

# SIXTY - SIX



THE RATOATH COLLEGE YEARBOOK 2022



# Principal's Welcome

It is hard to believe that another school year has passed so quickly, especially since it has been such an unusual one, full of twists and turns. Despite the COVID restrictions, it has been an extremely rewarding year that was filled with unprecedented accomplishments. A few of the things that come to mind are: taking possession of our new extension, seeing the prefabs being loaded onto trucks and transported away, our wonderful Superheroes for Tommy Walk, Climb with Charlie and our Ice Bucket Challenge, the return of extra curricular activities, trips and planning for our Musical "Sister Act". All of these things and many others are made possible by our community of learners, of which we are all members.

I would also like to mention the very sad loss of our beloved Chaplain Fr. PJ Nyland who passed away suddenly last summer. While his presence is sorely missed, his spirit lives on in Ratoath College.



At Ratoath College, we are very fortunate to have a dedicated, caring and hardworking team of professionals (Teachers, SNA's, Office Staff, Caretakers, and other school based Staff) who work together to ensure that every student has the best educational experience possible. Staff at Ratoath College always go above and beyond to ensure that students are exposed to a variety of activities to enhance and enrich their school experience. This year in particular, staff put aside their own worries and anxieties to ensure that our students had a safe, predictable and fun school experience.



Our dedicated staff had to adjust throughout the year to rapidly changing public health advice, while maintaining a sense of routine, structure and connectedness for students. Along with the challenges of living through a pandemic, our staff showed adaptability and resilience in navigating the challenges of teaching and learning whilst wearing masks and modifying their practices to ensure we all stayed safe and that our school stayed open.



I would also like to thank our dedicated, committed and tenacious staff and students who found innovative and creative ways to carry on many important Ratoath College traditions, such as our virtual open evening, our Parent Teacher meetings and our online Christmas Awards ceremony.

Our students deserve recognition too for their passion for learning, as well as their sense of community and the importance of taking care of each other. Students gave teachers a sense of joy, purpose and positivity through challenging times. Through all the ups and downs of the year, the Ratoath College community managed to maintain a sense of connectedness and to sustain caring and supportive relationships.



We offer our sincerest thanks to all our parents for trusting us to do everything possible to keep your children safe, and also for your support as we scrambled to adapt to the frequently changing Public Health advice coming from the Department of Education. All of us had to navigate challenges within our homes as best we could, like working from home or having to take time off work to care for sick children or vulnerable family members.

Despite the fact that Covid numbers were completely out of control nationally in January, we succeeded in keeping our school open at all times this year. This was achieved due to the cooperation and hard work of all our staff, our parents and our students thus allowing education to continue throughout this whole school year in Ratoath College.







*Colm Connolly*  
Deputy Principal

*Donna Kelly*  
Deputy Principal



I would like to wish our exam classes the very best of luck in their state exams. These students have worked diligently through uncertain times and we are sure that they will reap the rewards of all their hard work and effort.

This year showed us that it is more important than ever for all of us to live Ratoath Colleges motto, Mol an Óige agus tíocfaidh sí. What has come to the fore during this time is the importance of family, community and supporting each other. No sector of our society has been unscathed by this terrible virus but we have emerged from it and continue to support one another. As we come to the end of this unprecedented year, we look forward to a new academic year which will hopefully be a more normal one, plans are already being drawn up to return the school to its pre-covid footing. We can't wait to fully return to all the activities like sport, shows, concerts, school excursions and the return of all face to face school activities.



*Séamus Meehan*

Principal

*John McCarthy*

Deputy Principal

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# GRADU

# CLASS OF

# 2022

## ***A MESSAGE FROM MS. FLYNN***

Dear Class of 2022,

As we come to the end of your time in Ratoath College, it's hard to know where to even start with this farewell message to you. These last two years have been filled with fun, laughter, tears, hardship, fond memories, new friendships and seen stronger bonds formed throughout these strange times that we have found ourselves in with the pandemic. The Class of 2022 will be remembered for their resilience in the face of adversity.

On a personal note, it has been an honour and a privilege to be your Moltóir for the last two years of your secondary school life. Each one of you has brought something special to the year group and you have taught me so much during this time. You are the kindest, funniest and most resilient group of young men and women to walk out the doors of Ratoath College. I am immensely proud of how you have adapted to our new 'normal' and how you always managed to remain so positive throughout it all. I have enjoyed every minute of working with you and you have



# QUATINING

enhanced my time in Ratoath College to no-end.

I would like to sincerely thank your fabulous Caomhnóirí who have looked out for you during your time in school both in Junior and in Senior cycle. Their support has been extraordinary, they have always done their utmost for the students in their ranganna and I could not have done my job without them.

I would like to wish every one of you the best of luck with whatever path you choose in life. Remember, school does not define you and in the words of A.A Milne “ You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think.”

The class of 2022 has made a lasting impression on the school and we as a staff will remember you forever and I hope that you leave here with fond memories. I would like to remind you that we are always here for you in Ratoath College and we look forward to hearing about all your success in the future.

Best of luck, remember to stay in touch.

*Paola Flynn*

**Moltóir, Class of 2022**



# Focal ó na hArd-Chinnirí

**A**s the year comes to a close, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the time we have spent in Ratoath College. Each hallway is filled with the memories of lunch-times spent with friends, every classroom where, as first years, we never imagined meeting some lifelong friends thanks to a simple seating plan, and even the PE hall that has seen it all; from teamwork, injuries, friendly competitions, musicals, talent shows and a staff room. Each brick and window in Ratoath College holds moments in our lives that we will never forget. It has been the ultimate privilege to be your Ard Cinnirí for us, and it has been an honour to give back to the place that has supported us for the last six years.

We want to thank the staff and teachers of Ratoath College, you will hold a special place in our lives more than you know. You have put up with all of our “I left my copy in my locker” excuses and the many trials and tribulations that come with online learning, but more importantly, you guided us with a steady hand while we grew up. Sometimes it only takes 50 minutes to make the greatest impact on a student, and for that we will always be grateful to you. To our wonderful Caoimhnoiri, you have been the rocks that made each of the students of 2022 feel seen and heard, becoming the friendly face we get to see first thing every morning for assembly getting us through the late arrivals and soaking wet mornings.







# Na Cinnirí 2022

I think it is safe to say that we wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for the help and guidance of our brilliant Moltóirí throughout our six years in Ratoath College. When we started in first year, we were naïve students entering a completely new world. However, Mr Ball took us under his wing and mentored us all the way up to third year. He was always up for a chat and wasn't afraid to crack a joke or too. His great personality and kind nature made him an excellent mentor for us students. Unfortunately, he left the Ratoath College community in 2019 but we will always remember the guidance he gave us and we will forever be grateful for him. When we entered Transition Year, it was a whole new beginning. We were now senior students. TY was definitely a year to remember for multiple reasons. From all the trips we went on, to the intriguing talks we had with different individuals, I definitely think it wouldn't have been the same experience without the amazing work of Ms Flynn. All the organising and preparation that had to be done throughout the year wasn't an easy task but we will always be thankful for all the hard work she put in to make our Transition Year as beneficial as possible. And, as Ms Flynn LOVED our TY year group so much, she decided to become a Moltóir for the first time and took over the new 5th year group in 2020! The hard work she puts in day in day out doesn't go unnoticed. We speak on behalf of all the current sixth year students to say a big thank you for the great job you have done over the last two years in helping us towards our Leaving Cert.

A big mention has to go towards the amazing Class of '22. We started our journeys in Ratoath College in 2016 or 2017 and our amazing 5/6 year experience definitely wouldn't of been the same without all of you! It's crazy to think it has already been 6 years! Only feels like yesterday we were preparing for our Junior Cert. We have made friends for life and that's what we believe the Ratoath College experience is all about. We are with each other every step of the way, helping and motivating one another to succeed.. We have made so many amazing memories together which we wouldn't change for the world. Thank you, to everyone part of Class of '22, for making our Ratoath College experience some of the best years of our life.

We would also like to say a big thank you to the Cinnire team this year. Not only have you assisted us with our jobs but you have also helped teachers, students and management throughout the year. You have acted as great role models not only towards the junior students, but to the senior students too as you set a great example as to what the role of a Cinnire is and what is expected. You all have flourished and excelled in your roles as Cinnirí and that will stand to you in life.

Finally, to the remaining students of Ratoath College. If we could give any piece of advice it would be to cherish every moment and to express yourselves. Soon, you will be like us, reminiscing about our amazing years in this school. Enjoy every minute in this amazing school, try new things, join different activities or groups. Whether you are in 1st year or 5th year, there is so much on offer to you in this school which is what makes Ratoath College so unique. Ratoath College really is a family with everyone trying to help each other succeed, so enjoy every single second of it!

We wish everyone all the best,

*Liam & Sarah*

*"Cherish every moment."*







# **CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATES**

# RANG MCKENNA



It genuinely seems like yesterday when I first saw many of you skipping your way up the avenue in First Year. I didn't have the pleasure of teaching any of you guys history, but I had some of you for religion and I had most of you for RC News. In those years, although I didn't get a chance to get to know you all well, you were individually always polite and friendly students.

Two years ago, I was excited to see the names of my new Rang McKenna gang and I hoped for a chance to get to know you all better. It was a tough 5th year, with coming back from covid and people getting back used to being sociable. There was a great class atmosphere developing by Christmas and then covid hit us again. However, this year, you have really come into your own. It was a joy to arrive in to the chats each morning from the early gang and then have the usual suspects 'coming in for the spuds', joining in. You were always an enjoyable and friendly group. Even when issues cropped up, whoever was spoken to, accepted their fault and was friendly and polite again afterwards. This shows great maturity, and it made my job all the easier.

I hope you have enjoyed your time in Ratoath College. I hope your five or six years are full of memories and laughter. I hope the lessons learned inside and outside of the class, and friendships made will stay with you for a lifetime. I also hope that you achieve your potential and find your true meaning in life. Do not waste your talents and remember, if you do what you love, you will never work a day in your life.

Best wishes and don't be Strangers

*Mr. Steven McKenna*



# RANG NISSAR



It has been a pleasure and honour to look after you for the past 2 years. The Saying 'variety is the spice of life' defiantly applies to our rang. There are some many different personalities, with different interests. Yet we are tolerant of our differences and appreciate members of the rang for what they are.

The 2 years that I have been your caomhnoir, we as a group have faced many challenges. You guys have supported each other in the tough times. We have laughed together. With some of you we had our heated moments, not matter how much we disagreed on certain topics, I respect that you did not hold a grudge. I really enjoyed our Wednesday chats. It gave me an insight into what made you tick. The life hacks of how to get a PS5 via twitter to the off-menu items that can be cooked at McDonalds or Four-Star Pizza.

I hope you have enjoyed your time in Ratoath College and that you are leaving with great memories of your experiences here. I hope you have learned a lot from your experience here and carry this forward with you into the future, whatever that may hold. Remember that you are at such an exciting point in your life where you can achieve anything you wish in life, once you are prepared to dream and then work for it. I wish you the very best of luck for June and with whatever path you choose next. Remember you are the captain of your ship and you control the fate of your ship.

*Mr. Mohammed Nissar*

# RANG BAILEY



In September 2020, I joined Ratoath College and I was asked to be your Caomhnoir. It was like I won a competition and received the best prize - the best box of chocolates! You have different personalities, different interests but all have the same wrapper - kind and friendly people.

I have always enjoyed spending time with you in the mornings, hearing about your hobbies, families, and holidays. Celebrating each of your birthday's has also been a highlight and a welcome sugar rush at 8.45am!! I also need to mention our entry into the Christmas door competition!! I don't know how we didn't win!!

So, you have come to the end of your 5 or 6 years in Ratoath College. I wish you all the very best of luck and happiness in whatever path you take after Ratoath College.

*Ms. Dervilla Bailey*



# RANG CALLAN



To all the wonderful students in Rang Callan.

It has been a my pleasure to work with you all over the last two years. You are fantastic group of students who are full of kindness and you were so welcoming to me during my first two years in this school. I hope the next part of your life journey is everything that you want it to be.

Leaving Secondary School is a big turning point in our lives and I hope that you all appreciate how far that you have come. Even as you move on to the next chapter in your life, don't forget that we are always here for you if you need us and we can't wait to see what you do next.

Best Wishes.

*Ms. Gillian Callan*

# RANG DOONAN



Where do I even begin? Some of you guys were part of my original Caomhnoir group and have been with me since first year (I'm not sure who has suffered more). When I think about the last 5 years I honestly couldn't have asked for a better group. I have enjoyed gaining a few extra since the start of 5th Year and I think that the class have gelled well together. I loved our Wednesday morning tutorial time and how (for the most part) we were able to have a laugh at one another - I felt that you could have a normal chat with me and especially as you matured in the last 2 years I've really enjoyed our chats. This past year, I have spent most of my time catching up on who couldn't get OUT OF BED, the 'lates' seemed to never end - note to set multiple alarms next year!

In all honesty, I have watched you all since first year where you've grown into the hard working and responsible young adults that you are today. You are without doubt the funniest, loveable and probably the most annoying groups I think I'll ever have the pleasure of being Caomhnoir to. I hope you too have enjoyed being part of our rang and hopefully (for the most part) enjoyed having me as your Caomhnoir as well.

Please remember this as you leave school as it's so true in all walks of life. Remind yourself of it if you think you're close to giving up. 'Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard!'

Enjoy yourselves, be respectful in everything that you do and live your life - you only get one!

*Ms. Rachel Doonan*



# RANG CONLON



To Rang Conlon,

I have really enjoyed working with you all as both your caomhnoir and teacher during the last two years. You have worked hard and have brought great fun and kindness to sixth year. You are an absolutely brilliant group of young people and I know that you all have bright futures ahead of you. I will miss working with you but I am looking forward to hearing your news of college, work and the future.

Stay in touch.

*Ms. Janice Conlon*

# RANG O'REILLY



I am so grateful to have been your Caomhnoir over the last year. You are a kind, friendly, welcoming group of people. These are wonderful characteristics and I hope these stay with you.

Moving forward I want to wish you all success, health and happiness. Remember that your success does not have to look like anybody else's and that there are many routes to many different destinations. You are about to embark on exciting journeys into various courses and careers such as History, English, Biotech, Sports Science, Radiographer, Actuary, Construction, Veterinary, Teaching and a Paramedic. You will be a resourceful bunch!!! Be sure to stay in touch with each other. Carlos said he would give you all mates rates when he gets his Pilot licence. The Business heads, graphic designers, Engineers and Law students have asked to remain anonymous in fear you might also expect the same!!!!. If your path changes that is ok too. Whatever you do, throw yourself into it and learn as much as you can.

You have all set the standard so high for any rang I may have in the future. I have said on so many occasions how lucky I am to teach the 6th year groups that I teach. I will miss having you all around the school next year. To finish here is a little saying to help you with your study and life in general!

'People do not decide their futures, they decide their habits and their habits decide their future.'  
Now back to the exam papers. Practice. Practice. Practice.

*Ms. Deirdre O Reilly*



**"YOU ARE BRAVER  
THAN YOU BELIEVE,  
STRONGER THAN  
YOU SEEM AND  
SMARTER THAN  
YOU THINK."**

**- A.A. MILNE**

# GRADUATE

## PROFILES

CLASS OF 2022

KANG  
MCKENNA



**Aaron Byas**

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:**

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:**



**Holly Byrne**

*Holls*

**Likes:** Chats at lunch

**Dislikes:** Going outside for lunch

**Will miss:** Being with my friends everyday

**Quote:** I'm not even late



**Adam Cameron**

*Camy*

**Likes:** When the morning announcement is different

**Dislikes:** The morning announcements & Mr McKenna's quotes

**Will miss:** laughs in geography and engineering

**Quote:** Just get up 5 minutes earlier - Mr McKenna



**Darren Clarke**

*Sticky*

**Likes:** The North, Aaron Prendergast

**Dislikes:** My nickname

**Will miss:** Yardbrush

**Quote:** Dream Big



**Ruby Corr**

*Rubz*

**Likes:** Staying in the toilet at lunch

**Dislikes:** Double Italian

**Will miss:** Going the long way to class for a stroll

**Quote:** Cant wait for a half day on Wednesday.





### Aoife Daniels

**Likes:** Walks in PE

**Dislikes:** Forgetting to bring my bagel into school.

**Will miss:** Lunch with my friends

**Quote:** "Women in stem, women in chem"



### Scott Delaney Billings

**Likes:** Sleep

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** Economics naps

**Quote:** Deez



### Ryan Doherty

*RD*

**Likes:** Jim

**Dislikes:** Not being with Jim

**Will miss:** Mr.McAuly

**Quote:** "Life is like a sandwich no matter which way you flip it bread comes first"



### Daniel Dunne

*Dunner*

**Likes:** Hearing Mr Nissar in the morning.

**Dislikes:** Not seeing swimming pool in school

**Will miss:** Mr.McAuly

**Quote:** you left your fridge open, somebody just took a sandwich



### Thomas Dunne

*Tom*

**Likes:** Formula 1, Football

**Dislikes:** The phone announcement every morning.

**Will miss:** Maths with Nathan

**Quote:** Ain't no need to watch where I'm going, Just need to know where I've been.



### Daniel Keating

*Danno the Manno*

**Likes:** Liverpool, Lie in's and History with Mr Jordan

**Dislikes:** Maths

**Will miss:** Lunchtime with the lads and Mr Jordan's rants

**Quote:** People in stone houses shouldn't throw glass.



### Ryan Lacey

*Dr Lacey*

**Likes:** Kai Havertz

**Dislikes:** Half day Fridays

**Will miss:** Nothing

**Quote:** I had the time of my life.



### Grace McGrath

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### Fraser Nolan

*Ricky/Snippy*

**Likes:** Red jumpers

**Dislikes:** Navy jumpers

**Will miss:** School

**Quote:** Reach for the stars



### Jack O'Neill

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:**

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:**



### Hannah Onituu

**Likes:** Walks in PE

**Dislikes:** Accounting

**Will miss:** Mr McAuleys singing classes

**Quote:** .....



### Danielius Simonavicius

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:**

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:**



**Naoise Tyrrell**

**Likes:** A good lunch  
**Dislikes:** When the teacher stresses you out  
**Will miss:** All the lovely teachers  
**Quote:** We should probably go outside before Ms Flynn kills us.



**Samanta Venclaviciute**

**Likes:** Ham Sandwiches & Crea  
**Dislikes:** Forgetting sandwiches  
**Will miss:** Toilet breaks with the girls  
**Quote:** Oh nice to finally see you in today



**Darragh Wallace**  
*Wallace*

**Likes:** Football and Golf  
**Dislikes:** .....  
**Will miss:** Mr Mooneys football teams  
**Quote:** If I can't do it, it can't be done



**Lee Bernes**

**Likes:** .....  
**Dislikes:** .....  
**Will miss:** .....  
**Quote:** .....



**Elizabeth Buckley**

**Likes:** Staying in for lunch  
**Dislikes:** Going out for lunch  
**Will miss:** Going home early everyday  
**Quote:** Walk any slower you'd be stopped



**Katelyn Collins**

**Likes:** .....  
**Dislikes:** .....  
**Will miss:** .....  
**Quote:** .....



**Gray Lan Conway**

**Likes:** I dunno  
**Dislikes:** Making decisions  
**Will miss:** Accounting with Bazza  
**Quote:** Where's Paige?



**Ryan Coroner**

**Likes:** Bare knuckle boxing  
**Dislikes:** Normal boxing  
**Will miss:** Boxing  
**Quote:** Mess with the bull, get the horns



**Rebecca Fennessy Manley**

**Likes:** Long walks on the beach  
**Dislikes:** Getting sand in my shoes  
**Will miss:** .....  
**Quote:** They say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing all day.



**Laurie Johnson**  
*RadForce*

**Likes:** Wearing Headphones In The Hall  
**Dislikes:** Getting Them Taken Off Me  
**Will miss:** Nothing  
**Quote:** It's 1am and I can't stop thinking about myself - Kanye West



**Leah Johnson**  
*Leah*

**Likes:** Going toilet  
**Dislikes:** Not being able to go toilet  
**Will miss:** Chats with the girls  
**Quote:** Yes my hair is real.





### Adam Keane

**Likes:** Drawing, Painting, Rain

**Dislikes:** Work, Very Sunny Days

**Will miss:** Nothing much

**Quote:** .....



### Alex Kearney

*Kearney*

**Likes:** Hiding in the toilets at lunch

**Dislikes:** Getting caught in the toilet at lunch

**Will miss:** Lunchtime with the girls



### Mark Kearns

*Sparky*

**Likes:** Sleeping in

**Dislikes:** iPads

**Will miss:** Ms.Canny

**Quote:** I make a lovely pizza



### Paige Kelly

*Paj*

**Likes:** Hair Dye

**Dislikes:** Natural hair

**Will miss:** walking Emma to biology

**Quote:** Emma, can you tell them I wont be in.



### Anna-Maria Liepina

*it's just anna*

**Likes:** A day off school

**Dislikes:** Being reported

**Will miss:** Chats at break

**Quote:** Eat, sleep, school.



### Nathan Lynch-Mannering

*Nato*

**Likes:** Manchester United

**Dislikes:** Assembly

**Will miss:** P.E

**Quote:** United Gonna win the league by 2027



### Julia Mbemba

*Ruth*

**Likes:** Annoying Mr. Walshe

**Dislikes:** Angry Mr.Walshe

**Will miss:** Maybe Caoimhe

**Quote:** Hang on, is your name Ruth or Julia ?



### James McEntegart

*Shaggy*

**Likes:** Music, the colour green

**Dislikes:** the consequences of industrialisation

**Will miss:** Mr. McAuley

**Quote:** I love Superbad



### Killian McTernan

*Kilos*

**Likes:** Fred

**Dislikes:** Ryan

**Will miss:** Paddy's wood class

**Quote:** Ladies and gentlemen, it's match day



### Emma Meyler

*Em*

**Likes:** Argentinian men's volleyball team

**Dislikes:** Big bird, swans, geese, Pitbull.

**Will miss:** Telling everyone about Jungkook's hair

**Quote:** Paige isn't in.



### Kaitlin Moore

*Kkmoore*

**Likes:** Ordering clothes from shein and lunchtimes with my friends

**Dislikes:** Being the youngest out of all my friends.

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** Cant wait to stick on my pajarmers



### Niamh Naughton

*Kneevo*

**Likes:** Ciaran

**Dislikes:** Kaitlin

**Will miss:** Leaving early on Wednesdays

**Quote:** Im not going to supervised study.



## Ciarán O'Looney

*Looney*

**Likes:** Niamh

**Dislikes:** Going outside at lunch

**Will miss:** Getting kicked out at lunch

**Quote:** Can I get a book from my locker



## Jamie Shields

*Shielder*

**Likes:** Food and Sleep

**Dislikes:** Work

**Will miss:** Friends

**Quote:** I'm tired



## Kyle Witter

**Likes:** Running, the end of the day, magenta.

**Dislikes:** Being still, the middle of the day

**Will miss:** Mr.Horan

**Quote:** It's too early in the morning and too late in the week.



## Holly Blick

*Blicker*

**Likes:** Hot sauce

**Dislikes:** People slagging my hot sauce

**Will miss:** Sonja making my chicken and hot sauce bagel

**Quote:** Unreal



## Rhys Brennan

**Likes:** Quick and precise

**Dislikes:** Deep and well established quotes

**Will miss:** Physics

**Quote:** People usually don't look back to see how far they've come while they're still walking.



## Amelia Campbell

*Mills*

**Likes:** Franks Hot sauce

**Dislikes:** Small talk

**Will miss:** Friends in 5th year

**Quote:** .....



## Alannah Cashman

**Likes:** Construction class

**Dislikes:** Getting bullied in construction class

**Will miss:** Lunch with the gals + Jake

**Quote:** Im not a horse girl



## Jonathan Coman

*Jonathan*

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** Nothing

**Quote:** With each generation the world evolves, but the people degrades for the worse



## Holly Eade

**Likes:** Staying inside for lunch

**Dislikes:** When Julie's late

**Will miss:** Walking to school with Julie

**Quote:** Is this gluten free?



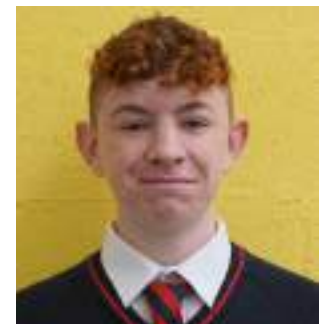
## Dylan Glackin

**Likes:** Talking with friends

**Dislikes:** Exams

**Will miss:** Talking to friends during class.

**Quote:** Self-belief and hard work will always earn you success.



## Sean Goggin

*Goggo*

**Likes:** Joelinton

**Dislikes:** Wexford

**Will miss:** National Kiss A Ginger Day

**Quote:** Ginger People Do Have Souls.





## Chris Haskins

*The Terrier*

**Likes:** Irish orals

**Dislikes:** Irish

**Will miss:** The orals

**Quote:** Who was in Paris?



## Sean Kearins

*Sergio*

**Likes:** Mini modules

**Dislikes:** Meraki

**Will miss:** My meniscus

**Quote:** Throw Senan - Callum Brady



## Stephen Kiernan

*Ste-van*

**Likes:** Books

**Dislikes:** School Books

**Will miss:** The school musicals.

**Quote:** how i met your mother - Barney Stinson



## Adam Leeson

**Likes:** Movies, Playing Guitar and Ryan Gosling

**Dislikes:** Mr Farrell's box of horrors.

**Will miss:** DCG with Mr Horan



## Lucas Longhi

*Baguette*

**Likes:** Weekends

**Dislikes:** Trying to think of a quote

**Will miss:** Double English

**Quote:** Float like a bee sting like a butterfly



## Éibha O'Toole

*Reg*

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** Rach's voice messages

**Will miss:** Nothing

**Quote:** Love For All.



## Abigail Ometita

*Abi*

**Likes:** Food

**Dislikes:** Hannah Onitiu

**Will miss:** P.E.

**Quote:** No one can say my second name right.



## Emma Scully

*Sculiosis*

**Likes:** Working on my time Management

**Dislikes:** Being on time

**Will miss:** Coming in late

**Quote:** So uh...you come here often



## Logan Shaw

*LoggieBear*

**Likes:** Gavin mam, rolls on Friday, Killian

**Dislikes:** Gingers, going out at break, Sam

**Will miss:** Double History, Mr Nissar

**Quote:** Lovely day for the drying



## Adam Sherry

*Sherry*

**Likes:** Roasting Mr Sansom

**Dislikes:** Mr. Farrells box of Irish questions

**Will miss:** Lunchtime antics with the boys

**Quote:** Haha yup



## Andrea Styles

**Likes:** Religion with the Girls and P.E.

**Dislikes:** Tuesdays

**Will miss:** Ms. Bailey celebrating our birthdays

**Quote:** That's a lot of stress.



## Ryan Walsh

**Likes:** Video Games, D&D, Science, Psychology

**Dislikes:** Sports

**Will miss:** School Life

**Quote:** This too shall pass



### Eoghan Berry

*The Main Character*

**Likes:** Talking about you all in therapy

**Dislikes:** Showing up

**Will miss:** Leaving early

**Quote:** None of my assignments are done, but I am.



### Sonny Byrne

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### Samuel Carroll

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### Jack Connolly

*Jacko*

**Likes:** Sport, TV and movies and gaming

**Dislikes:** Gaelic, ManU

**Will miss:** Reading in the mornings

**Quote:** If you don't fight you can't win.



### Timothy Cullen

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### Enda Falvey

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### Ryan Foley

*Foleyer*

**Likes:** Staying hydrated

**Dislikes:** Dehydration

**Will miss:** Ms.Canny

**Quote:** Alright Son



### Ava Fraughen

*Frosty*

**Likes:** Clodagh coming to classics.

**Dislikes:** Clodagh not coming to classis.

**Will miss:** Aimee's supply of kinders

**Quote:** Anyone got a charger??



### Aimee Freeman

**Likes:** Kinder bars

**Dislikes:** When the radiators not on

**Will miss:** Stealing Ellie's popcorn

**Quote:** I'm freezing!



### Sara Gilhooly

**Likes:** Focusing in geography

**Dislikes:** People messing in geography

**Will miss:** Am I supposed to be missing something?

**Quote:** I'm friends with Kylie Jenner @creabradly



### Julie Lennon

**Likes:** Home Ec with Holly

**Dislikes:** Rushing

**Will miss:** Aimee sharing her kinder bars

**Quote:** Sorry I'm late again Holly





### Sarah Mangan

**Likes:** Rice Krispie treats and Home Ec with ms McKeon

**Dislikes:** Doing PE

**Will miss:** Turning on the lights in the chemistry lab

**Quote:** Safe home!



### Leena Mulligan

*Bobeens*

**Likes:** Eilís

**Dislikes:** The cold

**Will miss:** Lunchtime

**Quote:** We didn't start the fire, it was always burning.



### Fiona O'Connell

**Likes:** Not going school

**Dislikes:** Being in school without Alex

**Will miss:** Toliets with the girls



### Jake O'Dowd

*Jake*

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** I may be Irish but I'm not stupid. – Joe Biden



### Shonagh O'Riordan

*Sho Sho*

**Likes:** After school naps

**Dislikes:** MrToner bullying me and Holly

**Will miss:** Eating Hollys lunch

**Quote:** When can I go home?



### Daniel O'Shea

*Doshe*

**Likes:** Lunchtime, Caramel bars.

**Dislikes:** Going outside at break

**Will miss:** Double DCG



### Matilda Ruhan

**Likes:** Staying inside for lunch

**Dislikes:** Going outside for lunch

**Will miss:** Listening to high school musical on the way to school

**Quote:** Wanna see a picture of piggy?



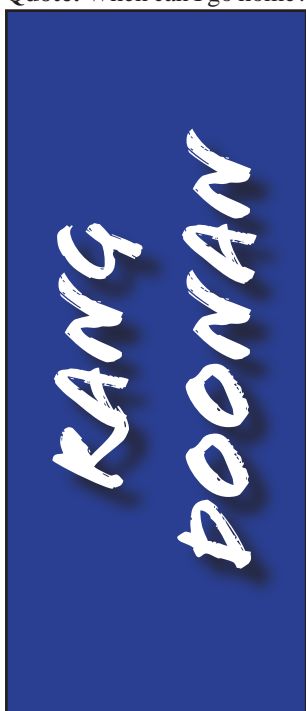
### Paul Tynan

**Likes:** Football

**Dislikes:** Homework

**Will miss:** Having class with my friends

**Quote:** It is what it is



### Ellie Barker

**Likes:** When Aimee comes into school.

**Dislikes:** My school socks falling down

**Will miss:** Chocolate croissants

**Quote:** I'm not supposed to tell anyone this but...



### Crea Brady

**Likes:** Staying in on break

**Dislikes:** Going out on break

**Will miss:** Laughs with the girls in the toilets

**Quote:** Girls group chat: "toilet?"



### Rachel Byrne

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### Aoife Casey

*Aoif*

**Likes:** Biology with Emma  
**Dislikes:** Biology without Emma  
**Will miss:** Chats at lunch  
**Quote:** Paige are you going in today?



### Liam Cooney

*Conrad*

**Likes:** Chicken  
**Dislikes:** Fresh Air  
**Will miss:** Ms.Flynn  
**Quote:** Live, Laugh, Love



### Niall Davis

*Baggy*

**Likes:** Ms.Doonan  
**Dislikes:** Any class with Ryan  
**Will miss:** Hide and seek  
**Quote:** If life gives you lemons, make lemonade.



### Jennifer Deering

*Jenny*

**Likes:** Teachers calling me Jennifer  
**Dislikes:** Teachers calling me Jen  
**Will miss:** Sleeping in the back of Irish class



### Fionn Drummond

*The Lorax*

**Likes:** Jumbo breakfast rolls  
**Dislikes:** The aftermath  
**Will miss:** Scrambled eggs and mini Moran  
**Quote:** Feeling like Mike jack in his prime!



### Jamie Eiffe

*Eiffe*

**Likes:** Snapchat  
**Dislikes:** The weekend  
**Will miss:** School  
**Quote:** I am currently under construction. Thank you for your patience.



### Naoise Flynn

*Nini*

**Likes:** Mr. Horan  
**Dislikes:** Every class but construction  
**Will miss:** Mr. Horan's sarcasm  
**Quote:** Rachel has bad circulation!



### Ben Fraser

**Likes:** Football matches on lunch  
**Dislikes:** Double English on a Monday  
**Will miss:** Mooneys 5 minute football sessions after school  
**Quote:** Always believe your good enough



### Ava Gorman

*ItsmeAvaG*

**Likes:** Lunch time with the girlos  
**Dislikes:** Having to actually do PE  
**Will miss:** Mr Mooney  
**Quote:** Are you in first year?



### Ben Laird

*Dobsy*

**Likes:** Hide and seek  
**Dislikes:** Temper Tantrums  
**Will miss:** Doodling in Ms Doonans maths class.  
**Quote:** Some days I amaze myself. Other days I put my keys in the fridge.



### Anthony McCann

*Tony*

**Likes:** Byrnes Biology  
**Dislikes:** Picture day  
**Will miss:** Mr.Mooney  
**Quote:** Right So...



### Dylan McCue

*Lindersss*

**Likes:** Socializing  
**Dislikes:** Being alone  
**Will miss:** Not much  
**Quote:** You watch Liverpool last night?





### Abbie McGarry

**Likes:** Staying inside  
**Dislikes:** Going Outside  
**Will miss:** Being with everyone everyday  
**Quote:** Where will we hide today?



### Grace McNeill

**Likes:** Long walks on the beach  
**Dislikes:** Trying to think of a quote  
**Will miss:** Nothing  
**Quote:** YOLO



### Kim Newe

*Kimmy*  
**Likes:** Parties  
**Dislikes:** Hosting parties  
**Will miss:** Rachels gloves on break  
**Quote:** Can we do something?



### Daniel Nolan

*Donal*  
**Likes:** Pasta  
**Dislikes:** Nothing  
**Will miss:** Funny geography classes  
**Quote:** If you stumble, make it part of the dance.



### Robyn O'Callaghan

*Rob*  
**Likes:** When the girls leave early  
**Dislikes:** English  
**Will miss:** You better be staying in.



### Calum Rothwell-Mitchell

*Google Translate*  
**Likes:** Rugby & music  
**Dislikes:** Slow walkers  
**Will miss:** Lunchtimes chats  
**Quote:** It's about drive it's about power we stay hungry we devour



### Daniel Ryan

**Likes:** Long walks on the beach  
**Dislikes:** Short walks on the beach  
**Will miss:** School Rugby  
**Quote:** You can't make everyone happy. You're not an avocado



### Leah Sharpe

**Likes:** Staying in on break  
**Dislikes:** When Abbie's not in for Irish  
**Will miss:** Irish  
**Quote:** Miss I have an early excuse note.



### Finn St Ledger

**Likes:** .....  
**Dislikes:** .....  
**Will miss:** .....  
**Quote:** .....



### Caoimhe Temple

*Caoimhe*  
**Likes:** Me  
**Dislikes:** Class  
**Will miss:** Probably Ruth  
**Quote:** I showed up twice this year



### Conor Yardley

**Likes:** Sleeping  
**Dislikes:** Getting up early  
**Will miss:** Trigonometry  
**Quote:** Sono Presente!





### Ava Berkeley

*Berkels*

**Likes:** Laughing

**Dislikes:** Not having tan on

**Will miss:** Having the laughs in the toilets

**Quote:** OH LORD!



### Iija Bolaks

**Likes:** Everything

**Dislikes:** Nothing

**Will miss:** All memories and happy moments

**Quote:** Sometimes I do, sometimes I don't.



### Callum Brady

*Axe*

**Likes:** P Mac

**Dislikes:** Samsungs tactics

**Will miss:** Coach pre Cooney

**Quote:** She gave me a few treats. - L.C.



### Orla Brady

**Likes:** Purple snack bars

**Dislikes:** Being on time for school

**Will miss:** Walks to spar for PE on a Friday morning

**Quote:** I'll have it done by tomorrow.



### Matthew Brennan

*Brennan*

**Likes:** Football on a Friday

**Dislikes:** Henno

**Will miss:** My friends

**Quote:** .....



### Harry Coakley Sheahan

*Harold*

**Likes:** Priding myself as a man of faith

**Dislikes:** Castellanos

**Will miss:** Playing football

**Quote:** It's not enough that I should succeed - others must fail.



### Max Daly

*Mac*

**Likes:** Ms O'Hanlon

**Dislikes:** Darren Clarke, Winston, going outside for lunch

**Will miss:** Epic highs and lows of highschool

**Quote:** My names Jeff



### Becky Lee Finch

*Becks*

**Likes:** Not going outside for break

**Dislikes:** Going outside for break

**Will miss:** Art classes

**Quote:** It's so cold



### David Fit

*Davidé*

**Likes:** 6 hours of sleep

**Dislikes:** Mornings in general

**Will miss:** Having absolutely no responsibilities whatsoever

**Quote:** If you fall, I'll be there. — Floor



### Luke Fitzpatrick

*Fitzy*

**Likes:** Craic in class

**Dislikes:** When Shane can't organise a fixture for rugby

**Will miss:** Mr Jordan's history

**Quote:** Ah sure it'd be grand...I hope so anyway.



### Lauren Grattan

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### Amelia Kelly

**Likes:** Anna Killoran

**Dislikes:** Not getting magic mike tickets

**Will miss:** The lift

**Quote:** Yeah Yeah!





## Liam Kelly

*Kellyer*

**Likes:** School ball

**Dislikes:** Mr O'Reilly talking about Skryne.

**Will miss:** The cage

**Quote:** You can always repeat the Leaving but you can't repeat the last year of minor - Gandhi



## Nathan Kelly

*Nato*

**Likes:** Swimming

**Dislikes:** Football

**Will miss:** Friends

**Quote:** Opinions are like onions, you shouldn't have one.



## Anna Killoran

*Anner*

**Likes:** Lauren Grattan & Magic Mike

**Dislikes:** Aaron Prendergast

**Will miss:** Eating Hollies lunch

**Quote:** Jansport Joe



## Gabijus Kondrotas

*Gabi*

**Likes:** Everything

**Dislikes:** Irish

**Will miss:** Mr.Jordan

**Quote:** Dad?



## Will Lanigan

*Lano*

**Likes:** TYs

**Dislikes:** Cinnire meetings

**Will miss:** The flapjack Wallace

**Quote:** Sean did Home Ec



## Clodagh Manley

*Clo Jizzle*

**Likes:** Hiding in random classes during PE

**Dislikes:** PE

**Will miss:** Lunch with the girls

**Quote:** Ava i'm not going to be in for classics



## Eoin McCormack

*Biggie Small (feet)*

**Likes:** Conor Yardley, the Italy Trip in 1st year.

**Dislikes:** Having to study

**Will miss:** The craic



## Alannah McDermott

*Dermo*

**Likes:** Breakfast in tutorial

**Dislikes:** When the teacher screams.

**Will miss:** Ms Gilna



## Ellis O'Farrell

*Each*

**Likes:** My maths teacher

**Dislikes:** The Stand up game

**Will miss:** Scheming

**Quote:** I'm an old 16



## Ella O'Reilly

**Likes:** Bagels and being right

**Dislikes:** Naoise Tyrrell

**Will miss:** Ms. Conlon bringing us in breakfast

**Quote:** I don't have enough time to finish my bagel!



## Aaron Prendergast

*Trendy Prendy*

**Likes:** Double classics

**Dislikes:** Double physics

**Will miss:** Ms. O'Hanlon

**Quote:** Prendy Promise



## Harry Reilly

**Likes:** Sticky and Clash in Class

**Dislikes:** Waiting for people in the morning

**Will miss:** Lunch rolls after school

**Quote:** Man In A Movie



### Jake Rutherford

*Russ Millions*

**Likes:** Gun lean dance

**Dislikes:** Loski

**Will miss:** Everyone

**Quote:** Life is like an ice cream. Enjoy it before it melts



### Kirstie Ryan

**Likes:** Music

**Dislikes:** Thursday

**Will miss:** Seeing my friends everyday

**Quote:** The future is in the past



### Atena Zsigalov

**Likes:** Good grades, my bed

**Dislikes:** Eoin McCormack cause he sits in my seat.

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** I finessed all of yous at some point.



### Valentina Florentina Antonescu

*Val*

**Likes:** Wednesday with the girls

**Dislikes:** A lot of things

**Will miss:** Nothing



### Tom Brady

*Timmy*

**Likes:** Gaming, running and acting

**Dislikes:** Homework

**Will miss:** Friends

**Quote:** I'll probably cringe at this in three years



### Sorcha Broe - Brady

**Likes:** Reading

**Dislikes:** Getting up early

**Will miss:** Student Council

**Quote:** Thief of Time, Terry Pratchett



### Erin Byrne

*Intrusive thought*

**Likes:** Drawing in Lara's copy

**Dislikes:** Being told to stop drawing in Lara's copy

**Will miss:** That one window

**Quote:** This is actually the worst, this is it for me...



### Senan Byrne

**Likes:** Hurling

**Dislikes:** School

**Will miss:** Nothing

**Quote:** I was looking at the wall not you....



### Isioma Busisiwe Chukwudomen

*Isi/chunkz*

**Likes:** Modelling & missing school

**Dislikes:** Being wrong

**Will miss:** Mr. Burns

**Quote:** My name's not THAT hard to pronounce.



### Alex Devine

*Peanut/Freddie*

**Likes:** Food and football

**Dislikes:** No canteen food

**Will miss:** The lads and some of the teachers

**Quote:** You can't teach an old dog new tricks.



### Aimee Doherty

*Aims*

**Likes:** Staying in at break

**Dislikes:** My seat getting taken in S.P.H.E

**Will miss:** Food in Home Ec

**Quote:** I'm a lot nicer than my "walking to class face" I promise.





### Aisling Doyle

*Ash*

**Likes:** Staying inside

**Dislikes:** Being forced outside

**Will miss:** Home Ec class

**Quote:** Where will we hide today?



### Liam Doyle

*T-rex*

**Likes:** Economics

**Dislikes:** Measuring

**Will miss:** Lunch debates

**Quote:** I need a room full of mirrors so i can be surrounded by winners - Kanye West



### Lara Eiffe

**Likes:** Alexander the Great

**Dislikes:** The "illness" that killed Alexander the Great

**Will miss:** Acting out battles from Alexander the Great in Classics :(

**Quote:** Erin stop drawing in my copy



### Eimear Fay

**Likes:** Elpenor

**Dislikes:** The roof Elpenor fell off

**Will miss:** Classics

**Quote:** Got nothing in my brain - Taylor swift



### Carlos Garcia

*Carlos*

**Likes:** Good environment

**Dislikes:** Can't use the mobile phone

**Will miss:** Teachers

**Quote:** .....



### Alex Geoghegan

*Mammy*

**Likes:** Hiding in the toilets

**Dislikes:** Going outside on break

**Will miss:** Giggles with Ava

**Quote:** Everything happens for a reason.



### Sean Johnson

*DJ*

**Likes:** Mr. Toher's stories

**Dislikes:** Bottom Lockers

**Will miss:** PE Football

**Quote:** Life is a highway, I wanna ride it all night long - Lightning McQueen



### Leyla Kaya

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



### Rachel McLoughlin

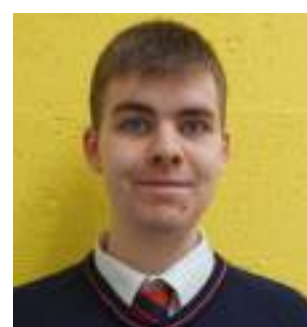
*Rach*

**Likes:** Mr Moreton

**Dislikes:** Him leaving for Leitrim

**Will miss:** Monday de briefs

**Quote:** Girls that's social suicide



### Adam Murphy

**Likes:** Heavy music and less heavy video games

**Dislikes:** Anythin I did more than 3 years ago

**Will miss:** Friends

**Quote:** Wait, you're getting quotes from everyone but you aren't even going to make a purchase?



### Zoe Preece

*Zo*

**Likes:** Leaving early

**Dislikes:** Mr Farrell's Irish Box

**Will miss:** The mirror at the back of the class.

**Quote:** If you walk any slower I'll have to carry you on my back -Mr Meehan



### Cara Reidy

*Caz*

**Likes:** Maths with Mr. O'Dwyer

**Dislikes:** Enda

**Will miss:** Mr Horan doing my projects

**Quote:** Coping mechanisms



**Luke Ronan**

*Bagsman*

**Likes:** Sean Goggin's hair

**Dislikes:** Enda

**Will miss:** Football in PE

**Quote:** Granny knows best



**Ryan Sheppard**

*Shep*

**Likes:** Applied Maths

**Dislikes:** Sums with letters

**Will miss:** Bit a french

**Quote:** Ah sure you know urself



**Mia Sherry**

*Meezer*

**Likes:** Being swag

**Dislikes:** Panic attacks

**Will miss:** Battles in classics

**Quote:** Ripples in the rockpool...



**Rohan Wardick**

*Dickwar*

**Likes:** Tuesdays nights

**Dislikes:** Wednesday morning

**Will miss:** The boys

**Quote:** Every kid dreams of being a superhero - The Flash



**Lucas White**

**Likes:** .....

**Dislikes:** .....

**Will miss:** .....

**Quote:** .....



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**FEARLESS**

Alex Devine  
Adam Sherry  
Callum Brady



**LIFE OF THE PARTY**

Jamie Eiffe  
Darragh Wallace  
Fionn Drummond



**COMEDIAN**

Mark Kearns  
Crea Brrady  
Emma Scully

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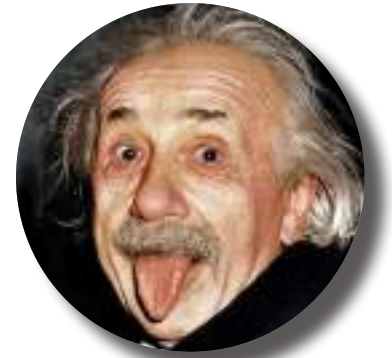
**CHATTERBOX**

Alannah McDermott  
Eimear Fay  
Ryan Foley



**CLASS CLOWN**

Jake Rutherford  
Callum Brady  
Aaron Prendergast



**SMARTEST**

Harry Coakley Sheehan  
Ella O'Reilly  
Sorcha Broe-Brady



**BEST HAIR**

Daniel O'Shea  
Leah Johnson  
Atena Zsigalov



**GAMER**

Aisling Doyle  
Darren Clarke  
Finn St. Ledger



**DRAMA QUEEN**

Lauren Grattan  
Fraser Nolan  
Rachel McLoughlin



R  
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**BEST DRESSED**

Naoise Flynn  
Abbie McGarry  
Holly Blick



**KINDEST**

Sarah Mangan  
Daniel Nolan  
Julie Lennon



**PACK LEADER**

Liam Kelly  
Eilis O'Farrell  
Niall Davis



**CREATIVE GENIUS**

Paige Kelly  
Ava Gorman  
Grace McNeill



**TEACHER'S PET**

Logan Shaw  
Luke Fitzpatrick  
Sara Gilhooly



**MEMELORD**

Nathan Kelly  
Daniel Dunne  
Nathan Lynch



**HEAD CHEF**

Lee Bernes  
Niamh Naughton  
Elizabeth Buckley



**GENTLE GIANT**

Killian McTernan  
Ciaran O'Looney  
Enda Falvey



**BEST ATTITUDE**

Ryan Coroner  
Aoife Casey  
Rohan Wardick

# MOST LIKELY



## Become a sports star:

Liam Kelly  
Adam Sherry  
Clodagh Manley



## Become a millionaire

Laurie Johnson  
Harry Reilly  
Rohan Wardick



## Get 625 points in the LC

Harry Coakley Sheehan  
Adam Murphy  
Sorcha Broe-Brady



## Become famous

Ava Gorman  
Mark Kearns  
Sam Carroll



## Be the first couple married

Liam Kelly & Cara Reidy  
Lauren Grattan & Ryan Coroner



## Win the lotto & lose the ticket

Conor Yardley  
Becky Lee Finch  
Daniel O'Shea

# MOST



# Y TO...



## Become a movie star

Adam Cameron  
Aaron Prendergast  
Stephen Kieran



## Get asked for ID at 30

Eoin McCormack  
Liam Cooney  
Sean Goggin



## Go to appear on CSI

Daniel Nolan  
Leyla Kaya  
Callum Brady



## Become Taoiseach

Sarah Mangan  
Darragh Wallace  
Luke Fitzpatrick



## Become a social media influencer

Abbie McGarry  
Ava Gorman  
Shonagh O'Riordan



## Win gold at the Olympics

Kyle Witter  
Aimee Doherty  
Sara Gilhooly

# LIKELY TO...

# MOST LIKELY



## Write a bestselling novel

Ella O'Reilly  
Logan Shaw  
James McEntegart



## Win an Oscar

Eoghan Berry  
Ben Laird  
Paul Tynan



## Return to RC as a teacher

Matilda Ruhan  
Paige Kelly  
Callum Rothwell Mitchell



## Cure a rare disease

Hannah Onitiu  
Leena Mulligan  
Rhys Brennan



## Become TikTok famous

Caoimhe Temple  
Kaitlin Moore  
Adam Cameron



## Start a fashion trend

Will Lanigan  
Jack O'Neill  
Jack Connolly

# MOST



# Y TO...



### Catch all 807 Pokemon

Mia Sherry  
Harry Reilly  
Max Daly



### Look more like a celebrity each day

Erin Byrne  
Sean Mc Neill  
Holly Blick



### Become a farmer

Tony McCann  
Senan Byrne  
Lara Eiffe



### Get sorted into Gryffindor

Ryan Walsh  
David Fit  
Luke Kelly



### Get sorted into Hufflepuff

Zoe Preece  
Ryan Lacey  
Kirstie Ryan



### Get sorted into Ravenclaw

Ryan Sheppard  
Anna Kiloran  
Aoife Daniels

# LIKELY TO...

# TEACHER AWARDS

## **BEST DRESSED**

Mr. Deturbeville  
Ms. Doonan  
Mr. Mitchell

## **BEST HAIR**

Mr. Jordan  
Mr. Leighburn  
Ms. Monerawella

## **SCARIEST**

Mr. Connolly  
Ms. Witter  
Ms. Doonan

## **NICEST**

Ms. McCormack  
Ms. Bailey  
Ms. Conaty

## **BABY FACED**

Mr. O' Dwyer  
Mr. Mulheir  
Mr. Conlon

## **ACTS TOUGH BUT HAS A HEART OF GOLD**

Ms. McKeon  
Mr. Nissar  
Mr. Meehan

## **BEST MASK**

Ms Donnellan  
Ms Hayes  
The Blue face  
outside school.

## **BEST ONLINE TEACHER**

Mr. Sansom  
Ms Bruce  
Mr Flanagan

## **BIGGEST SOFTIE**

Mr. McKenna  
Mr. Toher  
Mr. McAuley

## **BEST USE OF "I'M NOT ANGRY I'M JUST DISAPPOINTED**

Mr. Mooney  
Mr. Toner  
Mr. Leonard





# 6TH YEAR MEMORIES OF RATOATH COLLEGE

EPIC dad dancing while singing in the Musical. The Belfast trip in TY which we never got to go on. Mr. Horan hassling me about a “dihedral angle”. Canteen? I hardly know her. The first year Italy trip was brilliant as well.

Getting an opportunity to read in silence every morning and getting a good assist for a consolation goal after being on the pitch five minutes for the school football (not called soccer btw) team.

Stealing Luke Ronans stuff in history class.

Throwing Aarons stuff out the window in French.

Mr Burnes science class.

Home Ec in TY.

Being with all the boys and being up to no good.

The Biology Trip to the Zoo.

Emma scully taking a big gulp of vegetable oil thinking it was her water before Home Ec.

Sports day when we were all together on the bouncy castles.

Dunner getting sick in the hall on the first day of 1st year.

Coming in over Easter in TY to paint the French room mural.

Parking attendant for open day in first year.

Young Scientist Exhibition in 1st year.

Lilliput trip (1st and TY)

Mark Kearns tearing his jumper in half in Ms. Gilna’s 3rd year Irish class.

Bog trip in second year. Making the Yule log in home ec in TY.

Sportsdays and lunch with the girls

The Gaeltacht

Missing several month cause of lockdown

Rachels gloves

RC news

Having to sneak into another class to eat lunch with your friend’s.

Getting the barbecue wraps from the canteen everyday from 1st to 3rd year.

Watching Gray queue for an hour for burger and wedges.

Holly accidentally calling Mr Mooney good girl.

Laurie looking for his bag after Ava hid it.

Sports day of 2020.

When Elizabeth fell off the skateboard during art.

Jfk Fanclub in History - President Debate.

Watching Max outside the science lab.

MEMORIES  
FAVOURITE

# MESSAGES TO THE CLASS OF 2022

## Messages to the Class of 2022

Congratulations on making it through a turbulent few years. The resilience and diligence you have shown as students will stand to you in future endeavours. Well done.

- Mr. O'Dwyer

The very best of luck for the future, especially Rang McKenna.

-Mr. Conlan

To my 6th year art class: Aspire to inspire before you expire.

-Ms.SONeill

You have the power to change at least one persons life, change it for the better

-Mr.Toher

I am proud and privileged to have know and taught the members of Rang Bailey. Our relationship started of very restricted by the barrier of the ghastly masks! I was immediately drawn to the group and the brilliant literary minds contained with it. I felt so happy to finally see your beautiful smiles after 18 months & engagement with you on a new level. I have enjoyed teaching you, guiding you, advising you, laughing with you, supporting you and getting to know you better. You are one the finest groups I have worked with and I am inspired by your engagement and enthusiasm for English Literature. I know that there is a bright and successful future waiting for you all. I am wishing you all so much health, happiness and success. It's been a real pleasure Rang Bailey!-Ms.McCabe

Dear 6th Year Students, I know that we have not known each other too long but I want to share a message with you all. My advice to you is to be the very best version of yourself in life. You have the potential to accomplish great things. Be bold enough to use your voice, brave enough to listen to your heart and strong enough to live the life you've always imagined. From the moment you leave Ratoath, I ask that you never stop believing in your ability to be happy, successful, kind and compassionate. Always remember... You are not your name. You're not your job. You're not the clothes you wear. Or the area you live in. You're not your fears. Your failures. Or you're past. You are hope. You are imagination. You are the power to change. To create. And to grow. You are a spirit that will never die. And no matter how beaten down... You will rise again.

-Mr.Gueret

Congratulations to the class of 2022 on your graduation and best wishes to you all in your future adventures!

-Ms.Conlon

To the Class of 2022 - It's been a pleasure getting to teach and know so many of you over the last 5/6 years. Wishing you all the very best of luck, happiness and success in the next exciting part of your journey. 'Believe you can and you are half way there!'

-Ms.Reid

Ragazzi dell'anno 2022 - auguri per il futuro, siete stati fantastici!! un abbraccio.

-Mr. Delaney

Well done on a challenging senior cycle experience, your resilience and perseverance will stand to you for the rest of your lives. "That clock you hear is the sound of your own heart. Sink your teeth into this life, and don't get let go." —Lin-Manuel Miranda  
-Ms Jackson

Class of 2022, it's been an absolute pleasure. Some of you I've taught since my first year teaching in Ratoath & it's been brilliant to see you guys mature & become wonderful students & people. Special mention to the OG Rang Mooney! To my 6th Year History class, it's been emotional. Some great moments over the last two years, including debates on the Treaty, US Presidents & the various dodgy haircuts many of you have willingly sported - you know who you are. You're a great group of students & I've really enjoyed teaching you. I'll leave you now with this fitting quote from Leena Mulligan, "Burn everything British, except their coal."  
-Mr.Toner

Wishing all my 6th Year Home Ec students all the best!!! Ye have been a great gang to teach the past two years and will be missed in room 47. Don't forget to stop in now and again, to tell me all your exciting news and plans :)  
-Ms. McKeon

May you each have happy, joyful lives whatever path you follow. Be kind to each other. Special mention to Adam Keane, Rang Nissar. We are so proud of all you have achieved. You are a true gentleman with a wonderful sense of humour. We will miss you in Ionad Arkle.  
-Ms.English

Well done to the class of 2022. It has been an absolute pleasure to teach you. Good Luck in your future!  
-Ms Conaty

It only seems like yesterday that many of you sat in front of me, fresh faced, full of enthusiasm but with a little bit of fear on your first day of secondary school. Now you are all adults, preparing to go off into the world full of enthusiasm but probably with a little bit of fear again. Embrace the challenge, find your meaning and fulfill your potential. Best wishes!  
-Mr. McKenna

Message to the class of 2022  
Wishing all the 6th years the very best of luck for now and in the future. It has been a joy to work with you over the years and I hope life brings you all much love and happiness.  
-Ms.Savage

To the Class of 2022, You made it!!!! Congratulations on your last 5-6 years where you truly have made a massive impact on the school and will be leaving behind you many positive memories, good relationships and lasting friendships. Special mention goes to my Exam PE class... you guys have been an absolute pleasure to teach for the last 2 years. You are funny, kind, thoughtful, great craic and thankfully not as bonkers as the other class, and I really will miss you all. Best of luck to all our 6th years and remember the doors of RC are always open if you ever need us!  
-Ms.Casey



And  
so the  
adventure  
begins.



# LITTLE MOMENTS



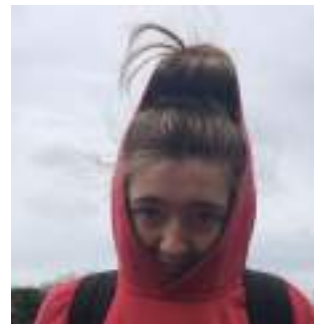




# BIG MEMORIES



# LITTLE MOMENTS







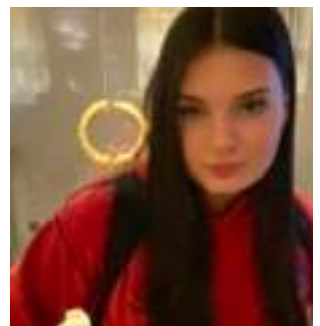
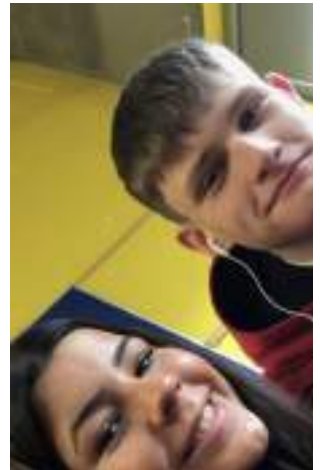
# BIG MEMORIES



# LITTLE MOMENTS



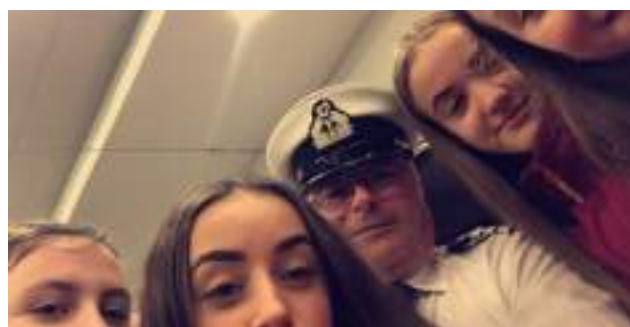




# BIG MEMORIES



# LITTLE MOMENTS







# BIG MEMORIES

# Q & A

## New Teacher Interview

### Mr. Gueret

**1. What is your karaoke song?**

Cher - Believe (only because I can do a half decent share impersonation)

**2. What is your favourite memory from school?**

Winning an award for the most improved in PE in 5th year. It had taken me over 15 minutes to run two laps of the local park by my school in 1st year. I improved my time to achieving two laps in under 7 minutes. It was a proud moment.

**3. What is one of your hidden talents?**

Give me any word, phrase, sentence and I will turn it into a song.

**4. Do you have any nicknames?**

Git when I was a kid. Mr G for the kids in my previous school

**5. What is your biggest pet peeve?**

Throwing rubbish on the ground. I cannot understand why people will not just wait to put their stuff in the bin. A cleaner's job is difficult enough without anybody else unnecessarily adding to it.

**6. The best advice you ever received for life?**

Strive to be your best self. Try not to compare yourself to others. You have your very own kind of brilliance and fabulousness that will be a gift to the world.

**7. What current student trends are baffling to you?**

When you dress up as your favourite You-Tuber or Tic Tok influencer for Halloween. I think this is great but little old me has no idea who you are dressed as. I'm showing my age.



**8. Who / What inspired you to become a teacher?**

My belief that every young person deserves to have at least one good adult in their life to help them realise their true worth, and to know that they are never alone on the toughest of days, that things will get better.

**9. If you could take students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them? Why?**

To the Eurovision Song Contest Final in Turin Italy in May. I am Eurovision fanatic. I follow all the internal competitions and national selections in countries. What better trip to celebrate diversity and vibrancy than to visit a Eurovision final.

**10. If you could grow up in any decade which one would you choose? Why?**

The 90s. It was the decade of Girl Power, Mulder and Scully, endless new episodes of the sitcom Friends, Ireland's glory days under Jack Charlton in the World Cup, and summer days spent outside playing the best games.

**11. In which other teacher's class would you like to enrol, even for a day? Why?**

Ms O' Neill's class please because the art work that the students do is absolutely amazing. I do not have any artistic ability but I know that I would definitely leave Ms O' Neill's class a little more Picasso and a little less stick men drawing. Sign me up.



# Q & A

## New Teacher Interview

### Ms. Bruce

**1. What is your karaoke song?**

Halo by Beyoncé

**2. What is your favourite memory from school?**

Transition Year school tour to the Gaeltacht. The whole year threw me a birthday party and we had a céilí/disco for it.

**3. What is one of your hidden talents?**

I can play the piano.

**4. Do you have any nicknames?**

Brucey

**5. What is your biggest pet peeve?**

Bad grammar!

**6. The best advice you ever received for life?**

People will hate you no matter what you do, so do what makes YOU happy.

**7. What current student trends are baffling to you?**

The “Laziness is cool” trend

**8. Who / What inspired you to become a teacher?**

I loved my Irish teacher in school and I started coaching basketball and really enjoyed it, so I thought I'd try teaching and fell in love with it.



**9. If you could take students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them? Why?**

Germany. There is so much history and culture to experience there and as a German teacher, I always love to visit Germany.

**10. If you could grow up in any decade which one would you choose? Why?**

I'm content with the decade I grew up in. We got to play outside without the influence of technology but we had all of the modern luxuries.

**11. In which other teacher's class would you like to enrol, even for a day? Why?**

Ms. Conlon. She just seems like a great teacher and seems like she makes everything really easy to understand.

**12. Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by?**

Money will come and go, but time does not. Make the most of your time when you're young!

# Q & A

## New Teacher Interview

### Ms. Fagherazzi

**1. What is your karaoke song?**

Umbrella - Rihanna

**2. What is your favourite memory from school?**

Italian Exchange with Mr.McAuley.

**3. What is one of your hidden talents?**

Knowing exactly when my pasta is perfectly cooked.

**4. Do you have any nicknames?**

Keelz

**5. What is your biggest pet peeve?**

Crumbs in a bed.

**6. The best advice you ever received for life?**

Better to be looking at it then looking for it.

**7. What current student trends are baffling to you?**

No answer provided.

**8. Who / What inspired you to become a teacher?**

Silvia, one of my Italian lecturers at college

**9. If you could take students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them? Why?**

Pompeii and Pestum to see the ancient ruins of a lost city and an ancient temple to Minerva



**10. If you could grow up in any decade which one would you choose? Why?**

90s - Great music.

**11. In which other teacher's class would you like to enrol, even for a day? Why?**

Ms. Gibson, it always looks like great fun!

**12. Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by?**

Carpe Diem (Seize the day) & Alea iacta est (the die is cast - what's done is done, there's no turning back)



# Q & A

## New Teacher Interview



### Ms. Gibson

**1. What is your karaoke song?**

It's all coming back to me now - Celine Dion

**2. What is your favourite memory from school?**

In our last tutorial in 6th year, our caomh-noir, Ms. Quinn cooked us all breakfast and we moved the tables to have one big table and all ate together.

**3. What is one of your hidden talents?**

I genuinely don't think I have one.

**4. Do you have any nicknames?**

Ms. Fagherazzi has always called me "Kid".

**5. What is your biggest pet peeve?**

Loud chewing and talking with your mouth full.

**6. The best advice you ever received for life?**

Celebrate every single little victory in your life.

**7. What current student trends are baffling to you?**

A game that boys play where whoever does a teacher's instruction first gets digs. They will be asked to do something and will all stand there grinning at each other waiting to see who does it first. So strange!

**8. Who / What inspired you to become a teacher?**

My maths teacher from when I was in Junior Cycle, Ms. Leavy. She was an amazing maths teacher and genuinely cared about all of us and wanted us all to do well, whatever that meant for each of us.

**9. If you could take students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them? Why?**

Gardaland in Italy, it was so much fun when we went in first year and to be honest I'd bring them just for an excuse to go again myself.

**10. If you could grow up in any decade which one would you choose? Why?**

Honestly I'm happy enough with the decade I grew up in because I got to enjoy movies and music from the 70's and 80's while also growing up with new technology as I grew, so I got to enjoy the best parts of the past and present.

**11. In which other teacher's class would you like to enrol, even for a day? Why?**

Ms. Fagherazzi's Classics class

**12. Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by?**

Trying something and doing it badly is better than not doing it at all

# Q & A

## New Teacher Interview

### Mr. Devine

**1. What is your karaoke song?**

Brown Eyed Girl by Van Morrison.

**2. What is your favourite memory from school?**

School Cycling Trip to France.

**3. What is one of your hidden talents?**

I can do the Chinese Elbow Trick.

**4. Do you have any nicknames?**

I don't know....do I?????

**5. What is your biggest pet peeve?**

Litter louts

**6. The best advice you ever received for life?**

Get your attention off "yourself"

**7. What current student trends are baffling to you?**

All of them!!!

**8. Who / What inspired you to become a teacher?**

My mam

**9. If you could take students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them? Why?**

It's hard to beat West Cork when the sun is shining, but if we have to go abroad then Istanbul would be fabulous.



**10. If you could grow up in any decade which one would you choose? Why?**

I'd go back to the 70's or 80's and rock it all over again - it was fabulous!!!

**11. In which other teacher's class would you like to enrol, even for a day? Why?**

A Physics class with any of the teachers - I never studied physics but it always seemed interesting (and a bit baffling).

**12. Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by?**

"To thine own self be true and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man" Polonius, from Hamlet Act i, Scene iii.



# Q & A

## New Teacher Interview

### Mr. Sansom

**1. What is your karaoke song?**

Olly Murs - Heart Skips a beat

**2. What is your favourite memory from school?**

Winning the county cup final in Essex

**3. What is one of your hidden talents?**

I used to be able to name all 151 original Pokemon

**4. Do you have any nicknames?**

No

**5. What is your biggest pet peeve?**

Someone not saying thank you whilst driving

**6. The best advice you ever received for life?**

Do something you enjoy

**7. What current student trends are baffling to you?**

The amount of time spent on TikTok

**8. Who / What inspired you to become a teacher?**

My old PE teacher at secondary school.



**9. If you could take students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them? Why?**

Skiing in Japan, I love skiing and Japan is supposed to be incredible.

**10. If you could grow up in any decade which one would you choose? Why?**

90s, I love the music and the clothes

**11. In which other teacher's class would you like to enrol, even for a day? Why?**

Mr P O'Neill

**12. Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by?**

No answer provided.

# Ionad Arkle



Ionad Arkle is our centre for students with autism. Our aim is to ensure each student achieves their full potential, academically, socially and emotionally. Students have access to a wide range of fantastic facilities and activities and are supported by a dedicated team of teachers and SNAs, in both individual and small group classes.

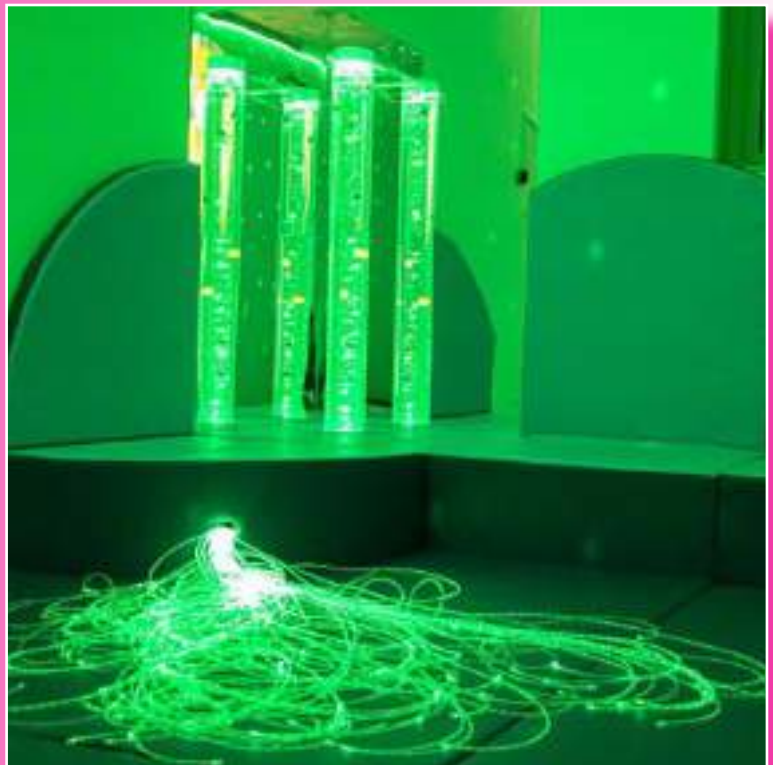
Our multi sensory room provides a sense of calm and comfort, helping students to regulate their behaviours and emotions, thus improving their focus and attention in their classes. We also have an aquarium to support emotional regulation and to encourage student's independence. Students are all involved in the feeding of our fish and monitoring water quality in the tank.

Our kitchen provides endless opportunities for developing daily living skills and promoting independence. Here, students regularly cook and bake, prepare their lunches, load and empty the dishwasher.

Our practical activity room is home to many extra-curricular activities including lego, chess, computer skills and book club.

Our gym is well equipped with a treadmill, rower, exercise bike, skipping ropes and medicine balls.

Student wellbeing is our primary focus and we are excited about creating a wellbeing garden, a courtyard for sports and a space for music therapy.







# SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANT TEAM

Special needs assistants (SNAs) play an important role in Ratoath College. They assist the teacher to support students with special educational needs and significant care needs. We have a fabulous team of dedicated SNAs in our school who work to ensure students reach their full potential.

A couple of TY students; Lauren Walsh, Sivahn Portelas and Jack Clarke interviewed the SNA team in our school. Students interviewed the SNA team and asked them a few questions about being an SNA and their daily school lives. Over on the next page are some of the questions asked to the team and the many different responses.



### **Did you always want to be an SNA?**

No, it was something that I chanced upon a few years ago.

I always wanted to work with young children, so I did a Montessori course in college and then I decided to do a part time SNA course. Ratoath College was my first SNA job in a school I came here to cover a maternity leave and now 15yrs on i'm still here.

I only started working as an SNA about fifteen years ago, I was inspired by some wonderful people I encountered throughout my life.

### **What is a typical day like for an SNA?**

Very busy. Non stop unless one of the kids are out and even then you head to other classes!

Every day is different for me, I'm in all 7 classes with students and in those classes you could have 3/4 students in your class to help ,so it can be busy but it's great to be busy.

No day is the same although you follow a time table this doesn't always go to plan or something crops up and you are needed somewhere else.

A typical day, we check in with our students first thing in the morning before school begins. We chat about the day ahead, discuss any concerns the student may have, ensure the student has the

correct equipment for the day. We attend different classes with different students throughout the day and at the end of the day we meet up with the students again before they head home. Ionad Arkle is a wonderful calm space and we sometimes take our students there during the day to avail of this.

### **What qualifications do you need to become an SNA?**

There are QQI qualifications needed to be an SNA. I have level 5 and level 6.

The qualifications I needed were FETAC level 5.

Department of education require three D in either junior or senior cycle however the reality at interview stage is very different. They require experience within the role and ask what qualification you have so for example QQI level 5.6 and 7. The departments are currently running a free course for SNA but the course is not an accredited course.

There is a basic requirement that's covered within post primary exams. However, there are also many courses you can do to enhance your knowledge.

### **Do you find your job rewarding?**

Yes very. Out of all the jobs I've had over the years this has been the most rewarding and enjoyable!

100% I find it rewarding. It puts a smile on my face seeing the students flourish.

Absolutely, the amazing students of Ratoath College make each day enjoyable.

### **What's your best memory of being an SNA in Ratoath College?**

Lockdowns were very memorable. I really got to know the kids really well when they were the only ones in school!

My best memory of being an SNA is seeing the amazing students graduating from Ratoath College.

I only started in December so nothing as yet.

I have so many. I have many fond memories of our end of year prize giving, our walks in Fairyhouse, sports days and recently Broom Making in Ionad Arkle with the students, staff, and TYs, all organised by Ms Mc Cabe and the TYs.

### **Thank you to the SNA team for taking time to speak with us.**



# STUDENT COUNCIL



The Student Council of Ratoath College is not only a way to get involved with the school in an extra-curricular sense, but it's a way to make your voice heard. Whether you join in first year, third year or even sixth year it enables you to make beneficial and meaningful changes to the school. It is something that students, who are adamant on making a change in the school, can partake in to see those changes followed through.

Some projects that we have been working on as a collective have been The Agony Aunt Boxes and Activities in Ionad Arkle. These two projects were divided out to the council evenly and everyone was eager to get started on them.

The Agony Aunt boxes are a great place for students to place complaints, worries or suggestions about whatever is going on in their school life. One Agony Aunt boxes will be placed in the new building and one in the old building.

Activities in Ionad Arkle is an initiative set up by the Student Council to make the students of Ionad Arkle feel more included at lunch time. Groups of two to three students from the council go down to Ionad Arkle to do activities in a more quiet and inclusive space. Not only does this make the students of Ionad Arkle feel more included but also allows them to make new friends.

Overall, the Student Council is something that is vital for all schools and for students who want to come out of their shell a little more.

**Thank You,  
Amy Kinsella**

# WELL-BEING



WELLBEING STUDENT COMMITTEE

## ...and Stand Up Week

The wellbeing committee as always have been very busy this year, whether that be with planning events or discussing what areas of wellbeing in our school community we could improve. The wellbeing committee has always been a place where people feel that they can relax whilst making a difference within the school community. When I joined the wellbeing team at the beginning of TY last year it began as something my friends were doing and I decided to try it out. I didn't think it would become something that has meant so much to me even in fifth year. The teachers at wellbeing always help to make it a nice environment and seeing the difference made in the school is such a satisfying feeling.



One of the big events for wellbeing every year is Stand Up Week. This is an event that we spent a lot of time organising and planning and following the success and enjoyment of last years stand up week, was greatly anticipated! Our main event of stand up week was of course, the bake sale. The wellbeing committee and teachers involved all baked for it and we asked the wider school to bake too and as always, the support was amazing. Baked goods such as brownies, cupcakes and whole cakes were made. Year groups were called down to the GP area one by one and members of the wellbeing team rotated in selling the goods. A whopping amount of money was raised for LGBTQIA+ charities Shout Out and BeLong To.

During Stand Up week teachers also took part in a inclusivity training workshop which went brilliantly as well! Wellbeing has always been a highlight of school life for me and I would urge anyone from TY and up to join! I look forward to another year on the Wellbeing committee and all students who are a part of it cannot thank the teachers enough - Ms Smith, Ms Huban, Mr Conlon and Ms Grogan thank you for all your hard work this year and every year!

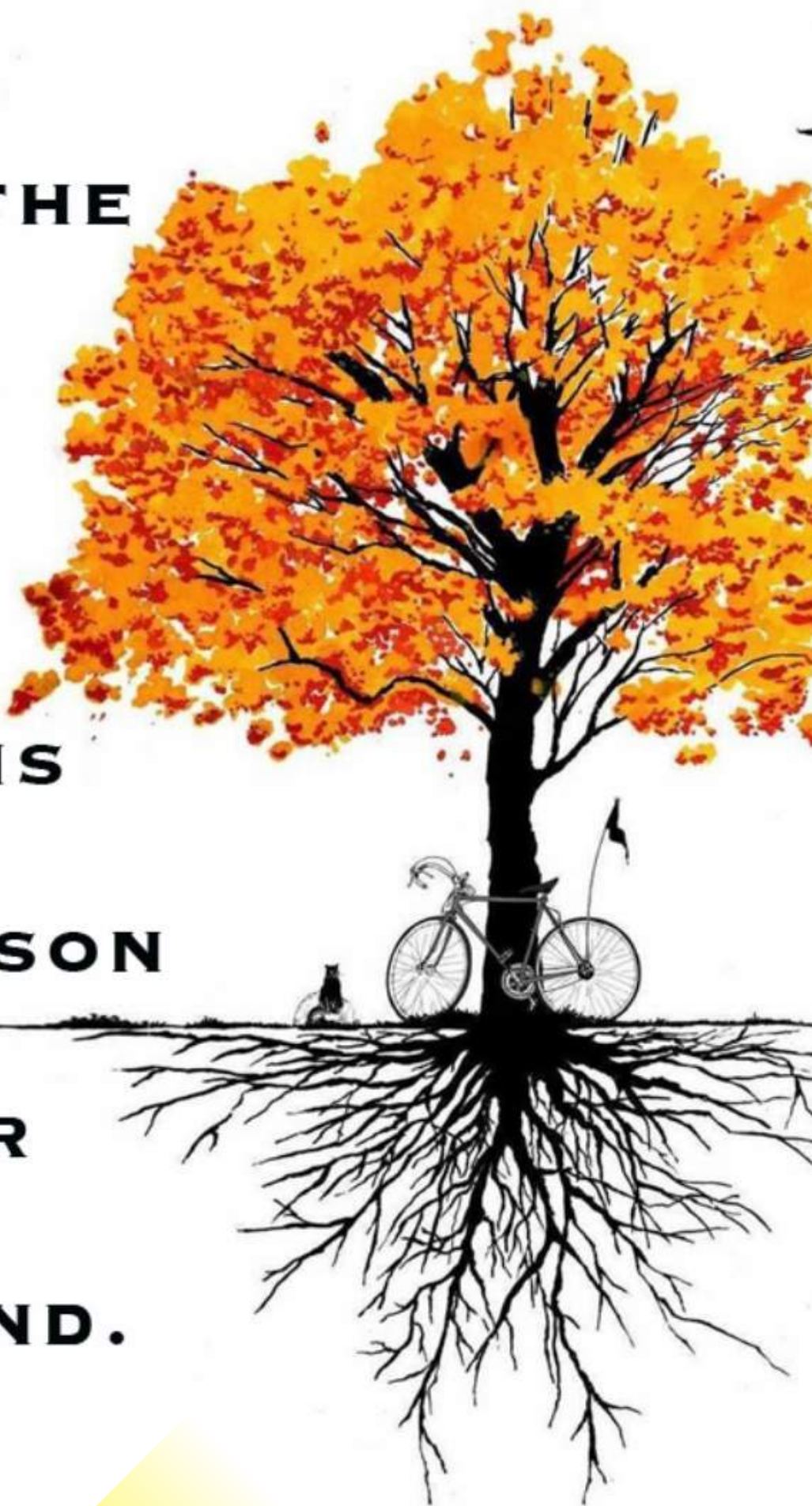


**Well-being Teachers: Mr Conlon, Ms Huban, Ms Grogan and Ms Smith**





**WHEN THE  
ROOT IS  
DEEP,  
THERE IS  
NO REASON  
TO FEAR  
THE WIND.**





# ROOTS



Root's is Ratoath College's brand new well-being team set up by members of staff alongside students.

It was set up in order to help student's with their mental, physical and emotional well-being in & outside school. Our aim is to give students every day strategies of how to deal with them.

Some topics we cover are anxiety, meditation, positivity, reaching out to others and much more

In January 2022 we set up an Instagram for all of our staff and students to follow.

We post daily, giving students positive messages and strategies to help them have a brighter day.

The Roots team have also assisted in various events throughout the school year such as 'Superhero's for Tommy' and Ratoath College's collection for Ukraine.

We hope that Roots has a positive impact on our students well-being for years to come.

**Article by Lauren Clancy**



# ENGINEERING IN RATOATH COLLEGE



It has been a very exciting and busy year for the Engineering department. We finalised out brand new state of the art Engineering room in our new Extension – This will provide our students with new CNC technology exposure as well as immense learning opportunities going forward!

Our first year students are undertaking the new Junior Cycle Engineering Course - Personalised Pac Man keytags have been completed, Angry bird clocks have been manufactured and we are now working on our fighter jet project with incorporate an electronic circuit!

Our second year students have been very busy honing their practical skills and are finishing a trike project. This has been the culmination of all the new skills and knowledge they have gained using new machines such as the lathe and getting to work with new materials. They have also just completed their CBA task titled “Engineering in Action” where we appreciate and investigate the engineering in our local area.





Third Year Students are busy manufacturing their automatic track marble moving game – It is different from typical 3rd year projects in that there is more electronics included as well and CNC manufacture techniques.

Transition Year has allowed students to taste what Engineering is all about. Jewellery projects such as 100% silver rings have been produced in class as well as flower basket hangers that are scrolled, welded together and spray painted – well done guys. Some Transition Years are also working on our ever evolving Petrol Go Kart Project – Vroom vroom.

Fifth Year students are currently busy learning about structures and mechanisms and well as developing their practical skills by producing a remote controlled urban Racer futuristic Car.

Leaving Certificate Engineering students have just finished their model formula 1 Car project. This project includes an electronically controlled DRS (Drag Reduction System) as fitted on the real F1 cars of today. This project awards students with 50% of their leaving cert grade and they can sit their leaving cert exam in confidence that they have a high number of mark achieved already. Well Done Guys!

The Engineering department is growing from strength to strength with the addition of more class groups of Engineering in Ratoath College



Follow @Engineering\_RC for more fun updates on Twitter.

# COOKING UP A STORM



This year has been another busy one in the kitchen. Students have been creating, cooking and serving all kinds of sweet and savoury dishes. Your Home Ec teachers were very proud and also inspired by some of your dishes, so well done. Check out the pictures here of some top-class chefs across the year groups!!



# LIFE AS A FIRST YEAR



**M**y life as a 1st year at Ratoath College was a great and welcoming experience. Though there were some twists and bumps along the road due to the restrictions caused by the global pandemic, I was able to get used to the changes and I think I have settled in quite well.

Due to the pandemic restrictions, there was no open night for incoming first years, so it did take a while to find where all my classes were. I think I'm half glad we had base classes this year, as even moving for two or three classes a day was a bit overwhelming at first! I wish that we had been allowed to roam around the school and mix with other year groups at lunch breaks, but that wasn't possible this year because of Covid. I wasn't very fond of masks either, but it was pretty fun seeing all my teachers and peers without them, as I had never seen their faces before.

If I was to give one piece of advice to incoming first years, it would be to not stress or worry over anything! Things will be different from the primary school life you're

used to, but the school has such a lovely, welcoming environment that you'll get used to it in no time! There are so many people to help with any concerns you have, and I'm sure you'll have great fun.

We conducted a survey amongst all the 1st years about their experiences so far this year. We asked them 8 different questions and here's what they had to say about a few of them.

We first asked them to rate their experience in 1st year so far and the average answer was 4 stars out of 5! A lot of people told us some things they would change about 1st year; less homework, lockers, staying inside for lunch and no base rooms were among the most popular. 1st year was rated a very welcoming experience and everyone has said they've settled in well.

The last question we asked was if you had some advice for incoming first years. What would it be? Most of the answers included to study loads, make friends and just have great fun!

**- Ella Mckenna, Rang McCabe**

# VIBE MAGAZINE

It occurred to me one random day in mid-September that the students of this college don't have a forum to publicise their creative writings, get advice on everyday dramas or issues they face, express opinions on matters that affect them, review films/books/games their peers might find interesting and entertaining etc.

I had the idea to originally create a school newspaper but quickly learned I was way behind in the times so this morphed into a stylish school e-magazine fairly sharpish after consulting with the student voice themselves.

We quickly pulled together a nice little group of interested journalists supported by the PR Cinniri team.

There was great enthusiasm and appetite for a regular publication of this kind, but the name of the magazine was causing an issue. We brainstormed to no avail and nothing was just sitting right. Then a moment of eureka occurred to me on my long commute to Ratoath College as I heard the word "vibe" on a radio station chat show. And that was it! "Vibe" was born and published the very next day.

Our first edition was a great success with incredible content ranging from stunning poetry, creative short stories, agony aunt problem pages, recipes, photography, sketches, jokes and opinion pieces.

It was a resounding hit with staff, students and their families.

We have since gone on to publish several monthly editions with a new theme every month to help focus our ideas. The confidence it has given some students has inspired me to continue pushing this each and every month. Students are excited and motivated to see their original creations and opinions published and respectfully shared and appreciated amongst peers and teachers. More and more students are contributing every month. The content is nothing short of inspiring and of such quality.

I am proud to be part of this "Vibe" journey and will continue to encourage any student who wants to share their creations with the college community.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all the journalists, writers and content creators who have made the magazine such a success. Without you there would be no "Vibe Magazine".

**Article by Ms.McGabe**



# LEAVING CERT ACCOUNTING

**A**ccounting is a Leaving Cert subject that stems from Junior Cycle Business. Accounting is a very structured and logical subject. Everything you do has a reason for being done. Unlike other subjects, it is easy to start Accounting in 5th Year after not doing Business for Junior Cycle. No prior knowledge is assumed. An enjoyment of structure and numbers are what is needed.

All aspects of the accounting course are interconnected so after completing the first section in 5th a Year (Sole Trader Accounts) you can have a pretty good idea if this subject will work for you. This gives you enough time to change subject with little hassle if it is not the subject for you.

On the first day we went through everything step by step and there are also many YouTube videos going through full questions for many different years. As long as you are willing to put the work in at home, if you miss a class you can catch up yourself.

Accounting is undoubtedly a subject that links to real life. Q5 looks at the safety of investments and if someone should invest in the company, this can give you the skills to begin investing yourself. Through the course many types of reporting and accounts are looked at that will help you keep track of how your business is going in the future. The language of business is another large aspect of the course that help with personal finances. The ability to understand what is written on important documents is improved by doing Accounting.

## Tips for starting Accounting:

1. Make detailed study notes as you go. Your notes will be much more beneficial to you if they are made when the topic is fresh in your mind.
2. Learn your ratios and then once every month go over them again so that you should have no trouble remembering them in the exam
3. A way to study is to pick a topic, then do as many exam questions as you can and self correct them using the marking scheme. The first question use all your notes. The second question and third question only look at notes when stuck. The fourth question test yourself. You may need to look back at your notes to figure out how to fix the spots you went wrong on but once it is fully correct then test again and again.
4. Create sheets with the format for each type of question
5. Plan out your timing. Don't spend too long doing one question, move on after the allotted time.
6. Make sure you know the meaning behind each working, don't just do them for the sake of it
7. Don't be afraid to ask questions when you are confused in class

**Article by Sorcha Broe-Brady**





# ART

## Department



### OUR VISION

**T**he vision of the art department is that every student will not just be encouraged but actively and individually helped to explore, express, and communicate their ideas and develop their skills and understanding of art, craft and design. We support our students to actively engage in the artistic process in order to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.

We believe that our students will flourish in a safe, stimulating and friendly environment where the atmosphere is one of mutual respect, co-operation, support and challenge. Student's involvement in art and design develops confidence, self-discipline, persistence and a capacity for critical reflection. Through the appreciation of art our students develop the capacity for imagination and divergent thinking. Our students are exposed to art and art history which provides them with an interest that will enhance their life in many ways.

# PAINTING



## GODS IN THE SCHOOL

Ever since the new building has opened the school has been split into four different sections. Each of these sections was named after a god or goddess. The ground floor on the old building is named after Athena, the first floor in the old building is named Juno, the ground floor of the new building is named Vulcan and the first floor in the new building is named Zeus.

The first part of the school is named after Athena. She is the Greek goddess of wisdom and knowledge. This area of the school is where the 1st and 2nd year base classrooms are, it is also where reception is. Just outside of reception there is a painting of Athena that has been painted by different students throughout the year.





The first floor in the old building is named after Juno. Juno is the Roman goddess of care and empathy. She is associated with motherhood and she has lots of different things that symbolise her such as crown, cypress, pomegranate, lily and lotus. Her sacred animals are peacocks, lions and cuckoos. The 3rd year and Ty base classrooms are in this part of the building.

The ground floor in the new building is named after Vulcan. He is the Roman god of craft and skill, he is also known as the god of fire and forge and it is said that his forge can be found under Mount Aetna on the island of Sicily. In this part of the school you can find 5th and 6th classrooms and Ionad Arkle.

The first floor of the new building is named Zeus after the Greek god of Leadership and Strength. In this part of the building there are 5th and 6th year classrooms. In this part of the school there is a big mural of Zeus on the wall that has been painted by students in the school.





# ART TRIPS: BRÚ NA BÓINNE



This year for our art trip we visited Newgrange and Knowth in county Meath. We studied these monuments as part of our coursework and we all found it to be a very beneficial to visit.

Newgrange is an ancient passage tomb located in Brú na Bóinne. It is one of the oldest buildings ever discovered. It is estimated to be around 5,200 years old and was built by Stone-Age farmers.

Newgrange is best known for the illumination of its passage chamber during the winter solstice. Above the entrance to the passage at Newgrange there is an opening called a roof-box. The large mound is approximately 80m in diameter and is surrounded at its base by a kerb of 97 stones. The most impressive of these stones is the highly decorated Entrance Stone.





Brú na Bóinne is famous for the spectacular prehistoric passage tombs of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. For us the opportunity to visit these monuments helped us to understand the importance of these monuments and have a real life experience associated with our visit.

We would recommend that everyone takes a trip to Newgrange.

Article by Jenny Deering  
& Grace McNeill



# NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND

This year 6th Year students went to the National Gallery of Ireland where we visited the Zurich Portrait Exhibition and the Gallery itself. The Zurich Portrait Exhibition is a free exhibition that showcases 24 portraits shortlisted for this years Zurich Portrait Prize. The annual competition showcasing contemporary portraiture is open to artists from across the island of Ireland and Irish artists living abroad.

This years winner, Salvatore of Lucan, was revealed in a special online ceremony. He painted a painting titled Me Ma Healing me. A portrait of his mother healing him . Among the portraits shortlisted were Note to self, by Tom McLean, Portrait of Uachtarán na hÉireann Michael D. Higgins, by Sarah Doyle and Cabbage Baby by Vanessa Jones.

The Gallery its self holds works spanning from the 13th century to 21st century. In addition to its comprehensive collection of Irish art, including paintings by Jack B. Yeats (brother of poet W.B. Yeats), the gallery also has pieces by European artists such as Rembrandt, Titian, Goya, and Picasso.



Our 6th year art class had a wonderful time at the National Gallery. Visiting galleries and exhibitions gives you a new appreciation for art. We will be sure to continue visiting galleries and exhibitions as we move on to the next chapter of our lives.

# MAKE UP ARTIST

## AVA GOKMAN

**E**ver since I was 13 I started taking makeup more seriously. I had always had an interest for makeup since I was young playing around with brushes and lipsticks but never did I think I would be able to build a career out of it. I was obsessed with watching makeup videos on YouTube and looking up to makeup artists such as KeildhMua, Abby Robert's and Tiffany arty. I started uploading my makeup looks on to social media which was when I started getting lots of recognition. It's crazy to think that how one little photo can get you so far. The more interested I got the more I wanted to learn about all aspects of makeup. I decided to start experimenting around with some special effects makeup, paints and wax creating all different types of pieces. I really enjoyed creating all these different fun looks and that's when I realised this is what I wanted to do as a career.

Makeup was something I've always been attached too, it's a way of expressing myself and when I feel the most confident. It constantly keeps me motivated and pushes me to always do my best. Even if I don't like what I have created I always say "practice makes perfect" and it can only go up from here! Throughout these past few years I am so grateful for the many opportunities I have had. As cringy as it sounds makeup is my happy place where I can just completely express myself and how I'm feeling but with that said it also shows the artistic side of makeup for example I was able to link in my make-up looks for my Junior Cert and also my Leaving Cert Art project this year which was super helpful to me and my theme yellow. I created an imaginative composition inspired by butterflies and bees making an abstract piece !I've been able to work alongside many brands such as Pixi Beauty, Make-up Revolution, Beauty Bay and Flormarr. I have been able to talk to the best of the best such a Ellie Kelly and Aideen Kate who gave me advice and goals to keep working on which has helped in many ways. I get to create all different types of content whether it's tutorials, creative photos and Tiktoks working on many projects briefs and collaborations. I have also been able to work on movie and musical sets and music videos.





During the first lockdown in 2020 it was the perfect opportunity to put my makeup skills to the test! I would do makeup nearly every single day spending over 4-5 hours painting away at my face. Special effects and creative makeup can take a lot of time and a lot of patience but in the end it's worth it. The more I practiced the more skills I was able to develop. Even though it was a tough year for everyone I had makeup to get me through it all! I have achieved many goals this year that I thought I would never be able to reach.. During the start of the year I entered into the KissXEssence Makeup Artist of the Year competing with young makeup artists from across all over Ireland. During this time I was the youngest contestant to get to the final reaching second place. It was a massive achievement to me and one of my favourite memories. During Halloween this year which is every makeup artists favourite time of the year!... I was given the opportunity to create content for Makeup Revolution. I put my heart and soul into my project with them and in the end I was offered a place on their team becoming a Content Creator for CreatorRevolution.. Recently I was contacted by one of my favourite brands of all time BperfectCosmetics and I got invited to their new launch of products. I was able to meet all my makeup friends and had an amazing time being in a room full of people I share the same passion as.. This was my first ever official makeup event and to me I never ever thought in a million years I would get this far as the makeup industry is a very hard place to get noticed but luckily I has the best support from my family, friends and school. I went from sitting at a tiny desk to now being a special guest at an Event.



I have been offered a place in a Makeup College called VanityX this September for a full time 2 year course I will cover topics in all areas of advanced makeup (beauty, glamour, catwalk, fashion, Era, TV, Film, Prosthetics, character work, body painting) I cannot wait to start doing what I love and to just simply have fun with it. If you are interested in starting makeup I would 100% recommend just going for it! It is such an amazing way of expressing yourself and also getting yourself out there with your own creative flare. When I look back on the start of my makeup journey is crazy to see how much I have progressed so just remember "practice makes perfect"

**Article by Ava Gorman**



# MARBLE MASTERPIECES



Our marble drawings were inspired by a UK based artist Sarah Graham who uses oil paints to create nostalgic, colourful and realistic paintings. We were inspired by Graham's bright colours, love for fun, toys and sweets.

In the lead up to our paintings we had lots of preparation. We learned all about primary and secondary colours. We learned about paint mixing, tints and shades.

When we began working on our paintings we started by sketching. Working from images of marbles we drew from observation. After the drawing was complete we applied paint. Using techniques and skills developed in class we mixed paint, created tints, tones and shades to add detail in our work.

We first found the painting daunting as we had never used such bright colours and blending techniques. Our confidence soon grew with practice. This was a fun experience and I think we speak for the rest of my class when we say we really enjoyed painting these pieces.

Lots of hard work went into these paintings. It was all worth it after seeing the end result. Thank you Ms. O'Neil for helping us create these pieces. We couldn't have accomplished it without you.

**Article by Ava Cunningham,  
Clodagh McHugh and Melissa Connolly.**







# CPR

## RE-START A HEART CAMPAIGN





**C**ardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is a simple skill that can help save a life. Cardiac arrest can happen to anyone at any age and 70% of these happen in the home. Last year in Ireland more than 5,000 people suffered a cardiac arrest. CPR is a vital step in the chain of survival after a cardiac arrest. If you have been taught CPR, you are 10 times more likely to respond appropriately in an emergency and that is what a team of teachers delivered to the students throughout this year.

**The CPR training involves:**

- 1. Recognising that someone is having a cardiac arrest.**
- 2. Contacting the emergency services on 112 or 999.**
- 3. Pushing hard and fast on the chest.**

The initial rollout of CPR training to all staff and students at the college is now complete. Each class has received the training and we are currently trying to target those students that were absent the day their class received it. That is approx. 1100 + people trained to date to help save a life. The students really embraced the opportunity.

Thank you to the team of teachers involved in the delivery of this programme. They are Dervilla Bailey, Fiona Reid, Ronan Mitchel, Joey Jordan, Deirdre O Reilly, Laura Dinsmore, Kelly Jackson, Rachel Gina and Bronagh Delany.



# STEPS TO PERFORMING CPR

**Check scene safety**

**Check for response: Call their name/ shake on the shoulders**

**No response call 112/999 Shout for help**

**Put the phone on loudspeaker**

**Provide Eircode (if you know it)**

**Get AED if nearby (or send someone)**

**If they are still not responding and are not breathing normally (gasping or not breathing at all) = you need to make sure the person is lying flat on their back on the ground.**

**Kneel closely beside them**

**Start CPR: Place your two hands on the centre of their chest (one on top of the other and keep your arms straight)**

**Start compressions hard and fast**

**Push down at least two inches (5cm) on the centre of the chest**

**Push at a rate of 100 beats per minute**

**Don't stop until help arrives**

# BELFAST MARATHON

## In memory of Fr PJ Nyland

A group of staff this year decided to get together with the aim of running the Belfast Marathon or a leg of the Belfast Marathon relay. It was a great way of sharing our training, getting to know staff in the strange times of the pandemic and keeping fit. Marathon manager Ms Conlon shared training plans and kept the group on track, while we all shared advice, running stories and lots of craic.

After the passing of our dear friend and colleague Fr PJ the staff felt an immense loss. The great idea from Mr Jordan of running the marathon in his memory and in aid of the Irish Heart Foundation gave the group motivation, focus and a determination to cross the finish line and raise all important funds for his charity. We contacted the Nyland family and they were delighted with the idea. The Heart Foundation sent out some T shirts and balloons and we received immense support from staff, students and parents alike.

The change of date by those organising the race ruled some out but the whole group remained active runners and supporters. Some of us enjoyed the road trip to Belfast and a nice staycation the night before although the three-hour wait for race packs dampened spirits slightly.

We woke on the morning and knew that it was going to be a special day. We met as a group for a few photos on the grounds of Stormont.





The nerves were there and but so was the support, we knew together we could do it.

The route was spectacular taking in such sights as the Belfast City Hall, the Big Fish, The Rise Sculpture and finishing in picturesque Ormeau Park. For those who haven't run a marathon before it is a huge commitment in terms of training to be fit for 42.198km and the months of preparation all paid off. On the day a few prayers were said to a special friend and the support of the crowd who lined the streets in some areas really brought the team along but mostly we were super proud to be part of a group representing Ratoath College who crossed the line and raised 4,120 for a worthy cause.

**Article by Ms.Flynn**





# REMEMBERING

## Fr. PJ Nyland

### Journey of Life

For each of us life is like a journey.  
Birth is the beginning of this journey,  
And death is not the end but the destination.

It is a journey that takes us from  
youth to age,  
from innocence to awareness,  
from ignorance to knowledge,  
from foolishness to wisdom,  
from weakness to strength,  
from loneliness to friendship,  
from pain to compassion,  
from fear to faith,  
from defeat to victory,

Until, looking backward or ahead,  
We see that victory does not lie at  
some point along the way,  
But in having made the journey,  
stage by stage.

Having met the people we did on their  
journey and having loved those  
dearest to us,  
Has made life most worthwhile.





# FATHER PJ

Although gone from our lives, many students and staff of Ratoath College are able to remember Father PJ with the help of beautiful memories that we made along the way.

For me, the first came when I started my Ratoath College journey. Like every other 1st year class we had Father for one religion class every week. He taught us about the Bible and other religious stories. But my favourites were his ghost stories. Every class without fail we'd ask him to tell us an infamous ghost story that would never get tiring to hear. They were never that scary but they always brought intrigue and joy to the class. It is something myself and many of my peers will always remember about Father PJ.

However, unlike the ghost stories I have the privilege of holding another memory about Father PJ that not many others do. It was a sunny day during July. My friends & I had just spent the day at the Vico Baths in Dalkey and were making our way back to the train station. Surprisingly, one of the lads shouted back "I swear that's Father PJ" and when we turned around there he was sitting on a bench.

After approaching him we started chatting and eventually the topic of school comes up. Due to Covid breaking out he hadn't been back to school and we were curious about whether he was coming back at all. That's when he told us about the health problems he was having and that he had to undergo a heart surgery. He told us about how he wouldn't even drive anymore because he was afraid that his deteriorating health would result in him hurting someone else.

This was really hard to hear and I think everyone went a bit quiet after that. But we said that he'd be in our thoughts and prayers as well as the fact everyone is rooting for him. I was astonished by the fact he was so brave and selfless. We said our goodbyes and we were happy to have had a pleasant encounter with him.



I never knew that would be my last time seeing him. I'm glad I was able to see him before he passed because the memory is going to stay with me forever. It opened my eyes to what a genuinely great and noble man he was. He was a man who put others before himself no matter what the circumstances were. And he's a man Ratoath College will never forget.

**Article by Jake Rutherford**

# Meath Madness

## MEATH MINOR TEAM 2021

Article by Liam Kelly

You would have to go back to 1992 to recall the last time Meath won a Minor Football Championship and, after 29 years, the 2021 Minor team knew what their mission was. After the 2020 Meath Minor footballers were defeated by Derry in the All-Ireland Semi-Final, the '21 team were back with a vengeance.

Over a year after it was originally meant to be played due to the Covid restrictions, Meath defeated Offaly in a nail biting encounter in the 2020 Leinster Minor Football Final. This was the first major triumph for Tomás “Mossy” Corbett and I in a year that had it all. This victory meant that Meath were set for their second All-Ireland Minor Football Semi-Final in three years. Our Meath team were described as a devastating team who would punish our opposition's mistakes, while myself and “Mossy” helped ensure the defence remained disciplined and resilient throughout. Unfortunately, it was Derry who got the upper hand in the Semi-Final winning by a score line of 1-14 to 1-07. As the final whistle blew, my heart shattered. I never took defeat well but this time was worse. I knew that this was my last game with this team, as it was most of the team's last year of minor, and that our miraculous journey had come just short to our dream.



That was the toughest pill to swallow.

Fortunately for myself and Mossy, our journey with Meath was not over as we had another year to achieve our dream. While Mossy and I enjoyed our endeavours with the 2020 Minor team, Ben Fraser and Ronan Byrne were waiting and preparing with the rest of the 2021 panel for the opening game of the Leinster Championship. Joining back with the '21 panel meant that we had a huge advantage as we had experience of winning and more importantly experience of losing. We knew what had to be done if we wanted to achieve the ultimate goal of becoming All-Ireland Champions. Ben, Ronan and the rest of the players had enjoyed friendly success prior to Tomás and I joining back to the team meaning they were well prepared.





With the first game of the 2021 Leinster Championship on the horizon, I received news that I could've only dreamt of. I was selected as Meath Minor captain for the 2021 campaign. I genuinely couldn't believe it as it had always been a dream of mine to captain my county. From when I was first selected for the Meath team at Under 14s, my ambition was to captain "The Royals" and thankfully all the hard work paid off. This was my opportunity to lead my team to success, to become a leader, mentor and role model to the rest of the team. I had to set an example on and off the pitch and I was determined to do so.

Finally, the much anticipated Semi-Final commenced and what a day it was. The sun was beaming down onto the rich grass of Pairc Tailtean. The four Ratoath men and the rest of the panel were ready for the challenge that faced us. After a rough start, we trailed 1-6 to 0-7 going into the break.

After a stern talking to from our manager Cathal O'Brick at halftime, The Royals then hit six of the next seven points to take control of proceedings. From this moment on we took full control of the game and cruised to victory, beating Louth 1-14 to 1-11. Not only did we cement our spot into the Leinster Final but we also had the opportunity to beat our arch rivals Dublin in the final too. It had the criteria to be a final to remember. It was all so surreal for me, captaining my team against Dublin in a Leinster Final! I knew we had to win.

Unfortunately, August 2nd was a day full of rain. However this put out the fire we had in our bellies. From the first whistle there was no stopping us as our devastating attack hit Dublin with two goals in the space of a minute in the opening quarter. This proved to be too big of a blow for Dublin as they struggled to recover from them. The final whistle blew in Tullamore and we all ran to celebrate. As I was walked up the steps to lift the trophy I still felt a sense of disbelief.



It was only until I was receiving “Congratulations” as I was walking up the stairs that I finally thought to myself “Wow, this is actually happening”. As I gripped the trophy and raised it into the rainy sky I let out an almighty cheer, feeling as if I was on top of the world. I knew that this was only the start of our journey.

The celebrations were short and sweet as we knew our job wasn't over. We had our eyes set on a bigger prize: All-Ireland Champions. For the second time in as many months, Meath were preparing for an All-Ireland Semi-Final. We were hoping for a change in fortunes this time, with the Connaught champions Sligo standing in our way. This Sligo team were on cloud nine having won their provincial championship for the first time since 1968 so we knew it was going to be a tough game. Similarly to the Dublin game, the rain poured down all day in Breffni Park. After winning the coin toss, I elected to play with the wind which proved vital in the first half as we entered half time with a healthy lead. We couldn't let our foot off the pedal now. Only thirty minutes separated us and an All-Ireland Final in Croke Park. We started the second half well despite being under tremendous pressure from the mighty Sligo. With fifteen minutes to go, Sligo snatched a goal causing Breffni Park to erupt. The atmosphere had lifted from the Sligo fans which caused a very nervy last few minutes for us. Fortunately, we managed to see out the game, defeating a heartbroken Sligo by four points. The stage was set: Croke Park, All-Ireland Final, August 28th.

We were to face the Ulster champions Tyrone in the Final. This Tyrone team had demolished every other team in their way to this final, defeating Cork 0-23 to 1-05 in the Semi-Final, a score line which showed no mercy. The media had written Tyrone as favourites and many would believe the final would be a similar result to their semi-final. We knew that if we were to have any chance to win against Tyrone, our performance couldn't be less than flawless.

I never usually get nervous before games as I usually feel mentally prepared and I could always distract myself from the occasion but as the Meath bus drove down the Drumcondra Road and Croke Park emerged behind the houses, the nerves began to kick in.





It all felt like a dream at the time but I kept trying to stay focused. Walking into the dressing room and seeing my jersey hanging up was the moment I finally realised, "this is it." From that moment on I was fully focused. We went out as a team to do our warm up and the pitch was nothing short of immaculate. Each blade of grass was the same height as the one beside it. We couldn't have asked for a better day, not a cloud in the sky as the sun beamed down from above. I recognised familiar faces in the crowd, especially in Hill 16 which was full of Meath supporters. Despite there being no wind I chose to shoot towards the Davin Stand in the first half, leaving a second half shooting into the faithful Meath supporters. The referee threw in the ball and the 2022 Minor All-Ireland Final had begun.



I always knew Croke Park was big from looking on TV but it felt almost double the size while playing. The open, green space meant that it was going to be a very fast paced, entertaining game. We opened the scoring within the first minute but it didn't take long for Tyrone to equalise. After a long ball was played in by Tyrone's midfielder, they grabbed an early goal causing the Tyrone supporters to erupt. For a second, a small grain of doubt filled my brain before quickly vanishing as I knew there was still plenty of left in this match. In an attempt to try and grab a goal back ourselves, I pushed forward for their kick-out. I intercepted the pass and darted forward before off loading the ball to our full forward who rifled it into the top corner. The game was back on! This time it was the Royal supporters who erupted with joy. The first half continued to be neck-and-neck and ended with Meath leading by a single point. We rushed into the dressing room when the whistle blew. We knew that this final was there for the taking. After a quick analysis from our manager, we rushed back out ready for the second half to commence. The game continued where it left off with both teams trading scores. With two minutes on the clock, the teams were level. Tyrone had the majority of the ball for the last five minutes and it seemed they were going to snatch it at the dying ends. With seconds to go on the clock, Meath launched a final attack in search of a winner. After a swift passing move, the ball found its way to Shaun Leonard who guided the ball over the bar, sending every Meath fan into jubilation. The final whistle blew and I sprinted to celebrate with my teammates. Our dreams had just come through.



I was ushered towards cameras where I was to be interviewed and presented with Man of the Match. As I went to answer the questions, my voice echoed around Croke Park as I was displayed on the big screen. Everything felt so surreal. After the interview, I walked up the steps of the Hogan Stand towards the Tom Markham Cup. With each step I took, a new person congratulated me. A moment I will never forget was when I reached the top of the steps and the last person to congratulate me was the legendary Seán Boylan who had guided Meath to lots of success in the 90s but his smile that day was almost as if he had won it again. Before I lifted the trophy, I looked around a packed Croke Park to see the green and gold flags of Meath flying around the stadium.

This was really happening. I raised the trophy above my head and let out an almighty cheer to go with it. Dreams really do come true and with hard work and dedication, nothing is impossible!





# TEACHER GAA

# COUNTY

# PLAYERS

## **THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A GAA STAR?**

Inter-county players put hours and hours of dedication into their craft. Whether it be gruelling gym sessions, hard-hitting matches or their healthy diet, there is no doubt that the life of a county star takes commitment and drive.

In Ratoath College we have some of the top GAA hurlers and footballers, including Ms. Doonan and Mr. Toher. We interviewed them, asked some questions to see what it takes to represent your county at the highest level and what memories they have playing county football.

### **What age did you start playing GAA?**

**Ms. Doonan:** 7 or 8 - I can't actually remember how young I was.

**Mr. Toher:** 9

### **How long have you played for your county?**

**Ms. Doonan:** A long time! I've played since I was U14 so that's over 15 years ago now.

**Mr. Toher:** 11 years

### **What position do you play?**

**Ms. Doonan:** Corner Back - thought I'd hate it but I don't mind it at all.

**Mr. Toher:** Centre Back



### **What is your proudest moment in GAA? Why?**

**Ms. Doonan:** I use to say it was winning an All-Ireland, I was definitely too young to realise how special that actually was, but in recent years I've realised that I'm proud I get to play my home club football with all of my sisters - there's only a select few who get to do that.

**Mr. Toher:** Putting a smile on the faces of family and friends.

### **Is there any other sports you played when you were younger?**

**Ms. Doonan:** Yes - I did Irish dancing, athletics, swimming and I also play basketball throughout secondary school - I played any sport that was going.

**Mr. Toher:** Hurling, Football, Soccer, Badminton, High Jump, Basketball



### **How often to you train a week?**

**Ms.Doonan:** Currently we train 4 nights on a pitch with two gym sessions weekly. Training Load changes throughout the year. This time of year is lovely- dry pitches and nice weather!

**Mr.Toher:** 6 Days

### **What would be your pre game meal plan?**

**Ms.Doonan:** Most games I play are at 2pm so it's breakie/brunch for me. Breakie is normally porridge or overnight oats, protein powder and all the nice toppings followed by eggs and red pesto on top of a bagel! An hour out from a game I'll eat a banana, skinny crunch bar and sugar of some sort - usually jelly babies or Haribo.. Water & dyoralite is essential in the days leading up to the game too.

**Mr.Toher:** Pasta

### **What would be your post game routine?**

**Ms.Doonan:** Food straight away and compression leggings for recovery - ORS and normally an ice cream!

**Mr.Toher:** Talk about the performance, eat well, protein shake, start the recovery routine

### **Who is your sports hero?**

**Ms.Doonan:** Growing up it was my cousin Aisling Doonan and the great Peter Canavan. My Dad brought me to every game where I loved watching Tyrone and Peter play. My cousin Ash taught me how to play football and I was fortunate enough to learn from her as I played along side her for many many years. She and Canavan are very like in terms of forward movement, style of play and limitless skill so hence why I loved them both growing up.

**Mr.Toher:** Roy Keane

### **What advice would you have for younger athletes?**

**Ms.Doonan:** Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard! You don't have to be the best but always give your best. Get out and get involved in any sport - I've made friends for life and I've loved playing football. Listen to advice and always be willing to take it on board in order to improve.

**Mr.Toher:** It's about how you conduct your journey that gets you to the position that you're in that matters. That determines your next choice



# 6TH YEAR GEOGRAPHY TRIP



In early November of 2021 we took students on a river field study to Tanagh Education Centre, Monaghan as part of their Geographical Investigation for their Leaving Certificate. It is worth 20% of their marks and they undertook certain activities at the river (measuring the width, depth, velocity, undercut and sampling sediment size and roundness class of the River Bunnoe). They did this to collect data that they needed to complete their Leaving Certificate Geography Investigation report. The trip was successful and enjoyed by all.





# S N



Article by Ms. Bruce

# A

Bhuail Seachtain na Gaeilge le Coláiste Rath Tó de phleist i mbliana. Thosaigh na ranganna sóisearacha agus lucht na hIdirbhliana amach ag máisiú na scoile le postaer glasa agus ag scaipeadh na Gaeilge timpeall na scoile chun an fhéile a chur chun cinn. Bhí go leor postaer álainn déanta ag gach rang agus cuireadh in iomaíocht le chéile na daltaí sa Chéad Bhliain agus na daltaí sa Dara Bliain i gComórtas na bPostaer.

Thóg daltaí na tríú bliana sos ón staidéar agus iad ag bailiú fianaise do Dúshlán na Gaeilge, a chuir Ms. Donnellan le chéile. Bhí deis ag na daltaí dul timpeall na scoile chun an Ghaeilge a scaipeadh trí thascanna a dhéanamh, cosúil le comharthaí Gaeilge a chrochadh agus dul i mbun comhráite i nGaeilge le daltaí agus múinteoirí. Is léir gur bhain siad an-taitneamh as an sos agus as na tascanna seo a dhéanamh agus spreag siad spiorad na féilte ar fud na scoile!

# G

Ina dhiadh sin, d'eagraigh ár ndaltaí Idirbhliana i Rang Daly/Devine agus Huban cúpla imeachtaí ar nós Tráth na gGeist don Dara Bliain agus Biongó don Chéad Bhliain. Ní hamháin gur eagraigh siad na himeachtaí iontacha seo, ach tháinig na daltaí go léir chuig na ranganna sóisearacha chun na himeachtaí a dhéanamh leo!





Bhí na seomraí foirne i gColáiste Rath Tó péinteáilte le dath geall glas ar an Máirt. D'aimsigh múinteoirí na scoile a n-éadaí glasa is deise agus chaith siad ar scoil iad chun spiorad na féilte a spreagadh! Le linn an ama seo, bhí Tae agus Plé ar siúl do na daltaí sinseara-cha. Fuair siad cístíní cupa agus Capri Sun i rith an lae. Thug daltaí na hIdirbli-ana na milseáin amach do gach duine agus rinneadh péinteáil aghaidheana do gach duine, idir dhaltaí agus mhúinteoirí!

Rinne gach duine a ndícheall cúpla focail a labhairt nó baint de shaghas éigin a bheith acu i Seachtain na Gaeilge agus d'éirigh go hiontach leis na himeachtaí go léir ar feadh na seachtaine! Ó Roinn na Gaeilge, go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir as bhur rannpháirtíocht i rith na féilte!



# SEACHTAIN NA

# GAEILGE



# Badminton Club

**B**adminton is one of the best after school activities to learn skills and just have fun with your friends, classmates or even teachers. Since January 2022 when it was announced that there would be badminton after school on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 people have continued to join.

The badminton club offers 1 hour to practice skills on how to play and you can practice along with your friends or just play for the fun of it. The badminton after school club is held by Ms Casey and Ms Bailey. If you want to test your abilities, they are always available to play against you.

It's full of laughter and fun. It's an amazing club and if you want to join just go to the sports hall after school on Monday. Badminton can also show much skill in reflexes, running, sprinting, and it can show quick movement too.

At this moment in time, there are chances of having a tournament within the school or a tournament against other schools depending on the school registering. This is a really exciting prospect because we have never seen our school play against other schools or have anything big related to badminton until this year!

Come to badminton club on Monday! The adventure awaits...





# We love that Basketball !



**T**his year the basketball teams were able to get back up and running after not being able to play last year due to Covid. This was the first time that 2nd years have been able to play sports for the school, so this was great news to many students who wanted to take part in a school team. Playing on the basketball team was a great way to make some new friends and to feel like you are part of something. For many people it was their first time playing and with training after school on a Wednesday for 1st and 2nd year girls it was a fun way of learning something new. Many of the girls enjoyed getting to have fun with their friends and training after school. This year we all learned lots of new skills even if some were only trying basketball for the very first time, thanks to our coach Ms. Lyttle and help from Ms. Siddi. It is always fun getting to go on the bus to go and play another school and getting to represent your school. Both 1st and 2nd year girls' teams got to play 3 matches over a course of a few weeks. Both teams were sadly unsuccessful in reaching the semi-finals but plan to work even harder next year. Next year we will hopefully be more successful as we all improve over the next year. We hope to see some old and new faces on the basketball team next year!

**Article by Emily Pullen**

# U14 Girls GAA



**W**e had over 40 girls in 1st and 2nd year sign up for the U14 GAA team this year. Ms Conaty was the team Manager and the girls had three amazing coaches from TY Robyn Ducie, Isabella Turner and Lauren Clancy. Our team captains Ava Cromwell and Pia McAllister leading the girls through every challenge on the pitch.

We had 3 matches against schools from Kildare. We were defeated in our first match against St Wolstans of Celbridge but bounced back with two consecutive big wins over Scoil Dara Kllcock and Gael-Choláiste Chill Dara.

After an incredible performance in midfield Alannah Ducie had a hard hit from her marker and consequently broke her collar-bone in our second match. From this moment it was clear girls wanted to put all our work into winning these last two matches for Alannah. This win was won from the backs to the forwards. Any ball that came near our goal was played out by Lucy Cameron (goalie), Ava Clancy, Megan Pinder, Ava Cromwell, Vanessa Fitzgibbon, Lydia Brazil and Aisling Gallagher with outstanding personal performances. We won this match 6-11 to 2 goals.

Our last match was a hard-fought win in extreme gusts of wind. Much of this win was decided around the winning of the ball in the middle and the outstanding performances in the middle playing to our forwards. The winning and carrying was done by Karolina Meagher, Mary-Kate Prior, Louise Byrne, Isabelle Byrne and Pia Mc Allister. Who delivered the ball to our amazing full



forward line of Sadie Prior, Isabelle Wyatt and Niamh Colgan each scoring superb points from play. The final score was 1-11 to 1-5, with Sophie Coroner scoring the winning goal.

This leaves us as second in the league currently unfortunately to progress we needed to be first in the league.

We have decided after a long discussion that we could not pick a single girl as player of the league. Every girl that was on the pitch this year put their complete effort into our wins and each one of them deserves an award.

I cannot wait to see what this group of ladies bring to Ratoath College GAA in the next number of years. I can say with confidence if it mirrors this year, we could have some silverware very soon.

**Article by Ms.Conaty**



# U14 Boys GAA

**A**fter almost two full years without any sport in the school it was very exciting to get back out on the playing pitch. This year's boy's U14 team have been no different and were very eager to show their off their skills to Ratoath College community. The boys started training in September and trained diligently through all weather conditions over the months of September and October. Their dedication and enthusiasm was clear to be seen with full turn outs and very enjoyable training sessions.

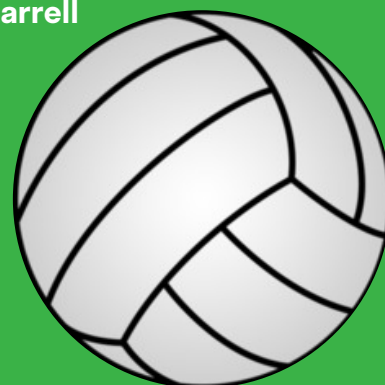


Our first game was against a much fancied St Mary's Drogheda team in Wolfe Tones GAA grounds. The boys started the game brightly with some fine scores to be seen. Adam Ducie and Niall Dolan got off to a flying start as Ratoath controlled the game. However, as the half progressed St Mary's converted their scores freely. There was to pints between the teams at half time. In the second half St Mary's had the wind advantage and this was to prove a major advantage. St Mary's converted two goals and a number of points to lead the game. The Ratoath men never gave up and fought to the end.

Two weeks later in early December the boys entertained St Mary's Dundalk at home. Without a number of regular starters this gave many of the first years boys the opportunity to wear the school jersey for the first time. Ratoath got off to a blistering start and converted their scores easily. As the game progressed St Mary's crept their way back into the encounter. Kayedn Donnelly and Noah Howard both had important roles in the Ratoath team being victorious. This meant the boys would progress to the quarter final stage.

The boys still have a number of games to play this season and there is great excitement to see what these capable young men can achieve in the school colour in the future.

**Article by Mr Farrell**





# U15 Girls Soccer



**T**he girls U15 soccer team played three matches this year and in every single game the effort was superb. The first game was a glamour away fixture in the Leinster Cup at Cabinteely with a resounding 7-3 victory! Molly Kearns and Grace Kelly were two of our 3rd years who chipped in with goals. Unfortunately, due to COVID we had to withdraw from the cup and our next match wasn't until February and an unlucky 2-1 defeat away to St Peter's Dunboyne in real muddy, wintery conditions in the Leinster League. Our woman of the match was our brilliant keeper Kenzie Cromwell but everyone ran their legs off. Our last match was away to Eureka Kells. We only had 11 players on the day so no subs and our warriors battled bravely in the freezing rain, going down 2-0. It was a super performance and an unlucky result with Katie Grogan bagging the woman of the match award. One of our TY helpers was amazed, "Katie again! There must be three of her, she's everywhere!". We have one more match still to play but it has been great to get playing again after such a long absence. One win, one draw, one loss – plenty to look back on both to celebrate and try to improve on. We have a super mix of girls and there should be great times ahead for this smashing group!

**Article by Mr.Delaney**

# U15 Boys Soccer



In our first game of the season, the team played against Balbriggan in the cup at home in the Ratoath Harps Astro on a cold Friday morning. The team led by captain Ethan Hynes arrived 20 minutes before kick off to get a warm up to get them prepared for the game. Sean Hickey opened the scoring with a beautiful first time finish from a cross into the bottom corner. Not too long after that Louise Burke scored from a beautiful delivery from Adam Farrell's set piece. Sean Hickey then scored two goals to round off his hat trick and a great man of the match performance. Although Balbriggan did manage to pull one back, the result was never in doubt when super sub Kieran Óg scored to seal off a great 5-1 win to start off the season.

The second game of the season was away to Beaufort College. In the second round of the cup we had some harsh conditions with gale force winds. Captain Adam Farrell led his team out for the warm-ups just before the game. Kick off started slow as they were playing against the wind but some excellent defending from our defenders, Fionn Colwell, Kaedyn Donnelly, Oran Corboy and Harry Waters meant we were able to keep the game alive going into the second half. The team started out very strong in the second playing with the wind. Adam Farrell then opened the scoring with an amazing chip from distance floating over the keeper's head, not long after Aaron McGuinness scored a tidy finish to round off a great result and to see them through to the next round of the cup.



The third game of the season was the first league game away to Boyne CS. The lads got a great warmup in before kick off. The game began and it was a very close game going back and forward for the first 20 mins with both teams playing excellent football but the exceptional defence lead by captain Ethan Hynes held firm to stop any attacks from the opposition. Aaron McGuinness opened the scoring with a beautiful volley to make it 1-0. Man of the match Adam Farrell proceeded to score a hat-trick with some great finishes from Dylan Phillips and Tom McCormack also. Ratoath conceded two from some unfortunate defensive errors but it didn't matter in the end as they managed to comfortably win the game 6-2 in the end, starting off the league with a bang.

The most recent game was against Bettystown at home in the quarter finals of the league in torrential rain. The lads showed up 20 minutes before kickoff led by Ethan Hynes. The game started off quick and the teams were evenly matched for the first 20 minutes, until centre back Harry Waters opened the scoring with goal of the season, arrowing a long distance strike into the top left hand corner, leading to wild scenes on the bench as the team celebrated an outstanding goal. Very shortly after, striker Louis Burke scored a tidy finish to make it 2-0. Just before the half ended Bettystown scored a very good goal to put on the pressure going into the 2nd half. The lads went into second half pushed back and pressured, playing very defensively. The defence held off relentless Bettystown attacks, and the lads managed to hold off and keep the lead to win the game and advance to the semi finals of the league.

Coach Mr. Conlan is incredibly proud of the effort of all involved in the squad. The team have worked extraordinarily hard to achieve to the best of their abilities and the results have shown that this year. A massive well done to all of the U15s!

**Article by Enda and Liam in Rang Hayes**



# U17 Boys Soccer



**O**ur U17 Boys soccer team had an outstanding year & gave their all in every match. We've had classy finishes from Josh Olaseni, exquisite set pieces from Emmet "Hunter" Harley & thundering headers from Jack "The Mountain" Brennan. The team witnessed some stunning saves from our top keepers, Ben Simon & Mark Wallace, while our defensive & offensive capabilities were given a real boost by the stellar performances of Dara Johnson & Adam "Bingo" Brady. A lot of our success this year came from our midfield dynamism & the athletic prowess of Sean "The Lion" Mulvaney & our Captain Fantastic, Josh Connolly. The dedication of the team to commit to every training session & game, through hail, rain & snow, & their maturity on the pitch is a testament to their character.





**W**e had many worthy winners of the “Mr. Toner Chicken Roll Man of the Match Award” but our overall Player of the Season has to go to the man mountain himself, Jack Brennan! Well done on brilliant year gents, we go again next year! Our U17 Boys soccer team had an outstanding year & gave their all in every match. We’ve had classy finishes from Josh Olaseni, exquisite set pieces from Emmet “Hunter” Harley & thundering headers from Jack “The Mountain” Brennan. The team witnessed some stunning saves from our top keepers, Ben Simon & Mark Wallace, while our defensive & offensive capabilities were given a real boost by the stellar performances of Dara Johnson & Adam “Bingo” Brady. A lot of our success this year came from our midfield dynamism & the athletic prowess of Sean “The Lion” Mulvaney & our Captain Fantastic, Josh Connolly. The dedication of the team to commit to every training session & game, through hail, rain & snow, & their maturity on the pitch is a testament to their character. We had many worthy winners of the “Mr. Toner Chicken Roll Man of the Match Award” but our overall Player of the Season has to go to the man mountain himself, Jack Brennan! Well done on brilliant year gents, we go again next year!

**Article by Mr.Toner**



# U19 Boys Soccer



**T**his year saw the return of extra-curricular activities for students at Ratoath College and the commencement of the U19 football season. The squad was represented by players from 6th year, 5th year and transition year.

The football team played four matches, three of which were in the league while one was in the shield. The first game saw us taking on St Peters Dunboyne in a hard-fought match away from home on a pitch that wouldn't have been suitable to graze cattle on. Despite the poor quality of the pitch the team played some exceptional football against a team that had two Irish internationals but unfortunately, we lost 4-3 with goals coming from Niall Davis, Ryan Lacey and Adam Sherry, with a special mention to the superb Killian McTernan who kept us in the game throughout with some excellent saves.

Next up saw an interesting scenario. With Dunshaughlin pulling out of the competition it was between ourselves and Boyne secondary school from Trim for second place in the league which would guarantee progression into the next phase of the competition. However, strangely enough, we had been drawn against the same school in the shield competition as well so it was decided amongst the school managers that one game would be played with the winner progressing in the two competitions. In atrocious conditions in Navans MDL complex that saw Mathew Brennans goal kick go out for a corner due to the severity of the wind, the lads dug deep and came out on top in a thrilling game. Going one nil down with 15 minutes left it was looking like we were staring at defeat but with some great saves from Mathew Brennan which kept us in the game, our resilience was rewarded with a goal from Callum Brady which left the game at 1-1. With extra time on the horizon, a mastermind substitution from



the managers paid dividends which resulted in a winner with literally the last kick of the game from Ronan Byrne which kept us in the league and shield.

Our performance of the year was next when we played St Marys up in Muirhevnamor in Dundalk in the next round of the league. The lads conceded a dubious penalty that was dispatched by them to make it one nil but our fight and determination resulted in an equaliser scored by Callum Brady who dispatched a free kick that was helped by a keeper mistake despite Callum saying it was 'the best free kick of his life'. The game entered extra time and unfortunately, 5 minutes from time they themselves won a free kick which was finely dispatched into the top corner from their midfielder and saw us bow out of the league.

Our final game of the season saw us play against Dunboyne in the shield away from home on that pitch we wish never to speak of again. Despite our best efforts we lost 6-1 with the highlight of the day being our goal with Jack Connolly showing off his inner Paul Scholes with an excellent assist from left back which landed on a plate for Ronan Byrne who then calmly lobbed their keeper who was left standing like a statue. That game saw the end of our season which took us all the way from September to March in an enjoyable season for both the managers and the players.

Myself and Mr Sansom would like to wish all the 6th years the very best of luck with their exams and for the future. You were all a pleasure to work with and a fine example of what the school is all about. Mol an óige.

**Article by Mr Flanagan  
and Mr Sansom**





# ATHLETICS





# 2021-2022

It is fantastic to see the athletic calendar back up and running this school year. There are a number of events held throughout the year that Ratoath College has representatives at.

## **Tailteann Games 2021**

Athletics started during the summer with several of our athletes been chosen to represent Leinster at the Tailteann Schools Competition, which is an inter provincial event.

The athletes performed really well both individually and as part of the various relay teams, with all three winning relay medals, Laura Kelly in the 4 x 300m, Eoin Kane in the 4 x 400m and Katie Doherty in the 4 x 100m.

Katie Doherty had a great day coming 4th in the 100m and winning a medal for coming 2nd in the 200m. This secured her spot on the Irish Schools International Track & Field Team that travelled to Derby at the end of September where she competed in and took home bronze in the 200m and also coming 3rd with the 4 x 100m relay. What a phenomenal success for her competing out of her age, against athletes up to two years older than her.

## **Combined Events**

Next up were the combined events. This is where the athletes compete at six events (shot putt, long jump, high jump, 60m hurdles, 200m & 800m). A combined score from all lead to their finishing position.

A number of athletes took part in the Leinsters with Jack Kelly (3rd Yr) & Gavin Witter (2nd Yr) both having a very good day and qualifying to the All Irelands.

The competition at All Ireland level was immense but our athletes did exceptionally with Jack Kelly finishing 3rd place in the Junior Boys and Gavin Witter finishing in 4th place

in the Minor Boys. This secured Jack a place on the Irish team where he competed at the International school's event in Glasgow. It was an excellent achievement and experience for him.

## **Gross Country**

The North Leinster cross country was held in the Phoneix park on a very wet, windy and dreary day in January where we had a good number of athletes from the college compete. Four of these athletes qualified to the Leinsters where they finished: Emmet Doyle (Minor) 25th, James Kelly (Inter) 22nd, Amelia Campbell (Senior) 42nd and Harry Bogan (Junior) finished an outstanding 6th position. This qualified Harry for the All Ireland Cross Country Championships on March 12th in Mallusk in Belfast where he ran a fantastic race finishing in 13th place overall. Huge congratulations to Harry on a super result.

## **Track & Field**

We hope to have a good cohort of athletes competing in the track & field events in the summer term and we wish them all the very best of luck in this.

**IF IT DOESN'T  
CHALLENGE  
YOU IT WON'T  
CHANGE YOU.**

# NORTH LEINSTERS



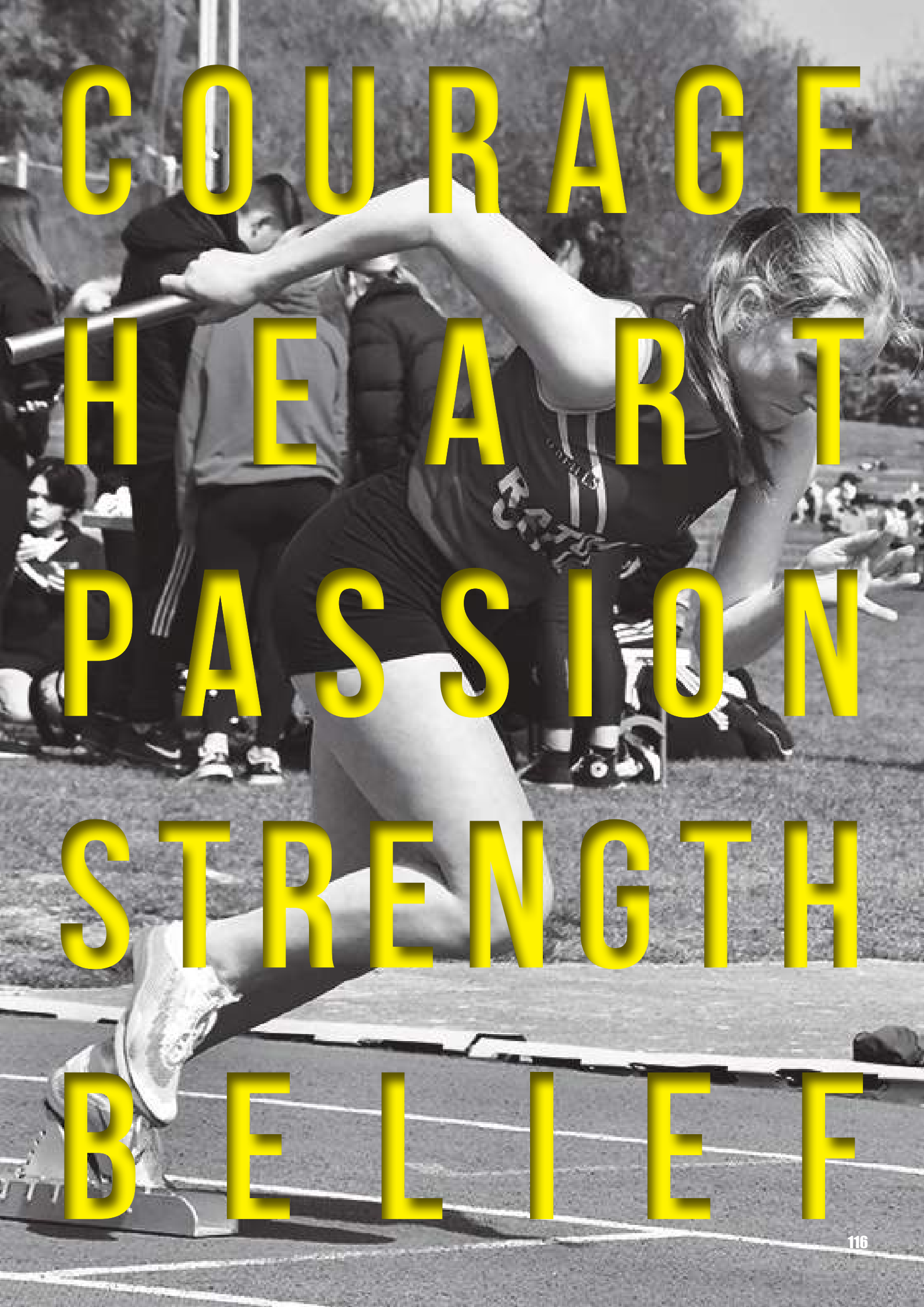
On the 27th of April our Ratoath College Athletics team traveled to Morton Stadium in Santry for day one of the North Leinster competitions. Many of our schools athletes competed in a number of events such as running, jumping and throwing.

After a long day of competing in tough competitions our schools team came home with 8 gold medals, 5 silver medals, 1 bronze medal and 2 fourth place competitors across all ages.

This leaves many more opportunities for our athletes who have advanced on to compete in Leinsters.







COURAGE

HEART

PASSION

STRENGTH

BELIEF

# Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind



In December 2021 Rang Daly (TY) took on the challenge of organizing a fundraiser in aid of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind. This is an amazing charity dedicated to enabling people who are visually impaired and families of children with autism to achieve improved mobility and independence. The price of training just one dog runs into the thousands so any contribution that can be made towards that is always worthwhile. In order to help the charity in some small way, the students decided to organize a bake sale.

In preparation for their fundraiser, the class were delighted to welcome a very special friend to the school, Riley, who serves as an ambassador dog for the charity. Riley was accompanied by Nick Palmer who is a volunteer with the charity, and he gave the students a talk about the charity does and why their efforts mean a lot to them, and the impact that their fundraising will have on people that they will never even meet. Of course, Riley also received a lot of attention from staff and students alike.

Every student in the class played an important role in the running of the fundraiser, from designing posters and polaroid frames, to baking treats, to creating an amazing display of all the dogs of the Ratoath College community. There was also a special competition for students to try and match dogs with the teachers who owned them which was won by Cara Traynor. The bake sale was a huge success with the students raising €450 for the charity. Everyone involved with the Irish Guide Dogs was hugely appreciative of the time and effort Rang Daly went to, to achieve such a brilliant result. Well done to all involved.





# Heading back to Broadway!



It has been three years since Addams Family The Musical spooked and entertained us and now we're back with the fabulous Sister Act The Musical! We can't tell you how thrilled we are to be staging this show after such a long break from the spotlight. Auditions were held for the leading parts in March and we were blown away by all the talent we saw. You are in for an absolute treat! It was an extremely tough decision to make but please allow us to introduce you to our fabulous leading cast:

**Deloris Van Cartier** - Meg Johnson,  
**Mother Superior** - Saoirse Brown  
**Sister Mary Robert** - Elsa Johnson  
**Sister Mary Patrick** - Abi Colgan  
**Sister Mary Lazarus** - Megan Fitzmaurice

**Monsignor O' Hara** - James Healy  
**Curtis** - Luca Fogarty  
**Eddie** - Darragh Kavanagh  
**TJ** - Pierce McManus  
**Joey** - Cian Campbell  
**Pablo** - Liam Walsh Subiran  
**Sister Mary Martin-Of-Tours** - Jessica Farrell  
**Sister Mary Theresa** - Hannah Murphy  
**Michelle** - Saoirse Lynch  
**Tina** - Lauren Clancy  
**Ernie** - Danny Colgan

We also have a fantastic choir of nuns who can't wait to blow you away with their angelic voices. So don't forget to buy your tickets and support your fellow students in October.

God Bless you all!

# SUPERHEROES FOR TOMMY

**O**n Friday 17th of December, Ratoath College as part of their 'Superheroes for Tommy' Charity Event, walked a very special 5km to raise valuable funds for the very worthy charity CHFC (Children's Health Foundation Crumlin) and for a very brave little boy called Tommy. Tommy, who has just turned three, is Ratoath's very own local superhero as he fights leukemia in St John's ward in Crumlin Hospital.



One hundred Transitional Year students dressed as superheroes walked a Superhero 5km walk around Ratoath village at 9am on Friday morning. Members of Tommy's family, friends, members of the local community and an Garda Síochána all walked alongside the TY students in solidarity to show their collective resilience and strength for Tommy.



5th year students in Ratoath College, have also been very busy producing and selling their superhero themed 'Candy Canes of Kindness'. Santa and his elves delivered these Christmas treats to students and staff in the school on Friday, celebrating the school's sense of thoughtfulness and partnership.



Supervalu Ratoath also leaped on board this 'Superheroes for Tommy' initiative and facilitated a 'Superheroes at SuperValu' event on Friday where members of the local community came down and showed their wonderful support for their new local superhero, Tommy.





Former Ratoath College students and local superstars 'NOAH' also showed their support by providing superb entertainment on the day, which created a wonderfully engaging and charming atmosphere for everyone in the village of Ratoath.

All money raised from this 'Superheroes for Tommy' initiative will go to CHFC (Children's Health Foundation Crumlin) and to Tommy's family. To date, Ratoath College's 'Superheroes for Tommy' fundraiser has raised over €3500 for CHFC and over €1500 for Tommy's Family, which is an incredible testament to the management, staff and students in Ratoath College and the very generous members of the local community of Ratoath.





# TY BELFAST TRIP



In March, our wonderful TY group embarked on an exciting day trip to Belfast. Students were up at the crack of dawn for the bus trip up and there was much excitement amongst the group for the activities of the day, including a walking tour of the city, shopping in Victoria Square followed by a self-guided tour of the famous Crumlin Road Gaol. The TYs were accompanied by Ms. O'Neill, Ms. Savage, Ms. Smith, Mr. Conlan, Mr. Toner and Mr. Jordan, on a bright and sunny Monday afternoon where all students got to experience such a great city! Prior to arriving in Belfast, students made a quick pitstop at Applegreen to stock up on food for the day ahead.



As the buses rolled into Belfast, all TY students gathered together outside Belfast City Hall where the walking tour of the city began. Tour guides walked students around the city, where students heard all about the major historical events that took place during The Troubles, including the many bombings and shootings that the people suffered through, as well as the religious divisions that had a lasting impact on the city. Students also learned about Belfast's most famous landmarks and the history behind them, as well as some famous faces who came from the city. Students were equipped with headsets and using these, could hear their tour guides telling them all about the colourful history of Belfast City.



Following the walking tour, students gathered outside Victoria Square Shopping Centre and spent a couple of hours spending endless amounts of money to their heart's desires (mostly on Five Guys which went down a real hit with everyone). As for our six immaculate teachers (turned guides for the day), they enjoyed some quality pizza team, some much needed rocket fuel needed for the rest of the day, and after all that walking!



Some of the best buys of the day included some crazy-looking bucket hats and goggles. Some purchases were very questionable to say the least!

With a big lunch and shopping out of the way, the tour continued as students hopped back on the bus and made a short journey from the city centre to Crumlin Road Gaol. Students engaged in a self-guided tour of the old prison, and interacted with the different types of cells, wings, the prison yard as well as the Gaol's execution chamber! Students also took advantage of the short videos within some of the prison cells, where they listened to interviews from former prisoners detailing what life was like as an inmate inside Crumlin Road Gaol. Outside in the prison yard, students hopped up onto old armoured cars and helicopters used to arrest prisoners during The Troubles.

Following the end of our self-guided tour around Crumlin Road Gaol, the sun had set on the Belfast trip and it was time to head home. There were many sleepy heads on the bus journey back after a long day exploring the wonderful city of Belfast. Students were delighted with the trip and the day was enjoyed by all.

**Article by Mr.Conlon**





# TY SPIRITUAL RETREAT



**D**uring the month of March, Rangs Hayes, Smith, Conlon, Devine and Huban embarked on a walking retreat of the Botanical Gardens in Glasnevin. This was the perfect opportunity to take much needed time out from the busyness of school life in the beauty of nature and the warmth of the Spring sunshine. The retreat was organised to help Transition Year students mark the season of Lent, which is a time of spiritual self-reflection and renewal for Christians.

On the first stop of the day in Tolka Valley Park, students participated in an icebreaker activity. They were invited to share something about themselves that not too many others know in an effort to connect with their classmates on a deeper level. This was a lovely opportunity for me as the new Chaplain to bond with this

wonderful year group of students. We then made our way to the Church of our Lady of Dolours to share our prayerful intentions for loved ones. Looking onto the river that runs into the Botanical Gardens, students were asked to reflect on some of the biggest milestones in their lives so far. Reminded by the path of a river that continues to flow regardless of the resistance that it faces, students paid tribute to some of the people, places, events and things that made their own life path's much more meaningful and worthwhile to date.

Before entering the gates of the Botanical Gardens, students turned to Jesus and the journey of fasting and prayer that he made out in the desert. Thinking of the wisdom and the strength that the Saviour had gained from this trip, students were invited to make a journey of their own in the hope of re-focusing on what matters most in their lives.



One of the first gardens visited was the Native Beds, a limestone karst terrain that resembles the Burren in Co. Clare. It was pointed out that despite the harshness and roughness of this garden, there was still room for growth in the plants that blossomed out of the rocks there. TYs were reminded that even in the difficulties that we face in life, there is hope. They learned that the hard times that we endure and the mistakes that we make are not so bad because they present us with opportunities for personal growth. Students learned what it means to practice the pause in all sorts of challenging situations where they may be tempted to react in anger and frustration. In groups, students reflected on the positive words and phrases that will help them to see the hope in the darkness that they may face; that will enable them to endure and eventually overcome the personal obstacles that they will encounter along the more rocky terrain of life's path. It was so inspiring to hear TY students give more time and space to listening to their inner coach, which can help silence the more negative voice of self-doubt that we all hear at some stage in life. My heart was enlightened by words of motivation, kindness and compassion that these students shared, which they were encouraged to focus on for peace, comfort and reassurance on the more stormy days of life.

The next stop on retreat was a visit to one of the most unique structures in the Botanical Gardens - the Chain Tent. Built in the late 19th century, this is a pergola like feature surrounded by the most gorgeous wisteria plants. Inspired by the beauty of this feature of the gardens, students listened to a reflection from Danish storyteller Hans Christian Andersen. Reflecting on the tale of the Ugly Duckling, the class groups were encouraged to give more headspace to recognising and appreciating just how wonderful each of them truly are. They were reminded that their self-image should not come from comparisons with others or from unrealistic expectations set by influencers. They learned that their true beauty and spirit lies in their often hidden and unseen gifts and talents.





Through journaling, students wrote about their positive self-beliefs, in celebration of how fantastic they are. And what a truly gifted group of TY students we have in Ra-toath. I am super proud of each of them for all that they do in their lives to put these gifts to good use each day.

After learning about the logic and wisdom that the Greek philosopher Socrates applied to big questions about justice and morality, students were asked to consider a time in their lives that they were not most proud of. They revisited these experiences and considered what they would do differently if faced with the particular challenge again. This was a space for students to be more aware of the lessons that are to be learnt from the mistakes that we make in life. TYs were encouraged to apply this wisdom to future difficulties that we may come up against.

A guided meditation in the Rose Garden allowed students to be more mindfully present in this particular moment of their retreat, a skill that they can use to help relax and distress more when needed. Students looked ahead to their future. Gathered around the sundial sculpture, they set long term goals for the future and reflected on the steps that they will take to achieve these goals.

A special thanks to our wonderful bakers and to all students for their contributions to our group picnics, which were absolutely delicious.

On our return to school, we gathered for a prayer service to help us contemplate what we learned about ourselves on retreat. The parable of the Prodigal Son and a modern video reflection on this highlighted for students the importance of letting go of that which can weigh us down in life so can be live more happily and peacefully in our own skin. Reflections on the golden rule from different faiths allowed us to remember that it is our kind words and actions that is most sacred in life.

Each TY student considered an issue that weighs heavily on their mind and heart in life. Looking back on the personal journey that they had undertaken, they came up with practical suggestions as to the actions that they can take each day to address that issue and bring about more hopeful and everlasting change in their lives.

A heartfelt thanks to management, teachers, SNAs and students who made this retreat special.

### Article by Mr Gueret





# Shaolin Buddhist Temple

In February the TY students visited the Shaolin Buddhist Temple in Slane, Co. Meath as part of their New World Studies module. To paraphrase a famous logic example, all Shaolin monks are Buddhist monks, but not all Buddhist monks are Shaolin monks. Shaolin monks are warrior monks who live in the Shaolin Monastery in Henan Province, China. They are kung fu-fighting monks whose discipline is rooted in the Mahayana Buddhist tradition.

Our TYs were lucky enough to meet some Shaolin monks down the road from them at the Shaolin Buddhist Temple in Slane. During their visit the students learned about Kung Fu and they had the opportunity to try some Tai Chi and Dragon dancing. The day finished with some meditation and mindfulness. A great day was had by all.

**Article by Flatley**



## Daffodil Day

On the 25th of March our TY students crafted and created origami flowers to mark Daffodil Day in the college. Together 118 students each made an origami flower to support loved ones, cancer patients and families across the country. On this day we remember especially Ms. O'Sullivan. Funds raised on Daffodil Day go towards the development of life-changing cancer research as well as providing vital cancer support services to patients and their families, ensuring nobody has to go through cancer alone.

# TY Safeguarding Garda Talks



**T**ransition Year students were lucky enough to have Garda Karen from Ashbourne Garda Station come in and talk to TYs about safeguarding and protecting themselves.

Garda Karen taught the Ty girls about the women who have experienced abuse and assault and how the statistics showed that it was carried out by 99% of men. She taught us tips to keep yourself safe when out alone or with friends at night.

Make sure your phone is always charged.  
Always tell somebody where you're going.  
Never go anywhere alone.  
Try to get someone to walk you home.  
Leave your location on for trusted friends.  
Don't leave your drinks unattended.

If you ever find yourself in an uncomfortable situation, Garda Karen told us to always trust your gut and don't be afraid to walk away and say no, this also goes for consent. If you ever feel unsafe, feel free to contact Ashbourne Garda station (01) 801 0600.

Garda Karen then spoke to the boys about how to make woman feel safer and how to help them if they're in an uncomfortable situation.

If a girl you know is walking home alone, walk with her and drop her to her door.  
If you see a girl in an uncomfortable situation go up to her and ask if she's ok.  
Don't leave a girl on her own.

**Article by Katie Sullivan, Sivahn Portelas  
and Lauren Walsh**





# LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

**T**his years TY's we're lucky enough to get involved in a film production workshop. The workshop showed us behind the scenes of what a film production is like. We were taught about film lighting and how it effects the mood of a scene, the camera angles being used and the importance of less is more when it comes to acting.

The TYs came up with a scene idea and started filming. Students were chosen as actors, producers, directors, lighting and sound crew and all of us had to work as a collective in order to produce the short scene.

It was an interesting and educational workshop as we got to see how complicated filming and acting actually is, in order to properly film a scene everyone has to be on the same page and cooperating otherwise it won't work.

Overall the workshop was enjoyable and it was a highlight of our TY experience.

**Article by Sophie Greene  
and Sivahn Portelas**



# CLIMB



## WITH CHARLIE BIRD

**O**n Friday the 1st of April 2022 TY students and teachers walked in spirit with Charlie Bird at Fairyhouse Racecourse. Back when Ratoath College was located at Fairyhouse Racecourse we had a visitor's programme and Charlie came to meet the students and staff. He spoke to the school community. We will always remember Charlie's visit and we wanted to support him with his fundraiser.



Charlie was diagnosis motor neurone disease earlier in the year. This was devastating but he has been overwhelmed by the support received from the general public, it's been a huge source of strength to him and his family. Charlie's goal was to use the outpouring of support to help other people suffering with a terminal illness, and those suffering from thoughts of suicide and self-harm.

In an act of solidarity we created a fundraiser page in Ratoath. The support from the community was so

appreciated. We raised €2,000 for Pieta House and motor neurone disease. Every contribution was a huge help.

On Saturday, April 2nd Charlie climbed Croagh Patrick in Co.Mayo. The whole country got behind Charlie and supported him. People from all over came to Mayo to climb with Charlie, while others climbed mountains and walked in spirit with Charlie in their local area. To date over € 2,423,080.67 has been raised across the country for Pieta House and motor neurone disease Ireland.



**My hope is that people all over Ireland, indeed all over the world will get behind me to show support and solidarity with the thousands of people who climb mountains every day due to their physical and mental health challenges.**

**- Charlie**



# ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE

In the lead up to the Climb with Charlie our TY students came up with a great idea to help raise awareness and encourage people in the community to donate. Over the course of 30 days leading up to the Climb with Charlie, staff and students took part in an ice bucket challenge. There were many highlights and stand out moments, from Ms.McCormack and Ms.Conaty getting soaked by a digger, Mr.McKenna switching off the light before the bucket dropped and Mr.O'Neill mistaking the 'ice' bucket for a 'nice' bucket.

These and many more memorable moments brought us to the final count down, the big show.... Senior management! It's not every day you see Mr.McCathy in his flippers and shower cap. A massive thank you and appreciation to all these who took part and supported this wonderful cause.





# TY Music Trip



**O**n the 28th of April we went to Dublin city centre for our music trip. We went to the rock and roll museum where we got a guided tour of the recording studios where the likes of U2, Thin Lizzy, Michael Jackson, and more have recorded. We learned the history of the famous musicians who have passed through there.

We got to see Michael Jackson's jacket that he wore on his last tour with Jackson 5 and his keyboard. We also got to see a recording desk worth over €1.3 million as there is only five left in the world!

After, we went to the button factory which is above the recording studios. This is a venue that loads of successful artists have performed so it was really amazing to see.

We then went to see the play "The Curious Incident of The Dog in The Night" in the Bord Gais energy theatre which had a great storyline and message behind it.

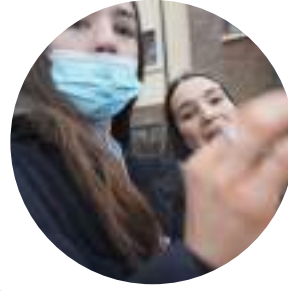
The trip was a great experience and everyone really enjoyed learning more about Irish music and how talented our country really is.



**Article by Saoirse Lynch**



# TY SUPERHEROES



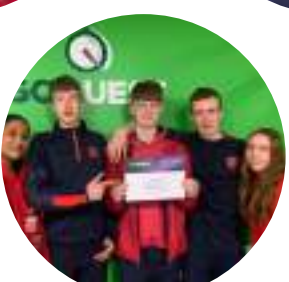


# CLASS OF 2022



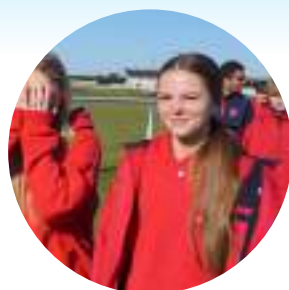


# TY SUPERHEROES





# CLASS OF 2022



# URGENT AID

Over the past number of weeks, we have seen media coverage of horrific violence, committed across Ukraine by an invading force. This war has brought horrendous suffering to the people of this sovereign nation. Families have been separated, over three & a half million people have fled their homes to seek refuge in other countries, while others have remained behind in the hope of defending their country.

Here, in Ratoath College, we have come together as a school community in taking action to make a real difference with our 'Collection for Ukraine' initiative. For two weeks in March, each morning, management, teachers, SNAs, students, staff and their families have been making their way into our school building with essential items for donation to the people of Ukraine. Students from Ratoath College helped Ms Hynes to carefully package and secure all our essential items into different boxes including baby formula boxes, medical supplies boxes, tinned food boxes and dried food boxes etc.



# FOR UKRAINE







On Friday morning of March 25th, A1 Transport arrived to our school with a huge cargo truck. These boxes were carefully placed into this impressive truck by our very willing and able 5th year and transition year students in record time.

Also, on Friday morning, Ratoath College took time to pause and reflect as a school, in a minute of silence for the people of Ukraine. We did this to show that those who are silenced by war and persecution are never from our hearts and minds. During this moment of silence, two candles of the Ukrainian colours of blue and yellow were lit by our school Chaplin Mr Gueret, in the hope that this war will end and peace will come to Ukraine. Our 5th year student, Sarah Gallagher sang 'Imagine' by John Lennon very beautifully, to remind us of our hope that there will one day be a world where there is peace and acceptance for all.



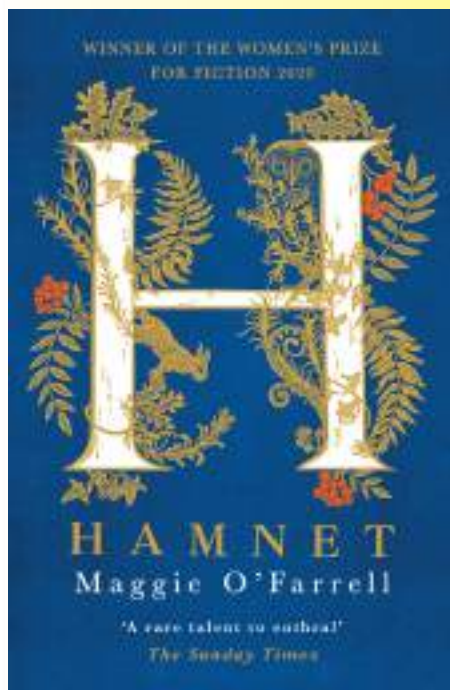
In such a time of immense tragedy and heartbreak, we have expressed our thoughtfulness and shown our solidarity for those impacted by this war in both our words and our actions. The kindness and generosity of spirit here in Ratoath College will bring the most crucial comfort and relief to those whose basic necessities have been stripped from them because of this war. Our message in Ratoath College is 'We Pray for Peace'.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## **Hamnet** **by Maggie O'Farrell**

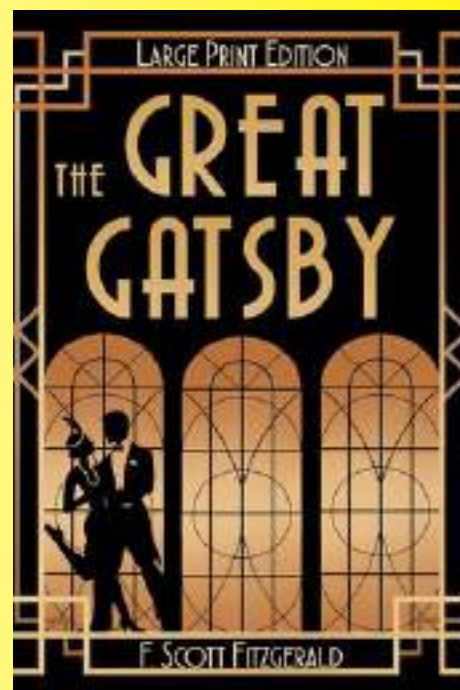
Shakespeare fans, listen up! This book tells the compelling story surrounding the family of arguably the most famous storyteller in history- William Shakespeare. What creates such a gripping story, is how the playwright himself, is never exclusively referred to by name, focusing all attention on his children- Hamnet, Judith and Susanna- along with his wife, Agnes. The story itself deals with grief and loss as a central theme which, accompanied by beautiful storytelling from O'Farrell, creates an emotional yet beautiful read! The book itself was the worthy winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2020 and was an instant five stars for me!



## **The Great Gatsby** **by Scott F. Fitzgerald**

The Great Gatsby is an absolutely timeless classic novel. Set during the 'Roaring Twenties' in New York, this story follows the tragic life of Jay Gatsby, a self-made yet remarkable millionaire.

It is told from the point of view of his new friend, Nick Carraway, and is a truly brilliant love story that makes striking comments on society, and human behaviour. The story is one of the most famous pieces of literature in history (for a good reason) and I highly recommend that everyone read it at least once in their life!



## **All The Light We Cannot See** **by Anthony Doerr**

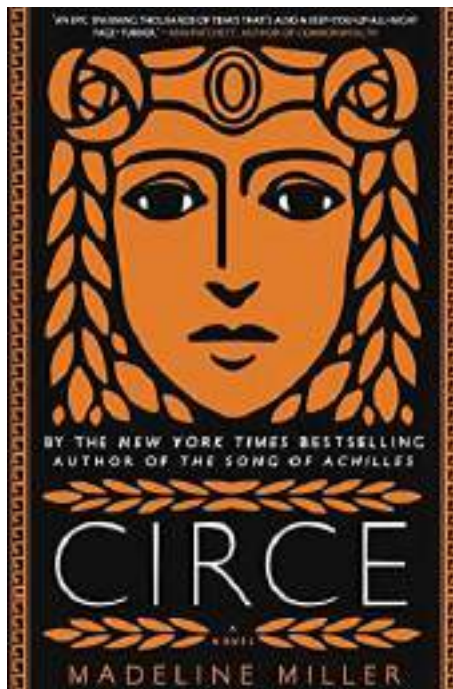
This beautiful piece of historical fiction is perfect for any and all of those interested in the Second World War. It follows the dual perspective of a blind girl living in France, and a remarkable German soldier, highlighting the effect of war on the lives of the many. What makes this story so enthralling, in my opinion, is how the lives of these characters are linked, through loss, destruction and tragedy. It is an absolutely unforgettable read that had a personally profound impact on me and I will never stop recommending it for that reason!





**Circe**  
by Madeline Miller

This book is for any classics students or fans of Greek mythology! It is a brilliant adaptation of a number of Greek myths, most notably, The Odyssey. The story follows the life of the witch 'Circe' as she discovers her powers, only before being banished to an abandoned island by her own father- Helios. While the plot tells fantastical story of betrayal, power and suffering, it is first and foremost the story of one woman's life through pain, love, motherhood and heartache, that makes it difficult to put down. Highly recommend!



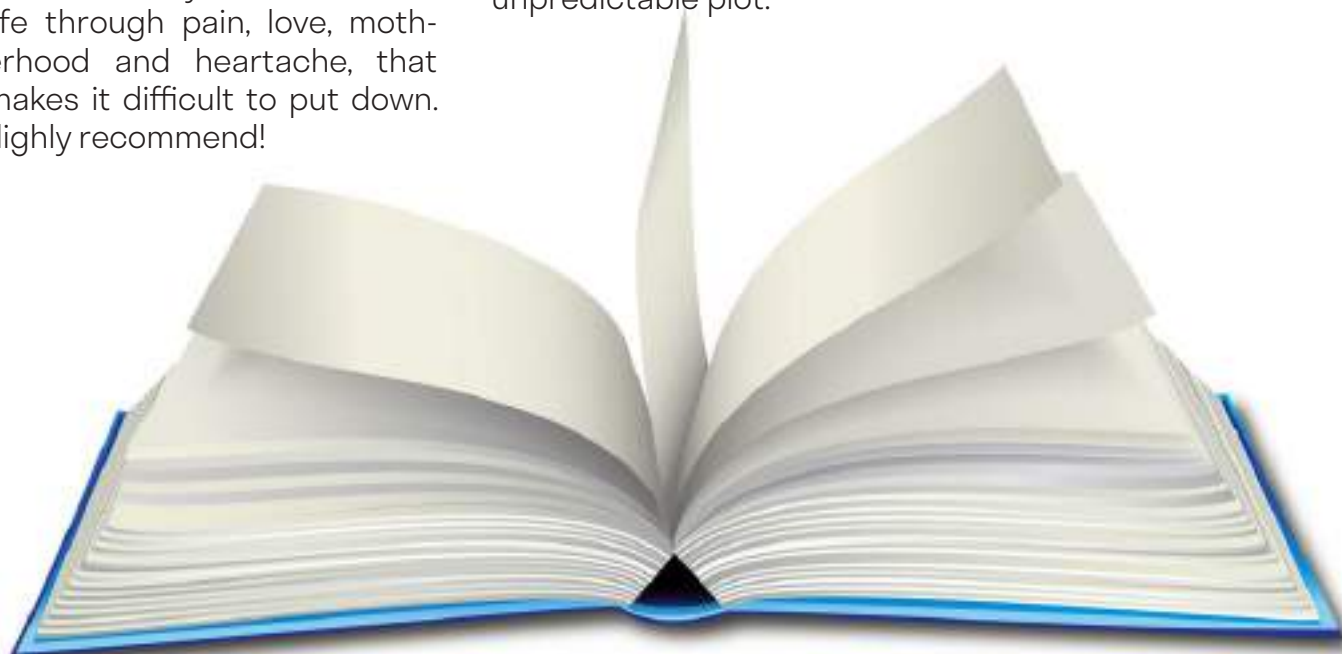
**The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo**  
by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Despite having read this book many months ago, The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo lasts to be my favourite book of all time. It takes the reader on a mesmerising journey of the life of the famed actress, Evelyn Hugo, through her rise to old Hollywood stardom. It features complex, diverse and heavily nuanced characters that add beautifully to the page-turning, unpredictable plot.

Its descriptive commentary on the life and struggles of women and minorities during such a time period and place makes a truly emotional and gripping read. I wholeheartedly envy everyone who gets to read this book for the first time and can never recommend it enough!



**Book Recommendations**  
by Rachel Conway



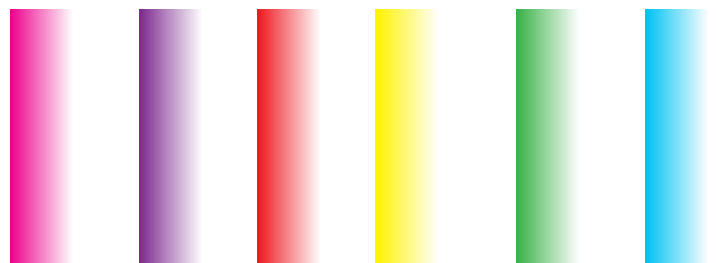
# EUROPE



## ITALIAN VISITORS

To mark Europe Day 2022, TY students were treated to a visit from Marco Gioacchini, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute in Dublin, and Salvo Cacciato, Chair of the Association of Teachers of Italian in Ireland and also working with Languages Connect which promotes language learning in Ireland. Both Mr. Gioacchini and Mr/ Cacciato spoke to students about their own experiences of languages in the EU and also the opportunities that are available to students with in the EU regards work, study experiences outside of Ireland and the joy and fun of learning about other languages and cultures! The tales of surviving in foreign countries with just a smattering of the local language and then become fluent through hard work, a positive attitude and not to mention some socialising with the locals (!) will hopefully inspire our students to look out for and experience some of the fantastic opportunities the EU has to offer. Grazie Signori!

# DAY





# ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE TO CELEBRATE RATOATH COLLEGE



Our Principle, Mr. Meehan, and Mr. Delaney from the Italian Department were very proud to take three of our students from Ratoath College to celebrate their success in a national tournament for students of Italian on 28th April. Emily Ellison (1 Rang McGarron) and Natalia Coman (1 Rang Davis) received 2nd place in the 1st Year category for their interview with Leonardo Da Vinci and Charlie O'Brien (3 Rang Canny) was awarded 3rd place for his wonderful presentation on the Italian capital Rome. The ceremony took place at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Fitzwilliam Square in Dublin and there were students of Italian from schools from all over Ireland. We enjoyed a lively ceremony and got a taster of all of the entries as well as some lovely Italian food afterwards. Well done to all of our students who entered the competition and hopefully we can repeat our success again in 2023. Congratulazioni a Charlie, Emily e Natalia e anche a tutti nostri studenti d'italiano meravigliosi!



# EUROPE DAY

# CELEBRATIONS

To celebrate Europe day on the 9th of May-6th year students, 2nd year CSPE students, student council members and cinniri had the privilege of meeting with Helen McEntee (Minister for Justice), Thomas Byrne (Minister of State Affairs), Finnish ambassador Raili Lahnalampi and Danish ambassador Uffe A. Balslev.

Firstly, in the morning we spoke with Helen and Raili, and they brought to light some of problems we can improve on in Ireland and Europe. Helen described her role as Minister of Justice and how the courts of Ireland and the EU protect citizens. We were able to voice our own opinions on tackling climate change and other social problems such as child protection and equality. They spoke about what it means to be a European citizen and all of the benefits that young people receive from the EU. Raili also gave a very interesting account of her long journey to become an ambassador. We enjoyed some Finnish chocolate and good conversation after the discussion.

Later on, Thomas and Uffe spoke to us briefly about the current political events and its effect on Ireland in the future, and also about the economic growth of both Denmark and Ireland with an informative visual of the increase of our GDP per capita since the two countries joined the EU. Thomas also emphasized the importance of learning a foreign language for European citizens, and how it can not only open new opportunities in the workforce, but also bring us closer together as EU citizens.

Overall, the discussions were very insightful and each speaker was down to earth and approachable. We feel it was a brilliant way to celebrate Europe and the 50th year of Ireland's participation in the EU.

**Article by Sorcha Broe-Brady and Sarah Mangan**





## A message from 1st year Moltóir, Ms. Casey

To my wonderful First Years,

Where do I even start when reflecting over the last year with you guys. It only seems like yesterday when we were all stood outside of the school by the front steps as you waited nervously to see what Rang you were going to be in, who your Caomhnóir was going to be and most importantly, were you going to be with your friends from primary school. When I walk through the corridors and see you with your classmates or when I see you outside at break times with old friends and new friends, it is hard to believe that many of you were complete strangers to each other a few months ago and now, you look like the perfect little family who have gelled so well together.

You all have achieved so much this year academically, culturally, personally and also on the sporting front and you have truly embraced the spirit of Ratoath College. Well done to those of you have joined a new club, activity or sport. These are the experiences and memories that you will remember for many years to come and I would encourage you to continue with these activities and for those of you who haven't joined a group yet, it is never too late!

Finally, I would like to thank your amazing Caomhnóirí for all their hard work this year. It has been tough at times but they have kept the ship afloat and supported you and I so much, and we are lucky to have them in our corner.



Wishing you all a happy and safe summer and I look forward to welcoming you back into 2nd Year in September.

*Ciara Casey*  
1st year Moltóir



# ***RANG BRUCE***



# ***RANG DAVIS***





# ***RANG GILNA***



# ***RANG JACKSON***





# ***RANG LEIGHBURN***



# ***RANG MCAULEY***





# ***RANG McCABE***



# ***RANG McGARRON***





## A message from 2nd year Moltóir, Ms. Donnellan

What a whirlwind of a year 2nd year has been! It has been full of excitement, progress, learning and a myriad of different activities.

I have enjoyed getting to know you all, you make my day more enjoyable and I am very proud of your vast array of talents, activities and achievements.

As we come to the end of this school year we look back, after many months of uncertainties, isolating and with the completion of topics as well as CBAs, It has been wonderful to see you grow and mature; develop friendships; share fun and laughter; support each other in tough times and create lasting memories. As we keep impressing upon you, you are a year group with tremendous potential, I look forward to a fine set of Junior Cycle results, more fantastic CBAs and more achievements in all the activities you pursue.

Well done to all who have worked hard this year, stayed on top of their revision and homework. For those who are not reaching their potential, it's time to set some new school year resolutions so that 3rd year can be more successful for you. We are moving forward with a sense of purpose, we look forward to the major and minor events and we are ready to embrace all challenges head on, making sure that we always give it our best.



I would like to thank the superb 2nd year Caomhnóirí. You are very lucky to have such supportive people who work tirelessly looking after your welfare and helping you to achieve. They always have your best interests at heart. I would like to extend my thanks to Ms. Hynes as well for her outstanding contribution to the 2nd year team.

A special word of thanks to your parents who help, encourage and support you along the way.

We hope you all have a happy, safe and fun summer. We look forward to welcoming you all back as 3rd years in Ratoath College at the end of August.

Ádh mór, Grá mór,

*Rita Donnellan*  
2nd year Moltóir

# ***RANG CONLON***



# ***RANG FLYNN***





# ***RANG HYNES / CLERKIN***



# ***RANG McCORMACK***





# ***RANG O'HANLON***



# ***RANG O'NEILL***





# ***RANG SMYTH***



# ***RANG TOHER***



## A message from 3rd year Moltóir, Mr. Mooney

As we approach the end of the year and look back over the last three years in Ratoath College, I would like to congratulate each and every one of you on a fantastic journey. It seems like only yesterday when you all sat in the hall waiting eagerly to commence your secondary school journey and here you are today preparing for your Junior Cycle exams.

It has been our privilege to work with you all. We are so proud of the fine young men and women you have grown into. You have faced many difficult challenges over secondary school life. However, you remained strong, positive and supportive of one another. You have created many great memories and you should be very proud of yourselves.

To those of progressing to 5th Year, I am really looking forward to working with you as you embark on the next chapter in your life. To those of you progressing to Transition Year, we will miss you and wish you the very best.

To your parents and guardians, we owe a great debt of thanks. Their constant guidance and support have been a key driver in your growth, development and achievement over the last three years. Both myself and the 3rd Year team would like to express our thanks to your parents and guardians for supporting us over the last three years.

I would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to your wonderful caomhnoiri. Their commitment, dedication and care has been unwavering to each and every one of you. Thank you.



With regards your upcoming Junior Cycle exams, all we can do is wish you the very best of luck. Facing a state exam will be a challenge, but the hard work and resilience you have shown over the last three years will stand to you. Please continue to support and be there for one another.

You are a fantastic group of young people and it has been a pleasure to work with you. Enjoy the summer and we will see you as a wonderful group of senior cycle students.

Thank you.

*Andrew Mooney*  
3rd year Moltóir



# ***RANG CANNY***



# ***RANG GERRARD***





# ***RANG GILMARTIN***



# ***RANG LYYYLE***





# ***RANG McMENAMIN***



# ***RANG MONERAWELA***



# *RANG O'NEILL*



**... you remained strong, positive and supportive of one another. You have created many great memories and you should be very proud of yourselves.**





## A message from TY Moltóir, Ms.O'Neill

What a world wind of a year...

Unlike the other Moltóir our journey began a little different. I begin this academic year as a caomhóir to Rang S.O'Neill. I had the pleasure of looking after you each day and chatting with you during assembly each morning. I was sad to let you go, but I knew you would be in excellent care with Ms. Conlon.

So, in January of this year I was approached by Mr. Meehan. He asked me to step up into a new role as TY Moltóir. I was honoured and accepted. I was ready to embrace the challenge.

It has been extraordinarily busy year, with activities, trips, guest speakers, work experience, fundraisers, and extra-curricular events. You have been a fantastic year group to work with. You have embraced new challenges, stepped outside of your comfort zones, used your voice for the good of others, though fundraising and Pay It Forward projects. To me you are all phenomenal young individuals. Each one of you with your goals and aspirations can achieve whatever you put your mind to. It has been my honour and privilege to be your Moltóir over the last 5 months. You have certainly kept me on my toes. But most importantly you have made my year. I will miss the fun in the mornings, checking uniforms and making sure we all know that school starts at 8:40am.

This year would not have been as eventful or successful if it were not for the lady who makes sure the transition year program is a well-oiled machine... the wonderful Ms. Savage.



I want to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Savage for her commitment to the TY program and the opportunity's she has created for all of you in TY this year. On a personal note I would like to thank her for the support and guidance she has provided to me as your Moltóir.

Finally, behind ever great year group is a magnificent team of caomhnóiri. You're so lucky to have a team that go above and beyond for you daily. A massive heartfelt thank you to Ms. Smith, Ms. Conlon, Ms. Huban, Ms. Daly, Mr. Devine and Ms. Hayes. They possess superpowers and abilities to support and look after your best interests every day.

As you move into 5th year you will face new challenges and new opportunities. Remember to embrace the unknown and take that next step forward.

On behalf the TY team and myself we wish you and your families health and happiness. Enjoy your summer. Live your best life.

*Sarah O'Neill*  
TY Moltóir

# ***RANG CONLON***



# ***RANG SMITH***





# ***RANG HAYES***



# ***RANG HUBAN***



# *RANG DALY / DEVINE*



**To me you are all phenomenal young individuals. Each one of you with your goals and aspirations can achieve whatever you put your mind to.**





## A message from TY and LCA Programme Coordinator, Ms. Savage

### TY Programme

The Transition Year (TY) programme is a standalone one-year programme for students that bridges the gap between junior and senior cycle. TY is an opportunity for students to take a slip road off the busy highway of exams, to study and experience a different kind of roadmap. Through the many workshops TY students have participated in this year, they have been agents of improv, flexed their acting muscles, tested their skills as film makers, beaten the drums with the drummers of drum-adore, and even tried their hands at the ukulele.

All TYs had an opportunity to experience numerous significant learning days and trips. These became a feature of the TY experience once Covid restrictions were lifted. They have travelled the length and breadth of the country with visits to Monaghan, Belfast, Wicklow, Meath, Dublin, Athlone where they have visited the historic sights of Belfast, walked in the footsteps of our poets and rock stars, experienced farming life and traditions to name but a few.

The TY timetable is a rotating timetable which sees the year split into two sessions. Core subjects such as English, Irish and Maths are still a feature on the TY timetable, but students also have an opportunity to experience TY specific subjects such as film studies, Gaisce (The President's Award) and Pay It Forward (PIF)

PIF is a module which encourages students to participate in projects that reach out to the local and national community helping others in ways great and small. Some of our projects this year have included a whole



a whole school participation in the collection and preparation of hampers for St. Vincent De Paul during their national Christmas hamper campaign.

We participated in the Climb with Charlie walk where our TY students walked in solidarity with Charlie Bird. In 2005 reporter Charlie Bird visited Ratoath College when our premises overlooked the racecourse in Fairyhouse. The TY students made a warm and wonderful contribution to the national Climb with Charlie walk on April 1st when they walked the racecourse in Fairyhouse in solidarity with Charlie. A band of brave staff and TY students also participated in an ice bucket challenge raising €1,650 in aid of the two fantastic Climb with Charlie causes, Motor Neurone Disease Ireland & Pieta House.

TY students also participated in the Superheroes for Tommy campaign which was a campaign close to all of our hearts. Tommy is the son of one of our SNAs. On Friday December 17th staff and TY students donned their superhero costumes and took to the footpaths of Ratoath to raise money for Crumlin Hospital. We were delighted to have Tommy's family and friends walk with us on the day.

Work Experience is another feature of the TY experience and despite the restrictions and limitations Covid brought this year, our TYs still managed to experience the world of work. Over 3 work experience blocks our TY students dabbled in retail, trades, office admin, hotel and catering to name but a few.

As we come to the end of what has been a challenging year, it is with much hope for the future that I wish the fantastic TY class of 2022/23 the very best of luck for the future. It has been my joy and pleasure to coordinate the programme with such a fantastic bunch of TY students. It has been wonderful to watch you embrace the spirit of TY and stretch your wings as you delve into the many opportunities that came your way.

## LCA Programme

It has been my pleasure to work with rang Conaty this year, a truly fantastic group of 5th year students who have fully embraced the challenges and successes of the Leaving Cert Applied (LCA) programme. LCA is a stand alone 2 year Leaving Cert programme which offers students the opportunity to achieve at senior cycle through continuous assessment and final examinations.

This year has been a very busy year for rang Conaty. They have had 3 task interviews. Their General Ed task was in the field of Leisure and Recreation, their Vocational Prep task was a career investigation and the Vocational Ed task was a project in the subject areas of Engineering or Childcare. All students presented excellent projects and tasks and performed brilliantly in their interviews.

A key feature of the LCA programme is work experience. This works in conjunction with the VPG

programme. We were delighted to hear from rang Conaty about the successes and challenges of these work experience modules.

Unique to the LCA programme is a final exam in German which takes place in June of 5th year, this year rang Conaty will sit their German exam on Thursday June 9th at 2pm, we wish them all the very best of luck.

Another feature of the LCA programme are day trips and workshops. Rang Conaty demonstrated their acting skills when actor George McMahon facilitated a drama workshop back in December in conjunction with the drama module. School of Improv also facilitated a workshop on improv and stand up comedy.

Rang Conaty have been on 3 trips this year, firstly visiting Go-Quest in Carrickmines with Ms. Conaty and Ms. Wilson for an afternoon of problem solving in their many escape rooms. This was followed by a careers trip with Ms. Grogan to visit Technical University Dublin (TUD) and Dunboyne College of Further Education (DCFE) where they received a tour of the campus and engaged with a liaison officer regarding courses on offer as well as entry routes into the institute itself. Finally, they joined Mr. Gueret our school chaplain for a day of reflection in the Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin when they went on retreat, a lovely way to wrap up what has been a very busy year.

In September 2022, we look forward to once again working with rang Conaty as they embark on year two of their LCA programme. They will have an opportunity to share their wisdom and experience of LCA with the new 5th year class who will begin their LCA journey.

*Aisling Savage*  
Programme Coordinator



## A message from 5th year Moltóir, Mr.Horan

It has been a very fast few months, with a lot packed in, since last August.

Fifth year is always a huge challenge; new class groups, new subjects, new friend groups and even a new building. Each one of you have really stepped up to the mark and have taken the challenge of Leaving Certificate full on. I know most of you have been working diligently all year and have shown great maturity approaching the challenge of your studies.

You are an excellent group of talented, mindful, and caring young men and women and have always remained positive and supportive towards each other when it was needed the most. Your behaviour is exemplary, and you will be great role models and leaders to the rest of our school next year.

I want to say a huge thanks to your amazing Caomhnoirí who always have your best interests at heart and keep a watchful eye out for you. They have been hugely supportive both in class but also behind the scene, all on your behalf. I hope you have a lovely relaxing break over the summer but do remember to devote some of that time to revision. We look forward to seeing you all in August for your final year!



*Martin Horan*  
5th year Moltóir

# ***RANG CONATY***



# ***RANG DELANY***





# ***RANG JORDAN***



# ***RANG MARTIN***





# ***RANG O'DWYER***



# ***RANG O'SULLIVAN***





# ***RANG TONER***



# ***RANG WALSHE***



# CLASSES OF 2022



# AUTHERAPHS

# GLASS OF 2022



# STANDARDIZATION



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