normal week in RC, students can enrich their musical repertoire by joining senior or junior music group. Here students have the opportunity to become a member of our ever growing musical family. Students meet for a jam session once a week at lunchtimes in the music room. If pop or rock is not your thing and traditional music is your forte then students can join our trad group, under the super leadership of Ms.Kilrane.

Ms. Dalton, Ms.Flynn, Ms. Garrett, Ms. Heneghan and Mr.Kenny are extremely proud of our musical family here at RC! Each musician and/or singer helps out and performs when needed. Whether this is during arts weeks or at various ceremonies and graduations, these students always excel themselves to way beyond what we could expect. Thank you to each and everyone of them.

Want to join the fun? Call into room 9 for a musical treat!!



C'mon Everybody, and Let Yourself Go to Ratoath Colleges "All Shook Up" next October! It's Now or Never! Pop along for a great night's entertainment before we've left the building. Don't forget your blue suede shoes! Thank you very much!

#### <u>The French Department</u>

The French Department had a very exciting year this year with the French exchange which was very

successful in both Ireland and France. We had a great trip out to the Battle of the Boyne and there was some great social activities organized by the Irish students to welcome and entertain the French students. In France we had fantastic trips to Mount St Michel, St Malo, Nantes, Rennes. We were even invited to meet the Mayor in the Hotel de Ville.

We also had a very interesting TY trip into the Alliance Francais where we had a tour of the Alliance and the library, we watched a short film and we had boeuf bourguignon for lunch. The students were shown all the resources that are available to them in the Alliance and hopefully some were inspired to join and avail of these resources.

The French Department would like to say "Felicitations" to Ms. Cullen as well as a huge "Merci" to Mr Condon.

Bonnes Vacances tout le monde

#### **Classics Department**

Where to begin, such a fun filled year, and the budding Classicists of Ratoath College have outdone themselves, yet again! Let us begin with the newest additions to our Department, our fantastic First Years! A very knowledgeable bunch indeed, who have created many wonderful things and enlightened us all with their views of the world, ancient and modern!

Moving swiftly along to Second Year, they are now experts in the field of Ancient Greek Architecture, Pompeii and Roman Comedy, if you are looking for a lateral volute ask one of those guys! We have even had a great rendition of "*And isn't it Ionic… don't you think*!" by Ms "*Alanis Morissette*" Dinsmore. Such a wealth of new vocabulary they have also grown to command, with one second year even managing to accuse a senior member of management of being a sycophant, a bit harsh in my view! He deeply admired this student's tenacity though, and her delightful choice of insult, in this instance!

Our Third Years, our very first group of Junior Cycle students, they will always hold a place dear in my



heart! It may be that they forgot books or homework and incurred my wrath, or that we didn't see eye to eye on how much of a weed Aeneas truly was, but when push comes to shove they are a really special group of students! They followed their heart and chose Classics all those years ago, back in First Year, and they have never looked back! They have been a joy to teach and I will miss their class dynamic, as they part ways into TY Fifth Year next year. We wish them all the best in Senior Cycle!

Now for the TY's, they are currently in the early stages of their training for the TY Olympics, which promises to be a very exciting event! They have been three wonderfully positive and hard-working classes. They completed the Labours of TY, 12 tasks which seemed impossible to them at the outset of the year, slowly but surely they have all pushed themselves and become masters of their own destinies!

The Fifth Years are another group of shining stars in the night sky that is Classical Studies! They are a group who are not afraid of a bit of hard work and have really risen to the challenge of Senior Cycle Classical Studies! We bid a very fond farewell to our exceptional bunch of 6<sup>th</sup> year Classicists, some of whom are destined to continue with their dream subject at Third Lev-

el! For others, the flame of their Classical interests will smoulder away, deep in their hearts forevermore! The class and Mr. McAuley will fondly remember their Homeric feast, of bread, meat, olives and grapes, beautiful!

Lastly, we bid a fond farewell to Ms McDowell! She has been an absolute joy to work with and will be missed dearly by students and teachers alike. Thank you for a wonderful year with us! As Plutarch said, and he should know, "The very spring and root of honesty and virtue lie in good education".

Stay Classy Ratoath, Classical Studies Dept Ms Dinsmore, Mr McAuley and Mr Ward



#### **Geography Department**

It was another crammed packed year for the Geography Department. Huge congratulations to our students who received their Leaving Cert results last August. These results were hugely successful and a credit to all involved. However we are confident that these results will be bettered by our current crop of sixth year Geographers. As part of their assessment they undertook their field study project which is worth 20% of their overall grade. All involved really enjoyed the experience which would not have been possible without the endeavours of Mr. Farrelly and Ms. Dalton. The beginning of the year also marked the arrival of iPads into the Geography department. The use of iPads with our current first years has been hugely successful and has opened the doors to numerous new ways to discover the wonders of Geography. Coupled with this our current first



years undertook a model project where they created amazing models of their favourite aspect of physical geography. These included models of exploding volcanoes, earth structures, Fold Mountains and soil creep.

Along with our 6<sup>th</sup> years, our TYs thoroughly enjoyed their Geography field trip to Belfast. During this trip they emerged themselves in the many cultures in Belfast and how Geographical areas are categorised based on these cultures. As part of this trip they also visited the Titanic Quarter which illustrated to them the value of tourism to an area and how and area of previous industrial decline can be renewed so successfully. This trip built on the foundations and skills they developed throughout the year while learning about Cultural, Physical and Economic geography. The students throughout the year engaged wonderfully through the use of group projects which included presentations and filmography.

Finally as a department we would like to wish all our students a wonderful and safe summer holidays and we look forward to cele-

brating the results of our current third and sixth years when we return. Ms. O'Neill, Ms. Dalton, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Reid, Ms. Sweeney and Mr. Jordan.







COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

#### **Construction Studies & MTW Department**

#### A year of change and renewal.

The construction studies and MTW department went through a year of change and renewal with the saying goodbye to Mr. Nelson and a hello to Mr. Moreton. Other changes included the completion of the new woodwork room situated with the new prefabs. This room not officially open yet will provide students with more space for the subject while also allowing the use of some of the most up-to date equipment in the country. All members of the department are looking forward to the grand opening this coming September.

Other highlights in the department this year was the selection of three of last year's third years to the MTW awards for the best project. The Awards night took place in GMIT where some of the best projects se-



lected from across the country were for display on the night. The Ratoath representatives were Conor Brady, Shane Ralf and Brian McCabe. Shane received an awards for his design of an artefact to present to his father with the theme of Gardening.

One of this year's junior cert. briefs had the task of designing and creating an artefact to represent change

and renewal. With a variety of paths this project could follow, some very interesting and creative skills were used to demonstrate their solution of the brief. Maybe another trip to GMIT awaits next year.



## **The Most Arty Department**

**3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years** We would like to wish 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year Art students the best of luck with their upcoming exams. They have produced some fabulous artwork over the year.

> 3rd Year Art Work Samples

6" YE

ARTWO

6th year Samples of Work:

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99

our what it is

we already

and then loves embraces

strong arm

are free (L' Hingley Delmonte

**Images from our busy Art Department** 



Our TY classes completed this project in painting and mixed media.

2014-15

The programme is co-funded by the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Education and Skills. Each year projects are produced in schools ranging from theatre and film through to sculpture and music. A creative engagement happens when a local artist or arts group comes into the school and imparts their skills, knowledge and enthusiasm to the students. This partnership has great bene-fits to our school.

The Creative Engagement programme strives to encourage creativity, initiative and expression in our students and to complement curricular learning in the arts, heritage and culture.

Our TYs completed this project along with Ms. Daly and local artist Angela Clarke-Carr. Our theme for 2015 was: Faces of legends.



#### Roinn na Gaeilge

Tá an bhliain ag druidim chun deiridh agus ba bhliain ghnóthach ach thar a bheith taitneamhach í do mhuintir Choláiste Ráth Tó. Tá fás agus forbairt na Gaeilge ag dul ó neart go neart timpeall na scoile gach lá dá dtéann thart – 'Beatha Teanga Í a Labhairt', mar a déarfá.

Bhí na daltaí tríú agus séú bliana gnóthach le déanaí leis na scrúduithe béil. D'oibrigh siad go dian ag ullmhú do na scrúduithe agus b'fhiú í an obair dhian ag deireadh an lae. Mhol na scrúdaitheoirí go hard na spéire iad as ucht na deaoibre a rinneadh agus as an dearcadh dearfach a bhí acu i leith na Gaeilge. Maith sibh!!

Roimh na Nollaig, bhí roinnt daltaí ag obair go díograiseach ar Amhrán Nollag le cabhair ón Uasal Ó' hEochaidh agus Iníon Ní Ghearóid. Cuireadh foireann le chéile agus d'oibrigh an fhoireann go dian ag aistriú amhráin Nollaig go Gaeilge agus ag cur físeáin leo. Ba éacht mór é seo don scoil agus baineadh fíor-thaitneamh as an tionscnamh. Tá an tamhrán ar Youtube agus is féidir é a leanúint ar Twitter chomh maith.

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge den scoth againn arís i mbliana. Bhain gach duine, idir múinteoirí agus daltaí, fiorthaitneamh as an tseachtain. Bhí go leor imeachtaí ar siúl le linn na seachtaine. Bhí Toraíocht Taisce, Comórtas na bPostaer, Ceolchoirm don dara bliain, Tráth na gCeist, Ciorcal Comhrá eagraithe ag roinnt de na cinnirí do na daltaí céad bliana, Cluichí ranga chomh maith lena lán rudaí eile ar siúl. Bhí Céilí iontach ag lucht na céad bliana freisin. Bhain siad an-chraic agus spraoi as! Bhí éileamh ollmhór ar an Yoga anuraidh. Mar sin, cuireadh ar fáil arís é i mbliana. Bhain gach dalta an-sult as! Chríochnaigh an Seachtain ar bhealach álainn i mbliana le cupán deas tae agus Cookie!

Is iontach an rud é daoine óga a fheiceáil ag baint taitneamh as imeachtaí dhifriúla trí mheáin na Gaeilge agus sin mar a tharla le linn na seachtaine sin. Bhí an Ghaeilge le cloisteáil go láidir ar fud na scoile, idir daltaí agus múinteoirí!

Chuaigh Rang Giblin ar thuras go dtí Páirc an Chrócaigh i mbliana mar chuid de thaighde don Ghaeilge. D'fhoghlaim na daltaí go leor eolais chun cabhrú leo lena dtionscnamh san ábhar. Thaitin an turas go mór leo.

Bhí an comórtas scoláireachta ar siúl arís i mbliana. Bhí deis ag gach dalta sa scoil cur isteach ar an gcomórtas chun



Céilí—Seachtain na Gaeilge

scoláireacht a bhuachan chun freastal ar chúrsa samhraidh. Thug LMETB seacht scoláireacht don scoil le bronnadh ar na daltaí. Gabhaimid buíochas leo. Chomh maith leis sin, thug Coláiste na bhFiann €900 de scoláireachtaí dúinn arís i mbliana freisin. Ba mhór an chabhair iad na scoláireachtaí do na daltaí agus táimid fíor bhuíoch astu.

Guíonn Foireann na Gaeilge gach rath ar gach dalta a bheidh i mbun scrúdaithe i mbliana. Go n-éirí go geal libh!!





Bricfeasta—Seachtain na Gaeilge

## Metalwork and Engineering in Ratoath College

It's been a great year in the metalwork department. A range of new projects have been manufactured this year by our students. First years have made pac-man key tags, an electronically controlled fighter jet and an "angry birds" themed wall clock.

Second year metalwork students have been busy designing and making a door bolt, a battery operated tricycle and a trailer to attach to it.

Third years have had a very productive year building their stock car racer and vintage truck as well as competing their practical day test.

In senior cycle engineering, fifth years have manufactured a model airplane, screwdriver, cannon and helicopter and leaving certs have completed very impressive robocoasters as part of their state examinations. Transition year students have designed and made basket hangers and wall hangings. They have also completed a little bit of jewellery making. They have just completed a silver ring made from 100% plate silver – it looks fantastic!

Overall it has been a very productive year in the metalwork department!



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

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OME ECONOMICS

## The Home Economics Department

have had a fantastic year, resulting in many culinary and craft masterpieces. First Year Home Economics students embraced the subject producing many vibrant, visual assignments using their iPads. Second year students had a busy year producing highly decorative craft items including cushions and wall hangings and they are eagerly anticipating the announcement of the Renee Weldon Award winner at the end of year Awards Ceremony. The recent Junior Certificate Practical Exams highlighted the hard work and creativity of our students, as can be seen in the photos. Transition Year Food Studies students experienced the delights of the Chocolate Warehouse and decorated some awesome Christmas Cakes as well as broadening their skills base with many wonderful creations, both sweet and savoury. Leaving Certs & LCA students continued to work towards their Leaving Cert, putting great efforts into their practical coursework. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @rchomeec and keep up-todate with Home Economics activities throughout the year!



#### **Junior Certificate**

Congratulations to our two Technical Graphics classes of 2014 who produced an

amazing set of results. 29% of students received an A at higher level. Overall 80% of students received an honour at higher level. 100% of students who studied ordinary level received an honour. These results are a reflection of our students work rate, dedication and high standards set by our department over the course of three years. We are fortunate to have state of the art facilities and hardworking, dedicated students. **Leaving Certificate** 

The Design and Communication Graphics class of 2014 achieved fantastic results in their leaving cert. 95% of students received an honour. Many of our students are now studying various 3rd level courses in relation to engineering, architecture and construction related courses. These students have noted the huge benefit of studying DCG as a subject option for leaving cert.

## **Technical Graphics**

There has been some very exciting developments this year with the introduction of the IPad for first years. The iPad has been integrated into our teaching and learning. Using Schoology students now have a digital record of all lessons, the teacher can upload pictures, videos of classwork, and homework. Students have instant access to resources, questions, solutions and video tutorials. To the right is an example of a student viewing a tutorial in class on how to compete a drawing. Below are Some examples of how we are integrating the IPad into our subject as a teaching and learning tool.

#### Ipad Video Active Learning Task

Students receive a demonstration on how to complete a task. In pairs record each other carrying out the task. Students have to explain what they are drawing in the video. Videos are uploaded on Schoology for assessment by the teacher. Students are exposed to the same content three times.

#### **Ipad Solid works Task**

Assisted by video tutorials on their ipads. Students drew a 3d object using Solidworks, created an assembly and printed a working drawing. Solidworks is vital part of DCG for leaving cert.

#### COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ





iPad



(S) schoology







S SOLIDWORKS



## **Design and Communication Graphics**

We have introduced an electronic A3 workbook from DCG Solutions. Our 5th and 6th years find this workbook extremely beneficial. Every lesson, topic on the course is provided with interactive resources which explain the content in a step by step format. More details available on www.dcgsolutions.ie



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This years leaving certs carried out a project on Handheld torches. This project amounts to 40% of their leaving cert grade. Students had to carry out research on torches, complete various sketches, model a torch using Solidworks. Students also got the opportunity to research, and design their own concept torch. This concept was then modelled using Solidworks.

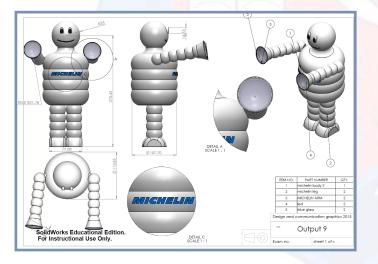
**S SOLID**WORKS

### DCG Assignment 2015 Student Profile

#### Graham Reynolds,

"For my Leaving Cert I designed a concept torch for Michelin Tyres. I carried out a lot of research and incorporated a lot of Michelin's iconic brand features into the design. My design allows the user to change a tyre at night with increased visibility and comfort. The feet of the torch create a suction bond to the any panel on a vehicle. The arms of the Michelin figure contain two torches which can be rotated to the users preference "







#### Twitter @rctgdcg



We recently joined Twitter. It is an excellent way of sharing ideas with other technology departments within schools in Ireland and across the world. Some of our tweets illustrating student work have been retweeted by the Techno teachers Association of Ireland and various schools. Our first years Solidworks assignment was retweeted by Solidworks Education which has 12,500 followers! Make sure to follow us for latest updates. @rctgdcg







#### History



Above: Former Loyalist paramilitary Noel Large, released from prison under the Good Friday agreement and now a community worker in West Belfast was one of our guides on the TY trip to Belfast; Below left: Leaving Cert using the internet and our whiteboard tables to share their learning; Right: TY's getting to grips with some rescue archaeology; Centre: Second Years helping out in the History room on Open Evening.

It's been another exciting and productive year for the History Team. Although we bid a fond farewell to Mr Keane, who returned to his native Banner County, we were delighted to welcome Mr Jordan and Ms M<sup>c</sup> Eneaney to the team.

We congratulate our Leaving Cert Historians on the completion of the research projects. As ever, our students have excelled themselves and some very intriguing titles were chosen this year, including Muireann O'Shea's analysis of the influence of brothers Vincent and Theo van Gogh on each other's life and career, Chris Dignam's insightful look at the attempted intervention of Serbian triple agent Dusan Popov in

preventing the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour and Niall Donnelly's account of the sinking of the Clogherhead-based trawler Sharelga by the Royal Navy submarine HMS Porpoise in 1982. We wish all our Leaving Cert and Junior Cert Historians the best of luck in their exams in June.

Another highlight of the year was the TY History trip to Belfast. We enjoyed immensely the Titanic museum as well as insightful guided tours of the Loyalist Shankill and Republican Falls Road areas of the city.



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

#### **The English Department**

The mission of the English Department at Ratoath College is to cultivate understanding, knowledge, and appreciation of the English language, its speakers and writers, and its literatures and cultures. Students are taught to use the language creatively, critically, and effectively.

Last January Junior Certificate students travelled to the Smock Alley Theatre in Dublin for a production of 'Romeo and Juliet'. We hope to inspire our students with a love of the Arts and a trip to the theatre provided us with a wonderful opportunity to do this. Students really enjoyed this highly imaginative and dynamic performance, some even received Facebook friend requests from Romeo! All agreed that their understanding of the drama had been greatly enhanced and it was fantastic preparation for their Junior Certificate English exam. One student commented, "It brought to life what we had studied in the classroom!" We hope to make trips to the theatre an annual event. Another class that studied 'The Merchant of Venice' visited the Venue Theatre in Ratoath where they reenacted key scenes of the play.

Arts week was a great success this year. The halls of Ratoath College were buzzing with Spelling Bees, the walls adorned with breath taking artwork and music and poetry were welcome additions to our morning assembly.

Our senior students have embraced fully the challenges and wonderful opportunities provided by the Leaving Certificate course. Students continue to explore that wonders that the English language has to offer by studying a variety of texts ranging from the Shakespearian to the modern. The aim of the LC course is to encourage students to critically engage with the texts on the course and our students continue to demonstrate great enthusiasm and passion for this course. From Shakespeare to Modern films and everything in between the Course to evolve.

We wish the students of 2015 success in their exams and look forward to continuing on our literary journey with all students in August.



3rd Year Theatre trip to Romeo & Juliet

COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

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## **CLASS PHOTOS 2014-15**

## First Year: Moltóir's Message

What a great year group! I am just so proud of you all!

The transition from primary school to secondary school is not an easy one and I am immensely proud of the dedication and commitment you have shown in meeting this challenge.

I myself returned to Ratoath College this year after a five year maths secondment position with the Department of Education and Science and it was a great privilege when our school Principal, Ms. Prendergast, appointed me as your Moltóir. I sincerely wish to thank the fabulous team of Caomhnóirí that work alongside me on a daily basis, Ms Barry, Ms Conlon, Ms Donnellan, Mr Gibson, Ms Martin, Mr Mc Auley and Ms Reid, who work tirelessly looking after your welfare and helping you to achieve to the best of your ability. As we approach the end of First Year in Ratoath College, we can look back at some of the wonderful

memories, our very first day in Ratoath College, meeting your Caomhnoir for the first time, the tears when you were not in the same class as your best friend, our trips to the Young Scientist, Carlingford and Italy, the first year Céilí, great successes in both our extra-curricular activities and in our exam results and finally let's not forget those 'injection days'.

I wish to congratulate each and every one of you for the dedication you have shown both inside the classroom and outside on the pitch and I sincerely look forward to continuing working as your Moltóir next year. On behalf of all the First Year Team, have a great Summer and we look forward to seeing you all in late August.

<mark>Jillia</mark>n Leavy

## **Rang Barry**



#### **Rang Conlon**



**Rang Donnellan** 



#### **Rang Gibson**



#### **Rang Martin**



**Rang McAuley** 



### **Rang Reid**



#### Second Year: Moltóir's Message

In many ways, it seems as if Second Year has flown by! We've had a very successful year and we congratulate you all on that achievement. We were sad to bid farewell to Mr Farrelly earlier this year, but our sadness was tempered by the return of Ms Ryan to the team. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr Farrelly for his outstanding contribution to the second year team in his time with us.

Throughout the year, we have been struck by the close bonds and friendships you have forged with each other and by the kindness and togetherness you exhibit towards each other, especially in times of challenge. We're very proud of the huge number of second year students who have been so heavily involved in extracurricular activities this year, from girls and boys sports teams to the myriad cultural activities across the school. These activities develop new skills and add excitement and depth to our school, enriching the school experience for all of us.

Academically, I'm sure you have all noticed the considerable step-up in challenge that second year learning brings. To those who have worked hard, used their revision plans and succeeded in the summer exams, we offer our congratulations. To those of you who are feeling a little disappointed by your results, it is important that you turn that disappointment into motivation to succeed next year, to change whatever habits are not working so that, from the beginning, Third year can be more successful for you.

Third Year will also be our final year together as a group as some of you opt for TY with others going directly to fifth year. The other major event next year is, of course, the Junior Cert exam in June. We look forward to the challenges this brings and are ready to embrace them head on, working together to achieve the best we can. Have a great, restful summer. You'll need your energy to hit the ground running on our return to school in August.

John M. Carthy, Edel Con<mark>lon, Debor</mark>ah Dalton, Tara English, Ursula Hynes, Katie O'Neùl, Niamh O'Neùl, Mairéad Ryan

#### **Rang Conlon**



#### **Rang Dalton**



#### **Rang English**



#### **Rang Hynes**



#### Rang K O'Neill



# Rang N O'Neill



#### Rang Ryan



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### **Third Year: Moltóir's Message**

Hey All,

They say time flies when you are having fun and the last 3 years have gone by in a flash!! We are exceptionally proud of all that you have achieved both inside and outside of the classroom. Your journey over the 3 years has been exceptional. As you prepare for your Junior Certificate exams we have no doubt that you will continue to strive for excellence and make yourselves, us and your parents proud of your achievements. Over the years we have had plenty of opportunities to celebrate in your many successes. You have demonstrated amazing talent academically, culturally and on the sports field. As your team, we will continue to encourage you to shine as senior students.

As a year group you have carried yourselves with excellence, your behaviour has been fantastic and we are proud of the young adults that you are developing into it.

Your kind spirit and the compassion towards each other is commendable and we hope that you continue to demonstrate such kindness towards each other in senior cycle.

We wish the very best of luck in your exams and we hope you have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable Summer. We would like to thank your parents for their continuous support and the great encouragement they give to you.

We look forward to welcoming you back as senior students in August.

Donna Kelly, Loraine W<mark>itter, Dav</mark>id Walsh, James Ward, Grainne Lyons, David Mc Carthy, Laura Dinsmore, Jennife<mark>r Dwyer,</mark> Ciar<mark>a C</mark>asey.

#### **Rang Casey**



#### **Rang Dinsmore**



#### **Rang Dwyer**







Lyons

#### **Rang McCarthy**



#### **Rang Walsh**



#### **Rang Ward**



#### **Rang Witter**



# **Transition Year: Moltóir's Message**

Congratulations to all on a year that went by in the blink of an eye! I'm sure it feels like just yesterday that you made the momentous decision to do TY and now it is over!

Transitioning from Junior to Senior Cycle is not an easy one but we, your amazing Caomhnóirí and I, are so proud of the way you have faced up to this challenge.

It has been an extremely successful year for you as a group culturally, academically and in your sporting activities and as your Moltóir I can honestly say it has been my pleasure getting to know you over the course of the year and you remain as I said at Christmas my "heroes" exactly as it said on the tin! Watching you grow and mature into confident young individuals has been a pleasure.

You've enjoyed events such as bonding trips, cooking up a feast, community involvement, Santa's workshop, Talent Show, Gaisce, Driver Theory, urban challenges and ... too numerous to mention.

The TY team and your teachers have thoroughly enjoyed this year with you as you embraced the programme and gave all activities your all while negotiating your points up and down!

We wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you return in late August when you start your Leaving Certificate journey empowered by your TY experience.

My thanks to the fantastic TY team of Caomhnóirí, who care for you on a daily basis and always have your best interest at heart. So to Mr Cahill, Ms O'Donoghue, and Ms Savage I say a big thank you on your behalf and from myself and hope that they also have a well-deserved rest over the summer holidays.

Remember to continue to mind each other, have fun and be ready on your return for your new and exciting adventures under the keen eye of Ms Kelly and her team.

Note - "Our choices show what we truly are far more than our abilities", JK Rowling.

Geraldine McNally Gary Cahill, Fiona O'Donoghue and Histing Savage

#### **Rang Cahill**



Rang O'Donoghue



Rang Savage



### Fifth Year: Moltóir's Message

This year like every other has been a very busy but very enjoyable year. Between the 3<sup>rd</sup> year students who opted to go directly to 5<sup>th</sup> Year and those who did TY first and then went into 5<sup>th</sup> Year you really are a truly fantastic group of students who have gelled together most impressively. This year and Senior Cycle in general can be a very daunting year but for the most part and for most of you you have given it your all. By now you will have all realised that Senior Cycle moves at a much faster pace than Junior Cycle and your focus and concentration is hugely important from the start. I am delighted to say that most of you have settled in superbly and for those of you who took a little longer you have the Summer holidays to organise yourselves and be ready for August 2015 when you come back as 6<sup>th</sup> Year students.

This year saw some 5<sup>th</sup> Year students go to China on the school tour. On hearing the stories and seeing some photos you had a great time and visited some fantastic sights.

Recently I also had the pleasure of being involved in the Cinnire selection process and to say I was impressed with the applications is a complete understatement. It was a next to impossible job to finally select the Cinnirí and for all of you who applied you should be very proud because the teachers, your Caomhnóirí and I are certainly very proud of you. The standard of applications was amazing. I would like to congratulate those of you who were successful and look forward to working with you next year.

As always your Caomhnóirí and I have been hugely impressed with the way in which you have conducted yourselves over the last year. Please remember that we are there to support you in any way that we can. Finally just to say have a fantastic summer, enjoy the break from school and study, relax and enjoy what the summer brings and we look forward to seeing you all in good health at the end of August to embark on your final year in Ratoath College. Be safe and mind yourselves.

Amanda Sweeney

#### **Rang Brennan**



#### **Rang Carey**



# **Rang Giblin**



#### **Rang Grogan**



#### **Rang McTiernan**



#### **Rang Mooney**



#### Rang O'Dwyer



#### **Rang Smith**





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