

SIXTY-SIX

# SIXTY-SIX

The Ratoath College Yearbook 2024



"Summer was our best season: it was sleeping on the back screened porch in cots, or trying to sleep in the tree house; summer was everything good to eat; it was a thousand colours in a parched landscape"

Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*



# Principal's Welcome

Our Yearbook, *Sixty-Six*, is a snapshot of the highlights and memorable events of the year, and a record of the students and staff members who form our Ratoath College community. As we approach the end of another year, we want to reflect on the incredible journey we have shared together. This year has been filled with growth, learning, and countless unforgettable moments.

From the first day of school this academic year, to this moment, we have come together as a community, supporting and inspiring one another every step of the way. We hope this year's edition of *Sixty-Six* will remind you of good times with friends, the new people you met, our sports, cultural events, and your year of learning and striving to be better in all that you do.

Ratoath College strives to prepare all students for the challenges of life with wisdom and courage. Our priorities are well-being, effective teaching practice and the fostering of strong connections with our local community. Working towards achieving these strategic priorities has resulted in another successful year for the college.

Sometimes schools are seen as places where students learn, teachers teach, and points are produced at the end of a six-year process. And yet, of course, an education is so much more. We want our students to achieve their full potential academically, but we also want to truly educate, so that a graduate of Ratoath College is a well-rounded human being, capable of making the most of all opportunities that present themselves.

Well done to all our students, you have shown dedication and enthusiasm for learning. Your curiosity and eagerness to explore the world around you has been truly inspiring. You have overcome challenges, discovered new talents, and demonstrated kindness and empathy toward your peers. Your accomplishments, both big and small, have made us immensely proud.

Let us not forget the invaluable support of our parents and guardians. Your involvement, encouragement, and partnership have played an instrumental role in the success of our students. Your trust in our school and dedication to their education is appreciated. Together, we have created a strong foundation for our children's future.

# Principal's Welcome

We would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to all our remarkable staff members including teachers, SNA's, secretaries, and ancillary staff. Your unwavering commitment to providing a nurturing and engaging learning environment is truly commendable. Your passion for our school and your tireless efforts have helped shape our students into confident and capable individuals. Thank you for going above and beyond every single day.

As we bid farewell to this school year, let us remember the cherished memories we have made. From field trips and tours, to performances and celebrations, each moment has contributed to the tapestry of our amazing community. These experiences have not only enriched our lives but have also fostered lifelong friendships and a love of learning.

Congratulations and thanks needs to go to our yearbook production team led by Ms. McGarron, our Art Department and to all our contributors who have done an excellent job to produce such an outstanding yearbook. This publication is a wonderful endorsement of the school, well done everyone.

We encourage each and every one of you to embrace the upcoming summer break as a time for rest, relaxation and rejuvenation. Take the opportunity to explore new interests, spend quality time with loved ones, and create beautiful memories that will last a lifetime. May your summer be filled with joy, laughter, and adventure.

*Mr Meehan   Mr Connolly   Ms Kelly   Mr McCarthy*



# Contents

Principal's Welcome

A Message from Mr Mooney

A Message from our outgoing Ard Cinnirí

Class of 2024 Graduates

Graduate Profiles

Memories

RC Awards

Best Excuses

Messages to the Class of 2024

Most Likely to...

Gatsby Poem

Hallowe'en 2023

An Interview with Josh Lyons

An Interview with Eryn Birkhead

Pets of Ratoath

Trends of 2023/24

The English Department

Writing Competition 2024

Exceptional Engineering

Wellbeing

Fr PJ Memorial Match

1st Year Girls' Soccer

Girls' Rugby

Awesome Athletics

Green Schools

Art and Classics Trip

Hell and Back 2nd Year

Italian Exchange

Around the Art Department

Bavarian Brilliance

The Student Council

Music at Ratoath College

Gaeilge Galore

An Gaelbrachtach

A History of Chess

Junior Girls' Basketball

New Teacher Interviews

Arts Week

A Message from Ms O'Toole—1st Year Moltóir

1st Year Caomhnóir Class Photos

A Message from Ms Flynn—2nd Year Moltóir

2nd Year Caomhnóir Class Photos

Some Superb Second Years

A Message from Ms Casey—3rd Year Moltóir

3rd Year Caomhnóir Class Photos

A Message from Ms O'Neill—TY Moltóir

A Message from Ms Savage—TY and LCA Coordinator

TY Caomhnóir Class Photos

A Message from Ms Donnellan—5th Year Moltóir

5th Year Caomhnóir Class Photos

Autographs

# Graduating

Class of 2024



# A message from Mr Mooney

As we come to the end of your time in Ratoath College, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you the best of luck with whatever path you choose in life.

On a personal note, it has been an honour and a privilege to be your Moltóir for the last five years. Each one of you has brought something special to the year group. I am immensely proud of the wonderful young people you have become.

As a year group you been phenomenal, you have brought kindness, good humour and enthusiasm to each day and you will be missed. We have been amazed by your wonderful talents and achievements and the positive contribution you have given the life of the college.

I hope you have enjoyed your time in Ratoath College and that you leave with great memories and rich friendships. It has been a privilege to know and work with you and I want to wish you every success in the future and remember that we are always here for you.

I would like to sincerely thank your wonderful Caomhnóirí who have looked out for you during your time in school. Their support to you and myself has been extraordinary.

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

Let the journey begin...

Wishing you all the best of luck and happiness in what I know what will be the brightest of futures.

Best of luck and stay in touch.

*Andrew Mooney*

*"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."*

*- Michael Altshuler*

# A Message from our Ard-Chinniri 2023-24



It is hard to believe our time here in Ratoath College has come to an end. During our six years we have had ups and downs. We have made friends for life; learnt so many things; been involved in many enjoyable activities and have made memories that we will never forget. In the mix of it all we were lucky enough to be chosen to be your Ard Chinnirí. It has been an absolute privilege to be your Ard Chinnirí and to have the chance to give back to the school after six amazing years here.

Firstly, we want to say a huge thank you to our Cinnirí team: it has been an honour to work with you all. You have all acted as great role models to every student in the school. You have demonstrated what being a Cinnire is perfectly. Thank you for everything!

We want to say a huge thank you to all the staff and teachers at Ratoath college: without you we would have not had the great experience we have had. To all our teachers who have taught us much more than just the curriculum. Thank you also for all of the laughs, the chats and fun. Thank you for putting up with all our “I left my copy at home” and “sorry I was in the toilet” excuses. Despite this you have never failed to be there for us and to pick us up when we’re down.

To our Caomhnoirí: thank you for helping our year group bond since the start of 5th year. Thank you for helping us through the last two years, you have been amazing support and we are forever grateful.

And to our wonderful Moltóir, Mr Mooney, who has never failed to make us laugh. Thank you for always supporting us, motivating us and giving us anything we needed. Your one liners and random jokes will be missed. You have put up with all of our tears, laughs, jokes, moods and wearing PE uniform on the wrong day and we are truly grateful for that. Thank you so much for the brilliant two (or more) years we have had, and we will miss you a lot!

To Mr Connolly, who has assisted us as Cinnirí and who has helped us organise activities and events. Despite how busy you are as Deputy Principal, you never fail to support us and give us advice. You have listened to our ideas and helped us bring them to life. We will miss you and we are forever grateful for all the work you have done for us.

To our two other Deputy Principals, Ms Kelly and Mr McCarthy, thank you for all the work you do. Thank you to Mr McCarthy who listened to us all wanting to change our options at the start of fifth year; who organised our timetables and dealt with the tears that come with 6th year. Thank you Ms Kelly, you have always been there for us whenever we needed anything. You never fail to say hello to us in the corridors and make us feel supported, you have fulfilled the role of a school mam and Deputy Principal in one!

And to the main man, Mr Meehan. As soon as you stepped foot into this school you added a sense of energy and atmosphere to the whole place. You have made the school a bright and enjoyable place and we are forever grateful for all you have done for us. You greet the students at the doors of the school every morning with a smile and something so small like that has a huge impact. It gives such a welcoming and positive touch to the school. The amount of work you do does not go unnoticed and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

A big mention to the class of 2024. We started our journey in Ratoath College in 2018/2019 and our amazing experience over the last five or six years would have not been the same without all of you! We have all made memories here to last a lifetime; we have made friends for life and have supported each other through our time here at Ratoath College. You are all an amazing bunch with so much potential. Wherever life takes you we want to wish you all the best success in the future. Thank you for everything and we will miss you all!

Finally, to the remaining students of Ratoath College. Some advice we would give you is to enjoy every minute of school. The years go so fast and soon you will be like us, reminiscing about your time at secondary school. Put yourself out there; try new things; work hard and take every opportunity that comes your way. But most importantly: be kind and support each other. Remember that the Ratoath College community is a family and there is always someone there to help you and steer you in the right direction!

Your Ard-Chinnirí,  
***Robyn & Kyle***



***Cinnirí Team 2023-24***



**Class of**

**2024**

**Graduates**

# Rang Canny



Dear Rang Canny,

Over the years I have had the privilege of watching you grow not only academically but also personally, into remarkable individuals you are today.

In our time together I have witnessed your resilience in the face of challenges, your dedication to your studies, and your unwavering support for one another. It has been an honour to be a part of your journey and to witness the countless accomplishments you have achieved. But beyond the grades and achievements, what truly sets Rang Canny apart is the sense of community and camaraderie that you have cultivated. Whether it's through participating in school events, volunteering for worthy causes or simply being there for one another in times of need, you have demonstrated what it means to be a true team.

As you prepare to embark on the next chapter of your lives, I have no doubt that each of you will go on to accomplish great things. Remember to carry with you the lessons learned, the friendships forged, and the memories cherished from your time in this caomhnóir group.

I am immensely proud of the individuals you have become, and I have every confidence that you will continue to make a positive impact on the world around you.

Congratulations, on a job well done. May your futures be bright and your dreams limitless.

With heartfelt congratulations and warm regards,

**Ms Canny**

# Rang Gilmartin



To all the students of rang Gilmartin,

What a journey it has been!

A lot of you have been with me since 1st year and a few more of you joined us in 5th year. It has been my privilege to be your caomhnóir and watch you mature into the young adults you are today. You have come through so much. The resilience that you have shown throughout your years here, along with your work ethic is inspirational.

I have enjoyed all the chats & getting to know every one of you. I love all the little groups that you formed within our class. You have all found your tribe! And you were always willing to let me in when I came knocking; thank you for that!

I hope that you look back on your time here with fondness. You are now ready to move on! As teachers, it's inspiring to think of the potential of our students, and even better when we get to hear what you do when you leave here. After seeing you in action here, I am certain you will all be successful in whatever you choose to do next. I look forward to hearing about your adventures in the next chapter of your life.

I am very proud of you all and what you have become! And in case no one has told you today, you are AMAZING.

**Marie Gilmartin**

# Rang Leonard



Rang Leonard,

As your Caomhnóir, and teacher I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for being such excellent students. Thank you for your kindness and for helping to create a supportive classroom environment where everyone was valued and respected. Your willingness to help each other and your teachers have not gone unnoticed.

As you prepare to embark on the next chapter of your journey, I want to leave you with a few words of encouragement. Remember that life is a journey filled with twists and turns and ups and downs. I hope you can embrace the challenges that come your way as opportunities for growth and learning. Stay true to yourselves, follow your passions, and never lose sight of the values that define you.

Wishing you all the brightest of futures,

**Mr Leonard**

# Rang Lyttle



It feels like yesterday when I was first introduced to my new rang in 2019. A bunch of very enthusiastic 12-year-olds. Over the years I have gotten to know you all and realised just how special each one of you truly are.

I have some lovely memories from the Christmas door competition in Junior Cert, teaching you SPHE (we loved those classes in first and second year!) teaching some of you French and the tutorial classes.

Then we got an upgrade when we added in some legends in 5th year. The additions in fifth year have really made Rang Lyttle what it is. A group of mature, funny, interesting, and respectful young people. You have made my job as Caomhnóir so enjoyable over the last 5 years.

I hope you have enjoyed your time in Ratoath College and have lasting memories made. I hope the lessons learned inside and outside of the classroom, as well as the friends that you have made, will stay with you for a lifetime. I wish you the very best for your exams in June and for wherever your path leads you next.

Best wishes

*Miss Lyttle*

# Rang McCullough



To Finn, Sarah, Aoibhe, Seán C, Jack C, Eveline, Evelyn, David, Róisín, Mia, Callum, Kyle, Seán H, Charlie, Shauna, Kate, Jack L, Rylee, Ealaidh, Lucy, Debra, Daniel, Zara, Sam, Cian, Erin, Mark, and Corey, Rang McCullough, I want to wish you all, every success and happiness in the future. Like pushing a wheelbarrow, it's all in front of you. Be assured you are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and resilience to navigate whatever challenges may come your way.

It has been a pleasure being your Caomhnóir and I wish each one of you the very best. Your collective kindness and politeness as a rang has always ensured that, for the past two years, morning assembly and tutorial has been amazing. I will miss you all.

I'm sure your time in Ratoath college is filled with many happy memories and great experiences. As you embark on your new adventures, I hope you will have learnt from the past and prepare for the future but live for today.

Best of luck in June for the Leaving Certificate, enjoy your new independence and may your dreams come true.

Slán go fóill,

*Ms McCullough*

# Rang Monerawela



To all the students of Rang Monerawela,

Thank you for being such a wonderful caomhnóir group over the last two years.

To those of you that I have known since first year: it has been wonderful to see you grow and mature into the amazing young adults that you are today.

You are a fantastic group of students and I hope that you have enjoyed your time in Ratoath College. I hope that you can look back with pride on all your achievements over the last five or six years.

The next few years will be such an exciting time in your lives so take every opportunity that comes your way because in the end we only regret the chances that we didn't take. The very best of luck to you all with your exams in June and in all your future endeavours.

*Ms Monerawela*

# Rang V O'Reilly



They say the end of one journey is the beginning of another and as you come to the end of your journey at Ratoath College, a whole new path awaits you. It has been my pleasure to have taught you and I have enjoyed this experience immensely. Over the past 2 years I have watched you grow and develop into young adults that I am proud to see leave and conquer your goals ahead. Being a small class, Tutorial time has been as much of an education for me as it was for you. Where I really got to know each and every personality. I have heard your sad stories, happy stories, funny stories and your love stories.

I wish each and every one of you nothing but happiness and fulfilment in all that your future brings. Never settle for anything less that you deserve and if something doesn't work out as you've planned, don't be afraid to make some changes in your life. Everything happens for a reason but if you strive to achieve greatness, then greatness is what you'll get.

You are one of the best ever groups this school has ever had and that is something I hope you are proud of. I have always tried to inspire you to achieve your best and always reach for those goals.

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

We will cross paths some stage hopefully in the near future and when we do never be a stranger.

**Mr O'Reilly**

# Rang Tracey



To all the wonderful students in Rang Treacy,

It has been a memorable experience to have gotten to know the 26 wonderful individual people in the class. I am so happy to have had the opportunity to meet you and watch you progress over the last two years as confident and capable adults, gifted in academics, sport, music, arts and many other fields.

I hope you have enjoyed your time in Ratoath College and that you are leaving with great memories of the many experiences that you have had here. I hope you have learned a lot from your experience here and carry this forward with you into the future and it helps in whatever you do next. Leaving secondary school is a big turning point in our lives and I hope that you all appreciate how far that you have come. Even as you move onto the next chapter of your life, don't forget that we are always here for you if you need us.

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

**Ms Tracey**



*Believe that further shore  
Is reachable from here.*

*- Seamus Heaney*

**Rang  
Canny  
Graduate  
Profiles**

**Samuel Blick**  
*Blick*



**Likes:** Reposting Tiktoks, Ratoath Harps  
**Dislikes:** Old jokes  
**Will miss:** Free DCG  
**Quote:** 'samblick reposted'

**Leo Brazil**



**Likes:** Egg & onion sambos  
**Dislikes:**  
**Will miss:** Mr Nissar & taking it easy in Economics  
**Quote:** '6 foot by 6th year'

**Eabha Brown**  
*Browner*



**Likes:** Printed notes  
**Dislikes:** Writing my own notes  
**Will miss:** Ms Conlon's advice  
**Quote:** 'Is the colosseum not in France, no?'

**Ella Byrne**  
*Smella*



**Likes:** Complaining  
**Dislikes:** My locker  
**Will miss:** Showing up late to the bench  
**Quote:** 'Okay, now I'm done complaining'

**Sinéad Byrne**  
*Shinny*



**Likes:** Crisp sambos and double art  
**Dislikes:** Early morning maths  
**Will miss:** Debriefing in Home Ec with Ms Ennis  
**Quote:** 'I'm not ginger I'm strawberry blonde'

**Reece Doherty**  
*Dotsy*



**Likes:**  
**Dislikes:** Everything about biology  
**Will miss:**  
**Quote:** 'Nil a fhois agam'

**Rebecca Eade**  
*Becky*



**Likes:** Staying in for break with the girls  
**Dislikes:** Early Friday maths  
**Will miss:** Ms Canny and lunch with the girls  
**Quote:** 'Wait...what?'

**Zak Farrell**  
*Lil Jamal*



**Likes:**  
**Dislikes:** Skryne slander  
**Will miss:** Candlelit dinners with Bobby in the library  
**Quote:** 'Zak's grades do not reflect his ability'

**Jack Fennessy Manley**



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

**Ellen Fitzpatrick**



**Likes:** Going home early  
**Dislikes:**  
**Will miss:** The chats with Ms Ennis after Home Ec  
**Quote:** 'Has anyone seen a black iPhone 11?'

**Ross Fitzpatrick**  
*Antelope*



**Likes:** Being called anything other than antelope  
**Dislikes:** Being called antelope  
**Will miss:** TY clash royale phase, Mr Finley's maths class  
**Quote:**

Matthew Keane



**Likes:** Tuesday morning physio appointments  
**Dislikes:** Ungrateful 1st years  
**Will miss:** Finlay's maths class  
**Quote:**

Gabriell Kerge



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

Shafay Khan  
*Shaf*



**Likes:** Danas not stealing my stuff  
**Dislikes:** When Danas steals my stuff  
**Will miss:** Every precious bond created, I will cherish forever  
**Quote:** To achieve something...you must do something you've never done

Eoin Lacey  
*The Wolfman*



**Likes:** Digestive biscuits  
**Dislikes:** Happy couples  
**Will miss:** The Classics Crew  
**Quote:** "Sometimes I feel like an idiot, but I am an idiot" Adam Sandler

Darragh Larkin  
*Daz*



**Likes:** Being late to school  
**Dislikes:** Working on a Sunday morning  
**Will miss:** Mr Nissar asking why I'm late every morning  
**Quote:** 'You work in Supervalu'

Joshua Lyons  
*Lyonsej*



**Likes:** Going home early  
**Dislikes:** Double biology  
**Will miss:** Mooney trying to find us at lunch time  
**Quote:** 'Mr Samson: Better coach than Mr Toner'

Fynn McCordick  
*Larry*



**Likes:** Chester  
**Dislikes:** Cartman  
**Will miss:** School rugby pandemonium  
**Quote:** Which bear is the most condescending? A pan-duh!

Hannah McHale  
*Machale*



**Likes:** Wearing the PE uniform every day  
**Dislikes:** How cold the school is  
**Will miss:** Sweets after Friday maths  
**Quote:** 'I think I failed that exam'

Jamie McHugh



**Likes:** Minion memes  
**Dislikes:** Morgan dropping chicken everywhere  
**Will miss:** Throwing food at Morgan  
**Quote:** 'Born to dilly dally'

Jacob Mulcahy  
*Kid*



**Likes:** Being mysterious  
**Dislikes:** Barking up the wrong tree  
**Will miss:**  
**Quote:**

Amy Kate Murray



**Likes:** Going for walks in PE  
**Dislikes:** Not being allowed to go for walks in PE  
**Will miss:** Irish club  
**Quote:** 'Anyone have a charger?'

Sivahn Portelas  
*Siv*



**Likes:** Vaseline  
**Dislikes:** When I forget my vaseline  
**Will miss:** Mr Jordan asking "what's for lunch today folks?"  
**Quote:** "HOLD MA HOOPS"

Rory Scully



Likes:  
Dislikes:  
Will miss:  
Quote:

Katie Smyth  
Smith



Likes: Cheese and ketchup sandwiches  
Dislikes: Making fun of my sandwiches  
Will miss: Waiting for Ella to finish at her locker (not)  
Quote: 'what does the board say?'

Orla Stoney  
Rocky



Likes: Pretending to understand HL maths  
Dislikes: Being called Katie  
Will miss: Taking aesthetic chemistry notes  
Quote: 'If I was the Taoiseach I would put a ban on Kim Kardashian'

Katie Sullivan  
KT



Likes: Missing PE  
Dislikes: PE  
Will miss: Not going in for PE  
Quote: 'I hate PE'

Jack Tatten  
JT



Likes: When Gib is mad  
Dislikes:  
Will miss: Pre mock maths  
Quote:

Stephen Walsh



Likes: Fighting for my seat in Irish  
Dislikes: Ross's burnt sandwiches  
Will miss: 7.30 maths class with Finley  
Quote: 'I just need to fill up my water'



Rang  
Gilmartin  
Graduate  
Profiles

Sinéad Alinsod



Likes: Going to school EVERY DAY  
Dislikes: Being late for class  
Will miss: Early maths class  
Quote: 'Am I taller than the first years yet?'

Niamh Byrne  
Byrnzey



Likes: Irish club  
Dislikes: Badminton in PE  
Will miss: the blue toilets  
Quote: 'Guess what...'

Oisín Cashman  
Sponge



Likes: Tuesday morning PE  
Dislikes: Irish  
Will miss: 5th year construction  
Quote: 'Could Lionel Messi do it on a cold Tuesday morning on the Astro?'

Jessica Conroy  
*Jess*



**Likes:** Tutorial  
**Dislikes:** assignments  
**Will miss:** windowsill with the girls  
**Quote:**

Ava Cooley



**Likes:** Being a Cinnire  
**Dislikes:** Being told what to do  
**Will miss:** Morning debriefs  
**Quote:** 'You don't have to be sorry for leaving and growing up'

James Cullen



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

Ryan Dunne  
*Dunner*



**Likes:** Going home  
**Dislikes:** Going outside  
**Will miss:** Hiding from Mooney at lunch  
**Quote:**

Aobh Forde  
*Ave*



**Likes:** Food  
**Dislikes:** PE  
**Will miss:** Learning support chats  
**Quote:** 'My name is pronounced AVA'

Maggie Jo Gallagher  
*Sri Lanka's Mother*



**Likes:** Sleeping and chocolate  
**Dislikes:** Participating in PE  
**Will miss:** The chats in French and music  
**Quote:** 'Toilet?'

Sophie Greene  
*Soph*



**Likes:** Not doing maths homework  
**Dislikes:** Getting 'no maths hw' notes  
**Will miss:** Lunch with the girls  
**Quote:** 'Oh yeah, I just graduated high school' - Mac Miller

Aaron Hannon



**Likes:**  
**Dislikes:**  
**Will miss:** The memories of running to the cafeteria to get cookies on a Fri  
**Quote:**

Niamh Haslam  
*theenie beanie*



**Likes:** Rui Kamishiro  
**Dislikes:** Rui Kamishiro  
**Will miss:** Not giving Miss Gilmartin my sick notes for a month at a time  
**Quote:** "Wonderhoy! ' ) ㉨ \* ) ~ " ㉨ ㉨ Emu Otori

Geena Keogh



**Likes:** When people pronounce my name right  
**Dislikes:** Not being able to nap  
**Will miss:**  
**Quote:** I have to be successful, I like expensive things

Jody Lawlor



**Likes:** Pepsi, Anime  
**Dislikes:** People's Knees, Allergies  
**Will miss:** Playing cards in tutorial  
**Quote:** "The only thing we're allowed to do is believe that we won't regret the choice we made" - Levi Ackerman

Aaron McGoldrick  
*Arn*



**Likes:** Football, Irish  
**Dislikes:** Woodwork, maths  
**Will miss:**  
**Quote:**

Doru Medvetchi



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

Hannah Murphy



**Likes:** Sketching  
**Dislikes:** Crowds  
**Will miss:** Lunch in Ionad Arkle  
**Quote:** 'Cows watch sunsets'

Seán O'Beara  
*Tall Wall*



**Likes:** Music, 7up free (not regular) and metal gear  
**Dislikes:** People's knees  
**Will miss:** Playing cards in tutorial  
**Quote:**

Jude O'Haire  
*Johaire*



**Likes:** Becky  
**Dislikes:** This picture of me  
**Will miss:** After school naps  
**Quote:** 'Jude is a very good boy'

Shawn Ocampo



**Likes:** Playing the piano  
**Dislikes:** When I don't get a H1 in accounting  
**Will miss:** Music class chats  
**Quote:** 'Don't stop believing'

Jasmine Singh



**Likes:**  
**Dislikes:** Irish orals  
**Will miss:** Most random art conversations  
**Quote:** 'How's the hand??'

Callum Smith  
*Vincent*



**Likes:** Video games, creative writing,  
**Dislikes:** Getting woken up, writing essays, social gatherings  
**Will miss:** Sean Temple  
**Quote:** "You don't win by being lucky, you win by being bold!" - Cap't Falcon

Denis Tartus  
*The Menace*



**Likes:** Gym  
**Dislikes:**  
**Will miss:** Learning support classes  
**Quote:** "The shortest path was a detour" - Gyro Zeppeli

Lana Tolentino  
*lanabanana*



**Likes:** Letterboxd, Mario Kart, books  
**Dislikes:** Waking up early  
**Will miss:** Annoying Sineád by simply existing and the word 'yep'  
**Quote:** 'Oh no... my back!!! it's broken!!!'

Liam Tormey



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

Lucy Webster



**Likes:** Chats with Ms.Gilmartin  
**Dislikes:** The lunch bell  
**Will miss:** Ruth serenading me in Geography  
**Quote:** 'Guys my bottle broke...'



Rang  
Leonard  
Graduate  
Profiles

Patricia Mae Cruz  
*Pat*



**Likes:** Lunch with the gals  
**Dislikes:** Monday -> Friday  
**Will miss:** Seeing the gals everyday  
**Quote:** 'Live laugh love'

Jane Cullen  
*Nicole*



**Likes:** My last double Bio being in 5th year  
**Dislikes:** Getting kicked out of A13  
**Will miss:** Walks in PE  
**Quote:** 'Jexit... but for real this time'

Ben Devine



**Likes:** Ham  
**Dislikes:** Haircuts  
**Will miss:** PE football  
**Quote:**

Kate Doherty



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

Jane Dolan  
*Jolan*



**Likes:** Early excuse notes  
**Dislikes:** Getting told to go outside  
**Will miss:** Breaks with the gals  
**Quote:** 'NAH GIRLS you'll actually never guess what'

Nicole Duhý



**Likes:** The chats  
**Dislikes:** The classes  
**Will miss:** Ranting during break  
**Quote:** 'I'd like to thank Google translate for all the support'

Christopher Dunne  
Chris



**Likes:** Coming in after three classes  
**Dislikes:**  
**Will miss:** Halftime speeches  
**Quote:** 'That's ridiculous'

Enoch Emmanuel



**Likes:** School rugby  
**Dislikes:** Maths on a Monday morning  
**Will miss:** Tunnel with the boys  
**Quote:** 'God did'

Jan Fabian  
*Ricespice*



**Likes:** Rice  
**Dislikes:** If you know you know  
**Will miss:** Stealing my friends food  
**Quote:** 'Am I Samoan or Mexican? I'm neither' - A Filipino boy

Ben Fitzpatrick  
*Skipper*



**Likes:** DCG (tea and chat)  
**Dislikes:** Maths first thing on a Monday morning  
**Will miss:** Tunnel with the boys  
**Quote:**

Liam Fraser



**Likes:** Being able to see  
**Dislikes:** Being blinded  
**Will miss:** Mr Leonard's classroom on break  
**Quote:** 'X and Os let's go'

Ciara Freeman



**Likes:** Staying at home  
**Dislikes:** Maths class  
**Will miss:** Should I be missing something?  
**Quote:** 'If Niamh's not going, I'm not going'

Tara Howard  
*Taz*



**Likes:** Not coming into school  
**Dislikes:** Coming into school  
**Will miss:** The 3:30 bell  
**Quote:** 'He's right behind me isn't he?'

Charlie Jackson  
*Cacko*



**Likes:** Anything to do with wheels and gym  
**Dislikes:**  
**Will miss:** Mates and some teachers  
**Quote:** 'Ye little twerp'

Dara Johnson  
*DJ*



**Likes:** PE  
**Dislikes:** Biology  
**Will miss:** School Ball  
**Quote:**

Niamh Kelly



**Likes:** Asking Sahna stupid questions  
**Dislikes:** Being asked stupid questions  
**Will miss:** The "Float bathroom" texts  
**Quote:**

Saoirse Lynch  
*Gerk*



**Likes:** Anything pink  
**Dislikes:** Being called gerk  
**Will miss:** Strolls before class  
**Quote:** 'Wait, what?'

Ellie Mahon



**Likes:** Spending the whole year painting my construction project  
**Dislikes:** Getting sent out in the cold  
**Will miss:** Lunch at our window sill  
**Quote:** 'What do we have now?'

Quillan Matthews



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

Sahna Mulligan



**Likes:** Asking Ms Conaty for jobs  
**Dislikes:** Niamh's stupid questions  
**Will miss:** this place just a little bit  
**Quote:** 'Sahna you're a class A waffler'

Niamh Murray



**Likes:** Going home  
**Dislikes:** Mr McCarthy's seating plan  
**Will miss:** Chats with the girls in maths  
**Quote:** 'If Ciara's not going, I'm not going'

Lily Nannery  
*Lil*



**Likes:** Taste tests in Home Ec  
**Dislikes:** Being told to stop yapping  
**Will miss:** Yapping with the girls in biology  
**Quote:** 'I can't do this anymore' (continues to do it)

Marcus Nasaudeanu  
*Ruben*



**Likes:** Eating  
**Dislikes:** Geography  
**Will miss:** Absolutely nothing  
**Quote:** 'Naps during business were goated'

Noah Reilly  
Tupac



**Likes:** Noodle sandwiches  
**Dislikes:** Sensors  
**Will miss:** Waiting for Ross to get ready in the morning  
**Quote:** 'it's scary I need to see Scott'

Jayden Richardson  
Redser



**Likes:** Summer  
**Dislikes:** School  
**Will miss:** Friends  
**Quote:** 'Alright?'

Bobby Smith  
Smidge



**Likes:** Concert while sharing a AirPod  
**Dislikes:** People walking slowly  
**Will miss:** Side eyes; free classes just talking  
**Quote:** 'Guys...'

Ruben Uiuu  
Marcus



**Likes:** Construction and Doritos  
**Dislikes:** Irish  
**Will miss:** Taking the mick out of Noah in construction  
**Quote:** 'I don't look like Godkin'

Aibhilín Woods



**Likes:** PE research project ;)  
**Dislikes:** Teachers trying to pronounce my name  
**Will miss:** Lunch with the girls  
**Quote:** 'Can we walk the long way?'

Jack Wyatt  
Wack Jyatt



**Likes:** Football PE, Business and Noah  
**Dislikes:** Irish  
**Will miss:** Break with Dotsy and Irish with Connor, Jonny and Cian  
**Quote:** 'God did'



Preston Agho  
Prago



**Likes:** The cafeteria in 1st year  
**Dislikes:** 2nd year  
**Will miss:** Basketball team in 1st year  
**Quote:** 'Cheat today and save yourself the pain tmrw'

Jack Brennan  
Hunter



**Likes:**  
**Dislikes:**  
**Will miss:** PE Football  
**Quote:** 'Where do bad rainbows go? Prism, it's a light sentence'

Ryan Brunton



**Likes:** Chris' Team  
**Dislikes:** Gibs' Team  
**Will miss:** Chris' halftime teamtalk  
**Quote:** 'Up de Bohs'

Rang  
Lyttle  
Graduate  
Profiles

Danny Bush



**Likes:**  
**Dislikes:**  
**Will miss:** the back of English class  
**Quote:**

Caitlin Callaghan  
*Cat*



**Likes:** Red bull  
**Dislikes:** Falling asleep cause I didn't have a red bull  
**Will miss:** a cheeky red bull in Pe  
**Quote:** 'Red bull gives you wiings'

Ella Clarke



**Likes:** Watching Charlie get in trouble for distracting me in accounting  
**Dislikes:** Getting distracted by Charlie  
**Will miss:** Lunch in the music room  
**Quote:** 'I don't know I just guessed'

Cian Crawford



**Likes:** PE football  
**Dislikes:** Wednesdays  
**Will miss:** Big lunch in Leonard's room  
**Quote:**

Sam Cronolly  
*Pam*



**Likes:** Paddy Mulheir  
**Dislikes:** Paddy Mulheir leaving  
**Will miss:** PE football  
**Quote:**

Katie Duffy  
*Pillow*



**Likes:** Being right  
**Dislikes:** Being told I'm wrong  
**Will miss:** Lunch at the bench  
**Quote:** 'I made it through 6th year'

Jake Edge



**Likes:** Construction  
**Dislikes:** English  
**Will miss:** Learning support  
**Quote:**

Enda Finn  
*Biggie*



**Likes:** PE  
**Dislikes:** Gib as captain  
**Will miss:** The bus  
**Quote:**

Caoimhe Fitzsimons  
*Quevs*



**Likes:** The gossip sessions every lunch  
**Dislikes:** Our English seat getting fleeced  
**Will miss:** Trips to the shop  
**Quote:** 'X amount of days til the LC!'

Lee Gallagher



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

Leah Grattan-Coleman



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

Ruth Hadarau  
*Ruthy*



**Likes:** Ms Canny  
**Dislikes:** Ms Donnellan kicking us off the bench at lunch  
**Will miss:** PE walks  
**Quote:** 'Lauren we need to organise your locker'

Emmet Harley



**Likes:** PE football  
**Dislikes:** Ben's beard  
**Will miss:** Hunter's crutches  
**Quote:** 'bloody great result'

*"Be who you are and say how you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind."*

Jonathan Kaya  
*Jonny*



**Likes:** Bullying Zack in PE football  
**Dislikes:** Zack Smith (enemy no.1)  
**Will miss:** Gib vs Chris  
**Quote:**

Oliwia Konkel



**Likes:** Music class  
**Dislikes:** Anything but music class  
**Will miss:** Lunch in the music room  
**Quote:** 'Wait Ella, how did you get that answer?'

Megan Langan  
*Meg*



**Likes:** Having the chats with Ms Lyttle  
**Dislikes:** Being cold  
**Will miss:** history with the girls  
**Quote:** 'I'm going home early to get my lashes done'

Amelia Lynch  
*Ameils*



**Likes:** Granny tea and pretty notes  
**Dislikes:** History essays  
**Will miss:** The debrief after every biology class  
**Quote:** 'I can't go out. I've no money'

Niamh Mangan  
*Nevey*



**Likes:** Doing my work tomorrow  
**Dislikes:** Tomorrow  
**Will miss:** The bench at lunch  
**Quote:** 'I'll think of a quote tomorrow'

Seán Mulvaney



**Likes:**  
**Dislikes:**  
**Will miss:** PE football  
**Quote:** 'Is Navan a county?'

Emily O'Callaghan  
*Emsocall*



**Likes:** When accounting's over  
**Dislikes:** Getting given out to  
**Will miss:** Mooching Amelia's lunch  
**Quote:** 'I actually don't even care...' (I do)

Paul Oladele  
*Unjie*



**Likes:** 1v1.LOL (Free DCG)  
**Dislikes:** Maths on a Monday morning  
**Will miss:** Tunnel with the boys  
**Quote:** 'That was ice cold'

Ceilim Ryan



**Likes:** Warzone  
**Dislikes:** Caldera  
**Will miss:** Chris vs Gib  
**Quote:** 'YANITED'

Abigail Simmonds  
*Abs*



**Likes:** Geography chats  
**Dislikes:** Not being allowed talk  
**Will miss:** Chats at break with the girls  
**Quote:** 'Womp womp'

Lauren Smullen  
*Smullen*



**Likes:** My locker and my hoodie  
**Dislikes:** Caoimhe making us late  
**Will miss:** The girls in Ms Canny's Geography  
**Quote:** 'Omg guess what I just found out...'

Charlie Turns



**Likes:** Distracting Ella in accounting  
**Dislikes:** Getting in trouble for distracting  
**Will miss:** Walks to the shops  
**Quote:** 'Is it French or chemistry first?'



Rang  
McCullough  
Graduate  
Profiles

Finn Boylan



**Likes:** When school ends  
**Dislikes:** Going to school  
**Will miss:** Being a part time student  
**Quote:** 'Wanna hear a joke about paper? Never mind. It's tearable.'

Sarah Boylan  
*Saza B*



**Likes:** Blaming things on dyslexia  
**Dislikes:** Being told I can't blame everything on dyslexia  
**Will miss:** Seeing the girls everyday  
**Quote:** 'This was nothing like high school musical'

Aoibhe Caffrey  
*Caffo*



**Likes:** not wearing my uniform  
**Dislikes:** wearing my uniform  
**Will miss:** Mooney giving out to me for not wearing my uniform  
**Quote:** 'I'll wear my uniform tomorrow sir, I promise'

Seán Caffrey  
*Trucker*



**Likes:**  
**Dislikes:** The Leaving Cert  
**Will miss:** Double history and PE El Classico  
**Quote:** 'We're in the fast lane now'

Jack Clarke



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

Eveline Coman  
*Ms. Coman*



**Likes:** Having a laugh with Ealaidh  
**Dislikes:** Wearing the correct uniform everyday :)  
**Will miss:** Lunchtime with my girls  
**Quote:** 'wowzers'

Evelyn Deering



**Likes:** Just dance  
**Dislikes:** Double history  
**Will miss:** Chats with McCullough  
**Quote:** 'Howeyyy'

David Dromey  
*Davit*



**Likes:** Monster/ days off school  
**Dislikes:** Irish  
**Will miss:** PE on a Tuesday morning / spar after school on a Friday  
**Quote:** 'give a man a mask and he will show his true face'

Róisín Flynn



**Likes:** Just dance  
**Dislikes:** Going outside at break  
**Will miss:** Friday Novellos  
**Quote:** 'If someone asks you to do something do it badly so you never have to do it again' - Paris Hilton

Mia Foley



**Likes:** Wearing my tracksuit  
**Dislikes:** Wearing my uniform  
**Will miss:** Nothing  
**Quote:**

Callum Furlong  
*Bez*



**Likes:** Throwing shapes  
**Dislikes:** Day traders  
**Will miss:** 5th year Irish  
**Quote:** 'Look who it is'

Kyle Gibbons



**Likes:** Squares bars  
**Dislikes:** Sam Blicks reposts  
**Will miss:** 5th year Irish  
**Quote:** 'Ahh what a day' - Cutie

Seán Harte  
*Beemer*



**Likes:** Mark's Honda  
**Dislikes:** Yup bros  
**Will miss:** School Rugby  
**Quote:** 'Nuh uh'

Charlie Hodgins  
*Hodge*



**Likes:** Tuesday morning on the Astro  
**Dislikes:** Double Biology  
**Will miss:** 5th year Irish  
**Quote:** 'Any food Bez?'

Shauna Killon  
*Shaun*



**Likes:** Redbull  
**Dislikes:** Everything  
**Will miss:** Nothing  
**Quote:**

Kate Lucey  
*Cheeky pup*



**Likes:** Shenanigans, merriment etc.  
**Dislikes:** Kermit, Ms Piggy breakup  
**Will miss:** Secret school passageway  
**Quote:** 'Are you thinking about Rosie's (lemon drizzle) cake' ... 'Well I am now!'

Jack Lundy



**Likes:** Football  
**Dislikes:** Treacy  
**Will miss:** PE football  
**Quote:**

Rylee O'Keeffe  
*Cutedolly*



**Likes:** To carry my pink lululemon bottle  
**Dislikes:** The girls saying to hurry up  
**Will miss:** Library with the girls  
**Quote:** 'Does anyone know where Lucy is?'

Ealaidh O'Neill  
*Ealaidh Bayla*



**Likes:** Having a laugh with Eveline  
**Dislikes:** People saying my name wrong  
**Will miss:** Lunchtime with my girls  
**Quote:** 'The 'dh' is silent'

Lucy O'Sullivan



**Likes:** Tea in Home Ec  
**Dislikes:** When Ms Ennis won't give us tea  
**Will miss:** Lunch with the gals  
**Quote:** 'Hold on I'm waiting on Rylee'

Debra Olaseni  
*Debby*



**Likes:** Eveline coming in late everyday  
**Dislikes:** Struggling in HL Maths  
**Will miss:** Badminton with the girls  
**Quote:** 'Thank God for Google Translate'

Daniel Philips Holahan  
*Dan*



**Likes:** PE  
**Dislikes:** Double Italian  
**Will miss:** Library during break  
**Quote:** 'Just gotta make it to Friday'

Zara Power



**Likes:** Geography class with Kayla  
**Dislikes:** Being on time for school  
**Will miss:** Lunch with the girls  
**Quote:** 'yes I am still 17'

Sam Rutherford  
*Protein bor*



**Likes:** Bench press/frozen pizza  
**Dislikes:** Monterrain  
**Will miss:** Jack Clarke  
**Quote:** 'Shock'

Cian Smith



**Likes:** Eoin Lacey's digestives  
**Dislikes:** Irish  
**Will miss:** Mr. McAuley  
**Quote:** 'I drive'

Erin Stears



**Likes:** Coming in late  
**Dislikes:** Full day of school  
**Will miss:** Novello Fridays  
**Quote:** 'If you don't even know what to say, just be like "that's hot" Paris Hilton'

Mark Wallace  
*Wallace*



**Likes:** Willie Mullins  
**Dislikes:** Nicky Henderson  
**Will miss:** 5th year Irish  
**Quote:** 'I once wrote a song about a tortilla, but it's more of a wrap.'

Corey Walsh



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

Rang  
Monerawela  
Graduate  
Profiles

Eryn Birkhead  
*Birkey*



**Likes:** Free classes  
**Dislikes:** Being left work for free classes  
**Will miss:** The lunchtime chats with the girls  
**Quote:** 'Hey, look Ma, I made it'

Daniel Boucher



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

Adam Brady



Likes:  
Dislikes:  
Will miss:  
Quote:

Finn Burton  
*Buttons*



Likes: Food  
Dislikes: Tracking back  
Will miss: Gib vs Chris  
Quote: 'Bonjour' as they say in the Shtates'

Sophie Cameron



Likes: Procrastinating  
Dislikes: Being productive  
Will miss: Living 10 minutes away from school  
Quote: 'I swear I'm prettier in person'

Ciara Coroner  
*Riri*



Likes: 1:15 bell on a Friday  
Dislikes: Double English  
Will miss: Research projects in PE  
Quote: 'I can't sing but at least I have the confidence'

Rosie Ellison  
*Mariposa*



Likes: Cats and soup  
Dislikes: The price of Taco chips  
Will miss: Thursday  
Quote: 'Lauvely'

Jack Gibson McKenna  
*Gibo*



Likes: Giving Chris Dunne a good old beating in PE football  
Dislikes: Ben Devine  
Will miss: 1st class Learning Support on a Thursday  
Quote: 'You're stuck in December'

Jack Graydon  
*Graydo*



Likes: Going in late  
Dislikes: I'm gonna get yaaa  
Will miss:  
Quote:

Seán Andile Heron  
*Cutie*



Likes: PE football  
Dislikes: Gibs' quiff  
Will miss: Tunnel on the yard  
Quote: 'Come on THAT happened' - Aaron

Jack Herron



Likes:  
Dislikes: Italian  
Will miss: Saxbee  
Quote: 'Ur so weird'

Akshita Iyer  
*Akki*



Likes: Living 5 mins away from school  
Dislikes: School uniform  
Will miss: Izzy's rice cooker  
Quote: 'I am late again'

Sam Johnson  
*Jam Sohnsn*



Likes: Break time with the lads; 180s  
Dislikes: Luke Littler  
Will miss: El Classico football sessions for PE  
Quote: '180!'

Laura Kelly  
*Lowra*



Likes: Stealing food off my friends  
Dislikes: Doing a full week of school  
Will miss: Izzy's rice cooker  
Quote: 'Rugadh mé réidh'

Joe Kennedy  
Stephen



**Likes:** Aston Villa  
**Dislikes:** Maths  
**Will miss:** Exam PE class  
**Quote:** 'Smile' - Ben Devine

Lara Lacey



**Likes:** PE walks with Ms Bailey  
**Dislikes:** Ella going to the institute for 6th year  
**Will miss:** My One Direction pencil case that was stolen  
**Quote:** 'Whoever has my pencil case please give it back'

Eline Lund



**Likes:** PE walks  
**Dislikes:** Actual PE  
**Will miss:** The goss in Geography  
**Quote:** 'Wait...I'm confused'

Laura Mahon



**Likes:** After school naps  
**Dislikes:** Early maths  
**Will miss:** Walks during PE  
**Quote:** 'I'm literally gonna cry'

Cian Maye



**Likes:** Football; Accounting with Mr Leonard  
**Dislikes:** Studying and Tottenham  
**Will miss:** PE and talking at lunch  
**Quote:** 'Your passions are no place for moderation'

Cian Minch



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

Calum Mooney  
Cal



**Likes:** Football  
**Dislikes:** Maths  
**Will miss:** PE football  
**Quote:** 'Training Monday'

Jessica Murray  
Jessy Wessy



**Likes:** My inhaler  
**Dislikes:** Asthma attacks  
**Will miss:** Mr. McAuley's wise words of wisdom  
**Quote:** 'Hold on guys I need my inhaler'

Adam O'Connor  
Grippy



**Likes:**  
**Dislikes:** Beez  
**Will miss:** PE Football  
**Quote:** 'It was only a matter of time...'

Ben Ronan  
Bronan



**Likes:** Eoin Lacey's digestives  
**Dislikes:** Awin Hannon  
**Will miss:** Mr. McAuley  
**Quote:** "'Big Daddy Zeus'" - Mr. McAuley

Isabella Ruhan  
Izzy



**Likes:** Winding people up  
**Dislikes:** Being winded up,  
**Will miss:** The returned rice cooker I bought my dad  
**Quote:** 'No Price On Good Rice'

Monike Santos



**Likes:** Reading  
**Dislikes:** Waking up early  
**Will miss:** French classes  
**Quote:** 'What we leave behind keeps us alive for someone else'

Zack Smith



Likes:  
Dislikes:  
Will miss:  
Quote:

Abbie Vallence



Likes:  
Dislikes:  
Will miss:  
Quote:

Evelina Verabu



Likes:  
Dislikes:  
Will miss:  
Quote:



Rang  
O'Reilly  
Graduate  
Profiles

Reginald Boateng  
*Reg*



Likes: Gym  
Dislikes: Maths on a Thursday  
Will miss: PE  
Quote:

Matthew Cullen



Likes:  
Dislikes:  
Will miss:  
Quote:

Jonathan Hill



Likes:  
Dislikes: Maths on Thursday  
Will miss: LCA  
Quote: 'Rave till the grave'

Hugh Kehoe



Likes: Rugby  
Dislikes: Maths on a Thursday  
Will miss: Half day on a Wednesday  
Quote: 'A stranger in life is a neighbour on the dancefloor'

Rhys Malone  
*Buggsy*



Likes:  
Dislikes:  
Will miss:  
Quote:

Ella Murray



Likes: PE and Arctic Monkeys  
Dislikes: Being short  
Will miss: Playing football in PE  
Quote: 'Born to be tall, forced to be short'

Harrison Nguidjol  
*The Champ*



Likes: Gaming  
Dislikes: People who don't listen  
Will miss: Playing last school football matches  
Quote:

Eoin Read  
*Fran*



**Likes:** Liverpool 18/19  
**Dislikes:** Liverpool 22/23 bar the 7-0  
**Will miss:** Mr Dalton handing out Lindor  
**Quote:** 'Read by name can't Read by nature'

Sienna Sharpe



**Likes:** School  
**Dislikes:** Waking up for school  
**Will miss:** Break with my friends  
**Quote:** 'I don't need an inspirational quote, I need a nap'

Kelvin Vance Supple



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



Rang  
Tracey  
Graduate  
Profiles

Abbie Archbold  
*Abs*



**Likes:** Frubes  
**Dislikes:** Languages  
**Will miss:** A13  
**Quote:** 'I may not be a real dumb blonde but I am dyslexic'

Sam Carey  
*Carney*



**Likes:** PE football  
**Dislikes:** Being on Gibs' team  
**Will miss:** The walk home  
**Quote:** 'I've proved Physics wrong'

Lauryn Comerford  
*Lil Lauryn*



**Likes:** Being late  
**Dislikes:** The proper uniform  
**Will miss:** Mr Mooney  
**Quote:** 'Life is short, but I'm shorter'

Ruby Daly  
*Rooster*



**Likes:** PE walks  
**Dislikes:** waking up at 6:30am on a Friday for morning maths  
**Will miss:** meeting up with the girls  
**Quote:** 'could I BE anymore stressed'

Robyn Ducie  
*Rob*



**Likes:** Home Ec with Ms Mckeown  
**Dislikes:** When Mr Jordan gets hangry  
**Will miss:** Mr Mooney  
**Quote:** 'Book a nail appointment with me!' @rd.nailsxx

Morgan Foster



**Likes:** Purple Couch  
**Dislikes:** Minions  
**Will miss:** PE Football  
**Quote:** I enjoy bad puns. That's how eye roll.

Conor Godkin



**Likes:** School  
**Dislikes:** being on Chris's team  
**Will miss:** being on Gibs's team  
**Quote:**

Katie Johnson



**Likes:** PE walks, Club Gaeilge  
**Dislikes:** The Leaving Cert  
**Will miss:** My teachers  
**Quote:** 'I'm just a girl'

Molly Kearns  
*Churns*



**Likes:** Sunshine  
**Dislikes:** Sundays  
**Will miss:** Being late with Emily  
**Quote:** 'Sorry I can't I've physio'

Amy Kinsella  
*Amy K*



**Likes:** Ms. Bailey's research projects  
**Dislikes:** Slow walkers in the hallways  
**Will miss:** Lunch with the girls at OUR windowsill  
**Quote:** 'I can't read the board, can you zoom in please'

Jacob Lynch



**Likes:** Artsy Subjects, Computers, Drawing, Spending time with Friends  
**Dislikes:** Walking home in the rain  
**Will miss:** Coming back to Ratoath every day  
**Quote:** 'I need a quote by tomorrow!'

Emily Malone



**Likes:** Caffeine  
**Dislikes:** Being on time  
**Will miss:** Chats with Ms Ennis  
**Quote:** 'I may always be late but at least I'm consistent'

Oisín McKeown  
*The Juice*



**Likes:** Rugby  
**Dislikes:**  
**Will miss:** PE football and Mr Cullen calling me Stingray  
**Quote:** 'They don't know me son'

Ruairí McKeown



**Likes:** Shnooze  
**Dislikes:** Grippy  
**Will miss:** PE Football  
**Quote:**

Aran O'Neill



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

Orlagh O'Neill  
*Gh*



**Likes:** The chats  
**Dislikes:** Doing a full day of school  
**Will miss:** Nothing  
**Quote:** 'OH MY GOD. YOU'RE IN!' - Everyone

Matthew Quinn  
*Matty/Beanie Head*



**Likes:** Harps and Morgan  
**Dislikes:** Stuart  
**Will miss:** Morgan Foster  
**Quote:** 'Hi, I'm Cliff. Drop over some-time.'

Rojus Rudzinskas  
*Rojo*



**Likes:** Koka Curry Noodles  
**Dislikes:** Homework on a Friday  
**Will miss:** Miss Lyttle's Bingo games  
**Quote:** 'If I had a euro for every time my name was mispronounced, I'd be a millionaire'

Deimantas Ruginis



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

Danas Savickas



**Likes:** Basketball  
**Dislikes:** Irish Oral  
**Will miss:** Shafay Khan  
**Quote:** 'Who is you?'

Brandon Sharku



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

Kayla Smyth



**Likes:** Emily Malone  
**Dislikes:** Rainy days  
**Will miss:** Irish class  
**Quote:** 'Yes, my hair is natural'

Adam Treacy  
Stacey



**Likes:** Suffering  
**Dislikes:** Evil twins  
**Will miss:** Saxby  
**Quote:** 'Two bleedin' mUtes'

Isabella Turner  
Bella



**Likes:** My best friend being Ard  
**Dislikes:** Maths first thing on Monday mornings  
**Will miss:** Ms Dalton singing in class  
**Quote:** 'If you saw me crying in Mr Mooney's office no you didn't'



*"All I can be is me-  
whoever that is."*

*- Bob Dylan*

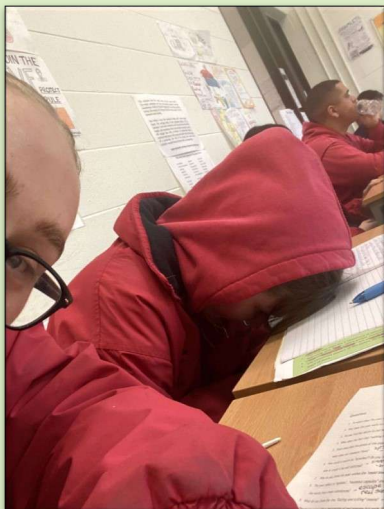


# Memories





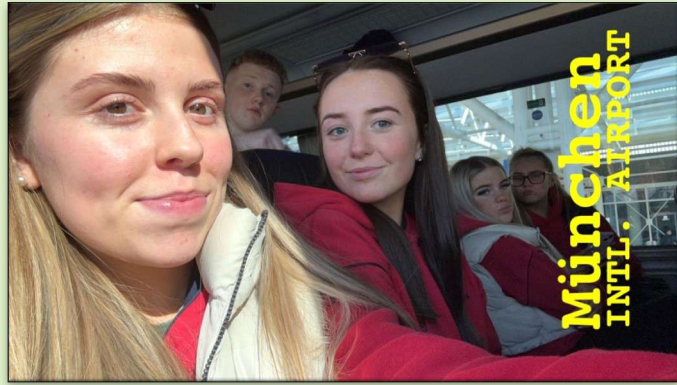
# Memories





# Memories





# Memories





# Memories





# Memories



# RC Awards

<b>Chatterbox</b> David Dromey Lucy O'Sullivan Megan Langan	<b>Head Chef</b> Aaron Hannon Bobby Smith Kyle Gibbons	<b>Gentle Giant</b> Jack Brennan Sean O'Beara Jack Clarke	<b>Drama Queen</b> Abbie Archbold Joe Kennedy Zara Power
<b>Fearless</b> Aaron McGoldrick Abbie Vallance	<b>Life of the Party</b> Chris Dunne Amy Murray Sean Heron	<b>Best Dressed</b> Eabha Brown Liam Fraser Róisín Flynn	<b>Pack Leader</b> Jack Graydon Niamh Haslam Noah Reilly
<b>Best Hair</b> Akki Iyer Callum Furlong Niamh Murray	<b>FIFA POTY</b> Ceilim Ryan Matthew Quinn Sam Blick	<b>Best Fortniter</b> Robyn Ducie Reece Doherty Rojus Rudvinzkas	<b>Teacher's Pet</b> Amy Kinsella Shafay Khan Shawn Ocampo

# Best excuses...

## Best excuses for being late

Adam Brady—"I had to mind my goldfish"

Darragh Larkin—"My brother was in the shower"

Ellen Fitzpatrick—"I just can't"

Emily Malone—"I was late because of Molly"

Molly Kearns—"I was late because of Emily"

Jan Irvin—"Fell asleep watching Demon Slayer at 5am"



## Best excuses for not having homework done

Ben Devine—"my dad ate it"

Callum Smith—"stares wordlessly at Ms Gilmartin"

Denis Tartus—"my dog ate it actually"

Jack Graydon—"my dog ate it"

Jack Tatten—"wait, we had homework?"

Jan Irvin Fabian—"I slept all day"

Isabelle Ruhan—"Laura Kelly ate my homework"



# Messages to the Class of 2024



- To the class of 2023/24 and in particular gli studenti d'Italiano - wishing you every success and happiness for the future. Signor Delaney
- Congratulations on reaching the end of your secondary school career - a huge milestone. You should all be really proud of yourselves. Wishing you the best of luck and happiness in your future endeavours. Ms McGarron
- Wishing all my 6th year French class all the best for their exams and the future. You were such a wonderful group to teach. I really enjoyed teaching you. All the best. Ms O'Hanlon
- Best of luck in the future guys. Appreciate the small things in life and be kind to yourselves and others.
- Wishing you all the best! Especially to the OG Rang Daltons and the current DD Geography class. Aim High! Ms Dalton
- Wishing you all the very best of luck in the exams! After that world is your oyster! You have a great future ahead...live life to the fullest. Ms Witter
- All the best to the class of 2024 ! Rang Lyttle - I've loved having you as my rang for the last 5 years, you've made being a caomhnóir so enjoyable. I wish you all the best of luck for the future! Miss Lyttle
- The very best of luck to all my 6th year Gaeilge classes. I will you all the best for the future. Keep up the Gaeilge! Ms Smyth

- To the original Rang Canny and Rang Gilmartin gangs! I enjoyed so many lessons with you all and you were my favourite gangs to teach throughout the weeks, even if I did give out to some of you at times! Please keep in touch in the future! Ms J Conlon
- To my 6th Year Irish class - best of luck in your future endeavors and your future adventures. I hope that you've enjoyed the past two years of Irish (as much as students can enjoy Irish - especially with me waffling about the Tuiseal Ginideach!). Thank you for all the hard-work, effort and entertainment you've provided in my class. You have been a rang iontach for me the past two years and I hope I have done ye justice in your Irish exam in June. Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh, táim an-bródúil asaibh go léir! Ms McCormack
- Best of luck to you all in your exams, it will be over in no time and your new life post-school will begin! Enjoy your last few weeks! Ms Jackson
- OG Rang Toner, you guys were the absolute best. It was a genuine pleasure to have been your Caomhnóir for three years, I wish you guys every success in the future. Per aspera, ad astra! - Mr Toner
- The class of 2024! It has been amazing to see you grow and flourish in all areas of school life. To my previous Rang Conatys: well done! You've made it! All my giving out worked! Don't be a stranger! Ms Conaty
- "It is YOUR exam, not mine." and - Shoutout to the front row, you know who you are - Mr Toher
- Best of luck for the future! Mr Sansom

**Good luck, everyone!**

# Most Likely to...



**Most likely to win gold at the Olympics**

Caoimhe Fitzsimons

Eryn Birkhead

Laura Kelly



**Most likely to become Taoiseach**

Katie Duffy

Lily Nannery

Shafay Khan



**Most likely to paint a masterpiece**

Caitlin Callaghan

Stephen Walsh

Jane Dolan



**Most likely to still get ID'd when they're 30**

Aaron McGoldrick

Ellen Fitzpatrick

Katie Smyth

Rylee O'Keefe



**Most likely to grow the longest beard**

Ben Devine

Eoin Lacey

Sam Blick



**First couple to get married**

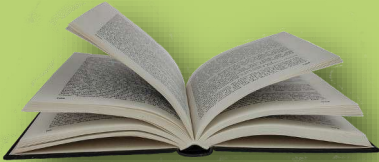
Aoibhe Caffrey & Ryan Dunne

Ella Clarke & Cian Maye

Jacob Mulcahy & Niamh Mangan

Leo Brazil & Sivahn Portelas

# Most Likely to...



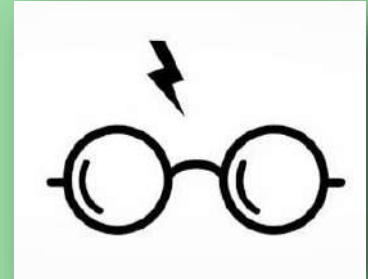
## Most likely to write a bestselling novel

Callum Smith  
Jack Gibson McKenna  
Ruby Daly



## Most likely to go to space

Cian Crawford  
Ellie Mahon  
Patricia Mae Cruz



## Most likely to get sorted into a Harry Potter house

Cian Smyth—Slytherin  
Callum Furlong—Gryffindor  
Joe Kennedy—Gryffindor  
Laura Kelly—Slytherin  
Laura Mahon—Ravenclaw  
Sean Ocampo—Ravenclaw



## Most likely to become the world's biggest Twitch streamer

Adam Treacy  
Callum Furlong  
Sean Harte



## Most likely to catch all Pokémon

Ben Ronan  
Lauryn Comerford  
Cian Smith



## Most likely to become a farmer

Abi Simmonds  
Enda Finn  
Tara Howard

# Most Likely to...



**Most likely to win an Oscar**

Abbie Archbold  
Emmet Harley  
Olivia Konkle



**Most likely to become a film star**

Saoirse Lynch  
Sophie Cameron  
Eoin Lacey



**Most likely to return to work here as a teacher**

Amy Kinsella  
Robyn Ducie  
Sinead Byrne



**Most likely to become a mad scientist**

Charlie Turns  
Sean Caffrey  
Ross Fitzpatrick



**Most likely to travel the world**

Ciara Freeman  
Enda Finn  
Matthew Keane



**Most likely to become a supervillain**

Danas Savickas  
James Cullen  
Ruairi McKeown

# Most Likely to...



**Most likely to get super-powers**

Matthew Cullen

Sean Harte

Zach Smith



**Most likely to become TikTok famous**

Éabha Brown

Enoch Emmanuel

Paul Oladele



**Most likely to become a priest/nun**

Kyle Gibbons

Lara Lacey

Sean O'Beara



**Most likely to win the lotto but lose the ticket**

Aobh Forde

Ben Devine

Rory Scully



**Most likely to survive a zombie apocalypse**

Jude O'Haire

Laura Kelly

Corey Walsh



**Most likely to be the first to die in a zombie apocalypse**

Eline Lund

Jack Tatten

Saoirse Lynch

*Great Gatsby*

Oh, The Great Gatsby a tale so grand  
A world of glamour, parties and sand  
Jay Gatsby a man of wealth and charm

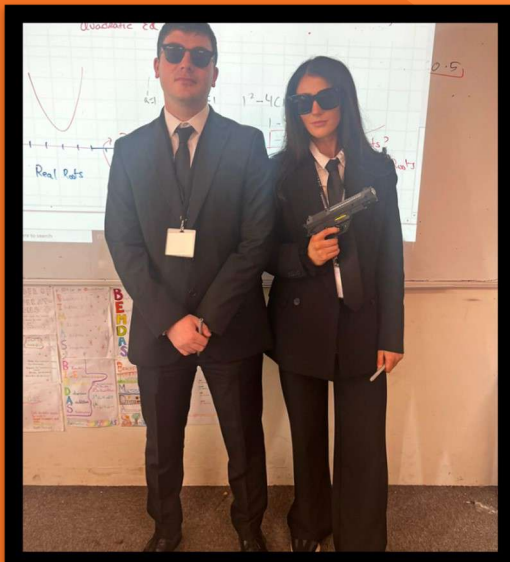
Daisy Buchanan his love from afar  
Her beauty shining like a distant star  
Their love a flame that couldn't be tamed  
But fate had other plans and hearts were maimed

Through big parties and secrets untold  
The story of Gatsby began to unfold  
A tragic tale of longing and desire  
Where dreams were shattered consumed by fire

By Anonymous



# Hallowe'en 2023



# Interview with...

Josh Lyons currently plays for Bohemians and has played internationally for Northern Ireland.

**Where did your interest in football begin?**

I'd say...with my family. They were all big into it, all my cousins. I didn't start off with football, I did taekwondo. I didn't start playing football until I was about 7. I used to just play football in my estate. It was definitely my family who I started with at first.

**What do you think makes a good footballer?**

I think it's all about attitude. And ability as well. Hard work, ability and attitude. You have to love the game as well. Definitely hard work, ability and a good attitude at the end of the day.

**How have you developed your skills over your career?**

I'd say it when I went into academy football. When I was in Ratoath Harps when I was younger I'd be playing once a week. When you go into academy football you're training four or five times a week. So you have more time on the pitch.

I think the coaches help as well. When I went into International Football I had two coaches who had played in the Premier League.

I had Roy Carroll who played for Man United and Gareth McCauley who played for Leicester. Because they played at such a high level they knew the game so well. Gareth played in the same position as me, centre back, so he really knew about that and gave me good advice.

*Josh Lyons, 6th year*



**You have recently played for Northern Ireland, how did you get involved with the team?**

So I was playing a match with Bohemians up in Derry against Derry City and after the match there was a NI scout and he came up to my da and asked if there any way I would be eligible to play for Northern Ireland, which I was. A month later I went up for a three day training camp and started playing with them. I played in five tournaments with them and got 16 caps.

**Which footballer has influenced you the most and why?**

See everyone’s going to say the Messis and the Ronaldos. Mine is a player called Sergio Ramos. Just because he played in the same position as me. And he was a proper leader and a captain. And I wanted to really do the same so he was the player I looked up to when I was younger.

**Tell us about your experience with the FAI during Transition Year**

That was deadly to be fair. That’s actually another reason I have got better at football. Because I was playing every day. It felt like I was a real footballer, like it was a job. I was just constantly playing football all the time. I did a bit of school work in the morning, went to the gym, then just played football every day.

**Do you have a career highlight so far?**

That’s a tough one. I’d say it was all the international experiences. We played against a lot of big countries, Sweden, Germany. They proper test you. When you play against them you think ‘am I able against them?’ And then you prove to yourself that you can play against all these big teams. Yeah, I think all the international games.

**What are you hoping to achieve in the next few years?**

So, I want to play in the Premier League, and I want to play for Ireland’s first team in the Aviva stadium. Three goals – professional footballer, play in the Premier League, and play for Ireland’s senior team.

*Best of luck, Josh!*



# Interview with...

*Eryn Birkhead, 6th year*

**Eryn Birkhead (6th Year) is an internationally awarded kickboxer who is a member of Tallaght Martial Arts club.**

## **Where did your interest in kickboxing begin?**

Originally with my mam. She did martial arts when she was young and trained with the two coaches who opened the club first here in Ratoath. So me and my brother went and we just fell in love with the sport and stayed with it.

## **Tell us about how a kickboxing match works.**

So there's quite a few different fighting styles; I compete in points fighting and light contact fighting. There's three 2 minute rounds across all disciplines. For points the main objective is to hit your opponent first without being hit. The scoring is 1 point for a punch, a kick to the body is 1 point. A kick to the head is 2 points. A jumping kick to the body is 2 points and a jumping kick to the head is 3 points. If you go out of the mats it's minus 1 point (called an 'exit'). The aim is to get the most points by the end of 6 minutes. if you go 10 points ahead of your opponent then the match is finished hearily. For light contact you have to get 15 points ahead of your opponent to win. In this type of fighting there are three judges who award the points.

## **What do you think makes a winning kickboxer?**

Lots of training is the most important part. Having a good diet—eating correctly and at the right times and maintaining a fighting weight for your category. Having the attitude of wanting to win. The drive to win. My whole family are extremely competitive, we have all competed at high levels.

## **How have you developed your skills over your career?**

Mainly with training and listening to my coach. Really listening to what they say and having trust that what they're saying to me is right. Over the summer I'd train 7 days a week, sometimes twice a day. This year is my last junior championship, which is the World Championship. I'm hoping to fight in my first senior European championships once I turn 18. It switches each year. One year it's worlds and then European.



*liz white photos*

### What titles have you achieved?

I won bronze at the 2022 World Championships. At the World and European Championships I have reached 6 quarterfinals. I have 6 All Ireland gold medals, 6 silver and 2 bronze.

At the Irish Open World Series (the biggest kickboxing championship in the world) I've won one gold, two silver, three bronze. At the Hungarian World Cup I've won gold. At the Bristol International Open: one gold, two silver, three bronze.

Between the Austrian Classics , Flanders Int'l Open, the Italy World Cup, the Dutch Open and the Watford Open I've won one gold, one silver, seven bronzes. And at the White Tiger International Challenge I won five gold, two silver, four bronze.



### Which other athlete or kickboxer has influenced you?

I'd definitely say Jodie Brown (Ireland). She actually trains in my club and she's my sparring partner now. She is multiple time world and European Champion. She is the World Combat Games Champion and the European Olympics champion (bronze). Her drive and effort in training is inspiring. She's always willing to help and give back to everyone in the club.

### Do you have a career highlight so far?

I'd have to say my gold medal at the Irish Open and my bronze medal in the World Championships. I've been going to the Irish Open since I was about 7. It is the biggest kickboxing international tournament so being able to win it was a dream come true. So the Worlds and the European championships would be the hardest to podium in and I medalled in my first year of my junior category 16-18.

### What are you hoping to achieve in the next few years?

I'm hoping to go to the Olympics in 2032 in Sydney if they include kickboxing as a world Olympic sport. We got really close to the 2028 Olympics in LA but we missed out. I'm hoping to study psychology at UCD and I'll hopefully be part of the university games. I think the qualifications for the Olympics will be the Senior World Championships. I want participate in the Combat Games and do my best to win.

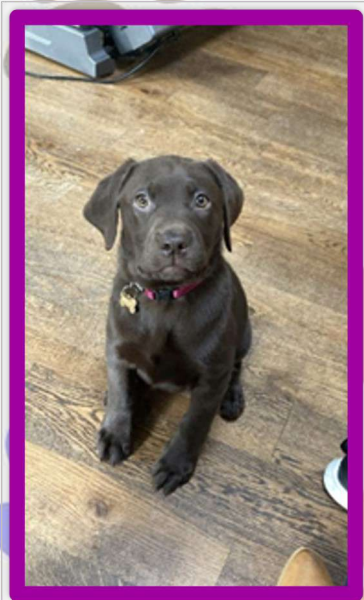


*Best of luck, Eryn!*

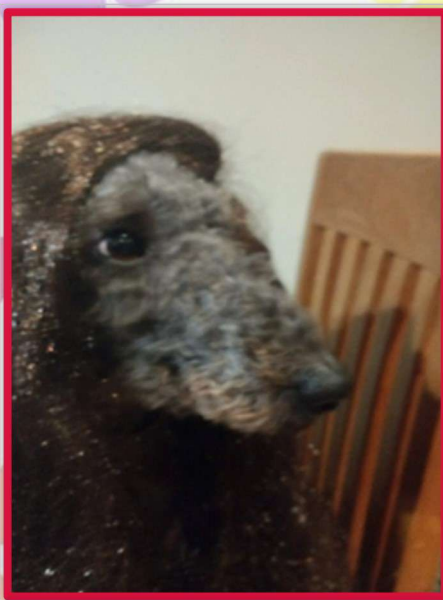


Still Life by Sophie Baker

# Pets of Ratoath



Nicole Duhy has little Bella here. She's 4 months old and likes to eat socks. Rockin' it 12/10



Kate Lucey doesn't know what age her pupper, Pepper, is but probably middle aged and she likes to eat ice & rocks a good wig. Cool. 11/10



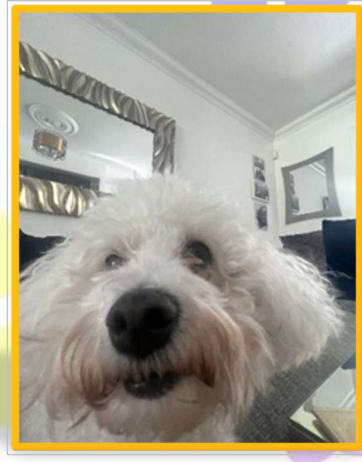
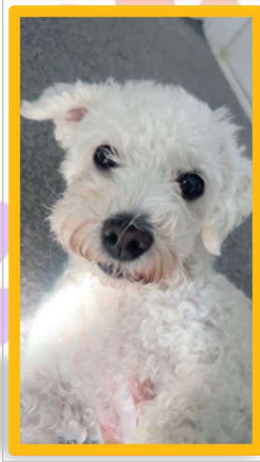
Niamh Haslam sent us this chilled pic. This is Luna and her hobby is biting people (but also she is kind sometimes). Chillin' 11/10



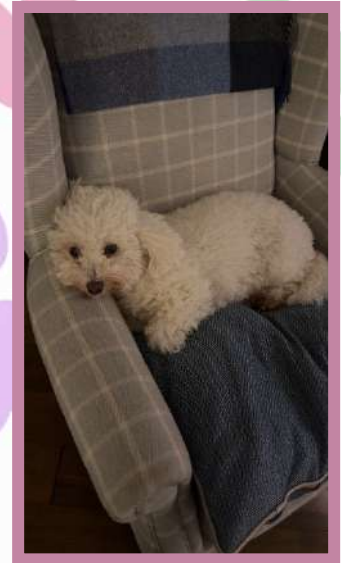
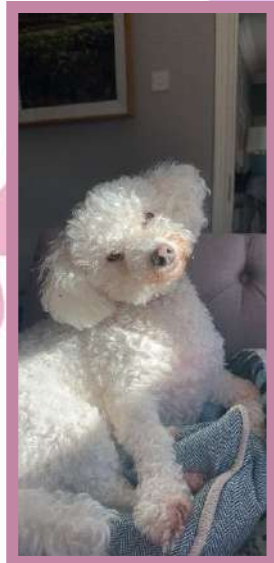
This is Maggie Jo Gallagher's dog, Elsa. She loves sleeping, hugs and belly rubs. Cuddly doggo. 13/10



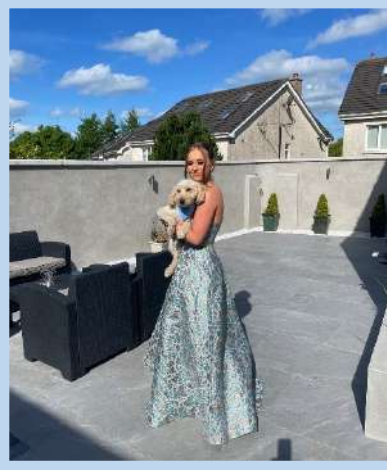
This is Erin Stears' dog,  
Ruby, she's cuter than  
everyone else's dog.  
Confident 12/10



Jasmine Singh has her hands full with this little dude. This is Max, who is 4 years old and is a street fighter. He is the sweetest and kindest cat who is very patient and loves food. He will gladly play with anyone. Somehow, he learnt how to sigh from me and now sighs at any inconvenient moment. Champion 13/10



Lucy O'Sullivan has double trouble on her hands here with Max (dog) and Tigger (cat) 😊 Max likes to eat



Robyn Ducie spends most of her days chasing down this escape artist. Ted is a celebrity on the Ratoath Noticeboard as he loves to escape and run around the village. He loves attention, , cuddles and treats and will stare at you until you give him some of the food your eating. Houdini 12/10



Jody Lawlor sends in this pic of Bella, a cute little Italian mastiff who's taking in the summer skies, for consideration for the RC Pets Yearbook page. We didn't need to consider; Bella is a winner.

When he's not conquering Gaul, Caesar here loves to chill with Roisin Flynn. Also, he doesn't realise how big he is & Roisin feels he is the cutest dog in the Yearbook, she might be right. Hail Caesar! 13/10



# Trends of 2023/2024

Throughout 2023 and the beginning of 2024, a lot of trends have surfaced online. We've seen trends ranging from the Barbie craze to people explaining their 'Roman Empires'. There was also people showcasing their 'Girl Dinners' all across TikTok. Let's take a quick look back at all the highlights that have occurred throughout 2023/2024.

## Barbie

**Movies/TV:** 2023 was a victorious year for the world of film and media. We witnessed the 'Barbenheimer' rivalry; Jack Black's iconic 'Peaches' performance in the Super Mario Bros movie and the nostalgic return of our three favourite Spider-men in *Spider-Man: No Way Home*. We also watched the beloved Pedro Pascal rise to stardom with *The Last Of Us*. These movies and TV shows had a big impact both online and in person. It seemed like we couldn't anywhere without hearing someone singing 'A Part Of Your Word' from *The Little*

*Mermaid*, and I'm sure we don't need to remind you about the Pedro Pascal craze that took over TikTok! While some of these trends have made their way into 2024, like Ryan Gosling's outstanding performance of 'I'm just Ken' at the 96<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards, we're looking forward to what resurfaces or comes to light as 2024 proceeds!

**Social media:** While we're sure most of your time on TikTok and Instagram was definitely well spent and not used up by watching videos of Jacob Elordi and Barry Keoghan in 'Saltburn', you might've come across some trends that lingered across the apps for months at a time, maybe you even took part in them! We've had some highs with people Wes Anderson-ifying their lives, and lows with men not be able to name any woman. A popular trend that began in July 2023 but has snuck its way into 2024 is the 'Girl Dinner' trend, where women came together to show off their random assortments of snacks for dinner. Another amusing trend involves asking the question "How often do you think about the Roman Empire?" to a man in your life. Apparently this is an oft considered topic! TikTok trends just seem to get more in-

# The English Department

The 2023-24 academic year has been a busy one for the English Department. Between school trips, reading challenges, writing competitions and Arts Week, there has always been something going on!

The school trips attended by our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students took place in October and January and both groups got to enjoy two outstanding performances put on by the famous Gaiety School of Acting. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> year students attended a live performance of their studied play, *The Merchant of Venice*, in Clontarf. While our 6<sup>th</sup> Year Students trekked into Dublin city centre to see their studied play *Hamlet* live at the renowned Smock Alley Theatre. Both performances of each play received rave reviews from our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students and they even benefitted from an exam-focused Q&A session after each performance which will go a long way in preparing to tackle the June exams!

A big week for the English Department this year was Arts Week which took place in early March. Every year, the English Department organises various activities to celebrate the arts and to help students gain a deeper appreciation of language, culture and reading. There were DEAR classes galore throughout Arts Week as students got the opportunity to engage in reading for pleasure outside of their coursework, while also taking part in book quizzes in their class groups, with the winning groups receiving a much-coveted award – Easter Eggs! Students got a great kick out of the

friendly competition that ensued, and a great time was had by all!

It has been a busy year once again for the English Department here in Ratoath College, but a productive and fruitful one. We already look forward to another year of trips and competitions!

Wishing all of our students a safe and happy summer holiday.



**Ratoath College**

**English Department**

# Writers of Ratoath

## Writing Competition, 2024

This year the English Department ran a writing competition based on the theme of 'Summer'. All of our English teachers see amazing writing from our students on a daily basis and there's so much interest in the arts amongst so many of our student cohort.

Well done to our winners who submitted creative and interesting pieces. But very well done also to everyone who submitted a piece. Being brave and open enough to submit your work and have it critiqued is extremely commendable and truly is the mark of a *great* writer.

The winners of the competition were:

1st place	Saoirse Peate Morgan	2 Moynihan
2nd place	Katie Johnson	6 Tracey
3rd place	Lilianna Pokoj	3 Bruce
4th place	Holly Keogh	3 McAuley

### **An excerpt from Saoirse's story *A Life Measured in Summers*:**

It was about noon, on a hot summer day, and the heat was only getting more intense as the day progressed. The park was filled with dog walkers, frantic parents and screaming children. A young girl in a stained blue dress ran past, dripping her melting ice cream everywhere. Samuel supposed that was helpful for the considerably younger girl who was struggling to keep up with and keep track of what could only be her older sister.

Samuel smiled to himself as he took in the bustling park. He loved coming here, especially in the summer when the weather was good. He liked it for no other reason other than he loved people. He could easily have read this newspaper at home, but instead here he was, on the same old, flaking brown bench, in this packed park.

Halfway through his Irish Independent, Samuel had to surrender to the summer heat and take off his jacket. He surveyed peoples summer shorts and t-shirts and quickly glanced down at his smart trousers and pointy leather shoes. For seventy six, he had to admit he still had style.

# Writers of Ratoath

## Writing Competition, 2024

He spent the next few minutes reading about the country's disastrous politics and soaking in the glorious day. He was immensely grateful for the heat and the good weather so far this summer because not all his seventy six summers were as easy and bright as today.

No, definitely not the summer of 1970. That was a horrible one. It had lashed rain for weeks on end, and it was on one of those gloomy days Samuel remembered getting a call in his cramped flat just before he was leaving for work. It was his girlfriend at the time calling to break it off. His girlfriend of almost two years. He remembered that pain so vividly, because it was the first time he had ever felt something like it. The pain was fresh and new, an alien feeling. He was twenty two at the time, and it had been his first heartbreak.

\*\*\*

**Below is Lilianna's poem 'Summer':**

On the last day of school,

we promised not to fight

Who would have known

That none of us were right

It wasn't even 24 hours

After that, it pretty much went downhill

Words were spoken

Tears were spilled

Friendships were broken

And despite all that, we still had fun

All those exciting days I recall

Spending time in the sun

Or at home, or abroad

Whatever hardship we faced

We stayed strong

Our friendship stayed, if not strengthened

No matter what went wrong

And for this summer, I thank you all

For all those moments we spent together

Facing problems big and small

Here's to a better summer next time

# Exceptional Engineering at Ratoath College

It has been a very exciting and busy year for the Engineering department. This year we say hello to our new Engineering Teacher Mr Campion who is located in our new Engineering room V10 – Welcome!

Our first year students are undertaking many new projects - Personalised Pac Man keytags have been completed, our angry birds project is finished and we are now working on our Jet Fighter which includes an electronic circuit.

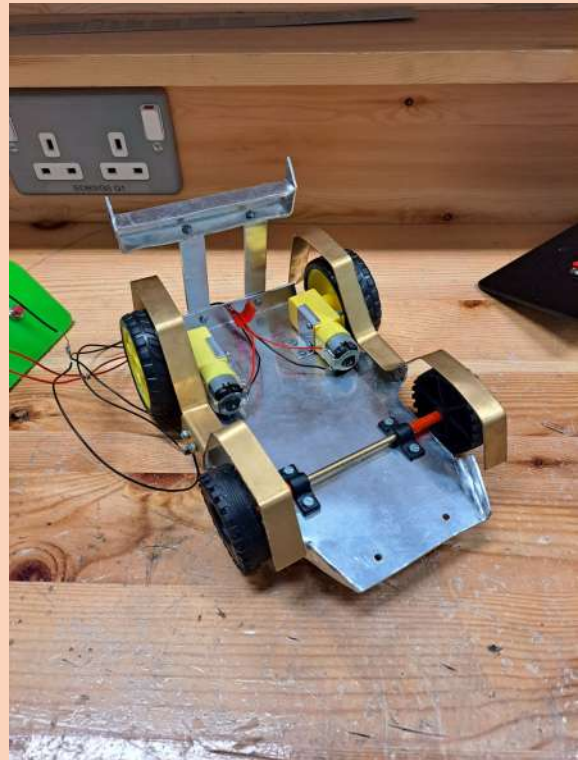
Our second year students have been very busy honing their practical skills and are finishing a trike project. This has been the culmination of all the new skills and knowledge they have gained using new machines such as the lathe and getting to work with new materials. They have also just completed their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

Third Year Students are busy manufacturing their gullwing model car with moving doors – It is different from typical 3<sup>rd</sup> year projects in that there is more electronics included as well and CNC manufacture techniques.

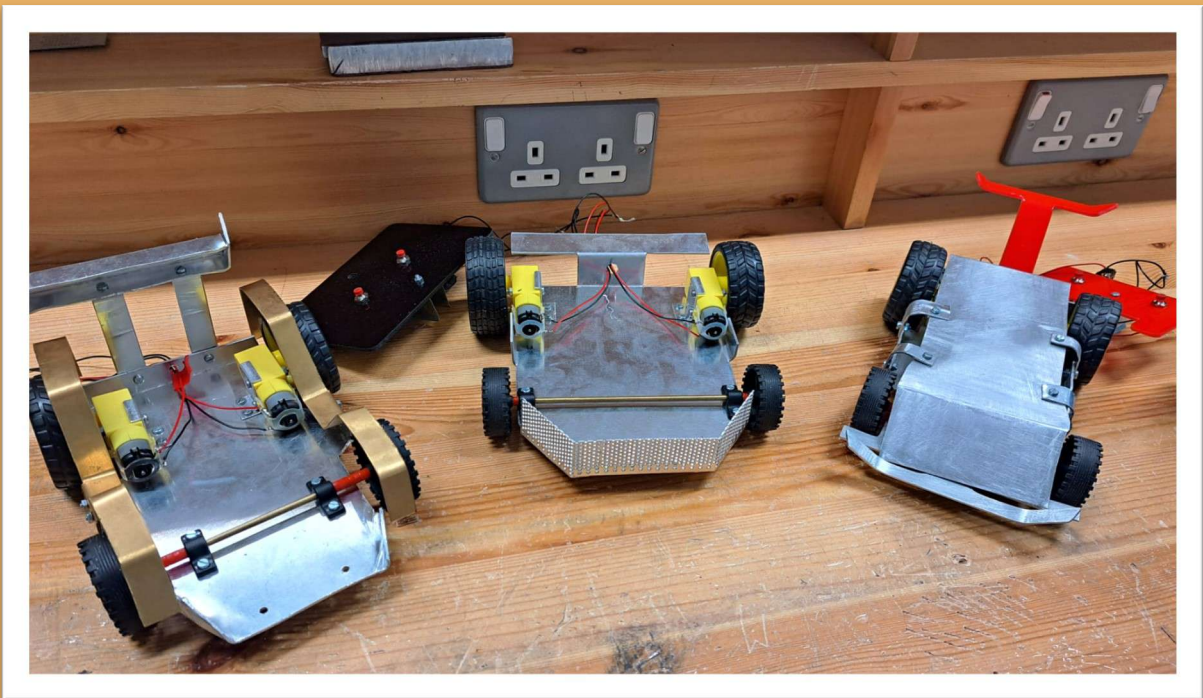
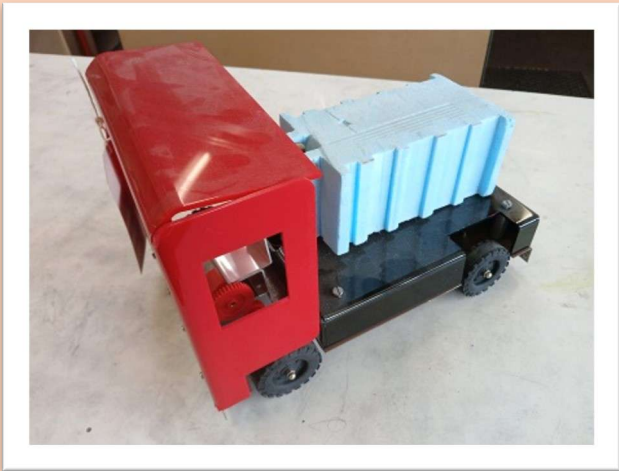
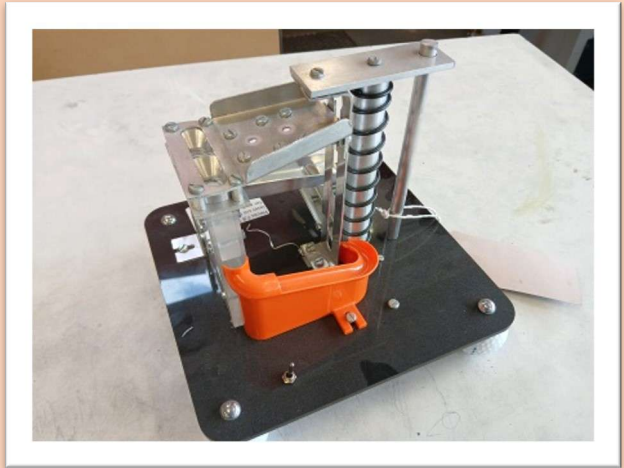
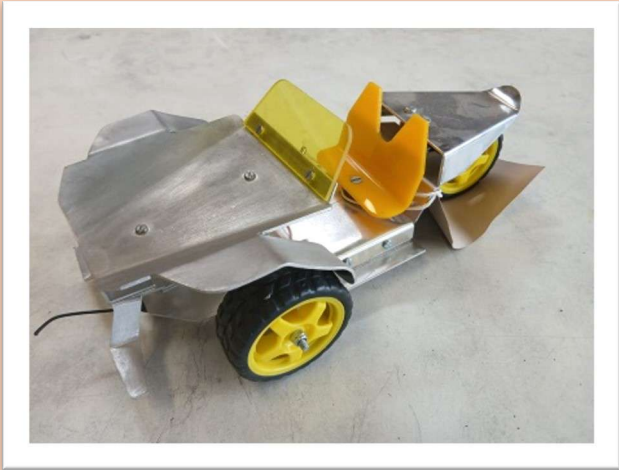
Transition Year has allowed students to taste what Engineering is all about. Jewellery projects such as 100% silver rings have been produced in class as well as flower basket hangers that are scrolled, welded together and spray painted – well done guys. Some Transition Years are also working on our ever 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 drop tower. This project includes an electronically propelled fair-ground drop tower thrill ride. 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!**



# RC Rainbows Room

## Wellbeing

On behalf of the Rainbows Team, we at Ratoath College, are very pleased to be able to provide a permanent amenity in the school to support students who have experienced a bereavement or family change following parental separation and divorce.

This room offers participants of the Rainbows Programme a safe space of meaningful listening support at a difficult time in their lives.

Our Rainbows Room gives students an opportunity to explore and talk about their shared experience of

loss. This room provides a space of total acknowledgement, validation, affirmation, and acceptance of feelings.

The artwork, library, sensory objects, memory table and grief jars within this space will help support students in beginning to understand why they feel the way they do.

The work that will be undertaken by students within these walls will contribute to a process of adapting and adjusting following the significant changes in their lives that are stemming from loss.



# Promoting Student Wellbeing at Ratoath College: Reflections from our Wellbeing Cinnirí

## Orla Stoney

I have been a Wellbeing Committee Cinnirí this year. One of the things I like about the Wellbeing committee is that the students get a say.

The Wellbeing Committee has frequent meetings. The Committee meet weekly at lunchtime. This means that although the meetings are often you only must miss one, or two lunchtimes per week of studying or talking to friends for wellbeing related events. Everything is planned well in advance too so you can plan your time.

There are plenty of events that happen during the year and everyone on the committee is assigned responsibility, no matter what, every member is given something they must do. Nobody is ever allowed to be left out. Even if you occasionally forget about a meeting there is always someone to find you and remind you to get to the prayer room.

## Katie Duffy

Throughout this academic year the Wellbeing Committee has completed amazing work for all students and teachers in Ratoath Collage. The members of the Wellbeing Committee made it their goal this year to ensure everyone in Ratoath Collage felt safe, welcome, and happy

to be in school. Putting an emphasis on wellbeing in school is so important for a school's community. It plays an essential role in supporting students to make healthy lifestyle choices and understand the effects of their choices on their mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing. Strong and supportive relationships provide students with the emotional resources to step out of their comfort zone, which was a huge goal that the Wellbeing Committee focused on with many events and activities that they organised this year.

The Random Acts of Kindness Day on Monday 27th November 2023 focused on helping students be kind to themselves and others with events like Teacher Compliment Packs that involved students writing a compliment to a random teacher and this being passed onto the teacher.



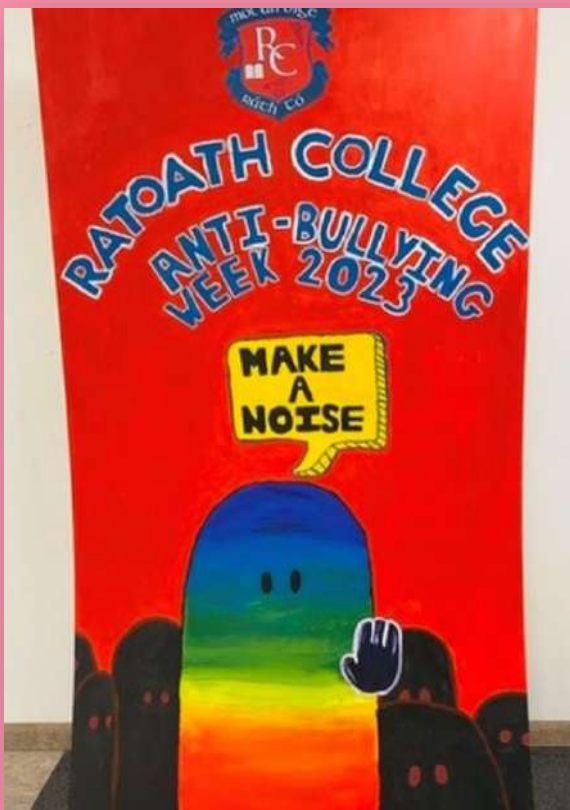
# Promoting Student Wellbeing

...The 'Pass the Positivity' activity saw three boxes being filled with positive affirmations and handed out in the morning to students coming into school. This helped with students feeling positive starting the day at school. Break buddies was an activity where members of the Wellbeing Committee baked food for the students of Ionad Arkle. They decorated the space with uplifting messages and chatted with the students about their day. This activity showcased a strong sense of community and allowed for new connections between students to be formed. The final activity that took place on this day was a Nail Bar organised by a group of Transition Year students. A nail painting station was set up in the GP area where anyone could come sit down for a chat, relax, and have their nails done.

## Kyle Gibbons

I hope you are all keeping well and had another wonderful year at Ratoath college. The Wellbeing Committee in our school is a group of Cinnirí, senior students, TY students and teachers who all share the aim of spreading positivity around our school and ensuring that every member of the RC family knows they are part of our community.

Starting off, the team organised the first Random act of Kindness Day in September. During this, 1st years wrote the names of their peers on a shout out board in their area to celebrate those who rise to a challenge and have done a sweet job of starting 1st year. Our 2nd years got to 'liven up lunch' by bringing in their favourite snack to swap with their friends. Our 3rd years were given a random name each and asked to write a compliment, giving them joy as they made someone random happy.



Our Kindness Kadets, Kyle the penguin and Harry the lobster treated every student coming into the school with a bag of jellies to start the day right. In November we held a second Random act of Kindness Day. These Random Acts of Kindness days are a lovely surprise to students at the school and help bring a smile to students' faces. We then held Anti-Bullying Week. We believe it is essential everyone understands the meaning of bullying and what they should do if on the receiving end. We also like to make students aware that we are here to support. During this week, our committee presented the 'Be an Upstander' presentation to first years. During this presentation, students explored the difference between bullying and non-bullying behaviour, identify different kinds of bullying and safe ways of acting when bullying occurs, but most importantly, the difference between being an upstander and a bystander. As the saying in the school goes, 'If you're a bully you're a fool, and you're in the wrong school'.

To mark the new year, we held a 'Beat the January Blues' Wellbeing Week. Every day was started off with a positive message over the intercom, giving every student the motivation and encouragement that they needed to make the most of their lessons. Throughout the week, the timetable was jam packed with events to promote student wellbeing. Every day was filled with different lessons or activities on how to look after your mental health and ways to improve your mental health. With this week taking place before all the January exams and mocks, we felt it was the perfect time to spread the message that it is important to take care of your mental, physical, and emotional health so that you are better able to cope with the expectations and the busyness of life.

To finish off our incredible year, we held a Diver-

sity Day to celebrate the traditions, beliefs, and cultures of our community. During this day, the Committee delivered a 'Challenging Stereotypes' presentation for first years. This presentation helped students understand that they should never jump to conclusions about people, and that anyone can be anything, which was a key aim for diversity day.

We were delighted to try put a smile on everyone's faces this year, and we hope that smile continues next year. Best of luck to all students sitting state exams this summer!!!



# Fr PJ Memorial Match, 2024

Fr PJ Nyland was an integral part of Ratoath College and did so much for everyone. He represented so well the ethos of our college—*Mól an Óige agus Tíocfaidh Sí*—in his approachability, kindness and compassion.

His presence is still felt at the college and, as such, the annual Fr PJ Memorial Match took

place on 12th April. The match is used to remember PJ and to raise vital funds for the Irish Heart Foundation. Ending a run of success for the teachers, the match was won by the students this year with a score difference nearly too big to mention!



# Fr PJ Memorial Match, 2024



# Girls' Soccer



Here at Ratoath college, we have a lot of sports teams. This year our 1st year girls have done very well and reached the region final which they won 3-0 against Lusk.. Ms O'Hanlon is their coach and she coaches with the help of the TY students Orla Skerrett, Katie Burke and Molly Donnelly.

There are 28 1st year girls who play for this team. We have played many matches and have numerous brilliant players in the team. At every match we have a great laugh and it is always a good experience.

We have played both away matches and home matches, which are held at Ratoath Harps. Our training takes place on Mondays after school where we practice a lot of drills for our matches. We were all very excited to play in the final and hopeful to win, which we did! We are looking forward to playing more match like friendlies. The team have now reached the Leinster semi final which will be played before the 10th May.



# Girls' Rugby



We joined the tag rugby team in school because we did it in primary school where we enjoyed it. When the opportunity for an RC school tag rugby team came up we took it.

Immediately we had a lot of interest and our first training session was busy. We had a great session and everyone was enthusiastic about playing rugby, whether they were new to rugby or experienced already.

Rugby is going very well now and Ms Fagherazzi, Ms Trawally and her TY helper Orla are great at keeping the team together. Our training is well organised and gives us a better understanding of the sport.

Ms Fagherazzi is an excellent coach and can talk to the team confidently and explain each of the drills very well. We are all growing as a team and becoming better and better each week.

We have played in one tournament so far which we attended with Ms. Fagherazzi and Mr. Nissar.

We won the majority of our matches and the people organising the blitz were very impressed.

We got to play loads of different schools and have

lots of fun. We hope to have another one soon.

We've all seen great improvement and dedication to rugby so far from the girls and I can confidently say we are all growing as a team together.

I think I can also confidently say that all of the girls on the team are really enjoying rugby as the trainings are filled with laughs and smiles so it creates an atmosphere that makes you want to continue going and make a commitment to the team.

If anyone is interested in joining girls rugby, give it a try! Don't be afraid to ask questions! We hope to see you at training!

**By Zoe Tatten**



# Ratoath College Athletics Squad: Sprinting Towards Success

The track and field season at Ratoath College kicked off with a bang as our exceptional athletes showcased their talent and determination in various competitions, leaving a trail of success in their wake. From the Meath Championships to the North Leinster Athletics, our athletes demonstrated unwavering commitment and remarkable skill, making us proud with each stride they took.

In the Meath Track & Field Championships held in Navan, our athletes truly shone, with impressive performances across the board. The Ratoath College colours flew high as we clinched an outstanding total of 33 medals, comprising 22 gold, 9 silver, and 2 bronze medals, a true testament to the hard work and dedication of our squad. With 33 athletes competing and 33 medals brought home, it was a remarkable achievement indeed. Securing 3rd place finishes for both the Boys and Girls squads further solidified our standing as a force to be reckoned with in the athletics arena.

Moving on to the North Leinster Athletics, held in Santry, our athletes continued to excel, adding to our medal tally with 18 medals, including 8 gold, 7 silver, and 3 bronze. Not only did our athletes shine individually, but an impressive 18 athletes also qualified for the Leinster Championships, showcasing the depth of talent within our squad.

The success story continued as our athletes returned to Santry Stadium for Day 2 of the North Leinster Athletics, where they delivered yet another stellar performance. With an additional 20 gold, 4 silver, and 1 bronze medal, our total medal count soared to an impressive 43. The Girls team's triumph in winning the Shield for Best School in North Leinster for the second consecutive year, alongside the Boys team's commendable 3rd place finish, underscored our dominance on the track and in the field.

Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate the Leinster Schools Track & Field Championships in mid-May, where 24 of our finest athletes will compete with hopes of securing a spot in the All Ireland's, scheduled for the June Bank holiday weekend. As we embark on this next chapter of our journey, we extend our heartfelt wishes of luck and success to all our athletes. Your dedication, passion, and unwavering spirit embody the essence of Ratoath College athletics, and we couldn't be prouder to have you represent us on the track, in the field, and beyond. Go Team RC Athletics!





# Awesome Athletics



# Awesome Athletics



# Ratoath College Cross Country Team: Running Towards Success

The spirit of athleticism and camaraderie soared high as the Ratoath College Cross Country Team took to the trails, leaving a mark of excellence in the North Leinster Cross Country competition held at the picturesque Phoenix Park. With weather on their side, our team of 30 dedicated athletes showcased their prowess amidst the scenic backdrop, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to the sport.

In a testament to their hard work and determination, our Junior Girls team, alongside the remarkable Olivia in the Inter-Age Group category, secured their spots in the prestigious Leinster Cross Country Championships, once again gracing the grounds of Phoenix Park. It was yet another glorious day for our team, filled with anticipation and excitement.

Among the shining stars of our team, Lily's outstanding performance truly stole the spotlight. Finishing an impressive 2nd in her category. Lily's remarkable feat earned her a well-deserved qualification for the All-Ireland School Cross Country event where she finished 18th on the course in Castleknock. Her dedication, coupled with her remarkable talent, truly illuminated the course on that memorable day.

As we reflect on the achievements of our cross-country team, we cannot help but feel an overwhelming sense of pride. Each member has demonstrated exceptional resilience, perseverance, and sportsmanship throughout their journey, embodying the true spirit of Ratoath College.

To all our athletes, coaches, and supporters, we extend our heartfelt congratulations. Your achievements serve as an inspiration to us all, reminding us that with passion, determination, and teamwork, anything is possible. As we eagerly anticipate the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead, let us continue to run towards success, together as one team, one family.



# North Leinster

## Track & Field Athletics

### Results Day 1 2024

#### 1st Place

Caoile Murray - 100m & Long Jump

Katie Doherty - 100m

Nicole Doherty – 100m Hurdles

Laura Kelly – 400m

Cillian Conway – 400m

Lily Flood – 1500m

Daniel de Antolin Rodriquez – Triple Jump

#### 2nd Place

Aobh Forde – 100m

Gavin Witter – 100m Hurdles

Megan Lane – 100m Hurdles

Olivia Ryan – 1500m Steeplechase

Nathan Mooney – Triple Jump

Erin Finn – Triple Jump

Louis Connolly – 2nd 500m

#### 3rd Place

Emmet Doyle – 400m

Megan Lane – Long Jump

Jack Kelly – 400m

### Results Day 2 2024

#### 1st Place

Senior Girls relay (Aobh Forde, Caoimhe Fitzsimmons, Laura Kelly, Katie Doherty)

Nicole Doherty 200m

Junior Girls relay (Nicole Doherty, Erin Finn, Lily Flood, Caoile)

Katie Doherty 200m

Laura Kelly 200m

Caoimhe Fitzsimmons Long jump

Caoile Murray 1st 200m

Emmet Doyle 400m hurdles

Daniel de Antolin Rodriquez 2nd 200m

Senior Boys 4 \*400m relay (Jack Kelly, James Kelly, Jack Dyas, Cillian Conway)

Senior Boys Relay (Gavin Witter, Asier Velasco, Emmet Doyle, Daniel De Antolin Rodriquez)

#### 2nd Place

Aobh Forde 200m

Lily Flood 800m

Jack Dyas

#### 3rd Place

Erin Finn 3rd 800m





# Green Schools at Ratoath College

The 'Green Schools' programme is a national initiative which 'promotes long-term, whole-school action for the environment'. It is 'a student-led programme with involvement from the wider community'.

This year's Green Schools theme across the country is 'water conservation'. Our Green Schools team has attended two sessions during the school year.

At the first session we discussed how water is processed and the importance of water filtration. We were introduced to the general theme of water and the issues that come with water waste and how we can work to fix it.

We discussed how to conserve water more efficiently in schools and to get people thinking



about their water usage.

In combination with students from other schools, we worked together to understand how precious water is and the importance of preserving it for our environment and future.

We discussed different sand types and the importance of them. A professional engineer was brought in to discuss different solutions we could bring our school and we discussed all about effective water storage. We saw different examples of water treatment plants.

On our return to school we were brimming with new ideas and plans to implement in our school to help bring around changes to water conservation for everyone.



# Green Schools at Ratoath College



On 9<sup>th</sup> March in Navan we attended another session where we were put in mixed groups with students from other schools to discuss a range of topics.

We first discussed our favourite memories connected to water and why it is important to preserve water so that other people can experience those memories.

We then participated in a group task in where we had to think of a six step plan on how to promote water conservation in our own school.

We set dates and goals about implementing these ideas in our own school and we presented their ideas to the other groups.

We discussed different ways of promoting our Green Schools activities including posters, PowerPoints, social media and more. Finally, we con-

sidered the link between the words 'peace' and 'water' which gave all the participants a greater understanding about how much water truly effects nature and the people around us.

Overall, after the two sessions, we came back to school not only with new ideas to implement but also a new outlook and perspective on water conservation.

It is such an important yet often neglected topic in today's society and we must strive to promote the importance of water conservation not only in school but in our day-to-day lives.

**By Cormac Tormey**



# Art and Classics Trip 2024



Forty-eight students and six teachers travelled to Florence and Rome in Italy over the February midterm break. This trip was curriculum focused with key sights and activities relating to Art and Classics at senior cycle.

The trip was a huge success. Students got the opportunity to visit galleries in Florence such as the Accademia, the Uffizi Gallery, and the Bargello Museum. Seeing work by great Renaissance masters such as Michelangelo's *David*, Ghiberti's *Gates to Paradise*, Botticelli's *Primavera* and the *Birth of Venus*, and Donatello's *David* to name but a few.



On our arrival to Rome students experienced what the life of a gladiator was like at the Gladiator School. Students took part in gladiator training and gladiatorial combats.

We had a self-guided tour of the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel. Students saw the immense collection amassed by the Catholic Church including well-known Roman sculptures and some of the most important masterpieces of the Renaissance. This was followed by a visit to St Peter's Basilica. In the afternoon students had an opportunity to make their own Italian style pizza for dinner.

On our last day we visited the Colosseum, the largest ancient amphitheatre ever built; the Circus Maximus, an ancient Roman chariot-racing stadium and mass entertainment venue; and the Roman Forum which was the scene of public meetings, law courts, and gladiatorial combats in republican times and was lined with shops and open-air markets.

This trip offered students an experience and memories for a life time. It was so successful that we will be running the trip again in the academic year 2024/2025. A massive thank you to the staff who organised and travelled.



# Hell & Back 2nd Year Trip

On the 15th March, we began our trip to Hell and Back in Bray, Co. Wicklow. We started the day by meeting the teachers at the school at 8:20. The bus drive was only about a 1-hour drive, which went by very fast as we were all very excited.

For most people who are wondering 'what is Hell and Back?' It is Ireland's toughest physical and mental challenge. It involves stunning views of Dublin Bay from the Little Sugar Loaf Mountain. It 'combines man-made obstacles with Killruddery's natural terrain, such as lakes, mountains, bogs and forests, to create a uniquely terrifying challenge!'

When we arrived, it was raining but we decided that we would make the most of it. We were welcomed by the staff. After a quick talk about the rules after we were off. Some of the first obstacles were 'Hell on Earth', 'Tyre Zone', 'Valley of Pain', 'Heartbreak Ridge' and more.

The entire obstacle course was 7km which was going up a mountain. My favorite part was the big slipping slide.

Hell and Back was also used for 'Ireland's Fittest Family' which is an RTÉ programme that involves families from different parts of Ireland competing for the title and 15,000 euros.

After we managed to complete the course, we changed from our dirty clothes and went to McDonald's. After we were all full of food, we made our way back to Ratoath College where we were dropped off and went home.

For me this trip was a very good experience which I really enjoyed and made some good memories that I will not forget. I am so glad that I had the opportunity to go on this trip.

*by David Leon Ciren*



# Italian Exchange

In February 2024, seventeen Italian students from Liceo Ulivi Parma came to Ratoath College for one week to experience Irish culture and meet new people. During this week we travelled around the east of Ireland to places like Wicklow, Dublin City, the Botanic Gardens and Howth. We educated the Italian students on our history while walking through the Archeology Museum, hiking Glendalough, and doing the virtual reality experience in Wicklow Gaol, and we gave them then Irish school experience.

In Italy, the school week runs from Monday to Saturday instead of Monday to Friday, but their school days are shorter, starting at eight o'clock and finishing at one. Also, in Liceo Ulivi, the students stay in the same class for the entire day, not moving from room to room like in our schools.

At the weekend, we were able to have two free days with our exchange students and we showed them how we would experience Ireland. A lot of us went to shopping centres or back into Dublin City as we didn't get a lot of time to show them around while we were out before. That weekend was good bonding time and a great time to relax.

Then came the time for our Italian friends to head home. They had to get on a bus at four o'clock in the morning and all of us went to wave them off. We were sad to see them go but we knew that we would see them soon enough.

Then, in late March, it was time to go to Italy. We were up early to fly into Milan and then we got to see our partners again after a few long weeks. It was nice to see everyone again and

finally meet their families. Some of us went out later that night to see Parma, its a very nice city with lots of sights to see.

The next day we got a tour of their school and played some games, we also got to see how their classes go. Their school had four storeys and was very big. Liceo Ulivi is named after Giacomo Ulivi, a member of the Italian Resistance who was killed in war as a teen in 1944.

Over the next few days we visited a cheese factory called Borgo del Gazzano; saw vintage and new racing cars in Dallara; went swimming in Portovenere, a seaside village in the west of Italy, and did a scavenger hunt around Parma. We had one free day on the weekend where me and my exchange family along with a few others went to Bologna. We all enjoyed these activities so much and got to see so many beautiful places and learn so much about life in Italy that we didn't know before (and have some AMAZING food).

The day we left Italy was a happy and sad day, we had had such an amazing week but were so sad that it had ended so quickly. We had to leave the school at half twelve on the bus and we got a great send off, we hope to see our Italian brothers and sisters again soon.

Whether you do Italian or not, the Italian Exchange is an amazing programme in which to participate. I have created so many amazing bonds with people (Irish and Italian) and it was one of the most eventful and rewarding things that I did in transition year.

**By Keelin Farrell**

# Italian Exchange



# Around the Art Department

Our wonderful first years came into the Art Room with bucket loads of talent!

In term 1 Spooky Self Portraits included charcoal drawings inspired by the drawings and illustrations of the visionary filmmaker known for his distinct and unmistakable style, Tim Burton. Students learned all about the symmetry of the face and used charcoal to create dark eyes and white chalk for a ghostly look for our Halloween exhibition. The eyes of our spooky self-portraits followed students as they passed by! Yikes! We love 1st years in the Art Department because they are so imaginative and energetic.

Term 2 saw our 1st years concentrate on the Art elements. How do you turn a shape into a 3d object, by using tone of course!

1st years finished the school term designing and creating 3D garden insects and butterflies. Students experimented with construction techniques using mixed media, wire, cardboard and paper and experienced lots of problem solving along the way!



Drawing in the style of Tim Burton by Marika Konkel



Sphere by Nicole Doherty



# Around the Art Department

Transition Year paintings were all about famous artists this year and first up was the Norwegian Expressionist artist, Edvard Munch. First impressions of Edvard Munch's 'The Scream' had students experimenting with expressive colour and different painting techniques to create images representing the emotions relating to a scream! Some of these fun Halloween artworks turned out to look like self-portraits! Interesting!

Next up for Transition Year students was the work of Pop artist, Roy Lichtenstein. Using bottles, fruit and various other objects around the art room, students studied composition and created a still life in the style of this artist by using the well-established pop art palette of red, blue, yellow, black and white. Colours were applied flat and emphasis was on shape, lines and

dots to give the that comic strip vibe. The result was pretty cool.

As we entered spring, students continued their study of artists' work and next up was the very famous contemporary artist, Damien Hirst.

Students studied the form and colour of flowers and plants to create these beautiful art works were based on Hirsts Secret Garden paintings. Some art works were painted onto plastic circular shapes with glass paint and other works were created using ink, water colour, pastels, and acrylic paint.

Well done Ty students for all your effort, your contribution to the Art Room and to the artwork in the school was amazing!



Still-Life in the style of Roy Lichtenstein by Sara Byrne



# Trip to the Botanical Gardens and Ceramic Tile Art

The National Botanic Gardens of Ireland are an oasis of calm and beauty, and entry is free. A premier scientific institution, the Gardens contain important collections of plant species and cultivars from all over the world. Our 2nd year art students got the opportunity to visit the gardens as part of the new art curriculum at junior cycle. Below Chloe O'Farrell speaks about the trip:

When we visited the botanical gardens it was a great place for primary sources and inspiration for our drawings. Our tour guide Maria showed us around to different sculptures, plants and flowers and explained the significance behind them.

She also explained to us that many art collectors purchase the sculptures for a lot of money. We had time to take photos, draw the sculptures and plants in the gardens. It was an amazing experience. We had free time to relax and look around for a bit.

A unique piece we all really liked was the big deer (shown here). We thought it was creative unique and very eye catching. I really liked this piece personally because it caught my eye straight away and although it is very expensive, it was a extraordinary piece.

Overall we really enjoyed this trip and would 100 % visit the Botanical Gardens again.



After our trip we got straight to work back in the art room. We developed our drawings into 3D ceramic art work inspired by the plants and flowers we saw at the Botanical Gardens.



# Trip to the Botanical Gardens and Ceramic Tile Art

At our next art class we selected our favourite images of the flowers and plants we took, these were our first sketches for our final idea. After this we did our first draft of the actual ceramic tile, which we wrote about once the draft was completed. This was to see what we wanted to keep or change in our design.

After looking over our original design and making changes, we redrew and finished our final design. After completing it we started the actual clay tile, starting with the base. We had to let it partially dry to be able to add our flowers on top but thankfully they were ready by the next class.

The next class we started adding the flowers, leaves and extra designs. This took about four classes. After we had finished all of our designs we had to wait for the clay too dry and put them in the kiln.

Our teacher Ms O'Neill showed us how the kiln worked and explained the process. After the first kiln firing we had to add special glaze colours used for ceramics.

The pieces were put in the kiln for a second time and fired. The final result was amazing and everyone including Ms O'Neill was very glad that the clay did not crack. We really enjoyed the whole experience.



# Credit Union Art Competition

The Credit Union Art Competition is a yearly competition set up to encourage young artistic talent in local communities nationwide. This year we worked on our pieces in school over a couple of weeks. We brainstormed ideas for the theme with the guidance of the art teachers in school. The theme this year was "My community and Me". Everyone produced their own unique idea that represented what community meant to them. A wide range of different mediums from colouring pencils to watercolours were used to execute their art piece. We enjoyed the creative process of chatting with our classmates about our collective ideas. It was inspiring to see the variety of pictures my classmates produced. **By Grace McManus**

The Credit Art Competition was the first big project we have done in 2nd year. It took us four weeks to complete this project, mid September to October midterm. The theme for the competition was 'My community and Me'. Firstly to start off this project, we had to brainstorm and make a mind map of what we should draw. Then we made small sketches as a plan for our final pieces. Our final piece was done on A2 paper. Everyone used different mediums for their final piece. After the project we all had to do a reflective sheet to reflect on our work. Here are how the 3 winners from the competition felt about their work from their perspectives.

I used mixed media for my final piece. I used colouring pencils and watercolour for my final piece. I have five people in my art piece, each holding a musical instrument. I personally loved using colouring pencils because they were easy for me to use for small details. I decided to draw a music community because of the theme. I found draw-

ing the faces difficult because I was not very used to drawing faces. I personally loved the composition of the art piece because I like how i placed each person in the drawing and which instrument they were playing. I liked combining text into the drawing as well. I enjoyed the process, and I am overall happy about the piece. **By Haasini Gudise**

I was really happy with how my piece came out and I felt really proud that I was able to achieve so much in the time frame given. My piece shows me and my friends at a convention and I was really happy that I was able to capture the colourfulness and happiness that came from these memories in my art piece. **By Sara S**

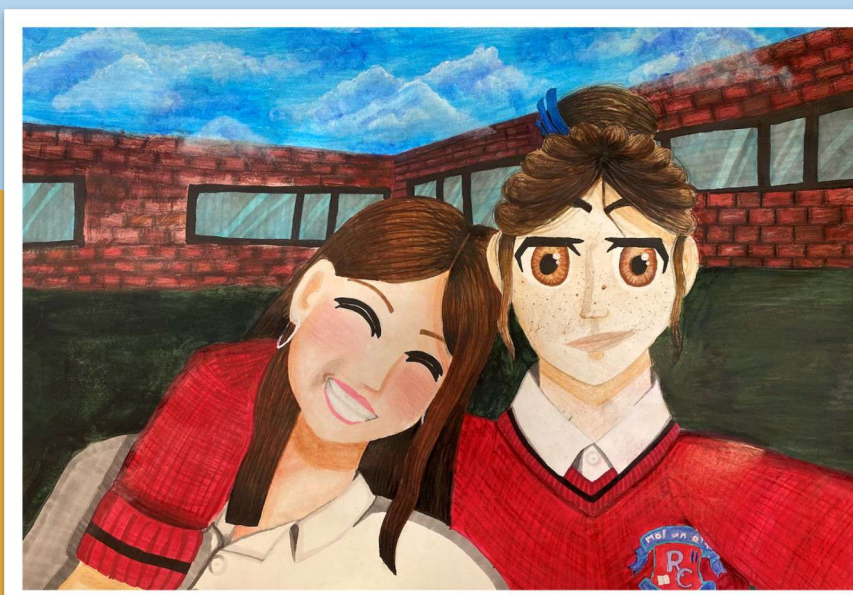
The theme was 'My Community and Me'. I drew a picture of the art table and a polaroid picture of the school. I was happy with my piece, and I was really happy to find out that I won 1st place in my age group in the Credit Union Art Competition. I had used a few different medias: colouring pencils, paint and I had mixed paint with salt to make the paint appear older and more dried out. The meaning of my piece is 'my community' which I took as the picture of the school and me which is the art supplies and the mess on the table. I'm super happy with my piece and really enjoyed making it. **By Sophie Tyrrell**



# Credit Union Art Competition



By Haasini Gudise



# 5th Year Art Trip to Newgrange



On their recent trip to visit Newgrange, students learnt all about this 5000-year-old passage tomb famous for the Winter Solstice illumination and how the people at the time constructed such an exceptional structure with basic tools.

Newgrange is the main monument in the Brú na Bóinne complex, a World Heritage Site that also includes the passage tombs of Knowth and Dowth, as well as other henges, burial mounds and standing stones.

Students familiarised themselves with the art of Newgrange found on the entrance stone and kerbstone 52. These art elements and design principles were carried through to their study of art objects of the Irish Bronze age and Iron age and into their designs for contemporary jewellery design.



Entrance Stone, Newgrange. Photograph by Eve Winston.





By Aine Fitzgerald, TY

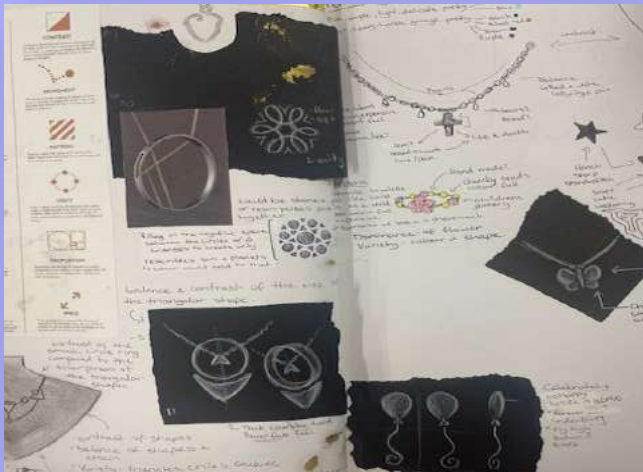
# Around the Art Department

5th Year Students started the year studying Still Life. Looking towards the masters for inspiration in composition, students created multiple composition studies selecting objects relevant to the theme 'Life and Death'. These artworks were painted in acrylic and colouring pencil.

Continuing on with the theme Life and Death, 5th year students began to study jewellery design taking inspiration from gold objects from the Irish Bronze Age. Students used the art elements and design principles to design jewellery pieces using a variety of materials including gold leaf, gold and silver foil and an assortment

of wire. Personal memories of grandparents' houses; trips to the seaside and forests; and visiting parents' childhood homes were included as part of the creative process.

Leaving Certificate Applied studied the life and artwork of the American artist **Jean Michel Basquiat**. Basquiat's work focused on dichotomies such as wealth verses poverty, integration verses segregation and inner verses outer experience. Students learned to marry text with image, abstraction with figuration and how to use symbolism as a form of expression. Step aside Jean Michel!



Jewellery designs by Eve Winston.



Painting , mixed media in the style of Jean Michel Basquiat  
by Sienna Sharpe

Incision and repousse technique by Lucy O'Reilly



# Bavarian Brilliance

*An account of the 5th year School Tour to Munich written by Megan Fitzmaurice*

An unforgettable trip!

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of March we set off for our trip to Munich! A long day of travelling, we set off from Ratoath College at 3am but as soon as we made it to Munich everyone was full of excitement to get immersed in Munchen culture. We first visited the Deutsches Museum. Here we were shown the past, present and future of science and technology. There was something to interest everyone from model planes to musical instruments. Later in the day we began our walking tour of Munich. We learned about the city of Munich and the birth of the Nazi ideology. While walking through the vibrant city we came across many famous sites and learned more about Bavarian food and culture. The atmosphere in Munich was great to start off our trip as the area was mixed with locals going about their day and tourists sight-seeing.



On day two we started off with a visit to the BMW museum. The museum was fascinating to all, because of the immense amount of car models throughout the museum. We were taken on a jour-

ney through the history of BMW and the developments in car technology. As well as the museum we took a trip over to the BMW welt. Here we saw more futuristic exhibits of mobility. Of course, throughout the museum there were many cool photo opportunities with the cars and motorbikes which was a lot of fun for everyone. Six hundred pictures later we visited the Olympic stadium. We got a view of the stadium from each side. We learnt about the milestones from the beginning to present at this stadium and a few of our own Olympians competed in the 200m dash!

On Sunday it was St. Patrick's Day. We set off all dressed in green to visit Linderhof Palace. The combination of all the gold in the palace and fancy furniture was a lot to take in as we also found out about the sad life of King Ludwig of Bavaria. We also had the opportunity to take a ride in the Tegellberg cable cars. As we were so high up the mountain it was scary, but the view was incomparable! Once we got the bottom, we then went toboggan riding! This was so fun, and everyone had a wonderful time and there was a ton of laughter watching each other speed around each corner of the toboggan slope.

It felt like the trip had flew as we reached our final day before heading home. We arrived at Dachau Concentration Camp to learn about the 200,000 people who were imprisoned in Dachau and the conditions they endured. After the camp we visited the Allianz Arena. This was a highlight for many on the trip as we received a match day experience in the view of a player. We were lucky enough to visit the dressing room, conference room and dugout on our tour.

We arrived home just before midnight a little sleep deprived but with memories to last a lifetime!





# The Student Council



The Student Council is a group of students who represent the whole student cohort at Ratoath College. We are dedicated to coming up with different solutions to any required changes that arise.

We would encourage students from all years to attend our meetings to be able to have your voice heard in relation to school life. You may be able to discuss an idea or change with a member of the student council, or you could even join the Student Council yourself.

Some of the recent suggestions we have been involved with are: changing the sports uniform and the installation of suggestion boxes. As a group, we look forward to receiving any other suggestions from our classmates.

We have also helped raise money for charities through bake sales for Gaza and we will continue to organize and propose other charity events throughout the school year.

In my experience with the Student Council, I've benefitted from working along side incredibly unique and intelligent students from every year. I highly recommend any other students to join as we get to see different perspectives and views that you may not have had yourself. It's also a way to express your opinions and suggestions to help the school.

There is a sense of pride in knowing that you are helping to improve both your own and your fellow students school lives in many ways; that you are a voice for those who feel they can't speak themselves. The Student Council is a direct link between the student body and management.

We go on a few trips during the year too, such as to the ISSU as well as the trip to the Dail which we will be going on later this year where we get a tour of Leinster House.

Our Instagram account @rcstudentcouncil

# The Student Council



# Music at Ratoath College

The music department have had an exciting year, seeing new budding talent across all year groups.

Regarding extra curricular, we hit the ground running with choral group meeting every Thursday. Our first big performance was our trip to perform for the residents of Ratoath Nursing Home the week before Christmas. The music department have held various lunchtime concerts where a variety of performers have displayed their talents to a ranging audience.

The 3rd year music class have been working hard this year in preparation for their practical exams, it has been great to see an array of talented musicians excel over the last few months and no doubt they will wow their examiner!

The 5th year music class have gotten off to a great start this year. The class group have been actively involved in many school performances throughout the year and showed how fabulous the music department is on open evening.

At the end of January, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th year students attended the Irish Rock and Roll Museum where we learned about some Irish music legends and discovered exclusive memorabilia from the likes of U2, Thin Lizzy and many more. 5th years were also delighted to be featured on their Instagram page!

It has been a fantastic year of diverse performances across all years, we are very proud of all our music students and their achievements.





# Music at Ratoath College



# Gaeilge Galore

Tá Gaeilge bheo i gColáiste Ráth Tó! Tá an Ghaeilge lárnach dúinn inár gcoláiste agus déanann na daltaí scoile gach iarracht a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid agus a chur chun cinn. Is páirt lárnach dár gcultúr í agus tá sí tábhachtach dúinn inár scoil. Le linn na bliana, déanaimid go leor imeachtaí chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn agus Gaeilge a spreagadh sna ranganna ar fad. Seo roinnt de na himeachtaí inár scoil:

Seachtain na Gaeilge: Le linn na seachtaine seo, bhí neart imeachtaí againn.

D'eagraíomar "Tae agus Plé" don scoil ar fad. Bhí céilí againn sa Scouts Den don chéad bhliain. Bhí Comórtas na bPóstaeir againn sna ranganna. Bhí Comórtas na Múinteoirí agus bhuaigh Mr. McAuley, Mr. Toner agus Ms. Conaty - bhí Gaeilge beagnach líofa acu! Bhí seachtain iontach againn agus is léir go bhfuil Gaeilge bheo le feiceáil inár gcoláiste.

Caith Amach É: Tháinig na leaids ó Caith Amach É ar cuairt agus chuir siad taispeántas iontach ar siúl. D'eagraigh siad seó bunaithe ar na sraith pictiúr. Bhí lucht féachana iontach againn agus ghlac siad páirt sa taispeántas chomh maith - maith sibhse do na buachaillí ar fad a ghlac páirt, go hairithe Jojo an madra!

Turas go Causey Farm: Chuaigh lucht na hidirbhliana go dtí Causey Farm ar thuras scoile. Is é aidhm an thurais seo ná an Ghaeilge a spreagadh agus cultúr Ghaelach a fheiceáil. Rinne na daltaí scoile arán donn. Bhí céilí sa bhothán. Bhí ceardlann bhodhráin. Ag deireadh an lae, léim na daltaí isteach sa phortach! Bhí lá iontach againn.

Club Gaeilge: I rith na bliana, d'eagraigh Ms Smyth agus Ms McCormack an Club Gaeilge. Sa chlub seo, labhair na daltaí as Gaeilge. Bhí tae, plé agus craic againn. D'úsáid na daltaí "cúpla focal" agus iad ag ól cupán tae le cúpla briosa. Ba bhealach iontach é Gaeilge a úsáid lasmuigh den seomra ranga.

Táimid dóchasach go mbeidh ár gcéad Ghaelbhratach bainte amach againn roimh dheireadh na bliana chomh maith!

Gach dabht, bhí bliain iontach againn inár gcoláiste ag cur na Gaeilge chun tosaigh. Ba mhaith le Roinn na Gaeilge buíochas a ghabháil le daltaí na scoile a ghlac páirt inár gcomórtas agus na himeachtaí ar fad sa scoil. "Beatha Teanga í a Labhairt!"

Roinn na Gaeilge









# An Gaelbhrtach

I mbliana ghlac Coláiste Ráth Tó páirt sa scéim An Gaelbhrtach. Thosaigh an obair i mí an Dheireadh Fómhair nuair a bhí deis ag baill an choiste freastal ar cheardlann le Gael Linn.



I rith na bliana bhí an-chuid imeachtaí difriúla ar siúl againn. Bhí seastán ag an Lá Gairme a chuir na Gairmeacha le Gaeilge chun cinn. Caithfidimid ár mbuíochas a ghabháil le Foras na Gaeilge a thug féiríní dúinn le bronnadh ar an Lá.



Roimh an Nollaig bhí céilí réibhe againn le go leor seacláid, ceol damhsa agus craic! Rinne daltaí na dara bliana cártaí Nollag agus Cartaí do Lá Fhéile Vailintín. Chomh maith le sin bhí ceardlann ag an gcúigiú bliana faoi Lá Féile Bríde agus bhí deis acu crosóga a dhéanamh.

Bhí go leor gníomhaíochta ar siúl againn i rith



Sheachtain na Gaeilge ach b'fhéidir an comórtas is rathúla i mbliana ná Comórtas Dairte na cúigiú bliana. Tar éis coicís a chaitheamh i seomra V1/2 (An Ally Pally) ag am lóin bhuaigh Alex W i Rang Smyth an cluiche ceannais agus d'fhoghlaimíomar go leor téarmaíochta nua. Níl dabht ar bith ach gur bhain gach duine taitneamh as agus bhí an seomra lán gach lá.

Faoi láthair táimid ag lorg baill nua agus ag pleanáil



cúpla rud roimh dheireadh na bliana. Cinnte táimid ag súil lenár gcóisir píotsa tar éis an obair ar fad. Míle Buíochas do gach éinne a d'oibrigh linn agus a d'fhreastail ar imeacht i rith na bliana. Táimid dóchasach go mbainfidimid an brat i mí Bhealtaine. Bígí linn an bhliain seo chugainn agus bainigí úsáid as do chuid Gaeilge.

# History of Chess



The history of chess dates to circa 1500 years ago, when it was originally designed to depict a Gupta prince's death to his mother on an 8x8 ashtāpada board and was originally known as chaturanga, which is Sanskrit for 'Four Division', and it began according to written sources in the 7th century AD, while legends say it started in the 6th century AD.

The game soon spread via the Silk Road leading to the Persian empire, and new names soon came about, including shah, which means "king," and shah mat, which means the "king is helpless." The game soon became cultural and was used to describe political power, such as depicting battles between rival empires.

Chess began to take on its modern form in Europe and in 1000 AD, it became part of royal education. The pieces on the board symbolized royal roles, such as the king and queen.

The form we have today dates to the 15th century. During this time, the queen piece began to receive more recognition. This was influenced by strong, real-life queens. The game's pace accelerated, and it became open to everyone. This meant that it was available to play to a wider audience, from courts to coffeehouses.

It became 'an expression of creativity' and a 'geo-political performance' during the Cold War. The IBM computer 'Deep Blue' began to upset the Soviet Union by managing to defeat a human player for the first time ever.

The game of chess is now a 'benchmark of genius' and a 'metaphor of human affairs,' becoming a tool of military strategy.



# Girls' Junior Basketball

The 1st and 2nd year girls' basketball teams had an amazing season this year. Both teams worked really hard with training sessions on a Wednesday after school with the help of their fantastic coaches.

Both teams went to play the Northeast Semi final. The 1st and 2nd years played Colaiste Chu Chulainn in Dundalk.

The 2nd years played a phenomenal game, but sadly it wasn't enough, and Dundalk took the win. However, the 1st years were not going to let Chu Chulainn get another win and beat their 1st year team with the score of 33-28.

Before we knew it, it was the day of the final. Everyone was nervous but with our determination, training and support we knew we could win. Shot after shot, we won against Ballymakenny with a great score of 25-13.



We trained very hard, learning new skills and tactics but sadly, it wasn't enough to get past the Leinster Cup Semi final against Edmund Rice.

Thank you to all our fantastic coaches, Ms. Lyttle, Ms. Ennis, Ms. Commons, Miss Siddi and the 6th, 5th and TY students. We can't wait to play Basketball next year and hopefully get even further!

*By Megan Lane, Daisy Kehoe and Nicole Doherty, 1st Year*



# Arts Week

This year Arts Week ran from the 19th to the 23rd February. This was an opportunity for students to connect with their artistic side with events taking place focusing on Music, Art, Classics, Drama and Poetry.

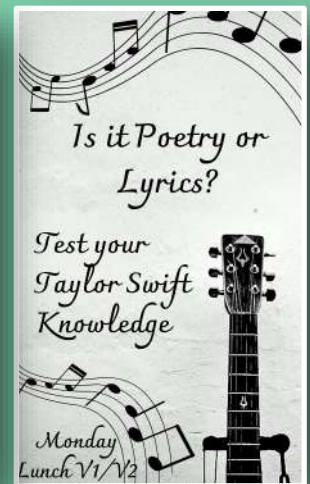
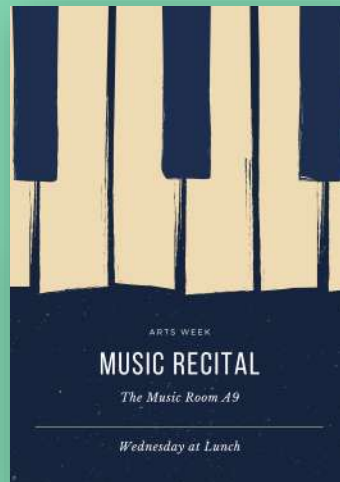


On Tuesday, our 'Tay Tay or Nay Nay' Event was hosted by Ms Fox and Ms Commons.

Here is what 2nd Year student Isobel Daly 2Cal-lan had to say about the event: 'For Arts Week, a Taylor Swift Quiz was set up as she is VERY popular at the moment. The quiz included some of Taylor's poetic songs, such as *All Too Well* and *My Tears Ricochet*.

It also included lines from infamous poets like Edgar Allen Poe. The aim of the quiz was to guess if it was a Taylor Swift lyric or a line from a poem. This was to show how Taylor Swift's lyrics are extremely poetic, using imagery and metaphors in a new and exciting way.

The quiz was tonnes of fun for Swifties all around the school. The quiz had a fantastic turn out from all year groups and it was wonderful to see all of RC's Swifties together enjoying her poetry.'



On Wednesday, Ms Commons and the music department hosted a Music Recital for all students at lunch. Here is what Ms Commons had to say about the event:

'Our fabulous music students performed for us in a recital in the music room, for staff and students. We had students from all year groups perform with the 3rd and 6th year students giving us a sample of what their practicals would be like! We had a mix of different genres such as classical, pop, contemporary and rock. A special thank you to all the performers. It was an enjoyable lunchtime by all. We have some future stars in our midst.'



# Arts Week

On Thursday, the Ratoath College Drama Club presented 'Shakespeare Sessions'. This included monologues from some of Shakespeare's more famous plays, a group performance of *A Midsummers Night's Dream* and a performance of a song written by a 3rd year student from his musical based on 'The Merchant of Venice'. Students rehearsed the scene after-school and made sure to make it as comical as possible!



Here is what Nathan Higgins 3Fox had to say about the event:

**'There are few writers as respected or renowned as the acclaimed playwright William Shakespeare. Upon receiving word of Arts Week, our writer of choice was a no-brainer. We performed monologues, key moments and even got a sneak peak at the upcoming musical adaptation of *The Merchant of Venice*.**

**It was a day filled with laughs, music and genuinely terrible jokes (mainly the sound effects Ms Fox chose to add into our scene!). It truly was a good week for Arts within the school which included the art of the stage and performance. This was the first performance this year for Drama Club and it was fantastic to see the commitment of the students to their performance and rehearsal. Here is to more performances next year, especially for Arts Week.'**

Arts Week was a fantastic week. Students got involved in all areas and put so much effort into their pieces and showcased their creativity. Thanks to all staff and students who helped and supported.



# New Teacher Interview—Ms Mitchell



**Where are you from?**

Dublin

**Where did you go to college and what did you study?**

I studied PE and Maths in DCU

**If you weren't a teacher you'd be...**

I'd either be a vet or a physiotherapist

**What's your proudest moment?**

Being chosen to take part in a GAA TV programme on TG4 back in 2021. Winning leagues and championships with my club team

**What's your hidden talent?**

Juggling

**What was last song you listened to?**

I wish by Skee lo

**What was the best holiday you've ever had?**

I went to America last Summer so I would have to say that so far. I'm heading to Thailand and Indonesia soon so if you ask me this in 2 months time the answer will probably be different!

**What's your favourite sport and team?**

GAA but I'd watch a lot of football too. The teams I support are Dublin (GAA) and Spurs...

**What's your highlight of your time at RC so far?**

Meeting new people and friends. Seeing your students working hard and reaching their goals, whether that be academic or in extra-curricular. Overall my first year in RC has been fantastic!

# New Teacher Interview—Mr Shields



**Where are you from?**

Donegal

All Your'n by Tyler Childers

**Where did you go to college and what did you study?**

GMIT Letterfrack, Construction & DCG teaching

**What was the best holiday you've ever had?**

2015 rugby World Cup

**If you weren't a teacher you'd be...**

Probably still working in the fish factory

**What's your favourite sport and team?**

Gaelic football, it has to be Donegal

**What's your proudest moment?**

Winning the Donegal Saturday League Division 2 shield final

**What's your highlight of your time at RC so far?**

Nearly cutting my finger off in the middle of my 6th year class

**What's your hidden talent?**

Holding in pain and anger in front of the students when i decide to hurt myself mid lessons

**What was last song you listened to?**

# New Teacher Interview – Mr Saxby



**Where are you from?**

Offaly

Where It Ends - Bailey Zimmerman

**Where did you go to college and what did you study?**

GMIT Letterfrack, Construction & DCG eaching

**What was the best holiday you've ever had?**

Skiing in Austria

**If you weren't a teacher you'd be...**

Architect

**What's your favourite sport and team?**

Football - Manchester United

**What's your proudest moment?**

Achieving Division 1 in Pro Clubs

**What's your highlight of your time at RC so far?**

Recapping the weekends football antics with Mr. Wogan on a Monday morning

**What's your hidden talent?**

Can stab myself with a blunt chisel

**What was last song you listened to?**

# New Teacher Interview—Ms Osborne



**Where are you from?**

Togher, Co. Louth

**Where did you go to college and what did you study?**

Maynooth, Business and Geography and DCU  
Professional Master of Education

**If you weren't a teacher you'd be...**

Probably something in business, most likely a CEO

**What's your proudest moment?**

Getting a scholarship to college or winning championship

**What's your hidden talent?**

Standing on my head

**What was last song you listened to?**

I wish by Skee lo

**What was the best holiday you've ever had?**

Backpacking south east Asia

**What's your favourite sport and team?**

Gaelic football, my club team

**What's your highlight of your time at RC so far?**

All the teachers dressing up for Halloween and the day before Christmas break

# New Teacher Interview—Mr Finlay



**Where are you from?**

Navan

**Where did you go to college and what did you study?**

Maynooth University, maths

**If you weren't a teacher you'd be...**

Engineer

**What's your proudest moment?**

Finishing my degree

**What's your hidden talent?**

I can play multiple sports and instruments

**What was last song you listened to?**

Moonage Daydream, David Bowie

**What was the best holiday you've ever had?**

La Tomatina in Valencia

**What's your favourite sport and team?**

Football and Arsenal

**What's your highlight of your time at RC so far?**

Coaching the U17's Soccer (next year is our year!)

# *An Céad Bhliain*

## *A Message from Ms O'Toole*

From welcoming you all to Ratoath College in August, with the sun shining for your year group photo, I can't believe your first year at the school draws to close already! 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 has shown your strength of character and you really should be proud of yourself for all your efforts.



In such a short space of time throughout the first term you have already grown and matured so much. The silence in the Caomhnóirí rooms in the mornings didn't last long at all! This is a positive sign of how well you have all settled into first year. It has been lovely to see you already begin to mature and grow into such pleasant and polite young adults. I hope that the friendships you have begun to make will grow over the coming months and years.

It has been a fast year and you have established yourselves so well as a core part of our school community at Ratoath College. The first year of secondary school is a strange but exciting time as you start to navigate unfamiliar territory, take on new subjects and meet new friends. You have all contributed in your own unique way to sports and cultural activities. We are so proud of you!

I would like to thank your Caomhnóirí 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 to help you settle into secondary school has been amazing.

Have a lovely summer, enjoying time outdoors with your friends. I look forward to welcoming you all back in August.

*Aisling O'Toole, 1st year Moltóir*

# Rang Delaney



# Rang Freeman



# Rang Jordan



# Rang Martin



# Rang O'Dwyer



# Rang O'Sullivan



# Rang Toner



# An Dara Bliain

## A Message from Ms Flynn

What a busy year it has been for our second-year pupils. Students have settled back into Ratoath College school life really well. We have had some great achievements in the sporting field both inside and outside of school and I was delighted to see so many pupils get involved in extra-curricular activities.



Second year brings the challenges of the Classroom Based Assessments which students have been working so hard at. Their teachers have really been impressed with some of the amazing projects and presentations completed.

There were two school trips. One group of students headed abroad to Valkenburg and really engaged well with a fun and educational tour. A huge thanks to Mr Nissar and the teachers who accompanied them. The students have made memories that will last a lifetime.

Eighty three students also headed to Kilruddery Estate to complete the Hell and Back challenge. The students were amazing on the day tackling a tough and challenging course with smiles, optimism and determination. A huge well done to our staff who took part and to Mr Cullen for taking the amazing photos which we will have to look back on for years to come.

On behalf of the second year team we want to wish all the second years all the best for the summer and look forward to their return in August as serious studious third years!

***Ms Flynn, Ms Bailey, Ms Callan, Ms Commons, Ms Conaty, Ms Gerard, Ms Mitchell, Mr Moynihan***

# Rang Bailey



# Rang Callan



# Rang Commons



# Rang Conaty



# Rang Gerrard



# Rang Mitchell



# Rang Moynihan



# Some of our Superb Second Years

**Name:** Ruby Lily Gaines

**Rang:** Moynihan

**Favourite thing about Ratoath College**

**College:** My favourite thing about Ratoath College is how supportive everybody is.

**My best achievement this year:**

My best achievement this year was having a win at the European championships representing the Irish Showjumping team.



**Name:** Alex Evans

**Rang:** Moynihan

**Favourite thing about Ratoath College.** My class and the school football team.

**My best achievement this year:** making the League of Ireland squad. Only 4% of people my age play in the league. Hopefully this time next year I will be representing Ireland.

I'm a member of our Under 14 National League team which competes in the EA Sports National Underage League - the highest level in the country.



**Name:** Darragh Brunton

**Rang:** Moynihan

**Favourite thing about Ratoath College:** The sport and the class.

**My best achievement this year:** Playing for Ireland. I played for Ireland in Nov 2023 in Serbia against Greece and Venezuela. In February we played Hungary and Wales in Wexford. I play as a goalkeeper.

# An Triú Bliain

## A Message from Ms Casey

Dear Junior Cycle Class of 2024,

As we come to the end of your Junior Cycle journey in Ratoath College, it is difficult to know where to begin with this message to you all. These last three years have been filled with fun, laughter, tears, fond memories, tough times, new friendships and seen stronger bonds formed throughout your journey as a junior student.



It has been an honour and a privilege to be your Moltóir and each one of you has brought something special to the year group. You are the kindest, funniest group of students that I have been Moltóir to and I am immensely proud of you all.

I would like to sincerely thank your fabulous Caomhnóirí who have looked out for you during your time as a junior student, many of them since day one when you first walked through the door in your red jumpers. Their support to you and I has been extraordinary, and I could not have done my job without them.

To those of you moving into Transition Year, I wish you the very best of luck and embrace every minute of the year and make the most of every opportunity presented to you. Remember, my door is always open. For those of you staying with me in 5th year, thank you for not leaving me. I look forward to being part of your senior cycle journey and to witness all your successes to come.

The very best of luck in your Junior Cycle exams! You are an amazing bunch of students and have worked so hard the last three years and I know you will do amazing. Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you back in your navy jumpers in September.

**Ms Casey**

**Moltóir, JC Class of 2024**

# Rang Bruce



# Rang Davis



# Rang Fox



# Rang Jackson



# Rang McAuley



# Rang Walshe



# Rang Wogan



*"In early June the world of leaf  
and blade and flowers explodes,  
and every sunset is different."*

*John Steinbeck*

# An Idirbhliain

## A Message from Ms O'Neill

TY Class of 2024: I can't help but reflect on the journey we've undertaken together. This year brought its own unique challenges and triumphs. So, well done on completing TY.

With our theme centred around the magical world of Disney, it's fitting to acknowledge the diverse array of characters that make up our year group. Each of you possess your own traits and qualities that have enriched our journey together.

We have natural born leaders like Simba whose courage and determination have made them a force to be reckoned with inside and outside the classroom.

The Sleepy ones, who, despite best intentions, often find themselves running late to class. The creative ones like the Genie who explore creativity through art, music, and drama. The forgetful ones like Dory who may forget to check their uniform before heading to school. The kind souls like Cinderella who promote empathy and compassion towards others. The mischievous ones like Stitch who may find themselves easily distracted by the allure of social media and phones. The curious ones like Alice who find themselves asking the big questions, seeking new information and knowledge. The optimistic ones like Mickey Mouse, always a smile on their face and a positive attitude. Those who have formed lasting friendships like Woody and Buzz, learning the value of teamwork and collaboration, be it through a mini business initiative or extra curricular activities.

Of course, we wouldn't be complete without a dash of Tinker Bell's pixie dust, and we certainly have our own sprinkle of magic in the form of Ms Savage. As the queen of planning, she ensures that every event and activity is a success. From coordinating schedules and managing the logistics, Ms Savage is the go-to character for planning and organising.

Finally, to our own team of superheroes, "The Incredible Caoimhnóirí"! This dynamic team harnesses their unique powers, skills, and personalities to safeguard the TYs and uphold the school ethos at any cost. With strategic thinking, adaptability, and a knack for navigating tight situations effortlessly, they demonstrate resourcefulness and quick thinking. Their energy and enthusiasm propel the year group forward. A heartfelt thank you to Ms O'Reilly, Ms McKeon, Mr Mitchell, Ms Dalton, Ms EConlon, and Ms JConlon for their unwavering dedication and commitment.

Congratulations, TY Class of 2024, on your remarkable achievements! Just like our cherished Disney stories, your journey with us must now come to an end. Have a wonderful summer. The End!



# TY and LCA Coordinator

## A Message from 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 been challenged and reflected on the issues raised by Eisht; flexed their acting muscles; tested their skills in the art of Tai Chi; bathed in the sounds of a sound bath and even tried their hands at an ABBA flashmob.

All TYs had an opportunity to experience numerous school trips. They have travelled the length and breadth of the country with visits to Belfast, Wicklow, Meath, Dublin and Athlone. They have seen historic sights, walked in the footsteps of Ireland's Fittest Families and experienced farming life and traditions 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 film studies, Yoga 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. Our TYs have volunteered in the community, visiting with local groups in the community centre such as the Knit & Natter group.

Work Experience is another feature of the TY experience. Over 3 work experience blocks our TY students dabbled in retail, trades, office admin, education, STEM, hotel and catering to name but a few.

As we come to the end of what has been a busy year, it is with much hope for the future that I wish the fantastic TY class of 2023/24 the very best of luck for the future. It has been my joy and pleasure to coordinate the programme with such a fantastic bunch of TY students. It has been wonderful to watch you embrace the spirit of TY and stretch your wings as you delve into the many opportunities that came your way.



# TY and LCA Coordinator

## A Message from Ms Savage

It has been my pleasure to work with rang O'Reilly this year, a truly fantastic group of 6th year students who have fully embraced the challenges and successes of the Leaving Cert Applied (LCA) programme. LCA is a stand-alone 2 year Leaving Cert programme which offers students the opportunity to achieve at senior cycle through continuous assessment and final examinations.

This year has been a very busy year for rang O'Reilly. They have had 2 task interviews. Their Contemporary Issues task was in the field of Social Ed and their Practical Achievement task saw each student in the class set themselves a challenge to learn and develop a new skill such as coaching, nail and lash courses as well as various gym challenges to name but a few. All students presented excellent projects and tasks and performed brilliantly in their interviews. We wish everyone in rang O'Reilly the very best of luck with their upcoming oral exams in German and English & Communications, as well as Practical Performance task in Office Admin & Customer Care.

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 O'Reilly about the successes and challenges of these work experience modules.

Another feature of the LCA programme are day trips and workshops. Rang O'Reilly have been on 2 trips this year, firstly visiting the Bord Gáis theatre for a performance of The Lion King with Ms. Fox. Finally, they joined Mr. Gueret and Mr. Dalton for a day of Go-Karting, a lovely way to wrap up what has been a very busy 2 years.

We were delighted to celebrate rang O'Reilly's wonderful results for session 2 with a breakfast in local coffee shop "As You Like It" back in September. May we take this opportunity to wish rang O'Reilly the very best of luck with their final task interview in July for Graphics and Construction. They will conclude their LCA journey in June when they complete their Leaving Cert Applied examinations. We are very proud of all their wonderful achievements and look forward to fantastic results in August.



# Rang Dalton



# Rang EConlon



# Rang Conlon



# Rang McKeon



# Rang Mitchell



# Rang O'Reilly





# An Cúigiú Bliain

## A Message from Ms Donnellan

A chairde,

We are approaching the halfway point on our Leaving Certificate journey. It has been a fast year and you are a group who have made us proud with the way you have approached 5th year enthusiastically and with maturity.

You may not know where you're going or how you going to get there as of yet and that is part of the excitement of life.

Your job in Senior Cycle is to build a solid platform from which to launch yourself into the great big world. Many of you have gotten stuck into the work of 5th year; the work ethic and kindness you have shown to others have put a spotlight on you as excellent role models for our Junior Students. However, if you have not knuckled down yet there is still time to turn it around. Please use your time wisely over the summer months. There is no doubt that next year will be a challenging one but we will face this together and share the burden.

We offer our congratulations to our new Cinnire team and to all who applied for these positions. The impressive range of skills and talents in our year group was very evident in the selection process. We wish the new Cinnirí well in their role and look forward to all they will add to the school community next year. I remind you all of the different committees and sports teams we have at RC, get involved and make your last year in secondary school a superb one!

On your behalf, I would like to thank your Caomhnóirí, for their commitment, dedication and the care they give to you day in day out. We are so lucky to have them in our corner.

Finally all that's left is to wish you a wonderful summer break and hope that you will use the coming weeks to relax, recharge and to be ready for returning as 6th year students in August.

*Le gach dea-ghuí,*

**Ms. Donnellan, Mr. Conlan, Ms. O'Hanlon, Ms. McCormack, Mr.**



# Rang Conlan



# Rang McCormack



# Rang McKenna



# Rang O'Hanlon



# Rang Sansom



# Rang Smyth



# Rang Toher

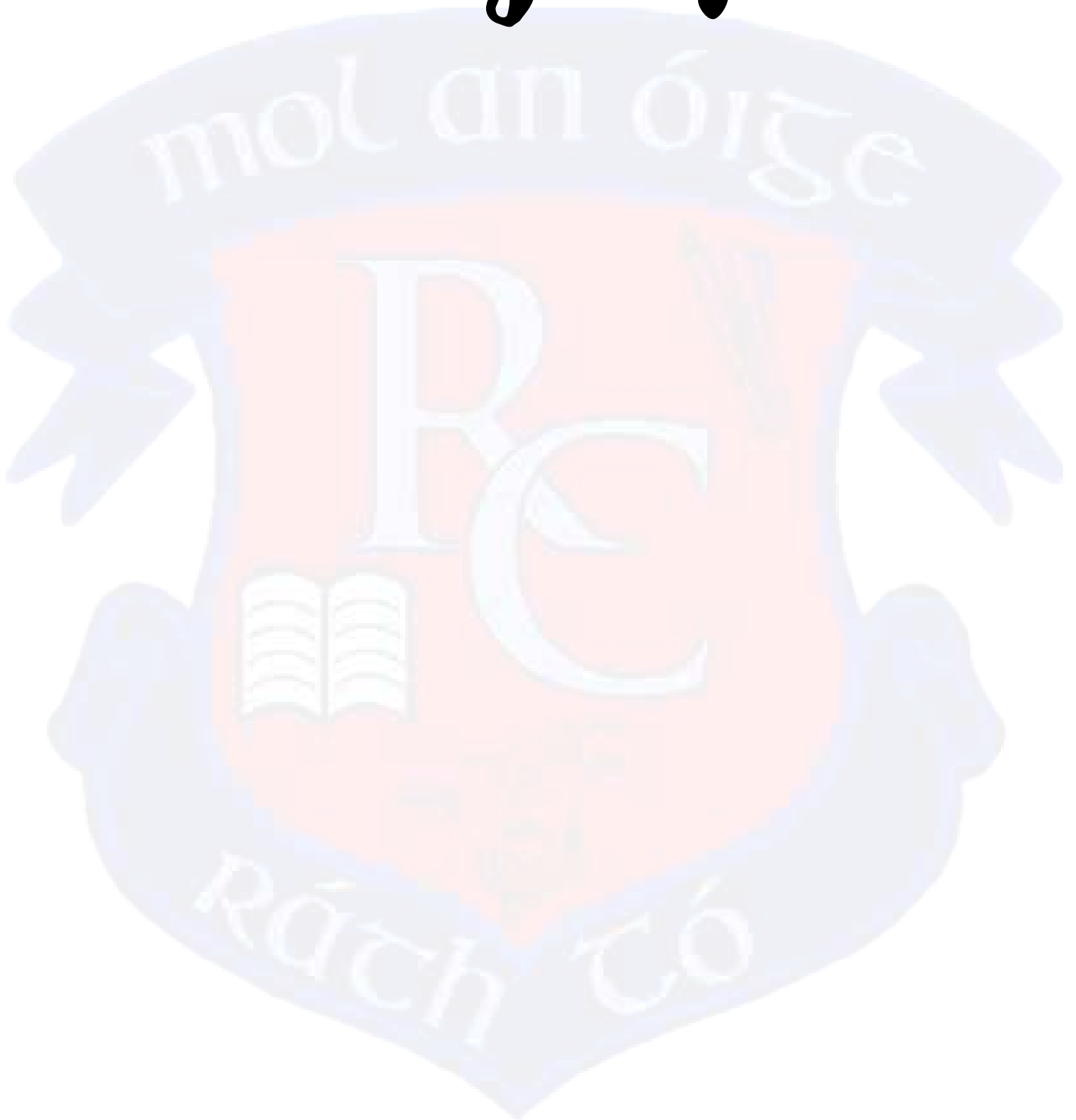


# Autographs



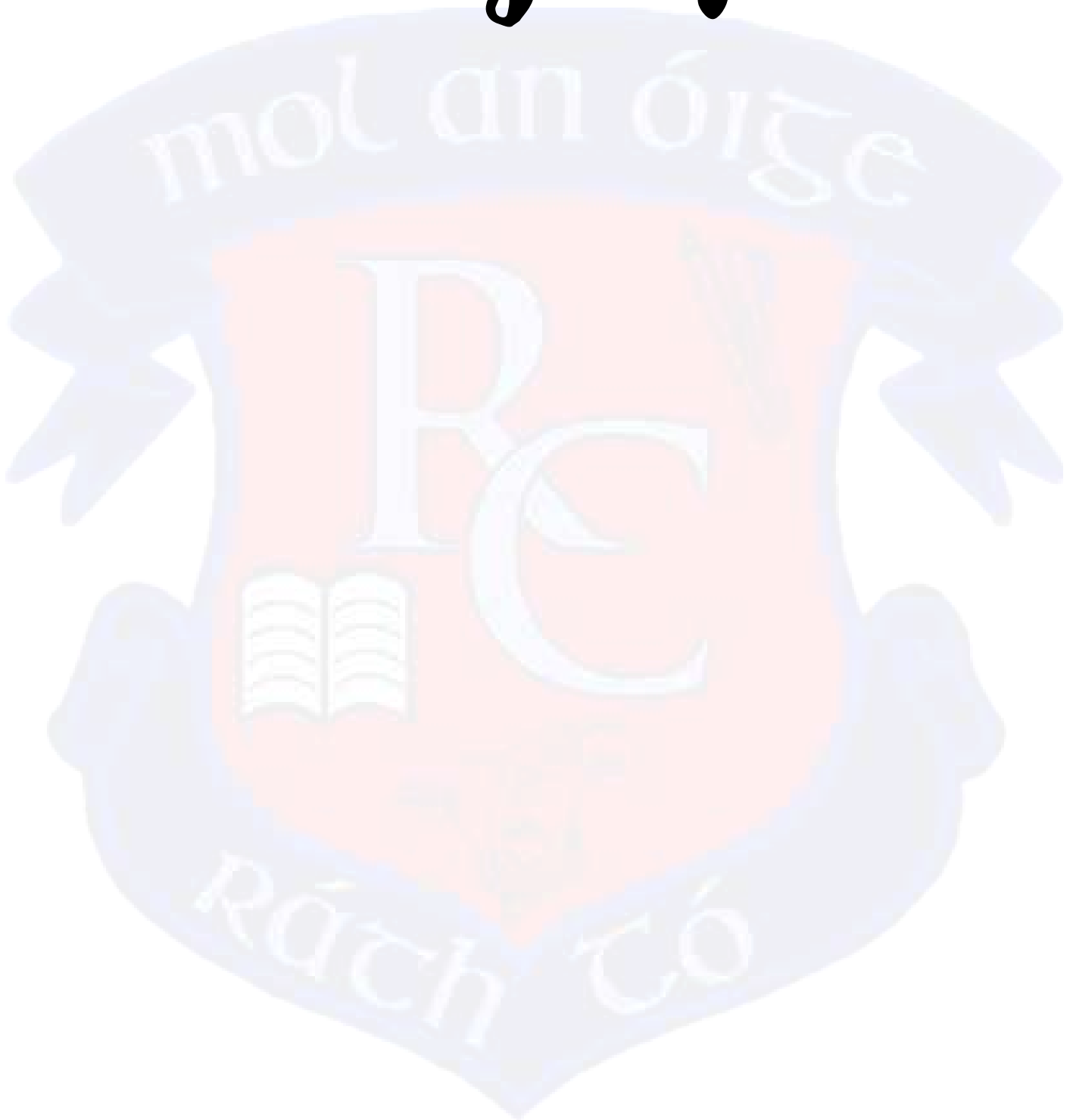
**Class of 2024**

# Autographs



**Class of 2024**

# Autographs



Class of 2024



Garden Impression—Matthew Kavanagh—Ink and watercolours