

— SIXTY-SIX —

The Ratoath College Yearbook



2022/2023

F Á I L T E

Where does the time go?

It's hard to believe we are at the end of another school year.

This is the 18th Edition of the school yearbook, one that has been filled with an abundance of memories of a very busy, creative and successful year in Ratoath College. We never cease to be amazed by the wealth and richness of the talent in our school and as ever we are extremely proud of all the achievements of our students both inside and outside of college.

As the end of another academic year approaches, we can look back with pride on all that we have achieved this past year. This yearbook is a wonderful record of the huge variety of exciting and interesting activities that take place in Ratoath College.

It's been a year full of learning, fun and friendships, a year in which our students have had the best possible opportunities to demonstrate and excel in their wide array of talents. We have had so many activities and student led initiatives throughout the year. Not a week goes by when we weren't busy taking part in a wide variety of sporting, cultural, environmental or academic endeavours. We are immensely proud of all your efforts.

We are extremely lucky in Ratoath College to have so many committed people working to ensure our students have the best possible opportunities for success. We want to say a particular thanks to our Parents Association and to our Board of Management who give so willingly of their time for our school.

In Ratoath College, we are very fortunate to have a dedicated, caring and hardworking team of teaching professionals who work together to ensure that every student has the best educational experience possible. We

want to sincerely thank our teachers for their commitment and for the care and time that they give to our students both academically and through the vast array of extra curricular activities they facilitate throughout the year.

We want to sincerely thank our team of amazing SNA's, who have gone above and beyond the call of duty every single day to ensure the needs of all our students are being met and that all students in our College have full access to the education they are entitled to.

We want to thank all of our Admin staff in the office and our caretakers and our cleaners, who work so hard every day to make sure our school is ready for us and that everything runs smoothly on a daily basis. Often working behind the scenes, without their hard work, commitment and dedication to the college we simply couldn't run our school.

A very big thank you needs to go to Ms. O'Neill and her Yearbook team who have done an excellent job to produce a yearbook of the highest of standards. We are sure you will agree they have done a wonderful job. This publication is a wonderful endorsement of our school and all we achieve, well done everyone.

Finally, we would like to wish all those sitting exams in June the very best of luck and every success in the future.

Have a wonderful summer.

Mr. Meehan

Principal

Mr. Connolly

Deputy Principal

Ms. Kelly

Deputy Principal

Mr. McCarthy

Deputy Principal



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GRADU CLASS OF 2023

MESSAGE FROM MS. O'TOOLE

Dear Class of 2023,

As I sit to write this piece, I cannot believe that your journey at secondary school draws to a close - it feels so recently that I was Caomhnóir to some of you in first year! I have been privileged to be your Moltóir for the final stage of your journey in Ratoath College. It has been my pleasure to have worked with you all since January. I have most enjoyed getting to know you all in recent months and I am so proud of everything that you have already achieved.

Your commitment and perseverance with your schoolwork throughout your time at school has shown your strength of character and you really should be proud of yourself for all your efforts. You have been incredible role models for the younger students at the school and have left a legacy in terms of academics, sports, musical talents, artistic flairs, and many other areas of school life.

It has been lovely to see you grow and mature into such pleasant and polite young adults. I hope that the friendships you have made throughout your school days will last long into adulthood, sharing many fond memories and good times together.

JATING

I would like to thank your Cao-mhnóirí for all the work they put in to look after you all. The support they have shown you on an educational level and personal level has been amazing.

I hope you look back on your time at school with fond memories – you will be missed by your teachers and staff. I wish you the very best of luck for your exams in June and hope you have a wonderful summer after a hectic year. All the best for your onwards journey in September!

Aisling O'Toole
Moltóir, Class of 2023



Focal ó na hArd-Chinnirí

A final word from your Ard Chinniri. We just wanted to say a massive congratulations to every student who has made it to the end of the year, that's an achievement in itself. I promised myself I wouldn't talk about Covid in this article, but here we are on the third line. This year in school is the closest we have been back to normality since the arrival of covid 19, and right from the beginning of the year we could see how much it meant to be back in this normal environment. From the get-go, the entire school dove right back into their work, and we want to personally commend each and every student for the work that that put in.

To Ms Hynes, thank you for making this experience as Ard Chinnirí all the more wonderful. Where would we have been without your constant encouragement, and your strive for myself and Kate to be the best versions of ourselves. Without a doubt you have had a massive influence on the Cinnire team, affecting our lives in a positive manner both inside and outside of school. We want to wish you a massive thank you from the entire Cinnire team (even if you did talk about your kids to us an excessive amount). Whether it was making sure every Cinnire was included in a project, or celebrating over 30 birthdays, your care for us was second to none.



Becoming Ard Chinnire is a bit like winning the Europa league. Sure, achieving this goal is great, and should be celebrated, but it is what you achieve after this victory that will be celebrated. From the minute the blazer with larger-than-life shoulder pads was placed upon me, I knew I had to represent my year group to the best of my ability. A key role of the Cinnire team this year was the development of sustainability in Ratoath College, and at the time of writing this article the green schools team is in the Eco Dens Semi Finals, with the Keep it Green project. My favourite thing about being Ard Chinnire is the amount of people it allowed us to meet and talk to and answer any questions they might have. The countless events that Kate and I took part in allowed us to meet such a wide array of vastly different, yet all interesting individuals.

To the Cinnire team, thank you for utmost effort you put into any and every project presented. Many hands make light work, so when you have 30 pairs of hands its pretty easy to manage any task, regardless of how daunting it may seem. To the Leas Ard Chinnire, Dara Kavanagh and Laura Kelly, we couldn't have done any of this without you. I still struggle to understand how Laura Kelly can be the most organised, time efficient person I know, yet still have the time to greet every student in the hallways. Sometimes I wonder whether your face is stuck in a permanent smile, or if you are just the most positive person I know. Dara, I've never met someone who has such an equal amount of both ingenious and idiotic ideas. You were always up for any task, be it dressing up in a green morph suit or monster, and your humour gave the cinnire team a sense of approachability like no other.

To the staff of Ratoath College, thank you for the vital part you play in our journey to becoming adults. To every single teacher I've ever had, be it a sub for a class or someone like Mr Leonard, who has been trying his best to teach me accounting and business since third year. Thank you for shaping me into the person that I am today!

To Mr Horan, our pervious Moltoir, and to Ms O Toole, who so effortlessly took over his position. Thank you so much for the hours and hours of work you have put in the make events for us sixth years run so smoothly, it is so evidently clear that you have our best interests at heart.

To Godfrey, John, and Robert, the most pleasant trio of individuals in the whole school. Treating every student as if they we an adult built self confidence in countless students in the school, myself included. I always knew that when I passed by any of you in the corridors, I would always be greeted by a smile. Without you, the school would be nothing, and the sheer amount of work you do each and every day to uphold the school is immensely appreciated.

To the management team, thank you for making us so welcome immediately after being appointed as Ard Chinniri,, thank you for valuing and taking in any feedback myself and Kate had from the students. I wish I could say I am devastated as I type up my last official Ard Chinirre speech up, but it's almost the opposite. The las year as Ard Chinnire has been some of myself and Kates favourite memories from our time in school. Probably the best bit about being Ard (apart from the toastie maker in the Cinnire room) is the amount that myself and Kate got to interact with the first years this year. We really hope that we got to leave a positive impact on the current first years in our school, as at the end of the day, they are the future of the school. It's was such a privilege to see the countless friendships being formed, whether that be in tutorial or P.E, that will hopefully last the entire school journey. I remember being in their exact position, with my quiff and my school bag about to burst at the seams. To any current first year reading this, cherish every free class or sports day that you get, because they fly by quicker than you can imagine.

To Mr Meehan, the big boss. From the minute you arrived in our school, when we were still wearing the red jumpers, you set about bringing a new sense of atmosphere to the school. The little things such as greeting students passing by your office in the new building, or dressing up as Buzz Lightyear for the live assembly helped to bridge the gap between student, teacher and management. Your desire for students of Ratoath college to reach their potential is unparalleled, and you have no doubt pushed each and every student to reach our potentials, both academically, and in our ability to represent the school.

To our fellow 6th years, don't think we forgot about you. What an amazing journey it has been. After six years of fun laughter and memories, it is finally over, I'm sure some of you are devastated, and I'm sure some of you are absolutely chuffed. Regardless, it's been an absolute pleasure to be your Ard Chinnirí for your last year in Ratoath College, and we wish each and every one of you the best success in the future. We genuinely miss each and every one of you, and the impact that we have all had on each other as we navigated through our school journey together.

Thank you, Ratoath College, for some of the best years of our life.

Your Ard Chinnirí,

Jack and Kate

(or Kate and Jack, whichever way you prefer)

Na Cinnirí - Class of 2023



CINNIRÍ BONDING TRIP

The Cinniri bonding trip this year was to Zipit Forest Adventures in Dublin. This was an amazing opportunity to have and allowed the new Cinniri group to work together for the first time.

We started the morning with a bus ride sharing sweets and snacks and getting to know more about each other. When we finally got off the bus it was lashing rain but we decided we would make the most of it, we were all very excited! We got split up into two Cinniri groups so we could get to know the new people we would be working with for the next year. We were all harnessed up and a big demonstration was given by one of the Zipit staff and we did a practice course to ensure we all felt comfortable to go higher up. Although it was a bit tricky at the start with each others help and words of encouragement we all began to go higher and higher. There are five circuits ranging from 1-20 meters high, with levels suitable for all people from beginners to adrenaline junkies. After we had our fun of climbing high into treetops, swinging into cargo nets and zooming down countless zip lines we decided it was time to get a bite to eat!

We Stopped off at Liffey Vally Shopping centre and grabbed some lunch before making our way home! This trip definitely brought our Cinniri group closer together and set us off on the right foot!

Article by Evie McSweeney



Rang Conaty



Rang Conaty what can I say but that it has been amazing to see you grow and flourish into the amazing people you are today. You have truly been wonderful and light up my day with our random chats about everything and anything. Who will ever forget the egg incident of March '22, the febreeze epidemic of December '22 or the stories of Biddy the Budgie and his demise! All of the fall outs and reconciliations really show how you guys became a family unit and would help each other out in any situation.

So some words of advice for the future; Know your worth and rise to every challenge. Be kind always, it's not easy but brightens up the days of the people surrounding you. Every knock down get yourself back up and learn from it and don't be scared to get knocked down again. Life is for living, take the chance, seize the moment but don't forget to take in the little moments too.

Keep those cool haircuts and brilliant one liners Michael. Amber keep brightening peoples days with those compliments and kind words. Taigh keep being a gentleman and listening to Sinatra. Kyle remember you will always be the 'Rose of Rang Conaty'. Aaron keep working on them chat up lines and remember always go lower when guessing peoples ages. Alex keep beating everyone in the geography quizzes. Cara let me know when you open the Zoo, I better be the first to come see the budgies and elephants. Larah I have to say it one last time "put that phone in your bag" and don't forget my therapist did not ghost me! You will always remember these days as the "Good Old Days".

You have truly made me proud Rang Conaty class of 2023 and I'm going to miss you all so much.

Roisin Conaty

Rang Jordan



Rang Jordan, whether you're a 2018 original or a TY straggler who we picked up along the way, all I can do is thank you. You really have been the dream class. At the beginning of 5th Year we spoke about legacy and wrote down what you all wanted your legacy to be. To me legacy is not about awards – although - individually and as a class you have all achieved so much, from academic awards, sports awards, cultural awards, the Christmas Door (4 years in a row) to name but a few. Rather, legacy is about how you made the people you came across and interacted with feel. Without exception, every single person in the school who has had the pleasure of crossing paths with you all have always said one thing, you've made their day, week or year better. There have been so many highs but there have also been challenging times and when times got tough, you circled the wagons and supported each other. The bond you have created with each other (or as some have called it the Cult of Rang Jordan) is something I hope you carry into the next stage of life.

That said, the biggest legacy you have left is the one you have left on me. Although I may have said once or twice over the years that I dislike you/hate you, I think you all saw through that. Honestly, to say I will miss you all is an understatement. From the surprise parties thrown just to see how red I would go, to rock paper scissors, to the mystery prize, to learning all your new lingo (Tan Thursday, Tikky Tok and Snappy Chat), roll call and tutorial class really just won't be the same again.

But this is not a time to be sad, this is a time to celebrate your amazing legacy and to look forward and dream about what lies ahead. You should all be so excited for what lies ahead because I have no doubt that each and every one of you will achieve epic things.

As you read this though, I would like to remind you of one thing. You have got to this point and have created this amazing legacy by being yourself. Going forward please stay true to yourself and always be proud of who you are. If you do this, I can guarantee that the difference you made to us in the school will only be the start of bigger and better things.

Joseph Jordan
13

Rang Delaney



Dear students. Recently as I have been thinking about what to write in your yearbook message it has dawned on me that, very soon, I would be saying farewell to our wonderful group for the last time. What a genuinely lovely bunch of people you are and it has been a real honour to have been your Caomhnóir for two years at Ratoath College. You are the first people I see in the morning and your politeness, friendliness and good humour has been a crucial ingredient in setting the tone for a positive environment in the days and week ahead, both for yourselves and also for me. You have made my job as Caomhnóir an easy one and I wish you all the happiness in the world for the future, both in your careers and personal lives. I hope that your memories of school are as positive as mine are of you all. Remember to follow your hearts – you won't always get it right first time every time but don't be afraid to take risks in your pursuit of happiness and following your paths. Life is all about the journey, the people you meet and the connections and memories you make. Don't be strangers and keep in touch. Best wishes. Un abbraccio.

Conor Delaney

Rang Martin



When I was first approached to become caomhnoir to a 5th year class I was hesitant. However, once I saw the class list, I knew that the rang would be a pleasure to meet everyday and accompany on their last two years of secondary school. Initially many in the rang didn't know each other, but many friendships have formed. I hope you continue to keep in touch and support one another through the adventures that lie ahead. We started our time as Rang Martin in stressful circumstances. Classes were room based and we wore masks. As seniors, students were stressed about so many covid disruptions to learning and the uncertainty of what lay ahead. Rang Martin have met adversity and worked through the challenges they faced and have come out the other end stronger and more resilient.

Beginning the morning greeting and catching up with students has been a lovely way to start the day. Our chats and your good cheer have helped put me in a positive mood for the day ahead. Although it has only been two years, I believe the class has established themselves as best in their year. This was confirmed by our numerous triumphs such as on Sports day, stunning performances in Sister Act, and not least winning the Door Decorating Competition. The theme for the door was Be Real. This is such a strong message for the class encouraging us all to be ourselves and to be proud. The class is a very diverse group and have been accepting and tolerant of those differences.

Rang Martin is a class full of talent: art, writing, sport, acting, business, to name but a few. You are all capable of amazing things. As Anatole France once said, "To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe." So, dream big, believe in yourselves and act to make those dreams come true. Going forth to forge your place in the world remember the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us." Continue to be real, be tolerant and be kind.

Kerry-Lynn Martin

Rang O'Dwyer



As you graduate, I want you to reflect on the qualities that you have gained from your time at Ratoath College - diligence, problem-solving, and perseverance. These qualities are essential in life and are highly valued in any field of work.

Diligence is the commitment and effort you put into everything you do. It is a quality that enables you to be thorough and attentive in your work. Throughout your time in school, you have demonstrated diligence by showing up to class, completing homework and projects on time, and staying focused on your academic goals. This quality will serve you well as you move forward in life and tackle new challenges.

Problem-solving is the ability to identify and solve problems creatively. It is a quality that enables you to think critically and come up with innovative solutions. Throughout your five or six years here, you have been presented with numerous challenges – from sneaking into school at 8.45am trying to avoid Mr Connolly's gaze to hiding energy drinks in Assembly to avoid another lecture from me - and you have shown remarkable problem-solving skills. This quality will be valuable in your personal and professional life, as you navigate the complexities of the world around you.

Perseverance is the determination to overcome obstacles and keep going, even when things get tough. It is a quality that enables you to stay motivated and focused on your goals. You have demonstrated perseverance by overcoming academic challenges, balancing friendships with the workload of exams, orals and essays, and never giving up on your dreams. This quality will be especially valuable in life when you face setbacks and failures and will remind you that you can do this.

As you embark on the next chapter of your life, I encourage you to hold on to these qualities and to continue to cultivate them in everything you do. Ratoath College has prepared you well for the challenges ahead, and I have no doubt that you will succeed in whatever you choose to pursue. The world awaits your talents, and I am excited to see what you will accomplish in the future.

Ben O Dwyer

Rang O'Sullivan



To my incredible, amazing, fascinating and entertaining Rang O Sullivan, you made it, congratulations! I honestly can't believe I'm saying goodbye to all of you already. Two years has flown by and I'm very grateful that I was given the opportunity to work with such a great bunch. It has been a real pleasure getting to know you and I'll genuinely be sad to see you leave. I know you are going to miss me hunting you down for absent notes and signatures for your policy pages but please don't shed any tears you can come and see me anytime.

Tutorial was definitely one of my favourite classes of the week as it was where I got to know many of you on an individual level. It was so great to see some of you who were shy to begin with coming out of your shell. Likewise, there were many of you who gave the impression of toughness only for me to find out you are big softies who are very kind and gentle behind it all. I hope you cherish the memories you have from our Rang as I will.

You have all been through so much as a group especially during covid times. This will really stand to you and make you more resilient people heading out into the world. They say school days are the best days of your life but I'm a big believer you can make everyday better than the next. There is no such thing as the perfect life so I hope you face each challenge up front without giving up.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best of luck in your Leaving Cert and in whatever path you choose in life.

Thank you for the memories, thank you for the chats, thank you for the laughs. I will always remember you as my first ever Gaomhnoir group so you are all very special to me. You are all very welcome to Kerry to visit anytime and there you will learn it is not my accent that is 'culchie' but maybe you crowd from County Meath.

"It's never too late to become who you want to be. I hope you live a life that you're proud of, and if you find that you're not, I hope you have the strength to start over."

Neasa O Sullivan

Rang Toner



Well nerds, what a few years it's been! Some of you have been honoured members of Rang Toner since 1st Year, with most of you coming from TY joining us in 5th Year. You have been the best group of people I've had the pleasure of teaching in this school. Each & every one of you has been an absolute diamond. You are hard-working, funny, kind & just the best craic. You've been an inspiration for the last few years & it's people like you who make teaching worthwhile.

I'll miss blaring out tunes every morning during Assembly & then acting as DJ during Tutorial on Wednesdays; my Spotify Wrapped will look very different next year! Although maybe the addition of all those Rihanna tunes will be a good thing. For such a diverse group of people, with interests including Art, Musicals, Rugby, D&D, "Coffee Enthusiasts", whatever Cathal drones on about every day, Arsenal fans (what a year, eh?!) or engaging in legal disputes with the local clergy, I've always been impressed at how well you get on every day, how kind you are to each other & how you have each other's backs. You've bonded so well as a class, especially the massive crew that joined from TY, but a huge shoutout to the OG Rang Toners – Grace, Danny, Cathal, Eoin, Naoise & Aoibhe! Special members to those who abandoned ship, Ben & Luke, as well as honorary Rang Toners Anna & Aoife!

Back in my 1st Year Service speech & for our class logo, we chose a wolf as our class mascot. The values we thought were important were; loyalty, a happy attitude & the strength of the pack. Each & every one of you has exemplified this during the time I've gotten to know you. You have been brilliant. You have been loyal to one another. You have always had an amazingly positive attitude. You have always looked after each other, like a true pack. Folks, it's been an honour & the best part of my teaching career has been acting as your Caoimhnóir. I wish each & every one of you guys every success in life & true happiness. Slay,

Simon Toner

Rang Walshe



It has been an immense pleasure to see you all develop into young adults over the past couple of years. Each of you have made a lasting impression on me as a caomhnoir and left the school in a better place. You are ending this chapter but I am excited to see what all of your futures hold. Your hard work, dedication and friendly faces have not gone unnoticed over the past two years and I hope that you all leave Ratoath College with fond memories. You have all provided me with great moments over the past couple of years and I can't believe how fast the time has gone. It seems like only a few months ago I was welcoming you as 5th years and now you're all starting the next chapter of your life. I can't wait to take the credit for it and piggyback from your successes in time to come when you all make it as top business people, sportspeople, tech gurus, writers, tradespeople etc...the list of your talents are endless! With every ending comes a new beginning, so while it's bittersweet and I'll miss the chats, I hope you've cherished your time in Ratoath College and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Don't be a stranger!

Shane Walshe

GRADUATE PROFILES

March 2020
CLASS



Alex Cahill

Likes: Ms Wilson

Dislikes: Irish classes

Will miss: Everything

Quote: Larah, off your phone



Aaron Conway

Likes: Talking to all the teachers

Dislikes: When exam week starts

Will miss: Mrs Donnellan rapping

Quote: Go big or go home



Amber Costello

Likes: Miss Kavannghs social Ed classes

Dislikes: Engineering

Will miss: Playing board games in tutorial with my class and Ms Conaty

Quote: It always seems impossible until it's done



Kyle Little

Likes: Helping teachers, work experience, having the laughs with teachers and students

Dislikes: Assignments, Irish

Will miss: The teachers, banter, friends, 7 houR days

Quote: Disappoint Everyone, But Don't Disappoint Yourself'



Larah Magee

Likes: Being on my phone

Dislikes: Being told to put my phone away

Will miss: Mr Leonard telling me that my phones like an addiction

Quote: Ye? But I get my work done.



Michael Semro

Likes: Not being in school

Dislikes: Being in school

Will miss: Letting the teacher talk about their life story instead of doing work

Quote: When life gives you bleach and ammonia you make mustard gas



Cara Traynor

Likes: Dogs, and live music.

Dislikes: Sports.

Will miss: Seeing my friends.

Quote: "You can only perceive something in someone else if you have already seen it in yourself." - Roy English.



Taigh Walsh

Likes:

Dislikes:

Will miss:

Quote:



Momin Ahmad

Likes: Jolly Ranchers

Dislikes: The new Pringles logo

Will miss: Assembly (literally)

Quote: Pringles have changed their size of 200g to 165g while maintaining the 200g price tag



Hanna Carr

Likes: Screaming trigger warning

Dislikes: PE

Will miss: Hiding in the music room at break

Quote: Love ya Boys, 3,2,1 see ya



Abbie Coyne

Likes: hiding in the toilets for lunch

Dislikes: when the balance sheet doesn't balance

Will miss: Applied maths girls

Quote: nah, he's broke i'm up



Sophie Cromwell

Likes: Construction with Paddy

Dislikes: Hearing teachers say "it's not my leaving cert"

Will miss: Laura Kelly

Quote: Guys this sounds like caca milis?



Alicia

Cunningham

Likes: Lunch with the Jordan girls

Dislikes: Maths before school every friday

Will miss: Throwing random parties for mr jordan every year

Quote: Finally retiring as Mia's little sister



Clara Doherty

Likes: Staying inside for lunch

Dislikes: Going outside for lunch

Will miss: Home Ec class with Ms McKeon

Quote: Hannah Montana says nobody's perfect, but here I am.



Lauren Dolan

Likes: Embarrassing Mr.Jordan

Dislikes: Any class but construction

Will miss: Laura Kelly

Quote: God knew I would be too powerful if I could do higher level maths



Benjamin Fit

Likes: Salami rolls

Dislikes: Ham rolls

Will miss: Accounting

Quote: Good evening - Unai



Sarah Gallagher

Likes: Coffee

Dislikes: Having the bottom locker

Will miss: Chats in music with Ms Dalton

Quote: "Omg it's 11:11"



Evan Gordan

Likes: Half day Friday

Dislikes: Early Friday maths class

Will miss: Mystery prize with Mr Jordan

Quote: "Double check the level on that paper there, Evan" - Mr Horan



Briana Alexis Haruta

Likes: Writing, Music, My dog

Dislikes: Olives

Will miss: Talks with the girls at lunchtime

Quote: Coffee is always the answer.



Kate Hayes

Likes: Going in the exit only door

Dislikes: Getting caught going in the exit only door

Will miss: Spending 90% of my week with Ms Hynes

Quote: Live, Laugh, Laura Kelly.



Abi Hunt

Likes: Having my nails done

Dislikes: Being told what to do

Will miss: Mr Jordan and chats with the girls

Quote: I'll cry at the end of the day. Not with fresh makeup.



Aaron Kane

Likes: F1 and football

Dislikes: 6th year Thursdays

Will miss: Seeing friends daily

Quote: veni vidi i reliquit



Alix Kane

Likes: Planning nights out in Irish

Dislikes: Evie talking about 'bio'

Will miss: The feeling of getting in the gate at 8.39

Quote: Life is a soup and I'm a fork.



Aoife Keller

Likes: Tutorial with Rang Jordan

Dislikes: Going outside at lunch

Will miss: Jordan girlies

Quote: Girls should I get another piercing?



Laura Kelly

Likes: Modesty, winning an all Ireland

Dislikes: Never finishing a school camogie tournament

Will miss: Little Laura's Landscapers

Quote: I swear I'll start copping on next week



Josh Kennedy

Likes: My love for Irish

Dislikes: Exams

Will miss: Train effective/ the Italy trip

Quote: Part time student



Robert Lennon

Likes: Lunchtime

Dislikes: Business

Will miss: Canteen

Quote: A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth gets time to put its pants on



Noah Lynn

Likes: Ben giving me homework

Dislikes: JC French

Will miss: Mr Jordan

Quote: Max Lovetts trim is terrible



Erin Maguire

Likes: Oversharing

Dislikes: Dara spreading rumours

Will miss: The Rang Jordan cult

Quote: Do you want to see a picture of my sausage dog



Sophie Maher

Likes: Lunch with the girls

Dislikes: Going out for lunch

Will miss: Applied maths girls

Quote: You busy?



Scott McGlynn

Likes: Respecting women

Dislikes: Small gusts of wind

Will miss: My hair in 3 years

Quote:



Beibhinn Murphy

Likes: Getting H1s

Dislikes: Getting lower than a H2

Will miss: Breaking into the school at half 7 to get a bit of study done

Quote: Its pronounced Bayveen not Bevin



Fionn Nolan

Likes: Eating lunch in the first class of the day

Dislikes: When you forget about a cup of tea you made ten minutes ago

Will miss: Pens bursting in my pocket

Quote: Time flies... yet it has no wings



Leo Bergin

Likes: Kit-Kats, unless I'm with 3 or more people

Dislikes: Milk

Will miss: The constant weight of the leaving cert!

Quote: Sometimes I think, but then I remember



Jessica Cahill

Likes: Missing tutorial

Dislikes: Biology bugbears videos

Will miss: The applied maths girlies

Quote: #Blaze



Rebecca Carr

Likes: Slandering my sister

Dislikes: Walking up dem dusty stairs

Will miss: The odd talk with Mr Gueret

Quote:



Joshua Connolly

Likes: The colours of the rainbow

Dislikes: Irish class

Will miss: Beefing with Mr Nissar

Quote: We are live



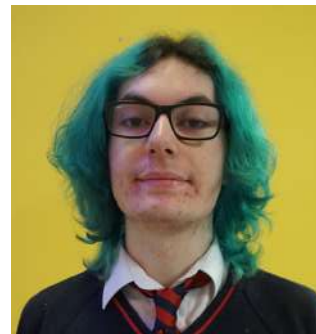
Tomas Corbett

Likes: An away day

Dislikes: A smack of a bike

Will miss: A thrilling fixture in the cage

Quote: "Never back the early kick off"~Gandhi



Sean Dignam

Likes: Nut Button

Dislikes: Cathal Hayes

Will miss: Walking through the empty corridors in the morning

Quote: At first I went mad of course, but after a few millennia I got bored with that, too, and went sane... very sane.



Andrew Eccles

Likes: Looking lost in the halls

Dislikes: Basketball

Will miss: Ms Bruce

Quote: Life's worth living when you respect lovely women



Jessica Farrell

Likes: Hiding in the music room at lunch

Dislikes: Hanna Carr

Will miss: Counting how many times Mr. Mitchell says essentially each biology class

Quote: Ah girls



Ross Farrell

Likes: Doing donuts

Dislikes: Locked bathrooms

Will miss: Construction class

Quote: Rip Ken block



Kristian Grace

Likes: All the lights

Dislikes: Locked toilets

Will miss: The jacks at lunch

Quote: "Amen" - Ronan Conheady



Ciaran Kennedy

Likes: Gaming and art

Dislikes: The colour yellow

Will miss: The practical projects

Quote: I don't know how I got here



Chuk Yee Lau

Likes: Random conversations in Applied Maths

Dislikes: Dodgeball (with a passion)

Will miss: Mr Walshe encouraging my physical fights with my friend

Quote: "When you look back, every youth is beautiful"



Conor Lennon

Fitzgerald

Likes: Danny's bunda

Dislikes: When Danny wears baggy clothes

Will miss: Danny's bunda

Quote: 10 k



Tabitha Mbemba

Likes: Talking to Ms. McKeon

Dislikes: The stairs (Every single flight)

Will miss: Mr. Walshe letting me and Chloe fight

Quote: 10/10 experience. Would not recommend



Pierce McManus

Likes: Lifting Heavy Metal Objects for Repetitions And Oranges

Dislikes: Having Me spark Plugs Fleeced And Lack of Rugby Matches

Will miss: Ms Bruce's Irish class and Andrews pasta Munch

Quote: The wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round



Luke Praise

Nelson

Likes: Practicality and Rationality

Dislikes: Nuts and fish

Will miss: Not doing TY

Quote: "Do what makes you feel good, not what makes you look good"



Stephaine Nolan

Likes: Tea

Dislikes: Coffee

Will miss: The Girls

Quote: Without cause is without effect



Joshua Olaseni

Likes: Rashford aka Rashido Brizzack

Dislikes: Checking in to D15

Will miss: People praying on my downfall

Quote: I used to pray for times like this



Aisling Rice

Likes: Watching Erin draw in Maths

Dislikes: Jack farting in my face

Will miss: All the girls being in the same bathroom stall

Quote: Life's a bowl of soup and I'm a fork



Phoebe Sheppard

Likes: Gaslighting

Dislikes: Being gaslit

Will miss: Gaslighting

Quote: "gaslight , gatekeep , girlboss"



Laura Smith

Likes: 1:15 on a friday

Dislikes: 7am maths classes

Will miss: Catch ups with Aisling x

Quote: High school musical set unrealistic expectations x



Elena Talbot

Likes: Complaining

Dislikes: People miss pronouncing my name

Will miss: Taking walks before class

Quote: Are you Hannah Talbots sister ?



Jack Tormey

Likes: Being called Mr President

Dislikes: Being called Mr Predator

Will miss: The crusty toastie maker in the cinnire room

Quote: If the chipperman knows your name you're in trouble



Roberta

Verenbergaitė

Likes: Long weekends

Dislikes: Monday to Friday

Will miss: 3 month summer holidays

Quote: Loved school, only missed 50+ days



Daniel Barnville

Likes: That Sandwich Cafe

Dislikes: Jokes about my sister

Will miss: Being 18

Quote: Ruby, cheeky WTF burger after school ?



Isabelle Brady

Likes: Mr Connolly

Dislikes: Being called isabelle #2 when I was here first

Will miss: Dance battles with Godfrey

Quote: Are you sure my lashes look full?



Jessica Buckley

Likes: Mr Callaghan

Dislikes: When Mr Callaghan isn't present on a Thursday

Will miss: Mr Callaghan

Quote: Girls stop munchin down the back of the class



Reuben Byrne

Likes: Jennifer Anniston

Dislikes: The 105 bus

Will miss: Chicken fillet rolls after school on Friday

Quote: If there was work on the bed, you'd sleep on the floor



Ronan Byrrne

Likes: Dugs new figure

Dislikes: When you get stuck talking to lar

Will miss: Running the school with dug and caolan

Quote: May as well enjoy it



Abi Colgan

Likes: Hey ya and my cat

Dislikes: James being out

Will miss: Going home every Tuesday at 1:10

Quote: "Wait what are we talking about?"



Zara Collins

Likes: Tea and chat with Ms Kavanagh

Dislikes: Lunch outside

Will miss: Combining lunches with Kate

Quote: Should've skipped TY



Sean Corbett

Likes: The high ball in low

Dislikes: Winter hurling

Will miss: A feed of pints on the half day on Friday

Quote: They all want it till they get it



Zoe Cullen

Likes: English with Mr. Mooney

Dislikes: Everything else

Will miss: Quizzes with Ms. Callan

Quote: I'm not going in today



Bartosz Debowski

Likes: Engineering

Dislikes: Maths

Will miss: Nothing

Quote: Yeah



Adam Deevy

Likes: Rugby and gym

Dislikes: School and homework

Will miss: The toilets

Quote: Don't work a 9-5 job it's a mindset



Jack Dempsey

Likes: F.M. Fridays. School rugby. Daren Clarke

Dislikes: Hearing "this lad from work"

Will miss: Daniel and Gavin fighting over nothing

Quote: "Like this but not to scale"



Gavin Doyle

Likes: Paddy Fong

Dislikes: The Tax Man

Will miss: Maths of a Friday, Olaseni Waffle and Baz Leonard

Quote: The only place that "success" comes before "work" is in the dictionary



George Doyle

Likes: ...

Dislikes: ...

Will miss: ...

Quote: Did we get biology homework



Kate Fadden

Likes: Getting to school at 8:40 on the dot

Dislikes: Mr Connelly catching me at 8:42

Will miss: Seeing everyone daily

Quote: Roses are red I'm going to bed



Scott Feldman

Likes: Paddypower

Dislikes: William Hill

Will miss: Mr Callaghan's half zips

Quote: 90 percent of gamblers quit before their first big win



Luca Fogarty

Likes: Cut the rope

Dislikes: Adrienne Rich

Will miss: The smell of cheese in the cinnire room

Quote: "Smart Skinny"



James Healy

Likes: 15:30

Dislikes: Abi being out

Will miss: Never doing PE

Quote: "I started secondary school with straight A's, now I'm not even straight"



Aoife Hyland

Likes: Baking and listening to music

Dislikes: Homework

Will miss: Having lunch with my friends

Quote: "FRIENDS, S1E1, Minute 19:45-19:50"



Helen Jenkins

Likes: Letterboxd

Dislikes: Amelia's singing

Will miss: Alan's lunch

Quote: Dazed and confused



Dara Kavanagh

Likes: Using the third year door

Dislikes: The new lock on the staff toilet

Will miss: Taking elf bars off first years

Quote: Never eat anything bigger than your head



Ava Kealy

Likes: Louise signing me in and out

Dislikes: Tuesdays after 1:10

Will miss: Irish in GNB

Quote: "That's What" - She



Alan Kearns

Likes: Being let in the side door in the mornings

Dislikes: Coming into school with dry hair

Will miss: Higher level French

Quote: It's not a perm



Ciara Kelly

Likes: Writing, acting, reading and myths

Dislikes: Homework, anxiety and transphobia

Will miss: Classics, guidance and seeing my friends everyday

Quote: Courage doesn't come from being fearless



Anna McSweeney

Likes: Distracting Mr Jordan in class

Dislikes: Having a bottom locker x

Will miss: English with Mr. Mooney

Quote: "hello and welcome"



Jack Peat

Likes: Red jumpers

Dislikes: Italian

Will miss: Engineering with Hannon

Quote: Ching ching party on



Adam Smyth

Likes: The bell at 1:15 on Friday

Dislikes: Maths

Will miss: School Gaa with Mooney

Quote: Kilbride > Ratoath



Callum Whitbread

Likes: The Leas-Ard Cinnire

Dislikes: The Ard Cinnire

Will miss: Using the staff-only bathroom

Quote: Wake me up when they unlock the lads bathroom





Sean Alinsod

Likes: Going to school early

Dislikes: Coffee

Will miss: The 50 late stamps in my dialann

Quote: I like woman like I like my coffee..



Jamie Byrne

Likes: Alisson Becker

Dislikes: Blimp

Will miss: Miss Kavanagh and Mr Burns

Quote: 'I like knowing that there's going to be a break. Most days I just sit and wait for the break' - Kevin Malone, The Office.



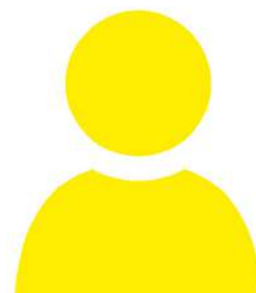
Zara Byrne

Likes: Bathroom breaks with the girls, lunchtime gossip

Dislikes: Pe on a Tuesday

Will miss: Gossiping at lunch, seeing favourite teachers everyday

Quote: I'm currently in my red hair phase



Finn Carey O'Neill

Likes: Christopher Dunne

Dislikes: Aron McGoldricky

Will miss: Chrises sayings/jokes/inspiration/charm/great looks

Quote:



Aoife Cassidy

Likes: Lunch with my friends

Dislikes: Getting up early

Will miss: Classes with Ms Kavanagh

Quote: Whatever will be, will be



Aoife Clarke

Likes: Ms Kavanagh

Dislikes: When we don't have Ms Kavanagh

Will miss: Ms Kavanagh

Quote: We love Fineus



Ronan Conheady

Likes: Away days

Dislikes: People who walk there bikes down the avenue

Will miss: After school naps

Quote: Ghandi Quotes



Hannah Cronolly

Likes: Caffeine, English and Classics

Dislikes: PE on a Tuesday

Will miss: Leaving early

Quote: "yeah guys I'll definitely be in tomorrow"



Eoin Drysdale

Likes: Tuesday half days

Dislikes: First years that can't use stairs or doors properly

Will miss: Accounting trip

Quote: "It's either a feast or a famine" - Richie



Conor Egan

Likes:

Dislikes:

Will miss:

Quote:



Clodagh Griffin

Likes: Pretending like I can do HL maths

Dislikes: Failing every maths test

Will miss: The mouldy sandwich that stayed in my locker for 2 months

Quote: I swear I'm coming in tomorrow



Kate Killoran

Likes: Talking

Dislikes: Being told to stop talking

Will miss: Mr O Dwyer

Quote: I wasn't even being that loud



Ella Malone

Likes: 1:15 on Friday
Dislikes: 1st years crowding in the hall
Will miss: Gossiping in Irish
Quote: D'know your man?



Adam Maloney

Likes: Staying hydrated
Dislikes: Being unhydrated
Will miss: Cup a tea and biscuits with Ms Kavanagh
Quote: Sorry for breaking the fence



Daire McCourt

Likes: Feast with Aoife in Tutorial
Dislikes: Being a Twin
Will miss: Tea and chats with Ms.Kavanagh
Quote: Ms.Donnellan I am the brother



Ella McDemott

Likes: Boojum
Dislikes: School tracksuit bottoms
Will miss: Hiding in the bathrooms at lunch
Quote: Whatever it is, is didn't do it



Jessica Mulligan

Likes: Wednesday mornings
Dislikes: PE
Will miss: Louise in reception
Quote: I think i'm going home early



Amy Mulvaney

Likes: Sleeping in on a Monday morning
Dislikes: Slow walkers
Will miss: Gossiping in Irish
Quote: I probably wasn't in that day anyway



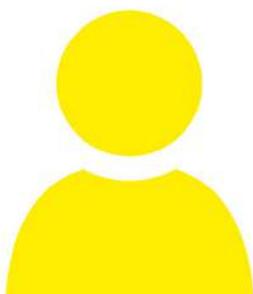
Aimee O'Shea

Likes: The cool girl monologue
Dislikes: A lot of things, can't pick one
Will miss: Avoiding ciorcal comhra
Quote: "Got a pizza for tanka jahari?"



Kerri O'Brien

Likes: Hiding in the bathroom at break
Dislikes: Being kicked out of the bathroom at break
Will miss: "Religion" with Ms Kavanagh
Quote: "The space that's in between insane and insecure"



Nicholas O'Rourke

Likes:
Dislikes:
Will miss:
Quote:



Freya Pembroke

Likes:
Dislikes:
Will miss:
Quote:



Daelan Rodden

Likes:
Dislikes:
Will miss:
Quote:



Amelia Smith

Likes: Singing
Dislikes: When people tell me to stop singing
Will miss: Mooching
Quote: "Shut up Alan"



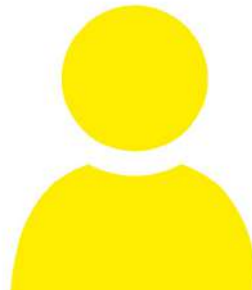
Saoirse Ahearne

Likes: Coming into school once a week

Dislikes: Being burnt with the hot glue gun

Will miss: Lunch with the two kates

Quote: I'll be in tomorrow



Jason Beggy

Likes: Being late

Dislikes: Being on Time

Will miss: Ms McCormack

Quote: 'Ah ye look lovely'



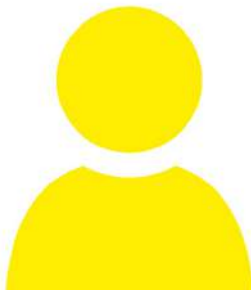
Thomas Bell

Likes: When the simultaneous equation actually works

Dislikes: Getting my learners permit

Will miss: Waiting 10 minutes for the ard cinnire to leave his house

Quote: I will get my learner permit at the end of the month-me in January



Ryan Brady

Likes: Being late

Dislikes: People who don't use the correct water bottle

Will miss: Looking for future stars

Quote: Grass on the pitch



Saoirse Browne

Likes: Tuesday afternoon physio appointment

Dislikes: Having never been to the physio

Will miss: Chats with Louise and Lily

Quote: "here i might just go home"



Keith Carroll

Likes: The Pillo Hotel

Dislikes: A good few tbh

Will miss: That one sub teacher

Quote: Do you wanna spin in the Peugeot?



Danielle Mae Connolly

Likes: break time

Dislikes: PE

Will miss: The bathrooms

Quote: Why is it so cold?



Liam Corbett

Likes: The Byrne family

Dislikes: Fast corner forwards

Will miss: That night on steeplechase green

Quote: "If the crossroads empty..."



Matthew Duff

Likes: Paul Roche

Dislikes: Paul Roche

Will miss: The Basement

Quote: Everybody wants to rule the world - Tears for Fears



Maitiu Duggan

Likes: Fresh Air

Dislikes: People not treating women with respect

Will miss: Running a muck with Byrne and Howard

Quote: Games the game



Ava Jayne Fay

Likes: Lunchtime with the girls

Dislikes: Double classes

Will miss: Mr.jordan's mid class snacks

Quote: I overthought this too x



John Fitzharris

Likes: Being asleep in class

Dislikes: 7:30 maths classes

Will miss: ...

Quote: 10/10 potatoes cant read or write



Mia Frawley

Likes: Getting a lift to school

Dislikes: Actually having to study

Will miss: The toastie maker in the Cinnire room

Quote: So fair, so true!



Niamh Gibson

Likes: Blaming everything on dyslexia

Dislikes: Being called out for spelling tests

Will miss: Mr Mulheir

Quote: Do you know where I work?



Eoghan Grennan

Likes: Mma, gym, Manchester United and culinary

Dislikes: Liverpool

Will miss: Making fun of liverpool fans

Quote: "Dont listen to the advice of people living lives you dont want to live"



Carolan Howard

Likes: Staying hydrated

Dislikes: Men

Will miss: The old Ronan

Quote: Le bosh



Alex Daniel

Kinsella

Likes: Music, skateboarding

Dislikes: Sport

Will miss: Reading in the mornings

Quote: I studied all of that with as much recollection as a PS2 memory card



Holly McCormack

Likes: Coming in late

Dislikes: How cold the school is.

Will miss: Fainting in home ec and maths

Quote: No ms I don't have my notes signed , next week tho ye



Maribel Aira

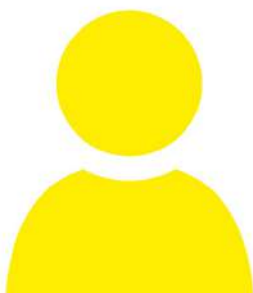
Micosa

Likes: Annoying Erin

Dislikes: Mondays

Will miss: €500 I spent

Quote: My intrusive thoughts won



Jacques Mooney

nickname

Likes:

Dislikes:

Will miss:

Quote:



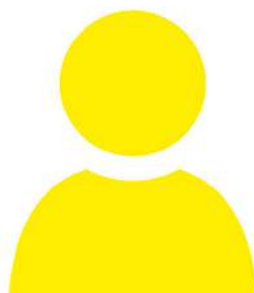
Tara O'Kane

Likes: Sneaking around the back to avoid a late stamp

Dislikes: PE by myself

Will miss: Picking out Josh's Tesco meal deal

Quote: Im not laughing with you, I'm laughing at you x



Roisin O'Brien

Likes:

Dislikes:

Will miss:

Quote:



Katie O'Neill

Likes: Italian

Dislikes: Italian with Daniel

Will miss: Lunch with the girls, art with aoi bhe

Quote: Did I mention I have a dog?



Iker Pazos

Teixeira

Likes: Football, Gym

Dislikes: Barcelona

Will miss: Talking about football with Toner and O'Dwyer

Quote: Do the impossible



Eva-Marie Reilly

Likes: Leaving school early

Dislikes: Italian first thing

Will miss: Bathroom with the girls

Quote: Are you for real!



Paul Roche

Likes: Matthew Duff

Dislikes: Hi Babe

Will miss: Giving up homework for lent

Quote: See you Space Cowboy.



Ben Simon

Likes: Lunch with the boys

Dislikes: School

Will miss: Construction with Mr. Mulheir

Quote: "Timing beats speed, Precision beats power." - Ross Farrell



Sarah Thomas

Likes: Classes with Ms Bailey

Dislikes: Double Biology

Will miss: Lunch with the girls

Quote: Roll on Albufeira 2023 tbh



Adam Tyrrell

Likes:

Dislikes:

Will miss:

Quote:



Josh Waters

Likes:

Dislikes:

Will miss:

Quote:



Ben Blackwell

Likes: Sleep

Dislikes: Having to sleep

Will miss: Sleeping through class

Quote: Your future depends on your dreams, so go to sleep



Aoibhe Carroll

Likes: Ms Conaty

Dislikes: Everyone else

Will miss: Ms Conaty OL maths class

Quote: I'm going to Jesus you out that door now in a sec



Robyn Clancy

Likes: Seeing my friends in the hallway who I don't have classes with

Dislikes: People who dislike the How to train your dragon franchise

Will miss: My chats with Louise due to me being late constantly

Quote: Certified chatterbox



Naoise Clarke

Carr

Likes: Coffee and pop tarts

Dislikes: Cathal Hayes

Will miss: Playing cards with Kate

Quote: MUNCH! (See Kate)



Daniel Colgan

Likes: Saturdays looking at the Swans

Dislikes: Cardio

Will miss: Playing for the school

Quote: I want a kebab



Nina Drakulic

Likes: Balkan music, coffee, naps

Dislikes: Small talk

Will miss: Not much

Quote: "Pukla sam kompletno...inace, sve je full i sve je super" - Ceca



Kate Foley

Likes: Biccies in tutorials

Dislikes: Cathal Hayes

Will miss: Playing cards at lunch

Quote: NAOISE! OW!



Conor Harte

Likes: John Thomas

Dislikes: Getting fleeced

Will miss: Eoin Nolan

Quote: Who doesn't love John Thomas



Cathal Hayes

Likes: BAGELS!!!

Dislikes: That bloody bus from applied maths

Will miss: Annoying Mr Toner and my friends

Quote: "I never forget a face, but in your case, I'll be glad to make an exception."



Meg Johnson

Likes: Piracy & Cameron Picton eating

Dislikes: Music

Will miss: Sin ceist maith

Quote: "Yeah, I'm a savage, I'm really cool" - Sebastian Murphy



Katie Markey

Likes: Minecraft, Kathleen sometimes

Dislikes: Mr Toners batman belt, italian

Will miss: Mr Toners batman belt, paying attention

Quote: "on yonder hill, there stood a horse. he's not there



Darragh Masterson

Likes: Conor Harte

Dislikes: Conor Harte

Will miss: Mr. (Marmaduke) mcintaggert

Quote: Time you enjoy wasting, was not wasted - Bertrand Russel



Grace McTiernan

Likes: My hamster, tuturiol gossip & baking

Dislikes: PE, being constantly cold & maths

Will miss: Home Ec chats with MsMcKeon & English class

Quote: I still can't see the board



Aine McCourt

Likes: My dogs

Dislikes: Juniors blocking all the corridors

Will miss: Our conversations in the middle of English

Quote: Ms Donnellan I swear I do have a brother



Caoimhe McGuinness

Likes: Tea and Toffypops

Dislikes: Cathal Hayes

Will miss: Cards at lunch

Quote: "Slay Indeed"~ Mr. Toner



Ellie Nolan

Likes: Having the 6th year holiday booked

Dislikes: being made read out loud, my middle name

Will miss: Star freckles, lunch, assembly & tut chats

Quote: Lads star freckles is dead



Eoin Nolan

Likes: Saying the Rosary
Dislikes: Max booting my nanny in the chest
Will miss: Using the bandsaw
Quote: Cash is King



Eoin O'Reilly

Likes: Making stupid bets with Cathal
Dislikes: Cathal Hayes
Will miss: Making the stupidest jokes i can with my mates
Quote: The pain you feel today will be the strength you feel tomorrow.



Kathleen Pascual

Likes: Being in everyday, Katie I guess
Dislikes: Missing School
Will miss: Wiggling out in class
Quote: This is the life of a lone wolf.



Sean Phelan

Likes: Conor Harte
Dislikes: Conor Harte
Will miss: School Rugby matches
Quote: "No amount of money ever bought a second of time"
 ~Tony Stark



Niall Purcell

Likes: Men
Dislikes: Scott's hairline
Will miss: The bathroom
Quote: For what I have in height, i lack in length



David Stobie

Likes: Doctor Who
Dislikes: Waiting 7 years for four star cookies from Momin
Will miss: Staying late to do the Christmas door
Quote: "The way I see it, every life is a pile of good things and bad things.



Penny Williams

Likes: Lots of tea
Dislikes: Handing in work on time
Will miss: Making imovies during lunch
Quote: "I came here to drink milk and kick ass... and I just



Emma Balan

Likes: Sleeping in
Dislikes: This Yearbook
Will miss: Tuesday half-days
Quote: "I hate being late, but I'm so good at it"



Sarah Berns

Likes: Going home early
Dislikes: Staying in for a full day
Will miss: Chemistry with Mr.Nissar
Quote: This was nothing like High School Musical



Isabelle Brereton

Likes: The bell at 3:30
Dislikes: Double biology
Will miss: Godfrey
Quote: I'm only smiling cause I'm not coming back



John Conway

Likes: Blasting tren
Dislikes: Balance sheets
Will miss: Coming in late everyday
Quote: "It's not the size of the dog in the fight it's the size of the fight in dog"—Max Lovett



Rachel Hue

Conway

Likes: Reusable coffee cups

Dislikes: Tuesday P6 & P7

Will miss: Chemistry with Mr.Nissar



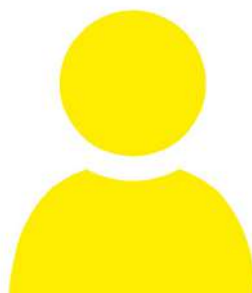
Oisín Cunningham

Likes:

Dislikes:

Will miss:

Quote:



Grace Deering

Likes: Nothing

Dislikes: 7:30 maths

Will miss: Tuesday appointments

Quote: Wouldn't recommend



Maggie Donnelly

Likes: Lunch after period 2

Dislikes: Lunch boxes left in my bag over mid term

Will miss: Clocks working for exams

Quote: I'm not your bruh



Corey Donohoe

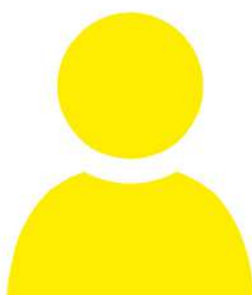
McLoughlin

Likes: Art, animation

Dislikes: Mayonnaise

Will miss: Class practicals

Quote: Peace Out



Patrik Hajdusek

Likes: Officially history

Dislikes: Too many free classes

Will miss: Ireland and this school

Quote: Nepíjem, Nekradnem, Nefajčím ale klamem



Eoin Kane

Likes: History class

Dislikes: Big ego's and PE

Will miss: Conor's dead trim and pierces smile

Quote:



Molly Keane

Likes: Half days on tuesday's

Dislikes: The majority of my subjects

Will miss: Nothing

Quote: Would give the whole experience a 3/10



Sean Kennedy

Likes: Gym

Dislikes: School

Will miss: Nothing Really

Quote: I'm finally free



Max Lovett

Likes: Love a bit of French

Dislikes: Can't stand Irish

Will miss: Mr Conlon and Ms Conlon

Quote: Tough times never last but tough people do



Emma Lynam

Likes: Bank holidays

Dislikes: PE

Will miss: Playing cards at lunch

Quote: Carpe diem



William Malone

Likes: Going to Novello after school on friday

Dislikes: Being in Novello's during school time

Will miss: Maths class, ciorcal comhrá

Quote: "I went straight in, then i came out"



Eoin McCloskey

Likes:

Dislikes:

Will miss:

Quote:



Evie McSweeney

Likes: Mr.Jordan's constant supply of snacks

Dislikes: Rachel during exam season

Will miss: Religion with Mr.McKenna

Quote: When You're Good, You're Good



Cian Minch

Likes: Videoing John Conways exam PE videos

Dislikes: Getting my club's position taken

Will miss: Going home early for PE

Quote: "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take"



Katie Murphy

Likes: Being right

Dislikes: Being wrong

Will miss: Transition year

Quote: The Office



Alannah O'Connor

Likes: Half days every Tuesday

Dislikes: Italian orals

Will miss: Lunch with the girls and home ec :)

Quote: Stay positive test negative x



Jordan Ozatlar

Likes: Not going to school

Dislikes: School

Will miss: Irish and home ec classes

Quote: I look better in person



Cian Phelan

Likes: Golf and NFL

Dislikes: Redoing my roof four times for the construction project

Will miss: History and Irish class

Quote: What do you think of my shoes- Eoin Kane



Sara Sheehan

Likes: Half days on Tuesdays

Dislikes: Getting a late stamp everyday

Will miss: Naps in french

Quote: I don't need an inspirational quote. I need a nap.



Erin Smith

Likes: Half day on a Tuesday

Dislikes: Being froze to death at big lunch

Will miss: Chats with Ms Mckeen in Home ecc

Quote: This was probably handed in late too



**Kevin
Sommerfield
Walsh**

Likes: Gym

Dislikes: Double French

Will miss: ...

Quote: Can't lose until you quit trying



Oliver Walter

Likes: Lifting Heavy things up and down, Barbella and Dumbellina

Dislikes: School and Cauliflower, 

Will miss: Mr Leonard & Ms. Gilmartin

Quote: Eoin's DA is mates with the postman





Artwork by 5th year student Jan Irvin Fabian

**R
C**



FEARLESS
Josh Waters
Pierce McManus
Dara Kavanagh



LIFE OF THE PARTY
Adam Maloney
Rebecca Carr
Luca Fogarty



COMEDIAN
Jack Tormey
Sean Alinsod
Ben Blackwell

**A
W
A**



CHATTERBOX
Saoirse Browne
Kate Killoran
Erin Maguire



CLASS CLOWN
Eoin Nolan
Max Lovett
Ross Farrell



SMARTEST
Aisling Rice
Beibhinn Murphy
Sean Phelan

**R
D
S**



BEST HAIR
Sean Dignam
Katie Markey
Clodagh Griffin



GAMER
Scott McGlynn
Corey O'Donohue
Ciaran Kennedy



DRAMA QUEEN
Sara Sheehan
Ronan Conheady
Josh Connolly



BEST DRESSED
John Fitzharris
Ava Kealy
Conor Egan



KINDEST
Laura Kelly
Fionn Nolan
Sarah Berns



PACK LEADER
Darragh Masterson
Eoin Drysdale
Danny Colgan



CREATIVE GENIUS
Sophie Cromwell
Kerri O'Brien
Leo Bergin



TEACHER'S PET
Phoebe Sheppard
Robyn Clancy
Rachel Hue Conway



TIK TOK INFLUENCER
Kate Hayes
Jessica Farrell
Luke Nelson



HEAD CHEF
Aoife Hyland
Andrew Eccles
Grace Deering



GENTLE GIANT
Niall Purcell
Patrick Hujdusek
Maitiu Dugggan



BEST ATTITUDE
Ellie Nolan
Freya Pembroke
Sarah Gallagher

R C A W A R D S

MOST LIKELY TO...



Become a millionaire

Sean Phelan
Cathal Hayes
Reuben Byrne



Become a movie star

Saoirse Browne
Meg Johnson
Ellie Nolan



Be the first couple married

Luca Fogarty and Sarah
Gallagher
Ellie Nolan and Thomas
Bell



Become President

Jack Tormey
Laura Kelly
Luke Nelson



Get 625 points in the LC

Rachel Hue Conway
Beibhinn Murphy
Scott Feldmen



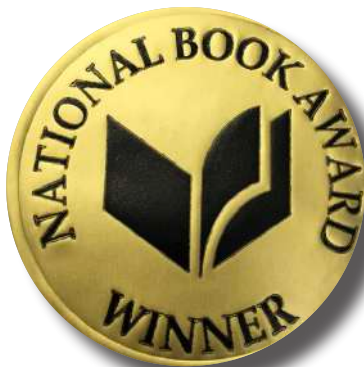
Become a social media influencer

Kate Hayes
Laura Smith
Jessica Cahill



Get asked for ID at 30

Nicky O'Rourke
Alan Kearns
Ben Simon



Write a bestselling novel

Amelia Smith
Jack Tormey
Erin Smith



Become a sports star:

Tomas Corbett
Danny Colgan
Luca Fogarty



Go to appear on CSI

Jason Beggy
Dara Kavanagh
Erin Maguire



Cure a rare disease

Sophie Maher
Cathal Hayes
Oisin Cunningham



Become famous

Isabelle Brereton
Zara Collins
Clodagh Griffin



Win gold at the Olympics

Darragh Masterson
Maitiu Duggan
Molly Keane



Win an Oscar

Daniel Barniville
Eoin Nolan
Ella McDermott



Win the lotto & lose the ticket

Sara Sheehan
Josh Kennedy
Naoise Clarke-Carr



Get sorted into Gryffindor

Pierce McManus
Keith Carroll
Adam Tyrrell



Catch all 807 Pokemon

Ciaran Kennedy
Andrew Eccles
Scott McGlynn



Return to RC as a teacher

Aisling Rice
Conor Egan
Liam Corbett



Get sorted into Hufflepuff

Fionn Nolan
Isabelle Brady
Sophie Cromwell



Look more like a celebrity each day

Jamie Byrne
Emma Balan
Saoirse Ahearne



Start a fashion trend

James Healy
John Fitzharris
Ava Kealy



Get sorted into Ravenclaw

Kate Fadden
Sean Dignum
Aisling Rice



Become a farmer

Eoin Nolan
Gavin Doyle
Ronan Conheady



Become TikTok famous

Freya Pembroke
Kate Hayes
Niamh Gibson



Artwork by 6th year student Kerri O'Brien

TEACHER AWARDS

BEST DRESSED

Ms. Doonan
Mr. Leonard
Ms. Hynes

BEST ADVICE AND WISDOM

Mr. Meehan
Ms. Kilrane
Mr. Horan

MOST FRIENDLY

Ms. Kavanagh
Ms. Bailey
Ms. Wilson

BEST BROMANCE

Godfrey & John
Mr. Toner &
Mr. Jordan
Mr. Leonard & his
Accounting class

MOST GULLIBLE

Mr. Walshe
Mr. Jordan
Mr. Farrell

FUNNIEST

Mr. Nissar
Mr. Burns
Mr. McKenna

SCARIEST

Ms. Witter
Mr. Hannon
Ms. Smyth

MOST LAID-BACK

Ms. McCormack
Ms. Quinn
Mr. O'Dwyer

MOST LEGENDARY

Mr. McAuley
Mr. Mooney
Mr. McCarthy

BEST NEWCOMER

Ms. Brookes
Ms. Lawler
Ms. Fox

MOST ORGANISED

Ms. McKeon
Ms. Garrett
Ms. Tracey

TECH WIZARD

Mr. Toner
Mr. Nissar
Mr. McCarthy

ACTS TOUGH BUT HAS A HEART OF GOLD

Mr. Connolly
Mr. Toher
Mr. O'Reilly

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

Mr. Davis
Mr. Toner
Mr. Meehan

MOST SCHOOL SPIRT

Ms. Hynes
Ms. Martin
Ms. O'Neill

**...SURVIVE THE
HUNGERR GAMES**

Mr. Moynihan
Ms. Bruce
Mr. McAuley

...BE LATE TO CLASS ...BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

No teacher in the
history of teaching
has ever been late
for class...

Ms. Conaty
Ms. Dalton
Mr. Jordan

**...BE MISTAKEN FOR
A STUDENT**

Mr. Conlon
Ms. Gibson
Ms. Casey

**... KEEP THE
CLEANEST CLASSROOM**

Ms. Hynes
Ms. Monerawela
Ms. Gerard

**...BE THE FIRST ONE
AT SCHOOL**

Mr. Connolly
Mr. Devine
Ms. P. Flynn

**...GREET YOU IN THE
HALLWAY**

Ms. O'Toole
Ms. English
Mr. Gueret

**... PUT GRADING
OFF UNTIL THE LAST
MINUTE**

Ms. Donnellan
Mr. Burns
Ms. McCabe

...KEEP THEIR COOL

Ms. Callan
Mr. Mulheir
Mr. Walshe

**...BE THE RECYCLING
POLICE**

Ms. Hynes
Mr. Delaney
Ms. Monerawela

**...WIN AN AWARD IN
THEIR SUBJECT AREA ...HAVE A STASH OF
CANDY IN THEIR DESK**

Mr. Hannon
Ms. Conaty
Mr. Nissar

Mr. Toner
Mr. Jordan
Mr. Toher

**...NOT GIVE WEEKEND
HOMEWORK**

Mr. O'Dwyer
Ms. Conaty
Ms. Quinn

**...CATCH YOU ON YOUR
PHONE**

Mr. Connolly
Mr. Mitchell
Ms. Smyth

**... SURVIVE ON A
DESERT ISLAND**

Ms. Reid
Ms. O'Hanlon
Mr. Horan

oot
likely
tson

MESSAGES TO THE CLASS OF 2023

Wishing the class of 2023 all the very best for the future, especially my 6th year History nerds!

- Mr. Conlon

To the Class of 2023! You are such fabulous, creative and lovely people and I just know you are all going to achieve wonderful things in life. It's students such as yourselves who remind me of why I pursued a career in education. A special mention to our Cinniri, your constant upbeat demeanor and kind dispositions inspired me this year and I will miss you so much. Thank you for being a really super year group!

- Ms. Hynes

Remember, You are stronger than you seem, Braver than you believe, and smarter than you think you are!

- Ms. Kavanagh

Wishing all students from the wonderful class of 2023 lots of good health and happiness for the future!

- Mr. Delaney

Congratulations to you all on your graduation. Wishing you all every success in your chosen paths!

- Ms. JConlon

Congratulations and best wishes for your next adventure. Now go and make some more memories.

- Mr. Nissar

Be Sound

-Mr. Toher

Guys you have been the best Year group I have ever taught. From my own gang in Rang Toner, to my 6th Year Classics nerds & the 6th Year History crew I inherited. You're such a lovely, positive, kind & caring group of people & you've been great craic over the last few years. Some of the funnier stories include a very young Ben Simon in 1st Year banging down Ms Prendergast's door after being annoyed in class. The 1st Year Italy trip where a ghost scared half the year & we had to move 6 lads into one room to stop the tears. Even this year's Classics & Art trip to Rome & Florence was unforgettable, I'll say it again - you were the best group of people I've ever brought away on a trip! Watching Max Lovett butcher Callum Whitbread in the arena was a highlight, before I got to attack Sean Dignam myself! I wish you guys the very best for the future, you're a wonderful group of people & I'll never forget you. SLAY!

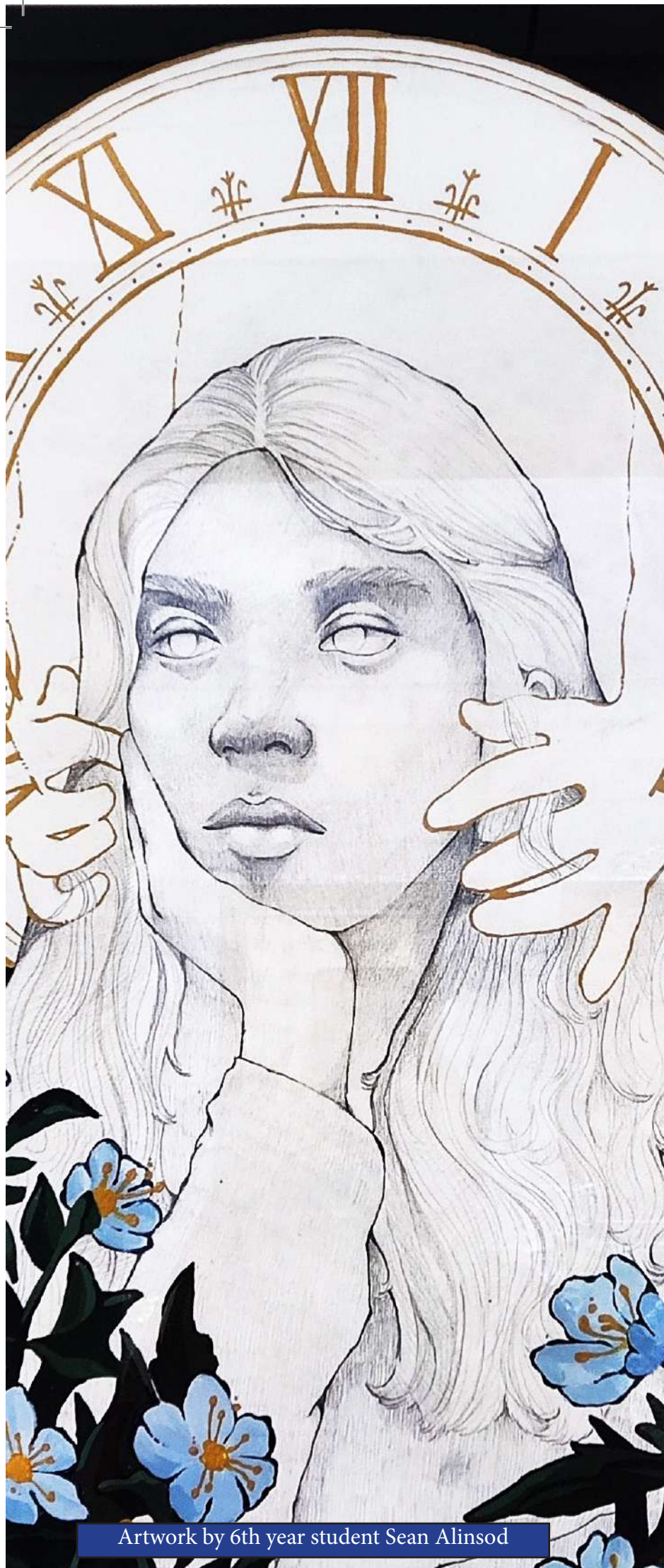
- Mr Toner

Congratulations to you all on your Graduation Day. It has been an absolute pleasure watching you grow and mature into the fantastic young adults you are today. I will miss seeing you on the corridors of RC but I have every confidence that you will achieve great success in the years ahead. Best of luck in your exams -you have worked hard and you deserve the best.

- Ms. Donna Kelly

Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh go léir! Wishing the best Irish class the very best of luck for the future. You all deserve it!

- Ms. Bruce



Artwork by 6th year student Sean Alinsod

Warmest CONGRATULATIONS to the class of 2023. The advent of graduation has caused me to pause and reflect. It was September 2017 when I was Moltoir to some of you and taught many. It has been wonderful to see you write your story over the last 6 years. TY was an interesting experience for many. The challenges of a pandemic meant that it was never going to be a traditional TY. However, you were and have reminded, one of the most loved bunch of TY students to ever grace the halls of Ratoath College. This was down to your wonderful "can do", "make the most of it" attitude. I wish I had a DeLorean and that I could transport us all back to a pandemic free TY and give you the experience you so richly deserve but alas, I cannot. Perhaps though it is not the time to look to the past but rather to the future. I know for all 6th years the future is bright, it is bright because you will make it bright. You have the drive, the passion and the world at your fingertips. Go! Be free! Have fun! Be brilliant...because you all are.

- Ms. Savage

To my Home Ec Class of 2023, I have really enjoyed being your teacher and getting to know each and everyone of you over the past few years. Yee all are a great bunch and will be missed in room 47, so don't be a stranger in the future, call in and let me know all your news and exciting adventures. Best of luck, your futures are bright.

- Ms. McKeon.

So many legendary characters in one year group ! Fond memories and good laughs with so many of you over the years. Best of luck with your adventures ahead, and a special shout out to my Brothers in Arms from the trip to Florence and Rome. Hit the world and leave your mark.

- Mr. McAuley

Wishing the class of 2023 all the very best as you embark on your next journey. It is said that education is the passport to the future. Just remember to hand up your phone as you go through security.

- Mr. Mitchell

Wishing our wonderful 6th Year class of 2023 every blessing for the future. May your future be filled with exciting new opportunities that allow you to grow into the amazing young men and women that you are. Pursue passions in this life that fill your heart with love, fulfilment and joy. Always know that you are loved beyond measure. On days that are difficult, remember that you have the strength, capability and resilience to overcome any challenge. Let new adventures begin...

- Mr. Gueret

Best of luck to all the students in the Leaving Cert exams and in the exciting life that awaits you all.

- Ms P Flynn

As you come to the end of your time in Ratoath College, I hope you can reflect on all of the wonderful memories and experiences you have had along the way, and look back with fondness. Wishing the class of 2023 all the luck in the world in everything you do. It's sad to say goodbye, especially to my lovely English class, but remember at the end of every sad goodbye there is an exciting new beginning on the horizon!

- Ms. Jackson

Siete tutti bravi ragazzi! In bocca al lupo! - Best of luck and enjoy what's to come.

- Ms. AFlynn

Enjoy everything you do!

- Mr.Davis

Best of luck to class of 2023 as you head out into the world on your next adventure.

- Ms Delany

It has been a pleasure getting to know you all over the last few years in Ratoath College! Cherish the memories that you have made while you've been here and go enjoy the next step in your journey. Wishing you all the very best in your exams and all your future endeavours!

- Ms.Reid

Wishing you nothing but the best in your next adventure. Enjoy the journey. A special mention to my former TY Rang O'Neill. And a mention to my 6th year art students. Well done to each and every one of you on all you have achieved and accomplished during the course of your LC art project. It's been a pleasure to teach you and watch you develop into amazing young creative artists.

- Ms.SONeill

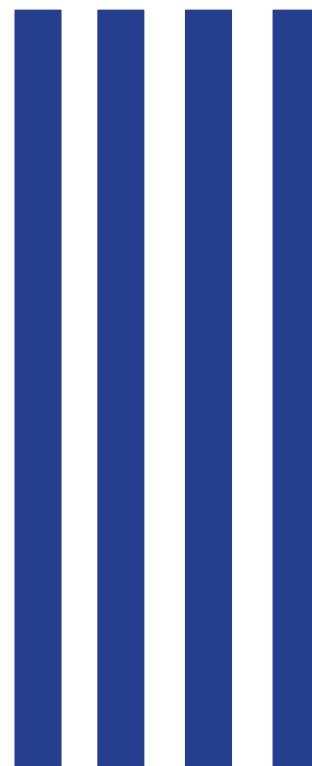
To the class of 2023! Thank you for the laughs! It's been a great few years. A special work of thanks and best wishes to the past Rang Daltons and the sixth year Music class. Miss you already!

- Ms.Dalton

Life is for living take every opportunity and enjoy it all!

- Ms Conaty

Don't waste your time on jealousy, sometimes you're ahead, sometimes you're behind. The race is long and in the end, it's only with yourself.



6TH YEAR MEMORIES OF RATOATH COLLEGE

Paul telling teachers "I love you" as they walked past.

- Matthew Duff

Being part of the Musical

- Abi Hunt

Throwing me Jordan a surprise birthday party and engagement party.

- Lauren Dolan

Italy Trip

- Callum Whitbread

Jack slapping my head off the bar of the bus on the Lilliput trip in TY

- Gavin Doyle

Crying before the Irish exam over a rice cakes.

- Rachel Hue Conway

Munchin down the back of Geography with the girls and Mr Callaghan.

- Aoife Hyland

Two footing Mr Cullen there in 3rd year.

- Liam Corbett

Amelia Smith chasing Mr O'Neill down the corridor to wish him a happy birthday.

- Erin Maguire

Getting lost in Italy.

- Hanna Carr

Trying to jump over the small red brick walls after Niall managed to do it cause he's like 7 feet tall on the way to maths in 3rd year and failing miserably and faceplanting into the grass. A whole other maths class saw me. I don't think I have ever been that embarrassed ever. I also had a massive cut on my leg for the rest of the day. I still laugh about it now though.

- Rebecca Carr

Sneaking around the school at lunchtime.

- Kristian Grace

Hiding at lunchtime

- Joshua Connolly

Making imovies at lunch.

- Penny Williams

Rang McKeon TY Christmas Door.

- Alix Kane

When I thought Ms. Conaty's therapist ghosted her.

- Larah Magee

TY after Mr. Mitchells play the whole rang had a concert in the classroom

- Roberta Verenbergaité

A fedora with a safari flap in the back - applied maths.

- Jessica Cahill

The trip to go quest.

- Kyle Weakley Little

The Gladiator Fights on the Italy trip where amazing.

- Ciaran Kennedy

Scoring a hat trick in my rugby game.

- Adam Deevy

When I fell off the treadmill

- Daniel Barniville

Mr Jordan having to wear a wig for a week in first year. Winning Christmas door 4 years in a row.

- Beibhinn Murphy

Swimming in the lake at lilliput.

- Ben Blackwell

Giving out lollipops in 5th year everyday.

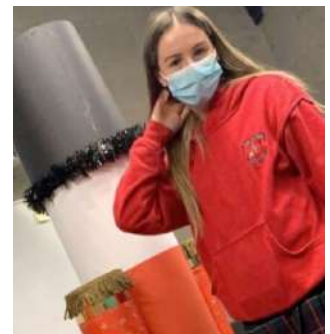
- Tabitha Mbemba

The art trip to Newgrange

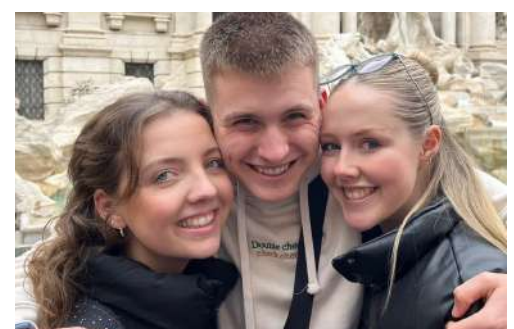
- Naoise Clarke Carr

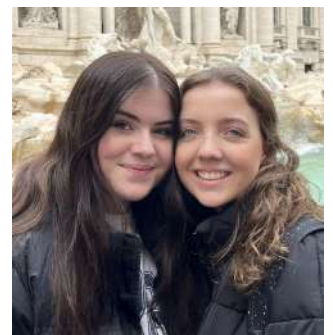


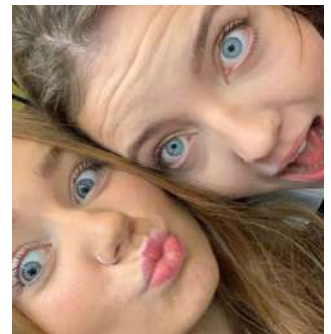














Q & A

New Teacher Interview

Ms. Murray

Who / what inspired you to become a teacher?

My secondary school Art teacher . We also happened to share the same first name so I thought it was fate that I become just like her.

If someone wrote a biography about you, what do you think the title would be? Why?

'It's not Rocket Science' , because it's not that difficult to understand.

What is your go to karaoke song? Why?

'Hopelessly devoted to you' by Olivia Newton John. I loved good Sandy .

What is your favourite memory of school?

Being in the art room of course. It's where I felt best, where my efforts were appreciated and in some cases , admired.

What is one of your hidden talents?

I reckon I can mix hundreds of colours.

Do you have any nicknames?

Miss

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

Paintball , Students verses Teachers. Why?.. Revenge!

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Students believing that to be creative and artistic is to be good at drawing.

Is there a quote or saying you live your life by?

Many hands make light work.



In which other teachers class would you like to enrol, even for a day? Why?

Science . I had to choose between Art and Science when I was in Secondary School. I'm still building the bridge.

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

Back to the 80's. Although often remembered for its materialism and consumerism and the rise of the 'yuppie' , I immersed myself in the popular culture of the time, Madonna , Bruce Springsteen, Mods verses Rockers, Live Aid, Neon , Big Hair , second hand combat jackets and renting videos on a Friday night.

If you could invite three people to a dinner party, dead or alive who would you invite? Why?

Amy Winehouse, Banksey, Paul O'Connell

What current student trends are baffling to you?

White socks

If you could have one superpower what would it be?

Teleporting , go wherever , whenever I want to go.

Any advice for life?

If it doesn't feel good, don't do it .



New Teacher Interview

Ms. Kavanagh

Who / what inspired you to become a teacher?

My History teacher in secondary school Mr Doyle. He was enthusiastic about his subject and passed it on to his students.

If someone wrote a biography about you, what do you think the title would be? Why?

'It is never too late' I am a firm believer that people can accomplish anything in their lives no matter what age they are.

What is your go to karaoke song? Why?

'Girls just wanna have fun' by Cindi Lauper

What is your favourite memory of school?

School trip to Paris, this was my first trip without my parents, and it was amazing. I made friendships on this trip that have lasted my whole life.

What is one of your hidden talents?

I am a qualified swimming instructor.

Do you have any nicknames?

I don't have a nick name.

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

As a History and Religion teacher, I would take my students to Rome, it is my favourite city in the world, the food, culture, and history are endless.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Being late.

Is there a quote or saying you live your life by?

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

- Benjamin Franklin.



In which other teachers class would you like to enrol, even for a day? Why?

I would like to be in Ms Savages English class, I spent some time in her class and it was really captivating and engaging and I would love to enrol in her classes. would love to be in her class fulltime.

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

The decade I would like to have grown up in was the sixties, I love the music and the fashion.

If you could invite three people to a dinner party, dead or alive who would you invite? Why?

Catherine the Great, Michael Collins and Roy Keane, I admire all three and would love to hear first-hand about their lives

What current student trends are baffling to you?

I don't understand the obsession with tik tok and be real.

If you could have one superpower what would it be?

I would love to be able to fly so I don't get stuck in traffic.

Any advice for life?

Never give up on your dreams.

Q&A

New Teacher Interview

Ms. Lawler

Who / what inspired you to become a teacher?

I had a great teacher in TY for maths, she was the first teacher who really encouraged me to push myself.

If someone wrote a biography about you, what do you think the title would be? Why?

Off on a tangent! (Because it's a great maths pun and where I sometimes go when trying to make a point)

What is your go to karaoke song? Why?

Believe by Cher.

What is your favourite memory of school?

6th year Christmas - the teachers put together a choir to sing Christmas songs and a dance routine for our last Christmas in school.

What is one of your hidden talents?

I have a black belt in taekwondo

Do you have any nicknames?

No

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

I'd love to bring a group to the Kennedy Space Centre in Orlando - with a few amusement parks on the way.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Rudeness

Is there a quote or saying you live your life by?

Don't worry about things you can't change



In which other teachers class would you like to enrol, even for a day? Why?

I never did home ec in school and I always was jealous of the students who got to bake themselves treats - so anyone from the home ec department!

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

I loved the decade I grew up in. Social media didn't become what it is now until I was a teenager so I still had a childhood away from screens and devices while getting the benefits of it as I grew older.

If you could invite three people to a dinner party, dead or alive who would you invite? Why?

For pure chaos: Kanye West, Taylor Swift and Beyoncé

What current student trends are baffling to you?

Not locking their lockers.

If you could have one superpower what would it be?

Telekinesis

Any advice for life?

Often the longer route is more scenic, if things take longer than planned that's totally okay.



New Teacher Interview

Ms. Brooks

Who / what inspired you to become a teacher?

Since primary school I always wanted to be a teacher. When I went into secondary school, my PE teacher inspired me so much when it came to everything to do with Sport. So I trained as PE teacher when I left school.

If someone wrote a biography about you, what do you think the title would be? Why?

Hardworking, loud and very loyal!

What is your go to karaoke song? Why?

Don't Stop Believin' Song by Journey. Reminds of college days in London

What is your favourite memory of school?

I loved TY for all the trips that we got to go on with all my friends-great memories.

What is one of your hidden talents?

Professional Irish dancer in a show in the USA called 'Irish Thunder'

Do you have any nicknames?

Davey (Maiden name)

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

Italy-So much to do and see and the food is amazing!

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Dishonesty!

Is there a quote or saying you live your life by?

"Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced."

~ Soren Kierkegaard.



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

I love the decade I grew up in-lived outside and thank god there was no social media!!!

If you could invite three people to a dinner party, dead or alive who would you invite? Why?

Dermot Kennedy/Tommy Tiernan/Roy Keane

What current student trends are baffling to you?

The lack of confidence in their own ability

If you could have one superpower what would it be?

Flying because it would be very cool

Any advice for life?

Always do the things that make you the happiest!



New Teacher Interview

Ms. Ennis

Who / what inspired you to become a teacher?

Winning student of the year when I was in third year, it motivated me to push myself as hard as I could in leaving cert to do what I wanted.

What is your go to karaoke song? Why?

Rose Garden by Lynn Anderson, always a banger and guaranteed to put me in a good mood!

What is your favourite memory of school?

The laughs we had in double business last class on a Friday from 1st to 6th year. It was the same group the whole way through which meant we had a great bond with one another and our teacher was great craic!

What is one of your hidden talents?

I can play the spoons

Do you have any nicknames?

Mol

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

Anywhere in Italy, simply for the weather and the endless amounts of pizza, pasta and gelato.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

People who leave food in the sink, particularly tea bags

Is there a quote or saying you live your life by?

What's for you won't pass by you.



In which other teachers class would you like to enrol, even for a day? Why?

Ms. Mc Cormack's, just so I can listen to her sarcastic jokes and side comments all day long

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

Im content being a millennium baby, I wouldn't change what my childhood was like, it was simple and enjoyable

If you could invite three people to a dinner party, dead or alive who would you invite? Why?

Princess Anne, for her sarcasm, Mary Berry for some cooking tips. Dermot Kennedy for some musical entertainment.

What current student trends are baffling to you?

Refusing to write on the left hand side of the page, I just don't get it!

If you could have one superpower what would it be?

Flying

Any advice for life?

Don't sweat the small stuff!



New Teacher Interview

Mr. Flynn

Who / what inspired you to become a teacher?

A combination of teachers from my own childhood and teaching drama over the years, realising I enjoy teaching.

If someone wrote a biography about you, what do you think the title would be? Why?

Front of House. I enjoy performing but I also enjoy facilitating others to perform and showcase their talent/knowledge.

What is your go to karaoke song? Why?

Mr. Blue Sky. It puts people in a good mood.

What is your favourite memory of school?

Laughing with friends.

What is one of your hidden talents?

Drawing.

Do you have any nicknames?

Colly or Col

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

New York. I lived there to study and would show them some hidden sites and walks.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Litter/mess.

Is there a quote or saying you live your life by?

Learn from mistakes, have manners, and respect those you encounter.



In which other teachers class would you like to enrol, even for a day? Why?

Any art or music class, they were my favourite subjects growing up.

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

1980s for the music.

If you could invite three people to a dinner party, dead or alive who would you invite? Why?

Robin Williams, Michael Collins, and Colin Farrell. To discuss the arts, politics, and to laugh.

What current student trends are baffling to you?

Snapping paper...

If you could have one superpower what would it be?

Super Speed or Time Dilation. The day isn't long enough!

Any advice for life?

Most success depends on your ability to have good relationships with people. Respect is key.



New Teacher Interview

Ms. Farrell

Who / what inspired you to become a teacher?

I am lucky to have had several great teachers in both primary and secondary school who inspired me along the way to become a teacher.

What is your go to karaoke song? Why?

Suspicious Minds- Elvis Presley.

What is your favourite memory of school?

In second year our class went on a trip to lough crew adventure centre

What is one of your hidden talents?

Baking

Do you have any nicknames?

Not yet!

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

Spiddal Co. Galway. It is part of the Gaeltacht (Irish speaking region). It's a great place to go and improve Irish oral skills in a fun and enjoyable way.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

When someone doesn't write their name on a test/piece of work when handing it in

Is there a quote or saying you live your life by?

What's for you won't pass you.



In which other teachers class would you like to enrol, even for a day? Why?

I'd like to enrol in a home ec practical class because I enjoy baking/cooking.

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

The 90s because I'd get to see Meath win 2 All Irelands and Man Utd win the treble in 1999.

If you could invite three people to a dinner party, dead or alive who would you invite? Why?

Pelé, Maradona and Messi and let them argue their case for being the best footballer of all time.

What current student trends are baffling to you?

Listening to Christmas songs before the 1st of December.

If you could have one superpower what would it be?

To fly

Any advice for life?

If you fail to prepare you are preparing to fail



New Teacher Interview

Mr. Corbbally

Who / what inspired you to become a teacher?

My History teacher in St. Pats

If someone wrote a biography about you, what do you think the title would be? Why?

The honest one.

What is your go to karaoke song? Why?

Little Lion Man

What is your favourite memory of school?

Doing the musical Les Miserable

What is one of your hidden talents?

I can milk cows.

Do you have any nicknames?

The first years seem to call me "Corbo".

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

The Lincoln memorial in DC. It's a really nice place and a great place to give a history lesson.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

A student saying "I didn't do that", after I just saw them doing, exactly that.

Is there a quote or saying you live your life by?

"Men at night, men in the morning". It basically means if you stay up late partying you need to be willing to work hard the next day also.



In which other teachers class would you like to enrol, even for a day? Why?

Mr. McAuley's Italian. I don't speak any and it would be fun to learn some.

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

I am very happy to live now, its hard to think that life has ever been better in Ireland.

If you could invite three people to a dinner party, dead or alive who would you invite? Why?

Leonardo Da Vinci, Socrates and Abraham Lincoln. I think they would all provide lots to think about and would have very interesting debates.

What current student trends are baffling to you?

I don't like everything being recorded in life, if you go to a live event watch it live, it wont look good on your phone later.

If you could have one superpower what would it be?

Flying would be a lot of fun.

Any advice for life?

Life isn't easy. If things do go wrong for a while, just do the simple things right for a while and most problems will get sorted.



THINK GREEN



Ratoath College

‘Lead the scene and keep it green!’



OUR SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY

2021- 2023

Our Green Schools Leadership Team was formed in January 2022, in an effort to take a whole school approach to improving our school environment. We could see the world around us changing and beginning to take note of their plastic use and we wanted to be ambassadors for change in our own community. We knew we would all have to understand our individual and collective responsibilities in order to take real action in our school and bring about meaningful change.

It started with a desire to reduce the use of single-use plastics in our school. Our project started with monitoring litter within our school community and creating awareness about the damage single-use plastics can do to our environment. We gathered our information by interviewing school staff, students,

caretakers, local business people and parents. We started our RC Green Schools Leadership Team which comprises of highly motivated students, management, caretakers, parents and teachers. Our extensive research and monitoring showed us that students using single-use water bottles and teachers using single-use coffee cups were found to be the largest obstacles in relation to reducing litter and waste in our school.

Our 'Lead the Scene and Keep it Green' campaign started in September 2021. Since we started the project, we liaised with our Principal and our Management team, to put in place a ban of single-use plastic bottles in the school and a ban of single-use coffee cups in our school. Three water-refill fountains have been installed in our school. We designed our own unique

reusable water bottles and coffee mugs. We designed our own Ratoath College logo and slogan which is printed on our school handbooks, student diaries and teacher journals. Our uniquely designed 'Keep it Green' posters were professionally printed and are now visible in every classroom in our school and in all GP areas. We painted a large mural of our 'Lead the Scene and Keep it Green' image on the wall at the entrance to our school.



We then developed and delivered a 'Keep it Green' presentation to all staff and students in our school. This included information on the impact of plastic on sea life, the health hazards to humans and the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling within our school community. It also explained our new 'Keep it Green' whole school initiatives, so that our entire school community would know what we were collectively doing as a school, to combat our litter and waste issues in our school. We also held a 'Keep it Green' Month in September 2022 and in December 2022, where all students were presented with four lessons on Sustainability, Circular Economy, Litter and Waste and Climate Change. This gave students and teachers an opportunity to explore the topic of sustainability as a class and to communicate their individual and collective concerns as a class. Both students and teachers are rewarded with weekly and end of term Pizza Parties and certificates for exemplary work in relation to keeping their classrooms clean and litter free.

In September 2022 we supplied every student in the school with their own RC Reusable Water Bottle and every staff member with a RC Reusable Coffee mug free of charge. All students and staff were encouraged to bring in their own lunchbox and dispose of any waste in their lunch box and recycle it at home. There is now only one 'Paper Only' recycling bin placed in every classroom in the school and our Green Schools Leadership Team monitor all our classrooms on a weekly basis.

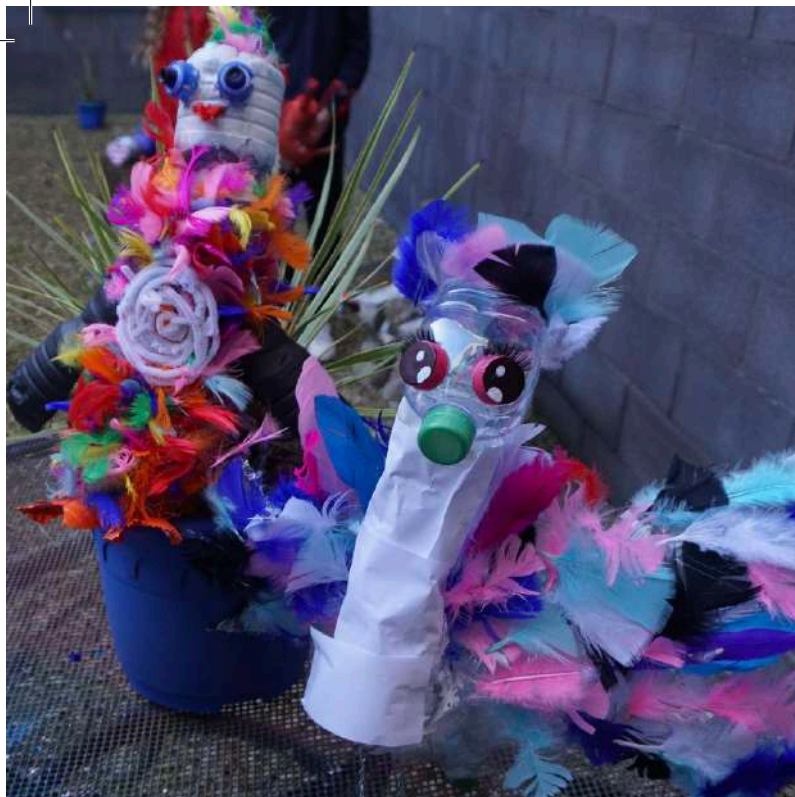
Classes are rewarded each term with a pizza party for their commitments to our initiatives and teachers are rewarded on a weekly basis for their dedication to our cause with a certificate and gift. We designed a large Green Notice Board to highlight all important initiatives taking place in our school and to highlight our successful classes and teachers who have won our green awards each term.





We have noticed a huge decline in the use of single-use plastics which was our target, at the beginning of this project. At the start of 2020, hundreds of plastic bottles and coffee cups were collected weekly in our school and now we only use plastic bottles for art projects to highlight important topics like recycling and sustainability, so we feel we have achieved awareness amongst our fellow students. Our campaign has led to a complete ban on single-use plastic bottles and coffee cups in our school, saving an average of over 6,000 bottles so far from landfill. We promote all our 'Keep it Green' initiatives on all our Social Media pages (Twitter, Instagram and our school website) and we hope our campaign has helped the wider community to realise the need to reduce their use of single-use plastics for a sustainable future.





Our Art Department also worked on a wonderful Green Schools Sculpture Project. To gain inspiration for our sculpture pieces, students went on a day trip to Lough Boora Sculpture Park in Co. Offaly. For many years, Lough Boora was a working bog and now it's home to many sculpture pieces created by Artists from Ireland and all around the world. Art students in Ratoath College decided to use recycled plastic bottles and natural materials in their own designs. Students drew plastic bottles and incorporated them into our final designs and based their sculptures on an environmental message that meant something personal to us and our school. Their work is displayed in an outdoor display garden in our school.

Students and staff in our Autism Unit (Ionad Arkle) joined forces with our Green Schools Leadership Team and decided to create our own community garden. This was to teach the students the importance of plants to our environment. They learned how to plant and water their plants and look after them. They planted tomatoes to learn how to grow vegetables and created a rota to share the responsibilities that helped show teamwork makes any task easier.

The Green School leadership team ran a Green Schools Poster Competition in January 2022 with the theme 'Say No to Single Use Plastic'. A 6th year student produced the winning poster which is both artistic and informative and it is attached here.





The team ran a wonderful Green Schools Action Day in December 2022, where we introduced our Green Schools Mascot to our school 'Scruffy'. Scruffy reward all students and staff who walked, cycled or scooted to school that morning with treats. We also hosted our first ever 'clothes swop' event. We wanted to highlight the important transition in awareness and attitude from a 'take, wear, dispose' approach to clothing (linear economy) to a 'care, share, repair' approach (circular economy), while shifting our mindsets away from ownership and explore ideas like renting and leasing options, second hand clothes shops, charity shops as well as clothes swapping with friends.

The Green Schools leadership team are very aware of the importance of looking more closely at striving for a 'circular economy' and how 'fast fashion' and the production of cheap, poor-quality clothing results in overwhelming amounts of consumption and waste. We now realise, that all the elements of fast fashion; trend replication, rapid production, low quality and competitive pricing, add up to having a detrimental impact on the planet and the people involved in garment production.



LEAD THE SCENE



As a school we are becoming very aware of our individual and collective responsibilities in relation to sustainability and climate change. We are also trying to encourage a collective move from a 'linear economy' and towards a more 'circular economy' where we look towards initiatives that promote reducing, reusing and recycling materials where possible.

Ratoath College worked with the Green-Schools programme to help take practical actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. ClothesPod is a sponsor of the Green-Schools programme, aiming to bring further sustainability and environmentally friendly solutions to our school. ClothesPod are 100% Irish with over 25 years' award-winning experience in the textile recycling industry, employing over 50 people full time in Ireland.



KEEP IT GREEN

In January this year we coordinated with students, staff and teachers to participate in a clothing collection day in our school to help us make a positive impact on our environment. Going forward, we hope to help ensure clothes are kept at their highest value during use and re-enter the economy after use, never ending up in a landfill. Through raising awareness and educating our students and staff about the importance to re-use, repair and repurpose an item you no longer wear we hope to make a difference and encourage real change.

The RC Little Free Library is a free book exchange initiative where staff are encouraged to take a book and return a book, promoting a sustainable way of reading. Purchasing books for one time use can be expensive and can also lead to a lot of paper waste. The RC Little Free Library will give us an opportunity to reuse resources that we have while also expanding access to books and encourage more people to discover the joy in reading.

Ratoath College will be taking part in the 'Take 1 Programme' which looks at education for sustainable development in Post Primary Schools. We will be actively participating in May Day on May 9th and we have already started our fundraising activities to pursue our Wild Garden and our Metre of Meadow in our school.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Take 1 Programme
Education for Sustainable Development in ETB Schools

Teach 1 About 1 To 1 Over 1 Lesson SDG Class Week

etbi
Education Training and Employment Institute

@ETBIreland #ETB_SDGS

Riailtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland





Fundraising for our Wild Garden: Green Bake Sale and Green Non Uniform Day





Our Green School's Teacher Certificate of Recognition Award



Mr.Meehan planting our first tree for our new Wild Garden

YOUNG



ENVIRONMENTALISTS

Sustainable Development Goal 3, regarding 'Good Health and Well-being' is one of the 17 sustainable development goals, established by the United Nations in 2015. The official wording is 'To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages'. Here in Ratoath College, we like to 'Think Globally, but Act Locally' and this slogan is an integral part of everything we do in our school. Over the next fifteen years, we as students will not only directly experience the outcome of SDGs and plans but will also be the key driver for their successful implementation. For this reason, it is vital that we build a platform for discussion and create the conditions for active engagement.

Our Team was formed as we are all members of our Green School Leadership Team and the Wellbeing Team in our school. All five of us were extremely eager to coordinate and lead this entire project. All members of our Green Schools Leadership Team voted to ensure we were worthy nominees and capable of leading this project on behalf of our school. Kate and Saoirse and two 6th year Cinnire students in our school and so we knew as student leaders, they would have the confidence, management skills and the collaborative skills to coordinate this project. Matthew, Leo and Ross are three 5th year students who are passionate about sustainability and health and wellbeing so we knew they would drive our project forward as they are already involved in numerous other initiatives and clubs in the school promoting similar important issues.

AWARDS 2023



Recent global issues (Covid-19/War in Ukraine/Climate Change) have directly and indirectly impacted the lives of young people worldwide and therefore; we see an important need to promote and celebrate sustainability and healthy lives and well-being in order to build resilient and prosperous societies and school communities. Covid-19 is threatening decades of progress in global health e.g., the prevalence of anxiety and depression is on the

rise. It is a well-known fact that war has multiple negative psychological impacts on both individuals directly involved and even those not involved and as the war in Ukraine is so mediatized, we feel students worldwide may be negatively affected regardless of age, gender or involvement in the conflict. Climate change and increasing temperatures have been shown to increase levels of allergens and pollutants present in the air, leading to worsened air quality and emerging evidence suggests that poor air quality can negatively impact mental health, in particular depression and anxiety.



The UN SDG Report 2022 tells us that cascading and interlinked crises are putting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in grave danger, along with humanity's very own survival. The Report highlights the severity and magnitude of the challenges before us. The confluence of crises, dominated by COVID-19, climate change, and conflicts, are creating spin-off impacts on food and nutrition, health, education, the environment, and peace and security, and affecting all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Report details the reversal of years of progress in eradicating poverty and hunger, improving health and education, providing basic services, and much more. It also points out areas that need urgent action in order to rescue the SDGs and deliver meaningful progress for people and the planet by 2030.

We are encouraging everyone to 'Think globally but act locally', in relation to addressing important issues like acting sustainability, ensuring they prioritise their health and wellbeing and celebrate implementing environmentally conscious and healthy solutions into everyday decisions and actions. So instead of waiting for grand breakthroughs to 'fix the world' we can all act locally and raise awareness in our own school communities about the importance of acting sustainably, ensuring good health, healthy lifestyles. We produced an Eco-health and Well-being video promoting how our school implements environmentally conscious and healthy initiatives to raise awareness and celebrate positive steps towards taking action. We believe that by acting sustainably here in our school and keeping it litter free, this has a hugely positive affect on our overall health and wellbeing. So, we are now challenging other schools, to do what we did, and look for ways their SCHOOL promotes sustainability, healthy lives and wellbeing for their students. We hope our video inspires.

Throughout this project, we developed the value of hope and friendship and acted on our group vision of a more positive and sustainable future in our school. We considered how hope enabled us to see the potential for change and fuelled our steps towards realising it. We believe our project has reignited hope in our school community and presents our personal applications of hope and how embracing hope can give birth to a vision of a positive sustainable future and inspire action to bring that vision about.

As human beings, as a social clan, as a school community, we have a need to live within supportive environments where we are nurtured and can thrive together, where there is a strong commitment to the well-being of our school community as a whole. We are fundamentally designed to live this way. Building friendships with one another is not just "a nice thing to do" but it is an imperative for our survival as humans, and for our well-being as a local and global community. As a team, we have built friendships for life, not only with our fellow students but also with our teachers, secretaries, caretakers and management in our school.





Throughout this project, we feel like we have all developed skills in environmental advocacy. Advocates have been telling the public to recycle, reduce, and reuse for decades now, and that advice is still relevant today, but we learned that our fellow students respond better to seeing progress in action through a motivational video. Although we all realise systemic change is necessary to alter our current trajectory, small day-to-day actions can still help spread a more sustainable worldview. Together, thought and action can add up to make a real difference, especially when these thoughts and actions are celebrated and promoted in a positive, inspiring and personal way. Changing hearts and minds, building public will, and thereby influencing political will and judicial engagement on any issue requires that advocates first connect with people through language and stories rooted in values we authentically share. We have seen how our video has helped us to be environmental advocates in a way that shares our own unique and inspiring sustainability journey.

We can honestly say that our environmental knowledge has grown and developed organically as we researched and explored this sustainability project over several months. We have a deeper insight into how sustainability, climate change, health and wellbeing and all 17 Sustainable Development Goals are directly linked and interconnected. We know globally, nine out of ten people breathe polluted air. And even worse, seven million people worldwide die prematurely from air pollution every year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Much of the same pollutants causing our air pollution crisis are also causing our climate crisis. Knowledge is power, and we understand that by learning more and more about our climate challenge and the responsibility that all sectors hold in addressing the issues involved, we can add our voice to these issues that are shaping the climate debate as well as emerging, evidence-based data that directly relates to changes in our climate our health and our well-being.

This is just the beginning of our Young Environmentalist journey! We have seen so many positive impacts from taking part in this project, we only have a desire to continue our work towards a more sustainable life in order to rescue the SDGs and help deliver meaningful progress for people and the planet by 2030. Because of our participation in this 'Eco-health and Well-being' video project, we have recently connected with many other schools in Louth and Meath to work together to pursue projects collectively. Identifying and setting goals collectively to pursue common environmental goals, based upon the mission and values of each school, strengthens our identity and our motivation to take more action. We hope that by working together with our neighbouring schools, we will deepen relationships and provide students and staff in our school with opportunities to work in unity with likeminded individuals and leaders in other schools, towards our common sustainability goals. Research shows that collaborative problem-solving leads to better outcomes. People are more likely to take calculated risks that lead to innovation if they have the support of a team behind them. We are excited to see what future group projects and collaborative initiatives are on the horizon.



In the build up to our school musical “Sister Act”, our Cinnirí and the 6th year Rang Conaty undertook a huge fundraising event; “Nuns on the Run” in the last week of September. In order to promote the school musical, 10 cinnirí volunteered to dress up as nuns and compete against 10 teachers who were dressed up as students. The “nuns” and “students” bravely took on the 10-man relay race on our athletics track, which had a number of obstacles placed along the way!

The sign up sheet for the teachers may have taken some time to be filled but in the end we had 10 teachers who were eager to take on the “nuns”. The teachers were led by their Bainisteoir, Mr Horan, who was very keen to take on the role. The teachers had prepared and trained leading up to the event and according to Mr Horan, in his pre-race interview, although they did have an unknown

weak link, the teachers definitely had a few tricks up their sleeve.

The cinnirí were more than delighted to be taking on the teachers in “Nuns on the Run”, even if it did mean they had to dress up as nuns and run around the athletics track! I had the lucky job of being the Bainisteoir of the “Nuns” and I can definitely confirm there were no weak links within this team of nuns!

There were some last minute changes to both teams, for the teachers Ms Bruce had a last minute injury but fortunately Mr Flanagan was willing to step in and for the nuns, Luca Fogarty was called to a soccer match but Sophie Maher took his spot.

As the school gathered on the athletic track, they were supplied with excellent commentary by Mr McAuley, Abi Hunt and Alicia



Cunningham. They had in depth analysis on each student and teacher, including the bainisteoirí and provided excellent commentary throughout the race! The “Nuns” and “Students” made their way to the track, completed their warm up and were ready to start the race. Each competitor had to sprint 200 metres with obstacles along the way. The obstacles included: hurdles, balancing along a bench, throwing wet sponges into the bainisteoirí’s buckets, popping a balloon on a chair and jumping over the iconic sports day wooden horse!

The race was level throughout, with Dara Kavanagh and Mr Farrell proving to be an even match in the first leg of the relay. They passed the batons to Danny Colgan and Mr Jordan who were both equally as determined to beat each other. Keith Carroll and Mr O’Dwyer were next to run and although it was

level both seemed to really take their time when having the opportunity to throw the wet sponges at the bainisteoirí. Ms O’Sullivan had a flying start in her leg of the race but Phoebe Shepard was more than capable to match this and keep the race level. Mr O’Reilly and Sophie Maher flew over the hurdles as if they weren’t even there and passed the baton to Liam Corbett and Mr McKenna. Mr McKenna took the lead but Liam was able to catch up to him very quickly. Rachel Conway and Mr Conlan continued the race. Once again they both loved having the opportunity to drench the bainisteoirí with wet sponges, but Mr Conlan was most pleased to be able to put his own Ratoath College uniform back on. Ms O’Toole and Jack Dempsey took on the next leg and both cruised through their run, even gracefully jumping over the wooden horse. They freed Saoirse Browne and Ms Ryan to run, the tension was rising as the two

were able to keep the race very close coming into the final stretch. Mr Flanagan started the final leg with a slight lead over the nuns but Cathal Hayes closed that gap within seconds and passed out Mr Flanagan. It was Cathal's to win until he tumbled over the wooden horse and allowed Mr Flanagan to close the gap. There was pushing and shoving as they both closed the final corner but in the end.....The Nuns Won!!!

It was an incredibly entertaining race and was an excellent opportunity to raise money for the musical. Thank you to all the students who came out to watch, to all the cinnirí who helped organise the event (especially the co-ordinators Kate Hayes and Larah Magee), Abi C and James for doing the interviews, Luca and Sarah for promoting the race, the commentators Abi H, Alicia and Mr McCauley, our bouncers Béibhínn, Niamh and Larah, Rang Conaty, Ms Hynes, Ms Monerawela for supplying the nun costumes, the bainisteoirí and all the teachers and cinnirí who took part in the race. It was a fantastic fundraiser for the school musical "Sister Act"!





RATOATH COLLEGE PRESENTS

SISTER ACT



**OCTOBER 26TH,
27TH, 28TH**



**STUDENTS €10
ADULTS €15**



SISTER ACT

Almost as soon as the cast returned to school in September after a long, musical free break, it was time to seriously get going! The cast rehearsed religiously on Monday, Wednesday and Friday every week with crazy dedication. As rehearsals continued, the excitement really began to build not only amongst the cast, but amongst the whole school. I don't think any of us will ever forget how simply amazing it felt to see the scenes, songs and dances that we had worked so hard on start to come to life and look half decent! As we were told throughout rehearsals however by all the teachers and our choreographer Aisling – we still had a long way to go before we would be ready for anyone to see the show, let alone a paying audience! We were basically eating, sleeping and breathing Sister Act throughout September and October – I've never felt so religious in my whole life!

Before we knew it, it was time for the dreaded weekend rehearsals that soon became some of the best days of the whole experience. We danced, acted and sang our hearts out all day long (until Katy's pizza came – then we ate till there was no hope of us dancing!).

We weren't waiting too long after our week-ends rehearsals before the stage was being built and things began to feel very real and soon. I think a pinnacle moment of the experience was when the cast got our Sister Act hoodies with our character names on them. The hoodies made us all feel so excited and most importantly, a part of a group that was about to do something great! The set then went up, painted beautifully by Ms O' Neill and the art department- the sets were like taking exactly what we had hoped the stage would look like a multiplying all of our hopes by 100! We immediately hopped up on to the stage and began to run the show in its entirety. Before we knew it, we were waiting in the wings with the primary schools providing the most amazing first audience for our show. It was home for some food and rest before coming back into school for our first evening show. Everyone had nervous/excited butterflies in their tummies! We could hear the audience begin to file in and we knew it was time to finally show our school, friends and families what we have been working so hard for!



Our very own Deloris played by Meg Johnson opened the show with a bang singing “Take Me to Heaven” with the fabulous Sarah Gallagher and Eve Stears cheering her on every step of the way as Tina and Michelle. Everything wasn’t so fabulous as Curtis played by Luca Fogarts and his gangsters began to do what they do best and rock the boat a little. Dara Kavanagh playing Officer Eddie Souther was, as always, there to save the day and came up with the bright idea of hiding Deloris in a convent. This was very much to the despair of Mother Superior played by (me) Saoirse Browne with the ever- fabulous Monsignor O’Hara played by James Healy by her side every step of the way (unless he was too busy dancing – then poor Mother Superior resorted to a secret cigarette in her office!) The mins of Queen of Angels became singing nuns with Elsa Johnson, Abi Colgan, Abi Hunt, Megan Fitzmaurice, Hannah Murphy and our fabulous ensemble bringing light to every singing habit on the stage.

The show went from strength to strength each night as our confidence built and our smiles got wider and wider. No feeling will ever match the feeling of standing on stage, surrounded by your on-stage family, hearting the audience clap and cheer for you at the end of each show. The entire experience of being in Sister Act is truly an experience none of us will ever forget and the joy that Sister Act gave us all was evident in the teachers shed on the night of our final show. Personally, if I could relive it all again (even the Wednesday evening rehearsals) I wouldn’t hesitate to jump at the opportunity!

Ms Monerawela, Ms Jackson, Ms Fox, Mr Gueret and our amazing choreographer Aisling Rountree selflessly gave up 8 weeks of their time in order to ensure a truly fabulous show was produced and we owe all of the success and smiles to them – from the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Cast of Sister Act 2022 – over n’ out!

Article by Saoirse Browne





The TY students had completed the four major panels for the set design for this years musical with Ms. O'Neill. The idea was to create a church scene. Four huge panels were to stand on the stage and take the viewer into the world of Sister Mary Clarence. These were impressive pieces of art work and the TY students along with Ms. O'Neill were very proud of how they turned out.

Over the span of two months (September - October) we spent school days and hours outside of school drawing out and painting the sets for our musical Sister Act. We started by drawing out plans with Ms. O'Neill and Ms. Murray. Once they were done we started painting with Ms. O'Neill. We started with the Dive Bar, we painted a juke box and a big sign saying "Dive Bar" using lots of neon colours. It took us several attempts to get it right but we were very happy with the end result.

We then moved on to Mother Superior's office where we painted a mixture of purple bricks on top and wooden panels on the bottom, we also used this set for Eddie's apartment to make them seem different we painted a

portrait of Jesus for Mother Superior's office and a few show posters for Eddie's apartment.

On the back of the canvas we used for the office we painted the background for the police station, we created wanted posters for Mr. Meehan, Mrs. Kelly, Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Connolly

The last thing we worked on was the confession box, this took us the longest out of all the sets. We started by drawing it out on paper and changing the design many times to make sure it was perfect. Once we sketched out our idea on the boards we spent many school days, hours after school and hours on the weekend painting the sets with many hours spent on this piece, there was a lot of details with paint and a lot of layers.

In the end it all came together.

Article by Amelia Mary Holland



RATOATH COLLEGE LICEO ULIVI

PARMA

EXCHANGE 2023

2023 saw the long awaited return of the Italian exchange programme between Ratoath College and Liceo Scientifico Ulivi from Parma where myself and Signora Flynn accompanied 17 of our finest TY and 5th Year students to Italy to spend a week in Italy.

The scambio scolastico (exchange programme) between Ratoath College and Liceo Ulivi had been going for several years, but was interrupted over the last three years by the COVID pandemic so we were delighted to be able to recommence the relationship between the two schools, as this is such a fantastic opportunity for students to make new friends and immerse themselves in the cultures of Italy and Ireland.

We departed Ratoath College at the VERY (!) early hour of 3.30am of Tuesday 7th February for our early flight to Milan Bergamo from

from Dublin airport, despite the early start energy levels were high with students excited to meet their Italian Fratelli e sorelle (brothers and sisters) in Parma. The journey ran smoothly, and we arrived to the Liceo in Parma just before 1pm as the Italian students were finishing for the day. There were lots of smiles, screams of joy and hugs as students welcomed and embraced their hosts! It was chilly weather but also a beautiful sunny day without a cloud in the sky and, low temperatures aside, we were blessed with the blue skies for the rest of our week in Italy. Students then went off home with their host partners to rest after the long day of travel and settle into their new surroundings.

Students were able to enjoy the full Italian experience over the course of the next week from Wednesday until our departure on Monday morning. This included the unique

experience going to Italian lessons in the Liceo Ulivi and a warm welcome from Giovanni Brunazzi, il direttore (our Italian Mr. Meehan), who spoke to us about Giacomo Ulivi, whom the school was named after, and how he had lost his life as part of the resistance against the Italian Fascists in World War Two. Signor Brunazzi also explained how this links to today's society and how important the project of the European Union remains for young people and for peace in our countries. That evening we were treated to a lovely meal all together of tortelli and prosciutto di Parma, Parma being genuinely one of THE food capitals of Italy, the Italian students were very proud to show us the food on offer in their city.

The students of Liceo Ulivi brought us on a wonderful tour of their hometown of Parma and they were full of fantastic knowledge about architecture and history, which no doubt our students can match when the Italians come to Ireland! Parma is an exquisite medieval town and perhaps the highlight was the spectacular Teatro Farnese, a Renaissance theatre made mostly of wood that took our breath away.



We also enjoyed a wonderful visit to the world-famous Renaissance city of Florence and student's jaws dropped at the beautiful architecture, especially the beautiful Duomo di Firenze. Some of our students managed to squeeze in a whistle stop tour of Le Gallerie degli Uffizi (the Uffizi Gallery) while others enjoyed the local pizza and gelato on offer.

On Saturday we visited a cheese factory where genuine Parmesan cheese is made, once again none of our students were left in any doubt of the pride the parmegiani feel for their food! Afterwards, we went to the Castle of Torrechiara, which one student remarked was like something out of a fairytale. For the rest of the weekend it was free time with the host families, some went to Milan, Thomas went for a dip in the sea by Le Cinque Terre and Harry even went skiing!

All in all, it was a wonderful, unique week away in Italy but perhaps the best thing was the friendships made, both between the Irish and the Italians but also between our own Ratoath College students. There were lots of tears as we said goodbye, but they were also happy tears as we knew the Italians would be coming back over in April (just missing the deadline as we go to print!). Myself and

Signora Flynn were so proud of the group we took away, genuinely fantastic ambassadors for Ratoath College. We hope that your memories are every bit as good as ours and that this experience has inspired you to continue to be keep on learning Italian, discovering the world around you and to keep making connections with our brothers and sisters from other cultures. Looking forward to Parma 2024 already! Bravi ragazzi, siete stati magnifici!

Signor Delaney, Dipartimento d'Italiano



2nd Year Trip to Valkenburg

In March this year, 2nd years went on a school trip to Valkenburg in the Netherlands. We had to meet with the teachers at 3am on Thursday morning to head to Dublin Airport where we flew to Brussels in Belgium. The flight was only an hour and a half which went by very quickly as we were all very excited. When we arrived in Brussels, we took a bus to the European Parliament, which is a museum with different artefacts from 20th century Europe, then we went to the Grand Palace in Brussels which was beautiful with very detailed architecture. We only stayed at the Grand Palace for a few minutes, then the teachers let us go off for lunch. After visiting Brussels, we travelled two and a half hours by bus to our hotel in Valkenburg which felt like it took forever as we were all tired from waking up so early. Every day we had a buffet dinner in our hotel. There was also a games room in the hotel which is where we spent most of our evenings.

Every day we had a buffet breakfast in the hotel. On the second day after breakfast, we had a guided tour of the mines in Valkenburg and our tour guide showed us machinery that is used in the mines. When we were finished the cave tour, we walked up a hill to a centre for tobogganing and cable cars. We took the cable cars down to the bottom of the hill we climbed up, then climbed a few steps to get to laser-tag and a play area. The laser-tag got really competitive. The play area was really funny, they had huge yoga balls that everyone threw at each other. Next, we took the cable cars back up to the tobogganing. Tobogganing is when you sit in a cart while going down a huge slide with a lever to make you go faster or slower. Everyone was going really fast, and one girl even broke one of the carts! Once we finished, we took the cable cars back down to the bottom of the hill and went off to find lunch. When we were finished our lunch, we took a train through the caves in Valkenburg, these caves had been used as hide-outs during World War 2. We finished off the day with bowling.





On the third day we visited the American Cemetery which was only a short drive from Valkenburg. There were hundreds of graves commemorating soldiers that died in World War 2. We didn't spend too long in the cemetery and after we took approximately an hour's drive to Cologne, Germany. We got a guided tour of Cologne, our tour guide showed us the Cathedral and many other tourist sites. After, we went off ourselves and got lunch. Once we finished, we went to the Lint Chocolate factory which showed how chocolate was made and had some impressive chocolate sculptures and we got wafers that had been dipped into a chocolate fountain. Next, we went to the German Sports Museum, which had Michael Schumacher's Benetton Formula 1 car and his Benetton race suit. Upstairs there was an athletics track and a boxing ring and there was even two rooftop football pitches.

On our last day, we took an hour bus trip to a water park in Belgium. The water park had five water slides, a rapid river, a lazy river and a wave pool. Most people got bruised on the rapid river, however it was still really fun. Out of everything we did on the trip, the water park was my favourite. Once we were finished, we went to McDonalds for lunch and then headed to Brussels airport to fly home. The plane trip home went by really fast and soon we were home safe in Ratoath. I'm so glad I got the opportunity to go on this trip and I have made some memories that will last forever!

Article by Orlaith Sheridan



ART & CLASSICS

FLORENCE & ROME

Articles by Hanna Carr & Jamie Byrne



I will say without exaggeration, going to Italy was one of my favourite experiences mainly Florence. There's something incredible knowing that the Renaissance all began in this city. The first day travelling to Florence something that was highly noticeable was how decorated and tall the buildings were, I've never been to a place so decorative in my life. The closer we got to the baptistery of St John the more beautiful the city became, I strictly remember walking across a road and seeing the massive dome of the baptistery, it was the most magnificent thing I have seen,

need to say I did feel quite small when looking at it. As we went into the building the dome was way bigger than it looked on the outside, it was filled with beautiful renaissance art it was unbelievable. After this we went to Galleria Dell Academia which is where I got to see the infamous statue of David by Michelangelo, it was massive compared to the pictures and highly detailed when it came to human anatomy it was amazing to look at in real life. After this amazing experience we went to see Palazzo Medici Riccardi which the Medici household. What amazed me was how it was centred in the middle of the Italian streets there was no signs or excavation it was just a casual fortress in the middle of Florence.

When going into the Medici household it really had beautiful grounds being a lemon tree in the back garden and beautiful pieces of artwork the history of the family is personally what I enjoyed the most. The following day we got to visit the Uffizi gallery, which was enormous, granted we did have to wait in line for some time, but it was worth it in my opinion, since I was already familiar with some of the art works it was quite bizarre seeing them, painting such as the birth of Venus and a lot of classical sculptures. Florence mainly focuses on the art side of the trip along with a lot of history behind the art. Compared to Rome we had a lot of time to buy souvenirs and have amazing pasta and pizza for lunch.

By: Hanna Carr

the opportunity of seeing this was indescribable as after studying each feature in detail we could now piece and understand the history of what we were seeing. Not only that, we got to experience the beauty of both locations with peers and teachers who were more than happy to share knowledge they've learned about them. Walking around the Colosseum was like a fever dream, the sun was shining on each piece of history we were seeing and the atmosphere of the amphitheater was mighty even after years of it being used as a historical building rather than a gladiatorial battle ground.

By far, my favorite piece of history we saw was the Pantheon. Words can not describe or express the epiphany I felt entering the Pantheon through the 12m tall corinthian columns which supported the Portico.



This February, I and many of my peers were given the opportunity to travel to Florence and Rome with our school. We travelled with an incredibly diverse group of us as well as 6 incredible teachers who gave up their time to show us some of the incredible wonders of each city.

When we travelled to Rome, the first thing we did was The Colosseum and the Roman Forum. As a classical studies student,

The Atmosphere of this historical building was intense but calming, the light from the oculus giving the entire building a heavenly energy. Not only did we spend a lot of time in these buildings, we also walked past Palazzo Venezia and went into the Musei Capitolini which proved interesting to each history, Classics and art student due to the vast variety of art pieces available to see.

On our last day in Rome we visited the Vatican

city and museum. Through this we learnt a lot about the history of each building we walked through as well as the history of each art piece, the Sistine Chapel ceiling fresco obviously having the biggest interest for us all. To end this incredible trip, we went to a gladiatorial school which we indefinitely everyone's favorite part of the trip. Here we got to experience life as a gladiator and train as a gladiator. Everyone was so involved in the training and we were even lucky enough to see different people in our group fight each other! I know personally Mr Mc Cauley and Mr Mc Carthys was definitely a favorite amongst us all.

Words can't describe the appreciation each of us students had for this trip and each teacher who took care of us. I feel personally our relationships with each other and these teachers have forever changed for the better and that each memory made will stick with each and every one of us for the rest of our lives.

By: Jamie Byrne



CAREERS FAIR





Ratoath College Awareness Week & Ratoaths Career Fair 21st-25th November 2022

Ratoath College had their college awareness week which was a great success finishing off on Friday with our Careers Fair. We had over 30 Universities, Colleges, Apprenticeships and companies in our Sports Hall. There was great excitement when the defense forces arrived with the Fire Truck and the Helicopter landed in the field. Students from 3rd to 6th year got a great insight into different career pathways they could explore in the future. Lots of fun competitions were run throughout the week and some great prizes were given out. We look forward to our next Careers Fair and making it bigger and better every year.

Article by Ms. Brooks



Dunboyne College Open Day

Ratoath College brought 50 6th year students to Dunboyne College in March. Dunboyne College of Further Education is a rapidly expanding college, that serves the Meath, Dublin, Kildare, and wider areas. They are ideally located for Ratoath College students, just outside Dublin along accessible bus and train routes. All students got a tour of the different departments and were able to ask lots of questions. They received a talk all about the pathways they could progress onto after completing a PLC course.



Meath Careers Expo 2023

Ratoath Students who have a keen interest in apprenticeships attended this expo which took place in the knightsbrook hotel in March. Lots of companies were there to speak with students about their CV's and applying for an apprenticeship with their company. The students made lots of contacts which will stand to them next

September.



#ErasmusPlus

Thanks to our colleagues from Entrenaranjos International School and Esmovia in Valencia for hosting our staff along with our #ErasmusPlus colleagues from Poland & Bulgaria.



WELCOME TO
VALENCIA





Artwork by 5th year student Sinead Alinsod

CHORAL GROUP

RATOATH COLLEGE

This year, you might have seen some singing performances around the school. Be it the carols at the Christmas Awards or the lunchtime concert during Diversity Week, these shows help bring a little music and fun into school events. Let us introduce you to the source of these performances, the Ratoath College Choral Group! Our group of singers meet every Friday to get songs ready for whatever school events require them! The group was



started up after the end of our school musical, *Sister Act*, as a way to continue on with performing even after the show was over. Many of our singers came from the cast, but a lot of us also joined to get involved in school music after seeing the show. We are led by Ms Monerawela and Ms Jackson, who do an amazing job organising the performances and helping us with our singing. Without further ado, here's a rundown of what the choral group has gotten up to over the past year!

Back in December the choir performed Christmas Carols for the residents of Ratoath Manor Nursing Home. We spent the weeks beforehand rehearsing a variety of Christmas songs to sing for them. It was an amazing experience for us, and the residents of the nursing home seemed to enjoy the occasion, hopefully it brought them some joy. It was a nice way to link the older and younger

members of the community. We also performed at the Christmas Awards Ceremony. We sang 'Last Christmas', 'We Need A Little Christmas', and 'Jingle Bell Rock'. It was fun to get up in front of the whole school and perform.

In March, our school celebrated Diversity Week, which was a great opportunity to celebrate differences and promote individuality. To celebrate this, the choir group put on a lunchtime concert of songs about accepting everyone and loving who you are. Everyone had a lot of fun performing the high energy 'Born This Way' by Lady Gaga, which was followed up by the powerful self-love anthem 'This Is Me' from *The Greatest Showman*. The strong beat and fun harmonies in 'Born This Way' made it a blast to perform, and the solo parts in 'This Is Me' really let some of our choral group members shine. At the end of the day, we managed to promote diversity and put on a great show all at once!

Right now we're rehearsing for the summer awards, so you can listen out for us there. Performances are of course what the choral group is always working towards, but our rehearsals are where the real magic happens. The choral group are a really great group of supportive people, and it's a great environment to gain more confidence in performing. Everyone lifts each other up to make sure we give the best performances that we can. Singers who feel comfortable doing so can put themselves forward for solo parts, to really show off their singing chops! It's also great to know that everyone there has a common interest- the room is full of music at the start of rehearsal every Friday, people playing around on

the piano or ukelele. In our opinion its a really wonderful way to end off the week.

We think the choir is a great extra-curricular activity to get to know new people and to express yourself. It has given us loads of new experiences that we are very thankful for. If this sounds like something you'd enjoy, why not come down to the music room after school on Friday and give the choral group a try?

Article by Hannah Murphy and Maggie Jo Gallagher



Artwork by Hannah Murphy

Student Council



The Student Council is our school's way of promoting democracy in Ratoath College, and earlier this year the council got the chance to witness Ireland's democracy in action with a visit to Dáil Éireann. We were invited by Councillor Nick Killian to see Leinster House and learn about its history and about Oireachtas Éireann. It was a great opportunity for the council to educate ourselves on how our country is run, and it helped us think about how we could further emphasise the principles of democracy in Ratoath College.

After a bus into Dublin and bringing our bags through security, we were led up to the Dáil chamber. Our tour guide told us about the structure of the chamber, where the different parties and other government members sit, and the different roles in the Dáil. We learned about the technology used to keep everything running smoothly, as well as how to running of the government has changed over time. Later in the trip, we got to visit the upper house of the Oireachtas, Seanad Éireann. We learned about the role the Seanad plays in Irish government, the structure of the house, and how seanadóirí are selected.

Throughout the trip, we also got to learn about the story of Leinster House through the years. This visit not only taught us about democracy, but also history and architecture! The building started off as the Ducal Palace of the Dukes of Leinster, and also for a period was the headquarters of the Royal Dublin Society. This history was clear everywhere in the building, though some places were less obvious than others. It was quite interesting to hear that the back of the Dáil chamber was a stage for some time, and even more suprising to learn that the grand entrance corridor to the chamber, filled with portraits of former Taoisigh of Ireland, was originally just a corridor to the kitchens! Leinster House was also filled with incredible art, with portraits and paintings lining the corridors, and intricate plaster decoration in the Seanad chamber. Getting to see the building was really an unforgettable experience.

We had a break for lunch, then got a chance to discuss the trip outside the building. We also were able to meet Thomas Byrne, the Minister of State for Sport and Physical Education. He told us about the work he is doing with sport in Ireland, such as discussions on the future Olympics. It was a great chance for Student Council members who are interested in working with PE in the school to learn about what kind of things are being done on a national level, and for all the council to learn about the work that Dáil Ministers do.

This trip was a great experience. The council members who went on it really got to bond, and learn more about Irish democracy. Seeing all the work that happens in Dáil Éireann inspired us to work even harder as your voice in the school, and to improve at organising and running the council. Thank you very much to Councillor Nick Killian for making this wonderful experience possible!

Article by Hannah Murphy



HALL



OWEEN





Valentines Day - Sharing the LOVE

In the lead up to Valentines Day our TY students handed out some 'Love Heart' sweets to staff and students this morning. Staff are wearing red or pink and there will be some uplifting music played throughout the building at break.



TY LILLIPUT TRIP

This article is about our TY trip to Lilliput in Westmeath. This was the best trip of the year so far. It was overnight so it was well anticipated. The bus ride there was about an hour and half. This was the most tedious part of the trip as everyone was excited for the night to come. When we arrived, we were greeted and led to our tents and the girls were in the dorms. The activities included: capture the flag, canoeing, bog jumping, swimming and more. They provided dinner and a free use of the kitchen, also breakfast the next morning. The best part of the trip was the boys tents. What happened in the boys tents, stays in the boys tents...

Overall a really good trip, I wish we could go back at the end of the year.

That's all – Rory McCann.



RATOATH, ALL OVER THE WORLD

More than 25 TY students are from more than 5 different countries

The 22/23 year at Ratoath College will be remembered in the long run for many reasons, but undoubtedly one of them will be the large number of international students who were part of the school during that period.

This year, the school welcomed more than 20 Spanish students, several Ukrainian refugees, some Germans and other nationalities such as Latvian and Filipino. In this way, the school welcomed the largest number of foreign students in its history, most of them in Transition Year. For this reason, on March 6th, during Diversity Week, the school organised an Intercultural Fair in which TY students presented different cultures as Arabic, Spanish, French or German to the 1st year students. The fair was successful and although there were quite a few international, some Irish students also participated. Hopefully, this will continue like this and the school will have an increasing number of people from other countries during the next few years. Which not only offers them a new experience but also provide culture for students and teachers.

Article by JAVIER ESTEBANEZ SANTOS





CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

This December, all TY students took part in a Christmas Village, where children from schools like St. Paul's and Ratoath National School came to see Santa and his elves. It took place from 9th -14th December. I will be discussing the different activities that we planned and how this all came to be organized.

The school wasn't sure if the event was going to occur this year as we wouldn't have a time to plan it. However, a group of TY's asked TY Coordinator Ms. Savage if they could organize it. This group became the Christmas Village core team, and some others joined, including myself. We planned to have it located in the new GP area. In the GP area, we added lots of Christmas decorations including lights, trees, posters and much more. We had four stations where the children would go to before meeting Santa and Mrs. Claus. These stations were card decorating, making reindeer food, face painting and a snack area. When the kids were finished at the stations, they would go to Santa's Grotto to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. Santa would read some Christmas stories to the kids. Each TY class would get a day to do this village and everyone would wear costumes and be assigned a role, whether that meant being at a station or guiding the kids around the area. We also planned for the teacher's children to come to the village the first day.

I did three days of this Christmas village and I found it really enjoyable. My favorite part was being at the face painting station because the kids seemed really happy and excited there. It was such a wonderful feeling being there because I remember going to the Christmas Village when I was in Primary school, and I had the best time. It's an amazing event that I think all future TY's should experience.

Article by Lucy O'Kane



BUTLERS CHOCOLATE FACTORY

On Thursday the 23rd of February all TY's went on a school trip to Butler's Chocolate Factory. We were split up into two groups, group 1 was Rang Conlan and Rang O'Reilly and group 2 were Rang Devine and Rang Mitchell. Group 1 went to Butler's first while Group 2 went to the Omni shopping center in Santry first.

When we were in the Omni, we got time to get food and look around the center. We got back on the bus in the car park of the Omni and started our journey to Butler's. It was about 20 minutes of a drive. When we arrived at Butler's we went into the factory where our Butler's experience was about to begin.

We got into the building, and we all put our jackets and bags into a locker. We were also given white jackets that would normally be worn by the employees on the factory floor. So, when everyone had these jackets on and their belongings in the locker, we were ready to go. We started off by watching a video about the history of Butler's. Then we went upstairs where the tour of the factory floor was about to begin. We got to see how all the machines work. After our tour of the factory floor, we got to see a Butler's employee make some of their most popular chocolates. We also got to decorate chocolate elephants. This was the last part of the trip, so when we were done, we got all our belongings from the locker and made our way out to the bus.





I spoke at the “International Women’s Day” panel at the Venue theatre on Wednesday 8th March 2023.

For International Women’s Day. The Venue theatre organized a panel of five different women to sit and share their stories. I was honoured to be chosen to be on this panel representing Ratoath College, along with Abi Simmonds, a fifth-year student. We’ve never done anything like this before, so the build up to the event was nerve-wracking. We weren’t sure what to expect but when we arrived and met the host, we were put at ease. We talked with the host beforehand and were shown our seats, before the audience came in.

The event started with the host introducing herself and the event, telling everyone what was going to happen during the panel discussion. She talked about the paths that women had taken throughout history and presented a video that highlighted different women in our history. Then Professor Anne Scott was introduced, and she talked about her life story and how she began her career while managing her personal and family life. After she finished, I was introduced. I’ve never done any sort of public speaking like this before, and I was so nervous to get up on the stage. The host asked me about myself, and we talked about my interests and hobbies. She asked me what I wanted for my future and what I could see myself doing for my career. We also discussed different role models and the significance and importance of International Women’s Day.

Once I was finished, we listened to another woman who talked about her daily routine and her journey in life. Then Abi Simmonds went up and she talked about her experiences and her role model which was her mother. The final woman to talk was Michelle who is a makeup influencer and she talked about her career and her experience with her work-life balance. Finally, Professor Anne Scott and Michelle talked about International Women’s Day and talked about the panel itself. They also answered questions from the audience.

Overall, it was an amazing experience, and I am very glad I was asked to speak on the panel even though I was nervous. I think it was a great lesson to learn. Its important to go outside of your comfort zone and try new things because it presents you with the best opportunities.

Article by Erin Lesson

ENGINEERING

It has been a very exciting and busy year for the Engineering department. Our first year students are undertaking the new Junior Cycle Engineering Course - Personalised Pac Man keytags have been completed and we are just finishing our angry birds project

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 marble moving machine - 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 -

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 tracked scooter project. This project includes an electronically propelled runner track system.

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 the Engineering Department!



Girls U14 GAA



We kitted out 42 girls for the first U14 ladies blitz. We had 2 teams go up against some of the top teams in Meath, including O'Carolan College, Colaiste Clavin and Beaufort College.

The weather was miserable with rain pouring all day but both of the teams put up a great fight.

Team 1 playing Longwood and Eureka. They came to victory over Eureka with a 3-5 to one point win and lost out narrowly to Longwood.

Team 2 playing O'Carolan College, Beaufort College and Enfield College. They put up a great battle to all 3 teams with a narrow loss to Enfield, win over beaufort as-well as O'Carolan College.

Only 2 teams could qualify for the Leinster blitz, and 3 teams were in line with points. This led the three teams, Ratoath College, O'Carolan College and Enfield College into a shoot off.

The three teams put up a very good competition with most players scoring from each team.

Our very talented players, Alannah Ducie, Caitlin Blake, Amber Wyer, Shawna Conroy and Ruby Peat scored all of their shots over the bar.

This meant both Ratoath College teams qualified for the Leinster Blitz !!

We are very proud of both teams and we hope to continue our successes in the Leinster Blitz.

We also had a great season with our u16 ladies team, with a great win in one of our matches against Mercy Navan and a loss in our other match against O'Carolan College.

We had a great year overall with all of our ladies football teams and we are very excited for what is to come.

Written By, Alannah Ducie, Ava Clancy, Caitlin Blake, Louise Byrne and Lily Pinder.

Girls Basketball



The 1st and 2nd Year Girls Basketball teams got off to a great start this year. Both teams played 3 matches each and both came out with 2 wins. Training sessions have been paying off. The girls train every Wednesday after school for an hour and have learned many new skills. The 1st Year team has approximately 20 players and the 2nd Year team has 25 players.

For each match 15 people get selected to play and anyone who isn't selected for that game can attend as supporters. During every match all 15 players get to play on the court. Each match we start off with a warm-up. We practice some shots and do different stretches. Each quarter is 7 minutes and there are 4 quarters. There is a 1-minute break between each quarter.

This year the 1st year team made it as far as quarter finals and the 2nd years are commencing to the semi-finals. Thank you to all our coaches, Ms. Lyttle, Ms. Siddi and Ms. Ennis! Congratulations to all the girls! Hopefully we will see some new players next year!

Thank you!

Article by Armita Farren, Rang Bailey



U17 Boys Soccer

The U17 Boys Soccer team entered the league and cup competitions this year with a renewed optimism and determination to build on the outstanding league and cup runs last year, with some magnificent football being played all over the pitch, deservedly reaching the League Cup Semi-Final before a narrow defeat.

The squad this year featured a healthy mix of students from 3rd Year, TY and 5th Year students. This was a very talented team with many players possessing world-beating attributes in their game. Team Captains this year included Ethan Hynes, Sam Caffrey, Louis Burke and Adam Farrell who led by example throughout this year's games, resulting in some huge wins!

In the cup, unfortunately it was not meant to be this year as the lads were beaten by a fantastic Colaiste na hInse side who exacted their revenge after being knocked out of the cup last year by the boys. Nonetheless, it was a fantastic team effort, with many great performances across the pitch.

In the league, the team endured much more success, securing their spots in the knockout round of the competition following a fantastic 3-1 win against Kells Community School down at the Ratoath Harps pitches. Ratoath dominated this encounter from start to finish on a relentlessly windy day in the parish. Alas, however, the team would come up short in the League Cup following a heartbreaking 5-4 loss to old rivals De La Salle in an enthralling game away in Dundalk. The fight and 'never say die' attitude shown to claw the game back was admired by coaches Mr. Conlan and Mr. McCarthy, who knew the lads were very unlucky not to force extra-time.



In the Shield, Ratoath got their campaign off to a flying start with a 5-1 hammering of Colaiste Chu Chulainn of Dundalk. A host of mesmerising skills and goals were on show as Ratoath ran out comfortable winners. Players such as Ross Woods, Conor Daughton and Callum Willoughby controlled the middle of the park while Adam Farrell and James Higgins caused all sorts of problems for defenders in the attack. The defence remained solid throughout, with wing-backs Fionn Colwell and Sam Caffrey doing exceptionally well in their defensive duties.



In the Shield semi-final, it was not to be for Ratoath as they went down 3-2 to an agonisingly late winner against Bremore ETSS in a pulsating game that had thrills, spills and everything else in between.

Mr. Conlan and Mr. McCarthy would like to thank all of the lads for their effort and commitment to the team in both training session and matches. We look forward to seeing what our incoming Senior Team has in store next year when they hope to go one better!

Camogie

Junior camogie

The junior camogie team in Ratoath College this year was a motivated and determined team. We had three matches and one blitz this year. We played and fought a hard battle against Scoil Dara, Dunboyne College and Trim. They were tough losses, but we didn't lose hope and never up. We held our heads high when going into the blitz and came out successful by winning all our matches.

Senior Camogie

The senior camogie team in Ratoath College this year held our heads high and fought every battle in the way. Our first match against Athboy was a fierce game but Ratoath College came out victorious with a win. We went into the Leinster Semi Final with our heads held high, hoping for the win. It was a well fought match although St. Mary's Arklow pushed that little bit more, kicking us out of the competition. We are hopeful to play an upcoming blitz and end the year on a high.



U19 Boys Soccer



Our U19 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 mid-field 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!



Diaries from Diversity Week



From Monday the 6th of March to Friday the 10th of March 2023, our school held Diversity Week with the message Everyone Matters. During this week, we celebrated the diversity of beliefs, identities, sexual orientations, cultures, and ethnicities.

Monday March 6th

On Monday, we kicked off the week with an Intercultural fair. Transition Year students organised this event for 1st year students to learn more about different countries and cultures. This interactive exhibition featured posters, foods, clothing, games, and traditional objects that showcased the very best of countries such as France, Germany, China, Ukraine, and Spain.

Transition Year students also participated in the Big Religion Quiz. Students seemed to really enjoy using their knowledge of the world faiths. This was a great activity to get all students working hard and learning, while also having fun with friends!

Tuesday March 7th

On Tuesday, we launched our symbol for Diversity Week 'Ratoath College Embraces Diversity'. A group of Transition Year students created a beautiful piece of artwork under the direction of Ms Murray. The image shows the inclusivity in our school.

Our Irish Sign Language Club organised a special event on Tuesday. They welcomed new students and the members taught them how to communicate their names, the alphabet, and greetings. It was lovely to see the students involved.



Wednesday March 8th

On Wednesday students had lots of fun being involved in an LGBTQIA+ Creative Crafting Event. At the event they had face painting, music, loom band making, treats and lots of laughs! This was a great event as part of our Diversity Week to show our support and solidarity.

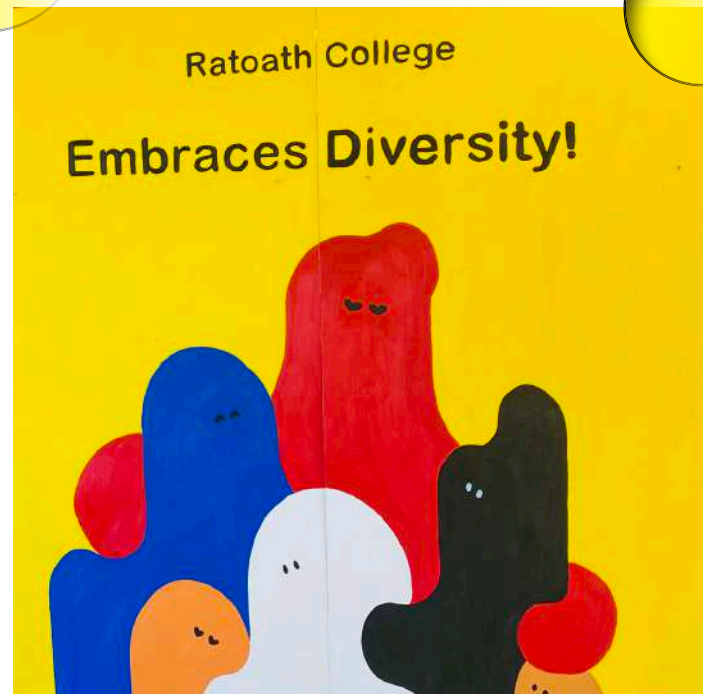
On Wednesday morning, the students and teachers were all greeted with lovely messages of tolerance, equality, respect and inclusion on the whiteboards in each of their classrooms. It was a nice way for everyone to start their day.

During tutorial on Wednesday morning the Cinnirí and well-being committee delivered a presentation to 2nd year students on working together to include and support members of the LGBTQI+ community. There was great discussion on the importance of creating a safe and inclusive space for all.

Thursday 9th March

On Thursday, students were treated with two fabulous speakers from Humanism Ireland and Zen Ireland. Jill Brennan CEO of Humanism Ireland spoke on the beliefs and rituals associated with this world view. Jillian encouraged students to recognize and appreciate different perspectives on life. Rev. Hodo Gomoku from Zen Ireland came to speak about the school of Buddhism. He talked about the foundations of the Dharma including the questions of suffering, the Noble Truths, and the Eightfold Path. It was fantastic seeing students engaged and taking time to learn about other peoples' beliefs, rituals and religions.

During lunchtime on Thursday students and teachers put together a fabulous lunchtime concert where people performed songs, poems/ spoken word poetry and drama pieces too! This was an amazing event, which showcased the incredible talent in Ratoath College.



Friday 10th March

A group of students attended a screening of the Oscar winning film Coda, which tells the story of a teenager who is the only hearing member of her family. Students spoke about how inspired they were by the film.

To bring this incredible week to a close we promoted and encouraged all students, teachers, and members of staff to wear odd socks to school. This allowed everyone to express and show their diversity. This was a fantastic way to end such a wonderful week full of celebrations of the many differences that makes our world a brighter place to be.

How many people are there in
your family?



My experience of Sign Language Club and What I've learned - By Eve Griffin

My first experience with sign language in our school was during the summer awards of 2022 when Mr. Gueret signed the lyrics to a song for the whole school and taught everyone how to applaud in sign language (jazz hands). I immediately knew that this was something I could really benefit from. Other clubs in the school I've been a part of do not compare when it comes to Sign. I'm the only person of my year group in the whole thing yet everybody makes me feel so welcome and friendly. Every week, you're signing with a new partner and getting to know them through the marginalized language. Every person I meet, I'm teaching them how to say what their name is, ask someone how they're feeling or even how to order a drink at a restaurant. The club also hosts amazing days like our Movie Day where every member baked or bought in order to watch a movie called "Coda" about a teenager in America being the only hearing person out of her deaf and dependent family. I'd recommend the Sign Language club to anybody. You can either do it for fun like with your friends at lunch or you could do it seriously, like being able to take a test in May for your beginner's certificate and a golden badge.

My personal experience with sign language was seriously aided by this club. When I was a toddler, I used to communicate using Makaton sign, which is a way to develop communication skills which helps stimulate sounds and words. This is probably why I picked up sign in the school's club so fast, but anyone can use it! And I think everybody should. Who knows who you'll meet in life? Or maybe you know a family member who knows a deaf person, something as simple as learning how to say "Hello, how are you?" Goes such a long way that hearing people can't even begin to comprehend. Normalizing the language with things like our school's club benefits society in ways that may seem small to us but aren't at all for the deaf community. For example, most deaf people need interpreters for everyday life. Jobs like interpreters for things like television programs, classes or even musical concerts are important. I'd recommend looking up Justina Miles on YouTube, she was the interpreter for Rihanna's Super Bowl performance. Or even if you wanted to see Sign Language in film, I'd recommend "Coda" or "A Silent Voice" as some starters. The best thing you could do to learn sign, though, is to drop by the club in the prayer room during lunch on a Tuesday. You'll be extremely surprised about how much you can learn in just one day!

GEOGRAPHICAL INVESTIGATION

In early September of 2022 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.



ST PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL

Volunteering as a steward at the St Patrick's day festival in Ratoath.

I arrived in the Venue at 10:45 and headed upstairs to meet the other volunteers. I walked in and was greeted by a table full of food and drinks. We took a seat and got another briefing about where we should patrol and were refreshed on the radio codes. We were put into groups of 3 and given numbered high-vis jackets. I was in charge of the radio, so I was given a radio card with a summary of the codes on it too.

We walked around and helped people navigate through the crowd. Soon enough we were called to do the performer tunnel. We all responded and easily helped the performers cross the road without any obstruction.

After that we went back patrolling waiting for the call over the radio for the tunnel.

During the afternoon it got busier and started to rain, making it more crowded and harder to navigate. By 1 o'clock it was very busy and we found that a lot of parents had lost their kids! When they approached us for help, we radioed it into control and directed the parents to the "lost kids" tent. All children were thankfully re-united with their parents.

At around 3 o'clock it was less busy because the rain had picked up a lot so I decided to collect my free bag of chips from Mario's and head home.

All in all, it was a great day and a great learning experience.

Classical Studies



I wasn't 100% sure what classics was before joining the school in first year but now it is one of my favourite subjects and a class I always looked forward too. From 1st to 3rd year, we learned all about Greek and Roman myths, architecture, dramas such as *The Swaggering Soldier* where Mr. McAuley would put on his best performance just for us, *Epics of Heroes* with Ms. Dinsmore where we learned thrilling stories about Achilles, Patroclus and *The Trojan War*. We also held feasts to try and replicate what they would be like in Ancient Rome and Greece. Junior cert classics was a great introduction into the subject and set us up well for the senior cycle course. Senior cycle classics for me, was a big change. It of course has more essay writing and a lot of challenging but fascinating topics such as the *Odyssey*, *Medea*, *Alexander the Great* and many more, but that is my favourite thing about this subject, it has something for everyone so if you don't really understand the *Aeneid*, there is always Architecture. What a lot of people don't know is that classical studies is a blend of so many different subjects with elements of History, Drama, English and more. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to study classics in my 6 years of school and on behalf of the entire class I would like to say a big thank you to the amazing classical studies teachers in the school, Ms Dinsmore, Mr McAuley and Mr Toner for making our Classical Studies Odyssey so memorable and enjoyable

I am indebted to my father for living but to my teacher for living



Artwork Mural by TY Art Students 2023

CAUSEY FARM



On the 15th of March Transition Years went on a school trip for Seachtaine na Gaeilge to Causey Farm. We took part in many traditional activities like making Irish soda bread, playing the bodhran, céilí dancing, bog jumping and seeing all the farm animals.

We set off at 9 in the morning with some of our Gaeilge teachers. Despite the bad weather of the day, we had a great trip. We took part in céilí dancing and bodhran playing. In pairs, we made traditional Irish soda bread using a recipe that didn't need specific measurements and at the end of the trip we got to eat it with a cup of tea and some jam.

We got to hold puppies and bunnies at the farm and see all the other animals such as cows, sheep and alpacas. Lastly, we went in a trailer to the bog where we could jump in. We then returned just before school ended.

It was an enjoyable trip and we had fun embracing our culture. It would be a trip I would recommend to all.

Article by Enya Clare





TY

All the TY students at Ratoath College who came on the trip set off on a couple of buses and headed for the capital of the north of Ireland, Belfast. The journey took about 2 hours until we arrived. Everything looked wonderful, tall buildings, clear rivers and lots of people. But although it looked so nice, we had been warned about the dangers of the city by our teachers.

The first place that we visited was the Titanic Museum, there was a lot of information on everything, such as who died, when it happened and even a model of the ship's location. Considering the hours, we were there, we were able to visit the whole museum.

After finishing with the Titanic Museum, we headed to Crumlin Road Gaol, Belfast. Once in the jail there was a few things to see, like old cells that told stories about the former prisoners. We were even guided through the life of a death penalty prisoner, all through to the actual death. It was very interesting and well made, although there was a lot to read, and we didn't really have enough time for that.

Later, we went to the famous street in Belfast, Donagall Street, where we could see the façade of the Belfast city hall and a metal sphere. When we had finished seeing the famous street, all the students got on the buses and we went back to Ratoath, it took us another 2 hours to get back and we didn't arrive in the village until 21:30. Once we arrived all the students went home as the day was over.



BELFAST TRIP



PIE OFF TO CANCER



On Thursday the 23rd of March Ratoath college Hosted an event in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. The “Pie off to cancer” Organised by a group of TY Students and Co-ordinated by some of their teachers, was an opportunity for the students and teachers to come together and tell cancer to “pie off”. The Idea of the event was students would buy a ticket for €2, with this ticket the students would gain entry to the event, but their name would also be put into a draw to “pie a teacher”. The idea behind the event itself is that the Faculty of Ratoath college would hopefully Selflessly put their names forwards to be Pied in the face by a random student, the staff did not disappoint. With over 60 Teachers putting their names forward for the event the transition year students were spoilt for choice over who should go home smelling like shaving foam. The list of 60 was whittled down to 40 and immediately tickets sales began. Raising over €700 for the Irish cancer society with 300+ students in attendance the event was a resounding success. A special mention goes to Mr Sansom who heroically Carried Mr Toner onto the stage after the hosts had called out his name to come up and he was nowhere to be found, thankfully Mr Sansom was there. A special mention goes to all the transition year students who helped on the day from Ticket sales to putting Shaving foam on plates but in particular to James Higgins, Harry Dunne, Alex Cassidy, Lorna Fisher, Sophie Finn, Kate Raftery, Megan Fitzmaurice, Emily shine, Katelyn O’Reilly and Analena Stobie Who poured weeks of effort into the event and to Ms O’Neil and Ms Hynes for assisting them in any way that they could to organise the event



A Glimpse Into TY

Article by Amy Murray

During our TY journey, we've gotten the opportunity to experience every subject the school offers, as well as a few additional subjects you only get to do in TY. Some of which include Future Leaders, Pay It Forward, RC News, Forensics, Psychology, The Subtle Art of Selling Yourself, Pop Flix, European, Studies, Politics,

RC News is taught twice a week by Mr. McKenna. Mr. McKenna would provide us with a topic or genre of the film such as, drama, love, horror etc. We would then break into groups and brainstorm ideas and storylines. One member of each group would then pitch their ideas to the class. After voting for our favorite idea, we would begin filming. We would go around the school to get the perfect location to capture each scene. Finally, the group whose idea was chosen would edit all the scenes we filmed, and we watch it in class when it was finished.

It was an interesting subject to have this year, as we got to see how much work went into filming a three-minute film. From coming up with ideas and making scripts, to editing and acting.

Overall, it was a very fun and enjoyable subject to have this year. My favorite part of the subject was watching all the bloopers and the finale film in class.



The TY bake sale is in full swing today. Thank you to everyone who has contributed and supported our fundraiser for Sister Act the musical.



Our Sister Act Cycle fundraiser very that took place down at SuperValu Ratoath.



Our TY volunteers who helped run the Connect Cafe in the Venue Ratoath on Thursday morning as part of World Mental Health day.



A group of TY students were busy today decorating Buddy Benches in preparation for Anti-Bullying Week. These spaces serve as reminders to students of the importance of developing positive and healthy friendships in school.



TY art students were busy in The Venue Ratoath painting the backdrop for the pantomime.



TYs "in flow" using play-doh to create rose petals.





TY Home Economics Mural

Transition Year students are creating a beautiful mural to brighten up our school, that highlights the many elements of Home Economics.

We originally started coming up with our design for the mural in November of 2022. We researched and compiled different aspects of the subject of Home Economics such as sewing, textiles and food and began to fit them into our design to go outside the Home Economics classrooms. We were inspired by the idea of creating something that would make the school a brighter and more welcoming place. We worked together and used the help of our classmates to find different inspiration and ideas for the mural to create the perfect design that would showcase all the various elements of Home Economics in a visually appealing way.

The mural will feature a variety of different items and objects, including cooking utensils, sewing equipment and a large ball of yarn. It also includes different types of food, such as fruits and vegetables, cakes and cupcakes and so much more.

This project has been challenging but also very rewarding and we have really enjoyed the work we have done so far. We had to create an appealing design that everyone would like and work on painting the wall and doors. Then, there was the challenge of drawing everything freehand. We are currently painting in the finer details and are enjoying the technical challenges of getting the colours and shadings just right.

We hope that this mural will truly brighten up the corridor and make the Home Economics rooms a more bright and welcoming space that reflects the many sides of the subject. We also hope that it will inspire other students in our school to get involved in school projects and to think about ways they can use their own talents to make the school a better place.

Overall, we love all the hard work we are putting into this mural and we hope that this piece of art will be enjoyed by students and staff for years to come.



WHEN ART

TY art students recreating a famous Renaissance painting with a modern twist.

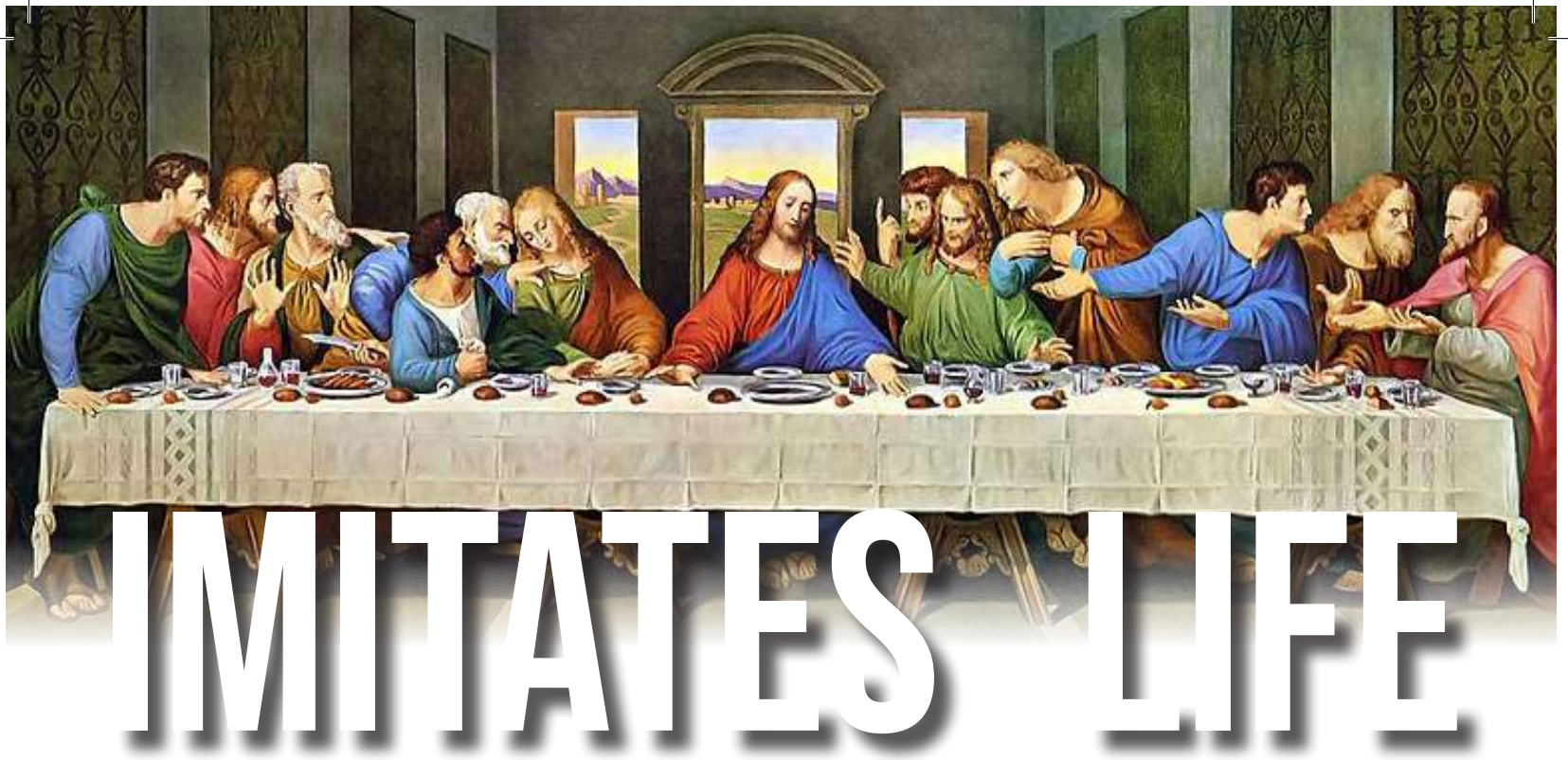
2ND YEAR ART SCULPTURE PROJECT

To gain inspiration for our Sculpture pieces, we went on a day trip to Lough Boora Discovery Park in Co. Offaly. For many years, Lough Boora was a working bog and now it's home to many Sculpture pieces created by Artists from Ireland and all around the world.

The Lough Boora Artists used recycled objects and natural materials from the bog to create their Sculpture pieces and we were inspired to think the same way. Some of these materials include wood, peat, natural stone from the land and recycled metal and plastic from the old transport trains.

As our school is taking part in the Green Schools Initiative, we decided to use recycled plastic bottles and natural materials in our designs.





When back in the art room, we drew plastic bottles and incorporated them into our final designs. We could base our Sculptures on an environmental message that meant something personal to us.

Sculptures included animals constructed and put together using plastic, such as colourful birds, giraffes, bears, bees, etc.

When we completed the project our work was put out on display in what we now call our 'Sculpture Garden' for the whole school community to see.

We enjoyed taking part in this project and learnt about different artists and the materials they use. We also got to experiment with different materials and construction techniques and work together in a group for a common goal.

We hope you enjoy our exhibition of plastic Sculptures and that we have helped raise awareness about how important it is to look after our beautiful planet.

Article by Davina Liu Duigan.



NEWGRANGE



Newgrange is a 5,200 year old passage tomb located in the Boyne Valley in Ireland's Ancient East.

As part of the 5th year Art History curriculum our lucky 5th year art students got the opportunity to visit this monument that is only on our door step.

Built by Stone Age farmers, the mound is 85m (279ft) in diameter and 13m (43ft) high, an area of about 1 acre. A passage measuring 19m (62ft) leads into a chamber with 3 alcoves. The passage and chamber are aligned with the rising sun on the mornings around

the Winter Solstice. Newgrange is surrounded by 97 large stones called kerbstones some of which are engraved with megalithic art; the most striking is the entrance stone.

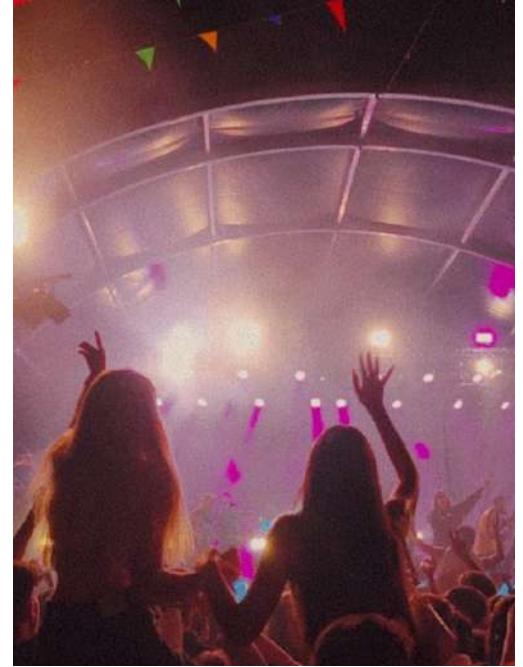
Newgrange was built by a farming community that prospered on the rich lands of the Boyne Valley. We also visited Knowth and Dowth which are similar mounds to Newgrange. Together these mounds have been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Newgrange is the jewel in the crown of Ireland's Ancient East.



Artwork by 5th year student Caitlin Callaghan

TY PHOTOGRAPHY





NOVEMBER 13TH 2024

A message from 1st year Moltóir, Ms.Flynn

What a year it's been for our great first years.

You have all settled in so well to our Ratoath College family and have really embodied the positive atmosphere of our school.

I am very proud of your engagement in the classroom with teaching and learning and I know you have built a solid foundation for your Junior Cycle. Outside the classroom we continue to focus on kindness and treating each other with respect which are really important values in life. Overall, I have been really impressed with how you look out for each other and ensure to promote these values in your actions. We have had some amazing achievements outside the classroom. Some that come to mind are your fantastic achievements on Sports day, in track and field, on stage for 'Sister Act' and on open evening as guides but of course there are many, many more that I could mention.

On your behalf I wish to thank your fantastic caomhnoiri Ms Bailey, Ms Callan, Mr Farrell, Ms Gerrard, Ms Lawler, Mr Moynihan and Mr Nissar for all that they have done to help and support you and I during this academic year. We are lucky to have such a great team.



I have enjoyed being your Moltoir and look forward to another few fantastic years working with you, the wonderful caomhnoir team, Ms Kelly our super deputy and your parents/guardians to ensure your happiness and success in Ratoath College.

Enjoy your summer break and I look forward to seeing you all again in August. I will leave you with this quote.

"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible."

— Dalai Lama

Paola Flynn
1st year Moltóir

Rang Bailey



Rang Farrell



Rang Callan



Rang Gerrard



Rang Moynihan



Rang Lawler



Rang Nissar



**Be kind whenever
possible. It is always
possible.**

A message from 2nd year Moltóir, Ms. Casey

To my super Second Years,

How fast has this year gone and what a busy one it has been! You all have achieved so much this year academically, culturally, personally and also on the sporting front and you embrace the spirit of Ratoath College every day.

You have worked so hard the last number of months towards your Junior Cycle results and your teachers (and I) are very proud of the effort and dedication you have shown in your studies and in completing your CBA's. It's hard to believe that when we come back in a few months' time that you will be entering into the final year of the Junior Cycle programme and it will be our last year together as a full year group.

A massive thank you to your amazing Caomhnóirí for all their hard work this year. We are lucky to have them in our corner and without them, we wouldn't have the best year group in the school.

Continue to make many happy memories with your peers, friends, and teachers as time really does fly when you're having fun!!



Wishing you all a happy and safe summer and I look forward to welcoming you back into 3rd Year in September.

Ciara Casey
2nd year Moltóir

Rang Bruce



Rang Kavanagh



Rang Davis



Rang Jackson



Rang Leighburn



Rang McAuley



Rang Fox / McCabe



Continue to make many happy memories with your peers, friends, and teachers as time really does fly when you're having fun!!

A message from 3rd year Moltóir, Ms. Donnellan

A chairde,

We have reached a milestone in your journey through school, a significant stepping stone on the road of life.

We take time to look back at all you have achieved and our journey so far but we also look forward with our hopes and dreams for the future.

Your Caomhnóirí and I are very proud of you all. Your spirit, support for one another and friendship has been heartening. It seems like only yesterday that you rocked up the front steps with your face masks on. You had an unusual end to primary school and start to secondary school; we can look back on what you have missed out on but as we tally up all the activities over the last three years it is impressive all that we managed to pack in. I hope you look back with fondness, content and pride at the friendships, games, sports days, competitions, trips out, classes and fun we enjoyed in the last three years. I am fortunate to have had a part of the shared experiences and memories you have formed. It's hard to believe that time has passed by so quickly since your time began here in Ratoath College and the road diverges ahead. Some of you will continue on to 5th year while some are taking the scenic route through Transition Year. I wish you all the best with your future endeavours, I hope you grasp every opportunity and I look forward to all you will achieve.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank your fabulous caomhnóirí for their hard work, kindness and unwavering dedication to each and every one of you.



Míle Buíochas also to your original Moltóir, Ms. O'Toole, and Ms. Kelly whose guidance have helped to bring you all this far. You are so lucky to have such a wonderful group of people in your lives.

A word of thanks to your Parents & Guardians who have helped and encouraged you along the whole way. We very much appreciate their support over the last 3 years.

Time is ticking steadily on to your Junior Cycle exams. All we can do now is wish you the very best of luck. All you can do is your best. You have worked hard, stay focused for the few remaining weeks and all will go well. After that, all that's left is to enjoy the summer. We look forward to seeing you back here in August, kitted out in the navy jumper of Senior students ready to get going again.

Catch you on the flip side. Go n-éirí go geal libh ar fad!

Rita Donnellan
3rd year Moltóir

Rang Clerkin



Rang Conlan



Rang Flynn



Rang McCormack



Rang McKenna



Rang O'Hanlon



Rang Smyth



Rang Toher



A message from TY & LCA Co-ordinator, Ms.Savage

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 flexed their acting muscles, challenged the perceptions and attitudes of body image, taken on the challenges of urban orienteering and even tried their hands at mastering the skills of a segway.

In the month of December, we were delighted to welcome back Santa, Mrs. Claus, the elves and the students of Ratoath National and St. Paul's to Ratoath College Christmas village. The success of this project rests in the hands of the core team of TY students who worked tirelessly to ensure it was a success. We look forward to many more exciting Christmas villages here in the school.

All TYs had an opportunity to experience numerous significant learning days and trips. They have travelled the length and breadth of the country with visits to Belfast, Meath, Westmeath, Dublin, where they have visited the historic sights of Belfast, walked in the footsteps of artists, experienced farming life and traditions, splashed in the bogs of Lilliput to name but a few.



The TY timetable is a rotating timetable which sees the year split into 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 Future Leaders, RC News, Forensics, Psychology, Business, Pop Flix, European, Studies, Politics, Japanese and Chinese 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 school participation in the collection and preparation of hampers for St. Vincent De Paul during their national Christmas hamper campaign, the Christmas village, fundraising for our school musical, Special Olympics Ireland, Daffodil day to name but a few.

RC News allows students to stretch their film making muscles from both sides of the camera. They create, star in and produce short films, using the school and its grounds as their backdrop. Classes work together to create impressive short films across many genres, such as horror, suspense, and comedy.

Work Experience is another feature of the TY experience. With the restrictions and limitations of Covid lifted this year, our TYs experienced the world of work. Over 3 work experience blocks our TY students dabbled in retail, trades, office admin, hotel, the Gardai.

As we come to the end of this year, it is with much hope for the future that I wish the fantastic TY class of 2022/23 the very best of luck. 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

It has been my pleasure to work with rang 6Conaty and rang 50'Reilly this year, a truly fantastic group of 5th and 6th year students who have fully embraced the challenges and successes of the Leaving Cert Applied (LCA) programme. LCA is a standalone 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 50'Reilly. They have had 3 task interviews. Their General Ed task was in the field of Music, their Vocational Prep task was a career investigation, and the Vocational Ed task was a project in the subject area of Graphics and Construction. All students presented excellent projects and tasks and performed brilliantly in their interviews.

It has been an equally busy year for rang 6Conaty. They have had task interviews in Practical Achievement, Contemporary Issues and a practical exam in Vocational Ed in the areas of Engineering and Childcare. In May they will also complete a practical performance task in Office Admin and Customer Care.

Both rang 6Conaty and rang 50'Reilly have completed orals in Gaeilge with rang 6Conaty completing an English and Communications oral examination also.

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 6Conaty about the successes and challenges of these work experience modules.

Unique to the LCA programme is a final exam in Gaeilge which takes place in June of 5th year, together with rang 6Conaty this year rang 50'Reilly will sit their Gaeilge exam on Thursday June 8th, we wish them all the very best of luck.

We were delighted to share a celebratory breakfast in local coffee shop, "As You Like It", to celebrate the fantastic year 1 results achieved by rang 6Conaty in October 2022.

Another feature of the LCA programme are day trips and workshops. Both rang 50'Reilly and rang 6Conaty began the year with a one day trip to Lilliput, which was a bonding trip for both classes. They had an opportunity to participate in various activities such as bog hopping and team building. Rang 50'Reilly demonstrated their acting skills when actor George McMahon facilitated a drama workshop back in March. Rang 50'Reilly left a lasting impression on George with both their infectious enthusiasm and impressive acting skills. They also participated in a drumming workshop with their music teacher, Ms. Flynn.

Both rang 6Conaty and 50'Reilly visited Wheatfield prison for a Social Ed trip in May and in January both classes visited Croke Park & Skyline Skydium and GAA Museum tour as part of a Gaeilge trip.

In September 2023, we look forward to once again working with rang 50'Reilly as they embark on year two of their LCA programme and complete the LCA programme. We wish the students of rang 6Conaty the very best of luck with their final exams in June and for the future.

Aisling Savage
TY and LCA co-ordinator

A message from TY Moltóir, Ms.O'Neill

To the Class of 2023,

Well done on a wonderful year. Unlike the other year groups our time together is a little shorter, but wonderful nonetheless.

At the beginning of the academic year we got off to a great start with a bonding trip to Lilliput. Going through the class lists it soon began to dawn on me that there were a lot of names who had yet to cross my path. Not to worry because you soon made yourselves known to me and your amazing caomhnóir.

As the year unfolded I got to know each of you. Seeing you every morning during assembly, having the chats on the corridor, learning about your interests, work experience placements, short courses, volunteer work and extra curricular activities inside and outside of the school. With your abundance of gifts and talents; may it be in sports, music, arts, business, languages, mathematics, etc. you all added great value to the TY programme.

I would like to thank the TY co-ordinator Ms.Savage who organised and facilitated workshops, trips and guest speakers to make sure you were exposed to an array of different opportunities. I would like to thank the team of caomhnóir, Ms.Conlon, Mr.Mitchell. Ms. O'Reilly and Mr.Devine. You really have been a dream to work with and I can't thank you enough for your support.



To the TYs of 2023, as you move forward into 5th year, understand that all of you have the potential to be hugely successful. Be true to yourself and do what makes you happy, that's half the battle.

Have an amazing summer.

Sarah O'Neill
TY Moltóir

Rang Conlon



Rang Mitchell



Rang O'Reilly



Rang Devine



A message from 5th year Moltóir, Mr.Mooney

How quick has that year gone? . It is hard to believe that you have reached the half way point of your Leaving Cert.

5th Year is always a challenging year, adapting to new class groups, options and friends groups. But you have embraced this challenge, stepped up to the mark and we are very proud of you.

You are an excellent group of talented young people. Your behaviour has been exemplary and you have been a great support to each other throughout the year. We are so proud of your contributions to life of our school both inside and outside the classroom. You will be excellent role models and leaders to the rest of the school next year.

I would like to say a huge thank you to your wonderful caomhnoiri. Their commitment, dedication and care has been unwavering to each and everyone of you.

On behalf of myself and your caomhnoir I would like to wish you and your families a lovely summer. We look forward to welcoming you back in August as 6th Years.

Thank You.

Andrew Mooney
5th year Moltóir



Rang Canny



Rang Leonard



Rang Gilmartin



Rang Lyttle



Rang Treacy



Rang Monerawela



Rang O'Reilly



Rang McCullough





Artwork by 5th year student Prachi Desai



Artwork by 5th year student Jasmine Singh

2025

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