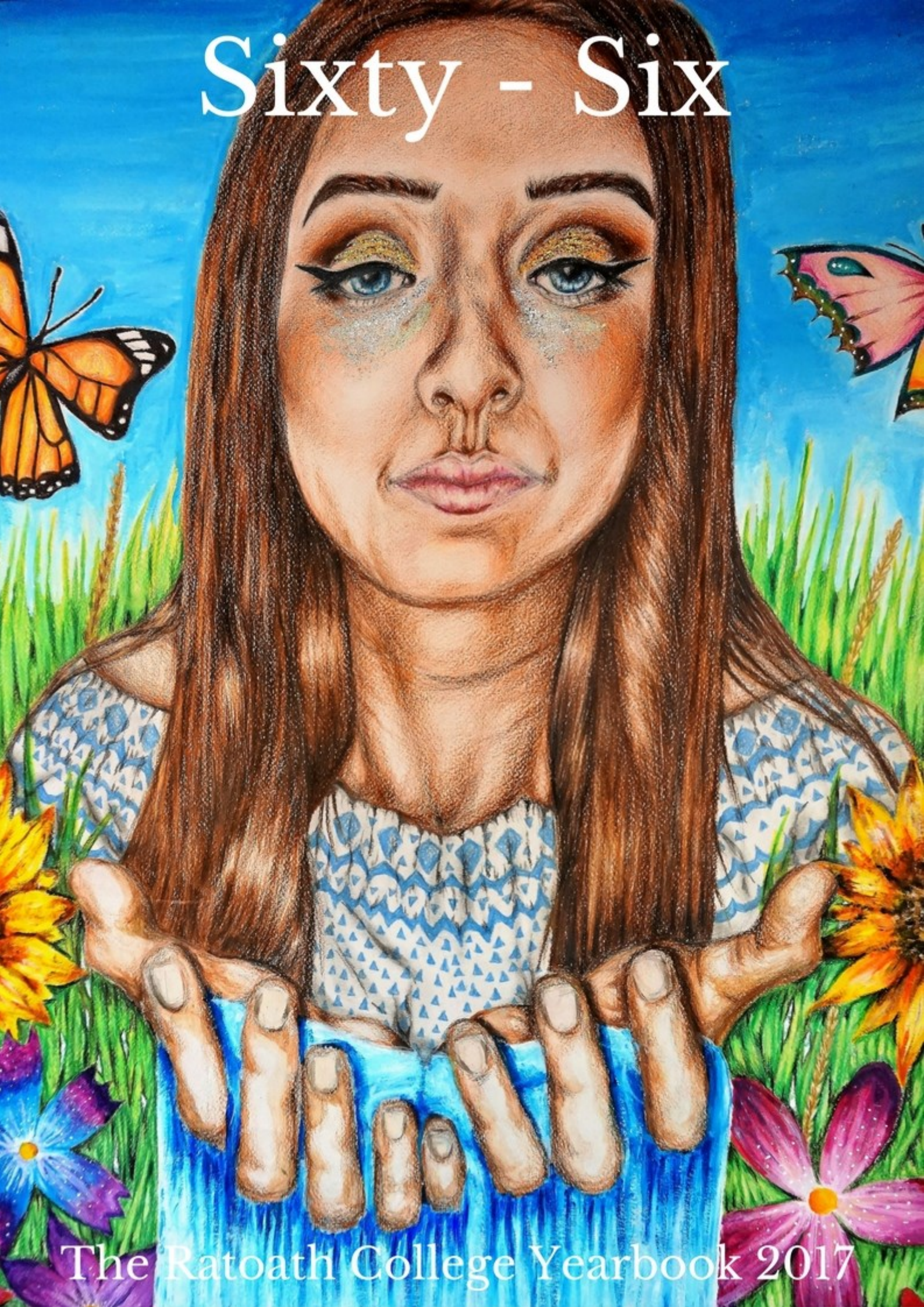


Sixty - Six





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

As we near the end of another academic year we can look back with pride on another very successful year for our school and this 12th edition of "66" gives an excellent account of many of the exciting and wide ranging highlights of the year past.

As ever a fantastic job had been done by the production team in recording the many events, activities and achievements that have taken place throughout the school year. As you turn the pages of this yearbook, you cannot but be amazed and proud of all the achievements and the richness of talent in Ratoath College. Rarely a day goes that we are not involved in some sporting, cultural or academic endeavour. Our students continue to excel in so many different activities and we are extremely proud of all their accomplishments.

We are very fortunate in Ratoath to have so many very committed people working to ensure our students have the best possible opportunities for success. We are immensely grateful to

our Parent Librarians, the Parents' Association and the Board of Management who are very valued members of the Ratoath College family and who work so hard behalf of our students ensuring that they have the best possible

We have an exceptional teaching staff who give so willingly and generously of their time and whose commitment to, and care of the students is second to none.

The school could not function as it does without the support we receive from our secretarial and ancillary staff who do such a super job in keeping us all (and the building) on track.

To our students who are the heart of the school, each of you play your part in making the school the success it is, thank you and well done everyone on a great year's work!

We offer our congratulations and thanks to all of the production team, the Art Department, our teachers and our students who have once again exceeded expectations and have produced such an outstanding yearbook. Well done to all involved.

Finally, we hope you all have a wonderful, warm, fun-filled summer.

Oonagh Prendergast

Aoife O'Dwyer

Barry O'Higgins

Editor's Note: While every effort has been made to ensure all information within is correct and that as many students as possible have been included, we apologise for any errors or omissions. The wonderful cover Art has been created by 5th years, Éabha Gannon & Kevin Ryan. Most sincere thanks to the wonderful students and fantastic teachers who submitted articles, photographs to this publication. Your input and dedication is most appreciated and the results of your efforts speak for themselves

COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

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Mol an Óige





The Graduating Class of 2017

*“And not a single star in the sky shines because a person has told it to. It
shines because that is what stars do.”*

Nikita Gill



Dear Class of 2017,

As I write this message to you I am overcome with so many mixed emotions. I feel shocked at how fast our time has flown. I can still remember you all sitting nervously in the hall on your first day with your shiny shoes and straight ties. Not a hoody in sight!! Time flies when you are having fun and we have had the best fun! I feel a tinge of sadness when I think of not seeing you on the corridors every day and hearing your chatter and banter around the locker areas (as I chase you off to class). I feel really grateful for the lovely memories we have created together and as your 'school mammy' I feel honoured to have watched you grow and mature into the wonderful young ladies and gentlemen sitting in front of me today. I feel excited for your futures and positive that you are ready, willing and able to embrace all of the fantastic challenges and opportunities that will come your way as you embark on the next stage of this adventure called life.

But mostly I feel an overwhelming sense of pride in each and every one of. At every available opportunity I have requested that you show kindness and respect to each other and you have never let me down. I hope you continue to look out for each other long after graduation and remember that a little kindness goes a long way and costs nothing. There are times when we have disagreed, laughed and cried together but as the eternal optimist I knew that all of you would make the right choices. Your commitment to your studies is commendable and I have no doubt that your Leaving Certificate results will reflect your dedication and hard work.

Thank you for being so brilliantly talented, compassionate, funny, intelligent, hard-working, spirited, energetic, responsible, mannerly, cheeky, fun loving, kind and generous. You have made every day in Ratoath College that extra special and I will miss you all dearly.

Wishing you all the best of luck and happiness in what I know will be the brightest of futures. Let me leave you to ponder on some very wise words from Yoda!

'Much to learn you still have. This is just the beginning'.

Best of luck and stay in touch,

Donna Kelly
Moltoir, Class of 2017.

Na Cinnirí - Class of 2017



Back to Front (L-R): Connell Ahearne, Sam McSweeney, Matthew Shortt-Doyle, Luke Farrell, Lewis Dore-Murphy, Colm O'Brien, Daryn Browne, Josh Chukwuezi, David Caffrey, Emily Witter-Nolan, Sarah Dempsey, Kerri Leonard, Stephen Fowler, Jessica Coyle, Claire Nolan, Clara O'Neill, Ethan McCluskey, Sadhbh Whitty, Dearbhla Fairbairn, Lucy O'Doherty, Áine McNerney, Jennifer Bradley



Ard-Cinnirí

Class of 2017

Stephen Fowler,
David Caffrey,
Lucy O'Doherty,
Daryn Browne
& Jessica Coyle,

A Valediction from the Árd-Chinnirí



We first walked through the doors of Ratoath College six years ago and now we can count our remaining weeks on one hand. As this chapter in our life comes to a close we can't help but look back. How do we measure our time here? It seems not so long ago, when we were struggling with locks and room numbers, we counted the hours down in the day. After that it was the terms left until we could escape for summer. However, that has all changed now. For me the hours and weeks have all melted together and I now measure the time I have spent here in the friendships I've made, the laughter I've shared and the support I've received from all of you.

It is in the finality of it all that I've realised how fortunate we have been. We as a year group have bonded so well together, something none of us had anticipated, and together we have left a lasting legacy. But mostly we are fortunate because of the encouragement, support and dedication we have received from the teachers, the caomhnóirí and especially Ms. Kelly. I can honestly say that the most stressful and challenging year of our lives has been made easier because of the family we have built together here at Ratoath College.

Congratulations class of 2017! No matter where we are or how old we are, may we always be friends when we meet again.

- Jessica

Six years ago I recall walking in to my first day of secondary school. It was an intimidating experience. New school, new teachers, new classmates, it was a big change for all of us. All of us new first years were brought in to our first assembly and introduced to the new teachers. We were then welcomed by the school's then Ard Cinnire Matthew O'Boyle who made a fantastic speech. It's funny to think that at that time I looked at him as someone who was so different to me and who had achieved things I could never dream of, Ard Cinnire, a confident public speaker and sporting facial hair. I thought none of those things could ever happen to me. Now I'm the Ard Cinnire, a confident public speaker and ok, ok, the facial hair thing still hasn't worked out but that's still a work in progress.

A lot has changed these past six years, Donald Trump is no longer the host of the Apprentice, Leicester won the premier league against all odds and Mr. Jordan has went from being a sixth year student like us to a teacher at our school. More importantly though those of us in sixth year have developed into the wonderful people that I am proud to call my classmates.

I would like to finish by thanking, on behalf of my year group, all of the wonderful teachers that we got the chance to work with. The teachers of Ratoath College go above and beyond what the call of duty, whether it is to give advice, organise extra-curricular activities, help us with our problems or cheer us up on our dark days.... with a game of Kahoot. I would especially like to thank our caomhnóirí and of course Ms. Kelly our excellent Maltóir. However, the people I would like to thank most would be my fellow sixth years. I promise that you will never meet a group of people who are so friendly and up for a laugh. The current group of sixth years are the nicest people you will ever meet and I can guarantee that there are future sport stars, artists, successful business people and even supermodels (myself) that will come from our year group. Seriously though my time at this school was a wonderful experience thanks to the great students in our year group that I got to make friends with. Thank you all very much and I wish you all the very best.

- Stephen

Graduate Profiles

Rang Burns



Connell Ahearne



Grace Aniss
"Greasy"

Likes: Being a sly dog
Dislikes: Snakes, Jack Walsh & miniature food
Greatest achievement: Getting held back in class for smiling, nominated for Student of the year
Quote: "Cop on" "I have eczema"



Jack Biddulph

Likes: Computer Games & Space
Dislikes: Mondays
Greatest Achievement: Cultural Student of the Year
Will Miss: Chilling out in tutorial



Mark Brady

Likes: Science, Gaming
Dislikes: Whoever is reading this
Greatest Achievement: Surviving secondary school
Will Miss: Ms. Prendergast's long speeches
Quote: "Life is like a box of chocolates."



Rebekah Byrne
"Bex"

Likes: Sombreros, piña coladas and getting caught in the rain
Dislikes: Capitalism ☹️
Quote: "Three things in life are guaranteed; Death, taxes and Mark Micosca stealing your girl"



Kyle Clinton

Likes: Boxing
Dislikes: Ronán Glynn
Greatest achievement: Winning my first boxing fight
Will Miss: my mates
Quote: "Such is life"



Adam Connolly
"Butterfingers"

Likes: Nando's, chocolate, horse racing and dolla bills
Dislikes: Juniors and veg
Greatest Achievement: being a jockey
Will miss: The boss woman's utility bill speeches



Juliette Djondo



Gemma Donnelly
"Gem"

Likes: Coffee & Sessions
Will miss: Miss Smith
Quote: 'Sorry I'm being cranky, I didn't have coffee today'



Ronán Glynn
"Trócaire"

Dislikes: Assembly
Greatest Achievement: Watching Callaghan and O'Sullivan go at it
Will miss: School ball



Martin Guerrero
"PG1/ Martino"

Greatest achievement:
Correcting my teachers
Likes: Basketball,
Italian, P.E
Dislikes: Irish and being
kicked out of the hall
Will miss: My Italian
teachers and Mr.Hannon
Quote: *If you're reading
this, it's too late...*



Megan Gunning
"Megs"

Likes: Maths, English,
Art, Home Ec
Dislikes: History
Greatest Achievement:
Winning Rogha na nDaltaí
in 5th Year
Will miss: The kind
support of all the staff
Quote: *"Well, it's the best I
could do."*



Emer Herdman



Luna Huonder
"Luu"

Likes: Art
Greatest achievement:
Showing up
Will miss: Canteens
apple juice
Quote: *"You never laugh
at my jokes!"*



Dominka Jdrzejewska
"Dom"

Likes: Biology and a good
session
Dislikes: A bad session.
Greatest achievement: Get-
ting to know Charlotte
Grogan
Will miss: Derek Ball, Don-
na Kelly, Prendo and the one
and only Charlotte Grogan.
Quote: *'If you like water
then you already like 72% of
me.'*



Lauren Kelly
"Loren"

Likes: Rugby, Dublin,
GAA football
Dislikes: Football,
hurling, French
Greatest achievement:
Getting home from pre
debs
Quote: *"I'm not being
mean I'm just telling the
truth"*



Sean Keogh

Likes: Having 3 matches a
week in school
Dislikes: Connell at full
forward
Greatest achievement:
Sports personality of the
year contender 2015
Will miss: Mooney's spirit
each game
Quote: *"Time rules
everybody out, it's
undefeated"*



Brian Kiernan
"Quadzilla"

Likes: Sport
Dislikes: Britain
Will miss: A world with
only two genders.
Greatest achievement:
Nutmegging Donny in
5th year
Quote: *"Such is life"*



Orla Lenehan
"The Culchie"

Greatest achievement:
Breaking my shoulder in
PE
Likes: When Ms O' Neill
has tea
Dislikes: When Ms O'
Neill doesn't have tea
Will miss: Tea with Ms. O'
Neill and banter with Jordo
Quote: *"No those cows or
that tractor are not mine"*



Áine Looney
"Looners"

Likes: F.R.I.E.N.D.S
Dislikes: The Bleep Test
Greatest achievement:
Winning Rogha na Daltaí
Quote: *"Be Yourself,
Everyone else is taken"*



Niamh McMahon
"Niov_xo"

Likes: Mr Leonard's
arms
Dislikes: Mr Leonard's
attitude
Quote: *"ye lirlill
rideeeeeT"*



Áine McNerney

Likes: Food
Dislike: bleep test &
techno
Greatest achievement:
Surviving 6 years in RC
Will miss: Assembly
Breathing lessons
Quote: *'simmer down pal'*



Darragh McPartlin
"Daz"

Likes: Giving away penalties
Dislikes: Man united fans
Quote: "You miss 100% of the chances you don't take"
What I'll miss most: Away days
Greatest achievement: Rogha na daltaí winner 2015



Clara O'Neill
"Claz"

Likes: My dog
Greatest Achievement: Getting Cinnire
Will Miss: Not being late for school everyday
Quote: "You alright??"



Valerie Reid
"Val"

Likes: Memes, winged eyeliner, hummus
Dislikes: Moroccan hummus
Greatest achievement: Smelled bread being toast- ed from two stories away.
Quote: "Were you there when I smelled the toast?"-me to Megan the day I smelled the toast



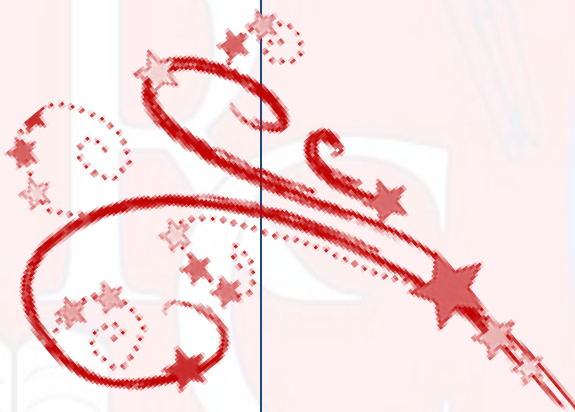
Ciara Reilly

Likes: Nando's, Racing
Dislikes: 1st years
Will Miss: Prendo's rants
Quote: "What will be will be"



Jack Walsh
"Jackimo"

Likes: Tv Shows, Lana Del Rey & Spicebags
Dislikes: Muggy People
Greatest Achievement: Me and Robyn getting married in the school musical xx
Quote: "2nd bottle on the go"



Rang Clerkin



Ian Battersby
"Batts"

Likes: Spuds, tractors
Dislikes: LCA
Greatest Achieve- ment: Winning minor champo
Will miss: Johanna Daly
Quote: "No farmer no food"



Jamie Byrne



Rachel Clarke



Zara Cooper
"Cooper"

Likes: Wrecking the teachers head by saying "gassss"
Dislikes: Vodka
Greatest Achievement: Winning First student of the month by Clerko.
Will miss: Ms Casey, the smell of DK'S office and of course social education class with Joanna Daly.



Adam Davis
"Davis x"

Likes: Balling with horny Hughes
Dislikes: Sean Peate
Greatest Achievement: School soccer
Will miss: Joanna Daly x
Quote: "Once a harps baller always a harps baller"



Emma Kavanagh
'Kavo'

Likes: the sesh
Dislikes: everyone
Will miss: buzzing of the teachers
Quote: Ms Daly
"Emma you will never find a husband"



Bianca Kerr
"B"

Likes: Alcohol & Gibby
Dislikes: Two faced people
Greatest Achievement: Leaving Dunshaughlin school
Will miss: Zara saying Gas!
Quote: *"This wasn't like High school Musical at all."*



Ihar Kirasanau
"Gym lad"

Likes: judo, basketball, table tennis and volleyball
Dislikes: MMA
Greatest Achievement: 2 gold medals, 25 silver and 6 bronze during judo competitions.
Will miss: School
Quote: *"Never give up and you will reach more than other."*



Lauren McTigue



Denisa Mihart
"Denny"

Likes: Food & Alcohol
Dislikes: Smokers
Greatest achievement: Surviving pre debs
Will miss: Hearing Zara say 'gas' every second of the day
Quote: *"If tomorrow's not the due date, today's not the do date"*



Ailish Traynor
"Chip/Chipmunk"

Likes: going on my phone in class
Dislikes: Assembly in the mornings
Greatest Achievement: Getting a school attendance certificate
Will miss: Seeing my friends everyday.
Quote: *"Life is a wheel of fortune, and it's my turn to spin"*



Dylan Treacy
"Gibby"

Likes: Alcohol & sessions & Bianca
Dislikes: Double classes
Greatest Achievement: Surviving this long with out punching a teacher
Will miss: Absolutely nothing
Quote: *"Sketch"*



Anna Williams
"midge"

Likes: alcoholic beverages
Dislikes: a load of gick
Greatest achievement: Not being nominated for anything
Will miss: Johanna Daly and cooper
Quote: *"Smokers are jok-ers"*

Rang Dinsmore



Conor Brady

Will miss: The piano in the music room
Quote: *"Sure look sure jaysus"*



Lee Byrne
"dyanlfitz14"

Dislikes: #markmicoso
Will miss: Serious chats with PJ
Greatest Achievement: Witnessing Dorney and Denisa at PreDebs (double d)
Quote: *"How's your gearbox?"*



Niamh Costigan
"Niamhie"

Likes: To bop bop bop
Dislikes: Failing to reach the top
Quote: *"I am big enough to admit that I often inspire myself" - Leslie Khope (Parks and Recreation)*



Sarah Dempsey

Likes: Nando's
Dislikes: PE
Will miss: Cinnire Room chats
Greatest achievement: Watching all seven seasons of Gilmore Girls in a month



Jack Doherty
"J.D"

Dislikes: Trying to come up with quotes
Greatest Achievement: Remembering to do this
Quote: "most trees are blue" ~Jaden Smith



Alex Dunphy
"Dunphy"

Likes: Corridor Strolls
Dislikes: Taking off hoodie in class
Will miss: Mr Nissar's great quotes
Quote: "C'mon where were yi" ~Mr Mooney



Zain Ennos

Likes: Reptiles
Dislikes: People
Quote: *'The Devil didn't create sin, he only punishes it'*
Greatest Achievement: Caring for my lizard
What I'll miss: Badnotes



Noel Mari Fabian
"Noelie"

Likes: Basketball, Video-games, helping people
Dislikes: Being tired, overwhelmed with work
Greatest Achievement: Diamond of Ratoath award
Will Miss: Basketball in school, students and staff, my locker
Quote: *"I'm not special, I'm limited edition"*



Jason Hickey-Lynn

Likes: Playstation and movies
Dislikes: Assembly
Greatest Achievement: Getting my dogs
What I'll miss: Ms. Lyons having a break down



Saram Hussain
"Sarambe"

Quote: "Mandella effect changed this"
Dislikes: you, Clinton supporters



Sean McEvoy

Likes: Last Bell, break-time
Dislikes: First Bell
Achievements: Trap-pin' with the boys
Quote: *"Trappin aint dead my connect still breathing"*
Miss: Prefabs at Little Break /The squad



Hugh Mohan

Greatest Achievement: Becoming a lifeguard
Quote: *"Use something I said" ~Jack Doherty*



Aoife Naughton

Likes: Lunchtime
Dislikes: waking up for school, Mondays
Greatest Achievement: not getting suspended
Will miss: The back of the pitch
Quote: *"Gemma, do you have brown bread?"*



Kate O'Brien
"kob"

Greatest Achievement: Getting followed by Flo Rida and Corbin Bleu on twitter
Likes: French bread, ciabatta bread, naan bread and toasted bread
Quote: *'When you laugh it looks like your face is going into paralysis' - Maro Gleeson*



Áine O'Connor
"Onzo"

Likes: Tea
Dislikes: The soup
Will Miss: Ms. Lyons
Quote: *'Oh really'*



Lucy O'Doherty

What I'll Miss: Our lil cinnire fam
Quote: *'Filter the bejaysuss ourrah dah' – Me 'I can't, I'm vegetarian now' - Me*
Greatest Achievement: Got a pic with Bono and shook hands with Gerry Adams



Sam O'Neill

Likes: Tuna on Pizza, Soz Caprani
Dislikes: Choosing answers for the yearbook
Greatest Achievement: Never was late for school or missed a day in six years
Will miss: Squad and never participating in PE. Ms. Smith's cult & Mr. McCarthy's dad jokes
Quote: *"I'm so cold and tired"*



Fiona O'Riordan
"Fifi"

Likes: #smallgroups
Dislikes: Techno
Greatest Achievement: Mr. Gibson getting McDonalds
Will Miss: long walks in the hall
Quote: *"HaHaHaHaHa"*



Israel Olaseni
"Izzy"

Likes: Memes
Dislikes: House Music
Will miss: Kahoot.it
Quote: *"See kids, I told you dad was devilishly handsome"*
Greatest Achievement: Ultimate Bass Drop Bottle Flip



Seán Peat
"Ellen Degenerous"

Likes: Russian Donk and Doner Kebabs
Dislikes: Gael Platt
Quote: *"I'll have a pint of Hop House 14 please"*



Meagan Shore

Likes: soft drinks
Dislikes: Mr. Walsh's dad jokes
Greatest Achievement: surviving the last 5 years in school.
Will Miss: Double maths with Ms. Leavy
Quote: *Hannah Montana said, "Nobody's perfect".*



Sam Sturzel
"Bipolar Sam"

Likes: Being Happy
Dislikes: Being Happy
Greatest Achievement: Convincing everyone me and the boys went to Greece when we went to Cavan
Will miss: Leah Farrell's jawline



Ciara Williams
"Bambi"

Likes: Last Bell, break-time
Dislikes: First Bell
Greatest Achievement: never being suspended
Miss: back of pitch at breaktime



Emily Witter-Nolan
"Em"

Will miss: Gibby – and his colouring pencils
Likes: Cinnire Room chats

Rang Hayes



Yleana Bructer



Robert Carroll
"Pablo"

Likes: Smiling.
Dislikes: People who aren't willing to go out of their way for others.
Greatest achievement: Didn't do P.E for two years.
Will miss: Lunchtime
Quote: *"When you are happy you enjoy the music, when you are sad you understand the lyrics" - A\$AP Rocky*



Sarah Connolly
"Saz"

Likes: Assembly with Prendo every day / Gaeilge
Dislikes: Maths basically
Greatest Achievement: Student of the month at least once every year in the school
Will miss: Banter with Ms. Smith 10 periods a week
Quote: "Bí dána ach ná bí gránna!"



Alicia Crawley
"Ali"

Likes: Racoons and tea
Dislikes: Mr. Winter's sly digs xo
Best achievement: #JusticeforAlicia
Going to miss: Mooney reading poetry xo
Quote: "Put the kettle on"



Emily Cullen

Likes: Tea
Dislikes: The Pas-sé Composé
Will miss: Sarahkate's laugh
Quote: "It aint easy being wheezy"



Matthew Cullen

Likes: Techno
Dislikes: Everything
Greatest Achievement: Finishing school



Jamie Donnelly



Lewis Dore Murphy
"King Lew / Lewy"

Likes: House every weekend
Dislikes: People who haven't seen Star Wars
Greatest Achievement: Being cinnire YUP THE LADS!
Will miss: Feelin groovy with Mr. Kenny
Quote: "These are not the droids you are looking for."



David Dorney
"Dave"

Likes: Bmx Racing
Dislikes: Prendos morning speeches
Will Miss: Kev
Quote: "Don't look at the mantle price when you're going to poke the fire" - Barry's Da.



Jody Duggan
"Judy"

Dislikes: Bananas
Likes: 8 pouches of salt in my soup
Quote: "Leonardo Di Caprio was a good artist"
Will miss: Seeing everyone in school
Greatest achievement: Never been late to school



Dearbhla Fairbairn
"Derv"

Likes: Naps
Dislikes: Anything else
Greatest achievement: Good eyeliner (hasn't happened yet)
Will miss: not the canteen queue on a Friday and Ms Brennan



Alexander Fogarty
"Fogo"

Likes: Making Profit
Dislikes: Blenders & Helicopters
Greatest Achievement: When my voice broke in front of the whole school
Will miss: Bernie & Gibby
Quote: "It's your Roving Reporter, Alex Fogarty!"



Joshua Gavia



Nicole Hennessy
"Heno"

Likes: Hunrise
Dislikes: Dyla fitz in the mix
Greatest achievement: Mr. McCarthy calling me a hoe
Will miss: Scraps with Mr Leonard
Quote: "Shut up you dumbass"



Seán Keane

Likes: Being injured
Dislikes: Not being injured
Greatest achievement: Getting injured 17 times in 5 years
Will miss: Ms Witter's post cards
Quote: "Aww damn Mark Micoso stole my girl again"



Kerri Leonard

"Fergal, kerbear, Kezza"

Likes: Boys with muscles, a good rave, tea, having the lols with the boys
Dislikes: Aaron Mee
What I'll miss: Everything, laughing everyday without fail
Quote: "Are you having a laugh?"



Robbie Marks

"Rob"

Likes: Being 6'4"
Dislikes: Alex Neville in PE
Will miss: Assembly
Quote: "Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the face" - Mike Tyson



Evan McBrinn

"Ev"

Likes: Tea
Dislikes: People who put the milk in first
Greatest Achievement: The LC
Will miss: Kev's 7 minute rule
Quote: "Can't win don't try" ~ Gary Conlan



Jack McCluskey



Aaron Mee

"Rocky"

Likes: Kerrince-Anne Leonard
Dislikes: Double Italian on a Friday morning.
Will miss: Scouting yuss talent
Quote: "You don't have to pay 7 grand to succeed in secondary school"



Sara Meyler

"Smeyler"

Likes: 3:20pm
Dislikes: Talking
Greatest Achievement: Deciding what to write in the yearbook
Will miss: Hannah's daily puns
Quote: *shrugs*



Lauryn Murray

"Loz"

Likes: Tea & lie ins
Dislikes: Biology, spiders, bleep test
Greatest Achievement: playing county football, surviving the LC
Will miss: Lunch table, the goss!
Quote: "Here I thought plagiarism was a disease?"



Alex Neville

"Nevillino"

Likes: Geordies
Dislikes: Yuss
Greatest Achievement: Not dropping out!
Will miss: The clean toilets
Quote: Hannah Montana said "Nobody's perfect" Yet here I am!



Shóna Quigley

"Shoner"

Likes: Shrek, dogs and Kanye West
Dislikes: Anything that's not shrek, dogs or Kanye West
Greatest Achievement: Reviving the crocs trend
Will miss: Johanna Daly's enthusiasm for Art History
Quote: "I hate when I'm on a flight and I wake up with a water bottle next to me like oh great now I gotta be responsible for this water bottle" - Kanye West (a genius)



Michael Quinn



Cathal Tormey



Jack Whitbread

Likes: Wearing my hoodie
Dislikes: Being forced to take my hoodie of when it's cold.
Greatest Achievement: Being here for half a decade



Alanna Wray
 "Lana"

Likes: Rosé
Dislikes: Slow walkers
Greatest Achievement: Living in one country more than six months
Will miss: The ogs
Quote: "Dats luuuuuvly dat is"



Rang Lyons



David Caffrey
 "emotional"

Likes: Eating ice cream out of the tub while watching romantic movies
Dislikes: When they don't make me cry
Greatest achievement: Not crying when I watched 'Dear John'
Will miss: Me and the lads talking about our feelings
Quote: "See you soon then"



Sam Carroll

Likes: Football
Dislikes: Assembly
Greatest achievement: being on time for school every day
Will Miss: The people



Jessica Coyle

Likes: Beating Daryn in Biology
Dislikes: Daryn beating me in Biology
Greatest Achievement: That one time I beat Daryn in Biology
Will miss: The look on Daryn's face when I beat



Daman Coyne Mannering

Likes: Rugby, Anime, Video Games, Manga, my computer
Dislikes: Everything else
Greatest achievement: Over 1,500 hours on steam in the last year.
Will Miss: Nothing



Nedas Daubaras



Genevieve Devine
 "Gen"

Likes: Music, good friends.
Dislikes: Rude people, homework.
Quote: "Don't call it your dream, call it your plan"



Katie Dignam
 "Diggy"

Likes: Mudskippers and forests
Dislikes: Cheese
Quote: "Well, I wake up in the morning there's frogs inside my socks" - Bob Dylan



Simon Donnelly
 "Sid"

Likes: Football, Blenders, Ethan McCluskey
Dislikes: Copper Calorimeters
Greatest Achievement: Not getting picked last in PE
Will miss: Physics
Quote: "Give a man an adjustable set square and he's set for life"



Niamh Doyle
 "Doyler"

Likes: Beyoncé & spice bags
Dislikes: Being asked to fill out forms about dislikes
Greatest achievement: Maynooth Business Award
Will miss: Getting kicked off the stairs every lunch, and Mr Connolly's sassy quotes in eco
Quote: "What's in a spice burger?"



Adam Dunne
"AJ"

Likes: my friends
Dislikes: Work
Greatest achievement: Being back up goalkeeper 2 years in a row for the U19s football team
Will miss: The banter that takes place with Mr Giblin
Quote: "legend"



Luke Farrell

Likes: Sport
Dislikes: studying
Achievement: Head of the musical
Will miss: Chats with Ms Dalton
Quote: "This weeks thought for the week is"



Dylan Fitzgerald
"Dyla"

Likes: Techno & Subway X
Dislikes: Paying cash
Greatest achievement: Not being arrested (yet)
Will miss: 3rd Years
Quote: "They call me the postman because I always deliver"



Brendan Foster

Likes: the 3 types of football
Dislikes: Isis, Kim Jong-Un, Oliver Cromwell, Adolf Hitler and Thierry Henry
Greatest Achievement: Haven't scored in soccer or GAA for 6 years
Will miss: Germany vs Australia in the Confederations Cup because I've a physics exam
Quote: "Ratoath College is great" - no one ever



Ben Gormley

Likes: Escaping from the ghetto
Dislikes: the ghetto
Greatest achievement: Escaping from the ghetto
Quote: "Ratoath is ghetto" - Gibby



Cathal Healy
"Healy"

Likes: Football, Padraig Giblin quotes, physics banter, memes
Dislikes: Maura Hughes, copper calorimeters
Greatest Achievement: passing physics
Will miss: Kahoot
Quote: "Get your rolos, rolos, olos"



Thomas Holohan
"Tom"

Likes: Playing piano, drums, guitar, singing and producing music
Dislikes: When people don't follow my soundcloud
Greatest achievements: Writing and producing a total of 37 songs and remixes in my time at Ratoath College
Will miss: Knowing I'm going to see my friends everyday
Quote: Follow My Soundcloud: soundcloud.com/thomasforhimself



Hannah Kinsella
"Han"

Likes: Cajun mayo & tea & spice bags
Dislikes: Bleep-test
Will miss: Locker banter, chats with ms Lyons & seeing my friends every-day
Quote: "Is cow really beef?" - HK



David Lynch
"elchapo"

Will miss: Valerie's laugh
Quote: "Airports are like car parks for planes"



Orlagh Lyons
"Olaf/OJ/Ola"

Likes: Tea, muscles, raves, chats and the lols
Dislikes: People who can't whisper properly
Will miss: Jordos Geog classes(they're aMAIZEing), the locker bants and chats and laughing uncontrollably without fail everyday!
Quote: "Jesus lads I'm sweating", "Are them windows open?"



Aine McGlynn



Mark Micoso
"#"

Likes: Bees
Dislikes: How they're dying at an alarming rate
Greatest Achievement: Trend on Twitter
Will miss: Mr Jordan and Donny
Quote: "Elegance is key"



Jennifer Nolan

Likes: Rain and tea
Dislikes: Yorkshire puddings
Greatest achievement: Getting out of bed every morning
Will miss: my bus buddy time with S•A
Quote: "The trouble is, you think you have time"



Conor O'Sullivan
 "Sully"

Likes: Throwin' Shapes
Dislikes: 'Take off that hoodie'
Greatest achievements: Reaching the Leinster final in GAA.
Will miss: The craic in the dressing room after a school game.
Quote: 'Deco's ball!'



Iqra Shahzadi

Likes: food
Dislikes: Tuesday's
Greatest achievement: making good friends in Ireland
Will Miss: Ms. Lyons
Quote: "Success is a journey not a destination"



Luke Sheppard
 "Shepp"

Likes: Numbers
Dislikes: When numerics include the alphabet
Will miss: The endless laugh in DCG with Mr Giblin and using spellcheck to write the word 'dyslexic'
Achievements: Actually scoring in PE



Craig Smyth



Kayleigh Wilson
 "Kaylo"

Likes: A good buzz
Dislikes: when Sophia screams
Quote: "My Mam is the queen of Europe"

Rang
McCarthy



Sarah Anderson

Likes: Cats & naps
Dislikes: People who dislike cats & naps
Greatest Achievement: long jump
Will miss: Catriona's bus
Quote: "I'm 1/4 Mexican"



Jack Caldwell

Likes: Gucci
Dislikes: Evan McEvoy
Will miss: The boys



Adam Comerford
 "Fat head/C-O"

Likes: Liverpool, Esteban Cambiasso
Dislikes: Ronan Glynn's runners
Greatest achievement: Leg pressing 420 kg
Quote: "Clear eyes, full hearts, CAN'T LOSE!!"



Annabel Coultard
 "ANBEL/Annaboob"

Likes: When Ms Smith makes u want to join a cult
Dislikes: Leicester(Ly smithy)
Greatest Achievement: doing PE more than two weeks in a row
Will miss: Darragh Kelly of course
Quote: "bloody hell"



Leon Curley
 "Curlos"

Dislikes: Ronan's 'fresh' kicks
Quote: "maiiiize"



Stephen Fowler
"Ard Cinnire"

Likes: Football, running and Irish reunification
Dislikes: every chapter on the applied maths course
Greatest Achievement: Three way tie between running the marathon, becoming Ard-Chinnire and getting 14% in applied maths
Will miss: learning about drugs with Ms. Donnellan
Quote: "You won't regret taking an opportunity, but you will regret missing one."



Andrew Gerrard

Likes: Gaelic
Dislikes: United fans
Greatest Achievement: North Leinster Final
Will miss: Mr. Winters & Mr. Nissar



Alison Gleeson

Likes: my dog, Nutella, locker chatz<3
Dislikes: cold classrooms
Will miss: Mr Ó hEochaidh's German rants
Greatest achievement: Keeping the same pencil case from 1st year until 6th year
Quote: "I'd rather be a social butterfly than a social moth"- Maro



Cian Hughes
"Hughesy"

Likes: Ballin with dirty Davis
Greatest achievement: 1st year P.E subject achievement award
Quote: "For all I know you could be out the back of the school having a smoke"



Sandra Joseph
"SandyJ"

Likes: Movies, Harry Potter, Books, Music
Dislikes: Arrogant people, Spiders, Tea
Greatest Achievement: Survived as a short person
Will Miss: Lunchtimes with my friends
Quote: 'Just so you know, Indian is NOT a language'



Darragh Kelly
"DK"

Likes: Katy's Pizza
Dislikes: Crutches
Greatest Achievement: Keeping the first clean sheet in school football history
Will miss: The bus journeys
Quote: 'I wasn't in for that'



Sam Lovett
"Samborini"

Likes: Few Corridor strolls, sick tunes before assembly
Dislikes: Late Stamps, One of the boys' stinkers in assembly
Greatest achievement: 13.9 in the bleep test
Will miss: Yuss hunting, forest scraps, hiding in the gym and prayers with PJ



Ailise Lyons
"Leesha/ Batista"

Likes: Betny's cuddles
Dislikes: When big red forgets the Jaffas
Greatest Achievement: Quitting Mooch
Will miss: The #diamond
Quote: "Oh look my phones broken again"



Matthew Malone
"M-Dawg"

Likes: BMX
Dislikes: School
Will miss: Nothing
Quote: "If idiots could fly the school would be an airport"



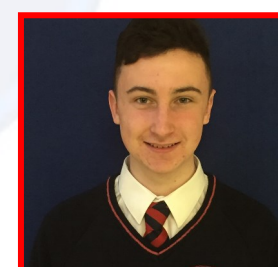
Ethan McCluskey

Likes: The Hokey Pokey
Dislikes: People not spelling my name right
Greatest Achievement: Winning Rogha na nDaltaí
Quote: "If I didn't have bad luck, I'd have no luck"



Sarahkate McConway
"SK"

Likes: George Michael, my dog and my mom's tagliatelle
Dislikes: Moustaches
Will miss: Music class and Ms. Smith's inspirational talks.
Quote: "We are all going" - President William McKinley



Evan McEvoy
"Ev"

Likes: A good ol' quick sketch.
Dislikes: Slow walkers in the corridors.
Greatest Achievement: Not being able to think of one.
Will Miss: Being herded into lovely assembly.
Quote: "Down in the pub of the day of your leaving cert"



Bethany McIntyre
"Betno/Gretchen"

Likes: Spicebags, "mug"
Dislikes: Babysitting (t braz and jew mcq in particular)
Will miss: David McCarthy, lunchtime giggles
Quote: "Wow guys so mature wow"



Callum McNally
"Albino"

Likes: Useless amounts of education.
Dislikes: Rats. There's always rats.
Greatest Achievement: Not dying.
Will miss: Assembly and Prendo.
Quote: "Why did I pick physics?"



Aoife Reynolds

Likes: Vlogsbyclod
Dislikes: Clodagh and Chloe
Greatest Achievements: Not going for cinnire
Will miss: Mr Nissar
Quote: "no way Jose"



Stephen Smith
"Smithy"

Likes: Leicester City Football Club
Will Miss: A penalty in the playoff semi final vs Watford, to then go on and win the Championship, pull off the greatest escape of all time, win the Premier League at odds of 5000-1 and reach the champions league quarter final. Magic
Quote: "Miracles happen for those who believe"
#champions16



Jane Stockwell

Likes: Kahoot and Gerry Adams
Dislikes: Almost everything else
Will miss: Mr. Ó hEochaidh's dad jokes
Quote: "I'm sorry that everyone is so jealous of me but I can't help it that I'm so popular" -Gretchen Weiners
Greatest Achievement: Becoming CEO of the Official Gerry Adams fan club



Bence Vereb
"Ben"

Likes: Classical Music
Dislikes: School
Achievement: Maynooth Maths Award
Will miss: Applied Maths Banter
Quote: "The time is out of joint: O cursed spite, / That ever I was born to set it right!" William Shakespeare



Corey White
"I'm too hard for nick names"

Likes: Crayola,
Dislikes: Drugs and Mr.Horan



Sadbh Whitty
"SivWiv/Spiritosa"

Likes: Candle lit dinners and Kahoot
Dislikes: Gerald Barry
What I'll miss: Miss Donnellan's Meme na Seachtaine
Quote: "Is Pitbull actually your second cousin?"
Greatest achievement: Not getting trampled to death on a Friday in Calcutta (The canteen)



Rang Moreton



Layla Aniss

Likes: Rolls
Will miss: Mr. Moreton
Quote: "Whatche mean, Whatche mean"



Jennifer Bradley

Likes: Lastminute.com
Greatest Achievement: featuring on vlogsbyclod
Will miss: Lauren falling off her chair in maths
Quote: "Can you not??" -Sarah Dempsey



Daryn Browne
"Daddy"

Likes: Trump
Dislikes: People who don't like Trump
Quotes: " It's Braggadocious"- Trump
Greatest Achievement: Watching Trump win the election



Kate Byrne

Likes: vlogsbyclod
Dislikes: PE
Greatest Achievement: doing PE all year
Will miss: Chloe and Clodagh



Jack Carroll
"Lurker"

Likes: Superdry
Greatest Achievement: Getting that Blue-steel look
Will miss: The routine



Joshua Chukwuezi
"Dark Chocolate"

Greatest Achievement: Winning the maths award then proceeding to dab.
Quote: "Always follow your dreams.... And my Instagram @ 'josh.papii'"
Will Miss: Mohammed Nissar



Tiarnan Donegan
"that really good looking kid"

Likes: The company of other men
Dislikes: none
Greatest achievement: Passing TY
Will miss: All my sons



Gareth Doyle
"Eric/Papa Franklin"

Will miss: Deadlines
Dislikes: Plagiarism
Quote: "Gareth you should be a model"- Everyone



Adam Fagan
"Rondo/Wee Joe/Fagan/Fagano"

Likes: Jordans, Mr Giblin's YouTube channel, Major Keys
Will Miss: Mr McCarthy's ability to make anything interesting, 'The e-book', craic with the lads, Irish class.
Quote: 'I like that'



Sophia Gray
"Fifty shades"

Likes: Groovin and chicken nuggets
Greatest Achievement: Successfully sticking to tan Thursday
Quote: "Once a wild cat, always a wild cat"



Ronan Keavey

Likes: Listening to music, cats, and food
Greatest Achievement: Spending a lot of money in a small amount of time.



Philip Marron
"Phil"

Likes: Long walks on the beach
Dislikes: Getting sand in my shoes
Greatest Achievement: Running for a long time
Will miss: 100% of my basketball shots in PE
Quote: "She's swan-like"- Mark Micosca



Neil Mather

Quote: "A simpleton at heart, but genius at brain"
Greatest achievement: I won first place in a wheelbarrow race once
Will miss: -interpret yearbook headings
Dislikes: When the fire extinguisher catches fire



Naomi Mbemba
"Nay Nay/imaon"

Likes: Kerri's hot dog impression
Dislikes: Birds, school stairs, bleep test
Greatest Achievement: Getting kicked out of class for laughing
Will miss: Mr. Leonard keeping students back after class.
Quote: " I swearrr"



Miguel McCaffrey
"Migs/Miggy/Migsy/Neymar"

Achievement: beating Rafa in the bleep test 10.1 vs 9.1
Quote: "Livin' la vida loca"
Will miss: English class banter and Josh



Judy McQueen
"Chubs,
judymcquitiexobeauty"

Likes: M&S cookies, Shane Dawson,
Dislikes: Binge days, Mandella effects
Will miss: SAM's good morrow peasants quotes, jump
Quote: " Hey chubs you look a little downz"



Sam McSweeney

Likes: Josh, basketball money
Dislikes: Plath
Greatest achievement: Cinnire and Student of the Year TY
Will miss: Josh in Religion, Judy in assembly



Claire Nolan

Likes: Lunchtime in the cinnire room
Dislikes: Getting bleep tested
Greatest Achievement: Winning student of the year in second year
Will miss: Non exam religion with Mrs. O'Neill



Megan Nolan
"Meg"

Likes: Art history with Johanna
Will miss: Neil Mather serenading us with his violin skills in music.
Quote: "Throw me to the floor and start me like a chev"



Colm O'Brien
"Clum"

Likes: Pizza
Dislikes: People who don't like pizza and basic human interaction
Quote: "Use the



Martha O'Connor
"Nikita"

Likes: Nikita
Dislikes: Garlic mayo, jack russels
Greatest Achievement: Not getting suspended
Will miss: Getting a dialann sheet because I didn't have my homework done
Quote: "Whensa your dolmio day?"



Alessio Persechini

Dislikes: the way Ms. Hughes left. #RIP Hughes
Will miss: having to pronounce my name the right way to everyone
Greatest achievement: ...same?



Patrikas Petrovas
"Paddy"

Will miss: The pancakes
Dislikes: Bats in the PE hall
Quote: "No you can't quote me"- Mohammed Nissar
Likes: Walking
Dislikes: Running
Greatest Achievement: Making it through 5 years in Ratoath College



Amber Roche
"Ambo leaf, Rochey,

Likes: Hun buns, Liam Morto
Dislikes: Hamlet
Greatest Achievement: Surviving six years of RC
Will miss: Chats with Mrs. N O'Neill (my rock)
Quote: "Johanna go?"
"Crayola say nutin" "Mere to me"



Sarah Roche
"Saz"

Likes: Apple cakes
Dislikes: Everything that's not Apple cakes
Will miss: Toe poppin and walking with Ambo



Robyn Sherry
"robynxobeauty"

Likes: Chicken pesto rolls
Dislikes: That it is my last year seeing Mr.Winters in that blue shirt
Greatest Achievement: Being late everyday and still being on the student council #gangsta
Quote: "Ah but ms. I wasn't in for that"



Matthew Shortt-Doyle
"Spud"

Likes: Basketball, Ethan and minutes with Mo (Mr. Nissar)
Dislikes: Alcohol
Greatest achievement: Getting Cinnire
Will miss: Gibby and the blender boys. B*tching in the Cinnire room
Quote: "Jump"

CLASS OF 2017 - PHOTO MEMORIES



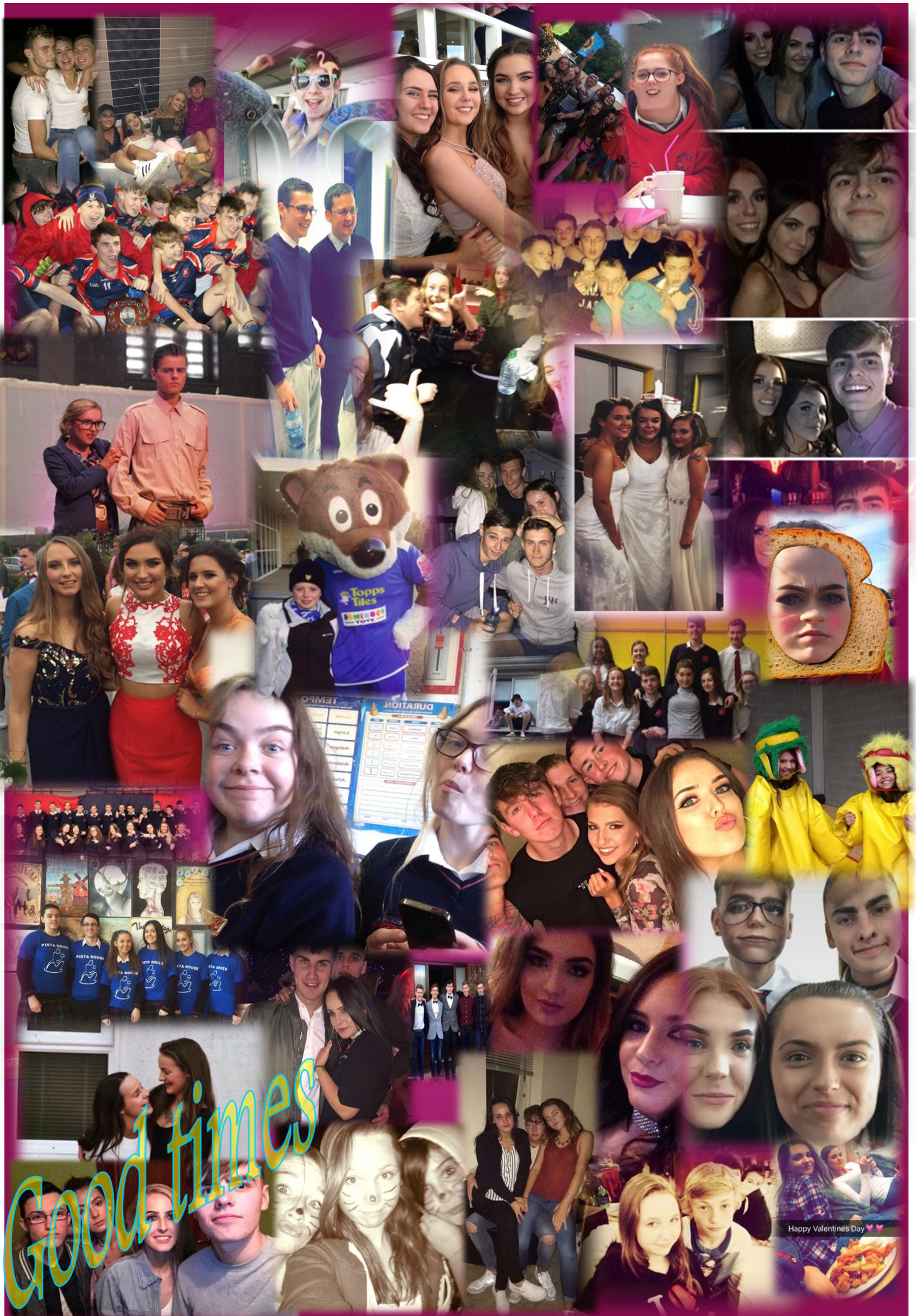
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COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ



Good times

MOST LIKELY TO...

be a mad scientist :

Bence Vereb
 Jack Carroll
 Alison Gleeson
 Jack Biddulph
 Hugh Mohan



travel the world :

Conor O'Sullivan
 Miguel Mc Caffrey
 Jennifer Bradley
 Orlagh Lyons
 Corey White



join a religious order:

Ethan mccluskey
 Darragh McPartlin
 Josh Chukwuezi
 Yleana Bructer
 Stephen Smith
 Niamh Doyle



get a "Yes" from Simon Cowell:

Sadhbh Whitty
 Mr.McAuley
 Sam Sturzel (for a self-choreographed interpretive dance piece)
 Zara Cooper
 Robyn Sherry



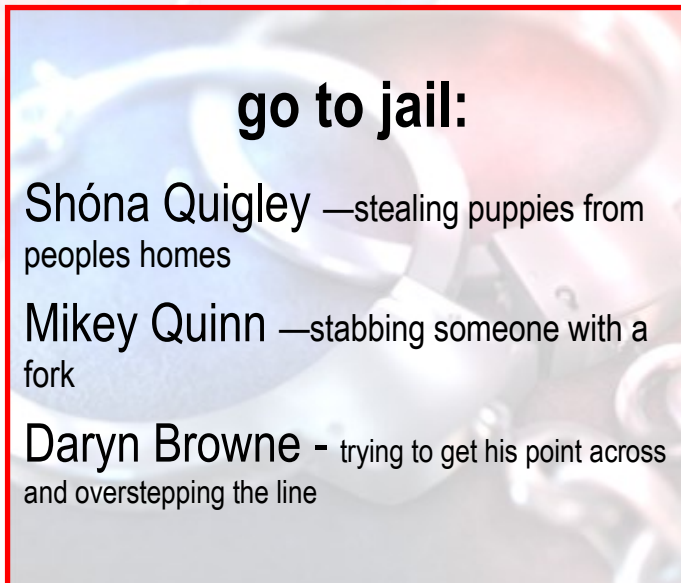
be IDed when they're 30?

Ronan Glynn
 Layla Aniss
 Mikey Quinn
 Adam Dunne
 Sandra Joseph
 Callum McNally



go to jail:

Shóna Quigley —stealing puppies from peoples homes
 Mikey Quinn —stabbing someone with a fork
 Daryn Browne - trying to get his point across and overstepping the line



MOST LIKELY TO...

Win a bake-off? :

Dearbhla Fairbairn (her JC scones were delicious)

SarahKate McConway

Sean Peat

Aaron Mee

get married first:

Adam & Ciara

Alex Neville

Mr. Giblin

Simon Donnely

Rebekah and Jane x

Gibby and Bianca

die first in a zombie apocalypse :

Darragh Kelly because he'd probably real his leg and wouldn't be able to run

Leon Curley

Joshua Gavia

Lauren Kelly

Alex Dunphy

win the lotto but lose the ticket :

Craig Smyth

Aine McNerney

Ronan Keavy

Gareth Doyle

Nedas Debaras

Adam Comerford

become a film star :

Yleana bructer - wonderful Hamlet performance

Megan Nolan

Izzy Olaseni

Philip Marron

return here to work as a teacher:

Stephen Smith

Dominika Jedrewska

Luke Sean Farrell

Dylan Tracey

Lucy O'Doherty

MOST LIKELY TO...

do a bungee jump :

Adam David

Clara O'Neill

Ms. Prendergast

Jack Walsh



go to space :

Corey White

Cathal Healy

Colm O'Brien

Kerri Anne Leonard

Niamh McMahon



become Taoiseach :

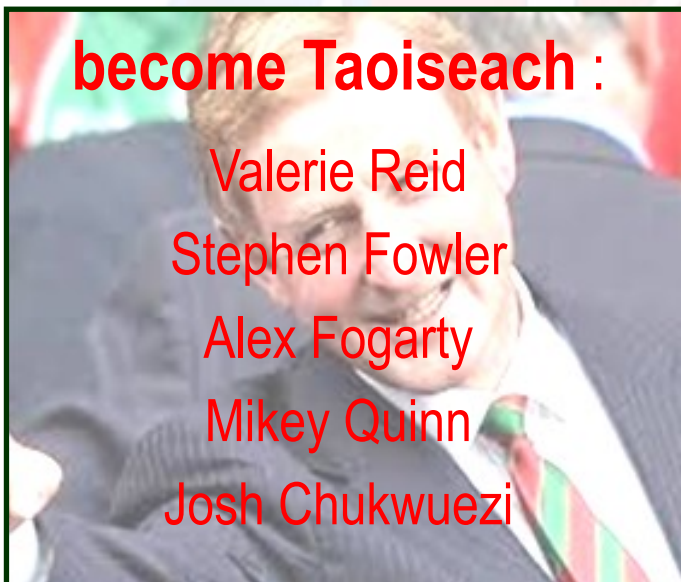
Valerie Reid

Stephen Fowler

Alex Fogarty

Mikey Quinn

Josh Chukwuezi



Become a millionaire:

Conor Brady

Leon Curley

Cian Hughes

Lee Byrne

Kate O'Brien

Daryn Browne



start a fashion trend?

Amber Roche

Denisa Mihart

#MarkMicoso

Zain Ennos

Orla Lynch



to win a Nobel Prize: Megan Nolan

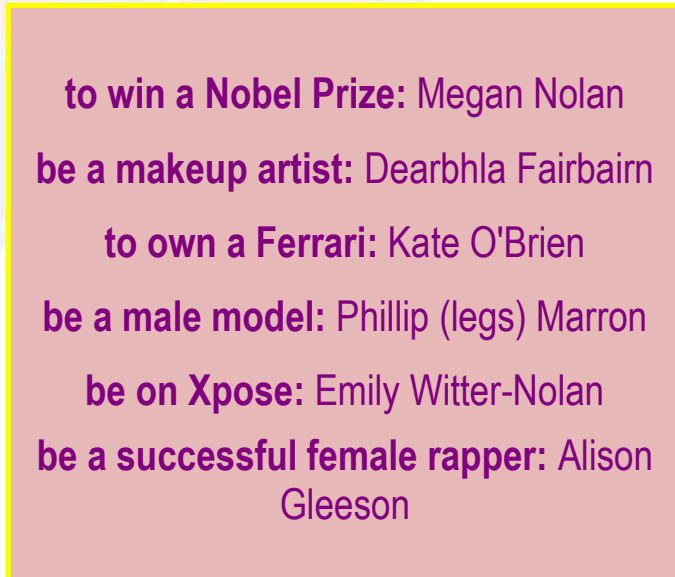
be a makeup artist: Dearbhla Fairbairn

to own a Ferrari: Kate O'Brien

be a male model: Phillip (legs) Marron

be on Xpose: Emily Witter-Nolan

be a successful female rapper: Alison Gleeson



Memories

The Ups and Downs from the class of 2017:

- Going on walks before class
- Student of the Month
- The Roving Reporter
- French Exchange & Italian Exchange
- Making up outrageous stories about the Teacher's lives
- Mr. Giblin's Youtube Channel
- The Helicopter on Sports Day
- When Ms. Prendergast fell of the stage
- Higher Options
- Ms Daly's iconic quotes in Art History
- When Mr. Keane brought in the potato from his own garden
- Ms Prendergast's speeches about the utility bills.
- Singing "Quale il tuo..." with Signore McAuley
- Sports Day
- Mr. O hEochaidh's Béaltriail video
- Chats in Applied Maths
- DCG Banter and the Blender era
- Stephen Smith
- "Take off the hoodie"
- "Ainmhi mé, ainmhi allta"
- Buying a rolo for your Valentine



Rang Burns



Dear students,

As you know I have spent the last year with you while Ciara Casey has been away. It has been a great pleasure working with you. I did not know what to expect but each and everyone of you are exceptional people in your own right. What continues to stick out is the truly amazing warmth you all possess and how welcome you made me feel throughout the year. My morning assembly was cheered up by your bright smiles and caring conversation. I hope in my own way I added a smile to your day once in a while. The role I was asked to do involves a duty of care and I hope that role sends you forward knowing how deeply cared for you have been while present in Ratoath College. Now you move forward with a strong foundation to look after yourself and each other. Always find things and people which make you smile. A smile, a touch or a kind word transcends a thousand problems. Look to the future and be safe. I will miss you all the same as all your teachers will when you leave.

Best wishes ,

Edward Burns

Just a short note to wish the Casey/Burns (old & new) the very best of luck in their Leaving Cert. Thank you to each and every one of you for making my job an extremely enjoyable one. Whether I was your caomhnóir for one year or you were 'fortunate' to be stuck with me for four years, your kindness, fun, support and your individual characters made our class the great class it is. The hardest part of leaving last year was having to say goodbye to you lot and to not get to see you finish out your time in RC. Well done on all your achievements to date whether it was student of the month, subject achievement, player of matches, talent shows, musicals or even just managing to bring in your PE gear, I am incredibly proud of all of you. It was a privilege to be your caomhnóir and I hope that I've had as much of a positive impact on your time in school as you had on mine. I look forward to seeing you all on grad night, lay off the fake tan and hair gel...less is more children! As always, Go be wonderful!!

Ciara Casey

COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Rang Dinsmore



Rang Doonsmore,

I have never experienced a class quite like this and that's only been one single year of your glorious presence. Stepping in for the charismatic Mrs. Dinsmore was and still is no easy task as I don't think I could ever be as bubbly in the mornings. I, however was slowly eased into the role which I liked, there were so many strong characters among the class I knew it would be best to attempt to get on side. I monitored every single one of you that came in late numerous days all the while having a heart attack that I wasn't going to have this perfect class. You are 6th Years though so as far as you were all concerned you could do what you wanted and I grew to love that about you.

I had to come to terms with your different personalities, your opinions and the honesty that I received from every one of you. I loved how you as a class weren't afraid to give your own opinion and were only ever quiet around 9:15 on Wednesdays, constant chill time!

I think I have learned loads from you throughout this year too, I've seen how tough the Leaving Cert still is, how it affects every young student in various different ways and how it requires constant work rate, individual motivation and self-determination, which may I add is no easy task. You have taken it all in your stride and I have seen first-hand through practical projects, assessments or through word of mouth from various teachers how hard you are all working. 6th Year isn't just about the Leaving Cert but it's a year where you mature as a person finding your feet for whatever comes your way next. You develop personally in this final hurdle and I hope that in moving on from this little bubble of Ratoath College that you will continue to work on your individual strengths so that you can strive for your own full potential, however big it is.

Be kind to others on this path to success and **ALWAYS** remember that hard work beats talent!

Guys from the sheer struggle of bringing Dialinns to assembly every morning which was a constant moan or the fact that the majority of you have heads like sieve's when it comes to remembering notes it has been nothing but absolute pleasure to be part of your final school year here in Ratoath

College. I wish you all the very best of luck next year and I hope you don't miss it too much, I've a sneaky feeling you won't!

Rachel Doonan

COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Rang Clerkin



Rang Clerkin. It seems premature to be composing this farewell speech as we have only been a group for one academic year, but what a year it's been! I remember very vividly this time last year when I apprehensively stepped into the classroom where you were celebrating your last few days with Ms. Deirdre Bourke. It was then that I announced that I would be taking over as your caomhnóir. I remember the puzzled faces, those that simply nodded in agreeance and those who let me know some of *your* class rules! It was no mean feat taking the reins from Ms. Bourke as she had made such an impact on all of you and she was and still is a fantastic role model and confidant. However the welcome I received was second to none. Yes it took some time for us to get to know each other, get to grips with the new dynamic and find common ground but before long Rang Clerkin was well and truly established.

It was clear to me in the beginning how focused and driven the class was at achieving their own individual goals by the end of 6th year. For some of you it was to complete all key assignments, tasks and interviews to distinction level; for some it was to enter the world of work and follow career paths in the agricultural sector, culinary arts or childcare. And for some it was to be kinder and compassionate to others.

Looking at you all now makes me truly proud of how far you have all come. Yes there have been ups and there have been downs but as a class we have reached the end, relatively unscathed! Each one of you has individual skills and talents and it is my hope that moving forward you will continue to work to your strengths and reach your full potential in life. Be confident in yourselves, be kind to one another and most of all believe that with hard work and perseverance the future is bright.

It has been a pleasure to be part of your journey over your final year in Ratoath College.

Lorna Clerkin

Rang Hayes



When I found myself back in Ratoath College this year, it was to my great delight that I discovered I was to inherit the artists-formerly-known-as Rang Ward as my Caomhnóir group. The exceptional Mr. Ward was a nigh on impossible act to follow but it has been my privilege to attempt to do so as best I could! Though we have spent just one year together as a Caomhnóir crew, and for many of us our paths had never crossed prior to this year, it has been an absolute joy to have had the opportunity to get to know each and every one of you.

From the very first day I met you all, what has impressed me most about the Ward-Hayes family has been the way in which I have seen you support each other. Every Wednesday morning seeing the friendships and chats. Every time a face appeared at the door of Room 39 to ask me to keep an eye out for one of your classmates. Every morning at assembly the solidarity in sleepiness!!!

It has been my genuine honour and pleasure to be a small part of your Ratoath College stories. To have you trust me enough to tell me your worries and fears. To have you value me enough to come to me to celebrate your successes. To have you know me well enough in 3 months to know the way to bring me joy at Christmas was to add another scarf to my ever expanding wardrobe.

You will wander on to pastures new and I look forward to hearing stories about the talented tattoo artist, the crusading social activist and the number-crunching accountant but more so than any of this, I can't wait to bump into you on the street and hear about how happy you are. More than once this year, I uttered the immortal words "You are the sunshine in my life" and each time I meant it wholeheartedly. However as we all know well, life is not always full of sunshine. The storm clouds come into all of our lives, all we can do is face it down and, to paraphrase the words of a woman far more impressive than me, try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud. And that is my ultimate and greatest wish for each of you. That you actively seek out happiness and joy at every turn in your lives, that you strive for it for yourselves and that you strive to bring it into the lives of everyone you touch.

Good Luck, God Speed and Arrivederci!!!

Meabh Hayes

Hello, Rang Hayes. Check you guys out! I genuinely can't believe you're finishing Sixth Year already.

I was going through my Google documents recently and, to my complete delight, I uncovered the speech I gave at your end-of-Third-Year ceremony. I began (of course) with some Shakespeare. You had been the 'rang of many caomhnoiri' but, ever the action hero, William had some words of wisdom to offer you all to settle any identity crisis you might have been having. That day in May 2015, tweaking the original only *slightly*, I read from 'Romeo and Juliet': "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, and Rang Ward would, were they not Rang Ward call'd, retain that perfection which they owe without that title..." Now *perfection* might be putting it strongly, but you get the idea... The point is that it doesn't matter what name is written on your timetable: what makes your rang unique is all of you; what makes your rang exceptional is all of you; and what's going to keep that bond going long into the future is all of you. You've all grown up within the walls of Ratoath College - you entered through the glass doors into the GP area as children and will shortly leave the gym as adults, and you've done it all together. The whole world is in front of you and yours to explore. You'll go your separate ways, but please never forget the friendships, the good times, and the Kardashian-West Christmas doors. Remember that wherever life leads you, part of you will always belong in Room 39.

Of course, it turns out that you weren't done ploughing through the caomhnoiri yet when I last saw you... but you couldn't have asked for a better guide to see you all the way to the finish line than Ms Hayes. I was distraught to leave you behind (there were tears - ask Ms Kelly) but so encouraged when I knew who was taking over. Few others could match Mr Ward levels of nerdiness and bookish enthusiasm - you truly got a first-class upgrade.

Best of luck with everything, Rang Hayes. Watch out for each other.

James Ward

COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Rang Lyons



The Senior Rang Lyons has only been together for two short years but friendships have strengthened and bonds have formed throughout this time. Each and every one of you has contributed positively to the class dynamic of Rang Lyons and you all should take a bow for that is an achievement in itself.

I remember us coming together at the beginning of fifth year in Room 39. I had the pleasure of having had a few of you in the junior Rang Lyons and had also had the pleasure of teaching some of you at Junior Level. On our first meeting, I knew immediately that our two years together wouldn't pose too many difficulties for me and that Ms. Kelly had indeed gifted me a super class.

Rang Lyons is made up of many talented individuals and while you may not all win medals, break records or achieve outstanding results, your talents have always been recognised and admired. Whether it's David's winning smile, Jessica's skill in dealing with people, Jennifer's relentless questioning of my personal life, Brendan's unassuming nature, Daman's love of rugby, Cathal's mechanical mind, Kayleigh's prowess on the soccer pitch or Conor's ability to pull the saddest face ever, (*I could list all 27 of you here but there's a strict word count!*) all your personalities have contributed to Rang Lyons being the fantastic class that it is.

We lost a few along the way, but we gained some too and despite the changing student cohort, Rang Lyons never ceased to be a welcoming haven for all its members. It has been a great pleasure to share your journey into adulthood for the last two years for all, and five years for some. I have witnessed you all mature and develop into responsible young adults and I know that you will embrace post Ratoath College life, with its many opportunities and challenges, with an eagerness and vitality that is your second nature. For you as students though, it really is the beginning, the beginning of a new chapter in your lives and an exciting chapter at that. You are gaining a new independence; you will experience an endless amount of new opportunities and you will learn more than we as teachers could ever possibly teach you.

To finish off I just want you all to know that I am proud of every single one of you. It has been an honour and a privilege to get to know you all and to look after you to the best of my ability. I wish you all the very best in what lies ahead.

Go n-éirí go geal libh go léir.

Bhúr gcara buan,

Gráinne Lyons

COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Rang McCarthy



Wow, where did the last 5 years go? It's been an amazing time of ups and downs, happiness and challenges, and you have grown into amazing young adults who are ready to take on the world. Firstly, congratulations on your efforts and achievements, which never fail to amaze me. Thank you for all you have done for the community of Ratoath College, and for making my job so easy and enjoyable. I started the five years expecting to be your teacher and help you through secondary school. But actually you've helped me more than the other way around, and you have taught me so much: how to dance to Gangnam Style, about the intricacies of BMX racing, and that all my jokes are "dad jokes" and not funny. Most importantly, you've taught me what it takes to make a successful team, with everyone contributing in their own unique way, looking out for one another, and working together for the greater good. I have no doubt that you will all succeed at whatever you choose to put your mind to. Best of luck in the exams, and don't be strangers!

David McCarthy

Rang Moreton



It's hard to believe two years have come and gone since I first welcomed you all into the first ever Rang Moreton. I really landed on my feet that day having been handed a truly outstanding group of students. We had ups and downs along the way but thankfully we have all made it to the finish line here today.

As your Caomhnóir it has been my pleasure to have had the opportunity to get to know you all. It has been an honour to watch each of you grow into confident mature young adults who have achieved so much over your time in Ratoath College. This group of high achievers from, musicians to sports stars, actors and comedians have all combined their own individual talents to form a truly amazing group that I am extremely proud of.

My favourite animal is no longer the cow, as you all know from my incident last year! It is now the turtle. For me the turtle is a representation of us in life. For the turtle to move it must stick its neck out. In life, you all will face many challenges and like the turtle instead of hiding in a shell you will all have to stick out your necks confront the challenges and seize the opportunities. The one thing I would like you all to take from this comparison is to have the height of confidence in your own ability as I truly believe that each one of you will overcome any challenges life may throw your way.

The time has come to go our separate ways, with every ending comes a new beginning. I wish you all the best of luck in whatever path you choose to take. I will miss the laughs, the chats, and most of all your company. I will cherish all these memories and I look forward to hearing of your future successes.

Liam Moreton



10 Years of Talent!

Endless Talent

Freya, Sophie & friends remind us of a terrific Talent Show:

On November 27th 2016, we were once again dazzled by the utterly amazing talent in our school as showcased in the Ratoath College Talent Show. Our acts showed great courage when they took to the stage in front of a large audience filled with students, parents and, of course, the judges: our esteemed principal Ms. Prendergast and two of our most musically gifted past students, Ronan Hynes and David Caprani.



Opening the show with an incredible performance of "Caruso" by Lucio Dalla, was last year's winner Leah Barniville. As



ever, the audience was left astounded by her moving and powerful delivery. Following her were no less than twenty acts ranging from virtuoso violinists to dexterous dancers to phenomenal

primadonnas (it's a joke please don't get offended) with the students drawn from every group from First Year to Sixth Year.

Once all our fantastic contestants had given their all on stage, it was time for our judges to retreat into seclusion to make the hardest decision of any academic year in Ratoath College: who would emerge

victorious and walk away with bragging rights for the year to come?!

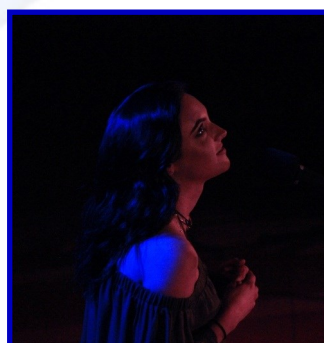


However, the audience was not left without entertainment. First, they were treated to a breathtaking duet of the contemporary classic "The Prayer" from two past pupils of Ratoath College Keila Whelan and Kevin Hartnett. But the best was yet to come...or if not the best, then at least the biggest surprise of the night! To murmurs of confusion from the

audience and the backstage team, four teachers walked on stage and belted out the Amy Winehouse classic "Valerie". Ms Dalton, Ms Garrett, Ms Jackson and Ms Hayes proved that it's not only the students of Ratoath College who are brimming over with



talent! Despite all of this, our judges were still locked in debate as to who the winners would be. Luckily our extremely professional TY hosts dealt with the delay seamlessly, keeping everyone entertained with their jokes. No doubt some day in the



future we'll be seeing Meghan Kelly, Darragh Hynes, Cillian Byrne and Lara Walsh Fagherazzi light up our primetime television screens with their smooth presenting skills.



All of the performances were truly sensational but in the end the deserving victors were Neil Mather on violin

accompanied by Colm O'Brien on bass guitar with their inspired reworking of two pop anthems "I Knew You Were Trouble" by Taylor Swift and "Toxic" by Britney Spears. Second place went to the terrifically talented Third Year trio of Alex Gibbons, Sarah Jones and Niamh Madden with their captivating version of "Rise Up" by Andra Day. The girls

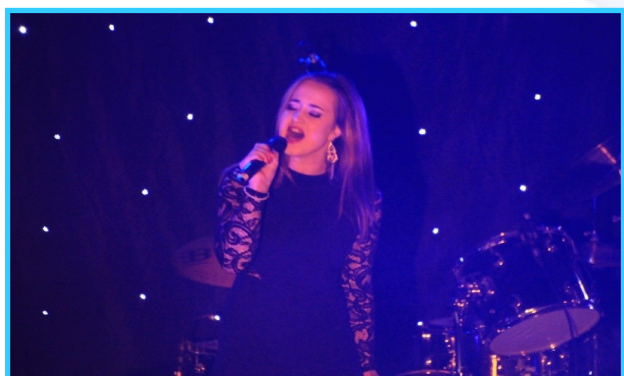
saxophone and Dominika Jedrzejewska with her soulful performance of "Feeling Good" by Nina Simone.



Thanks to the Trojan work of our incredible Music Department amongst many others, the show went off without a hitch! It was undoubtedly a roaring success and the audience lucky enough to be in attendance was once again reminded that there is truly no school in Ireland with students as talented as those who walk the hallways of Ratoath College!!!



enchanted the audience with their beautifully intertwined harmonies accompanied by Alex's subtle but stunning piano arrangement. The standard of talent on display this year was so high, that our judges made the unprecedented decision to award two third prizes! The worthy recipients of joint third were Rory Fleming who played the jazz number "Mercy Mercy" on





COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Tea & Talk

Tea and Talk started back in 2015 as part of our schools mental health week. Since then it has grown from strength to strength. This initiative is kindly supported and sponsored by Sweeney's Centra in Ratoath village who generously give the milk, cups and biscuits on a weekly basis. These go down a treat and are usually consumed in 5 seconds flat! Barry's tea sent a big box of tea bags to keep us going for the year.



The concept is simple. Everyone knows it's good to talk and it's even better over a cuppa and a bickie.

Ms Ryan facilitates these sessions on a weekly basis, giving her time to support our efforts to combat mental health issues in the school. A special mention has to go to Luke Farrell for his generous contributions to this throughout the year. It takes place every Thursday at lunch-time in Room 23 and is open to all senior students. It proves to be



popular every week and the room fills up fast.

Just knowing that there is someone there you can chat to makes a big difference to someone's mental health. And sometimes making the time and space to sit down with someone and have a proper chat can help to ease a person's troubles. By opening this room at lunchtime we hope to let students know



that there are people here to listen, students and staff.

The initiative was also open to all students every day during Mental Health Week, which was run in January this year. Members from all years groups were invited down to Rooms 21, 22 and 23 to see for themselves how good it was to sit down and have a cuppa with friends. Six teachers volunteered their time to supervise these sessions, while our fantastic cinnire facilitated the making and serving of tea and biscuits to students from all years.

This week was a great week for students to mix across all year groups and chat about their memories, hopes and fears through the stages of school life. It was great to see the students openly chatting to new people, reaching out and making new friends. The cinnire did a great deal to promote mingling and sharing a warm smile among students.

Students response:

"It was great to be able to sit down somewhere quite and just chat"

"It was good to catch up with my friends I don't always see"

"It was great to have somewhere to go that was a little more private"

"Fab chance to relax away from the hallways"

On the Frontline

Only a few months ago some members of staff were invited to take part in the Pat Kenny Show. Ms. Clare, Ms. Witter, Ms. Heneghan and Mr. Connolly headed into the TV studios to discuss, debate and analyse issues of public concern. It's no secret that they are experts in the field and know the pulse of the nation. Mr. Connolly, especially, stood out with his expert budgeting skills and economics savvy as he annihilated opposing arguments! Pat better watch his back!



He's a keeper!

Interview with Aaron Davis (2nd Year) Ireland Under 15s Goalkeeper

Hi Aaron. We're very proud of you here at Ratoath College and I'm sure everyone would like to know more about your career. Let's begin with your background - what position do you play, how did you get into playing soccer? Well as a kid I loved playing sports, and I was naturally good at football. My position is goalkeeper. Originally, I played outfield but I showed up late to training one day and I was stuck in goal for the match we had and I was in goal ever since.

That's clearly turned out well for you! Ok, next, tell us what team you play for and how long you've been with them.

I grew up playing local football with Ratoath Harps but as I progressed on I moved from Ratoath to St Kevin's based in Dublin where I've been since March 2017. I was first picked to play for Ireland in August 2016.



You went to Holland to play for Ireland this year - tell us about the experience. What was the best part? When I went to Holland it was one of the best things I've ever achieved. Getting an international cap for my country is an honour and to have made my debut as well was just amazing. The best part of the

trip in my opinion was the day before we left for Holland. We had a training session and Robbie Keane was training with us. It was brilliant to meet him and his experiences helped us to learn more as well.

You also recently played in Italy - who did you play against? What was it like going to Italy?

I went to Italy with my club over the mid-term break. It was a European school boys tournament where we played teams from all around Europe. We managed to win 8 matches out of 8 and come first. The best part of the trip was probably when we won the quarter finals on penalties and I managed to save 2 penalties.

What are your goals (haha!) in terms of your career? Where do you hope to be in five years' time?

When I grow up I want to play football full time. My dream would be to play at a professional level when I'm older most preferably in England as I feel I would progress more in my career there.

What advice would you give to anyone wanting to do as well as you have so far? The main advice I'd give to someone looking to do well in a football career based on my own experience is to get your attitude right. If you have the right attitude and dedication to training on and off the pitch your talent will reveal itself.

Thanks Aaron, we look forward to seeing what the future holds for your career!



Ms McGarron, Aaron and Ms Prendergast with Aaron's international shirt and cap.

History buffs



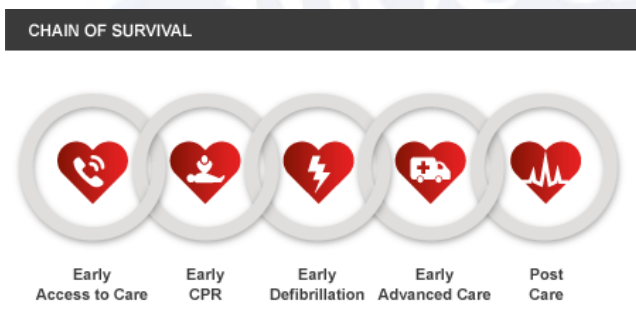
Third year students Clara Feeny, John Redmond, Karen Hayes and Adam O'Giggins represented the school at the HTAI Junior Quiz in Tallaght Community School on Monday 8th of May. A total of 21 teams from the Leinster area competed in what was a very close contest. Questions were based on the current Junior Certificate History syllabus. The overall winners were Muckross College. This is the second time a team from Ratoath has competed in the quiz.

CPR 4 schools

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

work to give effective CPR to an unresponsive person.

To date approximately 450 students were trained on CPR. All TY students completed as part of their first aid module in Modern Living. CPR is expected to continue over the coming years and for all students to learn CPR as part of their school learning experiences.



in your life but if the moment should arise, you may just save a life.

70% of sudden cardiac arrests happen in the home/community and often happen in front of a bystander just like you. Every minute without CPR reduces the chance of survival by 10%.

This year the school teamed up with The Irish Heart Foundation to be one of the first 100 schools in the country to be part of the new CPR 4 Schools initiative. After attending training, the Irish Heart Foundation donated 10 CPR training dolls to the school so that students may have access to learn this vital skill. They are issuing official Irish Heart



CPR lesson on Irish Heart Day

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. Well done to all those who took part. We strongly recommend that everyone finds out where their local First Aid Course is and learn this valuable skill.



Foundation certs for all students who complete the CPR training.

The training takes about 40 minutes and students learn hands only CPR. This initiative was offered at lunchtime to all students during National Restart a Heart week in October, periodically throughout the year to senior students and on Irish Heart Day on the 12th of May. Students had the opportunity to try CPR for themselves and see the techniques that actually





Friday Night Lights

North Leinster Post-Primary Schools Senior 'C' Football Championship Final—Shane McGoldrick reports:

As soon as this final was announced for a Friday night, players, managers and spectators knew something special was in store and the game certainly did not disappoint. Spectators flocked to the Dunganny Centre of Excellence in Trim Co. Meath to watch Ratoath College take on Moyne Community School in the North Leinster Post-Primary Schools Senior 'C' Football Championship Final.

Ratoath's men started the slower and were trailing by four points with 8 minutes played with Moyne scoring a goal and a point in quick succession. Ratoath quickly snapped out of the slump they were in and Sean Keogh opened Ratoath's account for the night with a fantastic point just inside the Moyne 45 metre line. Meath Inter-County Minor footballer Connell Ahearne quickly followed up on Keogh's point with a strike off his left foot that glided over the black spot.



Moyne cancelled out both of Ratoath's points by going up the pitch and scoring a brace of points leaving the Ratoath men trailing by 5 points. A well placed kick-out by Darragh McPartlin set up Ratoath with a fast-paced attack which led to Ratoath's first goal of the night

by the skilful Nathan Dunne who faked a shot sending the Moyne goalkeeper and corner back the wrong way leaving Dunne with a simple tap in.



Ratoath's attacking style of football was proving difficult for Moyne to handle and this led to Connell Ahearne being fouled in the small box and the referee's whistle blew for a penalty. The cool, calm and collected Conor (Sully) O'Sullivan stepped up and slotted the penalty with confidence.

Sean Johnson used his strength to brush aside two Moyne players and stick a beauty of a point with his left leg from an almost impossible angle but managed to slot it between the two posts.

Unfortunately for Ratoath they could not capitalise on this momentum and Moyne scored a hat trick of points and Moyne led by a point at the close of the first half.

HALF TIME SCORE

Ratoath College..... 2-3

Moyne Community School..... 1-7

The second half began just where the first ended, fast-paced, skilful, simple football. A riveting start to the second half saw both Ratoath and Moyne trade blows to each other as both teams scored 3 points apiece and Ratoath were still down by a point midway through the second half. Both teams playing both attacking and defensively good football nearly complementing each-others capabilities. A series of misses by Ratoath seemed like it wasn't going to end well for the South Meath School and ghosts of past North Leinster final loses began to creep in on the sideline but the Ratoath men proved why they deserved to be in this final and kept their heads. As both teams began to grow tired frees became to be a big part of the closing 10 minutes of the second half with Connell Ahearne from the right and Sean Keogh from the left adding points through frees for Ratoath. Luke Farrell also kept Ratoath's score ticking over.

With 5 minutes to go Sean Keogh levels the score from a tight angle with a fantastic strike on the left side of the pitch. With a minute left to play Ratoath won the kick-out and the

a



ball is passed into the hands of Connell Ahearne and in stylish fashion places the ball over the bar for Ratoath to go up by a point with seconds remaining and the Ratoath supporters let out

roar of joy and excitement. Moyne get the ball back in play quickly and get up the pitch only to kick the ball away to a Ratoath man, Ratoath play the ball around the edge of the 'D' and a Ratoath man gets called for travelling with the ball after taking more than 4 steps with the ball in the eyes of the referee.

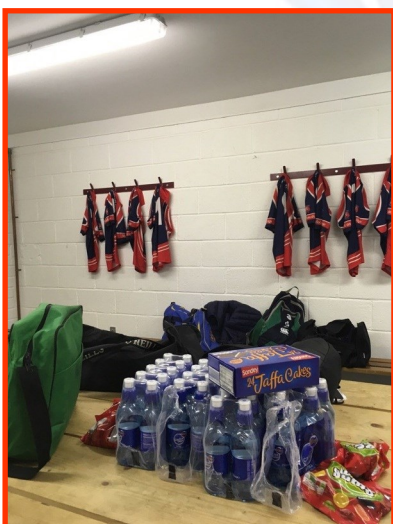
A confident Moyne player who converted a number of frees throughout the game stood over what would be the decisive kick of the game as Moyne equalised to send the game to extra time.

As Ratoath players and managers gathered in a huddle to get water on board and for the 3 Ratoath Managers: Mr. Mooney, Mr O'hE-ochaidh and Mr. Farrell gave inspiration and words of wisdom to the lads for the 20 minutes of extra time to come.

Full Time Score:

Ratoath College.....2-9

Moyne Community School.....1-12



Extra Time

As the first period of extra time began Ratoath seemed to be the fresher and want the game more with Conor O'Sullivan getting the first score of extra time. O'Sullivan followed the point by the goal of the game that some say he was going for a point but a wonderfully executed shot by O'Sullivan dipped over the Moyne goalkeepers head just below the crossbar for Ratoath to 4 points clear of the Longford Side.



The celebrations didn't last long for Ratoath as Moyne went up the pitch and received a penalty

after a Darragh Mc Partlin tackle where he came out with the ball was deemed a foul, a harsh call as the tackle was viewed as a legitimate tackle by the Ratoath sideline. Mc Partlin was sent the wrong way by the Moyne player and could do nothing about the penalty but this was the only hitch in a near flawless game by the Ratoath keeper.

Both teams exchanged points before the end of the first period as the whistle blew.

The second period began and as expected both teams were beginning to fatigue and this was clearly seen when Sean Johnson had to be carried off the pitch as he has cramps in both legs. Johnson received a large round of applause as the crowd acknowledged Johnson's outstanding effort throughout the whole game, covering nearly every blade of grass. Johnson was replaced by Peter Barry in the

73rd minute

Both teams were suffering largely due to fatigue yet this didn't diminish the standard of play seen in normal time as the standard of football was still fantastic. In the 75th minute Nathan Dunne was replaced by Ian Battersby. Ratoath was under large pressure in defence but a counter attack by Ratoath and high ball launched up into the Moyne square saw 3 Moyne players and Ian Battersby to contest for the ball and all 3 Moyne players came down and hit the ground hard while Battersby converted the winning goal for Ratoath in amazing fashion.

But the game wasn't over yet, Moyne got the ball as far as Ratoath's 21 metre line and Ratoath conceded a free in the dying seconds of the game. All 15 of Ratoath's players crowded the line as a Moyne player blasted the ball as hard as he could in a last stitch effort to win the game, to no success, Daithi McGowan put his body on the line to save the ball from the goal in heroic fashion and managed to come out with the ball and kicked the ball as high and as far as he could. When the ball was fired up into the air the referee blew the final whistle and Ratoath were Leinster Champions.



Ratoath’s bench unloaded as fast as the schools canteen runs out of food on a Friday as the joyous celebrations began for Ratoath. Mr. Mooney, Mr. Farrell and Mr. O’hEochaidh hugged and jumped up and down in celebration, some described that scene as an ‘aww moment’.

Team Captain Connell Ahearne accepted the plaque for Ratoath and thanked Moyne, The Ref, Dunganny, the players and most importantly the 3 managers for the amount of work and effort they’ve put into the team.

Ratoath College march on to the Leinster semi-final in 4 weeks time

C' amán *

Darragh Vallenge reports:

It has been a great year for the boys Under 16 hurlers who clinched both the Meath and North Leinster titles and reached the final of the Leinsters but were narrowly beaten by CBS New Ross.

They were led to victory under the excellent coaching of Mr. McCarthy, Mr. McKenna and Darragh Vallenge who helped by putting in countless hours coaching, training and umpiring. With the twenty-seven man squad went further in the hurling than any other team the school has had. Captained by Padraic “Podge” Byrne the squad defied the odds in winning both the Meath and North Leinster when they went into both matches as heavy underdogs but came out on top in both.

In the both the Meath and North Leinster finals they were leading but allowed the other team to scrape back to either a draw or in the lead before punishing



Full Time Score After extra Time

Ratoath College.....4-12
Moyne Community School.....2-16

RATOATH COLLEGE: Darragh McPartlin; Luke Newe, Ben Wyer, Simon Barry; Ruairi Crawford, Daithi McGowan, Padraic Byrne; Conor O’Sullivan (2-1, one from penalty), Luke Farrell (0-1); John Walsh, Connell Ahearne (0-4, 2f), Andrew Gerard; Sean Johnson (0-1), Sean Keogh (0-5,3f), Nathan Dunne (1-0).

Subs used: Peter Barry (63 mins) and Ian Battersby(1-0) Jack Flynn, Jake Mc Govern

Note: After this article was published the lights dimmed as the next stage was lost. A massive season for the lads. Onwards and Upwards in the future.

them in the last twenty minutes of the match to earn the titles. This was down to great leadership teamwork and coaching.

In the Leinster final the team were winning 3-4 to 2-1 and looked to be well on the way to their third title

of the season but the sending off of Jason Farrell left the remaining fourteen men to have to work extra hard with the loss of a man. The team were starting to lose their grip and CBS New Ross took the lead, Ratoath took it back to just one point but a goal and four quick points finished out hopes of the treble. The final score was Ratoath College 5-10 to 5-14 CBS New Ross.

The lads can look back on this season with their heads held high and two titles in the bag. We are looking for the team to build on this and go even further next season.

New Teacher Interview

Ms. O'Neill



What's your star sign?

Sometimes it's Gemini but sometimes it's Taurus because websites/magazines say differently

Do you have any hidden talents ?

I can rap nearly every Eminem song ever written

What would students be surprised to find out about you?

I can bust a move on the dance floor when Beyoncé comes on

What country would you love to visit?

Mexico

How long would you last in a zombie apocalypse?

And why?

Till the end, I think I will be able to fight them off I'm pretty hardcore

One App can you not live without?

Instagram

What's your Spirit animal?

Some kind of bird

What's your favourite artist?

Picasso, Shepard fairy, Jean - Michel Basquiat, Salvador Dali, Barbra Kruger, Andy Warhol, Ai Wei Wei

Lyons or Barry's tea ?

Neither, black coffee

What's your favourite movie ?

Anything by Quentin Tarrantino (Pulp Fiction) The Godfather Trilogy and Goodfellas

What would do if you won the lotto ?

Travel the world, buy some artwork, buy a Picasso, Dali, basquiat painting, look after her friends and family and open an art gallery and a school for kids who can't draw good.

What would you do if you were not a teacher?

Be an artist all day

What's your favourite colour?

Pink..... No black

Mr. Toner

What's your star sign?

Aquarius

Do you have any hidden talents?

I'm very good at Fifa

What would students be surprised to find out about you?

Spend two weeks hiking across Croatia and Slovenia

What country would you love to visit?

Italy

How long would you last in a zombie apocalypse? And why?

All the way to the end, I read the walking dead comics

One App can you not live without ?

Whatsapp cause of the group chats

What's your Spirit animal ?

Dog, any breed

What's your Favourite artist?

Arctic monkeys

Lyons or Barry's tea?

Lyons

What's your favourite movie?

The Lord of the Rings, all 3

What would do if you won the lotto?

Travel the world

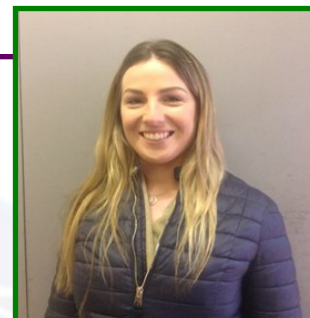
Why did you decide to become a teacher?

Always loved teaching, there is nothing else I would do.



New Teacher Interview

Ms. Gilmartin



What's your star sign?

Aries

What would students be surprised to find out about you?

I used to do Irish dancing since I was 4 years old.

What country would you love to visit?

Dubai

How long would you last in a zombie apocalypse? And why?

Not very long because I'd be terrified

One App can you not live without?

Snapchat

What's your Spirit animal?

Elephants

What's your favourite artist?

Ed Sheeran

Lyons or Barry's tea?

Lyons

What's your favourite movie?

Beauty and the Beast - the animated one

What would do if you won the lotto?

Get a new car

What job would you do if you were not a teacher?

A personal shopper

Teacher Awards



This year a number of our teachers were nominated for a selection of awards:

King of the thumbs up: Mr. Moreton

Biggest Legend: Mr. Walsh

Best Teacher: Ms. Leavy

Loveliest Woman on the Planet: Ms. N O'Neill

Il Classico: Mr. McAuley

Most Kind: Ms. Grogan

Best Advice: Ms. Smith

Most Cheerful: Ms. Savage

Most Friendly: Ms. Conaty

Most Patient: Ms. Garrett

Biggest Trivia Junkie: Mr. J McCarthy

Best Quick Sketch: Mr. Giblin

Biggest Schoology Enthusiast: Mr. Nissar

Most Poetic: Mr. Mooney

Greatest Man Alive: Mr. Ó hEochaidh

Quirkiest: Ms Hayes:

Best Dad Jokes: Mr. D MCarthy

Best Curry Maker: Mr Nissar

Best Banter Ms. Doonan

Best Listener: Ms. D Kelly



Overcoming obstacles

A tale of two Stephens:

Back in March of 2016 the training for the 2016 marathon began for a far from physically active Stephen Smith. It began with the struggle of completing a 1km lap of The Old Mill, but as time progressed that one lap became easier and easier. A stage was eventually reached where the long distance training could commence.

Starting with which seemed at the time a never ending 11km death sentence, the plan of running the Dublin Marathon had truly began. Running 5km on 4-5 occasions each week followed by a long distance run on a Sunday morning became the weekly routine.

Due to his late acceptance into the Dublin Marathon, long distance training began later for Stephen Fowler. Although he had been running 5km each Saturday morning for the previous few months, he was about to experience running on a whole new level. But he did it. He had found himself running up to 30 km in the space of a month.



As Fowler was progressing with his training, things took a turn for the worse

for Smith. On attempting to run 34km his knee began to malfunction, preventing him from being able to run. Stranded in Rathfeigh, 15km from home with no phone, his short running career had hit an all time low. He made it home in one piece hours later, that's what important!

After self-diagnosing himself with a "dodgy knee", Smith knew that a trip to the physio was needed. Following a lengthy session at the physio, he was told to not run the marathon. But a mixture of his inner thug and sense of hard work had him disobey these recommendations. Absolute gangster!

In the entire crucial month of the marathon, Smith had not completed one run. He tried but just couldn't do it. Meanwhile Fowler was smashing all personal records, putting in truly inspirational runs, running quicker times in training runs than may marathon regulars. Mesmeric!

On the 26th October, it was finally Marathon day. Both Fowler and Smith made the long trip into Dublin City in the same automobile. Split up pre race due to different starting times, Fowler and Smith said their dramatic goodbyes. Fowler flew through the race, completing it in just shy of 3hrs 50 minutes. As he was chilling post race, Smith was hobbling along with his dodgy knee, following an expected arrival of the pain at 11.5 miles. but he completed it, and that was the only important thing.

The two Stephens both became official marathon runners at only the age of 18 (with Smith being the youngest participant on the day), raising just over €800 for Breast Cancer Ireland and €500 for Cystic Fibrosis.

Stars in their eyes

This year a group of TY students decided to brighten up another one of Ratoath College's corridors with a galaxy of multi-coloured stars. The message behind their installation was that every student is a star, to always shoot for the sky and achieve your own individual personal best!



Cool Runnings

Ms. Reid & Ms. Delany look back at a successful season on the track:

We had a hugely dedicated & talented group of athletes this year that trained every Thursday in preparation for the cross country and every Monday & Thursday since February for the Track & Field with super success.

The **Cross Country** team tackled all sorts of terrain and weathers both in training and in competition this year. They showed their mental & physical toughness competing for both individual success but our main focus was on teams where every position counts in hugely competitive events.

The first race of the year was the Oldcastle Open cross country which is always a fantastic start to our year with brilliant results all around. This helped students get ready for the Meath & then the North Leinster Championships in which you need to qualify for Leinsters & then the All Ireland. They worked extremely hard producing some superb results. In the Meath Championships Amy Doherty came in winner in the Minor Girls event with Ava Fraughen and Matilda Ruhan running a good race behind her. This qualified Amy to the Leinster's along with Aine O'Connor finishing 7th after her great performance in the Senior girls race. The boys followed with excellent races from our two minor boys both finishing in the top 20 of a very large field. Tom Kilgannon finished 5th qualifying him to Leinster and Fionn Drummond returned home in 19th place. The junior boys were up next and this was an extremely large field with over 140 competitors. Best finishers in this category was Matthew Hayes in 19th place after a very gutsy performance and Jed Walshe came in 46th place. Last up was Phillip Marron in the Senior Boys. He was under the weather so was keen to just qualify for Leinster and he did with a solid performance finishing 5th.



The standard of competition is very tough once an athlete reaches Leinster level and out athletes didn't disappoint. There was superb efforts by all our 4 qualifiers. Aimee Doherty 5th, Tom Kilgannon 21st, Aine O'Connor 28th and Phillip Marron 6th. Both Amy and Philip qualified for the All Ireland where they finished 22nd & 23rd. We will be paying close attention to these two athletes in the future!

The **Track & Field** season started with the Meath Championships in Navan. This is an opportunity for students in many different disciplines for athletes to focus on their main strengths. We had athletes competing in most events producing some fantastic results winning a total of 16 individual

medals and also medals for the Inter boys relay (Results below).



Next up was the North Leinsters. Unfortunately, our numbers were down on other years as this clashed with our exams. Those that did compete did exceptionally well. Day 1 was an extremely cold day in Santry which made conditions challenging. Our athletes embraced this and their competitors to bring home 5 medals with 4 qualifying to Leinster. Ten athletes finished in the top 7 of their events which is a huge achievement. Philip Marron had an inspiring performance winning the Senior boys steeplechase with ease and securing his place in the Leinsters. Joining him in qualification were Matthew Hayes (junior boys 1100m), Fionn Drummond (minor boys high jump) and Tom Kilgannon (minor boys 500m) who all finished 2nd. Matthew Buckley had a fine performance in the 100m Inter boys finishing 3rd and we look forward to him competing in this age category again next year.

Day 2 was a much more pleasant day. Six athletes travelled out for this and again we had great success with three winning medals and qualifying to Leinster. Matthew Buckley 2nd in the U16 200m, Rafael McCaffrey 2nd in the inter boys long jump and Amy Doherty 2nd in the minor girls 800m. The inter boys relay team needs a mention here for their fine and gutsy performance. They were all running out of their age and won their heat and finished 4th in the final. All four athletes (Kevin Conway, Cian Agar Finlay, Rafael McCaffrey and Matthew Buckley) ran their leg of the race with huge determination giving great hope for the future.





Athletics Roll of Honour

North Leinster Cross Country Minor Girls – 158 competitors

1st Amy Doherty (Qualified to Leinsters)

28th Ava Fraughen
48th Matilda Ruhan
57th Lauren Hu
84th Niamh Naughton
114th Emma Scully

Senior Girls

7th Aine O Connor (Qualified to Leinsters)

Minor Boys

5th Tom Kilgannon (Qualified to Leinsters)

19th Fionn Drummond

Junior Boys – 162 competitors

18th Matthew Hayes
46th Jed Walshe
86th James Hennessy
118th Liam Reynolds

Inter Boys

60th Rafael McCaffrey
107th Matthew Buckley

Senior Boys

5th Phillip Marron (Qualified to Leinsters)

Results Meath Track and Field Championships

Senior Boys:

1st 1500m – Phillip Marron (6th Year)
5th 1500m – Ben Mahon (5th Year)

Senior Girls:

1st Long Jump – Lua Henderson (5th Year)
2nd Long Jump – Roisin Conlon (5th Year)

1st Shot Putt – Lelia Byrne (5th Year)

3rd Shot Putt – Niamh Gannon (5th Year)

3rd 100m – Lua Henderson (5th Year)

4th 1500m – Niamh Gannon (5th Year)

3rd Relay – (Lua, Niamh, Roisin, Lelia)

Intermediate Boys (U17)

2nd Long Jump – Rafael McCaffrey (3rd Year)

5th Long Jump – Daragh Casey (3rd Year)

Relay – WINNERS (Matthew Buckley, Daragh Casey, Rafael McCaffrey, John Redmond)

Intermediate Girls (U17)

1st 800m – Karen Hayes (3rd Year)

2nd 100m – Emma Coroner (3rd Year)

3rd High Jump – Karen Hayes (3rd Year)

Junior Boys (U15)

1st 1500m – Matthew Hayes (2nd Year)

2nd 100m – Jed Walshe (1st Year)

3rd 100m – Cian Ager Finlay (2nd Year)

Junior Girls (U15)

4th Long Jump – Emma O Connell (2nd Year)

4th 100m – Emma O Connell (2nd Year)

3rd Relay – Emma O Connell, Orla Hayes, Grace Mahon, Saoirse O Hare

Minor Boys (U14)

1st High Jump – Fionn Drummond (1st Year)

2nd 500m – Tom Kilgannon (1st Year)

4th 500m – Fionn Drummond (1st Year)

4th Long Jump – Lucas Longhi (1st Year)

4th High Jump – Tom Kilgannon (1st Year)

2nd Relay – Fionn Drummond, Tom Kilgannon, Lucas Longhi, Stephen Kiernan

Minor Girls (U14)

2nd 500m – Ava Fraughen (1st Year)

4th 500m – Niamh Naughton (1st Year)

4th Relay – Blessing

Duruanyawu, Matilda Ruhan, Emma Scully, Niamh Naughton, Ava Fruaghan

North Leinster Track and Field Championships

Medal Winners

1st – Philip Marron

Senior Boys

Steeplechase (Qualified to Leinster)

2nd – Matthew Hayes

Junior Boys 1100m

(Qualified to Leinster)

2nd – Fionn Drummond

Minor Boys High Jump

(Qualified to Leinster)

2nd – Tom Kilgannon

Minor Boys 500m

(Qualified to Leinster)

3rd – Matthew Buckley

Inter Boys 100m

2nd – Matthew Buckley – U16

200m (Qualified to Leinster)

2nd – Rafael McCaffrey – Inter

Long Jump (Qualified to Leinster)

2nd – Amy Doherty – Minor

Other results

4th Minor Boys Relay (Tom Kilgannon, Fionn Drummond, Stephen Kiernan, Lucas Longhi)

4th – Cian Agar Finlay

Junior 100m

4th – Cian Smyth Minor

100m

5th – Matilda Ruhan Minor 75m

Hurdles

7th – Jed Walshe Junior

Boys 100m

7th – Ava Fraughen Minor Girls

500m

4th Inter Boys Relay – Kevin

Conway, Cian Agar Finlay, Rafael McCaffrey and Matthew

Buckley.

5th – Karen Hayes – Inter Girls

800m

6th – Cian Agar Finlay – Junior

200m

7th – Jed Walshe – Junior 200m

Rollin' on a river

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 to the awe of the incoming first years and their parents. 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.

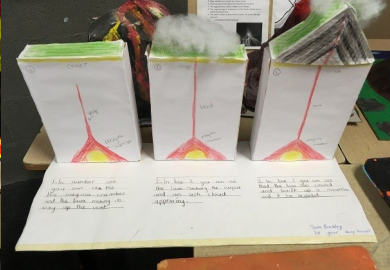
The third years are now entering top-gear in the run up to the junior cert and are such a hardworking bunch that will achieve great results. They got on super in the mocks and are now looking forward to showing-off all their geography knowledge to ace the big exam in June. Good luck guys, we know you'll do great.

Well done to our TYs who capitalised on the amazing opportunity that is TY. It is such a great opportunity for students to apply their expanded geography knowledge and challenge themselves to examine wider world issues. Modules included

Natural Hazards, World Inequality along with many other current and topical issues. Just to top off a great year, the classes travelled to Causey Farm where they flexed their orienteering skills. After this there will be no excuse in finding their way to each class on time in senior cycle!

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 November. 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 geographers are geographers!!

Photo shows our 2nd year models and our 6th Year groups braving the elements during their field study trip in November.



En français, s'il vous plaît!

Well done to all our students on another excellent year's work. We were particularly pleased with the positive feedback received from examiners after the mock orals for 3rd Years and 6th Years. We wish these students 'bonne chance' in the state exams and we have no doubt that they will do themselves proud.



Huge félicitations' to the following 5th and 6th year students whose hard work and positive attitude in French class was rewarded with a

nomination for our language awards: Hannah Talbot, Rory Fleming, Ryan Barker, Leila Clarke-Carr, Alba Walsh,

Lua Henderson, Catriona Shanley, Florin Fit, Emily Witter-Nolan, Jennifer Bradley, Jane Stockwell, Sarah Dempsey, Sarah Connolly and Orla Lenehan. A special mention goes to our deserving winners this year; Leila Clarke-Carr, Florin Fit and Sarah Dempsey.

We were delighted to be able to bring TY students on a trip to see the French film 'Ma Révolution' this year. An enjoyable day was had by all. Seeing a language in action gives students the desire and motivation to continue learning. We would encourage all our students to keep up their French over the summer by exploring the wide range of interesting audio-visual resources for all levels on the wonderful website apprendre.tv5monde.com. Petit à petit, l'oiseau fait son nid!

Bonnes vacances!

Hitting the right note

1st years were given the opportunity to take a module of choir this year. We studied a wide range of genres, from contemporary to gospel, to name but a few. As part of this module they worked on different projects based on artists that we were working on at the time. Some of the performances were outstanding, vocals AND dance moves alike. It was a great way to explore the world of music for some students who may have never done so.

Well done to all choir students this year!



Aon dó trí ceathair

The Trad Group have been rehearsing once a week since September and sometimes more when approaching a performance. They have all worked extremely hard both in and out of rehearsal time. They have performed at various

events throughout the year including The Christmas Student of the Month Awards, Seachtain na Gaeilge and some of the lunchtime concerts. Led by Ms. Gilmartin Trad group has really taken off this year!

COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Maths Wiz

Last week three of our first year students Liam Van Valen, Rachel McLaughlin and Adam Murphy succeeded in getting through the very competitive first round of the Irish Junior Maths Competition to the Final in Castleknock College on Friday the 12th of May. Adam Murphy came in fourth place and both Liam and Rachel were highly commended with great scores. We are very proud of these students and congratulate them and their parents on this great achievement. Maths is becoming an ever increasingly popular subject with many student claiming it's their favourite!



Members wanted

This year was a great year for girls' rugby in Ratoath College. For starters, we had a team for an entire year with girls from all the year groups. We trained every Thursday after school, getting coached from Ratoath's YDO, Declan. Mr. Nissar organised and then brought us to 3 different blitzes which gave us a chance to learn new things from Leinster Branch coaches.

The blitzes were all in Ashbourne RFC. We warmed up ourselves and did a few drills or whatever we wanted to do for about an hour. Then we would get a talk from one of the Leinster Branch Officers, then we would be split up to do different drills with different coaches to learn and practise either new or just basic skills. This was a good way to meet other girls from other schools and to learn new things from different coaches. After this, we had a quick 10-minute break to have water and chat a bit. Next, we were sent off to different pitches to play some matches. The matches were tag and were fairly short, as they were only really so girls could get a feel for what playing a match is like, but it didn't mean that anyone took it any less seriously. After we played four or five matches each, we would get another quick talk from the coaches and



then we headed home. All of the blitzes were organised this way, but we did different drills each time.

I think that it was great that we got a chance to go to these blitzes as it was a good way for girls who have never played before, to get used to playing rugby, and just having fun instead of just seriousness straight away. A lot of

the girls on the team had never even touched a rugby ball before this year and then when they did, they had great fun playing it.

This year was just us getting a team up and running, and just learning the basics to it, so we stuck with tag, but we did do the basics of tackling just to show everyone that it isn't

that hard and that you don't need to be this massive, strong person to get someone to the ground. We are hoping that next year, we will have an even bigger team and hopefully can properly do tackling and maybe even have actual matches instead of just little blitzes.

We have high hopes for girls' rugby in the next couple of years and so we encourage any girl to come down and try it out for a session or two.

Here come the girls

It was a mixed year in Ratoath College in terms of ladies GAA.

The senior girls started off the year in late September playing group games against Ashbourne C.S., Scoil Mhuire S.S. Trim and St. Peter's S.S. Dunboyne. These girls had mixed fortunes from their three games.

The junior girls took to the playing field in late September with away games to St. Peter's S.S. Dunboyne and Scoil Mhuire S.S. Trim. In the same competition they welcomed Dunshaughlin Community College. Again these girls had mixed fortunes and were



unfortunate not to progress further than the group stages.

The U14 girls kicked off their competition in January 2017. They played Gormanston College in extremely challenging conditions and came away with a win. They welcomed Colaiste Na Mí to Ratoath and also recorded a victory. They were unsuccessful against Dunshaughlin Community College and unfortunately this was not enough to progress further in the competition.



We have lift-off

The Leinster round of the CANSAT competition took place on the 22nd March 2017. Ratoath college entered the competition.



The students on the team were:
 Darragh McGonigle
 Vinayak Unithan
 Riona Murphy
 Cillian Thomas

the ground. The launch took place in Portarlington and afterwards the students were required to present their data to the judges in Kevin Street.

All students presented extremely well, but unfortunately we did not make it through to the final.

The launch can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZohgGm9KMQU>

CANSAT is a science competition run by the European Space Agency. It involves students designing electronics which are placed in a drinks can with a parachute. The can is then dropped from 200m and while it flouts to the ground it transmits temperature and pressure readings to a laptop on



THE ITALIAN DEPARTMENT

It's been yet another eventful and exciting year in the Italian Department!

We began the year on a bittersweet note as we bid a fond farewell to the wonderful Mr Ward. We miss his energy, positivity and, of course, his fabulous voice immensely and we wish him well on his new adventure closer to home. However, *arrivederci* to Mr Ward meant *ben tornata* to the lovely Ms Hayes. Not alone that but we were also joined by the delightful Camilla from Carrara, the latest in a long line of exceptional language assistants. In May, the *magnifico* Mr Delany was this year's final addition to the ever expanding Italian Department. We wish Ms Flatley all the best as she awaits the arrival of another tiny linguist! And let's not forget when we last went to press, the Italian family was eagerly anticipating our latest arrival and we are delighted to report that we have been joined by Mr McAuley's little *signorina* Sophia. *Congratulazioni a tutta la famiglia!*

Our First Year Italian classes, Rangs Farrell, Grogan and Jackson, have proven themselves to be adept Italian speakers and their energy and enthusiasm for the language has been a delight to see. We can't wait to see their ability and passion continue to grow in the coming years.

Once again, our Junior Cycle students excelled in the National Postcard and Poster Competition

organised by the *Associazione Insegnanti di Italiano*. For the second year in a row, the undeniable talent of third-year Ava Mulreany was recognised and she was joined by a newbie to the Italian family, first-year Tryscha Misleng. The girls



were celebrated along with all the other national finalists at the prize giving ceremony in the Italian Cultural Institute in Dublin and they also received goodie bags full of Italian treats. *Complimenti a tutte le due ragazze!*

When the days begin to get brighter and the flowers begin to peep out from under the dark earth, we in the Italian Department know that it means only one thing: *Lo Scambio Italiano!!!* In March, we welcomed our *Parmese* colleagues with

21 *studenti bravissimi* and in April it was our turn to jet off with Ms Hayes and Mr Winters (or *Signor d'Inverno*) ably accompanying our fabulous TY and Fifth Year students. We'll leave it to the aforementioned wordsmiths to enlighten you further on our Italian Exchange and living *la dolce vita...*

As we approach the end of another academic year, it's almost "Time to Say Goodbye" to our sensational Sixth Years. We are incredibly proud of all of your hard work across the last five or six years and, *in particolare*, of your titanic efforts to prepare for your Oral Exams in March. We hope that wherever your path may take you in life, you carry a little bit of love for Italy and her beautiful culture and language. *In bocca al lupo per gli esami a giugno.*

Best of luck once again to our Third Year and Sixth Year students as you face into the State Examinations. *Forza ragazzi!!!*

To everybody else, *buone vacanze e ci vediamo in autunno!!!*

Mr McAuley, Ms Flatley, Ms Hayes & Mr Delany



Che Bella Vita!

Lara Fagherazzi Walsh reflects on a week in 'il bel paese':

The Italian exchange is an experience that you won't forget. In the months before you count down the days till your Italian partner comes to live with you and as the number of days get smaller, your nerves grow larger. Our friends from Liceo Scientifico Statale G.Ulivi in Parma arrived on the 22nd of March, after months of exchanging messages and snapchat, and getting to know each other, the awkwardness was as strong as ever.



This would follow for the next three days or so. This is the period where many hate the exchange and

claim to regret it but their opinions soon change. During the week, you will bond with not just your partner but all the Italian students, through parties, deadly Glendalough hikes and spice bag nights.

By the end of the week as you all sit in a classroom waiting for their bus to the airport you look around and realize the difference in a week. One week before there was a split in the group, Irish on one side and Italians on the other. Now as you look around, everyone was chatting in mixed groups, inside jokes written on the white board and everyone understood what they meant. Even though it was a tough week taking care of someone, you wanted them to stay for a bit longer, even if that meant not having your comfy bed for another while. The rest of that day was strange, walking home alone and not racing home to get dressed for whatever event was on that night.

Then the next countdown began. Seven days until the Irish came to Italy. It was all we could talk about, the following days were spent packing, shopping, tanning and shopping some more. As

people lived their lives normally, we were all scurrying around looking for the right pair of sunglasses or shorts. Excited for warm weather, as any Irish person would be.

On the 5th of April, at four in the morning, the sleepless teen-filled bus left from the avenue, some throwback music playing on Sam or Luke's speaker, heading to the airport. After checking in and getting an appetizing Burger King breakfast we headed for the plane and off we went to Milan Airport. This two to three-hour flight was followed by a nice two-hour bus journey, where the speaker blasted the whole way. When we arrived in Parma, our Italian friends were there waiting for us with a hug and a kiss on the cheek. Immediately we were all ushered away home to the most delicious lunches we have ever had,

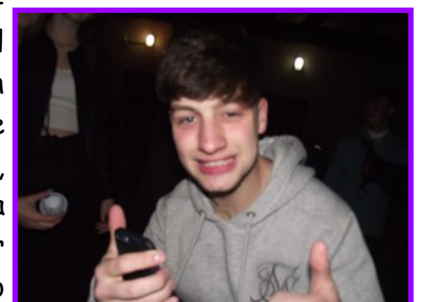
that's at least what the group chat says.



The next week is one of the most memorable weeks of our lives. Filled with meetups

in the *Centro*, churches and gelato.

The week consisted of castle visits, Colm's hats, Yerr's, Paddy Winters sneaking the lads off to Ferrari Land, beautiful ceilings, theaters and people. One of the best trips was to Porto Venere, which was a long bus ride away. We walked on the sea side and visited, yet another church, and had even more ice-cream. We then all found a little beach to ourselves where we sun bathed, swam and got Sea Urchin spikes in our feet, still there to this day.



Che Bella Vita!

After a fast week of friends, heat and teaching Alexandru how to say "Ha gas" Our time to leave came. Tears fell, hugs were given and promises to return were made as we all got on our bus as it was our turn to leave our friends. Thistime the bus was silent, no speakers playing, just sleepy and sad teens.

As I look back on the exchange, I can fully say it was one of the best, if not the best experiences of my life so far. I have made friends from Italy and Ireland. People who you never knew well or knew at all, were brought together and it was Bellissimo. #STO



For the people, by the people

Student Council 16/17

The Student Council has been hard at work all year this year! The representatives from each year group have taken concerns from their peers and brought them forward for discussion, debate and highlighted to our principal, Ms. Prendergast, many different concerns and issues have been sorted throughout the year thanks to our student council, issues with the food in the canteen, student toilets, the uniform and Wifi around the building. This year we also tried to fundraise for a stairs up to the pitch with our 'Dares for Stairs' campaign. Unfortunately we didn't meet our target but hope to continue with this plan in the new school year!



Religion Dept. Updates

At Ratoath College the religion department emphasises the importance of self reflection and personal growth. Students at Ratoath have been given opportunities to explore their faith and take time out of their busy lives to consider the bigger picture and their spirituality.

Our first years began their spiritual journey in Ratoath with a retreat. Each rang had a day together considering their journey so far and the road ahead. As a year group we formally welcomed them to Ratoath College at the First Year Prayer service and prayed as a community for their success at school.

As a school and family community we gather together every morning at assembly. During this time we pray together for a positive day ahead and our special intentions. Students of other faiths or none are invited to practice mindfulness to start their day. Our morning prayers can be taken from different religious traditions or can be non religious quotes.

During the month of November each class went to the prayer room had the opportunity to think about and pray for loved ones who have past away. Before too long it was advent and we were preparing for Christmas. Another trip to the prayer room gave students who wished to receive the sacrament of reconciliation that chance, whilst others had time for personal reflection. Students put faith into action by supporting St. Vincent de Paul with their annual Christmas Hamper Drive. Our young people showed great generosity in giving to others and we filled over 40

hampers to people in need locally. Our annual gift and toy appeal was a great success also. On the final day of term the whole school was in attendance for a Christmas prayer service.

On Ash Wednesday ashes were offered to students and Lent formally began. Throughout the years many students chose not to give up something for lent and instead took on 40 days of Random acts of kindness. Others took up Concern challenges by having 24 hours of silence or technology free. Across the school students had quiet time in the prayer room during Lent, and a guided meditation as part of the sacrament of reconciliation. Meanwhile our second year students have completed their Junior Cert religion projects to a very high standard. At the same time 3rd and 6th years have redrafted, improved and signed off on their religion coursework. If the standard of exams is as high they will do very well.



As the academic year draws to a close our attention has turned to our exam years. Third years will end their Junior Cycle with a prayer service where we all pray for success in their exams. Moreover preparing for the Graduation Mass with our sixth years has reminded us that our years together are coming to an end and we cast our eyes to the future as our graduates of 2017 Reach for the Stars.

People of the World

CSPE

This has been an exciting year for CSPE in Ratoath College. As always our first years took part in the Team Hope Shoe-box Appeal and this was a great success with more shoe-boxes being sent than ever before. Well done to all involved. Our First and Second year students are undertaking the new Short Course in CSPE. This follows Three strands; Rights and Responsibilities, Exploring Democracy and Sustainability. This will be taught over 100 hours rather than the 70 hours of the old exam curriculum. Our 3rd years have completed their RAPs (for the last time) and now only the exam awaits. Best of luck to them all in June. We have continued our work on Development Education with second year CSPE classes presenting at assembly to raise awareness about a variety of issues and events. Examples include International Women's Day, Fairtrade Fortnight, Human Rights Day and United Nations Day. We look forward to continuing this work next year as we progress through the new specification.



Don't hate just debate

Kurt Scott reports:

The 2016-17 academic year has been a massive triumph for the junior debaters of Ratoath College. The Ratoath College Junior Debate Team has grown massively in numbers with over half of our members being current first years. Our older debaters have also seen great success in their final year of junior debate, namely Kurt Scott and Anna Crowley who came 4th and 6th in the country. Anna Crowley also brought home the silverware this year as she won speaker of the Leinster Mace Competition. A deserving champ! This has been a great year for the school's junior debate team and we look forward to what the next academic year might bring. We would like to wish luck in advance to our current first year debaters, many of whom will be competing in their first Mace's at the beginning of the next academic year, and also to Sophie Scattergood, Anna Crowley, and Kurt Scott, our fabulous third year debaters who will also be competing for a place on the Irish Schools Debating Team early on in the coming academic year.



Tee-time

It was a bumper year for the sport of pitch and putt in Ratoath. Due to great interest among students, the school organised a qualifying competition to see which two teams would qualify to represent Ratoath College in the Leinster competition. After a competitive day - which saw Charlotte McManus, Rachael Moore, Fiona McNerney and Niamh McTiernan compete with pride as the school's first-ever all-female team - the two teams who secured qualification were the



team of David O'Malley, Craig Mee and Adam Dunne and the team of Ronán Cahill, Cian Hughes and Conor O'Sullivan. All six players went on to show of their skills and talent at the Leinster final, with David O'Malley in particular catching the eye of the coaches present on the day with with some excellent shots. Ratoath had their game down to a tee(!) in the first round and were very much to the fore(!!!) early on but a few bogey (!) shots on the second round ultimately proved costly. Unfortunately, Ratoath just missed out on a place in the All-Ireland final but the sport looks likely to go from strength to strength in the school over the coming years with so many Junior students expressing an interest this year.

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Beatha teanga í a labhairt

I rith na bliana ghlac grúpa scoláirí cróga páirt i bhfeachtas Gaeilge 24. An dúshlán a bhí rompu ná lá iomlán a chaitheamh ag labhairt i nGaeilge amháin. Fuair siad urraíocht don lá



agus bhí siad le feiceáil timpeall na scoile ag caitheamh na t-léinte glasa le 'Labhair Gaeilge liom' clóscríofa orthu. Tá ríméid orainn leis an dearcadh dearfach seo i leith na teanga agus ár rannphairtíocht san

eachtra idirnáisiúnta seo. Comhghairdeas libh! Tá an réabhlóid tosaithe gan dabht!



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Sew much cooking



It was another busy year for the Home Economics Department who began the year by bidding a fond farewell to Ms Barry and welcoming Ms Hennessy to the team.

Ms Hennessy didn't have much time to find her feet before news arrived that we were to have a subject inspection.

After a two day inspection and a three month wait we were thrilled with the subject report which highly commended the department for its teaching and learning.



Our first years had a busy year, learning about healthy eating and kitchen safety and hygiene practices during their practical cookery classes. Each student also learned how to do basic embroidery before designing and making their own creative A4 size cushion.

The second years completed their brilliant craft projects which account for 15% of their JC grade. A number of these crafts have been selected for the Renee Weldon award. This is one of the big five awards in the school at the summer prize giving ceremony. We should all watch out for some budding designers from these classes.



We are so proud of our third years who, before Easter completed their practical cookery exam worth 35% of their JC grade, we wish them luck with their written paper in June. The TY students made some fabulous ethnic delights in their around the world cookery modules.



Our three fifth year classes have been working well all year and are nearly finished their LC journal work worth 20% of their Home Economics LC. Our fifth and sixth year LCA groups completed their tasks and key assignments by organising wonderful coffee mornings for staff.

Finally our 6th years are all set for their exams in June, we would like to wish them the very best of luck with their upcoming exams.

Mental Health Week

Mental Health Week ran from 23rd - 27th January this year with many things planned for all students. It was a great opportunity to remind everyone to look after their mental health and to take some time out to catch up with people. Students enjoyed music in mornings, both over the intercoms and the help of our sound men, Conor and Alex before assembly.

Our ever supportive Cinnire give a talk to 1st years during tutorial time on the impacts of bullying and what to do if you, a friend or any other student is being bullied. Shout out came in to meet with the 3rd years. They completed workshops on LGBT and heard different accounts of the challenges some people face when it comes to understanding, acceptance and inclusion. The aim was to promote inclusion of all and encourage people to be more aware of the language they use and the impact this may have. 6th years had a very informative talk from Jigsaw on the work they do and how people may avail of their services.



Reminders were made that the Prayer Room was open at lunchtimes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for meditation. This is an initiative run throughout the year to facilitate meditation and quiet space for students. On top of this, the RE / SPHE teachers brought their classes to the prayer room or stayed in their classroom for meditation.

Tea and Talk was open to all students. Many different teachers volunteered to supervise while Cinnire served tea and biscuits to those who came along. Students popped in for a chat – about anything at all – the aim was to encourage talking. This is something that runs throughout the year for senior students to promote wellness.

All PE classes went for walks outside the school. Not everyone is strong at sports, but most people can go for a walk. This send the message to all students to get active, get some fresh air and chat with friends while walking.

Ty students organised a number of activities that were run throughout the week. They presented thoughts and reflections of the day in assembly every morning. They created

Kahoots for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Years for the last 10-15 mins of the last period every day. These were quizzes to remind students to take the time for fun, time out and relaxation. For the 5th and 6th years they created colouring books and origami instructions. These were completed in the last 5 mins of the last period every day. These are a popular de-stressing tool and the moment and students found them to be very effective and therapeutic. TYs also wrote affirmations in the windows of teachers classrooms. These were positive or inspirational comments that students could read as they walked around the school and think about their meanings. Teachers were encouraged to keep it there for the week or change it daily.

Mr Mc Kenna organised a Film Making workshop with TY students. Students created short films or clips promoting positive mental health.

Mr Toner and Ms Martin organised Locker Post-its on every locker in the school. These were positive comments that were left for students to carry with them for the week or pass on to others as they saw fit. The aim was to encourage positivity and promote random acts of kindness to other people.

There were many other activities run within classroom lessons and extra curricular activities. The students and staff are always looking at ways of promoting positive mental health within the school. Many initiatives that are introduced during mental health week become incorporated into the school wellness plan and occur frequently throughout the year. Students are encouraged to pursue any ideas they have to promote wellness and positive mental health. There are many ways these ideas can be trialled and supported within the school.



China 2017

On the 7th of April 2017, A group of 43 senior cycle students and 5 teachers arrived to school at 9am with suitcases half empty, ready to embark on a trip of a lifetime. Bidding farewell to the sad faces left peering out the windows as the bus departed Ratoath, we were officially China bound! Upon arrival at Dublin Airport we were introduced to what would be the most memorable demand of the week ahead... "Small groups!!" Instantly after hearing the teachers yell this, it was full steam ahead to get to your group teacher before they fired your name in Ms. Kellys direction... which nobody wanted...

Throughout the hustle and bustle of luggage and security checks, the seven-and-a-half-hour flight we were about to experience was becoming so surreal and that's besides the fact that we got to fly to DUBAI!! Not many people our age can say they were required to use Euro, Dirham and Yuan all in the space of one day!!

After approximately 14 hours of indulging in a luxurious emirates lifestyle, Ratoath College made it to Beijing. It was at this stage we had the absolute pleasure of being introduced to a man who will forever hold a place in our hearts... Johnson, our tour guide. Anyone who knows this man is very fortunate, but for those who don't know Johnson lets just say he was very fond of 'his country' and did everything in his power to ensure the three 'vegetarians' on our trip received an *irrelevant* extra side plate at every single meal we had.

Speaking of meals... as if we hadn't stuffed our faces enough with the four sets of three course airplane meals, our first trek on Chinese soil was to experience what a real Chinese tasted like. Fascinated by the chopsticks, we all played it safe demolishing two huge bowls of sticky white rice that darted around the lazy sue. Satisfied that Chinese rice was safe to eat, we began to pick at anything that looked remarkably similar to that of a spice bag or a bit of sweet chili chicken! As for the 'wedgetarians'... the Chinese do some quality broccoli.

DAY 1

Our touristy ventures began with a visit to Tian'anmen Square. First impressions were "Oh that's nice" and then we turned a corner and witnessed the huge painting of their dictator Moe on the front face of a beautifully decorated building... It was safe to say we were taken back by this huge symbol of power. After about fifty photos we found ourselves trekking through the Forbidden City, whereby we really got to experience the severity of the 'most populous country' as we were stuck in a jam of a couple hundred people all heading through the same little gates as us.

Next up on our list was the Temple of Heaven or 'Tiempul ah heevan' according to Wang. The Temple of Heaven was both beautiful to look at and thrilling to experience the culture of China as we walked through the packed corridors of groups playing chess and checkers and watched their playing cards spill over the arm rests of their nifty little travel chairs. By the end of the corridor we got our first glimpse at the temple as the sun was beaming from behind it, climbing to the top we were harassed by a bunch of excited Chinese women looking for a photo with a tall brunette or a small blonde.

On our way home we stopped off at the Pearl Factory. We were all excited to get our real pearls at a bargain but nobody's eyes lit up quite as bright as Georgina 'Kate Middleton' Coyles.

After Dinner we went to a Kong Fu Show, the show itself was crazy good and the first few acts were brill to watch but I'd be bluffing if I said we all lasted the whole thing. I only realized that I had dosed off after I was woken up by a roar of a snore coming from Mooney a few rows back. Our night ended with Mr. Mooney being woken abruptly by the loud clapping around him of which he clapped along to unknowingly, trying his best to recall his surroundings.

DAY 2

After a previously jam packed night, we spent the first half of the following day indulged in the peace of the Summer Palace. I believe Hannah Talbot claimed she was "In Awe" after her first glimpse at the huge lake and Chinese architecture. After having about twenty minutes of free time to take our candid pics, we took a boat ride across the lake to the other side of the palace. It was on this side of the lake that we spent our twenty minutes of free time inside a gift shop, of which sold us our first Fidget Spinner of the trip.

The Hu tong area was next on our itinerary and we began the experience with a memorable Rickshaw



ride through the narrow alleys and streets. The Rickshaws were some craic, racing your mates to the end and watching the sweat pour out of your driver after he finally gets a rest from lugging you up the steep hills. It was at this point in the holiday that we lost our first phone...but lets not speak of that tragedy. Before leaving the Hutong we were given a half an hour to walk from one end of an alley to the other, this was probably our first real shopping experience but we were saving our enthusiasm for the silk markets so we didn't go too crazy.

DAY 3

We had to be up at about 6:30am for a 2-and-a-half-hour bus journey, but it was all worth it because today was the GREAT WALL OF CHINA...at Badaling. On our way to the wall, we stopped for a few hours at the Silk Market and by god was it an experience. The group of fifty of us rammed through those spinning doors faster than Johnson could say 'free time'. There was about 6 floors of endless Gucci handbags, Nike runners and Michael Kors watches all of which contained just as many Chinese Salespeople whistling and grabbing at our arms in a desperate attempt to lure us inside. I remember being flattered at the beginning having been idolized and called 'Pretty Lady' by all the women in the shoe shop but then when I realized that 'Pretty Lady' was just about the only English they spoke, I put my guard right back up. Getting back on the bus, I witnessed just about the happiest of faces so far on the trip, everyone was gawking over the seats the see who got what and for what price. This excitement was soon to be overshadowed by one of the seven wonders of the world.

Once we arrived at the Great Wall, we got our conventional group picture and were then given 2 hours to climb to the top. We were all buzzing after climbing the first few steps but this was short lived after suffering our first shortness of breath by the time we reached the first boundary marker. It was quite the workout and ill admit I had to have a few puffs of an inhaler on the way up but the pain suffered was so worth it once we reached the top. I personally felt very overwhelmed, reaching the highest point on the Great Wall of China is not a common achievement for many and to be able to say I did it having being surrounded by an amazing group of people is unforgettable. Having been chased back down the wall by more curious Chinese men with cameras, we were met with much needed ice-cream courtesy of the lovely Ms. Kelly.

DAY 4

The day of travelling commenced at 7:30am that morning as we left the hotel and headed to the train station to catch the famous Bullet Train, G655 for Xi'an. The train was certainly memorable... and like no other train ride. Between the struggles of fitting all the suitcases in our carriage and having to twist the seats around eliminating any previous leg room, there was also the deprivation of food. Mr. Jordan and his

eyeliner uni-brow can vouch for me when I say that everyone's inner greyhound sense of smell came out when trying to locate a good Tayto crisp and a bit of Dairy milk.

We arrived in Xi'an safely anyways and headed straight to the City Walls. Nobody really knew what to expect as time and sleep were really catching up with us at this point but once we arrived and heard the words 'Tandem' and 'Bicycle', we were all zapped back into spirit, riding around the walls of Xi'an like utter lunatics. This was by far the happiest memory.

After the bike ride we were all pretty exhausted and ready to head back to the hotel when suddenly the bus rolls up with four dozen KFC meals of which we sat and ate in the middle of the City Walls of Xi'an...yet another crazy experience.

Later that night, after dinner, we headed out for a bit of late night dancing in the park. Everyone was of such high spirits and it was hard to resist a bit of a bop with the Chinese. It was on this night everyone gave it all or nothing and Ratoath College really showed the Chinese what we Irish are made of with our little jigs and classic Macarena skills.

DAY 5

Today was the day we experienced what is known as 'the Eight Miracle of the world', The Terracotta Warriors. Nothing could compare to the look of awe we all shared as we walked into the pit of the warriors. No photo, video or documentary could capture the atmosphere and pure astonishment of the pit. It was the size of an airplane hanger and that was only under 2000 of over 6000 warriors on display... Witnessing what I did in that moment was yet another highlight of my China trip.

We celebrated our last meal in China as we attended the famous Tang Dynasty Show.



It was heartbreaking to admit that it was our last meal together as a group as it had become routine to sit three meals a day with each other and have endless conversations as if we hadn't been with each other for the previous 10 hours. Although, on a brighter note, by our last meal at least 40% of us learned how to use chopsticks...maybe someday Shauna.

DAY 6

We travelled back to Beijing on the Bullet train and headed for the airport, but not without one last stop for a shop at the Silk Markets!!! It was within these 4 hours that we spent every last ounce of Yuan we had left on anything and everything. It was as if the last time was our warm up lap and this was the race and by god were we winning. Everyone was chuffed with their handbags, shoes and watches and of course we all made it our mission to purchase at least one if not two fidget spinners for a euro each. The success of our last shopping spree in Beijing really was the perfect bid farewell to Beijing, before heading back to a cold and rainy Ireland that night.

We all had our own unique experiences in China, and I hope I gave it the credit it deserves. A Huge thank you to Ms. Kelly, Ms. Dalton, Ms. Savage, Mr. Mooney and of course Mr. Jordon for putting up with us adventurous teenagers and making it an unforgettable trip.



#GAS!

#SMALLGROUPS



Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam

Ba bhliain an-ghnóthach ar fad a bhí ann i comórtas scoláireachta ar siúl arís i mbliana do mhuinteoirí agus do dhaltaí na mbliana. Bhí deis ag gach dalta cur isteach ar an Gaeilge. Tá fás agus forbairt na Gaeilge ag gcomórtas chun scoláireachta a bhuanach chun dul ó neart go neart timpeall na scoile gach freastal ar chúrsa samhraidh. Ba mhór an chabhair lá dá dtéann thart- 'Beatha Teanga í a iad na scoláireachtaí do na daltaí. Bhí sé an-deacair Labhairt', mar a dhéarfá.

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



Bhí Ciorcal Comhrá ar siúl gach Luan ag am lóin.

Thug an t-Uasal Gibson agus Iníon Donnellan an seans do na daltaí chun a gcuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh agus a fheabhsú. Bhain na daltaí an-taitneamh as agus ba dheis íontach é chun na Gaeilge a spalpadh.



Bhí Seachtain na gaeilge den chéad scoth againn arís i mbliana. Bhí an t-uafás imeachtaí ar siúl, ina measc bhí, Comórtas na bPostaer, Tráth na gCeist, ceolchoirm don dara bliain, Yoga agus an Céilí Mór. Bhí an-chraic go deo againn ag rince sa chéilí mór. Bhí bua na hamhránaíochta agus bua an cheoil le feiscint ag an gceolchoirm agus bhí gach duine níos sláintiúla tar éis lae ag déanamh yoga! Is íontach an rud é daoine óga a fheiceáil ag baint taitnimh as imeachtaí

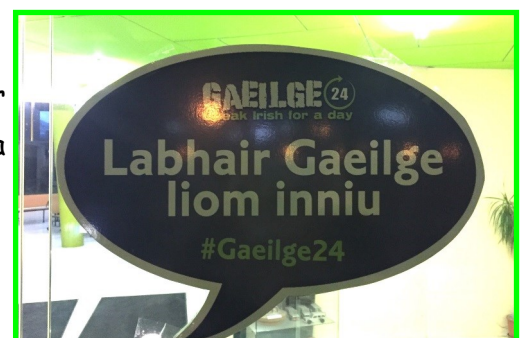
don Uasal Farrell na buaiteoirí a roghnú! Comhghairdeas leo go léir.

Bhí seans ag an idirbhliain taithí a fháil ar shaol na Gaeltachta i mbliana. Chuaigh siadsan lena múinteoirí, Iníon Garrett, Iníon Ní Shuilleabháin, agus an tUasal Farrell go dtí Droim Rí. Bhí an-lá acu agus ba dheis íontach é chun taithí a fháil ar Ghaeilge mar theanga beo.



dhifriúla trí ag dul i bhfeabhas ar a dteanga dúchais féin. mheáin na Guíonn Gaeilge agus Roinn sin mar a rath ar tharla le linn dalta a na seachtaine ag sin.

Bhí an



an gach gach bhfuil

Measure twice, chop once

Materials Technology Wood is one of the technology subjects offered at Junior Cycle. In MTW you learn to design projects and skills required to use tools and equipment to make your designs. There are two parts to the Junior Cert Exam: Coursework—you have to design a project based on a given design brief. You will then make the project and prepare a project folder to accompany it. These images include solutions from this year's 3rd years and a selection of 6th year Construction projects. Well Done on such great work!

We were also delighted to take possession of our new woodwork room this year under the direction of Mr. Giblin!



Solutions from 3rd years 2017



A selection of 6th year Construction Projects





Solutions from 3rd years 2017 under a scientific theme

It must be love

Christian Cahill reports from the Dragons Den:

In February of this year an amazing second year mini company was launched it was called, Cupid's Kitchen. They specialised in Valentines and love themed treats. There was a great effort put into the baking and decor of each stall, there was confetti, banners and lots of balloons to add to the buying experience.



They also had a wide range of gluten free products on sale, not to mention all of their products were nut free. A variety of advertising techniques were used such as posters, banners, powerpoint presen-



tations and even a video advert which was advertised through RC News.



Without a doubt the customer service was absolutely excellent, the sales team were very quick with change and were highly knowledgeable about their products. The presentation and development of theme was nothing less than perfect! The gross income? Well that's a secret! This was a fabulous example of the mini-companies developed here in RC.

The Art Department



"Creativity takes courage." – Henri Matisse

The art teachers in Ratoath College realise that through art education students develop an intellectual mind. At the centre of art education is the ability to develop skills through personal experience. We believe that knowing how to do something holds a higher ground than simply knowing about something. Through art students put into practice different ideas and concepts, to create work that holds meaning and value to them.

Our students discover new things, read between the lines, think outside the box and respond to what is going on around them. Art lessons centre on a concept of developing students' thinking skills. Through art students use their imaginations, opinions and look at alternative solutions when problem solving. Art acts as an agent in preparing students for life and helping them realise and reach their full potential.

"Art is literacy of the heart."

- Elliot Eisner



"When you're curious, you find lots of interesting things to do." – Walt Disney

COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Junior Cycle Art Students:

1st Year Students—Self Portraits and Book craft



2nd Year Students - Puppet Construction



Junior Certificate Art:

Reflective account by 3rd year student

“I took Art as one of my junior cert subjects and it is definitely one of my favourite subjects by far. For junior cert art we had to complete a project. We were given several themes and got to choose which theme we wanted to base our project around. We had to complete several preparation pages, support studies, posters, an option piece and a 3-D model.



I thoroughly enjoyed every bit of doing this project and in the end was very pleased with my work. The theme that I chose for my project was 'Absurd and Ridiculous' so I based my project around the circus. I was able to find a lot of information and images relating to my theme and found a lot of new and interesting facts during my research. As well as drawing, painting, sculpting and printing etc , we also got to find out lots of information about different artists and had to look into that artist's type of work, background and life ,which is a part of the project that I found really interesting and fun to do. I loved completing my junior cert art project as doing my drawings, paintings and pieces gave me a break from school work, studying and exams and was something that I could sit down and enjoy doing. This project inspired me to continue doing art, as a subject for leaving cert."



- Sarah Ashmore, 3rd Year Art Student

Sixth Year Art Students of 2017

Our Leaving Certificate students worked extremely hard this year to prepare for their practical exams. They have completed the practical sections now which consisted of the life drawing exam, the still life exam and the craft exam. There was a wide range of media including watercolour, pencil, ink and oil pastel. The poster themes this year were Positive Mental Health, Bio Diversity Week 2017 and Gothic Film Festival. This was the last year that students had to sit a five hour craft exam.



Revised Assessment Framework for Leaving Certificate Art

This year brought about new changes to the leaving certificate art course. The rationale for these changes have come about because there has been no major changes to the curriculum since 1971.

This new framework is more in line with pedagogical practices at Junior Cycle and contemporary Art Education practice.

Students now have more time to demonstrate a variety of skills. Students are at the centre of the learning process, working from primary sources and showing evidence of their design footprint.

Fifth year art students here in Ratoath College are the first in their school to experience this new framework. Under this framework students have researched a range of different themes in their sketchbooks. Illustrating and exploring primary sources ideas have developed and manifested into works of art. Students have worked in multiple areas from imaginative composition, still life, poster illustration, clay modelling etc.



Creative Engagement



Each year Ratoath College takes part in the Creative Engagement project. This programme is co-funded by the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Education and skills. Local artist Mark Doran came to work with 5th year students this year. Mr. Doran worked with students on developing a sense of personal identity through expressive self-portraits. Mr. Doran imparted his skills and knowledge to the students. Working with a local artist students strived in their creativity. This programme has complemented and energised curricular learning in art.



Robert Ballagh Art Competition

The LMETB Robert Ballagh Art Competition, now in its second year took place in March. Nationally renowned artist Robert Ballagh selected the finalists and award winners. Mr. Ballagh praised the exceptionally high standard of entries whose work was on display in the Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda. Entries were received from over 75% of the ETB's secondary schools, Youth reach Centres and Further Education Colleges.

Valerie Reid 6th year and Roisin Conlon 5th year received merits for their amazing art work. Pictured here is Roisin Conlon with her surrealist self-portrait painting. Her work selected by Mr. Ballagh himself was on show in the Robert Ballagh Art Exhibition.



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Graffiti Art: Banksy Watch this space

Graffiti comes from the word *graffere* which means ‘to scratch on a surface’. Modern graffiti can be traced back to the 1960s in the United States. This graffiti work by art students in Ratoath College explored the history of graffiti from early beginnings to the present day where our students have re-created their own graffiti ‘tag’. Taking inspiration from graffiti artists today like Banksy students in Ratoath College are making their mark though art.



TY Art Trip in the BIG CITY

As part of TY art students got the opportunity to take to the streets of Dublin city on an ‘Art Hunt’ adventure. Working in group’s students explored the streets of Dublin locating different street sculptures, art works and art performers. Students captured selfies with Molly Malone, rock star Phil Lynott and James Joyce. Taking in their surroundings and enjoying some street art in Temple Bar the graffiti became the backdrop to some amazing group photographs.



After students completed their art hunt around Dublin we popped into The Science Gallery to learn more about the relationship between humans and robots. The ‘Humans Need Not Apply’ exhibition made students and teachers ask some big questions: Are we prepared for a world where intelligent machines surpass us in nearly every skill our labour market values?



Ratoath College

Arts Week



Monday the 8th of May saw the commencement of our annual Arts Week here in Ratoath College. It is important for us as a school to shed light on all areas of school life, especially the Arts. Ranging from craft to music and debates to film, Ratoath College dedicated a week to acknowledging these art forms that take place within the school walls.

Our theme was 'Express Yourself' and our students certainly did by indulging in some creativity! One of the most praised elements of Arts week is the performances in Assembly. Talented students perform in front of the whole school and this alone makes for a great start to the day and a lift to flagging spirits.

A film club ran throughout the week, each break time, which offered a space for students to engage in new film titles and discussions while also being able to relax and take time out to appreciate filmmaking as a form of expression.

Crowds of students gathered around the face painting station where three talented artists did some fantastic designs in aid of the week dedicated to colour, design and creativity.

The Art room was also booming all week long with various different events taking place. Students loved engaging in the stencil printing, clay sculpting and puppetry. They created some brilliant masterpieces and enjoyed every moment of it.

The week came to a close with a very entertaining student – teacher debate which saw success for the teachers for the fourth year running!! It was a vicious battle but the teachers emerged victorious!

The Arts, both visual and cultural, are a great form of expression for the students here in Ratoath College. They make up a huge portion of who we are as individuals and give plenty of opportunities to show off and learn from each others different styles.

"You learn to appreciate things that aren't perfect" but always chase after that goal!





COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

freshfilmfestival



WHAT IS IT?

The Fresh Film Festival is a year round film competition with a focus on national and international filmmakers spanning the primary and secondary school age groups. Fresh wanted to create a community of young film-makers who would bond over screenings at a Festival. The Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year Competition meant that the films screened and stories told would be their own.

Young Film Makers would create their unique films and submit them to the festival, the festival then selected 400 films to screen all across the country known as the 'Heats', 10 films would then be selected from each Heat, totaling to a selected 60 finalists to proceed to the finals held in Limerick.

MY EXPERIENCE

I entered the Fresh Film Festival in February 2017 but the thinking process began long before then. It was only after I went to a small concert in the Olympia and watched the opening act, Tessa Violet, perform her song 'Make Me A Robot' did I decide, this would be my film.

On the Monday the films were due, I borrowed a tripod, set it up in my room with the camera and just filmed. I had a brief idea of what I wanted it to look like but was focused more so on what I wanted to convey. After a solid two days of creating props and lugging that tripod in and out of my room, I was finally finished filming and had just two days to edit it all together and send it off to the Festival. I'd like to think I'm a lot more organized when it comes to practical real world things but art has no time limit.

Once the film was sent off, it was a cruel waiting game. One of which I almost narrowly forfeited just hours before receiving the email, "Congratulations Róisín, your film 'Make Me A Robot' has been selected for the Dublin Heats...". I really couldn't believe it, it seemed all too 'professional' for my liking but I just went with flow.

DUBLIN CENTRAL HEATS

The Dublin Heats were held at The Irish Film Institute and sixty films were screened on big cinema screens in front of an audience of about one hundred people. My stomach was in



knots with nerves, one hundred people were about to watch me prance around my room wearing a robot head made out of a cardboard box, on a cinema screen... Once we got inside and the first few films were shown without fault, I was at ease. That calmness I felt didn't last very long as once my film started to play and got about halfway through...GLITCH...the whole screen froze, started again, stuttered and then darkness. All I could hear were nervous claps and curious whispers around the audience. I was truly scarlet for my life.



Anyways... after the whole 'Technical Difficulties' scenario, the films that made it to the finals were announced. I was chosen and I also came second in the 'Audience award' which blew my mind... I guess the whole glitching and darkness thing played to my advantage.

FRESH FILM FINALS

A few weeks later, Ms. O'Neill, Becky and I, all ventured down to Limerick for the finals. It only took a two-hour train journey and a bunch of politically opinionated taxi drivers to get us there, but we made it with exactly minus 10 minutes to spare. We headed into Screen 1 and I was taken back by how much larger this screen was to the last... and typically, as we were slightly behind time, we were stuck sitting in the very front row with our necks bent in way necks shouldn't bend. This minor discomfort didn't interfere with my ability to recognize some of the crazy talented people my age and their films... As if the size of the screen didn't take me back enough, what was being screened on it was even more eye opening.



My film was screened... without fault... and with that I was content. I may have been squinting with the cringe of seeing myself on a screen that size but once it was over I felt a real sense of achievement. After hours of films and popcorn breaks, Fresh began their award ceremony. The top award winners were very well deserved and had extremely memorable films. I was happy to walk away with my 'Special Mention Award' as I felt like my film had made an impact and stood out in a way that no award title could sum up. It wasn't the best film and it wasn't the worst, but it was what I had to offer to the Fresh Film Festival in return for an incredible experience and I would do it all over again.

LMFM INTERVIEW

Over the course of the Fresh Film Festival experience, I was given an incredible opportunity to record an interview with LMFM Radio Station regarding my film 'Make Me A Robot' and my thoughts on making it to the Finals.

If someone had of told me I would be talking on the radio a year ago, I wouldn't have believed them and even now I can't



fathom it. So when I made the journey out to Drogheda to the Radio Station, reality started to kick in, I was going to have to put words to my wordless film and that terrified me.

I sat down opposite a big fluffy microphone and the interviewer cleared his throat. "A local 5th year student, Róisín Conlon, from Ratoath College, has reached the final for her beautiful film, 'Make Me A Robot', which looks at issues surrounding Mental Health. She joined us in the studio recently to tell us more." Once he stopped talking, and looked over to me initiating a conversation, my face turned bright red. We started to talk generally about the finals and the whole celebratory vibes and then we delved straight into it.

He asked me to talk him through my film. "Ehm... 'Make Me A



LMFM @LMFMRADIO · Mar 22

@ratoathcollege @artratoathc student Roisin Conlon in studio recently. Her film 'Make Me A Robot' is in final of @FreshFilmFest #midmorning pic.twitter.com/100wY7W3pL

Robot' is basically about a young teenage girl who is suffering with a lot in life and she is not very happy with where she is at, especially mentally. She is overwhelmed with the amount of emotions she is feeling, and so she starts to think that, maybe the only way she can fix the problem herself is to get away from it completely by transforming herself into a robot, because of the idea that they're cold hearted and emotionless. But she soon realizes, when it is too late, that surely it is better to feel pain than nothing at all."

After we overcame that hurdle, the interview went good! I got comfortable and got to talk about Mental Health as a topic that needs attention and with that I was happy to walk out knowing someone was going to listen to my rant in their car or at their table at lunch. Maybe it would resonate or spark a conversation or maybe it would simply do nothing at all but for the minor chance that it had an impact for someone somewhere, I built up the courage to share the thoughts and ideas in my head in hope to help someone else.

The English Department

As expected, 2016-17 has been an incredibly busy year in the English Department. One of our core subjects, the study of English provides students not only with the opportunity to engage with various genres of writing, from various cultures but also to develop their skills of analysis, empathy and creativity.

At Senior Cycle, our fantastic 5th years are now half way through their time at Leaving Cert. We have ten classes of 5th years for English, all of whom are studying a choice of texts as prescribed by the Department of Education. The 2018 cohort will be studying texts such as King Lear, Macbeth and The Great Gatsby, amongst others. This year's 5th years were lucky enough to meet one of their prescribed poets (courtesy of Ms Savage), the outstanding Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin. Here's to another great year in 2017-18, 5th years!

It's hard to believe that our wonderful 6th years are also coming to the end of their time studying for their LC English course. Most of this year's group of students have studied Hamlet as their single text (often described as Shakespeare's greatest play) and had a great time this March visiting the Helix where we saw the amazing Angela Newman, Marcus Bale and Luke Barry perform with the Cyclone Rep theatre company. Students were treated to an unusual performance in which the actors broke the fourth wall (look it up) to speak to the audience and guide them through key scenes. Our students described the play as being really funny, unusual and useful for their revision.

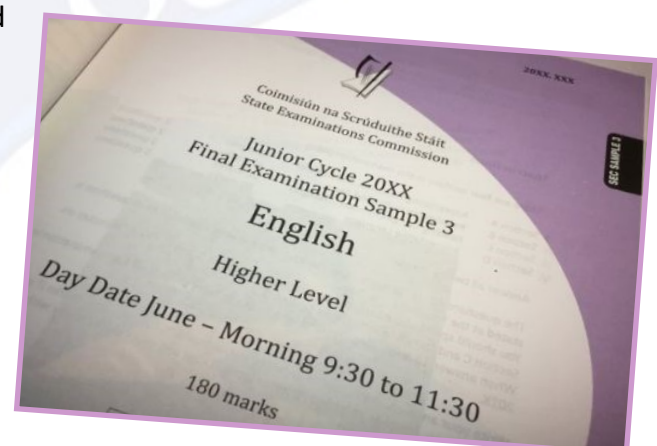


Cyclone Rep Actors

And now to Junior Cycle. This year will see the first year in which students will no longer sit the Junior Certificate English exam, breaking a tradition begun back in 1989. Yes, that was the year that *Fair City* was first broadcast, Madonna released *Like a Prayer* and crimping was an acceptable hair style. The new Junior Cycle exam will see some significant changes, such as there being one paper instead of two and much less predictability for students. Our 1st and 2nd years are also in the process of preparing for this exam, which places greater emphasis on skills like analysis and group work.

We wish all our 3rd and 6th year students the best of luck in their exams in June and to everyone else: have a super summer!

See you in August!



TY 2016/2017

Eoghan looks back on the decision to do Transition Year:

The TY Experience

So you've thought of choosing TY over Fifth Year, you're in TY or you didn't/don't want to do it. Fair enough but whatever way, the experience doesn't change. When you think of TY as an academic year, it doesn't seem all that stressful or tough as other years. And you'd be right in presuming that. No exams, no pressure. If you chose TY, you think you're in for an easy, maybe even boring year but you think of the trips as a positive, much like myself and some classmates thought. From experience, going into TY, most of us had no idea that we'd be doing some of the things we've done. From charity work to jumping into bogs to spray painting a mask that looks like a block of clay gone wrong.



The three modules brought a bit of a change, different subjects and teachers every 10 weeks. A new

language to be learned, among metal and wood, music, cooking, the list is endless! I learned German, Spanish and even a bit of French along the way. The trips, from the Bonding and Adventure Trips to Lilliput, days out like the Urban Challenge we did in Dublin town, various subject trips like the Gaeltacht trip. I went to St. Paul's Primary and helped out there as well.

TY wasn't as much an academic year but an experience of learning different things that I normally wouldn't and doing different things that I never thought of doing. For a lot of us, we chose TY to take a year away from study after the Junior Cert or to get back to hobbies we had before the Junior Cert or many people wanted what it said on the tin: a year in between 3rd year and 5th year to transition easier, rather than going from being told about the Junior Cert to being told about the Leaving Cert in a matter of 4 months. But what I got was probably more than I thought I'd get out of TY: an experience. I've done extensive work for charity. I've completed many workshops, trips, even regular classes and competed in the beloved Kahoots. I've built the Christmas Village, helped out at Open Night, achieved a *Gaisce* award, learned all about the sound at school ceremonies and much, much more. That's an impressive list, yet that doesn't even cover the half of it. Whether you've done it, chose it or wanted to do it, it's an experience that I can almost guarantee you'll love. Or maybe you'll hate that you've done it. But I can guarantee you there wasn't a day you didn't laugh in TY and perhaps having that sunny outlook is the most important!



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Team bonding

Leah Rooney reflects on the TY bonding experience:



The Transition Year had started, class groups had been mixed up and we were engaging in a new learning experience. A bonding trip was desperately needed so off we went to Lilliput Adventure Centre on the 8th of September 2016 to get to know each other and to take part in some team building activities. This trip included archery, bog jumping, orienteering, canoeing, rock climbing, capturing the flag challenge and

an overnight stay. The TY bonding trip had to be one of the most memorable highlights of the year. After taking part in all the activities wholeheartedly we were starved... the hearty dinner provided wasn't enough to satiate so a sneaky team effort organised a Pizza Hut delivery. Those team building activities really worked effectively! It was the perfect start to the TY experience!



Every one counts

This year a number of students from Transition Year in Ratoath College entered a film competition in association with Meath County Council called "Rubbish Film Festival".

As part of this competition, TY students received two days training in film production by a company called "Go Create". On Thursday 2nd February students were invited to present their video to a panel of judges and also to view the work of the other schools involved in the festival.

In total ten schools entered the competition. Inside each student got a box of popcorn and a drink. Fergal Kilgannon, Thomas Lewis and Cillian Byrne introduced our entry into the film festival. Our film was inspired by the litter problem that can be an

issue in our school, and especially by how so many people just walk by little bits of rubbish and ignore it because "it's only one piece of litter". After presenting our film, students were asked a number of questions by the judging panel.

Each school presented their video and was asked questions by the panel. Colaiste na Mí in Navan came first, with an excellent entry where the actor turns into a piece of litter.

It is our first time to enter this competition, and we hope to be back next year. We hope to raise awareness of litter in our school with this video.

The following students took part in this video.

Lara Walsh Fageratzi, Colm Selvestre, Eimhinn Mc Gann, Eoghan Mc Gee, Gavin Chapman, Fergal Kilgannon, Mark Eade, Cillian Byrne, Conor Daly, Harry Haskins, Thomas Lewis, Matthew Mc Dermott

Their video can be checked out here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61Q4tDaSudM>



The IT Crowd

Colm Sevestre:

On the 23rd of January, myself and several other students went to DCU for a TY compute programme.

It ran from the 23rd of January to the 27th running from 9:30-3:30. The bus we were getting was the 109A at 7:30 at The Auld Stand. On our first day, we met the instructors and were put into our groups. We got 2 breaks during the day - like the school day - where we got to meet up and relax and explore DCU's incredible campus.

During the rest of the week, the courses got more intense and more difficult. Unfortunately, we still had to get the bus at 7:30 which meant we still had to wake up early. Overall it was great and I would happily do it again (even with the early wake up calls)

compute
Web App Java



Positive peers

Thomas Lewis looks back on a teaching opportunity from TY:

Hello, my name is Thomas and I am Transition Year. Transition year is fantastic because it allows you to try as many new things as you can. In Transition Year, trying new things is something you are strongly encouraged to do. So, taking the advice of the teachers and former Transition Year students around me, I did exactly that. I took many new opportunities that came my way, one of which being Peer Education.

I, along with the other students in TY was sent an email regarding the "Positive Youth Education" (pYe) Peer Education course. A five-day course over the course of three months, where we would be taught everything there is to know about Alcohol, Drugs and Smoking, and then be trained to go and teach the dangers of these substances to the First Years. So, remembering the advice I had been given, I applied and received a place and on the 27th of October, seven students including myself set off for trim for our first Peer Ed class.

The five days on the course were among some of the best I had in Transition Year. We all made new friends from different schools and had such amazing fun. I was sad to see the course end, but excited then to use the skills I learned to make the First Years wise to the danger behind substance abuse.

The idea of standing in front of a class of First Years and teaching them was a little daunting at first I will admit. That

said, within the first five minutes of our very first class, all nerves had been eliminated. The class were engaged and were getting involved in our lesson. They were not afraid to ask questions, they were respectful of myself and Shane McGoldrick, my partner for Peer Education. They showed fantastic enthusiasm and took a very mature approach to learning about a serious topic.

Therefore, I commend the first years on their brilliant participation and maturity. I also commend the other students who did the course and taught what they learned to the First Years. We did a pretty decent job, if I do say so myself.

To conclude, the "pYe" Peer Education was a fantastic experience and one I will remember forever. Not only did it teach me how to educate the first years on the dangers of drugs and alcohol, but it also taught me to step out of my comfort zone and become a better version of myself because of it.



Gaisce

Siloe Musoke reflects on the Gaisce challenge:

On Thursday the 27th of May 2017 all of us 4th Years went out on our Gaisce trip to Lilliput Adventure Centre, as this trip was the final piece, of the criteria to be completed for our award.

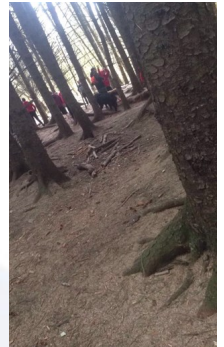
We left the school at break and drove 1hr 30mins to Lilliput, Lough Ennell in Westmeath. Once we arrived we set up our rooms (or tent if you camped) and then got dressed in old clothes for the day. We began our day by completing a 1 hour hike around the Lough Ennell area. It was a fun and new experience as most of us don't usually hike in the countryside.

Once we returned we were split into 3 groups that we would stay in until the end of the day. Group One

went kayaking and bog jumping for the day, Group Two went rock climbing and done some archery and Group Three went into the nearby forest to play some games like 'capture the flag'. We would then swap around and get to complete all these activities as the day went on and on the following day.

A group of TY's woke up early in the morning to watch the sunrise over Lough Ennell which was beautiful. We then had our breakfast and continued our activities by swapping the following day and had great fun doing so. Lilliput brought back memories from our first bonding trip in September 2016, and we made many more our second time around!

To conclude, the whole Gaisce experience was great. From completing the community involvement activity to the personal skills and recreational activity parts it was something new and interesting that most of us had never done before. This final trip to Lilliput Adventure Centre was definitely the icing on the cake!



Down on the farm

Causey Farm 2017

After a few weeks in the classroom TY were delighted to head out to Causey Farm for a much needed break and we were all ready to enjoy the spa trip that is a spot of bog jumping!

The weather was actually mighty fine on this day for our Geography trip. One of the most enjoyable parts of the day was the bread-making. We had fun and it didn't taste too bad either! Looking around the farm gave us a great insight into farming life and a very impressive sheep dog was able to heard a group of sheep into a pen while 8 of our students could not unfortunately. The best activity of the day was the good auld bog. Unlike in Lilliput this bog wasn't as wet. It was rather dry and sticky almost to the point

where people were getting stuck in the mud. The laugh was had around the bog and a lot of pictures, snapchats and boomerangs were taken, if you're down with the kids these days you'll know what they are.

This trip was a much needed break for the Transition Year students and it was enjoyed by both the students and the teachers.



RC News

This year saw the era of RC News begin. The brainchild of the inspiration Mr. Giblin and a group of eager TY students started off as a demo video for a school news team. The first clip, the demo piece, was a run-down on the Open Night and it turned out to be pretty good.

At the beginning, it was just me, Jordan Peppard and Thomas Lewis, but after the Open Night video, curiosity was stirred and applications started pouring in. So many people joined in that RC News branched



out into RC Sports, with people like Adam Wyer and Shane McGoldrick covering many sporting outings. RC News is a way for people interested in media/ video editing/ camera work/ sound work/ journalism to try it out and explore broadcasting work. In the future, RC Sports wants to eventually cover several of the sports that we do in Ratoath College. It's clear that there is a lot of potential for this endeavour as it's already grown so much from what it started out as.

Some of the events covered by RC News include the Open Night, The Rubbish Film Festival, the Saint Vincent De Paul Convention and much much more, and that doesn't even include all the reports covered by RC Sports.

It's a great experience, it's really fun to try out something I never thought I would, and it really is interesting to see what goes on behind a camera. A great opportunity for anyone interested in experiencing areas of media and journalism. It's also a great way to get out of classes, escape the school and go on trips!

An Ghaeltacht

Cillian Byrne ag breathnú siar:

Turas lae chun na Gaeltachta

Bhí chuile duine ar bís don turas seo. Lá a chaitheamh ag baint taitnimh as comhlúadar a chéile agus ag labhairt Gaeilge, dár ndóigh. Thugamar aghaidh ar Dhroim Rí go luath ar maidin. na rangana. Nuair a shriocheamar an áit chuar isteach san fhoirgneamh agus leanamar ar aghaidh go dtí an halla. Ansin, chuir na muinteoirí an slua i ndá grúpa. Bhí mé i ngrúpa A. An chéad rud a rinneamar ná drumáíocht. Bhí sé an-mhaith agus spraoiúl, mar bhí sé an-thapa. Taithí faoi leith a bhí ann. Tar éis chaitheamh tamall ag damhsa. Bhí sé iontach ach ceapaim go raibh na drumáí níos fearr. Roimh an lón d'imríomar cúpla cluiche agus ghlacamar páirt in Íoga. Bhain mé taitneamh as ach bhí mé i bpian mar ní duine solubtha mé. Faoi dheireadh thiar thall, am lóin a bhí ann. Fuair gach duine anraith (beagán

goirt). Tar éis an lóin, d'imríomar níos mó cluichí. Ansin, bhí tráth na gceist againn. Rinne gach duine ceithre bhabhta agus bhí seacláid le buachaint. B'in an lá, faraor. Buaiteoir iomlan an lae ná Ruairi Coulter mar rinne sé an iarracht is fearr i rith an turais.



It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Christmas village 2016 as remembered by Shane McGoldrick & Josh Harnett!

Every year the Transition Year students build a Christmas village for the children of the local primary school and this year was no different.



With Santa taking a break from his very busy schedule Ms. Prendergast and Mr Giblin managed to persuade him to come and

read a story to each class that visited to the village.

The village was action packed with many activities for the children to experience the Christmas spirit: face painting, card making, posting and gathering some reindeer

feed to give to Rudolph and the boys. After they were finished with that Santa would tell them a story about Rudolph and the other reindeer or stories about the elves in Santa's grotto.

Every child thoroughly enjoyed the village as they scurried from room to room with excited enthusiasm. Their squeals of delight and melodious carol singing lit the dark and dreary stormy days up. All of the TY students enjoyed dressing up as elves

and working at the various stations. The look on the childrens' faces was very cute and we felt a sense of satisfaction creating the Christmas experience and seeing the children that happy!



What's going on?

Ty Expo 2016

On the 15th September 2016 a double decker bus full of TY's headed down to Punchestown Racecourse Event Centre for what many hoped would be a fun filled action packed day.

The TY expo was a chance for transition year students to find out about all the extracurricular activities there were available during Transition Year. At the expo there was over 90 different stalls/booths which varied from, Gaisce - The President's Award, which the majority of this TY group completed, Water Safety Ireland was there to provide information on different lifesaving/lifeguard courses all over the country and The Darren Clarke School Of Golf was there which gave golf fans the chance to attend

week long or even full year boarding at the golf school. There were also a number of performers to keep us entertained during the day.

There was something for everyone and the TY expo boasts these statistics,

**7,200 Students,
350 Teachers and
100 Parents from
200 Schools Nationwide.
400 Exhibiting staff from
135 Organisations represented.
80 Presentations and
20 Performing Arts Acts.**

With this being only our second trip of the year the banter was A1 and craic was had by all.

Pay It Forward – SVP Youth for Justice

Written by: Nicola Gibson, Sophie McLoughlin, Freya Kavanagh and Alex Mee

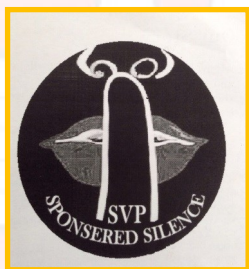


We are TY's from Ratoath College, we did a series of projects to connect people and offer support to those in need. We started off with Random Acts of Kindness around the school. This involved us giving slips of paper with an inspirational quote on them to the canteen staff.

They would give them to students who might have been short of money for their lunch or may have been having a bad day, in hopes that they would carry it on to someone else. Next, we started a series of projects in aid of people who go through their lives unheard, But we in Ratoath College heard them.

Sponsored Silence

Firstly, a group of students organised a sponsored silence to fundraise and raise awareness for S.V.P. It involved students getting sponsored and then not talking throughout the school day, to show that we need to listen more to the ones who aren't heard in society. To give a voice to the voiceless.



Wheelchair Documentary

Another group put together a documentary exposing the daily difficulties those in wheelchairs face. One being that they can often be overlooked by society. They are not overlooked in Ratoath College.

Tea and Talks

Another group organised a day where some of the elderly citizens of Ratoath were to come to the school for some tea, biscuits and a nice chat with some of the students and to also see inside the school. This is because, older people may not have much access to social interaction and therefore are sometimes forgotten, we haven't forgotten them.

Women and Children's Hampers

There were then two projects carried out in aid of the homeless. We had one group who made boxes full of daily essentials for women and children who are homeless eg. Blankets, sanitary products, clothes and toiletries.

Another group made hampers with food for the homeless around Christmas time. Both projects were aimed to highlight how important it is to support the less fortunate in our communities. We hopefully showed that they are acknowledged and a cared about.

Christmas Village

Again, at Christmas, every TY took part in setting up and running a Christmas Village for our local primary school students. We had a face painting, letter writing, baking and even a story from Santa and Mrs Claus. This was to fill the children with Christmas spirit, because we don't know what may be happening behind closed doors or what they and their parents are dealing with.



All of these projects were done with inclusion and awareness in mind. As we in Ratoath College believe that no matter your age, abilities or your socioeconomic background, you matter and you deserve to be heard. So, we should take time every now and again to listen instead of speaking, because it is usually the people who speak the least, that have the most to say.



The voice of the Youth

Sophie Scattergood reports: Comhairle Na nÓg is a youth group that give children and young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies. "Young Voices, Local Issues"

There is a Comhairle for each county in Ireland and I (Sophie Scattergood) am the representative from Ratoath College on the Meath Comhairle. I was lucky enough to also be elected the Public Relations Officer (PRO) for my Comhairle. So I handle most communications and take care of the facebook page too.

This year on the Meath Comhairle our theme is health and fitness, we are trying to explore mental health, physical health and having a healthy diet.

We have taken part in so many activities already to promote different aspects of having a healthy happy life.

We went on a 6 mile walk in Glendalough through beautiful mountains, the experience was breathtaking, visually and physically! This trip was promoting the fitness aspect and now we wanted to cover some mental health.

We had a six week chair yoga course to relax ourselves and our minds. This was a really great experience and you can see our progress on the facebook page

@MeathComhairle! To further explore mental health we filmed a truly amazing European dance called The Nelken Line. This is a contemporary dance about the four seasons. It took some time and practice but when we filmed it in Nowth, Hill Of Tara and Trim Castle the video came together and is amazing. Thanks to our great videographer Shay!

The latest project we are working on is our Pedometer Challenge. We must each take 10,000 steps with our pedometers if we want to earn a trip to work on a Foróige leadership program. Exciting stuff ahead!

As well as all of that work, we have also attended many events such as The National Showcase for Comhairle, local networking events and most recently I have attended

Represent! #!

The Irish Second Level Students' Unions Annual Assembly took place on the 13th April. We had two members of our student council running for positions on the national executive- Sarah Connolly for Oifigeach na Gaeilge and Kurt Scott for President. It was a very busy day with constitutional amendments made, new welfare and equality policies were passed such as a recommendation for gender neutral facilities in schools, new environmental policies were passed and new educational policies were passed. All of the candidates had impressive speeches and manifestos prepared. The voting process took place at lunch time and results were announced at 4pm. Unfortunately Kurt Scott missed out on the position of president to a 6th year student, Ben Smith, from Cork. Sarah Connolly received the position as

an equality awareness event hosted by Youth Works Ireland. We discussed how we feel about equality and shared our stories about if we ever felt unequal. This for me was the most enjoyable part as I got the chance to express myself. But instead of telling one story I decided to tell four different problems that I feel are a huge problem.

These are: 1) How men and women are not given the same opportunities to work and get paid.

2) How we are told to follow our dreams but then told they aren't the right dreams for us and that they are unrealistic.

3) How we are told "education is free" but then expected to pay entrance fees, uniform fees, book, pens, pencils, etc. Is it really free?

4) "We are a democracy with no voice" a quote which my good friend wrote, is a sad reality to face. How can you care about our opinion but then not want to hear it? As we try to use our voice we are told to be quiet because we "don't understand". Well hear me loud and clear when I say this, we are the future and if you're not willing to listen now then I don't think you'll ever be ready. Our future is now because the future is based off of present choices. Present choices that we have no say in, control our future. So choose wisely, because you won't get to choose again.

So Meath Comhairle have been up to a fair amount of work and we still have plenty of work to get done. I look forward to the years ahead and hope that you can get involved with your local Comhairle.

Thanks for reading!


Comhairle na nÓg
Young Voices. Local Issues.

Oifigeach na Gaeilge based on her ideas about making Gaelge more accessible to students. It was recognised that Ratoath College has had a representative from the school on the NCS and NSE consistently for the past few years.



It's Riveting

It has been another fantastic year for the Metalwork Department in Ratoath College. Students have developed and improved new skills that will stay with them for

a lifetime. We have been treated to a host of new projects and new ideas with the first years being kept busy making angry bird's clock and fighter jet planes, Leaving Certs even got to design and make their own helicopter. It is great to see that some of our students are looking to pursue a career in Engineering next year when they venture off to start a new chapter of their life in college, we wish them all the best!

The Junior Cert Project afforded students the opportunity to make their own car! Students have excelled in Metalwork

throughout the academic year and they have some excellent pieces and work to bring home and put on display for all to see. TY's explored the world of jewellery this year, designing, sizing and manufacturing the own pure silver

rings..... REAL SILVER!

To put the icing on the cake, there has been major developments in the metalwork department for next year as well with a special delivery of a Go Kart engine

which the incoming first years are going to be working on.

It's all happening in the Metalwork Department in the near future...



Exciting Times Ahead!!



Young Economist of the Year

This year I entered the Young Economist of the Year competition with my project "The Economics of buying an Airline Ticket". This was my second time entering the competition after last year's project called "The Economics of the War on Drugs".

My project focused on some of the anomalies that can occur when buying airline tickets, which include some shorter flights still costing more than longer ones, business class tickets costing multiples of economy seats and how some one way tickets can cost more than return tickets.

I created a video about 11 minutes long in which I explained how some of these phenomena occur by using economic theory. Using the logic I have learned with economics I could explain why the market for airline tickets is so strange and



why it poses us with so many phenomena that seem to make no sense.

In my research I concluded the reasons why these anomalies occur.

The main points that I highlighted in my project were:

The airline industry is an oligopoly, this means that there is not much competition between airlines with regards cheap prices instead they use advertising to compete and try to gain a bigger share of the market rather than just increase sales.

Price discrimination is employed by airlines to increase profits. This means airlines will target different consumers by sorting them into groups, for example airlines understand that people buying first class tickets are probably extremely wealthy and will pay over the odds to get the best seats even if the perks are not good enough to justify such a high price.

Economies of scale exist in the airline industry. This means that there are huge benefits for firms that mass produce in the industry rather than airlines who just offer specialised flights to limited destinations with small fleets of airplanes.

My project managed to make the finals hosted in the Galway Bay Hotel on the 24th April. In a competition that included over 500 entries from all over Ireland. I was lucky to be awarded first place and announced Young Economist of the Year. I was also given a prize of a tablet device.

This success is testament to the increasing popularity of the subject in the school and the hard work of the very popular Mr. Connolly. I would definitely encourage younger students to take up the subject in senior cycle and enter the competition if at all possible as it was a very memorable experience.

Hairspray!

Ratoath College announced that we will be putting on a performance of Hairspray as our school musical this year. Excitement loomed as it came closer and closer to audition time, when many aspiring actors and singers hoped to make their debut. Ms. Dalton, Ms. Jackson and our choreographer Aisling endured two tough days of auditions, where students battled for their place on stage. To say we were blown away by the talent is an understatement. Our students and their many talents are second to none!

It was a tough job to pick our lead roles, but in the end, the students who really impressed us came out on top. Luckily, we have plenty of room on our stage, so all who want to get involved will be able to! Once auditions were completed, we began dance workshops to get our dancers ready for the big performance in October.



We are so excited for the year ahead, it will be hard work, but it will be worth it for an amazing performance!

We are the nicest kids in town!



The History of Everything!

From *Uncle Gaybo* to *Big Jack*, from the *Polar Ice-Caps* to the *Donegal Coast* and even to outer space—it's been *and exciting and fascinating year for RC's Historians*.

In TY, we learned about those who have pushed the boundaries of human endeavour – from the polar expeditions to the space race and even punk rock! This learning will go a long way to preparing these students for the rigours of historical inquiry and research in many subjects at Leaving Cert.

Our Leaving Certs have been hard at work too. This year saw the introduction of a new prescribed module for Leaving Cert History—Government, Economy and Society in Ireland 1949-1989. This covers a fascinating period in Irish History and students will focus on key developments that have shaped the Ireland of today with Case Studies on the First Programme of Economic Expansion, 1958-63, the Impact of RTÉ, 1962-72 and the impact Ireland's membership of the EEC had on coastal communities and fisheries. This module will also be prescribed for study for next year's fifth years.

As ever, we had a wide-range and variety of outstanding Research Projects produced by our Leaving Certs this year. Rebekah Byrne's treatise on Albert Cashier aka Jenny Hodges—the transgender Irish veteran of the US Civil War opened a window onto 19th century gender identity. Rebekah discovered through her research that although born a woman, Cashier lived much of his life as a man, including serving honourably in some of the US Civil War's bloodiest and most significant engagements between 1861-1865. Officially, The US banned women in the military from taking part in combat operations until 2013. We had several sporting topics this year, including Sam McSweeney's research on the controversial 1972 Olympic Basketball final between the USA and the USSR, showing us how the sporting arena was not immune from the Cold War's influence; and Darragh McPartlin's study on the influence of Jack Charlton on the Irish national soccer team—and indeed the Irish nation—1986-88. Adam Fagan analysed the controversial link between US Cold War policy in supporting South and Latin American right-wing dictatorships and the crack cocaine epidemic that swept Los Angeles and other US cities in the 1980s. We congratulate all our Leaving Cert historians on the success of their fascinating research and wish them and our Junior Cert historians the very best in June.

At Junior Cycle, this year finally saw a draft specification for History in the new Junior Cycle being released. You can see it for yourself at www.juniorcycle.ie/Curriculum/Subjects/History/History.

Although the consultation is now closed, those many among you who have been through the current Junior Cert History syllabus may find it interesting reading. We welcome any comments or ideas you have about how we can make learning History more exciting and engaging for the future.

We were delighted to welcome Mr Toner to the team this year. His boundless enthusiasm has been a great addition. We look forward to welcoming back Ms Dinsmore and Ms Kilrane in August and offer our congratulations of their new arrivals!

The History team wish all our students and their families a happy, fun and adventurous summer.



Leaving Cert historians this year learned about two new case studies—looking at the impact of RTÉ and key personalities like Gay Byrne on Irish society as well as how Ireland changed through EEC membership, including its impact on Fisheries.



Leaving Cert research projects this year included (clockwise from top left) Jack Charlton, Albert Cashier and the 1972 Olympic Basketball final.

Who run the world GIRLS

Junior Ladies' Soccer

It was a good year for our 1st year and our under 15's girl's soccer teams.

For most of the 1st years, it was their first time playing soccer so they did really well to learn about positions, tactics, the dreaded offside rule but most importantly to work on their skills in such a short time. We trained on Wednesdays after school and the girls improved very quickly and performed very well against more experienced teams in the league. They will continue to improve as they progress next year to U15 level.

The under 15's team had a strong season but were unlucky overall. The team consisted of 3rd year veterans, battle hardened 2nd years and 1st year new recruits. The girls progressed in the cup after a hard fought 1-2 win away to Palmerstown CC. They came up against very tough and experienced opposition in the next round which unfortunately ended the cup dream.



In the league, the girls were more fortunate. The game of the league was against Eureka in Kells. It was a wonderful game to watch and the Ratoath girls had the vast majority of chances and possession. Some wonderful pressure football led to us going up 0-1. Eureka were clinical in the taking of their few chances and leveled it 1-1. In injury time the girls wanted to capitalise on the pressure, and pushed forward looking to win the game. This pressure had seen us hit the post along with creating numerous chances. This, however, unfortunately left us open to a counter attack and the Eureka girls scoring a goal with 20 seconds left of play! It was a horrible defeat but an excellent game and worthy lesson.



The team had done enough in the league however to progress to a league playoff against St. Mary's in Finglas. Nerves were frayed as the game kicked off but the girls settled down and relaxed into the match. Chances were limited in this tense game but numerous injuries to key players changed the course of the contest. We eventually lost 2-0 but the girls left with their heads held high. Many of the girls will be moving on to senior soccer next year but there will be a strong core remaining to go at it again. Until next year, remember..... 'Don't let the ball bounce!'

Soccer Finals

This year we put four girls soccer teams out into competitions, two of which have made Leinster finals. We were highly motivated this year to win every game because some of our team members will be leaving us next year. Both semi-finals were tough-fought battles. The U19's semi-final ended 4-3 with goals from Leah Farrell, Claire Nolan and two by Rebecca Mahon. The U17's semi-final ended 3-2 with goals from Leah Farrell, Katie Newe and Rebecca Mahon. We are very proud of our achievements as we have made history in Ratoath College as the first sport to have two teams make the final in one year. We hope we do well in the both finals later this year. The U19's

will face Dunboyne in a Derby Final in Oriel Park and the U17's will play against Ballymun in Lexlip. These are highly anticipated games.

Best of luck to the girls!



1st Year on Tour

Lilliput Italy

Stephen Kiernan— RC Reporter at Large

The trip to Lilliput from April 6th-7th was a huge overall success. The activities, accommodation and food were great and the adventure centre even had a huge dog called Bear as the icing on the cake! We had a well prepared camp and interactions from the teachers and instructors helped everything go smoothly. The activities were outstanding whether you were scaling the climbing wall, running through the forest looking for a flag or even jumping into the watery depths of Lilliput's very own bog, everyone was having a great time, and the fantastic food helped us keep going late into the night. Speaking of, what better way to finish off the night than a ghost story and a game of manhunt, there's nothing like hiding in a forest whilst looking out for a large team of adults and children looking for your team while also looking out for the ghost of Johnathon Swift and his missing daughter. Boy that left me with the chills, however a great breakfast and a game of orienteering (map reading) got rid of that quick sharp. In between all of this football and banter kept us going until the bus arrived to bring us back to the hallowed halls of Ratoath College. I found this trip to be quite the adventure and I made new friends with the students and the instructors whom I met again when I went back with Scouts.

I'd give this trip a 10/10 for everything, thanks so much to all the teachers, instructors and students who went on the trip!

Evan Walsh remembers the school tour to Italy fondly:

In April, a group of First Years went to the beautiful country of Italy. The amazing journey began on the 8th of April and ended far too soon on the 12th of April.

The first day began with an early rise before getting on a bus to Dublin Airport. After a short, comfortable plane journey we arrived in the sunny city of Milan. Before we were headed off to a quaint Italian town called Desenzano. After a lovely few hours of eating pizza, ice-cream, and taking in the sights, we went on a boat around the glistening, blue lake. After that we went on a lovely walk to meet the group of people who were coming on a later flight. We then got on a bus to the hotel named Hotel Splendid Sole. After a lovely dinner in the hotel we drifted off to sleep in our comfortable rooms.

After a long night's sleep we all headed down to the hotel restaurant for a delicious breakfast. Then it was on the bus to the beautiful Venice where we rode on ornate gondolas. Before long we were walking around the perfectly sculpted streets and buildings and indulging ourselves in succulent food. We then had a yummy dinner overlooking a Venetian canal.

On the third day we then hopped on a bus and headed to the beautiful town of Verona. We visited the masterpiece of a building that is the Amphitheatre of Verona. We then had a lovely stroll around the town where we saw the balcony of Romeo and Juliet before eating lunch and taking a bus to a cable car which took us up into the Alps. After taking in the breath-taking sights we headed back to the hotel. We relaxed at the pool for a bit before walking down the town to eat at a delightful pizzeria. After walking miles and miles we deserved a good night's sleep!

On our second last day we woke up extra early so we could go to the amazing, wonderful amusement park, Gardaland. The highlight of the trip for some! There we spent the day on thrilling roller coasters and eating delicious treats. After many water rides, adrenaline inducing huge drops, and heart stopping moments, we sadly headed back to the hotel where we again relaxed at the pool. We had to gather our belonging back up and pack for home.

We woke up early in the morning preparing for the day ahead. We brought down our suitcases and ate our breakfast not looking forward to coming home. We felt the final bit of warm air for a while as we headed onto the plane. A little while later we exited the same plane but this time into bitterly cold air. We were home. It wasn't long before we got back to our parents waiting patiently for us at the school. It was a great trip! Many thanks to Mr. Ball for organising the trip and to all the teachers who took wonderful care of us! La Dolce Vita!



1st years on tour

Tiocfaidh ár lá?

This year at the Young Economist of the Year Awards the group of Daniel Doyle, Pierce Butler, and Cormac Butler and with some insightful pointers from Sam Fraughen

submitted the project of "The Economic Effects of a United Ireland". As well as John Walsh submitting the project of The Factors Effecting the Economics of the Irish Motor

Industry. The project of The Economic Effects of a United Ireland received a bronze medal in the fifth year category out of 600 entries. The group went to collect their award a couple of weeks ago in Galway. Well done to all involved with a special thanks to Mr. Connolly for his hard work in helping the group have a successful project.

Written by Pierce Butler, John Walsh, Cormac Butler and Daniel Doyle.



That's gas!

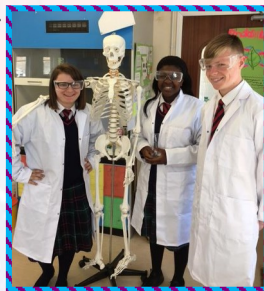
What an eventful year for Science at Ratoath College! From exciting trips to the first year of the new Junior Certificate curriculum, it was an exciting and thrilling year!

In September 2nd years enjoyed a day trip to the zoo. With a focus on the topic of conservation of plants and animals, students had the opportunity to explore and discover ten different habitats, including Gorilla Rainforest and Sea Lion Cave. Students collected information about different species of animals gaining an understanding about endangered species, different adaptations animals can have to live in their specified environments and human impact on conservation.

First years went to the BT Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS in January. This was an excellent opportunity for the students to see the subject of science outside the classroom and how it influences the world around us. Students visited the vast range of different projects displayed at the exhibition, asking

questions to the exhibitors and thoroughly enjoyed their day.

As part of the Leaving Certificate curriculum, 5th years went to Towney Hall in Drogheda to complete their ecology project in a woodland habitat. This gave students the opportunity to develop their class room knowledge on ecology by carrying out activities and experiments in the natural world. Students developed skills and methods on how to identify different plants and animals in their own natural habitat, and discussed how different environmental factors may influence where these plants and animals live. A great day enjoyed by the students with an engaging and hands on approach to learning!



Locked up

Rang Walsh Social Education PRISON TRIP

Arnoh Mbemba reports:

On the 3rd of April Ms. Jackson's 5th year LCA class went on a trip to Wheatfield prison in Clondalkin as part of Social Education. It took us about 30 to 40 minutes to get to the prison. When we got there we were greeted by one of the guards that works in the prison. She gave us visitor passes and we all had to go through the metal detector. Once we went through the metal detector, we were escorted to the drama hall/room/section of the prison the tour guide told us what goes on in the prison, what time the prisoners are out of their cells, what they do during the day, and what they can or can't have.

After we were briefed on the day to day running of the prison, our guide brought us to the prison cells and told us that there is three levels in prison basic, standard and enhanced. Prisoners are granted a level based on their behaviour, so there is an incentive to be well behaved in order to have a nicer cell and more privileges. Our class only went to the basic and enhanced cells and there is a big difference. The main difference is that enhanced level prisoners have individual cells, whereas the rest have to share. The main issue with this was that some prisoners do not get along!

In this prison you can still get an education

and you are able to apply for work full time. The practical section of the prison had three separate halls the engineering hall, the construction hall and another construction hall for house building. A lot of prisoners have learned a trade while in prison, hoping to gain work once they are released from prison.

The last stop on our tour was a meet and greet with an inmate that is sentenced for life. He gave the class a brief 'what you need to know' about the prison. He told us about his regrets and how he wished he could do it all differently. When he was sent to prison he decided to make the most of the opportunities given to him. He has since received a masters degree.

Once the tour was over we had a quick look in a police van and they showed us how they transport prisoners.

Overall the trip was really interesting, gave us great insight to what prison life was really like and showed how easy it can be to be sent to prison, but how much harder life is once you are inside the prison. I think we all learned a valuable lesson on that trip!



AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Teaching and learning at its very best

Ratoath College Business Department 2016/2017

*"If Money isn't everything, work at Mickey D's" -
Mr Walsh 2017*

*"The first rule of business, stay out of mine" - Mr
Leonard 2017*



1st years embrace new Business Studies Course

This year saw the roll out of the new Business Studies Course for our 1st year Business Studies students. The new specification is replacing the old curriculum and is learning outcomes based. Learning Outcomes are statements in curriculum specifications which describe the knowledge, Skills, Values and Understanding that students should be able to demonstrate after a period of learning. There are 37 different Learning Outcomes across three strands; Personal Finance, Enterprise and Our Economy. A key feature of the new course is the introduction of continuous assessment as a fundamental part of the learning and teaching journey for students. Junior Cycle Business Studies students will be able to take part in a group based Business in-action research project during the final term of second year and they will complete an individual based presentation during the first term of Third year. Following this presentation, students will have the opportunity to complete a reflective assessment task, which will count for 10% of their overall State Examinations Commission Grade. Their final exam at the end of third year will be a single 2 hour exam at common level. Armed with iPads, our Business Studies students are fully embracing this new



business self-directed learning and creativity, all in the pursuit of building their understanding and appreciation of the world of Business.

Cupids Kitchen 2nd Year Business

Ms O' Toole's and Ms Hynes's 2nd year Business class carried out a hugely successful mini company

called 'Cupids Kitchen' in the lead up to Valentines day. Love and profit was in the air as students delivered on their aims and objectives for the business while working hard to produce top quality Valentines treats for students and staff in Ratoath College.

TY mini companies succeed again

Mini companies again were an integral part of the TY business module this year and Mr Ball's TY class decided on a summer surprise for students and staff of hot chocolate with marshmallows and a magical chocolate fountain. The students were extremely happy with how their sales went and their advertising campaign and great selling skills paid off with a fine profit, great comments from customers and a mighty business plan to add to their future business ventures.



The Future is bright for our Senior Business students

Our 5th and 6th year business students are flying and there is potential for a host of future Ratoath entrepreneurs. Business at third level is one of the most sought after areas on the CAO and it is very promising for the Business Department as a whole that so many RC students wish to pursue a career in Business. The senior subjects of Accounting, Business and Economics are very strong again this year.



Thank you and Good Luck

The Business team of Mr Leonard, Mr Walsh, Ms Hynes, Ms O' Toole, Mr Connolly, Mr Ball, Ms Reilly and Ms McArdle would like to wish the very best of luck to our present third year Business studies pupils sitting their Junior Certificate Business Studies exams. We are also going to miss our current sixth year students who have been amazing and we will be sad to see you go. The very best of luck in your exams and future studies and careers.

Big day on the farm

Dante Mancini Macari & Ms. Dalton discuss the merit of the 2nd year Geography trip:



On the 10th of May, 2017 the second years travelled to Causey Farm on their Geography trip. Upon arriving to the farm they were greeted by Farmer Matt and all the wonderful staff at the farm.

Activities of the day included a farm tour, where students learned all inputs, processes and outputs of a working mixed farm. This will give the students some excellent information on primary economic activity for their Junior Cert exam. Here we learned all about Irish culture and traditions in a fun way! We arrived there after a 40 minute trip on the bus and when we got there we dropped our bags and got straight into the action. First we were brought on a tour of the farm starting of with the cows and sheep, we learned about the inputs, processes, and outputs the farmers have to take part in in order to make a profit, and the different seasons of the farm. We also watched their sheepdog round up all the cows and sheep! Next we went to the field where they farm around ten tons of barley! And the farmer explained how he does it and what he uses so the crops stay safe from weeds and birds. After learning the life of a farmer we went inside their facilities to make brown soda bread. Everyone got into groups of two and



we watched our instructor, Moya show us each step involved in making brown bread and afterwards we replicated what she done. Once we were finished that we had to let our bread bake so it was lunch time. What a treat for lunchtime!



Once we were finished it was bog jumping time, fitting in

very well with both primary and tertiary economic activity for the junior certificate exam.

Everyone got changed and class by class we were brought down to the bogs in the back of a tractor, where we sat on hay and shared jokes and laughs with our friends. Once we got to our bog, we took our shoes of, and dived straight in. It was the perfect day to go bog jumping as it was sunny, hot, and there wasn't a cloud in the sky. I think it's fair to say everyone had a fun time jumping into the bog as no one was left out and everyone was laughing with joy as they struggled to get out of the bog. After we returned to the farm, got dressed and out of those mucky clothes, and headed home.

A fantastic trip was had by all.



explained how he does it and what he uses so the crops stay safe from weeds and birds. After learning the life of a farmer we went inside their facilities to make brown soda bread. Everyone got into groups of two and



SWORDS & SANDALS

Classical Studies at Ratoath College continues to grow and has had another excellent year. The 3rd Year Classics class developed their own version of Monopoly, styled around the Roman city of Pompeii which was destroyed in by a volcano.

They created the board which featured many of the monuments of Pompeii and

designed their

own 'Chance'

cards which included the memorable "You fail JC Classics, give one property to Mr. Toner".

In Transition Year students learned about the many Gods of the ancient world and how they treated mortals the same way as people today treat their characters in 'The Sims'. Following this the students researched at the Greek poet, Homer, and his retelling of the Trojan War, started

over a love affair between Paris and Helen, 'the face that launched 1,000 ships'.

Meanwhile, in 5th Year, our students explored the wanderings of the Greek hero, Odysseus, and the Trojan man whose adventures would eventually lead to the founding of Rome, Aeneas. Students were also enthralled with the study of one of history's most famous military commanders, Alexander the Great. We followed Alexander from his crowning as king at age 21 to his conquest of Greece and Asia by the time he was 32, the definition of 'live fast, die young'. Students studied his tactics in battle along with making their own video of Alexander's murder of his friend, Cleitus. Included in Alexander's campaigns were many epic battles, sieges and the occasional murder of his friends by Alexander.



CLASS PHOTOS

2016-17

First Year Moltóir's Message

It only seems like yesterday that we were all sitting in the main hall on your first day, all of you looking splendid in your new uniforms, some of you were anxious, some were excited, all your parents looking on feeling very proud.....where has the year gone?

I simply want to congratulate each and every one of you on how successfully you transferred from primary school into Ratoath College, it can be a daunting task at times but you all did it successfully.

In short, you have been a fantastic group to work with, it has been a pleasure to support you on this Learning Curve and it is my privilege to be your Moltóir. Again, I would like to congratulate you all on how you embraced your academic studies, adapted to new styles of learning and the iPads, engaged in extra-curricular activities and most importantly the way you look out for and mind each other. It has been an extraordinary busy year, there wasn't a week when there wasn't some activity or trip on and you embraced all of these whole heartedly. Second year will bring new challenges, the level of work will raise up a notch, but I have no doubt you will be well able for it.

However, behind every good year group there is a great team of Caomhnoiri who go way beyond the call of duty to look after you. A sincere thank you to Ms. Grogan, Mr. Farrell, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Mooney, Ms. O'Dwyer, Ms. Smith & Ms. Treacy who work tirelessly looking after your welfare and helping you to achieve the best of your ability.

On behalf of the First Year Team, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy and safe summer, enjoy the rest and we look forward to welcoming you back to the Ratoath College family in August.

Derek Ball

Rang Farrell



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Rang Grogan



Rang Jackson



Rang Mooney



Rang O'Dwyer



Rang Smith



Rang Treacy



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 take this opportunity to congratulate you all on a wonderful year. Each and every one of you have made a positive contribution to this academic year and to your year group. You are about to start a well-deserved break having just completed the summer exams, for those of you who are happy with your results well done. To the few of you who could have achieved a little better it is time to make some new school year resolutions; it's not too late to recover and aim high for 3rd Year. Remember you are going into a very important year and it's important to set goals to ensure you get the best result in your Junior Cert.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with each and every one of you and I don't know if you realise but you do make my day very enjoyable and you always make me smile. We have had some wonderful achievements this year both inside and outside of school. I want to commend all of you who have achieved some of your goals and dreams and I would encourage you to keep pushing yourself to achieve more and more of your goals in life. You all inspire me with your vast range of activities and achievements.

Before I finish, I would like to thank the Caomhnóirí, Ms. Daly, Ms. Kelly, Ms. McGarron, Mr. Nissar, Mr. O hEochaidh and Ms. Witter for all their hard work, commitment, time and support that they give to their class and to myself. We are very lucky to have such a supportive and strong team, who work very hard and always have your best interest at heart.

I would like to wish you all and your families a wonderful summer break, to mind each other, have fun and to be well rested when you return to us in late August.

'Dreams and dedication are a powerful combination' – William Longgood

Colm Connolly & The 2nd Year Team

Rang Daly



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Rang Kelly



Rang McGarron



Rang Nissar



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Rang Ó hEochaidh



Rang Witter



Third Year Moltóir's Message

As we approach the end of 3rd year, I would like to congratulate each and every one of you on a fabulous year. I said it for the past three years and I continue to say it this year 'What a great year group'! You truly are a brilliant bunch of students.

We now mark a significant time for all our Third Year students, the passing from 'Junior Cycle' into 'Senior Cycle'. It is a major milestone on the road to adulthood.

As for the past, it has been our privilege to work with you all since you joined us on a beautiful morning in August 2014. In your three years with us we have been proud to watch you develop into young people, to watch your friendships with one another grow and deepen. We have been touched so often by the kindness you have so often shown to one another and it was so heartening to have shared the joys and successes of these last few years together.

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, you will face for the first time the challenges of the state exams. We encourage you to support and be there for one another so that the challenge can be faced together and never alone; to share your worries and fears and to gain strength from the sharing.

After that, all that's left is to enjoy the summer! Good luck!

Jillian Leavy (Moltóir)

Amy Quinn, Rita Donnellan, Janice Conlon, Craig Gibson, Fiona Reid,

Kerry-Lynn Martin & Patrick Mc Auley (Caomhuóir Team)

Rang Conlon



Rang Donnellan



Rang Gibson



Rang Martin



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Rang McAuley



Rang Quinn



Rang Reid



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Transition Year Moltóir's Message

A huge congratulation to you all on completing the Transition Year Programme. I hope you found it both enjoyable and beneficial.

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.

You have now completed one third of your senior cycle journey with events like "bonding trips", work experience, talks/seminars, the Talent Show and ... too numerous to mention but all organised and carefully timed by your dedicated Programme Co-ordinator Mr Giblin who ably replaced Ms Flynn this year.

The TY team has enjoyed working with you and the staff to ensure a successful year for you and to set you up for the final stage of your second level education.

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 this year's TY experience.

My thanks to the fantastic TY team of Caomhnóirí, who care for you daily and always have your best interest at heart. To Ms Garrett, Mr McCarthy and Ms O'Donoghue 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.

Remember: - "Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful". Joshua J Marine

Geraldine McNally

Rang Garrett



Rang McCarthy



COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Rang O'Donoghue



Fifth Year Moltóir's Message

We've reached the half-way point of the Leaving Certificate. This time next year, you will be leaving us for good. How does it feel? Are you where you want to be? Do you know where you are going? If there is no definitive answer to these questions yet – then you have found the first thing for your to-do list for the next eleven weeks.

This year we have focussed a great deal on encouraging you to set achievable goals for yourself and to follow through on these - to set out and make yourself accountable for making sure they are achieved. This will remain our priority as we move together into your final year of school.

And it will be a challenging one. The Leaving Cert brings with it a range of stress, pressure and tension. But we look forward to meeting and facing down these challenges head on. What's more, we look forward to facing them together. No one will find themselves alone. We will share the burden, all of us together, and in so doing, gain strength from the sharing.

We offer our congratulations to the newly appointed Cinnirí and Ard-Chinnirí and to all who applied for these positions. The extraordinary talent in our year group evident in the selection process was a source of great pride for us. We wish those selected well in their new roles and look forward to their innovation and drive helping to shape a positive year for the school community next year.

We wish all the best to Ms Conlon and Ms Flatley as they begin their maternity leaves. Both have consistently demonstrated great care in their role as Caomhnóirí and we will miss their influence until they return. We also wish Mr Walsh all the best in his new role. David has given our year group and our school exceptional service over the last nine years. We are greatly indebted to his commitment to innovative teaching and learning, his dedication to the students in his care, their well-being and their success and – as colleagues – to his unrivalled comradeship. Our loss is the gain of Business teachers all over Ireland, who can look forward to Mr Walsh's assistance in rolling out the new Junior Cycle Business specification. We look forward to welcoming new members to the team next year.

We wish you all a restful summer break, and earnestly hope you will use the coming weeks to relax, recharge and prepare yourself for your Leaving Cert year.

John McCarthy, Edel Conlon, Deborah Dalton, Tara English, Aileen Flatley,

Padraig Giblin, Joey Jordan, Katie O'Neill, David Walsh.

COLÁISTE RÁTH TÓ - MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ

Rang Conlon



Rang Dalton



Rang English



Rang Flatly



Rang Giblin



Rang Jordan



Rang K O'Neill



Rang Walsh









