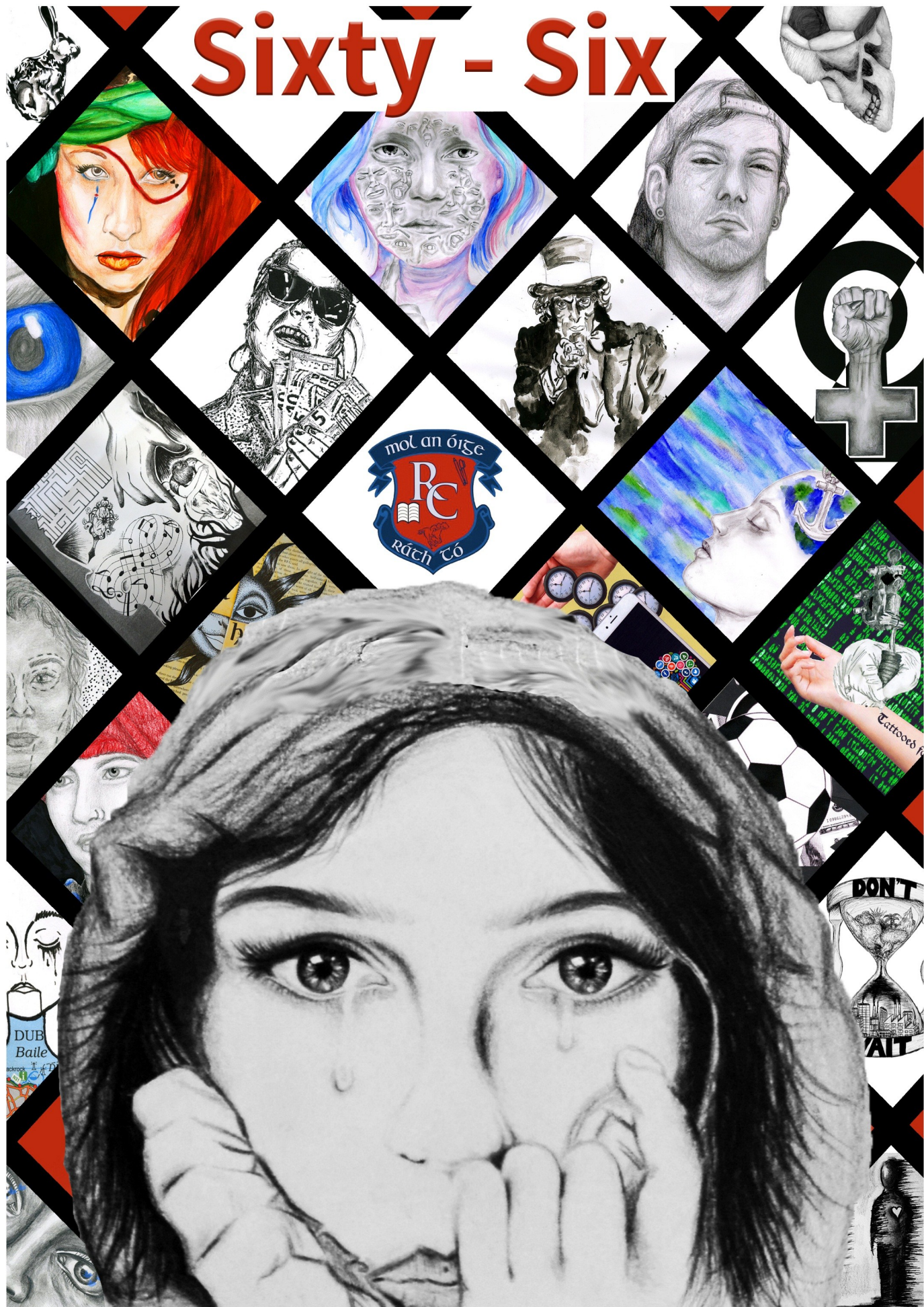


Sixty - Six



The Ratoath College Yearbook 2016



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

Once again it gives us great pleasure to present this, our 11th school Yearbook. As ever the production team have done an amazing job in recording the many events and achievements that have marked the school year. We never cease to be amazed by the wealth and richness of talent in Ratoath College and we are extremely proud of all the achievements of our students both inside and outside school.

We are particularly delighted in this year of our 10th Anniversary, that this production provides us with such a colourful and wide ranging record of another very successful and extremely busy school year.

What a year it has been, the helicopter arrival on sports day, our 10th birthday celebrations, the success of our Junior debating team, many exciting matches with nail biting finishes and some heart breaking losses. Our Musical certainly lived up to its name and had us "All Shook Up". Such was the buzz it created around the school and our Talent Show was another spectacular night packed full of outstanding performances. We have had so many activities and student led initiatives throughout the year. Not a week went by when we weren't busy taking part in a wide variety of sporting, cultural or academic endeavours.

Commitment and hard work are always evident in Ratoath College particularly in our classrooms. We are extremely proud of the students of Ratoath College particularly in relation to their hard work and commitment to learning and we particularly want to wish the best of luck to our 6th and 3rd years in the weeks ahead.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to all who are part of the Ratoath College family who play their part in making the school the success it is, the teachers, ancillary staff, Parents, Parent Librarians, the Parent's Association, the Board of Management and most especially our students of whom we are extremely proud ...Well done everyone on a super year's work!

Finally our congratulations and thanks to all of the production team, to Ms. Donnellan, the Art Department and our students who have done an excellent job to produce such an outstanding yearbook. It is an excellent publication and a wonderful overview of all this is good about Ratoath College.

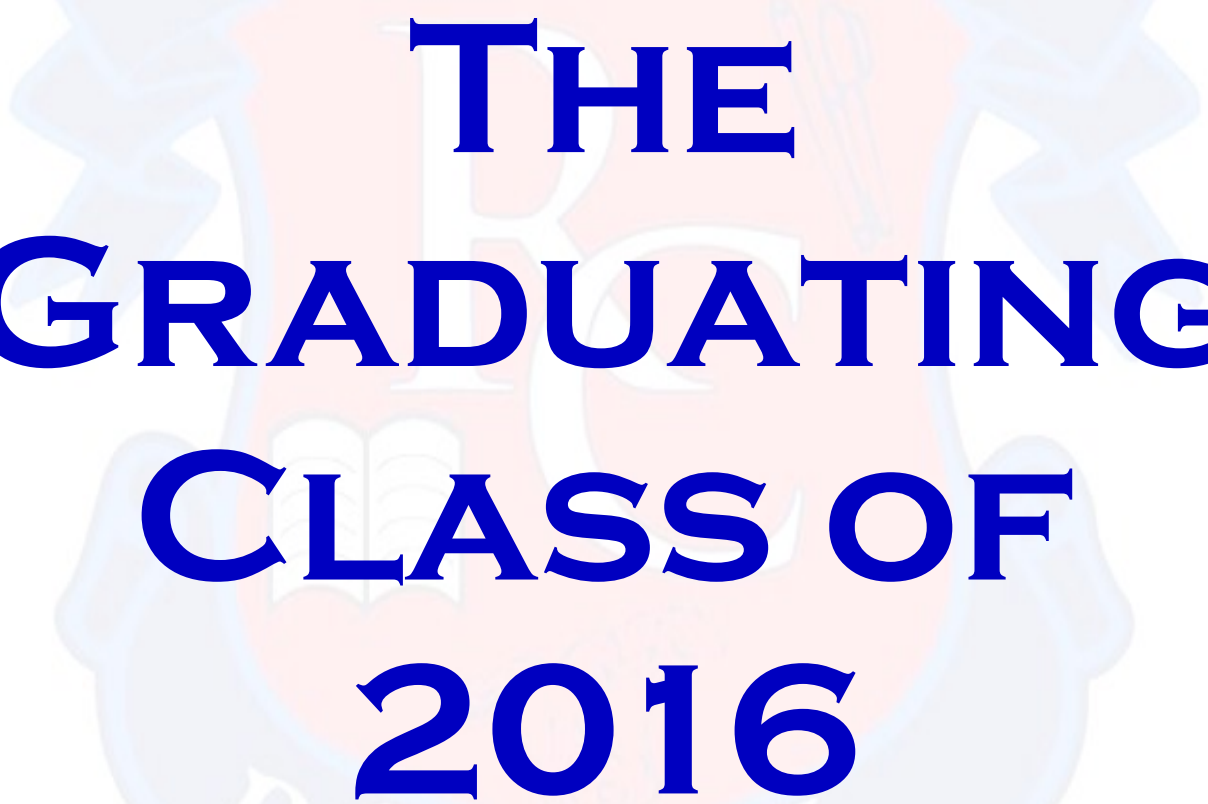
We wish you all a wonderful and hopefully sunny summer.

Oonagh Prendergast Aoife O'Dwyer Derek Ball

Editor's Note: Cover work is a collaboration of the Room 8 artists: Ciara Byrne, Hannah Dooley, Rebecca Mahon, Ciara Fennessy, Rebekah Byrne, Jakub Leszkiewicz, Alicia Kidd, Jade Conroy, Róisín Conlon and Simina Custura whose piece won second prize at the LMETB Art Competition. Most sincere thanks to the wonderful students and fantastic teachers who submitted articles, photographs and words of advice to this publication. Your input is most appreciated and the results of your efforts, as you can see, are outstanding. Well Done and Thank you!

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**THE
GRADUATING
CLASS OF
2016**

*"ALL JOURNEYS HAVE SECRET DESTINATIONS OF WHICH THE
TRAVELER IS UNAWARE."*

Class of 2016 where has the time gone?

We have come to the end of the school year and the end of your time here in Ratoath College. I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you the very best of luck with the Leaving Cert in June and with whatever path in life you choose.

I hope that in general your time here has been an exciting, enjoyable and successful one. I'm sure you have had good days and bad days but I hope that you will treasure the memories and friendships that you have made forever. The class of 2016 have certainly left a lasting impression on the school which we as a staff will remember forever and I hope that you will leave here with fond memories that you will never forget.

On a personal note I feel privileged and honoured to have had the opportunity to get to know you as a group of wonderful young ladies and gentlemen. I have enjoyed every minute of working with you over the years and I am immensely proud as I have watched how you have grown and matured over the years into fantastic young adults.

They say that the end of one journey is the beginning of another so don't think of this as an ending but as a New Beginning in which you must seize every opportunity that comes your way.

Let the Journey Begin...

Wishing you all the very best of luck always,

A Sweeney



A Valediction from the Árd-Chinnirí

This year has proved to be one of the most challenging years of my life. I could not have predicted the stress we would be under nor how much this would make us depend on each other. Looking at sixth years last year they made it look so easy. I realise now that they were all just good actors!! This year I have grown closer to my peers. We have laughed together, cried together and in a very short time we will sit our final school exams together. Reality has hit - we will soon be separated forever.

With this in mind, I'd like to share some of the most memorable moments of my school years:

How graciously the fifth years of 2014 accepted the transition year students into their classes. I don't think there has been another year group who bonded so well.

The Sports Day when a helicopter landed in the field (if you didn't see it your snap chat did). Thankfully it wasn't needed in the end but Ms. Prendergast still got her front seat selfie.

I'll never forget going into the First Year classes and seeing their enthusiasm at getting a good note. I don't think we were ever that enthusiastic, and if we were it didn't last very long.

Overall its not the classes, study or tests I will remember, it's the people I've met, the friends I've made and the teachers who suddenly became humans. It's been a long six years but you guys made it bearable. Here's to the end of our school years and the beginning of adult choices.

Remember "Nothing is impossible - the word itself says "I'm Possible""

Abbie

In applying for this position last year I was certain that we'd go through an eventful year here before saying goodbye to Ratoath College. The fact that our 6th and final year has raced past us certainly has surprised us as we've gone about our work and studies - this seems to be a near universal feeling amongst the class of 2016.

After the initial cheers of celebrating our imminent escape from this prison school I've got to think of just how formative these years have been for us all. Our work with the first years is all the proof we need to say that we've come a fair way since walking through the doors of Ratoath College for the first time, meeting other tiny people who we'd spend our teenage years sitting with, laughing with and even, on occasion, study with.

We can all take a tale or two away with us. The school has given us a bounty of opportunities to explore, grow and (somewhat) mature. We might have climbed the Great Wall of China and walked by the peace walls of Belfast. This has all been thanks to a group of staff who have invested in us and from today we'll be returning the dividend to our community and to our country.

We have to thank all of our teachers, both past and present, who've inspired us to learn more and to do more. Getting to know them as well as our fellow students has been the most enriching part of our time here in Ratoath College.

And as we go our separate ways, just remember that "*quidquid Latine dictum sit altum videtur*".

Mark

Graduate Profiles

Rang Brennan



Katie Byrne
"Kitty"

Likes: Eating, sleeping, Christmas, cheesy puns.
Dislikes: Cling film, dinosaurs, wind.
Greatest Achievement: Getting to the Doodle4Google final.
Will miss: Ask me again in 10 years!



Adam Carr
"Chodio"

Likes: Fionn's perm
Dislikes: waking up early:
Will miss: running away from teachers



Christopher Checkley
"Chris"

Likes: Dug the dog
Dislikes: Cane of shame
Greatest Achievement: wrapping Stephen Cahill in a free chemistry class.
Will miss: Katie Murnane's feminist rants



Carla Claassen
"Cilly"

Likes: Rugby, Basketball, House music, Travelling, Ferrero Rocher Chocolates, Fashion
Dislikes: Ignorance, Rude people, Exams.
Will miss: My United Nations group



Roberta-Sinziana Coseraru
"Robbie"

Likes: Painting, sports and literature
Dislikes: Maths and lies
Will miss: my friends and our laughs in school



Nedas Daubaras



Dearbhla Donnelly
"Derv"

Likes: Beyoncé
Dislikes: Huaraches!!!
Will miss: Cheeky canteen with the girls



Peter Donnelly
"Francois"

Likes: Dug the dog
Dislikes: Bouncers at glow nightclub.
Greatest Achievement: Exploding Stephen Cahill's bag of granola in Italian.



Samantha Leanne Duffy

Likes: Music
Dislikes: Maths
Greatest Achievement: Winning the World Drumming title 2015
Will miss: having the bant with the teachers and the chats with Ms.B



Daniel Egan
"Chum"

Likes: Being cute
Dislikes: Eimiear
Greatest Achievement: Penalty shootout champion on 2013.
Will Miss: Seeing Aisling



Hannah Donohue
"Hanbanan"

Likes: Cruising in the Caribbean during term
Dislikes: My alarm
Greatest Achievement: Never letting school interfere with my education
Will miss: My friends



Elliot Dore- Murphy



Kelley Gorman
"Kel"

Likes: Dominoes mega deal with gals
Dislikes: Missing aoiff fall off a treadmill
Will miss: Buying people fish for Kris Kindle



Shauna Graham
"Shazz"

Likes: Thai yummy
Dislikes: Jake Allen saying "oh nip nip" every 60 seconds
Greatest Achievement: Completing 6 years in Ratoath College
Will miss: Sleeping in religion



Nathan Mannion
"Nato"

Likes: Rosa Parks, cute Dan
Dislikes: Broken windows, being told to sit at the back of the bus
Greatest Achievement: Whopper new band



Eimear McCabe
"McCabe"

Likes: Sport
Dislikes: Going outside in the cold weather
Greatest Achievement: Going a full year without an injury!
Will Miss: Re-Registration with Prendo



Megan McCann
"Megg"

Likes: The Atmosphere
Dislikes: Too short of a little break
Will miss: Banter at lunchtime



Leslie McCue
"Lezzles"

Likes: Food in general
Dislikes: School in general
Will miss: having d lols with me mates



Emily McGlynn
"Em"

Likes: Tea, food
Dislikes: Weak tea, a lack of food
Greatest achievement: Managing to never go outside at lunch



Kevin McGonigle
"Kev"

Likes: Loud music, sleeping
Dislikes: losing to John Shannon at everything
Greatest Achievement: Ms. Brennan's Christmas present
Will miss: Watching the dogs fly around at break



Niamh McLoughlin
"Niamhy"

Likes: Camogie
Dislikes: School bus
Will miss: The goss



Niamh Maloney
"Lemon"

Likes: crisps
Dislikes: Being called a lemon
Will miss: Seeing everyone every day and Aoife's daily dose of sarcasm



Brian O'Farrell
"BOF"

Likes: Dark Chocolate
Dislikes: Hall Monitors
Greatest Achievement : voted Greatest smile TY.
Will Miss: The Bench



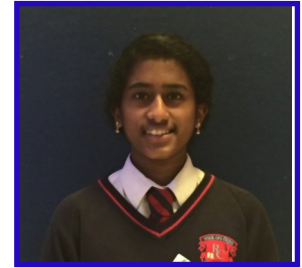
Darragh Philips
"Daz"

Likes: Mr.Connollys personal nickname s
Dislikes: Smiling
Greatest Achievement: Yet to happen
Will Miss: Rosslare get-aways



Fionn Smyth
"Fionnzer"

Likes: Having a good dance
Dislikes: When everyone touches my hair
Greatest Achievement: passing my theory test



Bilja Anns Thomas
"Bilba /BAT"

Likes: Taking the longest possible way to class
Dislikes: Surprise test, B/W movies
Greatest Achievements: sleeping without getting caught, full attendance.
Will Miss: Ms. Prendergasts voice, free class



Cassidy White
"Cass"

Likes: Food
Dislikes: soup
Greatest achievement: Rehabilitating from the RAFF lol
Will miss: seeing the girls everyday xo

Rang Carey



Jake Allen
"Jakerzz"

Likes: Being a drama queen
All sports
Dislikes: 'Phelos' horrendous skinny jeans that he wears to school.. dirty dirty
Will Miss: Physical Education and the unbearable bong of classrooms



Erica Blake
"Urca"

Likes: Sraith pictuirs
Dislikes: Couple squad
Greatest achievements: finishing school without being institutionalized



Domenique Broasca
"Dom"

Likes: Football, Money, Dogs, Guinness
Dislikes: Maths
Will miss: Nothing



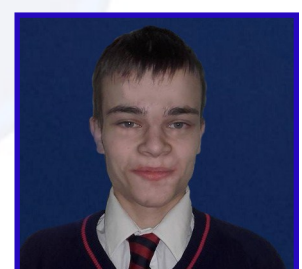
Sam Burke
"Sammy B"

Likes: Pretending I'm from Curraha #HonTheHa
Dislikes: Cathal Moore and his snapchats #vile
Will miss: Eco crew (Shmu, Dazzy P & Marky P) , B sharps shower singalongs (Niall and Cathal)



Roisin Byrne
"Ro"

Likes: Ms. Casey's bleep tests and Mr. Carey's business class
Dislikes: People unnecessarily touching my arm
Will miss: BLT and Dom's locker being beside mine



Daniel Cahill
"Dan"

Likes: Food
Dislikes: Donald Trump
Will miss: Missing large amounts of school.



Rebecca Clifford
"Bex"

Likes: D canteen soup
Dislikes: Cup hand
Will miss: D canteen soup a lot



Niamh Costigan
"Niamhie"

Likes: Snuggles
Dislikes: Struggles
Quote: "time is money, money is power, power is pizza, pizza is knowledge" - April Ludgate (Parks and Recreation)



Katie Courtney
"Kaffingate"

Likes: Spending time with my friends.
Dislikes: The Leaving Cert
Will miss: The daily reminder that a scarf is not part of my uniform.



Simina Custura
"Babi"

Likes: sports; to travel; to read; photography; drawing; to write; music;
Dislikes: spiders; to get up really early.
Greatest Achievement: National Champion in Taekwondo (Martial Arts)
Will miss: My friends and most of the teachers



Sean Doran
"Seany/Turtle"

Likes: Karl Hall and Dylan Mccabe
Dislikes: Aaron Edwards
Will miss: DOM



Rachael Eiffe
"Ray bae"

Likes: Not being in school
Dislikes: The canteen queue on a Friday
Will miss: Ali Gow's funny moments



Caoimhe Kellet

Likes: Dogs
Dislikes: A dogless space
Will miss: Hearing out of context snippets of stories in the halls



Diana Ludusan
"Shtrumphy"

Likes: Travelling, Soccer, Playing Piano
Dislikes: A few things
Will miss: Everybody...



Stephen Lynch
"Lynchie"

Likes: Money, clothes, and best teacher ever Ms. Casey
Dislikes: Early mornings
Will miss: Sean Doran's excuses for not doing P.E!



Fionnuala McCormack
"Nuala"

Likes: Nutella
Dislikes: Any time of year that's not Christmas
Will miss: Speaking Gaeilge with Alannah



Nicole McDermott
"Coley"

Likes: My horses and my dogs
Dislikes: Being asked to fill out forms about my dislikes
What I'll miss: "Debate club "



Gavin McKane
"Shane"

Likes: Shane, Celtic, Gormo
Dislikes: Most people
Will miss: Shane, English class and seeing Rang Mooney fail miserably at sports day football



Eoin O'Connell
"Chinkers"

Likes: School football, bus banter
Greatest Achievement: Keeping 1 clean sheet in 5 years of school football
Will miss: Dom Broasca falling asleep in every class



Eoghan O'Shea
"YOG"

Likes: 16" Arabibata pizza
Dislikes: Punctuality



Shauna Payne
"Payne"

Likes: Mála Spicaorí
Dislikes: Partition
Will miss: Gerry Adams
Twitter
(@GerryAdamsSF)



Shane Ralph
"Ralphy"

Likes: Long Holidays
Dislikes: The canteen
Greatest achievement: Never missing a day of school



Ciara Reilly

Likes: Cheeky Nandos!, Horse Racing and Shopping.
Dislikes: Studying and Getting Up Early!
Will miss: My friends and seeing everyone!



Aaron Slator-Edwards
"Barry"

Likes: Stephen Lynch's run
Dislikes: Career guidance
Will miss: Religion with the guys



Antonina Tcaceno
"Anto"

Likes: Volleyball, gymnastics, basketball
Dislikes: Wasted time
Will miss: The little things :)



Adriana Tutunaru
"Adri/Adi"

Likes: Travelling, watching good movies and facing life's realities with a smile.
Dislikes: To get up early in the morning.
Will miss: My friends I made at this school.



Anastazia Tvrda
"Ana/Cece"

Likes: The vody, being rude
Dislikes: COT, rude people
Will miss: Mr.Morton's behind, accounting classes



Pierce Wragg
"Purcer"

Likes: Football on yard and Rey
Dislikes: The school phone rule
Will miss: Watching Rang Mooney never win sports day football

Rang Gíblín



Dean Collins
"Wasn't Me"

Likes: Having the craic with the boys
Dislikes: When people annoy me
Greatest Achievement: Completing my Leaving Cert
Aims in Life: Go Far in Life



Luke Eiffe

Likes: messing with the lads
Dislikes: coming to school
Greatest Achievement: still waiting for the day
Will Miss: Deans greatest excuse "wasn't me"
Aims in Life: be successful



Ben Hannigan

Likes: games, food, music, friends
Dislikes: getting up early
Greatest achievement: getting to 6th year
Aims in life: live it the way I want too



Robert Haslam Mannering

Likes: After school bants with the lads
Dislikes: when people annoy me
Greatest Achievement: completing school
Will Miss: Deans Classic Line "want me"



Ivan Kelly
"Kelly"

Likes: Rugby, DJing
Dislikes: taking off my jacket
Greatest achievement: last man standing in bubble football
Aims in life: be happy, get a job I like
Will Miss: The Bants



Brendan Kumar
"Whats a quote"

Likes: Everything good
Dislikes: Everything bad
Greatest Achievement: getting into this yearbook
Aims: to go to white castle



Laura McDonnell
"Lozer"

Likes: Makeup, Kardashians, going out
Dislikes: people, 14 year old girlos, JB
Cant live without; My phone, tan, Cooley baby, my hunns



Callum Pike-Potter
"The never ending shenanigans"

Likes: the lads messing and cracking jokes about each other
Dislikes: Coming second to Mr. Giblin in go karting
Quote: "LCA takes hard work and dedication... jk lol"



Angel Queenan Wall
"Claws/Nails"

Likes: champagne, my hunns, highlighter, Kylie Jenner
Dislikes: maths, people, school, early mornings
Can't live without: snapchat, my phone, Lucozade, having my nails done, Holto



Aaron Rock
"Rocko"

Likes: having a bit of banter with the lads
Dislikes: when I make a bad pasta in home ec
Greatest Achievement:: when I kicked a rugby ball from the bottom of the hall into the hall at the other side
Aims: to go to Ibiza with the lads



Kevin Stewien



Monica Trimino

Likes; Nights out
Dislikes: Rugby
Will Miss: not having to think of what to wear every morning
Aim in life; get married to a rich guy



Ali Zeeshan
"Ali G"

Likes: Cricket
Dislikes: Everything bad
Greatest Achievement: new friends
Will Miss: friends
Aims for Life: Be successful

Rang Grogan



Victoria Balan
"Vicky"

Likes: Long romantic walks to the fridge
Dislikes: Low battery, loud eaters and slow walkers
Biggest Achievement: Maintaining all my snapchat streaks throughout 6th year
What I'll miss: Sleeping in Religion, chats with Ms. Grogan, Mr. Leonard



Sam Carroll
"Sammy"

Likes: Football
Will miss: Ms. Grogan



Anna Maria Cioponea
"Ana Banana"

Dislikes: Waking up early.
Will miss: Getting chased by teachers at break time



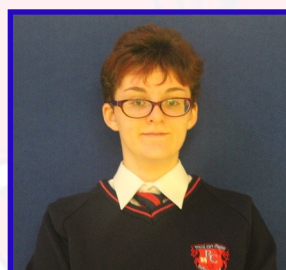
Étáin Collins
"Tainy"

Likes: Sarah's one joke
Dislikes: Being called Etayn, Atin, Atwan and Ethan
What I'll miss: career chats with Lou, Neil Mather, ygsm and seeing my friends every



Eimear Cooke
"Cookie Monster"

Likes: Druids
Dislikes: Dan Egan
Greatest Achievement: Making it home from Kenya alive
Will miss: Ali G



Olivia Farrell

Likes: Gaming and writing.
Dislikes: Reality TV
Will Miss: The friends I've made in Senior Cycle.



Conor Fox
"Foxy"

Likes: Outer space
Dislikes: Inner space
Greatest Achievement: Never being nominated
Will miss: The UK being in the EU



Conor Gorman
"Gormo"

Likes: Working hard in school
Dislikes: Smokers
Will miss: Ms. Prendergast



Alison Gowran
"Ali G"

Likes: Hogans huaraches
Dislikes: The smell of curry on a Friday
Will miss: The Bunnies



Lyndsey Hageman
"Lynds"

Likes: seeing the girls and slick rick
Dislikes: how people still cannot pronounce my second name
What I'll miss: makeup and hair check by Aoife & Being the new girl



Rachel Hopkins
"Chetch"

Likes: books, minions, Will Smith, music, all things coffee related.
Dislikes: Butterflies/moths, feet, people who don't like music.
Greatest Achievement: Surviving the wrath of Mr Ball despite having piercing & purple hair.



Katie Lewis
"KT"

Likes: Athletics, Pretty Little Liars.
Dislikes: Disloyalty.
Greatest achievement: Getting nominated four times in one Student of the Month.
Will miss: Being a Cinnire and chatting with Ms. Grogan while she's on supervision .



Aoife Lynch
"Aoif"

Likes: seeing slick rick
Dislikes: falling off treadmills
What I'll miss: Lyndsey's rants in careers



Naoisha McAloon



Nadia Merrigan
"Nad"

Likes: Going to plays, the cinema, Horror movies,
Dislikes: spicy food
Greatest Achievement: Passing driving theory test first time. 6th year without a single bad note. Winning the best history scrapbook in 2nd Year.
Will Miss: Seeing my friends every morning



Stephen Mooney
"Shmu"

Likes: backing winners
Dislikes: When my tips lose
Will Miss: Everybody looking at me driving to and from school.



Cathal Moore
"C Moore"

Likes: Always being right.
Dislikes: Predebs and Arc Nightclub.
Will miss: Singing in the showers with Murph, Sam and Mark after PE. X



David Murphy
"Dave"

Likes: A good study session
Dislikes: The Raff
Greatest achievement: Getting nominated for student of the month that one time
Will miss: Ms Doonan



Ross Newe
"Rossy"

Likes: A boogie, foot-ball
Dislikes: School
Will miss: Everyday banter



Sarah O'Driscoll

Likes: Sleeping
Dislikes: Getting Bleep tested
Greatest achievement: Fitting my full fist in my mouth (Ref.Debs video)
What I'll miss: Seeing everyone everyday



Megan O'Riordan
"Meg"

Likes: Gerry Adams #SF
Dislikes: Learning
Greatest Achievement: Graduating
What I'll miss: Aaron Mee's jawline



Mark Phelan

Likes: Ms. Grogan
Dislikes: The Rejects
Greatest achievement: Captaining Mooney's army
What I'll miss: Seeing Ms.Grogan in the mornings



Louise Rice
"Lou"

Likes: Terminal 5
Dislikes: Infested locker area
Will miss: Assembly

 <p>Devon Rogers</p> <p>Likes: Being a social butterfly Dislikes: Being Force fed grapes by Rebecca Clifford Greatest Achievement: Successfully making it too the "are you still watching" part of Netflix. Will miss: Jake Allen exploiting you all.</p>	 <p>John Shannon <i>"Shan"</i></p> <p>Likes Hearing the bell at 3.20 Dislikes: Standing for extended periods of time in assembly Greatest achievement: It's hard to pick one Will miss: Maths class (With Ms.B and the lovely photo) the magic of physics and quotes of such as "I feel photosynthesis" and 'Does France even have beaches?'</p>	 <p>Neil Shevlin <i>Neil "the cans" Shevlin</i></p> <p>Likes: Being on the Fortune 500 Dislikes: Not being on the Fortune 500 Greatest Achievement: Being on the Fortune 500 in 20 years Will miss: The LCA's often giving me a chuckle now and again</p>	 <p>Kellie Walsh <i>"Kel"</i></p> <p>Likes: Havin da lols. Dislikes: Locker number 93. Will miss: Seeing my friends and the guilty pleasure, A.M everyday</p>
<p><i>Rang Mooney</i></p>	 <p>Chloe Browne <i>"Chlo"</i></p> <p>Likes: Having a laugh, Being with friends, Going out Greatest achievement: Lasting this long in school What I'll miss: Mooney's giving out "are you finished now" lols</p>	 <p>Jack Byrne <i>"Legs"</i></p> <p>Likes: Tutorial with Mr. Mooney Dislikes: Triple Red Best Feature: Hair Will miss: Mooney</p>	 <p>Orla Cooney <i>"Cooney"</i></p> <p>Likes: Cavan Dislikes: My unwanted connection with birds Will miss: Bunnies</p>
 <p>Adam Donnelly</p> <p>Likes: Indoor football & PE Dislikes: The school cares more about the uniform than your education. Will miss: I will miss my darling maths teacher Ms Witter x</p>	 <p>Thapelo Downes <i>"T-bone/T-Dog"</i></p> <p>Likes: Canteen is alright Dislikes: Still being here Will miss: Squad innit'</p>	 <p>Nicole Edgerton <i>"Nic"</i></p> <p>Likes: The luxurious bathroom facilities of Ratoath college What I'll miss: The constant ringing of fire alarms in my ears</p>	 <p>Alannah Falvey <i>"Falvey"</i></p> <p>Likes: Being surrounded by puppies Dislikes: Donald Trump Will miss: Speaking Gaeilge le Fionnuala</p>



Mark Fanning

Likes: Swimming, history, socialising
Dislikes: Nothing
Will Miss: Great teachers like Ms. Dinsmore & Ms. O'Neill.



Abbie Feeney
"Abs"

Likes: Puppies, a United Ireland
Dislikes: People who don't like dogs
What I'll miss: Mooney



Fiachra Flynn
"Feekra"

Likes: Yard ball, Jon Snow and Rey.
Dislikes: People in general, lucsiyag
Greatest Achievement: Beating Dunshaughlin 3-1 away (SO to COT), and scoring 95% of our basketball teams points.



Ross Gorman
"Gormo"

Likes: Shane and slagging Gav
Dislikes: Adam's braces and Jac's waxy ears and the slugs
Will miss: singing songs about Shane



Dylan Hannon
"Clarke Kent"

Likes: The craic in Engineering with Mr. Winters.
Dislikes: Being 5'7
Greatest achievement: hitting Mr. Carey with a stress ball.



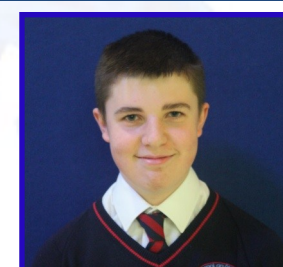
Amy Henry
"Henry"

Likes: Cheesy Chips
Dislikes: Physical Education
Will Miss: Euro Mash & gravy



Brian Joyce
"Joycey"

Likes: Gaelic, Ms Donnellan .
Dislikes: Murph taking my food at lunch.
Greatest Achievement: Winning the junior A county
Will miss: Mr Mooney's English class.



Brandon Kellett
"Brando"

Likes: Religion classes
Dislikes: Hurraches, greatest
Greatest Achievement: Never winning an award



Lara Kelly
"Laz"

Likes: a good cheesy chip
Dislikes: Macaris
Will miss: counting down the days till I'm out of this place (and Ed Burns)



Alanna Lennon Fitzgerald
"Lanna"

Likes: makeup
Dislikes: slow walkers in the hallways
Will miss: Mooney's cheesy comments "ye scarlih"



Ciara Leonard
"Len"

Likes: Just having the lols.
Dislikes: The Leaving Cert.
Greatest Achievement: Making it through 6th year.
Will miss: Mr. O'Toole trying to scare me in the halls every day.



Ciarán McCarthy
"Macker"

Likes: Star Wars
Dislikes: When my calculator breaks Sob!
Greatest Achievement: Dedication to Eng
Will miss: Top Bant with Mr. Ward



Darragh McLoughlin

Likes: Playing and watching football, and listening to music
Dislikes: having to work
Will miss: "Take off your hoodie please" and the Italian Exchange, Mr. Mooney



Aisling Murphy
"Asho"

Likes: Food
Dislikes: School
Will miss: Scones



Niall Murphy
"Sledge"

Likes: Food
Dislikes: Joyce's nipples
Will miss: taking people's lunch



Aine Naughton Traynor

Likes: vampire diaries and friends
Dislikes: everything else
Greatest achievement: putting up with Thapelo for the past 2 years
Will miss: nothing



Jack Roberts
"Binto Boxer"

Likes: Shane
Dislikes: Leigh's slaggings
Will miss: Mark Nolan saying "How's the weather?"



Adam Ryan

Likes: Hanging out with friends, playing video games
Dislikes: Homework (especially essays), PE
Will miss: seeing my friends everyday.



Leigh Sullivan

Dislikes: Gav's hair
Greatest Achievement: winning U14 and U16 Division Championship S/O to Sean Keogh
Will miss: Slagging Darragh and Jack



Sadbh Thomas
"Sadbhzi"

Likes: yogism, snowbites, netflix, music, sports
Dislikes: every member of the junior cycle, assembly, smelly classrooms
Will miss: ameliano x and Mr Mooney tripping over everything



Luke Thompson
"Ellen"

Likes: Anything to do with hockey
Dislikes: Don't really dislike anything
Will miss: Yard ball (tard ball)



Rang O'Dwyer



Stephen Anderson
"Steve / Stevo"

Likes: Clayton's Mam & Banter with classmates
Dislikes: Homework
Greatest achievement: Winning 50 euro at Student of the Month.
Will Miss: the bus ride to school.



Stephen Cahill
"Ste"

Likes: break and lunch conversations
Dislikes: Taking almost half an hour to walk 20 meters on the corridors
Greatest Memory: getting dragged out of the tent on TY gaisce trip



Eoin Clayton
"Clayton"

Likes: Long walks on the beach drinking sangria
Dislikes: People unzipping my bag
Greatest achievement: Scoring a point in Minor Summer league
Will miss: Mr McCarthy's stories



Adam Cullen-Fitzsimons

Likes: Ms. Casey's intense PE classes
Dislikes: Long assembly speeches
Greatest Achievement: Winning 1st year Oct student of the month & PE student of the month.
Will miss: All the lads slagging from 8.45 – 15.20



Saorlaith Delanty
"Serla"

Likes: The goss in italian
Dislikes: the canteen cutlery
Will miss: Dodging P.E



Colm Duggan
"Clom"

Likes: Hogan
Dislikes: Hogan's shoe choice
Will miss: The 6 counties
Quote: "Wow that's a lot of snakes" - St. Patrick said as he looked at the school
Greatest Achievement: Getting nominated for Student of the Month once in 2nd year



Abbie Eiffe O'Toole

Likes: Vegetables
Dislikes: Meat
Greatest achievement: Becoing a vegetarian
Will Miss: Studying for the Leaving & Gary O'Reilly



Roísín Fitzpatrick
"Ro"

Likes: Horses
Dislikes: "A thig ná tit orm" and lifts
Greatest achievement: Breaking 3 pieces of glassware in a single chemistry class.
Will miss: Getting days off for a "Family sporting event"... Tally ho!



Jennifer Grehan
"Jen"

Likes: Government Secrets, chips with salt
Dislikes: BBQ sauce
Greatest Achievement: Asho Doyle as a BFFL
Will miss: d bois



Aoife Griffin
"Princess"

Likes: being tangoed
Dislikes: being pale
Greatest Achievement: getting through this year



Conor Hogan
"Hogan /Brain"

Likes: The banter at lunch
Dislikes: Neil Lennon
Greatest Achievement: Winning Rogha na nDaltai
Will miss: Slapping Josh's food out of his hand.



Siobhan Keogh
"Sibh"

Likes: Dov's tea
Dislikes: early mornings
Will miss: BLT



Sophie Lovett
"Lovih"

Likes: lie ins on student of the month
Dislikes: the flies at my locker
Will miss: Canteen 50c rolls



Jake Lynch

Likes: BMX Racing
Dislikes: School
Greatest Achievement: Being Jake
Will miss: PE



Ivan Mather

Likes: Nigel Farage
Dislikes: Uncontrolled mass immigration and the Proletariat
Will miss: Conversing with peasants on a daily basis
Greatest achievement: Won a musical chairs competition in Croatia when I was six.



Donal McLarnon
"Dnl"

Likes: Conor Hogan
Dislikes: Grammatical errors (irony)
Will miss: Conor Hogan, RIP x



Clare Meehan
"Clurr"

Likes: Sherlock and the X-Files
Dislikes: Lattes
Greatest Achievement: Being late to every RE class with Emlee
Will Miss: Having the lols in Maths and Irish



Katie Murnane
"K8"

Likes: David Bowie, baby eagles
Dislikes: Cold tea, social injustice
Will miss: Sarah Sturzel's strange cough as my constant companion



Ruari Murphy

Likes: Long walks on the beach, curling my hair and watching Mean Girls
Dislikes: Car Parks
Known for: New Years Eve antics
Lifetime Achievement: Finding my first armpit hair #ImABigBoyNow



Josh Newe
"Jish"

Likes: Going debts with Asho Doyle
Dislikes: The prospect of not doing English with J Mac anymore.
Will Miss: Mr McCarthy



Patrick O'Hanlon

Likes: Coffee and wine gums
Dislikes: Milky tea and road tax!
Greatest Achievement: Having my first winner in Dundalk.
Will Miss: Double religion on Friday and free classes.



Carly O'Neill
"Carlo"

Likes: Aaron Phelan
Dislikes: Ruari's Hair
Greatest Achievement: Winning student of the month 3 times
Will miss: Ms. Casey <3 Double religion on Friday with AP and lexi



Katie Patten
"kpatz"

Likes: Pizza
Dislikes: feet
Will miss: Mr. McCarthy's English class



Aaron Phelan
"Phelo"

Likes: Ms Casey, Seany D getting injured
Dislikes: Stephen Wright + Alcohol
Greatest Achievement: Getting married at 17
Will miss: The buzz



Katie Williams
"KT"

Likes: the free class that in the library when you're late
Dislikes: having broken legs after student of the month
What I'll miss: Ms O'Dwyers strut to class with her computer case



Rang Smith



Emily Ashmore
"Emlee/ Ashy"

Likes: Lattes, Law&Order, Luther

Dislikes: Everything else

Will Miss: news of the day with the girls



Jack Bolger
"JB"

Likes: Engineering and sleeping

Dislikes: wasting time and showoffs

Greatest Achievement: Scuba diving in Malta

Will miss: All the friendly people



Jonathan Browne
"JBalls/Browner"

Likes: Mr. Mooney of Friday Afternoon / Mr. Winter's after school class

Dislikes: Mondays #DoubleLCVPFirstTwo

Will miss: Take off the Jumper there - Mr B



Mark Caffery
"Polo"

Likes: Podcasts & Johnny Cash

Dislikes: "The Donald", I can't stand Trump

Greatest Achievement: Where to begin????

Will Miss: Econ classes



Aisling Doyle
"Asho"

Likes: Bed Nightclub and Jen

Dislikes: the slug patrol

Greatest Achievement: Josh Newe asking me debs

Will miss: d squad I'd die for them



Hannah Etukudo
"Hannu"

Likes: Food & Being Sarcastic

Dislikes: Mermaids & Sharing Drinks

Will miss: Accounting class Laughs & BLT



Luke Aaron Farrell

Likes: Football



Aly Giggins
"The Fairy Godmother"

Likes : Glitter&Daisys

Dislikes : Hippies

Greatest achievement : Finding the path to Buddha

Will miss : Having every teacher ask me 'Is that your real hair?'



Clodagh Griffiths
"Clo"

Dislikes: Mooney rubbing out the board with his sleeve.

Greatest achievement : staying in school

Will miss : PE with Ms Casey



Alexandra Howley
"Lexi"

Likes: food

Dislikes: Mooney thinking it's ok to wipe the board with his Hilfiger jumper

Will miss : regular naps in Mooney's religion classes



Cayleigh Kavanagh
"Bunny"

Likes: bèbè peach +bèbè mario

Dislikes: TY party streak on hold

Will miss: bunnies

Greatest achievement: recruited by P.E squad

 <p>Reece Kidd <i>"Kidd"</i></p> <p>Likes: Free classes Dislikes: Everything else Will miss: School</p>	 <p>Chloe Lawlor</p> <p>Likes: Sports, Food, Music, Sleeping Dislikes: Cold weather, Assembly, The words "sold out" "on ticket master" Will miss: Mr. McAuley's singing at award ceremonies.</p>	 <p>Brian McCabe <i>"Chippy"</i></p> <p>Likes: GoT, Sherlock, "Tanks and Trains" Dislikes: Everyone equally Will miss: Every chemistry experiment failing</p>	 <p>Alan McDonald <i>"Al"</i></p> <p>Likes: free classes Dislikes: the Leaving Cert Will miss: School</p>
 <p>Ben McGowan <i>"Benzo"</i></p> <p>Likes: Sleep, capri suns, Rey Mysterio, sleep. Dislikes: any sort of contact with people, talking. Will miss: smell of bum air around lockers</p>	 <p>Mark Nolan</p> <p>Likes: Hunting Dislikes: School Greatest Achievement: Surviving Curragha NS.</p>	 <p>Joe Petherbridge</p> <p>Dislikes: School Will miss: The craic Greatest Achievement: Winning a student of the month award</p>	 <p>Sarah Sturzel <i>"Strepsil"</i></p> <p>Likes: Canada Dislikes: Bigotry Will miss: Mr. O hEochaidh's blatant republicanism</p>
 <p>Sadia Sultan <i>"Badi"</i></p> <p>Likes: Orange juice and pugs Dislikes: People & slow walkers Will Miss: BLT</p>	 <p>Michail Treize <i>"Mick"</i></p> <p>Like: Dunking videos Dislikes: People that hate on "Friends" What I'll miss: P.E with the boys</p>	 <p>Keela Walsh Fagherazzi</p> <p>Likes: Sports and Cheese Dislikes: Mornings Greatest Achievement:: Leinster Rugby Title 2015 Will Miss: Ag labhairt Gaeilge le Clurr agus Emlee</p>	 <p>Seán Walshe</p> <p>Likes: Lots of things Dislikes: Lots of things Greatest Achievement: N/A Will miss: I won't know until I miss it</p>



Aoife Whelan

Likes: being tangoed
Dislikes: fish
Will Miss: Aoife x2



Stephen Wright
"Lefty"

Likes: pollen
Dislikes: Derek spud

Rang Tracey



Ryan Tristan Samson
"Ruru"

Likes: Eating, Dogs, Sleep
Dislikes: Jerk Martian
Will Miss: An Irish Hobbit and the girl in the striped pyjamas



Enda Cahill
"endacahill10"

Likes: Red jumpers
Dislikes: Bandwagon believers
Achievements: Got 40 favourites on a tweet once



Ting Hao Chang
"Ting"

Likes: see 2015yr book
Dislikes: see 2015 yr book
Greatest Achievement: DCG Project done in 1 month.
Will miss:~"Job:Student, Work:Studying, Income:My Future."~



Eoin Corrigan
"On"

Likes: Cycling, gym and Summer Holidays.
Dislikes: Exams and Studying.
Greatest Achievements : Winning the Irish National Series 4 times.



Desmond Donnelly
"Dessie, Daisy "

Likes: Sport, Pasta, Game of Thrones
Dislikes: Sraith Pictiurs,
Greatest Achievements : Silver Gaisce
Will Miss: Mr Horan's endless lectures on passive houses



Danielle Drumm
"Duffy, Danny "

Likes: free classes
Dislikes: leaving cert. pep talks
Will miss: #reregwednesday



Conall Fagan
"Conall"

Likes::@#%* all
Dislikes: studying
Will Miss: chanting "MOOOOONNNNNNEY Y"



Zuzanna Greszczuk
"Zuzi"

Likes: Apples
Dislikes: Overcrowded areas
Will miss: Bipolar female dog and Dog Nuggets



Matthew Gunn
"Matt, Eric"

Likes:: x's and o's
Dislikes: Being 6'7", Ryan's rotten locker, Ashbourne fc.
Greatest Achievement: Rogha na Daltaí award
Will miss: The craic at the lockers, Eoins rice, Gary's coleslaw.



Alison Hennessy
"Big Alo Hennessy "

Likes: spiciness
Dislikes: Curly hair and windows
Greatest Achievement: Having an extra rib
Will miss: The prefabs



Clodagh Higgins

Likes: everything.
Greatest Achievement: life.
Will miss: everything.



Ryan Kelly
"kellier, ryano "

Likes: slapping a**ses, pinging passes
Dislikes: bleep test
Will miss: Marty Horan's T-square, Mr Walsh's textbook, Ms Donnellan's jokes



Jack Marshall

Likes: playing guitar
Dislikes: vegans
Will miss: Irish class



Rebecca McCabe
"Beccaa "

Likes: Traveling, puppies and Range Rovers
Dislikes: When people took our table at break and student of the month
Will miss: Jack and Grace (blt)



Sarah McNerney

Likes: Afternoon Naps
Dislikes: HL Maths
Will Miss: Spending mornings in the Library



Conor Nugent
"Nugey / Nugget "

Likes: Eating, Sleeping, Balling, Repeating
Dislikes: Ashbourne United
Quote: "WHAT'DYA MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE A T-SQURR" - Mr. Horan
Will miss: Football in PE, Mr. Mooney



Abbie O'Flaherty
"Abz or Dano "

Likes: Pádraig Pearse, Gerry Adams' twitter
Dislikes: Partition , Arc bar, huaraches, cup handers,
Greatest Achievement: Hasn't happened yet but a united Ireland
Will miss: English with Mr.McCarthy and Home Ec with Ms.Fee



Gary O'Reilly
"GOR, Gaz "

Likes: A good sesh, Norwich
Dislikes: Coleslaw
Will Miss: Yuss, Ordinary Irish
Greatest Achievement: My pencil case .



Rachael O'Reilly
"Rach"

Likes: DEAR classes!
Dislikes: Friday's in the canteen
Greatest Achievement: Completely theses 5 years without dropping out
Will miss: When your only seconds late and Mr. Nizzar asks 'why you so late?'



Ciarán O'Toole
"Toolbox/Demarai Gray "

Likes: Scoring 40 yard screamers and nutmegging Conor Nugent.
Dislikes: Slow walkers...
Greatest Achievement: FA Youth Cup with Brighton and Hove Albion FC u21s.
Will Miss: Football in P.E.



Taylor Quinn
"Sgt.stutter, Tay "

Likes: making ryans day a disaster, long walks on the beach.
Dislikes: session moths...;)
Will miss: 3rd years



Deena Redmond

Likes: Reading and sleeping
Dislikes: 6th year in general
Will miss: the five years this school took from me



Stephen Shaw
"Sound Man / Stebie"

Likes: Mr. Nissar
Dislikes: when Taylor says "heya"
Will miss: The craic and Mr. Nissar



John Sherlock
"Gruff"

Likes:: Budhism, oriental stuff
Dislikes:: School
Will Miss: Nothing



Dovile Sikarskaite
"dovy dov,dov "

Likes: Chats with Mr Car-ey and Mr Walsh
Dislikes: standing out in the cold during fire drills with no jackets while teachers have them on
Will miss: Blt and the radiator in the cinnire room



Alanah Webb
"Al"

Likes: Drinking Hannah's drinks
Dislikes:: Nothing



Chloe White
"Clo"

Likes: Playing guitar
Dislikes: school
Will miss: everyone

*"May the road rise up
 To meet you.*

*May the wind be always
 At your back.*

*May the sun shine warm
 upon your face.*

*May the rain fall soft
 upon your field,*

*And until we meet again.
 May God hold you in the palm of his hand."
 -A Celtic Blessing*

Na Cinnirí - Class of 2016



Back to Front (L-R): Sarah O'Driscoll, Ciarán O'Toole, Abbie Feeney, Mark Caffrey, Jonathan Browne, Jake Allen, Chris Checkley, Emily Ashmore, Aoife Whelan, Cayleigh Kavanagh, Mark Phelan, Eoghan O'Shea, Étaín Collins, Jennifer Grehan, Stephen Shaw, Taylor Quinn, Erica Blake, Keela Walsh Fagherazzi, Katie Lewis, Cathal Moore, Dovile Sikarskaite, Dylan Hannon.



Ard-Cinnirí

Class of 2016

Sarah O'Driscoll,
Mark Caffrey,
Abbie Feeney,
& Jake Allen

CLASS OF 2016 - PHOTO MEMORIES



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ





COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

MOST LIKELY TO...

Become Taoiseach:

Mark Caffrey
Abbie Feeney
Peter Donnelly
Dom Broasca



Appear on Jeremy Kyle:

Samantha Duffy
David Murphy
Mark Phelan
Joe Petherbridge

Get married:

Shauna & Cathal
Katie & Chris
Kelley & Adam C
Katie L & Jack M / God

Be arrested:

Daniel Egan
Elliot Dore Murphy
Peter Donnellu
Hannah Etukudo

Become a millionaire:

Cathal Moore
Hannah Etukudo
Fionn Smyth
Megan O'Riordan (through marriage)
Lyndsey Hageman (through marriage)

Get 625 points:

John Shannon
Niamh McLoughlin
Dovile Sikarskaite
Seán Walshe

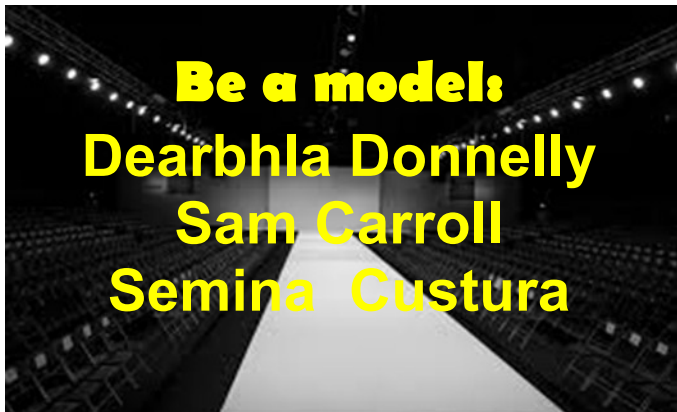
Represent Ireland in Sport:

Naoisha McAloon
Niall Murphy
Brian Joyce
Niamh McLoughlin

Join a religious order:

Nathan Mannion
Shauna Graham
Aisling Doyle
Katie Lewis

MOST LIKELY TO...



Be a model:
Dearbhla Donnelly
Sam Carroll
Semina Custura




Get plastic surgery:
 Chloe Browne
 Aoife Griffin
 Enda Cahill
 Emily Ashmore (to reconstruct her knee)



Be a cat lady:
Dessie Donnelly
Abbie Feeney
Nadia Merrigan

Retain their nickname:
 Stephen Shmú Mooney
 BOF
 Stephen 'Lefty' Wright



Win an Oscar:
 Nathan Mannion
 Mark Fanning
 Étaín Collins



Become a nobel prize winner
 Bilja Ann Thomas
 Antonina Tcencoa
 Abbie O'Flaherty
 Diana Ludsen

Live at home until 40:
 Brian Joyce
 Daniel Egan
 Donal McLarnon
 Colm Duggan



Marry several times:
Sarah O'Driscoll
Josh Newe
Michail Treize
Sadia Sultan

Memories

HIGHLIGHTS AND LOWLIGHTS FROM THE CLASS OF 2016

- THE CINNIRE ROOM BEING TAKEN OFF THE CINNIRÍ AND MARK CAFFREY SAVING THE DAY.
- THE 1ST ITALY TOUR
- THE CHINA TRIP
- THE IRISH AIR CORPS AIR AMBULANCE LANDING ON SPORTS DAY
- NUMEROUS FIRE DRILLS
- COMPLETING THE JUNIOR CERT
- MS. DONNELLAN'S FREAKOUTS OVER THE YEARBOOK
- AWARDS CEREMONIES
- THE DAY HANNAH E WAS ATTACKED BY A FOOTBALL
- PAUL FLYNN TEACHING HERE
- MR. KEANE'S TREE OUTFIT AND "CLARE-ISMS"
- ANY TIME SOMEONE DROPS A PLATE IN THE CANTEEN
- "SCHNELL, SCHNELL"
- NICK KILLIAN SPEECHES
- THE TIME MS. PRENDERGAST WAS PUSHED OFF THE STAGE
- ASSEMBLY
- THE FUN, THE CRAIC, THE FRIENDS AND THE LAUGHTER

Rang Brennan



To my Brennan babies,

Wow 5 years we've made it! It's really hard to believe that it's that long ago since I called out the 30 names that would become Rang Brennan, I've watched you grow from little first years not able to open the lock on your lockers to the mature and distinctive young adults you are today.

After 3rd year we lost some of the original members of Rang Brennan and inherited 16 new babies, at first it was daunting to me to try and get to know all of you but that first day back in 5th year after a quick round of speed dating I started to get to know you, we were delighted to accept them into Rang Brennan and straight away they became part of the family.

Tutorial time has been as much of an education for me as it has for you. Where I really got to know each and every personality and learnt so much, for example, the art of perfect make up with Shauna; watching how to do the latest hair-do with Niamh Mc and Carla; hearing about the newest filters on snap chat from Cassidy; the newest games with Peter; which to add I was useless at, the craic with Nedas and Adam; Fionn-the guy who can walk on his hands; never let Kevin to buy you a Christmas present; Emily, Roberta and Hannah the amazing Artists; The most chilled out person I know-Leslie (except for the day of the graphs); Kelley-The lady; The Rock stars with Nathan, Brian and Darragh; Lovely to see you Elliott!; Bilja 'BAT'-such enthusiasm; Megan-Always smiling; Daniel- Oozes Coolness; Eimear- An Lú Abú; Dearbhla-amazing ability; Niamh M- such potential; Samantha-Hopefully one day will hear her play!; And never trusting Katie and Christopher with your iPad at assembly.

I have really enjoyed being a Caomhnóir to you all, and very privileged to have had the opportunity to work with such wonderful people.

I wish you all the best of luck & success in the future and thanks for the memories. xxx

Donna- Marie Brennan (Miss B)

Rang Carey



We've had a lot of highs and I've had to teach a lot of you how to tie your ties. I've listened to your fears, I've shared in your cheers (particularly on sports day), Some days I've even helped to wipe away some tears...

Over the last five/six years I've been very lucky to get to know some truly incredible people. Twenty of you have been with me since first year and you were joined by nine more fantastic students in fifth year.

Both collectively and as individuals all twenty nine of you have honestly taught me to be a better teacher and a better person. You've taught me to care more and you've taught me the importance of recognising each and every student as an individual. I've admired your determination, your stubbornness, your perseverance and your creativity.

I hope you all recognise the truly positive effect you have had on me, on each other and on Ratoath College. You have shared a lot of laughs together and I've no doubt that you've made some lifelong friendships. I know each and every one of you is going to be a success no matter what journey you take as I have seen the proof that that you all have the talent and the drive to succeed.

One thing I hope that you take away from our journey together is to look after yourself and each other. I've always tried to instil in you the importance of minding yourself both physically and mentally, this truly is a lifelong thing and it's as easy as simply taking time out to sit and have a cup of tea and a chat with someone.

So to Jake, Calvin, Erica, Dom, Sam, Róisín, Daniel, Rebecca, Niamh, Katie, Simina, Sean, Rachael, Caoimhe, Diana, Stephen, Fionnuala, Nicole, Gavin, Eoin, Eoghan, Shauna, Shane, Ciara, Aaron, Antonina, Adriana, Ana and Pierce...thanks for the memories.

Ger Carey

Rang Giblin



I remember the day I was asked by Miss Sweeney to take on the role of Leaving Cert Applied caomhnóir. It wasn't the only significant event to occur in Co Meath that day as Tayto Park announced they were going to build Ireland's first rollercoaster.

Looking back on the last two years, the journey we experienced has been very similar to the rollercoaster in Tayto Park. We had ups and downs, we had moments of mixed emotions but thankfully like the rollercoaster we've stayed on track. Although a daunting experience at the beginning we have now successfully completed our journey together. It has been a fantastic experience for me as a teacher and as a person. Not only have I had the pleasure of watching you grow into the wonderful young adults you are today but I've also noticed myself growing up along with you.

When I look back on my time with Rang Giblin, there are a few memories that spring to mind. Some which I wouldn't consider highlights, like that infamous first student of the month award...sorry again Ivan! And of course some which I do like when I got to settle a few scores paintballing during a class trip.

Rang Giblin is a class full of personalities and I was always greeted with a "Good Morning Sir" and the odd "What's the craic?" not mentioning any names (Dean!). I've no doubt that these personalities will flourish as you move on with the next stage of your life. Some of you will thrive in jobs which allow flexi time, as in school you always stood up for what you believed in and didn't conform with the need to commence work at a regular time. More of you will prosper in positions which allow you to speak your mind as you were never afraid to tell me exactly what you thought...often of me!!

In a couple of weeks you will sit your Leaving Cert exams and you will be identified by an exam number (which I hope you've learned off at this stage). However, this number does not define who you are. It is your personality, your qualities, the way you treat others that define you as a person.

I am immensely proud of my time spent as a caomhnóir to this group of students over the last two years. I sincerely wish you as a class the very best of luck as you start a new chapter in life. Be yourself, be happy, be confident, be the best that you can be, and most importantly "be sound".

Mr. Giblin

Rang Grogan



When I was asked to be a caomhnóir, I was hesitant at first but now I can truly say that I feel honoured to have had my name associated with this group of young people for the last three years. Throughout this journey, I have been unbelievably fortunate to have met, worked with and gotten to know such an amazing group. We have seen a lot of changes to Rang Grogan; losing some students to TY, LCA and Rang Smith(!) but in their place gaining some amazing personalities. I have been one of the luckier caomhnóirí. Not only have I been greeted with a friendly "Morning" every morning but I also have had the pleasure of teaching you all for the last two years.

For the last two years especially, I have felt nothing but pride when speaking to a teacher or parent or anybody about a student from Rang Grogan. From the five cinnirí that were selected from our rang to the students who have been nominated for subject award at Student of the Month, our very talented musicians and singers, our sports stars, our budding scientists and engineers, our future business men and women, those of you I may see back here one day. Even those who kept quietly under the radar, every single one of you have made an impact in Ratoath College. I hope you will look back on your time here and feel proud that your years here have helped shape the people that you have become.

As a group I have seen each and every one of you change and grow into amazing young adults. The care and compassion that you show each other is second to none. Friendships have strengthened, bonds have been built but most importantly you all share one thing in common and that is that for two years, you were all part of Rang Grogan. I have been amazed by your constant support for each other, your willingness to help each other and the way you have looked out for each other. The strength and determination that some of you have shown, along with your ability to reflect and adjust to different struggles have really inspired me to focus on my own personal goals and for that I want to thank you.

I wish each and every one of you nothing but happiness and fulfilment in all that your future brings. Never settle for anything less that you deserve and if something doesn't work out as you've planned, don't be afraid to make some changes in your life. Everything happens for a reason but if you strive to achieve greatness, then greatness is what you'll get. Remember the wise words of the legend that is Winnie the Pooh, "You are braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you believe".

Ms. Grogan

Rang Mooney



One of the greatest lessons of history is that nothing remains static. The one constant is change. Despite knowing this I can't believe it is time to say goodbye and go our separate ways. Like every goodbye it is never easy. Parting and change bring sadness and why wouldn't it? You have spent five or six fantastic years together playing, laughing and learning. But as one journey is about to end a new and exciting one is about to begin. Your graduation is a reflection and celebration of the great memories and times you shared together.

Our journey together began in 3rd year with the transition from Rang Hitalambeau to Rang Mooney. From the moment I met you I knew you were a very special group of talented young people from artists, academics, musicians sports stars and so much more. However, instead of me guiding you, you showed me the ropes and helped me settle in! From hairstyle and fashion tips to samples of your creations from the Home Ec room! And who can forget the chants on Sports Day!

Along the way we lost many of the original gang to TY and LCA but gained some new "legends" to the family who added a new dimension to the group. As your Caomhnóir you have given me so much enjoyment and fulfilment. I always looked forward to Wednesday mornings to listen to how you got on during the week, to hear your achievements and sharing a laugh (even if it was mostly at my expense!). Student of the Month and Prize giving were always a celebration of the wonderful sporting, academic and cultural talents you possessed. But what always impressed me most about you was your camaraderie and togetherness and how you looked out for one another. I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to get to know such a wonderful group of young men and women. I am so proud of each and every one of you. I will genuinely miss you all but I know you will be a success wherever you go. To Chloe, Jack, Orla, Adam, Thapelo, Nicole, Alannah, Mark, Abbie, Fiachra, Ross, Dylan, Amy, Brian, Brandon, Lara, Alanna, Ciara, Ciaran, Darragh, Aisling, Niall, Aine, Cathal, Jack, Adam, Leigh, Sadhbh, and Luke. I want to wish you every success and happiness in the future. It is such an exciting time for you.

Thanks for the memories now go take the world by storm!

Mr. Mooney

Rang O'Dwyer



It's hard to believe that five years have slipped by since I was reading out the Rang O'Dwyer class list on the first day of first year. Hard to believe that the nervous, shy first years who sometimes shed tears over trying to get their lockers open have grown into the confident group of young adults who are sitting here today.

We lost many of our original class members through leaving (Daria, Lara, Holly, Kayleigh) and also through LCA and transition year. They were very definitely missed within the group; but we gained fourteen new class members who turned out to be a terrific bunch of students.

We are nearly at the finishing line now. Only a matter of weeks to go before the Leaving Cert is over. It's worth acknowledging that this is a tough year for most students. There has been a lot of pressure on you. Pressure that I certainly didn't have when I was in school. You have been an incredible support to each other over these last five years. I really urge you to keep those friendships going when you leave Ratoath. Speaking from experience, there aren't too many things in life better than the friends that you have known since you were twelve.

I think we all feel a slight twinge of jealousy as we see you heading off to start on a new and exciting phase of your lives. I wish you success and happiness in whatever path you choose. It's been a pleasure to have been your caomhnóir. I am very proud of you all.

Finally, a brief word on the legacy left behind by our classmate Jake (the diamond) Lynch. In his honour Ms Prendergast has decided that the year after next, on every Wednesday, all the students of Ratoath College will be allowed to leave school after period eight.....

All the best,

Ms O'Dwyer

Rang Smith



To my fabulous Smith-heads,

It has been an absolute pleasure to have been attached to you for the last 5 or even 2 years. It seems like a lifetime ago when you were sitting in the hall with me standing on the stage calling in the flock! And at the same time, the years have flown. We have been through so much over the years – building friendships, understanding new subjects, adapting to change, finding our way through friendships and figuring out relationships with different teachers. We’ve turned to each other at different times for help and support and I’m delighted to see how you’ve pulled together through it all. You have grown into independent young adults and I’m proud to watch you leave knowing you’re ready to face the adventures that lie ahead.

I hope you enjoyed your years in Ratoath College and are leaving with proud achievements. Perhaps you’ve been nominated or won an award of some kind, perhaps a teacher noticed an effort you made, sent home a nice postcard or commended you on something. Perhaps you participated in the musical, talent show, fundraisers or clubs that were on offer. Maybe you were part of a sporting team, helped us to win the Mini Olympics or reached out and helped a student in need. It could be you never missed a day of school or had a week of positive comments. No matter what these achievements are – big or small – they’re yours and you should be pleased with them. Soon it will be time to set new goals to strive towards, so for now remember and be proud. I hope you’re leaving with fond memories of the many experiences you have had here. I know you’ve left me with loads. Mostly proud ones – like the infinite amount of good notes, the toasted sambos at lunch in first year, winning the mini Olympics and the obstacle course, your amazing JC results and soon your LC results too. I’m particularly proud of all your awards and nominations over the years – I clapped extra loud and felt a little jump of excitement for every one – and felt the need to say “they’re mine!” to whoever I was sitting with. You really are a remarkable group of people and I will continue to sing your praises long after you’ve gone. You’ve made me laugh at the creative ways you referenced our flying ducks symbol, whether it’s in hanging ornaments, plastic toys, cake or charms, it was great to see you all embrace the duck! What about the pizza party we had at the end of 5th year when Angelica and Raquel left us to return home for studies. The best ones were the random ones though – like running Fairyhouse in fancy dress (really onesies?), ice pops at the end, selfies, the bus breaking down on our DSPCA trip – there’s just so many! Who will ever forget the day Dean’s can of coke exploded all over the room? Priceless!!

Congratulations on your graduation. It really is a wonderful achievement and hopefully you’ll all look back on this time with pride and happiness. You made it through the five or six years here, and did it in style! There were tears, rows and challenges but you handled them and came out a stronger person the other side. We lost a few to TY and others who moved away, but they will always be Smith Heads through and through. We fostered a few along the way, whether it was on trips away or just randomly joining us in assembly – and they’re always welcome of course! To the adopted new recruits from 5th Year, I want to thank you for joining us with such energy and enthusiasm and I hope you always felt welcome. You’ve made a fantastic contribution to the class and to the school as a whole.

You will all continue your journey in many different directions, and the future is yours to take advantage of. Learn from the past; plan for the future but live for today. So many great opportunities lie ahead of you, and I’m sure you’ll return in years to come with amazing stories. Embrace every opportunity, travel, enjoy your new independence and remember to call home!

Ms. Smith

Rang Treacy



At the end of last summer I apprehensively agreed to take on the role of 6th year Caomhnóir . Having not done the job before or knowing the class I was taking on, I didn't really know what was in store. However, I needn't have worried because I really landed on my feet with Rang Mc Tiernan and I couldn't have gotten a better class! I was extremely lucky to have been handed a truly wonderful group of students, who are all mannerly, mature and respectful. It has been a memorable experience to have gotten to know the 26 wonderful individual people in the class. I am so happy to have had the opportunity to meet you and watch you progress over the year as confident and capable adults, gifted in academics, sport, music, arts and many other fields.

I hope you have enjoyed your time in Ratoath College and that you are leaving with great memories of the many experiences that you have here. I hope you have learned a lot from your experience here and carry this forward with you into the future and it helps in whatever you do next.

I wish you the very best of luck for June and with whatever path you are choosing to take next.

R. Treacy

Congratulations to Rang Treacy on reaching your graduation from Ratoath College. Hasn't time flown by??!!!! It's hard to believe that five / six years ago you came through the doors of Ratoath College as quiet, timid (some not so timid J) and enthusiastic little first years and now you are now leaving as mature young adults about to embark on your new journey.

You made strong friendships in your time in school, ones that I hope will last a lifetime. Your bubbly personalities and friendly smiles captured everybody. Don't lose these qualities!!!

You were a fantastic bunch to be around and I was so happy and proud to be your Caomhnóir for four years.

I wish each of you all the health, happiness and success in the world. Follow your dreams, live life to the full, travel the world, don't have any regrets and above all, be safe! In the words of Nora Roberts: *'If you don't go after what you want, you'll never have it. If you don't ask, the answer is always no. If you don't step forward, you're always in the same place.'*

Best of luck in June, I'm sure all the hard work will pay off. I hope you all get what you want and are happy. Keep the heads down over the coming weeks and keep focussed but most of all look after yourselves.

Le grá,

F. McTiernan (& T.Dogg J)



One day in Ratoath College

10th Birthday Celebrations



Enda Byrne reflects on a milestone year for Ratoath College and how we celebrated it!:

In May 2005 the wheels were set into motion for the establishment and opening of a secondary school in Ratoath. Ten years later a lot has changed. From our

humble beginnings as a small group of sixty six students based in the executive suite of the Fairyhouse Racecourse to where we are today. A community of well over a thousand members, all of us looking out for one another. We have our own purpose built school building with part two, the school extension, on the way.

We seen people come and go, had many successes on the sporting field and in cultural zones. Talent Shows and musicals have been performed, each one better and more jaw-dropping than the last. We have come a long way!



On the 27th of November 2015 the entire school community, past pupils, staff and special guests came together to celebrate Ratoath College turned ten years old and all of the different aspects that have been achieved. It was a day full of joy and celebratory spirit.

We began the day by gathering outside the school where our Green Schools Flag, our School Flag, and the National Tricolour were raised by Mr. Ball, Ms. O'Dwyer and Ms. Dervan—who started working her

10 years ago, assisted by the cinnirí. Members of the Irish Army piping band accompanied the raising of the flags before playing Amhrán na bhFiann. Students commented that they felt a pride in being part of Ratoath College that they had never felt before during these few moments.

After the flags had been raised, we made our way into the beautifully decorated P.E. Hall for Diamonds of Awards and commemoration ceremony. On the way we passed art exhibitions and displays of pictures and memories from the last 10 years. The ceremony, although long was interesting as the people who worked



to build and create our school community spoke of their memories of the beginnings. Funny tales and jokes were shared by teachers, past pupils, Board of Management and Parents' Association

members. It was uplifting and heart warming to hear the amazing speeches coming from all of the people who helped build our school and who shaped it into the great community that it is today.

Along with reminiscing on times past our ears were delightfully entertained by the musical talents of past and present students. Ms. Kilrane led the assembled crowd through a special awards ceremony—The Diamond Awards—as one student was recognized in every class for their efforts in making our lives a little brighter. Three members of staff were also awarded the Diamond Award, Ms. Dervan, Mr. O'Toole and Fr. PJ as without their presence Ratoath College would be a less sparkly place.

Now no birthday celebration would be complete without a cake and when Ms. Ní Bhroithe and Nick Killian cut into a specially designed cake the crowd were moved to sing 'Happy Birthday' spontaneously. A truly moving and memorable occasion.

The ten year anniversary made us all realise what we really are. Not just a school, but a close family. We all face good times, and we may face bad times, but no matter what we face we face it together. Looking out for one another at all times and with a positive, caring and courteous attitude. Here's to the next ten years which will, without a doubt, be just as good as the first!



10 years of Ratoath College



TERRIFIC TALENT!

Jacob Leszkiewicz reports:

Ratoath College hosted their 9th annual Talent Show this February and it turned out to be a marvellous show. With last year winner Conor Brady opening the show with the song "Time" by Pink Floyd. This year's panel of judges consisted of Ms. Prendergast, Ms. Jackson, Conor Brady and Denise Brady, an amazing experienced local singer.



This is an extremely great opportunity for every performer and artist in our school, weather its acting, dancing, singing or even visual arts with designing the Talent show ticket. It is guaranteed that anyone will find a place with in the Talent show whether it's on stage or behind it!

This year was like no other with over 20 outstanding acts chosen from the hundreds who auditioned. They all deserved to raise the trophy but unfortunately only one act could be the winner. When the big night arrived, the performances were out of this world. Sisters Sarah and Hazel O'Driscoll set the standard really high in the first half performing "Dancing On My Own" originally



sung by Swedish artist Robyn, Orla Hayes kicked off her dancing shoes with beautiful Irish dancing to the "King of the Faeries", then our breaths were

taken with Emma Scattergood who had composed her own song and played it on the piano. And obviously our two first half presenters, Hannah McLean and Enda Byrne kept the crowd entertained



throughout wearing their fabulous sweaters?! A new trend entering the school? I think we have enough with strawberry pullovers!

Moving on to the second half of the show which was presented by the two amazing hosts Ciara Byrne and David Collins was when the pressure really started to cumulate, contestants had a great competition and it wasn't love that was in the air this time it was nerves, fear and competitiveness.

Kicking it off with an astonishing performance was a group made up off Ciara Moran, Jack Marshal, Brian McCabe and Ella McCabe. WOW! We seemed to have siblings power this year. They sang "Love Like This" by Kodaline and everyone loved it!





The delightful Ailbhe Caprani and wonderful Clíodhna Moore did a mash up of seven songs including "Stitches" By Shawn Mendes, "Love Yourself" by Justin Bieber and "Skinny Love" by Birdy.

They both have taken part in previous talent shows and their polished performance was clearly outstanding!

With the audience already on their edge of their seat with the fab talent, the powerful voice of Leah Barniville completely knocked their socks off! She performed "Parla Piu Piano" from the



It seems like the students set the standard higher every year. Next year will be mind blowing!



classic movie "The Godfather". It was an astonishing performance leaving the audience and judges reeling.

Overall this year's Talent Show was very successful with Emma Scattergood winning a prize for the best newcomer. Daniel Gallagher, Dante Macari and Daniel Doody in fourth place, *Near the Belgian Border* came third, Sarah and Hazel O'Driscoll in second place and in first place the one and only Leah Barniville!



Special thanks to Ms. Flynn, Ms. Dalton, Ms. Garrett and Ms. Heneghan without who the Talent Show wouldn't happen along with all the other teachers and the wonderful Transition Year students who gave up their time to help out on this special night!





COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

The Dans

After their amazing début at the school Talent Show and subsequent prize win we caught up with the Dans to see how life was treating them since. Between the back-to-back recording slots, hectic autograph schedules and difficulty getting in touch with them due to crazed fans we could only ask five questions before their burly bodyguard threw us out. No new pictures were allowed.

Continue reading to catch up on all the goss from RC's latest boyband!



1. So Dans how has your life change since you took part in the Talent Show?

Dan D: Dramatically. Dante bought a Lamborghini with his winnings, Daniel G has made some bad investments which bankrupt him (He got advice Mr. Connolly) While I sent my mother on a shopping expedition.

2. Why did you decide to get involved in the Talent Show?

Dante: Ms. Garret basically gave us no choice, it was that or quit music altogether. Then Dan D heard some of the other contestants and thought we were in with a good chance. Thankfully everything went right on the night and we came home with the illustrious 1st year prize!!

3. Have many people come up to you since to ask for your autograph?

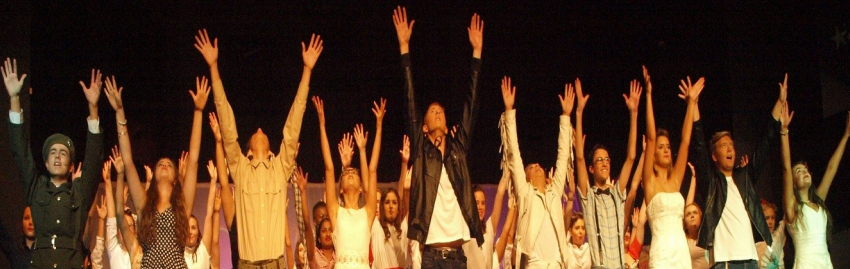
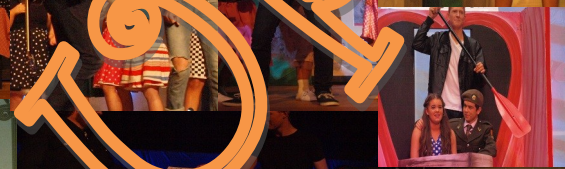
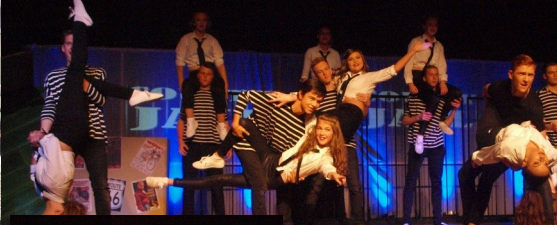
Dan G: Countless. I've signed foreheads, biceps, someone got a tattoo of my signature and another 5th student has a tattoo of Dante's face. It's weird but we're thrilled to have such an enthusiastic fan base.

4. We heard you performed at the LMETB Musical Extravaganza recently how much were paid?

Dante: We can't disclose that sum but we want everyone to know that we donated 50% of it to charity.

5. When is your 1st album, being released?

Dan D: March 2017—We just need to finish a few studio recordings and remixes first. It's available for pre-order on iTunes now!



All Shook Up!



This year our school performed the musical *All Shook Up*. *All Shook Up* is about a small town girl called Natalie with big dreams. She falls for the new stud in town, Chad, and

goes to great lengths to win his heart. The musical has a great range of characters from the shy nerd Dennis to sassy independent Sylvia. The show is completely set to the music of Elvis Presley and has a real rock and roll vibe to it

The whole cast learned to put on a good show. We had to rehearse... a lot! We began rehearsals at the start of the school year and the hours everyone put in really paid off in the end. Mr Ward and Ms Dalton dedicated so much time and effort into the show which the whole cast really appreciated. Mr Ward did threaten to end our lives on one occasion if we didn't stop talking but just told him, "Don't be Cruel"...

The show itself was spectacular from

the explosive opening number Jailhouse Rock to the amazing closing number Burning Love. *All Shook Up* was fabulous from the stage, the lighting, the music and props. We had an



enthusiastic backstage crew who ensured that everything ran smoothly. We experienced so many new things during the show that many of the cast were not use to, such as quick costume changes, complicated dance routines, tricky scene changes and having a large microphone drop in the middle of your song!

Nothing compared, however, to the feeling of pride at the end of the show when we took our bows. We loved every minute on stage! From the backstage crew, to the leading stars, to the chorus, a tremendous amount of work was what made *All Shook Up* the show that everyone "Couldn't help falling in love with"!



Shooting Stars

Under the superior leadership of Mr. Gibson the U13 boys soccer team had an excellent year, reaching the league final. The team beat Dunshaughlin 5-0 in their first match thanks to a brilliant team performance. Evan Weir, Seán Buchanan and Ewan McNally scored the goals on the day.

The team then got the chance to play in Oriel Park, home of League of Ireland champions Dundalk, where they earned a 1-1 draw with De La Salle. Ewan McNally got himself on the scoresheet again

semifinals.

The semi-final saw Ratoath produce their best performance of the year.

Some outstanding football saw the lads beat a strong Trim team 4-0. Ewan McNally in sensational form, scoring all four goals while rock solid displays from Aaron Kelly and Seán Lynch in particular saw Ratoath keep a clean sheet at the other end.

Ratoath left no stone unturned in preparation for the final against St Mary's of Drogheda but it just wasn't to be on the day. St Mary's scored early from a corner and despite Ratoath having the majority of possession and territory for the remainder of the game, they just couldn't find that elusive equaliser. Reflecting on the match afterwards, the team were pleased with how they performed on the day and know that if they stick together as a team and show the same commitment and work rate that they showed this year, they will have a chance to reach



Team celebrates after beating local rivals DunShaughlin

and a solid defensive performance ensured the team got the point they needed to finish as group winners and qualify directly for the



Judo Champ

5th year LCA student Ihar Kirsanov has been making waves in the Judo world with a string of prize wins. Since bursting onto the scene in 2011 he has brought home 21 silver, 1 gold and 5 bronze medals. The future is bright for Ihar as he prepares for the next big Judo championship! Best of luck!

GAA... all the way

A disappointing year for Boys GAA but they've set the groundwork for next year.

Peter Barry reports:

Senior Boys: The senior boy's Gaelic team didn't have the best of years compared to last year's achievement of getting into the Leinster final. They showed great gaelic skills though and have set the foundation for a successful football year next year. Best for



the Senior Boys were Connell Ahearne, Sean Keogh and Leigh Sullivan. Thanks to Mr. Mooney for his dedication in training and managing the team.

U16: The under 16 boys didn't proceed past the qualifying stages of the league this year with loses to Ashbourne and Dunboyne. Daithí McGowan played a leading role in taking charge and controlling the centre of the field.



They still played some great football and got a strong win over Dunshaughlin. Thanks to Mr. ÓhEochaidh for his time and effort working with the team.

U14: The under 14 boys didn't achieve that much this year with a few loses but there was a couple of good performances. Luke Newe, Jack Flynn and Tiarnan Ahearne put in good effort and performances for the team. Thanks to Mr. Moreton and Mr. Farrell for their commitment in helping the team this year.

Fresh Kicks...

Under the magnificent and inspiring leadership of Fr. PJ the first year GAA team had a good year of Gaelic football. Early in the year they went all the way in a Blitz final in Dunaganny but they were narrowly defeated by a few measly points. However after a rigorous training schedule throughout the winter they went on to victory in the home ground Ratoath GAA Club. They are a team to watch out for in the future. Best for Ratoath this year were Aaron Davis, Evan Quinn and Luke Neville. Thanks to Father PJ,

Jake McGovern and Simon Barry for their work with the team.



Hurlin' Headlines

This year was a mighty successful year for hurling in Ratoath College. Both our U16 and U18 teams made it to semi-finals. However in our U18 semi-final against St. Peter's Dunboyne we lost heavily. This was partly down the Currageha players being out of action due to their involvement in the Leinster Junior Football Championship.

Our U16 team advanced to a North Leinster semi-final. In horrendous weather a Westmeath team adapted to the conditions better than us and they eventually ran out easy winners.

The real jewel in the Hurling crown was the U14 team who are currently in rigorous training for their final against Athboy. Two massive wins have paved the way for this team with a whopping 43 pt. win over St. Peter's Dunboyne and a 7 goal 10 pt. win over St. Pat's. There are strong

performances put in by all with a special mention to Capt. Cathal Sherlock, Marc Donnelly, Fionn Murphy and Luke Newe.

Overall it was a good season, with many good performances. Many thanks to the hurling legends Mr. Mc McCarthy and Mr. Moreton for all their hard work and effort with all the hurling teams this year.



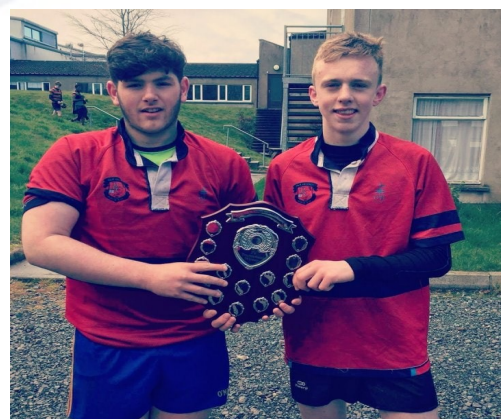
The curse is lifting?

Junior boys: The junior boys performed really well this season even with the set back of the TYs not being able to play. They built up their skills but sadly they didn't return home with any silverware. We have high hopes for next season as they will come back stronger and more fierce.

Senior boys: The senior boys really stepped it up this season but with a rocky start they were sadly beaten in the second round of the cup. There are currently working hard to get our affairs in order and get further in the Rugby Tournament.

The TY's attended a 7's tournament in Drogheda Grammar School. After a defeat in the first game

spurred the team on. We pulled ourselves together and beating all others to bring the only rugby award home to school for 15/16.



Catch us if you can...

Athletics

The school athletics team was coached by Ms. Buckley and Ms. Devaney this year. Athletics is a very self-rewarding activity but takes a lot of dedication and commitment. Athletics is a challenging sport but the more practice you put in, the more you get out of it. It is very self-satisfying when you have a good run.

The athletics season began with cross country. The first race of the year was held in Oldcastle, Co. Meath. It was a good start for the school athletics team. Mark Nolan had a great race, finishing in 3rd place, Karen Hayes had a fantastic race, coming in 2nd place and Rafael Mc Caffrey was unfortunate to finish just outside the medals in 4th place in his race.



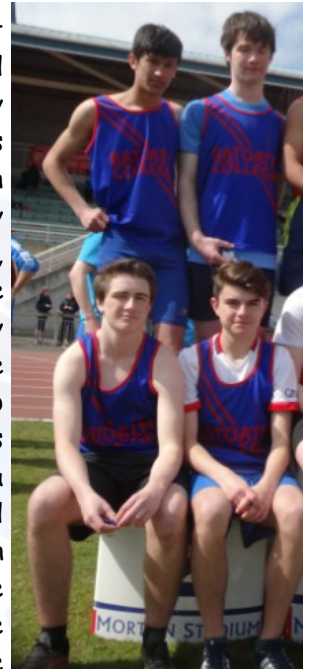
Next on the agenda was an open race in Dunboyne. There was huge competition here, with schools travelling great distances to compete. Aine O'Connor had a brilliant race in the senior girls 2500m, finishing very comfortably in 1st place, Karen Hayes was on the podium once again, finishing very strongly in 2nd place and Niamh Gannon came 7th in her race...another good day in the office for Ratoath College runners!

The North Leinsters took place in ALSAA, where Karen Hayes and Aine O'Connor both qualified for the Leinster Final in Santry. John Redmond was a very welcome addition to the junior boys team, leading them home and finishing very high up the field in his first ever cross country race. An honourable mention must go to Matthew Hayes who lost a shoe mid race but continued on running...he was not to be deterred by the mud!

Karen and Aine represented Ratoath in the Leinster final and both put in very gallant performances and finished very well in races with huge numbers of athletes. Well done girls!

With the slightly warmer weather came the start of track and field season and all of the athletes who were too faint-hearted to do cross country decided to join us in training! On 8th April 30 athletes boarded the bus to the first Track & Field event of the year. We had a

wonderful day out and swept up medals left, right and centre. Matthew Buckley dominated the field in his 100m heat and final and won with ease. Darragh Casey came 2nd in the high jump, 2nd in long jump and 3rd in the 100m. Not to be out done by the boys, the female sprinters also came up trumps. Emma O'Connell was 2nd in the 80m with Emma Coroner doing the 100m and long jump double. Karen Hayes was first up in the middle distance events in the junior girls age group. She



had two superb races and finished first in both the 800m and 1500m. Aine O'Connor ran in the senior girls 1500m and ran a great race to finish comfortably in 1st place. Following a 2nd place in the 500m, Matthew Hayes showed no sign of tiredness to finish 3rd in the 1100m. John Redmond came 2nd in the 800m after putting in a very gutsy battle all the way to the line. Our field athletes were next to try their luck. Rafael Mc Caffrey came 1st in the long jump and 3rd in the high jump. Zara Kane was 2nd in the high jump, Grace Mahon had a huge throw in the minor girls shot putt, finishing 2nd and finally our senior representative, Aaron Phelan finished 3rd in the long jump with a great performance. The North Leinster Championships was our next big day of competition. Rafael Mc Caffrey got proceedings off to a great start by finishing 3rd in the 80m hurdles. He followed this up with a PB and school record of 5.46m to claim the junior boys long jump.



Darragh Casey was 2nd in the same event. Matthew Buckley won his second schools title with yet another impressive run when taking gold in the 100m. He came up against some top quality competition in his final and was only beaten in a dip to the line to finish 2nd. Emma Coroner ran a great race to finish 2nd in the 100m. Karen Hayes picked up where she left off in the Meath Championships with a gutsy run to finish 2nd in the 1500m and followed on soon after with a PB in the high jump to finish in 3rd place. Aaron Phelan was 3rd in the triple jump and the surprise of the day was Luke Farrell's PB to claim silver in the shot putt. The last event of the day, and without doubt the most exciting was the junior boys 4x100m relay final. It was a thrilling battle between Ratoath and St. Aidan's from the gun to the finish line with Rafael, John, Darragh and Matthew giving it everything they had. We were pipped at the post but fear not, we will make amends in the Leinster Final before the year is out! On that note, we would like to wish our best to all of the athletes who

have qualified for the Leinster Final in the coming weeks....good luck everyone!

We encourage anyone with an interest in running, field events, fitness or those who want to run for the craic to join and come to training every Monday after school.



Grogan's Gals

Girls Gaelic 2015/2016

Katie Newe commentates:

Senior Girls: Sarah McNerney led the senior girls off to a great start with an easy win over St Olivers, Oldcastle. The next team St Finians, Mullingar, however, were tough and challenging and despite the Ratoath girls giving it 100%, St. Finians were the stronger team on the day and the Senior team's journey ended.

Junior Girls: The junior girls team had a great start to the year beating both St Olivers, Oldcastle and St. Peters, Dunboyne. As a result they came top of their group with the most amount of points. The next obstacle that came into their way was a play-off against O'Carolan College, Nobber. Luckily the girls played a winning game leading them to the quarter final. Ashbourne Community School proved to be too tough on the day, RC held their heads high and were happy with their performance. Many thanks to Sean Johnston, Niall McLarnon and Ruairi Crawford for their guidance coaching of the Junior and Senior ladies' teams.

U14: Although we had many of the U14s out training all year with the senior team and the calibre of the team was highly skilled, the girls had a tough group. The first match showed a brave battle against O'Carolan College, Nobber. Unforeseen circumstances meant that our second

match against De Lacy was unable to be played and our run at the league was over. Better luck next year girls! Huge thanks to the wonderful coaches of the U14 team; Judy Bobbett, Katie Newe, Hannah Talbot and Leah Farrell.

Jake McGovern and Paul Donnelly also played a key role, working with all our teams; setting up, umpiring and also encouraging. Ms Grogan and Ms Casey were really impressed that the boys continued to help out by staying after school with the u14s and giving up their free time for the love of the sport.

Onwards and Upwards to next year.



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Swish!

This year has been an exceptional year for girls basketball in Ratoath. Before Christmas the U16 girls were narrowly beaten in the North East semi- finals. The U19 girls just missed on the semi finals. Both teams played fantastic games and showed great team spirit. Next year will be very exciting for both age groups.

After Christmas we had even more success with both the first year and second year girls finishing top of their groups. In an unfortunate and disappointing turn of events the first year girls had to forfeit their semi final match due to broken baskets in the gym. However the second year girls made it to the final in Gormanstown in April. The final was so exciting as we were losing by 10 points at half time. In the second half the girls dug deep and came back to win by 6 points to become Second Year girls North East champions. Absolutely brilliant!



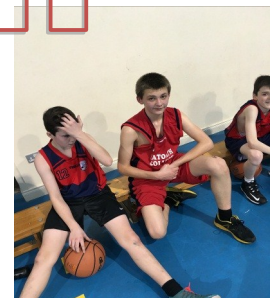
Swimtastic

The swimming team is continuing to grow and improve every year. This year at the Schools gala Max Davenport came 3rd in the 100meters Breaststroke and David Tyrrell came 2nd in the 200 meters I.M. and the girls did great in the 2 relays. Members of the swim team are: Aoife Cosgrove, Max Davenport, Rachel Doherty, Laoise Murphy, Laoise O'Reily and David Tyrrell.



Boys' b-ball

Boys' basketball had an unfortunate year and narrowly missed out in a league place. However with a change in management mid-year and now under the guidance of the dream team Coach Walsh and Coach Leonard whose late night tactical meetings have put a plan in place ably carried out by junior trainers Alex, Sam and Matthew Boy's Basketball is sure to sweep the court and bring home the silverware next year!



Mr. Walsh eating his chicken curry while coaching!

The English Department

The mission of the English Department in 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 November Leaving Certificate students travelled to the Smock Alley Theatre in Dublin for a production of 'King Lear'. While our Junior

Certificate students also went on a trip to the theatre, The Venue, for a production of 'Romeo and Juliet'. We hope to inspire our students with a love of the Arts and trips to the theatre provide us with a wonderful opportunity to do this.

Students really enjoyed this highly imaginative and dynamic performances. All agreed that their understanding of the dramas had been greatly enhanced and it was fantastic preparation for their final exams. One student commented, "It brought to life what we had studied in the classroom!" We intend to make trips to the theatre an annual event.

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.

We wish the students of 2016 success in their exams and look forward to continuing on our literary journey with all students in August.



Save the animals

Hazel-Jane Meehan & Nadine Fogarty look back:
On the 23rd of February Rang Donnellan took their CSPE trip to the DSPCA. All second year classes had decided to take this trip as part of their CSPE action project for their Junior Cert.

The Dublin Society For Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA) works closely with the Government and the Irish Veterinary Association. to enforce legislation and improve the lives of all animals.

The SPCA is over 170 years old and were established in 1840. Richard Brennan was one of the first founders. He was known as a good landlord and he looked after his tenants by not taking rent off of them during the famine. He disliked people who abused animals. If anyone abused animals he would put them out on an island for a month as a punishment.

When we visited the DSPCA we began the jam-packed day by having a talk from a lovely woman named Gillian. She explained how the shelter saved some of the animals now in their care.

They follow 4 R's to protect the animals:

Rescue

Rehabilitation

Release

Re-home

The main campaign that they promote is 'Adopt, don't buy' and just last year about 3500 animals came through the DSPCA.

They have a wide variety of animals in the shelter like dogs, cats, donkeys, horses, goats, pigs, geese and many others. Anyone is able to adopt a pet at the shelter, you receive a booklet and information about the pet you adopted, you can adopt any of the animals at the shelter. The prices of adoption vary between €30 and €50.

The DSPCA costs about 2million a year and 5% comes from the government. Most of this money goes towards the animals. Not many staff are actually paid as most of them are volunteers. They aren't paid from taxes from the county council so all of their income is made up through donations, fundraisers and adoptions. On the day our favourite animal was a dog named Boo.

Boo is a Jack Russell and is ready to be re-homed. He is about 12 weeks old. He is suitable for a home with teenagers and adults. He is small but has a lot of energy. Since he is only a puppy he needs to be toilet trained. We would have brought him home then and there but we weren't allowed to bring him on the bus!

Rang Donnellan thoroughly enjoyed their day and would go back in a heart beat to help out with the animals who have been previously mistreated. We encourage other students to consider using their free time to do the same. We also really want to express our sincere gratitude to Ms. O'Neill who brought us there.



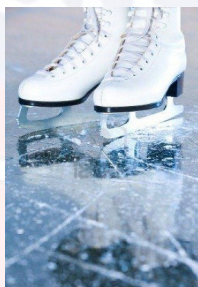
Breaking the Ice

Cori Gormley reminisces:

On Thursday 17th of November, most of the second year students headed to 'Iceskating Blanchardstown' after a normal day at school. Everyone piled onto the buses and headed to Blanchardstown at 15:50.

Once we had arrived at Blanchardstown Group one headed straight to the ice-skating rink, whilst group two went to McDonalds.

Everyone in group one lined up to get their skates. Once everyone in group one got their skates on we all headed to the ice although had to wait for it to be polished. The skating itself was great fun! Many people fell and dragged each other down but thankfully only one person actually got hurt. There were a few people who were very good and all sort of tricks were



attempted: pirouettes, jumps, turns. Ms. Leavy, Ms. Donnellan and Ms. Conlon all had a go on the ice and impressed us with

their grace and poise. They all reminded me of a young Jane Torvill competing in the Olympics!

After an hour of skating group one got off the ice and headed over to McDonalds across the road while group two went skating.

Everyone from group one rushed into McDonalds and lined up to buy food. Some people went to find seats whilst their friends bought food. The place was packed and some people ended up sharing seats. After piling back onto the buses eventually everyone was counted and we set off home.

All of second year really appreciate Ms Leavy (*the best Moltóir*) organising this trip for us and we all would like to thank her for her generosity. It was a brilliant trip and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Games Club

Games Club is a new and exciting club this year in Ratoath College. The brainchild of the Student Council, it is designed to promote our numeracy and literacy strategies on a whole-school level. We have cards, Scrabble, Bingo and Jenga. All students are welcome to attend and indeed it has been a great success this year already with student from all year groups regularly attending. Great thanks must go to Ms. Prendergast who responded to the proposal for a club by Student Council and purchased the games for us. Thanks also to Ms. Garrett and Ms. N O'Neill who give up a lunchtime each week to supervise the club.



Reel Rhythm

The Trad group has been a part of Ratoath College since 2006, when the school still lived in the Fairyhouse Racecourse. The Trad group has



Seachtain na Gaeilge, Arts week, The school's 10th Birthday celebrations and Awards Ceremonies. This year the Trad Group welcomed many new members, each with an abundance of talent. With the guidance of Ms. Kilrane, the Trad group has and will continue to keep traditional music alive in Ratoath College.

Members of the Trad Group: Brian McCabe, Oisín Brioscú, Aidan Hanratty, Conor Daly, Charlie Maye, Jack Marshall, Dante Macari, Sorcha McGroarty, Ruairí Coulter, Anya Browne, Conor Bennet, Evan Murphy, led by Ms. Kilrane.

performed at many occasions in the past such as The Talent Show,

#StudentVoices

By Sophie Scattergood

One of the great opportunities that being a member of my student council has is having more of a say in any of the changes that the school wish to make. Representing the student body is very important within school life. Nowadays as schools become more advanced, even though the objective is to educate the students in a friendly environment, sometimes the little things are being ignored. So the job of the student council rep is to be a person that all students can come to with issues concerning the school, whether they're big problems or small problems.

We have meetings every week where we discuss all issues concerning the school, good and bad. This year we have spoken about the timetable change, naming the prayer room a famous person in history and other things like fundraisers for the school.

People seem to think that the student council is like a complaint box but we're not like that at all. We solve the issues or at least help the situa-

tions that are put forward, we also think of ideas to help the school.

I would encourage you to join your student council as we want to change the student body for the better. Thank you for helping us throughout the year and I hope that we've helped you too.



Fancy Footwork

The 1st year girls kicked off this season at the Meath Futsal Blitz, which took place in Gormanston College in October. They put in an excellent performance throughout the day and, in the end, narrowly missed out on qualifying for the final. Orla Hayes stood out as Player of the Day and the future of Girls Soccer in Ratoath College looks safe in the hands (and feet!) of these future stars!

It was then over to the U17 team who took to the field in November for the group stage of the Leinster League, a competition they had won two years ago. Gormanston College again provided the venue and the opposition for the first match of the campaign and Ratoath made light work of dispatching an inexperienced yet spirited Gormanston team. We eventually ran out 11-0 winners, with Kayleigh Wilson (5th Year) scoring a hat-trick.



Next up was what is always a tough assignment, away to Eureka College in Kells, and so it proved once again. The girls dominated for large periods of the match but struggled to break down a very well-marshalled defence and eventually came away with a 1-1 draw. Indeed, a penalty save from Naoisha McAloon (6th Year) ensured we shared in the spoils. This result meant that Ratoath topped the group and progressed to the knock-out phase as top seeds. In the first knockout round, we came up against new

opponents, St. Michael's from Finglas, who boasted many experienced players and one Irish international. Ratoath put in their best display of the year and overcame a strong St. Michael's outfit with some excellent defending and cool finishing. This time Leah Farrell (TY) was the hat-trick hero, and we eventually prevailed by 5 goals to nil.

In the Quarter Finals we faced Loreto Balbriggan, a tricky opponent who had knocked out our 1st Year team at this stage of last year's competition. In horrendous weather conditions, both teams struggled to find any rhythm and cancelled each other out for long periods. Normal time ended 0-0, as did extra time, and so it was on to the dreaded penalty shootout. Wet and windy weather didn't help takers or goalkeepers and the teams were evenly matched at 2-2, until the final penalty for Ratoath was missed, but Loreto's found the back of the net to send them through to the Semis.

So a successful year which promised much ultimately came to a slightly premature end. Nonetheless, the girls can be very proud of their efforts and achievements this year in once again reaching the last 8 in Leinster. They are in a strong position as they enter the Senior ranks next year and no other teams will want to face them in the draw.

Tea & Talk

Tea and Talk proved to be such a popular idea during Mental Health Awareness Week that it now takes place every Monday lunch-time in Room 23. Sweeney's Centra very kindly sponsor the milk, cups and biscuits (which are usually consumed in 5 seconds flat!) and Barry's tea sent a big box of tea bags to keep us going for the year. Everyone knows it's good to talk and it's even better over a cuppa and a biscuit. Cheers everyone and keep chatting.



Reliving the Rising

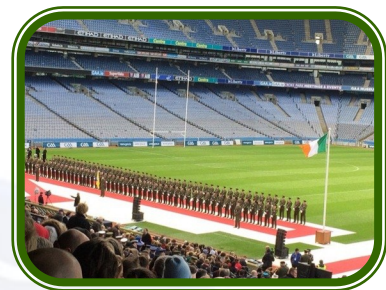
Collecting the flag witnessed by Alannah Falvey:

On the 7th of March 2016, Ms Prendergast, Mr Jordan, Ryan O'Doherty, Nicole Edgerton and I had the brilliant opportunity of attending a State Flag Presentation which was held in Croke Park. Over 6000 students and teachers from every secondary school in the country were present. On arrival Spin1038 asked to interview us about what our school would be doing to celebrate the centenary. After our miserable attempt, it's pretty clear that none of us will be going into radio presenting. But Ms Prendergast's sign language skills helped us through. Ryan Tubridy hosted the event, and tried to keep our spirits up despite the freezing cold weather. The president, Michael D Higgins spoke of

the ambitious act of imagination taken by the rebels, and how we, the future of Ireland, are in charge of the change yet to happen in Ireland. The amount of motor-

bikes, helicopters and squad cars involved in his arrival was unbelievable! The event was hosted alongside the Thomas F Maher foundation, who was the man who raised the first Irish tricolour in 1848 in Waterford. Each school sent one representative up to collect a flag and a copy of the 1916 proclamation which were handed out by army members and Irish sporting stars such as Olympic boxer Paddy Barnes, and the Irish women's rugby captain Niamh Briggs.

Seo Linn, an Irish band sang their single 'Music Makers', which is a bilingual song about Irish Independence, to conclude the momentous day. It was a fantastic day for all secondary schools around the country which we were privileged to be part of.



Scenes from Proclamation Day



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Reliving the Rising

Proclamation Day relived by Kurt Scott:

Proclamation Day 2016 celebrated the time Padraig Pearse and the other 1916 rebels stood in front of the GPO reading the Proclamation and declaring an Irish Republic. The Proclamation reflect the hopes and and beliefs that many men, women and children so valiantly risked and even gave their lives for. This statement was the backbone of the establishment of the Ireland we live in today. Proclamation Day was celebrated on March 15th in schools and communities all across Ireland and Ratoath College was no exception.

The preparations for Proclamation Day started with the designing and distribution of posters to raise awareness about the event that was to come. This was followed by the selecting and assigning of jobs such as reader of the proclamation, singers of the national anthem and raisers of the flag. Once these

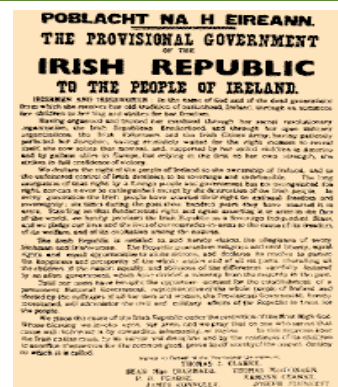
jobs had been assigned and all members of Ratoath College had been made aware of the event, rehearsals were scheduled and plans were set into motion.

On the day every member of the school community made their way out of the school and then Ms. Prendergast approached the podium which was across from the flagpole and facing the student body and gave a summary of what was to come before highlighting and reflecting on the im-

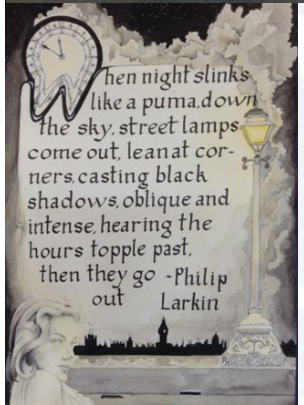
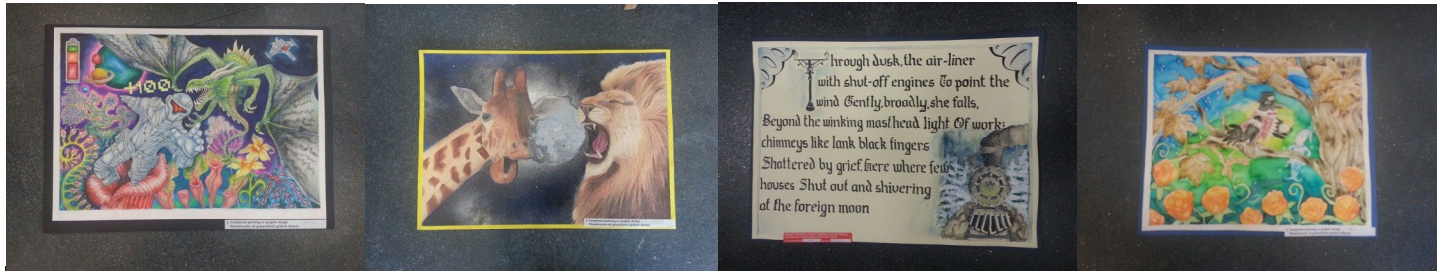
portance of the event itself. I was called to the podium next and proceeded to read the proclamation. I was honoured and privileged to have been asked to read this historic document which represents the ideals our nation stands for.

Ms. Mannion and Ms. Jackson led all assembled in a melodic and beautiful version of the national anthem, Amhrán na bhFiann, and in doing so added to the pride that ran through the very happy staff and students of Ratoath College as Miss O'Dwyer and Sarah O'Driscoll raised the national flag in front of the school.

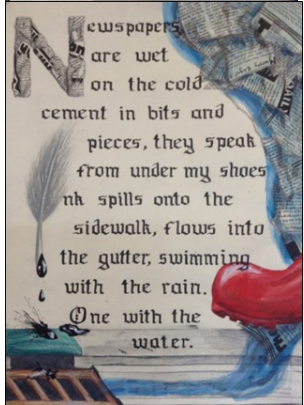
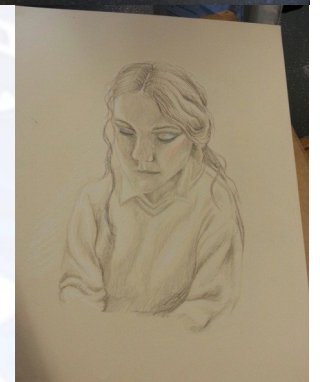
Miss Prendergast then approached the podium and concluded our celebratory ceremony by reflecting once more on the now finished commemoration and it's importance, before all students and staff members made their way back into the school understanding our country in a way they may not have before and feeling a little bit prouder not only to be a member of Ratoath College but to be the citizens of a country with which comes such great pride, love and passion for equality and justice.



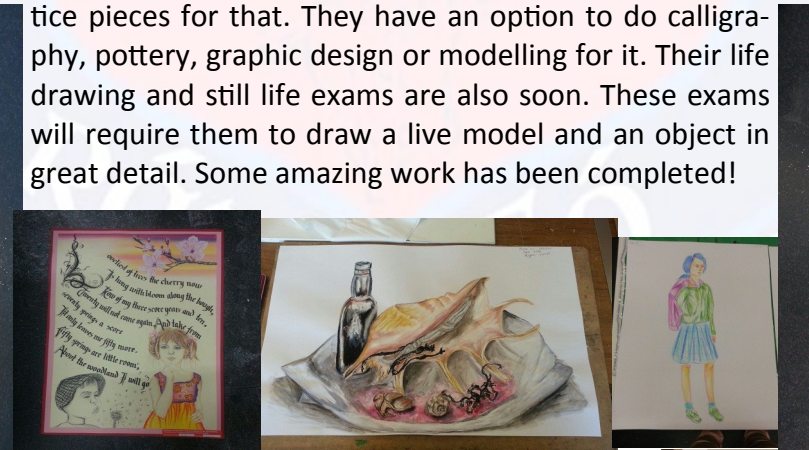
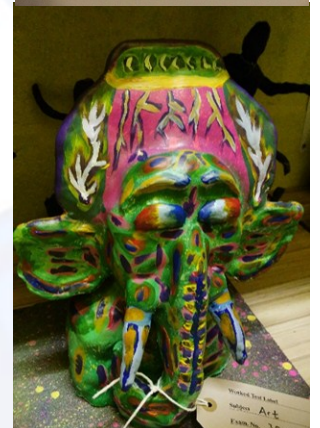
Artful Examinations



This year the 3rd and 6th years have been slogging away at the study and work for their exams and the art students have it no easier. The 3rd years have submitted 3 preparation pages, 2 support study pages, a finished graphic design or painting piece, a 3D piece and an option piece. This submission of their year's work will stand to them alongside the still-life and life drawing exams they're preparing for. They have come on leaps and bounds in their skill and artistic expression and this will be noticeable in their results.



It wasn't all hard work and no play for this year's 6th years, in January they went on a lovely trip to the National Gallery and National Museum. They looked at inspiring styles and topics that they could try emulate in their own work. They took particular interest in the Turner Exhibition that was on show in the National Gallery at that time. This exhibition coincided with a portrait competition that was running in the National museum too. Their craft exam is quickly coming around the corner and they are busy working on their preparation pages and practice pieces for that. They have an option to do calligraphy, pottery, graphic design or modelling for it. Their life drawing and still life exams are also soon. These exams will require them to draw a live model and an object in great detail. Some amazing work has been completed!



Art Animals

It's been an eventful year for our 2nd year of animals. For lunch artists with a trip to the zoo executed and they walked to the res-
accomplished. They left the school on Tues- taurant
day 22nd of September. When they reached



the zoo they were greeted by an artist who gave a brief ses-
sion on how to draw animals. She focused on the colours and pro-
portions mainly and she drew a herring as an example for them. They headed into the room that kept the bats and birds. They were then given time to start a sketch on the animals. They were encouraged by Ms. Mortimer to take photos of the natural habi-
tat or environment that the animals lived in. The next stop was the orang-utans, who were quite shy but the students still got a few photos. They walked around for some time more sketching and pho-
tographing an abundance



around for some time more sketching and pho-
tographing an abundance



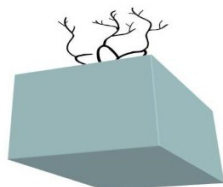
Upon return from the Dublin Zoo trip the 2nd years commenced their work on a zoo poster. Using multiple types of media and adding colour to the sketch they began at the zoo. This was great rehearsal for the junior cert which is on the near horizon for these budding artists. All in all the 2nd year artists have had a tightly packed year of creative and explorative work, a big portion of which circulated around this educational trip on a sunny day.



Algebrainiacs

What do you call an angle that is adorable???..... acute angle

Maths week kicked off at assembly with 'Jokes of the day' read out by students and a maths riddles which the students had to solve by the end of the day. All classes and Non maths teachers took part in Dingbats where Ms Donnellan and Ms N. O' Neill came out victorious.



amateur professional



The Real Superheroes of T.Y

The Transition Year students have had a new module every 7 weeks this year and with each new module comes a new art project. The reoccurring theme of superheroes gives the projects a coherence but that is the only exception to the sheer variety of style and media used.

Perhaps the theme is most evident in the course ran by Ms. Daly which calls for the students to design a poster with a superhero figure from the neck down on it, then a picture of their own head is placed on top.

Ms. Mortimer gives the students the unique opportunity to work with Batik, an art form using hot wax and inks that requires quite some skill. The students are using 1960's pop art as an inspiration alongside the old Batman series. In other projects the students made manga comic strips and superhero themed clay pieces.

They had some help from Angela who is a local art teacher here in Ratoath. She gave the students workshops in clay where she taught them new skills and techniques. She also helped students realise that you can make art from anything, as she used household items to add texture to the clay pieces.

They really produced some super Art creations.



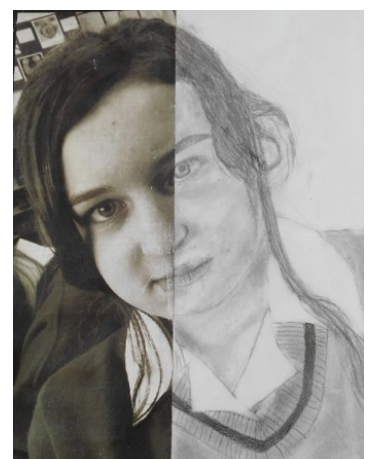
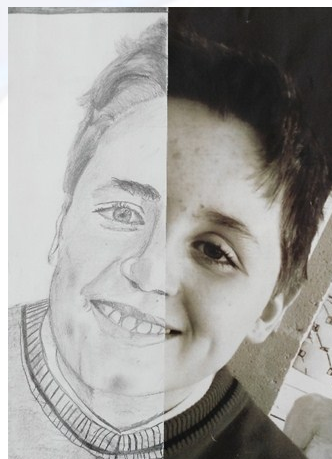
1st Year Virtuosi



The secondary school art curriculum differs greatly to the poster paints of primary school. The 1st year art students can vouch for this after a year of learning the meaning of technique, score and slip, tone and shade. After a yearlong crash course in the basics of fine art they have produced some masterpieces and are well prepared for the challenges like ink, water-colour and spray-paint that they will face next year. Some of the first art you see when you walk into the General Purpose area is in fact 1st year work. They are portraits, on one side a black and white picture of their face and the other a grey-scale sketch continuing on from the picture. They also got stuck in to clay around Christmas time and created festive snowmen

sculptures that they later painted.

As the year rolled on they started their first attempt at lino art. For many of the 1st years it was their first time hearing of the 80's flooring but this did not stop them from creating beautiful carvings in the linoleum. Their prints hold a retro vibe that may not even sense themselves.





The Home Economics kitchens continued to waft the aroma of amazing baking and cooking delights around the school on a daily basis again this year. Students produced some amazing culinary feats from first to sixth year and the great talent among our students was clearly visible during the Junior Certificate Practical Cookery exams and the sixth year Hotel, Catering & Tourism tasks and exam. Well done to all students involved!



@rchomeec

Home Economics



Our first and second year students displayed great skill and creativity in their craft projects again this year. A wide range of ideas, designs and skill level was displayed in the production of their cushions and wall hangings.

The high standard across the classes made the decision for the Rene Weldon end of year award a huge challenge for the department. The big question remains, who will win?



A students' perspective on Home Economics:

“Home Economics is a very beneficial subject because it teaches you life skills that will benefit you now and in future years to come. It teaches you life skills for when you have your own home – you learn about household finance and how to use many household appliances such as cookers and washing machines. It prepares you for life away from home, when you are in college and need to be able to make basic meals that don't cost a lot of money. Home Economics teaches you the importance of good nutrition and how to choose the healthiest option of foods. For example using gluten free flour instead of regular flour.”

Geography Rocks!

The Geography department had a jam packed year of activity. It all kicked off when our first years pulled out all the stops to create models of the earth, volcanoes, mass movement, earthquakes and rivers that impressed staff and students alike. The finished products showed such great creativity and craft from the young geographers and were proudly displayed during open evening. The second years are now meteorological experts after applying their skills to create their own weather instruments including wind vanes, rain gauges and Stevenson screens. All we need now is for them to predict a long summer of sunshine ahead. I'm sure

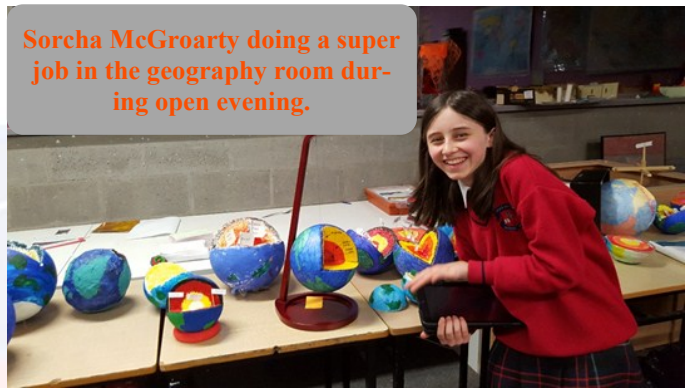


all will agree that the learning achieved during these tasks will last a lifetime and the future of geography is safe with such talent in the junior years.

The third years are now entering top-gear in the run up to the junior cert and are such a hardworking bunch

that will achieve great results. They got on super in the mocks and are now looking forward to showing off all their geography knowledge to ace the big exam in June. Good luck guys, we know you'll do great.

Marvel at our Planet was the perfect title for the super hero theme of TY geography this year. It is such a great opportunity for students to apply their expanded geography knowledge and challenge themselves to examine wider world issues. Modules included Operation Emigration, Sharing the Pie, Ice Hero and Disaster Zone. Just to top off a great year, the classes are travelling to Wicklow in May where they will be trying out their orienteering skills. After this there will be no excuse in finding their way to each class on time in senior cycle!



Sorcha McGroarty doing a super job in the geography room during open evening.

The real heroes of the geography team are those brave enough to take on the challenge of senior cycle geography. The four senior cycle classes are doing great in progressing through the course. The 6th years travelled to the middle course of the Glenree River in Wicklow to do their fieldwork in October. They braved the elements and put on their waders to do the tasks in the river to examine erosion and deposition. All are now delighted to have 20% of the leaving cert completed before the written exam in June. We are very proud of their efforts and of how the senior cycle students are

applying themselves to the subject. We are very confident that we will continue to have many students who go on to study geography at third level or use it as a gateway to study a wide range of topics. After all, we all know that geography rocks!!



Weather instruments 2nd year Geography

New Teacher Interview

Mr. Winters

1. **What is your full name?**
Patrick Frosty Winters
2. **If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what would you bring?**
Football, sharp item and water filtration system
3. **If we came to your house for dinner what would you make for us?** Chicken Arrabbiata and garlic bread.
4. **If you could change your name what would you change it to?**
Paddy Summers.
5. **What is your biggest dream?**
To live care free in a constantly warm area.
6. **What is the first thing you would do if you won the lotto?**
Probably buy a new house and a car.
7. **Where would you live if you could live anywhere?**
East coast of Australia.
8. **What's the worst present you ever received?**
Em..... shirtless Justin Bieber poster... wait no don't put that it.... Clothes I'll never wear.
9. **What is the most embarrassing thing to ever happen to you?**
(Chuckles)...Ms Prendergast singling me out! calling me Mr. Summers in assembly.
10. **What are the perks of being a teacher?**
Seeing the 1st years develop and progress and the holidays. #Sentimental
11. **If you could teach any other subject for a day what would you choose?**
PE... they have an easy life.
12. **What's your favourite book?**
Christy Dignam's Autobiography.
13. **Who is your celebrity crush?**
Jennifer Lawrence. (Good choice Sir!)
14. **What's your favourite T.V series?**
Scrubs.....
15. **What would you tell your 16-year self if you could go back in time?**
Nothing I think you should have to make mistakes.
16. **What superhero power would you like to have and why?**
I suppose fly just go wherever I wanted.
17. **What is your life motto?**
What's the best way to do this without being cheesy? Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way.
18. **What fashion trend did you follow that you most regret?**
Cross hatch! it was just a real scummy brand
19. **What is something about you that might surprise students?**
I changed my CAO to teaching 8 minutes before the deadline, I originally had maths in trinity.



New Teacher Interview

Ms. Buckley

1. What is your full name?
Laura Buckley
2. If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what would you bring?
Vaseline a hat..... no I wouldn't bring a hat emm.....sun cream and a football!
3. If we came to your house for dinner what would you make for us?
I'd make lasagne and garlic bread and I make a good lasagne!
4. If you could change your name what would you change it to?
I don't want to change my name I'm keeping it as it is.
5. What is the first thing you would do if you won the lotto?
I'd Buy a house.
6. What is the last thing that made you cry?
The death of a family friend.
7. Where would you live if you could live anywhere?
Somewhere warm, No I'm not fussy just as long as the weather is good!
8. What's the worst present you ever received?
I got a fake handbag that was DISGUSTING looking.
9. What is your party piece?
I fancy myself as a Karaoke Queen!
10. What is your hidden talent?
I don't have a hidden talent clumsiness is my hidden talent.
11. What is the most embarrassing thing to ever happen to you?
Yeah.....a.... too embarrassing to say.
12. What are the perks of being a teacher? J
une, July and August.
13. If you could teach any other subject for a day what would you choose?
I would teaaaach French .
14. What's your favourite book?
"By Rainbows End"
15. Who is your celebrity crush?
Chris Martin.
16. What's your favourite T.V series?
Prison Break.
17. What would you tell your 16-year self if you could go back in time?
DO NOT wear the rah-rah skirt ! You do not look good anyway in it .
18. If you could choose to be a one person for a day who would it be and why?
James Cordon he seems to have good job and a lot of fun meeting celebs!
19. What is your life motto?
Ah sure just give it a shot!
20. What is something about you that might surprise students?
'm not as old as you think !



New Teacher Interview

Ms. Fee

1. What is your full name?
Georgina Ailish Teresa Fee"
2. If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what would you bring?
"Fire lighter , sticks and coal or something"
3. If we came to your house for dinner what would you make for us?
"My signature dish , lasagne and salad"
1. What is your biggest dream?
"I suppose just to be happy for the rest of my life"
2. What is the last thing that made you cry?
I read the book My Sister's Keeper , It's very sad"
3. Where would you live if you could live anywhere?
Maybe Berlin , It's a cool city"
4. What's the worst present you ever received?
"I received socks two Christmases ago...it was terrible"
5. What is your party piece?
"Ehh Singing 'She Moved Through the Fair'
6. What are the perks of being a teacher?
Meeting so many different people from different age groups and different backgrounds and get to work with them"
7. If you could teach any other subject for a day what would you choose?
"I'd love to try and teach English, It was my favourite subject in school"
8. What's your favourite book?
"The Great Gatsby"
9. Who is your celebrity crush?
"Ryan Reynolds"
10. What's your favourite T.V series?
"Greys Anatomy , I love it"
11. What would you tell your 16-year self if you could go back in time?
"To keep doing what your doing and keep working hard and everything will be great"
12. If you could choose to be a one person for a day who would it be and why? I
'd love to be Beyoncé , Id just love to have that power, and talent and money as well"
13. What superhero power would you like to have and why?
"I'd love to fly and be able to travel places without the car and traffic, and go wherever I want."
14. What is your life motto?
"To keep smiling"
15. What fashion trend did you follow that you most regret?
Bell bottoms , when I was a teenager, The wider the better and I regret it"
16. How do you spend a typical summer?
I'd usually go back home and spend a good amount of time with foreign exchange students teaching them English and then go on holiday."
17. What is something about you that might surprise students?
I won competitions in Feis Ceoil when I was younger.

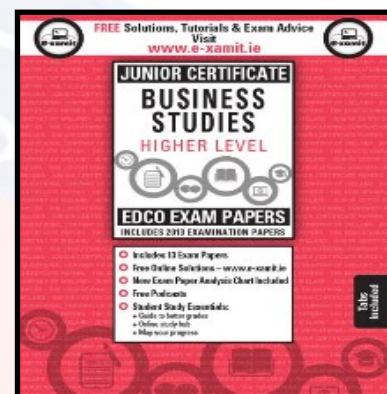


Maybe Berlin , It's a cool city"

New Teacher Interview

Mr. Leonard

1. What is your full name?
Barry Leonard
2. If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what would you bring?
Paddy Winters, Suncream and a Kitkat
3. If we came to your house for dinner what would you make for us?
Beans and toast (For dinner really ??)
4. If you could change your name what would you change it to
Something Italian - Leonardo
5. What is your biggest dream?
to play music and get paid well.
6. What is the first thing you would do if you won the lotto?
Quit Teaching (Joking – I love it really
I'd miss the students too much)
7. What is the last thing that made you cry?
Big Men don't cry (tough man down here)
8. Where would you live if you could live anywhere?
The metropolitan of Curragha
9. What is your hidden talent?
I can match my shirt to my tie
10. What are the perks of being a teacher?
Giving homework
11. What's your favourite book?
Thomas the Tank Engine
12. Who is your celebrity crush?
Wooah ... So many ! Margot Robbie
13. What's your favourite T.V series?
Breaking Bad
14. What would you tell your 16-year self if you could go back in time?
Relax have fun
15. If you could choose to be a one person for a day who would it be and why?
Ms. Prendergast – She has it all going on
16. Describe your ideal date?
Game of golf followed by a long walk on the beach ending in a picnic of strawberries and Freddos.
17. What superhero power would you like to have and why?
To be able to read minds so that I can keep myself out of trouble.
18. How do you spend a typical summer?
Wife-searching at the mart
19. What is something about you that might surprise students?
I dress up at weekends and wear fake tan.....



Due to a hectic teaching schedule Mr. Leonard postponed his photoshoot..... twice..... We're still waiting for an alternative spot.

Roinn na Gaeilge



Bhí bliain iontach ag Coláiste Agus ar ndóigh bhí an céili againn. Rath Tó ó thaobh na Gaeilge Bhain an chéad bhliain an-taitneamh as de. Bhí imeachtaí eagsúla ar agus bhí said go léir cosúil le Michael siúl le linn na bliana agus Flatley agus iad ag dul abhaile. baineadh an-taitneamh astu Chaith lucht na hÍdirbhliana oíche le agus ar ndóigh, cuireadh ár Coláiste na bhFiann in Ionad Óige na hÉireann agus turas dteanga dhúchais chun cinn den scoth a bhí ann. Idir rince, cluichí, drumaoíocht agus go chomh maith.. leor imeachtaí eile bhain na daltaí an-taitneamh agus



9 mí Márta chuir an scoil tairbhe as.

fiailte roimh Sheachtain na Nil aon dabht ach gur bhliain iontach a bhí ann agus taimid go léir ag tnúth go mór leis an mbliain seo chugainn.

Gaeilge. Chun tús a chur leis, chan Étain Collins amhrán ag tionól agus i rith an lae bhí tae agus briosca le fáil do gach dalta agus bhí seans acu a scíth a ligeant agus comhrá beag a dhéanamh trí mheán na Gaeilge le chéile. Bhí deis ag an bú agus ag an 5ú bliain a gcuid yoga a chleachtadh agus bhí Tráth na gCeist ag an 5ú bliain chomh maith.

Ghlac an dara bliain páirt i gceolchoirm agus bhí a lán tallanna le feiceáil ann le taispeántais ó dhaltai ó bú bliain go chéad bhliain.



C.S.P.E

This has been an exciting year for CSPE in Ratoath College. As always our first years took part in the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal and this was a great success. Following the introduction of Digital Citizenship last year for our first years, we saw a double class assigned for 2nd year CSPE which has been a huge success and well-received by teachers and students. This year also saw us return to the DSPCA for our action projects with all 2nd year classes visiting. Gillian and her team at DSPCA was as always very welcoming and the trips were enjoyed by all. Our 3rd years have completed their RAPs and now only the exam awaits. Best of luck to them all in June. This year also saw us move into the world of development education with the help of Ms. Fee whose TYs and 5th years prepared workshops for junior classes on development education topics. Next year

will see more exciting changes in CSPE as we move to the new Short Course in CPSE for both our 1st and 2nd years.



Innovative Engineering



The Engineering and Metalwork Department
The Engineering department would like

to welcome our newest addition
Mr. Winters to the school. He will be a great addition to a growing department in Ratoath College. 2016 sees new practical projects joining the scheme. Pictured are this years first years with their completed angry birds clocks. They are now working on a stealth fighter project that has an electronic circuit incorporated. Well done Guys!

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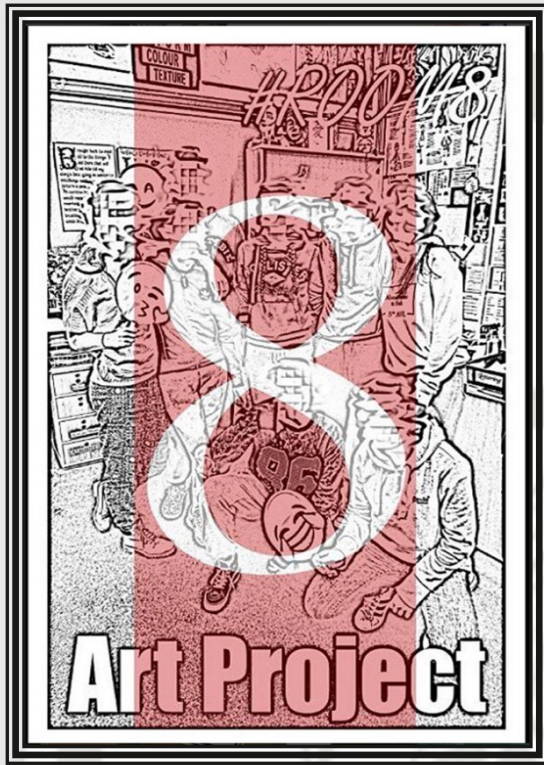
Junior Cert students are working on their remote control trike. This project will award them 40% of their junior cert grade before they sit the written exam.

Leaving Cert Engineering students have just completed their eco-friendly go-

kart and they are now in preparations for their practical day test which takes place in May. Many engineering students go onto further their college studies in the areas of biomedical engineering, mechanical engineering, civil engineering and electronic engineering. Employment prospects are currently very high.

2016 sees another year for growing numbers in the uptake of Metalwork. It is becoming very popular with new entrants to the school. Well done guys!





“Art has the power to communicate, to console, to uplift and to challenge”

Biography

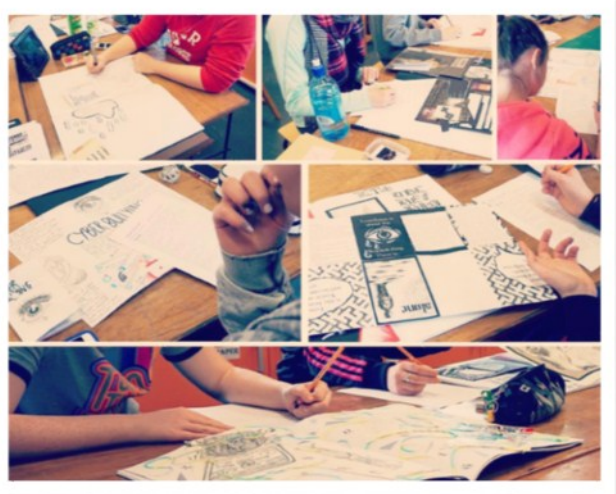
The Room 8 Art Project began under the influence of this quote and the huge bout of passion and encouragement from our art teacher Ms. O’Neill. Welcoming anyone interested, Ms. O’Neill formed a group of both transition year and 5th Year students who would soon over a period of 10 weeks create and start a movement. The Group consists of Ciara Byrne, Hannah Dooley, Rebecca Mahon, Ciara Fennessy, Rebekah Byrne, Jakub Leszkiewicz, Alicia Kidd, Jade Conroy and myself, Róisín Conlon.



Our Movement

Exploring Contemporary Issues

We began our journey sitting around one small table in one small classroom with one key focus, the exploration of contemporary issues. This one topic began to grow with our discussion branching out into 4 categories. Social, Cultural, Political and Economic. With 4 more focuses, our 10 heads were now filled with motivation to explore arts ability to investigate the more detailed issues of social justice, identity, race, gender and activism. This class gave us art students the ability to express and address issues that we personally felt strongly about changing.



Behind The Scenes

Each of us have an A3 sketchbook of which acts as our thought bubble, everything and anything that sparks the slightest bit of creativity or curiosity is recorded through written or visual means in our sketchbooks. It was through this project that we began to step outside of our comfort zones and bring our thoughts to life in these sketchbooks. Something that can be very challenging and is not experienced as much as it should be.



Barbara Kruger

Our first project was inspired by artist Barbara Kruger who's work explores issues in society from a personal and cultural view. Ciara and I stood in front of the whole school community in both assembly and throughout the day and posed 4 questions. "What do you value? What do you fear? What do you hope for? Justice for whom?" With the answers we received we created an installation piece in our school canteen made up of the red and white tags to resemble Kruger's style.

ZINE 101

Our next project dived a little deeper on a personal level. We each chose one main issue that we wished to create a zine on, a zine being a smaller version of a magazine. Our group took various unique approaches with our zines. We had zines on the topics of Sexism in sport, Pollution, Loneliness, Feminism, Bullying, Materialism and Body Image. Each of our Zines were then sent out to artists all around Ireland to be critiqued and we got some amazing responses. I personally got the opportunity to speak to an artist over a phone call and it



Powerful Paste Ups

We then made life-sized Paste Up's and experimented using our school as our gallery, free admission of course. We sought this opportunity as a public art intervention as we got out of the classroom and into the school. Some of us stuck to our original issue but others decided to take a new approach which added the issues of Mental Illness, Animal Cruelty, Peer Pressure and Gang Mentality to our list. We got a great reaction from the community with thoughts sparking and curiosity lingering we got the school thinking. We let our art speak for itself, we tell our story, create an emotional connection with our audience and inspire a desire for our work.



TY 2015/2016 A Blast of a Year!

Laura, Chloe, Catriona & Orla reflect:

This year's TY programme was super to say the least. Filled with fun trips and subjects, every day was an opportunity for new learning experiences. It feels like a lifetime ago when I made the decision to take part in the TY programme as I have matured so much since then. It was one of the best decisions I've ever made and I'm sure many other TYs will agree with me on that.

Transition Years were divided into 4 different classes this year. It was great to make new friends and connections with people you might not have talked to before. This was definitely a highlight for me. TYs do not have the regular timetable like all other year groups. It gave us the opportunity to try out multiple subjects and get to know different teachers. For example, during one of the modules we spent each Wednesday in a 'Pay it Forward' class at the primary schools. This was a great experience and it was very enjoyable. Other subjects that were greatly enjoyed by this year's TYs are the practical subjects such as metal. During one module in metal work, we were given the chance to make their own ring out of 100% silver. This is something we can keep forever as a memory of this great year.

Fortunately this year we had the opportunity to take part in the school musical, which occurs every two years. All Transition Year students are required to take part in it, one way or another. If we were not on stage or part of the singing chorus, we were given the chance to participate through backstage work and art, such as ticket



design. They were also students involved in the selling of tickets, or at the shop on the night of the show. Another job undertaken by the Transition Year students was ushering people to their seats. This year's musical was ALL SHOOK UP. It is a wonderful memory to have from our year, as we made many new friends from all years during the experience while also working together to put on a great show.

Trips are an integral part of the TY experience. We commenced the year with our Bonding Trip at Lilliput Adventure Centre, where we participated in many enjoyable activities, such as bog hopping, kayaking and orienteering. This encouraged the growth of new friendships. Each subject also had a corresponding trip, such as a trip to Coláiste na bhFiann in Droim Rí for Irish, and a trip to Armagh Planetarium as part of our science module. We also participated in the annual TY Urban Challenge in town, which we all thoroughly

enjoyed. These trips were the highlight of Transition Year and many memories were made on them!

This year was a great opportunity to give back to the community. By collaborating with the local primary schools, we raised money and awareness for several charities. The main charity we supported was Pieta House. Alongside supporting Pieta House we also supported St. Vincent de Paul and Focus Ireland. We raised money and awareness for Saint Vincent de Paul by selling candy canes, holding a bake-off and a soccer match. We collected money for Focus Ireland by participating in a school sleep in. We also raised money and awareness for Pieta House during Mental Health Week by selling green ribbons, doing bag packing, and holding a 'Green Day', where all students wore green clothes. It was a great experience and we would like to thank everyone who donated and raised awareness for our chosen charities.



Each year Transition years partake in Gaisce. This programme was established in 1985 and was formed to aid the development of youth. We all start on Gaisce Bronze. Gaisce Bronze consists of 13 weeks in community involvement, physical recreation and a personal skill. There is also an additional 13 weeks in the student's favourite activity. This encourages us to contribute to our community and use our skills as a strength. To be awarded the Gaisce Bronze, we all must complete an adventure journey, which will happen over two consecutive days.

We must hike at least 25km. I have found that Gaisce is a great way to immerse yourself into the community and an enjoyable way to help others by using your strengths to the fullest.

Work Experience was allocated for two weeks in November. Work Experience gives us the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the workplace. Being in a workplace is foreign to our usual day in the school environment. Work Experience gives us an insight into a prospective career, or eliminates a career possibility. The days are much different to our usual school day, and I personally loved these weeks of Work Experience. I learnt a lot more about the workplace and myself, and I felt I gained confidence in speaking to others, and I became more independent. Being in a work environment can't be taught, only practiced.

It's difficult to put such an amazing year into words but I hope I have done the experience some justice. I'm really sad for TY to end, but I'll always have the memories which I will cherish forever.





Bogbuddy bonding

Róisín Conlon reflects on the TY bonding experience:

The Ty Bonding Trip to Lilliput Adventure Centre , Mullingar, had to be one of the most memorable highlights of the year.

Our adventure began on the morning of the 17th of September 2015. The excitement was building faster than the piles of bags and pillows were in the school library. On the buses, we were all buzzing pulling into the car park when we saw a few small tents set up on the grass , but it wasn't until we hopped off the bus and ran into our dorms that we knew this was where the craic was to be had. It felt like all of TY was living under the same roof for two days and there was a real family feel to it.

It wasn't long after arriving that we were split into two large groups and sent off on our first task. My group and I were off on a bus up a mountain for a hike. When we were told this , at first it was crazy to think after being asleep for so long on the bus that we were going to be climbing 5k uphill just for the craic, But being surrounded by so many people and constantly tackling uphill obstacles , once we reached the top it felt worth it. The camp leaders handed around a few packs of digestives and we had a picnic before an attempted



run downhill back to the bus.

When we got back to the centre we were all knackered , but we would soon be running around like lunatics again attempting orienteering in this huge forest. Running through nettles , hopping bogs and sabotaging the other teams routes were just a few things that brought us closer together as teams. Once we were finished we headed to the bogs. Its safe to say that this was Lilliput's best attraction. If you weren't jumping in off the ledge you were being pushed an dragged in by someone you was more or less a stranger to you. Once you were saturated in the mud and bog water there was no telling who was who , which I felt made it so much better to

experience something new with someone new!

To clean off we trailed back to the grounds through a lake which led to our new task, canoeing. Everyone hopped in a canoe with anyone and it was essentially you trying to survive above water despite the chaotic splashing and pushing , this was one of those moments where you find yourself laughing so much that you know your in the right place with the right people.

After we grabbed a bite to eat , our evening ended with an impressive game of Man-hunt of which one Ty was left glasses-less and another sunken 1.5 metres in bog screaming for dear life. Before going to our dorms , all the TYs spent some time in the living area where we devoured slice after slice of toast and Nutella and the odd bowl of rice crispies.

The Next morning we participated in activities such as sports , rock climbing and team building. Our whole year group even spent an hour and a half looking through the fields for Pauls broken glasses. We ended the trip with one huge game of capture the flag in the forest.

Overall the trip was definitely one to remember for everyone, we had an incredible time and embraced every moment. We engaged in every opportunity with each other and succeed in coming together as one. It's mad what a couple of bogs and burgers can do.



Iron man

OR OUR FRIEND TONY

The theme of the class of TY 2015/2016 was Superhero's and we got to share our TY superhero journey with our mascot Iron Man or as we liked to call him, Tony.

A few words from Tony...

My name is Tony and I am the TY mascot for the class of 2015/2016. This year I have spent 8 weeks with each TY classes and gotten to know every one of the outstanding TY students. We had the most amazing trips and adventures together including our bonding trip to Lilliput, French Exchange, Urban Challenge, Our TY sleep-in for Focus Ireland and many more fabulous activities.

Each class took great care of me. I'm sad to leave all my superhero's behind but I know they'll go on to accomplish great things. I wish them all the best.

Love,

Tony Stark



We'd like the chance to say thank you to Ms.Savage for giving us the opportunity to get to know our wonderful friend Tony and the chance to spend the year with him making amazing memories that we will remember forever.

Article by Hannah McLean

BANTER WITH TONY



Peer Education

The value of peer education evaluated by Tara Brazil and Ciara Moran

In November of last year, eight TY's were chosen to go Trim for 5 days of training to become Peer Educators who teach first years about the dangers of Drugs and Alcohol abuse. In this course we learnt about alcohol, drugs and smoking in a fun and safe environment run by Lee and Sam from PYE Programmes. We received books full of information that we had learned, and with tips and tricks on how to teach first years. Then, we were sent off into the workforce in groups of two to take on the massive number of 180 first years! We were divided into groups and given our rangs that we were responsible for, some groups were lucky enough to be given two rangs! Each group had to come up with 4 different classes for each first year group they had, covering a different topic in each class. It was fun to get to



know all of the first years on a first name basis and to experience school life from a teacher's point of view. To ensure that all the classes were interesting we used diagrams, posters, quizzes and provided prizes for students that were learning well and cooperating with us. I think that first years and Transition Years equally enjoyed this experience and it was equally rewarding for both groups. For any future TYs reading this – I would recommend getting involved in Peer Ed! It's great fun, and looks good on your CV.



Out of this world!

Hannah L & Georgina's musings on the TY Science Trip:

On the 11th of March the TYs set off on their Science trip to Armagh Planetarium. Once we arrived, we were shown into a domed cinema. We all took our seats and watched an amazing visual display of all our planets and stars it was really spectacular and every one really enjoyed it! We then went outside, made some homemade rockets and blasted them away. Afterwards we got a detailed tour of the museum and learnt about how astronauts wear nappies when they are going into space! We also discussed what they

eat and the intense training they have to go through. It was one of the best trips from TY!



Urban Legends

TY Urban Challenge

The annual Urban Challenge took place on Friday 5th of February. All of the Transition Year students travelled into Dublin city centre on the bus. In preparation for the Urban Challenge, students had to divide into groups of 8-10 students with an equal amount of boys and girls. We also had to come up with our group names, which were; Subway & Chill, Team Actimel, and Team Spicebag, among others.

Each group had to create a Twitter account on which they would upload photos and videos. We had to upload at regular intervals, every half hour. This would provide evidence of our findings and completion of tasks and ensure that we weren't cheating.

Once we arrived in Dublin, each group was given a sheet with certain landmarks and objects we had to find and document on the group

Twitter accounts. We were given four hours to find and Tweet pictures of as many of the landmarks and the challenges we could or complete. The challenges and landmarks were scattered all around Dublin, ranging from Grand Canal Square to Phoenix Park.

The challenges were interesting. Some of us had to travel to the Point and take a picture of ourselves with the 3 Arena, others had to locate the Wellington Monument in the Phoenix Park. We all had to busk on Grafton Street and provide a video lasting 30 seconds. Some of us took a trip to Dublin Castle and others

Trinity College to locate a plaque in memory of a British soldier who was killed during the 1916 Easter Rising. One of the other tasks was to wash a team member's hair with shampoo, a video had to be taken of this also. The ideas for this task were original, some managed to get a free hair wash at a Turkish barbers and others washed a team member's hair

with shampoo and a bottle of water on Henry Street!

At one o'clock, the teams had to gather outside Captain Americas to meet the teachers. All the teams were given a time to go to Temple Bar to receive two large pizzas, at the Bad Ass Café. They were delicious! We also had the choice to complete more challenges. One of our teams met 98FM on their journey and managed to get a picture with them.

All Transition Years greatly enjoyed the day. We found out a couple of weeks later that Team Actimel had won the challenge and all members received Easter eggs. It developed our sense of direction and our teamwork skills. It taught us how to navigate our way around Dublin City. It was definitely one of the highlights of Transition Year. We will look back on it with fond memories.



Music to my ears

Ciara Moran's develops her appreciation of the Arts:
On the 19th of April, all of TY went on a trip into town for our Music and Art trip. We parked on Merrion Square and we then took a stroll down to The National Museum of Ireland where we looked around at the exhibits. This excursion was aimed at providing inspiration for our school art pieces. The musical aspect of our trip was comprised of a visit to The National Concert Hall where we watch and listened to the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra Music of Our Time Series, presented by

Ellen Crantich. It was conducted by Gavin Maloney. It featured composers' work that had a modern twist on it. The two pieces we listened to were Chiyo by Linda Buckley, and Circle Map Kaija Saariaho. Both pieces were really beautiful to listen to, and really reflected the changing music of modern times. It was a really fun and interesting trip and we all felt more musical and art appreciative afterwards. We all enjoyed the emotion and creativity that was put into the composers work.

An Ghaeltacht

Turas chun na Gaeltachta

Alessia De Luca and Hazel Dougan ag smaoinemh siar:

Ar an 7ú agus 8ú lá de Mhárta, chuaigh na daltaí ón Idirbhliain i gColáiste Rath Tó ar thuras thar oíche go dtí Coláiste na bhFiann i nDroim Rí.

Nuair a shroichimid an áit ag a seacht a clog, thóg na muinteoirí ár bhfón poca. Bhíomar trína chéil faoi sin. Bhí dinnéar again agus céilí sula ndeachaimid in ár gcodladh.

Ar maidin, bhí orainn na seomraí a ghlanadh agus ansin chuamar go dtí an halla agus bhí bricfeasta again. D'imríomar cluichí ahus bhí gníomhaíochtaí difriúla ar bun again: Damhsa Gaelach, ag drumadóireacht, cluichí i nGaeilge eile freisin. Bhí trath na gceist ar siúl tar éis loin. Bhí neart craic agus spraoi againn. D'fhoghláiomar neart Gaeilge chomh maith.



Ho, Ho, Ho! Merry Christmas!

From the TY Christmas Village...



T'was in the weeks before Christmas, when all the TY's created the annual Christmas Village for the boys and girls of the primary schools.

Each class was bought through the school to the entrance; a chimney for all of the children to climb through. All then had to sing as loud as they could to wake up sleepy Santa.

Once he was awake, he had to get ready. While Santa got ready, the elves bought the children around the Christmas Village. There was everything from reindeers to see to cupcakes to decorate!

When the children had finally finished with the wonderful world that was created, Santa had of course fallen asleep. Of course the boys and girls would help the elves and Mrs Clause wake him up again by singing more Christmas carols. It was only then that the children finally got to go in and listen to a story off Santa in his grotto!



"An Scrúdú Cainte.....Craiceáilte".

I mí an Mhárta na bliana seo thug grúpa Gaeilgeoirí ón gcúigiú bliain aghaidh ar chroílár na gaeltachta agus iad réidh chun dul faoi na soilse agus os comhair na ceamraí. Nuair a tháinig sé chun solais go raibh TG4, TG Lurgan agus Gréasán na Meáin chun deis a thabhairt do dhaltáí Choláiste Ráth Tó a bhfiseáin féin a scríobh agus a thaifead, is beag moill a bhí ar na daltaí a gcuid smaointí a roinnt agus a phlé. Tugadh an deis páirt a ghlacadh sa tógra seo do dhaltáí na hIdirbhliana agus daltaí na cúigiú bliana. Go luath sa lá bhí sé soiléir go raibh grúpa daltaí ón gcúigiú bliain ag iarraidh páirt a ghlacadh. Is as ranganna An tUasal Gibson agus An tUasal Ó hEochaidh a tháinig na daltaí agus is iadasan a chum an script don bhfiseán "An Scrúdú Cainte.....Craiceáilte". Tar éis neart cleachtadh agus ullmhúchán, tháinig lá na dtaifead agus d'fhag na haisteoirí agus Iníon Dervan an scoil ag breacadh an lae. Faoi dheireadh shroich an ghrúpa stuidió Telegael, áit a mbíonn Ros na Rún á dtaifead,

agus thosaigh said ag réiteach iad féin. Bhí athrú éadaigh le déanamh, smideadh le réiteach (buachaillí & cailíní!!!), agus na línte a léamh don uair deiridh.

Duine ar dhuine, chuaigh na daltaí os chomhair na ceamraí agus is deacair a chreidiúint cé chomh proifisiúnta a bhí chuile duine acu. B'iontach an taithí é seo do na daltaí agus bhain said an t-uafas craic as an lá. Tar éis cupla seachtain tháinig toradh a gcuid oibre le chéile nuair a eisíodh an fhiseán. Ba mhór an tóir bhí ar an bhfiseán ar an gcéad cúpla lá ar Youtube agus bhí sé feicthe ag níos mó ná 5000 daoine taobh istigh den chead seachtain.

Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghabhail le TG4, TG Lurgan agus Gréasán na Meáin as ucht an deis seo a thabhairt dúinn. Chomh maith leo siúd ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghabhail le Iníon Mortimer a chabhraigh leis na props agus Iníon Dervan a chabhraigh linn ar an lá.

Réaltaí sibh go léir!!!

Pictiúir ón gCúlstáitse



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Anyone can be a hero

On the 14th of March which was Monday was a Final of the IWA competition. For anyone who doesn't know what IWA is, it's an Irish Wheelchair Association which raises money for people with disabilities. The charity announced the competition sometime in January and it was only open for Transition year students.

There was a phenomenal amount of entries from all over Ireland and there was fantastic work from everyone but there could be only one winner. Jacob Leszkiewicz from Ratoath College. Jacob came up with a unique design that portrayed 'Anyone can be a hero' Jacob went an extra mile by adding spray paint to his background this made his design unique and different from the others. The judges had a tough time choosing a winner but they believed Jacobs piece included excellent examples of shading and great use of color as it was eye catching and attractive.

When he first started out Jacob never believed he would be good enough to win, so when his success was announced at assembly he was shocked, but delighted.

A judge from the competition was especially impressed by Jacobs work and said 'as soon as I saw this piece I knew it had to win'. Jacob encourages everyone to continue to sup-

port IWA as it continues to help and work people with disabilities.



Restart a Heart!

Sgt. Stephen Shaw updates us on the importance of knowing CPR:



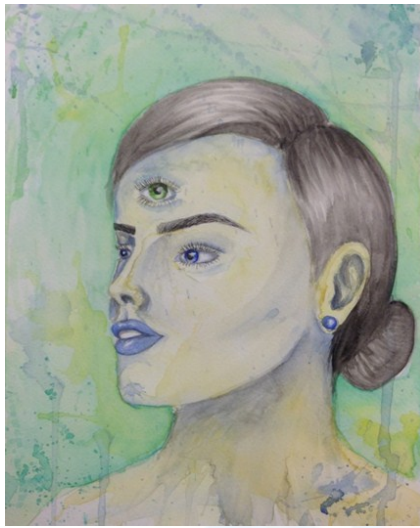
What would you do if you came across somebody not breathing? Would you know what to do? Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is a valuable life saving skill to have. You may never have to use CPR in your life but if the moment should arise, you may just save a life.

In 1740 The Paris Academy of Sciences officially recommending Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation but it

wasn't until 1960 that CPR was officially named and recognised by the American Heart Association. 70% of sudden cardiac arrests happen in the home/community and most often than not they happen in front of a bystander just like you. Every minute without CPR reduces the chance of survival by 10%. This year over two lunch breaks Ms. Smith and I taught a short and simple class on CPR. The students that attended this class could someday save the life of one of the thirteen people who suffer a cardiac arrest everyday in Ireland. Find out where your local First Aid Course is and learn this valuable skill.



Painting Prodigies



This was a great year for the 5th year art students as they had a workshop from an Irish artist called Noreen Walsh. Noreen has 23 years of professional exploration and travel under her belt and is an honours graduate of NCAD. She was a wonderful inspiration to the 5th years and gave great guidance. She works full



-time in her studio near the Hill of Tara, her work in oils, acrylics and watercolours have a strong sense of line and colour.

It was the use of watercolours that she focused on with the fifth years as they practised control and use of colour. Their first piece came under the theme of nature as they completed free-flowing animal paintings. They moved straight on to water-colour portraits based on a famous person of their choosing. This was great practice for their life drawing skills and it also allowed them to investigate the possibility of art as a profession.



The wonders of teamwork

As part of a TY teambuilding module TY student were challenged to create replicas of architecture, buildings, natural causes and wonders from all around the World. They really stepped up to the challenge with



their creations but the question is now posed: Did they develop their teamwork skills or did they just make tasty treats that were aesthetically pleasing and tasty?



Clashing Words

Anna Crowley reports:

The Junior debating team enjoyed much success this year. One of the competitions we entered was the Matheson Mace Junior Debating Competition. The first debate was held in Coláiste na hInse. Nicola Gibson, Kurt Scott, Sophie Scattergood and myself, Anna Crowley, represented Ratoath College on the day. It was a great experience, we learned lots of new debating skills and made some friends!

We went on to do three other debates in this competition, Wesley college, St Conleths College and Loreto college. Nathan Scattergood, Tomas Sarapas, Sydney Dehane-Edge and Katelyn Dunne also took part.

Four of us qualified for the Leinster Finals of the competition, Nicola Gibson, Sophie Scattergood, Kurt Scott and myself. It was held in Holy Child, Killiney. and Kurt Scott made it to the final on the day and both him and Nicola were selected for the national finals, an amazing achievement in their first year of competitive debating.

Nicola Gibson, Kurt Scott and Sophie Scattergood all made the finals of the UCD Junior Debating Competition following a series of Thursday night debates in UCD.

We also took part in the annual LMETB debate, represented by Kurt Scott, Nicola Gibson, Tomas Sarapas and Anna Crowley. We came third in this competition.

The year culminated in a win for Kurt and myself, at a debate hosted by Loreto College, St. Stephen's green.

The senior team were also in action recently, at the final of the annual Meath County Council, held in the EU centre, Grange. Debate Stephen Fowler captained a strong team comprised of Sarah Connolly, Olga Merriگان and David Collins. Despite a superb performance they lost out to a very experienced team from Scoil Mhuire.

The future certainly looks bright for Ratoath College Debating!



Ratoath College Business Department 2015/2016

“Employers and business leaders need people who can think for themselves - who can take initiative and be the solution to problems” Stephen Covey

Exponential Growth of LC Economics and Accounting intake

LC Economics is a relatively new Leaving Certificate Subject in Ratoath College not that you would know by looking at the new 5th Economics class which is full for September 2016 the same goes for Leaving Certificate Accounting, this is due to our fantastic teachers in the Business department and the go getting business pupils who have taken up this subject achieving excellent results which go far beyond the national averages. LC Business has always been a popular subject at Leaving Certificate due to the interesting topics and the grounding it has given students going into college.

Embracing iPad's as a learning device

First year and second year Business studies students are leading the way when it comes to iPads in education. They are using our own department-produced student eBook hosted on their class schoolology account. Students make use of creativity apps including Pic Collage 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. Schoolology 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.

Mini companies as good as real companies

All second year classes created mini companies to show off their key entrepreneurial skills of creativity, communication and risk taking. With many 2nd year groups embraced the Christmas Spirit in their pursuit of profit with their wreath and created a substantial profit. Mr Connolly would like to congratulate his class on their fabulous teamwork and he sees huge potential for their future business endeavours and their entrepreneurial talent. TY's also embraced their entrepreneurial ambition with their superb mini companies with Ms Hynes and Mr Leonard. 101 students participated in transition year and from this group we managed to operate sixteen excellent mini companies. The companies sold their products at parent teacher meetings, craft fairs, door to door selling and in various different businesses throughout the local area. Well done to all the TYs who showed great enterprise throughout the year.

The photos below show the TY companies Santa's little helpers and Sweet treats busy making and selling their products at a parent teacher meeting held before Christmas. 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 has led to many nominations for Entrepreneur of the Year Award which will be presented at prize giving.



Young Economist of the Year 2016 – Written by Stephen Fowler

This year I entered the “Young Economist of the Year 2016” with a project titled “*An Economic Analysis on the War on Drugs*”. The project made it to the finals of the competition on the 14th of March.

The project was a four minute video where I explained the effects that result from making drugs illegal, including the creation of black markets and the affects that prohibition has on both supply and demand. I chose to do my project on the War on Drugs as I am a supporter of the decriminalisation of drugs and the legalisation of others, there has also been major legislation and talk around the world of what the legal status of certain substances which may currently be illegal, so I felt that the project was topical and current.

The awards ceremony was held on the 14th of March in Citywest Hotel in Saggart, Dublin. Unfortunately I was unable to attend as I was on the French Exchange, however two of my classmates Sean Keane and Niamh Doyle attended on my behalf and my project was awarded a bronze commendation medal. I really enjoyed taking part in the competition and I would definitely recommend other students to get involved in the competition next year.



Business Week

A creativity and innovative business week occurred in January 2016, Ms Bourke and Mr Connolly ran a highly competitive branding table quiz for first years, with the eventual winners scoring a 97% success rate. Mr Carey introduced business to the two primary schools, through running a branding quiz, there was over 100 entries and the winners won selection boxes. Ms Reilly held informative talks with senior business pupils from accountants in the profession and colleges. Sixth and fifth pupils with the help of their teachers kindly gave up their own time to talk to third years and transition years about senior leaving subjects and results in huge demand this September for business options. Well done to all. A successful a competitive poster competition was run by Ms O Toole focusing on key words in business.

Good Luck to our third years

Ms Bourke, Mr Walsh, Mr Leonard, Ms Casey and Ms Hynes 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. Carey “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!!!

Goodbye to Ms Judge

Ms Judge has left the school with a promotion to Deputy Principal, she was a vital member of the Business department and will be missed. Ms Judge is an excellent business teacher and students enjoyed her lesson immensely. Ms Judge had one or two fabulous quotes: “*That's purr....fect*” “*it's your leaving cert*”. She also dreamt big and always wanted a white board on wheels for accounts which Ms Prendergast is getting in honour of her time in the school.

Good bye to our fabulous sixth years

Mr Carey, Mr Connolly and Mr Walsh 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. The very best in your exams in June!

La vie est belle!

Leah Farrell & Colm Hynes reflect on the experience of a lifetime:

The French visit Ireland

This year's French Exchange was scheduled to be on the 14th of November, but due to the tragedy in Paris, it had to be post-poned. It was rescheduled for the 25th of March when our French correspondents arrived after an eighteen-hour long boat journey. All of the Irish students went to greet them at the school upon their arrival and then take their respective partners home for the first night.

Over the weekend the French students were entertained by their Irish families and visited places such as Newgrange, Croke Park and went out for meals with the family. They came to school in Ratoath College too. There was also a party held on the Saturday night and some went bowling and to Q-zar in Leisureplex on the Sunday, which was enjoyed by all who attended. Then on the Monday, while the Irish students had class, the French students went into Dublin for the day to take a tour around Trinity College and afterwards they did some shopping in the city centre. Later on that night there was another party which was once again very enjoyable. On Wednesday, both sets of students went to Belfast for the Titanic expedition, which was really interesting, made a quick visit to Shankill, and then went to do some shopping around Belfast city. That night we all went to La Bucca for a meal on the last night.

Thursday was the day that the French students

went home to France. The Irish students waved them off sadly, but knew they would see them again in two weeks' time.

Vive la France!

On Monday the 14th of March thirty students from Ratoath College including myself took part in the French Exchange trip to Rennes. The two teachers in charge of the exchange were Ms Conlon and Mr Gibson. The flight left Dublin airport at 8:00am and arrived in Nantes airport at 10:40. From there, the Irish students and teachers went to the Lycée Joliot-Curie school to be greeted by their French partners



Enjoying a crepe in St. Malo



After crossing the bay to Mont St Michel

Students visit Roazhon Park, home of Stade Rennais FC



Visit to Le Mont St. Michel

and teachers. It was a nerve-wrecking bus journey to the school as everyone was so excited to be reunited with their French friends once again.

Over the course of the week we took part in many activities and saw a lot of sights. The Irish students went on a trip for the French "urban challenge". Here we were brought to a French market where we were given a list of tasks to complete. Some of these tasks included asking for the price of certain foods, taking selfies with certain objects, talking to French people about their stalls and creating videos. On this day we tried the local delicacy "La Galette Saucisse" which was a sausage wrapped in a savoury crepe. I personally didn't like it very much lol.

We spent St Patrick's Day at one of France's most famous landmarks, Le Mont Saint-Michel. Here we did the crossing of the bay where we had to walk across the beach in our bare feet trying to avoid quick sand and water, but everyone just ran through it all so that made it more fun. We also visited the beautiful coastal town of St Malo to participate in "Le char a voile" a cross between chariot racing and wind surfing on the beach. This was one of the best days by far as the wind surfing/chariot racing was amazing. Later that day we

visited the old town of St Malo to do some shopping; there we also ate in a delicious creperie.

The weekend was spent with the host families. Many students attended parties and activities throughout the weekend and all of us as a group went to play space laser together over the weekend. Some students participated in other activities such as ice skating and indoor footballing for example.

Sunday night was supposed to be our last night until one of the students got a text from their parents telling them that our flight was cancelled. There was lots of panic among all the Irish students as they all felt it was time to go home. After lots of chaos our flight was confirmed to be cancelled and we ended up staying another night in France. In the end it turned out to be a great last night with everyone.

For me, overall, the French Exchange was an amazing experience and I loved every minute of it, learning about the French culture was so interesting, I made so many memories and I'm happy I got to do it with my friends. Shout out to Sam and Phil my new besties.

#nutellasocks#we'reinFrance#Typical2000#twofooter#dyingmyhair #eeyaoh#ru4real#dc&db#markmicosa.

The French Department

The French Department has had a very successful year with our new recruits : Madame O' Hanlon and Madame Simon. We are very grateful for the great work Madame Simon has put in all year with our students in preparing them for their orals. It has been such a great advantage to have two native French speakers on our team.

Mr Gibson organized a very enjoyable French Exchange this year despite the few minor mishaps that were totally out of our control. The French students trip to Ireland had to be postponed after the November incidents in Paris. The Irish students trip to France was longer than expected due to flight cancellations as a result of Air Traffic Control strikes in France. So we had an extra day of eating croissants and crepes. A fantastic time was had on the French exchange with trips to Mont St Michel (where we trekked across the bay in our bare feet), a trip to St Malo (where we did Sand Windsurfing). Mr Gibson's sand windsurfing skills were top notch but Ms Conlon may need some practice.

Ms Flynn organized TY trip to cinema in October to

see the latest French movie released by the IFI - 'La Bande des Filles' which was very enjoyable.

All that's left to say is "Bonne vacances a tous".





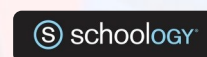
Technical Graphics & Design and Communication Graphics 2016

Follow us on  [@rctgdcg](https://twitter.com/rctgdcg)

We have had a great year in the Technical Drawing department. The subject is growing in popularity, for the first time we have three classes of Technical Graphics in 1st Year.

Room Upgrades

This year we were fortunate to receive a brand new set of desktop computers for our Design and Communication Graphics room. These state of the art computers have made a fantastic addition to our department. They were funded by the Department of Education as part of a nationwide upgrade for DCG classrooms.



Technical Graphics

We now have iPads for first and second years. The iPad has been integrated into our teaching and learning. Using Schoolology 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.

Former DCG Students

Congratulations to Grahame Reynolds and Callum mc Govern two students from our 6th year DCG class of 2015, who are now studying Product Design in Maynooth University. Both students were introduced to product design in DCG, Graeme designed a Michelin car torch for his Leaving Cert. We look forward to hearing great things from these students in the future. Both these students have commented on the benefit of studying DCG for their Leaving Cert.



Farewell to 6th Years

To the right is a picture of our current 6th year leaving cert Design and Communication Graphics students. They have been fantastic students over the last 5-6 years. This year students completed a project on water taps. We would like to wish them the best of luck with the upcoming Leaving Cert

RATOATH COLLEGE 6TH YEAR DCG CLASS OF 2016

DCG Student Assignment Submission, Project on Water Taps

Back row from left to right. Mr Giblin, Ting Hao Chang, Eoin Corrigan, Jake Lynch, Daniel Egan, Ross Newe, Eoin Clayton, Kevin Mc Gonigle.

Front row left to right, Pierce Wragg, Eoin o Connell, Donal Mc Larnon



Design and Communication Graphics



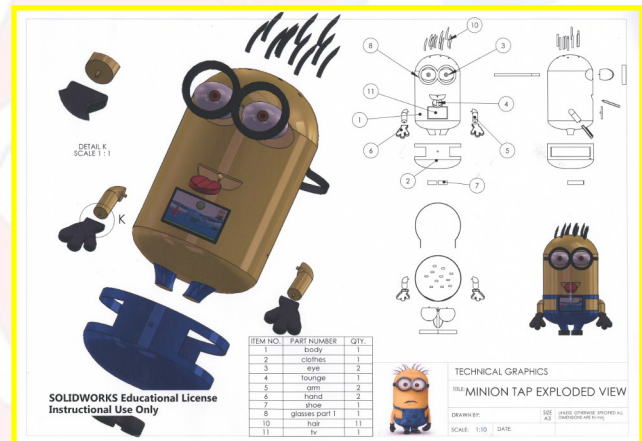
DCG is a subject offered at senior cycle, it is a follow on subject from Technical Graphics. The subject contains a theory exam worth 60%, and a project worth 40% of their leaving cert. This years leaving certs carried out a project on water taps. Students had to carry out research on taps, complete various sketches and model a tap using Solid works. Students also got the opportunity to research, and design their own concept tap. Below are some examples from work produced by



DCG Assignment 2016 Student Profiles

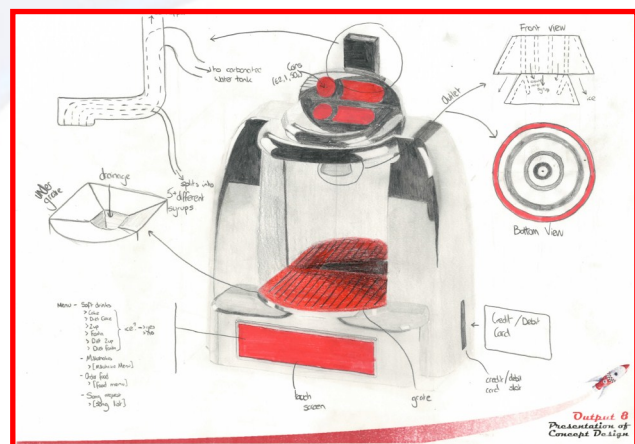
Eoin Clayton

"From carrying out research I found that there was a big gap in the market for a child's water tap. I decided to design my tap on a minion. The tap can be powered on/off using a touch screen led panel on the front of the minion, the water temperature can also be set digitally. The water discharges from the minions mouth at an optimum angle for the user. I have learned a lot of new skills as a result of this project"



Kevin Mc Gonigle

"For my leaving cert I designed a water tap/drinks dispenser for Eddie Rockets. I got the idea during a visit to Eddie Rockets in Blanchardstown. The customer can fill their glass at their own convenience. On the front of the unit I created a touch screen LED panel which allows the customer to order food, play music and select a beverage of their choice. For payment of goods, there is a coin slot and a Visa card slot built in to the unit. I modelled this design using CAD/Solidworks and I was able to produce working drawings and photorealistic photos of my design"



Movie Mania

Film Club has been up and running since January 2016 for 1st and 2nd year students. All 1st and 2nd years are welcome to come along especially if you are interested in film making or



consider yourself a film buff. Film Club is a great chance to relax and be entertained! Recently we have watched *Field of Dreams*, *Night at the Museum* and *the Blind Side* with lots more dramatic and exciting movies yet to come.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Rang Bourke (5th LCA) Easter egg hunt in Aonad Arkle.

On Friday 11th March, Rang Bourke showed their kindness, empathy and creativity by implementing their Vocational Preparation and Guidance Task by planning and organising a Easter eggs hunt and party afterwards for our pupils with ASD. They picked the teams of pupils going on the hunt. They supported the pupils in competing the hunt and encouraged and motivated them. They successfully gained sponsorship for Easter eggs from Sweeney's Centra and the school canteen.

After the Hunt the class presented the easter eggs, they organised games and showed their creativity through painting real eggs with the pupils.

Another great example of the calibre of student in our Leaving Cert applied class and the embodiment of the school motto of Mol an Óige.



Ratoath College goes mobile



The Ratoath College App was launched this year. This is an exciting new venture for the school providing up to date notifications on events, reminders and extra-curricular activities. It can be downloaded from the Apple Store and the Google store..

Good deeds

Short summaries on some of the fundraising efforts of Ratoath College students during the year.
Well Done all!

As an effort to raise awareness about World Mental Health day, green ribbons were made by Rang Garrett and sold to all members of the school community. Funds were raised for Pieta House and the issue of Mental Health was promoted across the school.

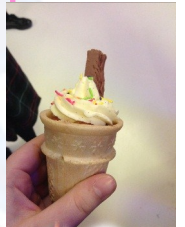


TY students organised a baking workshop with primary school students. The primary school student thoroughly enjoyed their time in the big school and created marvellous masterpieces.



In an effort to support the St. Vincent de Paul organisation Rang McCarthy set-up a Christmas themed project to raise funds. All students were invited to send a candy cane with a positive message to another person in the school. Lagging spirits were raised, the feel good factor was off the charts and St. Vincent de Paul benefitted too. Also at Christmas all classes in the school donated goods to the Christmas hamper appeal. The response was unlike any other year and the organisation volunteers were overwhelmed at the generosity of Ratoath College students.

Numerous bake sales were held during this year to support many worthy causes such as SVP Pieta House and a close to our heart Little Princess funs. Although it went against the School's healthy eating policy. Sweet and tasty treats were available and students supported these worthy causes and enjoyed



In October TY's went bagpacking to raise funds for the school musical and for Austism Ireland. It was a tiring day but by the time we were done the heaviness of the bucket made it all worthwhile.



We would like to say a big thanks to everyone involved.

Rang O'Donoghue organised a super cycle for all TY's to continue promoting awareness of mental health. All Tys dressed up as their favourite superhero and cycled around the village. It was a supertastic day!



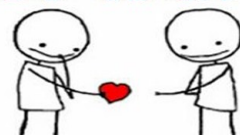
TY Charity Sleep-in
A small group of TY students from Rang McCarthy and O'Donoghue made an effort to raise awareness of how the homeless live day to day by arranging a Sleep-in in the Gym without the luxuries of our everyday lives. The event was a huge success with over 50 students taking part and raising over €400 for Focus Ireland! It was a tough night but a real eye opener.



Carol singing
Rang Garrett went carol singing in the local home just before Christmas. Tunes were sung and Christmas spirits were raised. Many of the home residents commented on the kind and caring personalities in Rang Garrett.



Pay It Forward



La Dolce Vita

The First Part of the Exchange: *Pronto*

On Monday the 14th of March a small group of TY and 5th year students embarked on the school trip of a life time, accompanied by Ms Hayes and Ms Brennan. When we arrived to the Italian's Parma school we were greeted warmly by the



school trip of a life time, accompanied by Ms Hayes and Ms Brennan. When we arrived to the Italian's Parma school we were greeted warmly by the

Italian students with the Irish flag.

Over the course of the trip we experience many wonderful sights and the most delicious food. We all got to experience new ways of getting to school. For some it was a short walk, an awkward car journey or a long, tiring bus ride. Some, (Sam McSweeney) took a detour to a hospital.

We explored Parma's many historical buildings and were in awe of the stunning scenery. The "Urban Challenge" saw us break into mixed Irish and Italians groups had to run around Parma taking photos. Italy didn't know what hit it on St. Patrick's Day with us all dressed in green clothes, hats, flags and tattoos and we really left our mark on Parma's festival! We saw a beautiful castle, amazing works of art and Luke Farrell jumping into the lake! I'm pretty sure everyone's parents were happy to receive the blocks of cheese we bought from the Parmesan cheese factory.



Fidenza Village was full of amazing shops,

and Calvin Klein underwear!

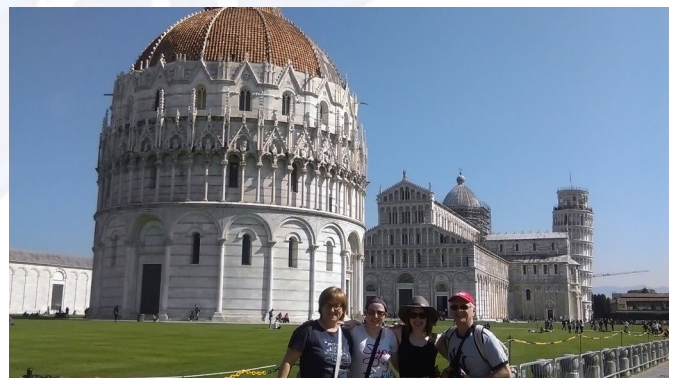
The competition over who could get the most accurate photo of themselves or a group pushing the Leaning Tower of



Pisa was gas. Not bragging or anything but Peter Barry and I won. We really should have been better prepared for the beach, the weather was perfect and the sea was so tempting that even in a jumper and leggings, I had to get in.

Experiencing an Italian school day was crucial, even if it was a Saturday. Many, including myself, went to an Italian disco while others went to Parma. Some people went to Florence or Milan later in the trip. All part of the Italian experience!

Overall the Italian Exchange was the best experience I've ever had with the school. I was fortunate enough to get to travel and form friendships with the most amazing group of people. The Italian students were friendly and welcoming and they will always be remembered by everyone who took part in the exchange as some of the nicest people on



this earth. On this exchange we made memories and friends that will never be forgotten... wait Dove Ben?

La Dolce Vita

Italian Exchange Part 2

When the Italian Students arrived we returned their hospitality and showed them what its like to be an Irish student; walking to school, assembly, our rangs, classes. People offered to have us all over to their houses in the evenings which meant we were altogether loads.

The Italians explored Dublin, visited Trinity College, Dublin Castle and The Guinness Storehouse. Camilla (Queen) being the life and soul of the exchange got Regina meaning Queen on her coffee cup and proudly showed all the Irish when she arrived home.

At the weekend we went to town and Blanch, showing them the spire, temple bar and our shopping spots. In the last week we all went to Kilkenny, Bray and Glendalough for day trips. Bray.

As we said our last goodbyes, a lot of tears were wept by both Irish and Italians; and even from some of the

teachers. Students who had done the exchange before, along with the teachers said that as a group we were the year that bonded the most and got on the best. We still keep in touch with our partners because we did become genuine friends with them. It was an absolutely amazing trip and I don't think we will ever have an experience like it again, where we truly see the lifestyle of Italians and create friendships for life. I along with anyone else involved would highly recommend it to anybody doing Italian in 4th and 5th year next year!



The Italian Department

Another very successful year all round in the Italian Department.

A heartfelt *benvenuti* to all our dedicated and enthusiastic first years who are finding Italian *facile come bere un bicchier d'acqua*. We're looking forward to seeing how they all develop as Italian speakers over the coming years.

Our juniors had great success in the National Postcard and Poster Design Competition organised by the Irish Association of Teachers of Italian. First-years Leah Barneville and Isabelle McManus, second-year Ava Mulreaney, and third-year Lara Walsh Fagherazzi were all finalists in this year's competition and were treated to a wonderful day of Italian culture (and, more importantly, food!) in the Italian Cultural Institute in Dublin. *Complimenti a tutte le ragazze*.

We can't forget our TYs and fifth years who, along with Ms Hayes and Ms Brennan, enjoyed a brilliant and eventful trip to Parma as part of the annual Italian exchange. The school played host to their Italian counterparts in April and you can read all about it elsewhere in this year's yearbook. Life-long friendships have been forged and *non vediamo l'ora di* next year's exchange.

Sadly, it's 'time to say goodbye' to our sixth years and wish them all *in bocca al lupo* for their forthcoming Leaving Cert. The Italian version of our Leaving Cert is *la diploma di maturità*, ('the diploma of maturity'), and nothing could be

more appropriate for our current group of nearly 90 Italian learners in sixth year. We've seen them mature into keen linguists and we wish them all the very best in what lies ahead. *Crepi il lupo!*

The Italian Department had a wonderfully expansive year, as the *splendida* Ms Hayes and our language assistant *per eccellenza* Eva joined the staff. Both of them have added enormously to life of school, not just linguistically but also musically, when they, along with Messrs Ward and McAuley, dazzled the crowds with their Arts Week performance of Verdi's '*Va, pensiero*'. The Ratoath family is ever-growing and over the summer break Ms Flatley welcomed her baby girl Ella, Mr Ward's little boy Felix was born in November, and - *non c'è due senza tre* - as we go to press Mr McAuley is eagerly awaiting the imminent arrival of his own little daughter. *Congratulazioni a tutti*.

Best of luck once again to all taking part in the state exams this summer and *buone vacanze a tutti*.

A presto,

Mr Ward, Mr McAuley, Ms Flatley, and Ms Hayes.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL YOUTH FOR JUSTICE DAY

Tara & Ciara report:

On the 27th of April, 30 students were selected to attend the youth for justice day in Monaghan. Here they presented projects and their work they did in aid of St. Vincent de Paul. There were two groups; one was the awareness group and the other was the inclusion group. The awareness group focused on projects that raised awareness for SVP and the inclusion group focused on befriending and including people in the work that SVP do. The group members for the awareness group were: Orla Hayes, Nicole Crowley, Alannah O'Riordan, Niall McLarnon, Tara Brazil, Glenn McNally, Ben Mahon, Rebecca Mahon, Hannah Talbot, Catriona Shanley & Laura Campbell. The members in the inclusion group were: Hannah McLean, Ailbhe Caprani, Georgina Coyle, Clodagh O'Farrell, Jade Conroy, Kuba, Olga Merrigan, Roisin

Conlon, Laoise Corcran, Hazel O' Driscoll. The main aim of the day was to meet new people from different schools. It was easy for us to get along because we all share the common interest of our willingness to help SVP. Throughout the day we listened to everyone's projects about SVP which included one school knitting woolly hats and jumpers for premature babies in hospitals, and one school group who learned sign language and taught it to 1st years with the aim to try and befriend a new deaf student in the school. This is only a snippet of the fantastic work the students put into the projects for SVP. We set up a stall for all our projects and decorated it nicely. The day ended with a positive note when Attracta (the coordinator of the youth for justice day) thanked us all for coming and we all sang 'Where is the love?' by the Black Eyed Peas. It was a super day and enjoyed by all.



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

For the students, by the students

*A report on the ISSU
by Sophie Scattergood*



My name is Sophie Scattergood and I'm a 2nd Year student. I have been a member of the Student Council since the start of this year and it has been a very interesting and enjoyable time for me as a student. One of the opportunities I have been given as a member of my student council was attending the ISSU (Irish Second-Level Students Union) AGM on March 24th 2016 in Liberty Hall Theatre Dublin.

The day started at 10:30 am and I attended it with my three fellow student council members Stephen Fowler, Zara Doyle and Alex Fogarty. Alex was known to the organisation as he has had positions on it previously. So as Zara and I were newcomers we were quite nervous in the beginning but later throughout the day we became more comfortable.

Three of us were running for positions on the day. Alex was running for Secretary, Zara was running for Campaigns and Communications Officer and I was running for Student Council Support Officer. There were a lot of students there on the day, Mostly 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th years. As I am a 2nd year I was the youngest person running for election, some people might have been afraid to be in my position, surrounded by older people, but I was actually proud to be where I was. My background of debating competitions prepared me for anything and taught me to be confident. So when it came to making our 1 minute speeches I thought I had done very well and was happy with how it went.

There was only one other girl up for my position. Her name was Kate and she was very nice. At



Very proud of Zara, Sophie and Alex running for election at #ISSU16 today - strong voices to represent students around the country. @issu4u

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2 RETWEETS 1 LIKE



lunch we were served pizza and during this time many people went around campaigning. I spoke to a lot of really nice people who were happy to vote for me.

After lunch we started to vote. It was just like a refer-



endum, and it was fun to be involved. Once everyone had voted we were seated back in the theatre and we watched and participated in the presidential debates. This was when the people who were running for president went up to the stage and spoke about questions asked by the audience. After the debates we moved on to discuss motions that were proposed by us, the delegates.

At the end of the day, the last thing we did was find out who won the positions on ISSU. This was really exciting! Sadly Zara and I didn't get voted onto our positions but congratulations to Alex who was voted the new secretary! This is now his third year being elected for a position, which isn't easy and it takes dedication to succeed. But for Alex someone in the audience wasn't satisfied with his reports when he was Student Council Support Officer the previous year, because during the report feedback from

all of the previous position holders he was asked a very good question which was "Did you actually do any student council supporting?" Of course this was just a joke and it was the funniest highlight of the day and we all had a great laugh at it, plus no ones feelings were hurt by it either.

The day as a whole was very enjoyable and Zara and I are still interested in ISSU so we are both planning to look into joining the panels that are available so that we can gain a bit more knowledge for the years to come as participants. It is definitely worth getting involved in so if you would like to check out ISSU's work feel free to search their website @ISSU.ie.



1st Year on Tour

Italy

Anya Browne reflects on the trip of a lifetime:

On Easter Monday 2016 we, the first years of Ratoath College embarked on an amazing journey to Lago Di Garda, Italia, and what a trip it was! We had an amazing time.

On Monday we all gathered at Supervalu car park at approximately 4am where we waited for our bus with our parents. It was a very cold morning but the adrenalin kept us warm. When the buses arrived we fled from our parents who all anxiously waved us off.

Our holiday got off to a dramatic start when one student, who shall remain nameless, left his passport on the plane in Italy. Mr. Connolly's and Mr. Jordan's groups were delayed. Mr. Jordan was more than excited when I found a packet of Percy Pigs to share while we waited for the passport to turn up. After a long day we went to our hotel and went for a very..... unusual dinner. Everybody got a huge pizza that we could hardly finish. We went to our rooms after that and got some sleep for the early start the next day.

Tuesday was an early morning as some of us took a stroll in the local village. There was an amazing view of the lake and mountains. It was breathtaking. That day we were off to explore Venice. When we arrived we took a group picture and headed off to catch a gondola ride. It was such a relaxing form of transport and we had great fun taking photos and looking at all of the lovely bridges and buildings. Sadly we had to get off the gondolas. We walked around Venice taking in the sights and admiring the lovely architecture. It was a jam packed day!

On Wednesday we headed off to Verona. We went to Arena di Verona which was amazing. After we explored for a while we went to the balcony of Juliet where we got a photo with the statue of Juliet and wrote our names in the entrance.

That evening we went for an afternoon swim in a freezing swimming pool, we were all cold and afraid to jump in which was Ms. Doonan's cue to start pushing people. When we got back to our warm selves, we got ready to go to a pizzeria that we were told was a half hour walk. When we ordered our food some people's pronunciation was a bit off so when some ordered "pepperoni" they got "peppers only". We had a good laugh at that. When we were done we went back to the

hotel and went to bed a than usual.

little later

On Thursday the excitement couldn't be contained as we were going to..... **GARDALAND!!!** There were no queues so we were spilt rotten in the themepark with people going on the rides several times. Mr. Jordan made Niamh and I go on The Raptor with him. The walk in was full of nerves but we did it and had a great time. We met up with Ellen and she was trying her heart out to get one of the puffy big teddies but she just couldn't get the ball through the hoop. A lot of people had won big teddies and were nervous about getting them home.

We headed home the next day and everyone felt a little melancholy when we walked through the airport in Dublin. It was the trip of a lifetime and we will always remember the amazing time we had together.

On behalf of all first years I would like to say a Big "THANK YOU" to all of the people that made our trip so special. To our leaders for taking care of us and having fun with us, to our bus drivers that got us from A to B and back again and to everyone that helped make our trip so special. I'm sure we would also like to thank our parents who funded our trip, which was memorable.

It was a fantastic trip that we will remember for the rest of our lives.





COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

1st Year on Tour

Lilliput

Seán Murphy reminisces:

A big group of 1st years set out for Lilliput Adventure centre on school tour this year. We left on the Tuesday before the Easter holidays. We departed the school at 9:30am and arrived at around 11:30am. When we got there, we were welcomed by two boys, a St. Bernard called Bear and a Labrador. We were escorted to our rooms before we were split into three groups to make it easier for us to do all of the activities.

My group started off playing capture the flag in the forest. The whole aim of the game was to hide your flag and find your opponents flag. It was actually quite fun. Then we had lunch at 1:15pm outside. Afterwards, we went bog-jumping which was enormous fun but a little bit dirty, we had to walk, crawl and sprint through mud and water. Aaron Davis lost his two runners half way through and Jude Hyland decided to jump into the deepest puddle at the end. Madness! We went down to the lake afterwards to go canoeing. After all the activities my clothes were destroyed. We were all exhausted but thoroughly exhilarated.

That night we were split into two groups to play man-hunt in the forest. It was quite funny because our group was too loud so we were found within two minutes. Some of the students weren't too happy to roam around the forest late at night. I have to admit that it was a little creepy!

The next day wasn't as eventful. We got to do a scavenger hunt and Mr Walsh organised a few games for us before we returned to Ratoath once again. It was a great trip enjoyed by all!



Out and About: Hands on Learning in History

It's been another exciting and active year for the History team and Ratoath College Historians.

In this, the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme

and with the forthcoming commemoration of the part played by Irishmen in that most horrendous of conflicts, which resulted in the death of thousands of Irish soldiers from the 36th and 16th Divisions, formed respectively from the bodies of the Ulster and National Volunteers, this year's TY History trip was a new and highly appropriate departure. A visit to the Irish Military War Museum in Collon, Co. Louth gave students the chance to witness at first hand the terrible machinery of war and get a genuine feel for the extraordinary challenges faced in the life of a soldier in the field.

The other major anniversary dominating commemorations this year is of course that of the 1916 Rising. Our own Mr Jordan led the RC delegation to Croke Park to collect, along with teachers and students from all over Ireland, a national flag gifted to the school by the Thomas F Meagher Foundation. This was the flag used in the school's Proclamation Day commemoration.

1916 was also the main theme of Mr Ó hEochaidh's walking tour of Dublin with Leaving Cert Historians. Following a fantastic bus tour of the city focussing on the Rising, Mr Ó hEochaidh and his charges braved inclement conditions to visit more intimately some of the main locations relevant to Easter Week, including the GPO, the spot on O'Rahilly Parade where that street's namesake was shot and died after penning a tragic letter to his wife as well the Rotunda where the Volunteers were formed in 1913 and Trinity College, the site of the only memorial to a British soldier killed in action Easter week, Pte AC Smith. We wish all our Junior and Leaving Cert Historians the very best of luck in their exams and thereafter, a happy and sunny summer.



Art from the heart



morning about her prize when she received an invitation to the LMETB Awards and as she said "This brought a huge smile on my face". It was her first time winning such a competition and she was more than happy she took a second place. Simina has said that she is very thankful for the ongoing support of her art teacher and also of her passion because without the passion and effort she wouldn't have succeeded.

Simina implores everyone to take a chance and emphasises how much it matters to do all the things with love and how "patience is bitter but its fruit is sweet."

Simina also said that "I think that the price of success is hardwork, dedication to the job at hand and the determination that whatever happens, win or lose, I have applied the best of myself to the task at hand. This was like a little dream for me that I hope it will happen again. I felt more motivated than I was before and it made me love Art even more."

"Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them and try to follow where they lead."

LMETB Art competition

Simina's 2nd place in the Senior category

Well done to Simina Maria Custura for taking a second place in the senior category in the LMETB School Art competition, Simina has created a beautiful and astonishing piece of calligraphy which clearly stood out from other students work.

As described my Simina she felt that the day she found out that her piece took second place everything was different more colorful and cheerful "I woke up and it was very sunny outside. I could hear the beautiful songs of birds outside and it relaxed me. I was getting ready for school with a smile on my face and I felt that it will be a good day. On my way to school, on the bus, I looked through the window and the sky was full of warm colours of purple, yellow, red and pink. After I arrived at school, the atmosphere felt a bit different from the past few days... it was more energetic and more happiness was evident on the other student's faces."

Simina was informed by her Art teacher that



Other entries from Ratoath College: Emily McGlynn & Laoise Corcoran

The PE Department



We had a great start to the year with the annual, highly successful Sports Day. Students took part in both individual and team activities, working toward gaining points for their Rang. First years Rang Fee proved to be the top dogs on the

day and ran away with the prize. Congratulations Rang Fee! The teachers did an incredible job looking after each activity and the PE department would like to thank everybody for their participation. Special Shout-out to Mr. McCarthy whose car proved a great addition to the RC Obstacle Race.

LCA had a very successful year working on their Leisure and Recreation modules. First years learned about some of the skills involved in Ultimate Frisbee through the teaching of LCA students. Both groups went ice skating in Blanchardstown before Christmas and Jump Zone where they had fun working on their fitness



on the trampolines. Students finished their highly successful year with a trip to Extreme, where those who had positive comments and points were able to partake in rock climbing, archery, zip lining and a sky walk experience. A great time was had by all.

First years had a great time on their bonding trip to Lilliput. New friendships were made as they worked on team

building skills and activities. As part of their PE curriculum, students had the chance to try lots of new activities including gymnastics, basketball, handball. They also had the chance to work on their fitness levels. A coach from Leinster Rugby came in to work with the first years on tag rugby for a few weeks. They learned about the rules of the game as well as skills involved in passing, tagging, running and scoring. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The 'Super hero' theme for TYs saw a module called 'Super Fit' being established. Students spent their time rotating around fitness, games, gymnastics and adapted physical activity modules. Students went on several enjoyable trips including their end of the year trip to Lilliput where they finished the year on a high. Best of luck in 5th year!

Gym club was very successful this year with a huge group of students signing up to use the gym after school.

Many students took up going to the gym as part of their Gaisce Award, learning new skills and building on their fitness levels.



Senior Music Group

Music is a piece of art that goes in the ears and straight to the heart!

The senior music group is a group of students who meet in the music room every Thursday to play random songs usually picked on the day. If there is something coming up the group picks a song and practices it nonstop until they achieve perfection. The group enjoys practicing for and doing performances, such as the Christmas prize giving, where they showed off their absolutely unbelievable music talents with their rendition of Keane's 'Somewhere only we know'.

In the group there are a wide range of musicians and vocalists. We would surely forget someone if we were to try and name them all. As the year draws to a close we sadly say goodbye to the amazing musicians who dazzle us with their talents on weekly basis. We wish Brian and Jack all the best in their future endeavours.

Looking over the group is Ms Dalton, expert musician, licensed gossip and unforgettable mentor. Quick to agree or completely dismiss a song (usually suggested by Jack, he has become very fond of ABBA covers) the picking process could take months. Fully understanding that every student is there to have fun playing music, Ms Dalton definitely adds to the amazing atmosphere every Thursday.



Although he is retiring from Music Group this year as he moves on to bigger and brighter activities Jack Marshall reminds everyone that Senior music group will be recruiting in September. So if you want somewhere to come and enjoy a jam session, bring your lunch along and join in.

It has become a safe haven for Ms. Dalton and as she wishes everyone a lovely summer and thanks for everything over the past few months. Members of senior music group have always a tower of strength and support. We will miss Jack and Brian more than we could ever thank them but we wish them the best.

See everyone in September!

Rathbeggan Lakes



Staff and students from Aonad Arkle had an amazing time at Rathbeggan Lakes on the 18th of December 2015. It was a wet and windy day but it didn't dampen spirits and students were eager to get up on the zip line and aptly named 'leap of faith'. Stephen and Jason in particular were incredibly brave and put some of the reluctant staff members to shame. We returned to Ratoath College a little more daring and a lot wetter!

Glorious Melodies

The Music Department

This year there was lots happening both inside and outside of the Music classroom. The highlight of the year was certainly the wonderful musical "All Shook Up" which took place in October. Students from 1st, 2nd, TY and 5th year took part. Under the direction of Mr. Ward and Ms. Dalton, it was a resounding success.

Ratoath College's very successful annual Talent Show took place on Thursday the 11th February and it included students from all year groups. Acts included solo and groups, dancers, singers and instrumentalists. It was a wonderful night of song, music and dance.

The winners on the night were Leah Barniville singing 'Parle Piu Piano', Sarah and Hazel O' Driscoll singing 'Dancing on my own', a 6th Year band, Near the Belgian Border, singing an original song and Emma Scattergood playing her own composition on piano. Best Newcomer prize was given to the 1st Year band Daniel Gallagher, Dante Macari and Daniel Doody performing 'Dancing in the Moonlight'



All transition year and rang Bourke took part in an African drumming workshop with Neil from Drum Nature, during which students were introduced to rhythms and sounds from Africa on the djembe drum as well as other percussion instruments

Ian McTigue a local bodhran player ran a workshop with transition year students in conjunction with their Irish music module. Students developed their skills on playing traditional Irish dance rhythms including reels, jigs and hornpipes.

Leah Barniville, Colm O' Brien and the first year band Daniel Gallagher, Dante Macari and Daniel Doody represented the school at the LMETB festival of music in the TIT theatre in Drogheda on the 5th of May. This was a wonderful occasion for students to showcase their talent alongside music students from other schools.



During a normal week in RC, students can enrich their musical repertoire by joining Senior or Junior Music Groups. Here students have the opportunity to become a member of our ever growing musical family. 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.

Throughout the year various musicians have performed during Arts' Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge and at the many Award Ceremonies and Graduations in the school.

We have had a few trips to the National Concert Hall as well as going to see the musical "Into the Woods" in Dunboyne.

The Music teachers Ms. Heneghen, Ms. Dalton, Ms. Flynn and Ms. Garrett are all so proud of how talented the students in this school and it is a pleasure to teach so many of you. We are looking forward to more fun times next year!

Guidance

Ratoath College Guidance Department

In September The Year got off to a great start with all 6th years attending the Higher Options conference in the RDS to start the process of thinking about 3rd level and options after school. Also in September the Guidance Department held a CAO Information evening for the parents of 6th years.

In December The Guidance Department hosted a Careers Fair with 9 Higher Education Institutions present. The Guidance Department hosted a number of Universities, Colleges and PLCs such as Maynooth University, TCD, Colaiste Dhulaigh and Dunboyne PLC. Also present was Solas who talked to students who wish to pursue an apprenticeship.

January was Subject Choice month for 3rd and TY students. All students completed the Eirquest interest test and took part in Subject choice workshops. The Guidance Department also held a Subject Choice Information evening for parents to help

them with the process.

In March Johnny Cooper Dublin football legend which is the schools liaison officer for Dublin City University gave a very insightful talk to 6th years on what college and DCU offers. The Guidance Department organised a very successful Anti-Bullying Zoom day in April with the whole school focused on the issue of bullying in every lesson. The college ran homophobic workshops with the Dundalk based organisation Out-comers which had very positive feedback from. Well done to Jordan Lynn from Rang Daly who won the 1st year Anti-Bullying Art competition.

In May St. Patricks College Maynooth talked to TY students about the options available to them at third level and Dunboyne PLC College also talked to 6th years about the new courses that were launched in the PLC College.

CLASS PHOTOS

2015-16

First Year Moltóir's Message

Since last September it has been my pleasure to have worked with an amazing year group. Making the transition from primary to post primary can be challenging but you have all settled brilliantly – Well done!

It was a great privilege to be appointed as your Moltóir in September. On behalf of you all I would like to sincerely thank your Caomhnóirí who have worked alongside me on a daily basis looking after your welfare and encouraging you to achieve the best of your ability. Ms. Fee, Ms. Daly, Mr. Nissar, Ms. Kelly, Mr. O hEochaidh and Ms. Witter – Thank you!

As we approach the end of First Year in Ratoath College, we can look back on the many memories that we had this year, our first day in school, getting used to the lockers, all our new teachers, student of the month, the Diamond Anniversary, all the many extracurricular activities that we pursued, the Young Scientist Exhibition, the First Year Céilí, the Lilliput and Italy trips.... It has been a very exciting year.

We also move forward with a sense of purpose. Second year brings with it a range of new challenges. We look forward to meeting these and continuing to make sure that we always give it our best!

On behalf of the First Year Team, we wish you all a happy, fun and safe summer and I look forward to seeing you all back here in Ratoath College the end of August.

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” – Albert Einstein

Colm Connolly



Rang Daly



Rang Fee



Rang Kelly



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Rang Nissar



Rang Ó hEochaidh



Rang Witter



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Second Year Moltóir's Message

As we approach the end of 2nd year, I would like to congratulate each and every one of you on a fabulous year. I said it last year and I continue to say it this year 'What a great year group'! You truly are a brilliant bunch of students.

As we come to the end of Second Year in Ratoath College, we can look back at some of the wonderful memories, our trips to the DSPCA and Ice-Skating spring to mind. 2nd years enjoyed great success in many sports at National, Provincial and County level. We had excellent Summer Reports and I am genuinely looking forward to a fine set of Junior Cert results next year. For those students that may be a little disappointed, next year is a new beginning.

Finally we had cultural success this year also with many of our students taking part in our school musical, our talent show, debating and how could we ever forget Kurt Scott (Rang Donnellan) in his role as Pádraig Pearse on Proclamation Day.

I sincerely wish to thank the fabulous team of Caomhnoiri that work alongside me on a daily basis - Ms Barry, Ms Conlon, Ms Donnellan, Mr Gibson, Ms Martin, Mr Mc Auley and Ms Buckley - who work tirelessly looking after your welfare and helping you to achieve to the best of your ability.

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 Second Year Team, have a great Summer and we look forward to seeing you all in late August.

Jillian Leavy

2nd year Caomhnoirí: C. Barry, J. Conlon, R. Donnellan, C. Gibson, K.L. Martin, P. McAuley and L. Buckley

Rang Barry



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Rang Conlon



Rang Donnellan



Rang Gibson



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Rang Martin



Rang McAuley



Rang Reid



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Third Year Moltóir's Message

We now mark a significant epoch for all our Third Year students, the passing from 'Junior' to 'Senior'. It is a major milestone on the road to adulthood and the world beyond the safe embrace of these walls. It gives us pause, this moment, to look backward and to examine how we got here but also to look forward and give form and shape to our hopes and dreams for the future.

As for the past, it has been our privilege to work with you all since you joined us on a soft morning in August 2013. In your three years with us we have been proud to watch you develop into young people of conscience and character, to watch your friendships with one another grow and deepen. We have been touched so often by the kindness and selflessness you have so often shown to one another when times have been tough and we have observed with happiness as you have shared the joys and successes of these last few years together. This empathy, understanding and togetherness can be so rare these days and it is a trait that will serve you well in the future.

To your parents and guardians, we and you both owe a debt of thanks. Their constant support, guidance and communication has been the key driver of your development and achievement over the last three years.

For the future, while many of you will carry on with us into Fifth Year, so too will many of you diverge into a new and exciting path through Transition Year. We will miss you and we wish you well with your new adventure next year.

Over the coming weeks, on the final stretch of your junior cycle track, you will face for the first time the challenges of the state exams. We encourage you first and foremost to trust in the empathy and togetherness that has so defined you as a group, to support and be there for one another so that the challenge can be faced together and never alone. We remind you to have faith in yourselves and to trust that the hard work and effort you have put in will serve you well over the coming weeks.

After that, all that's left is to enjoy the summer! We look forward to seeing you in August, decked out in the navy of Seniors, to begin together the next leg of your journey.

Good luck!

*J M Carthy, E Conlon, T English, D Dalton, U Hynes, S Salley,
N O'Neill, K O'Neill, J Jordan.*

Rang Conlon



Rang Dalton



Rang English



Rang Hynes



Rang Jordan



Rang K O'Neill



Rang N O'Neill



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Transition Year Moltóir's Message

Congratulations to each and every one of you on what has been a great, but quick year. I'm sure to both you and your parents the decision to do Transition Year was made just yesterday and yet it is now over!

The transition from Junior Cycle to Senior Cycle is not an easy one but we, your amazing Caomhnóirí and I, are proud of the way you have started to face this challenge.

It has been a very successful year for you as a group culturally, academically and in your sporting activities. As your Moltóir I say that it has been a pleasure getting to know you over the course of the year and to watch you grow and mature into confident young individuals.

You enjoyed such events as "bonding trips", super heroes, the Musical and Talent Show, and ... too numerous to mention all organised and carefully timed by your dedicated Programme Co-ordinator Ms Flynn.

The TY team have thoroughly enjoyed this year with you and are very proud of the way you negotiated your points to go up instead of down!

We would like to wish you a relaxing and enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you return in late August when you start your journey as Leaving Certificate students bolstered 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 Ms Garrett, Mr McCarthy, Ms O'Donoghue and Mr Walsh 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 to be well rested when you return next year for your new and exciting adventures under the care of Mr J. McCarthy and his team.

Note - "The choices you make in life will make your life" Michael Josephson

Geraldine McNally

Rang Garrett



Rang McCarthy



Rang O'Donoghue



Rang Walsh



Fifth Year Moltóir Report

Dearest 5th Years.

WOW..What a fast year! As a year group you have made us very proud. You have tackled the challenges of 5th year with great enthusiasm and maturity. Nobody said 5th year was going to be easy and you have all risen to the challenges that have come your way. You have shown real dedication and commitment to your studies and we are confident that you with continued effort and hard work you will all reach your full potential. Your behavior has been exemplary, you have developed great relationships with your teachers and as a year group you have been excellent role models for our junior students. You have developed a unique spirit as a group and it is heart-warming to see how well you look out for each other and care for all members of our school community.

We hope that you enjoy the Summer holidays but remember to do some revision over the break and we look forward to welcoming you back in August as 6th years.

Donna Kelly, Ciara Casey, Laura Dinsmore, Deirdre Bourke, Grainne Lyons, Liam Moreton, David Mc Carthy, James Ward.

Rang Bourke



Rang Casey



Rang Dinsmore



Rang Lyons



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Rang McCarthy



Rang Moreton



Rang Ward

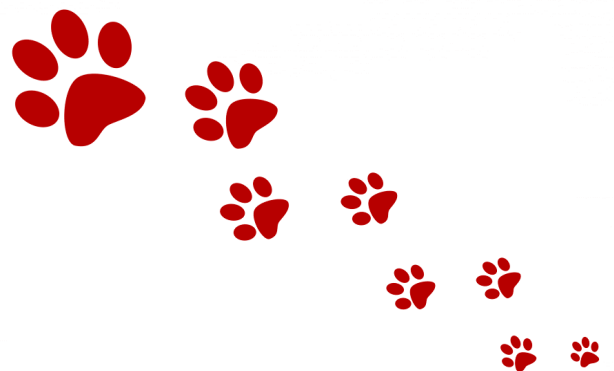


COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

That's all folks...

Have a great summer!

Leave your print!



Leave your print!

