ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Mr S. Whyte, B.A Gaelige and Geography , PME , (Irish)

Guidance and Counselling

Administrative Staff
Bursar: Mr D. Gordon
Office Staff: Ms H. Farrell, Ms A. Watchorn.
Blessing by the Dean

A short ceremony took place after the traditional Opening Service for the Cathedral Schools on Friday 7th September, during which the Very Rev. William Morton, Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral and Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the Grammar School, led the Cathedral Schools community in prayers and gave a blessing. Pupils and teachers from the both the Grammar School and the Choir School were in attendance as well as a number of parents who had attended the opening service.

Official Opening by the Minister for Education

The official opening of the Grammar School Kevin Street Building took place on Wednesday 27th February. When we set the date for the opening we were conscious that it was exactly a year on from the snowfall that came with the Beast from the East but we decided to take our chances anyway! Proceedings began with a special service in the Cathedral. There were readings and prayers by pupils and teachers. The anthem was sung by the school choir and the school orchestra also performed. We were delighted that so many people were able to attend the service. We were also delighted that instead of snow we were blessed with glorious sunshine and unseasonably high air temperatures! This allowed us to conduct the second half of the ceremony in the school yard in relative comfort. We heard speeches from Kerry Houston, chairperson of the board of management, Cllr. Paddy McCartan, deputising for the Lord Mayor,
and from our guest of Honour, Joe McHugh T.D., Minister for Education and Skills. After the speeches the Minister unveiled the plaque and we all proceeded into the new building for some light refreshments. As an added treat we then got to hear a duet played by Eleanor Fox, harp, and Jessica Sweeney, clarinet, which was then followed by an impromptu performance by the Grammar School chamber choir. I would like to thank everyone involved for making the opening such an enjoyable occasion.
On November 16th 2018, sixty choristers set out on their journey to Sligo for the annual International Choral Festival. Upon arrival the choir immediately got stuck into a choral workshop. After a quick bite to eat the choir made their way to the Clayton Hotel, Sligo to warm up their vocal chords and polish off the competition repertoire. Next, the choir headed to Knocknarena to compete in two secondary school choir competitions. The School Choir sang *When I’m 64* and *Wade in the Water* featuring soloist Jenny Yusuf. The Chamber Choir sang *Underneath the Stars* and *Everytime I feel the Spirit* receiving distinctions in both their competitions. Mc Donalds, Athlone was the final stop of the day where the choir celebrated with some food!
Junior Musician Perpetual Cup
The Junior Musician Perpetual Cup is awarded to a student in form 4 who in addition to studying Junior Certificate Music in the school has contributed to all aspects of extra-curricular performing activities during years 1-3. The selected student made a valuable contribution to Choral singing through School, Chamber and Cathedral Girls’ Choir. She has shown great leadership and commitment in her flawless attendance at all rehearsals. She has contributed to many solo and group performances and inspires her fellow musicians with her musicality. The 2018 winner of the Junior Musician Perpetual Cup is Angel Akpotor.

Senior Musician Perpetual Cup
The Senior Musician Perpetual Cup is awarded to a student in the previous form 6 who in addition to studying Leaving Certificate Music in the school has contributed to all aspects of extra-curricular performing activities at the Grammar School. This student consistently strove for excellence in every performance. She made a valuable contribution to the orchestra and all choirs in the school and as Head Chorister of the Cathedral Girls’ Choir. She showed dedication and commitment in her attendance at rehearsals. She is a virtuosic pianist and a fabulous singer and gave many wonderful performances at school services, concerts, and external competitions while inspiring those around her. The 2018 winner of the Senior Musician Perpetual Cup is Ioana Matei.
RTÉ Lyric FM Choirs for Christmas Competition

In December, the School Choir recorded *Let it Go* from Frozen for the RTÉ Lyric Fm Choirs for Christmas competition which featured a solo from Oonagh O’Malley in form 6. The recording aired on Classical Kids on Christmas Day introduced by fellow 6th year Emma Nicholson. You can check out the recording on SoundCloud on our school website!

Carolling for the Simon Community

On Monday December 17th, members from the school choir with students from 1st and 2nd year sang for two hours outside the GPO. A whole school effort from teachers’ and students’ ensured a wonderful afternoon of carolling outside the G.P.O. With santa hats and t-shirts one hundred students’ sang their hearts out treating the passer-by’s, parents and friends to some Christmas songs including favourites *Fairytale of New York* and *O Holy Night*. The choir raised and raised €1350 for the Simon Community.
Carols For All

On Sunday December 16th 2018 the Cathedral Choir and the choir of St. Patrick’s Cathedral Grammar School joined forces for the annual Carols for All service in St Patrick’s cathedral. The service consisted of congregational hymns, prayers, readings and various anthems sung by both the Cathedral Choir and the school choir. The Grammar School Choir sang Carol of the Bells by Leontovich and Silent Night arranged by Barry Rose. 2018 marked the 200th year since this famous carol was first performed during World War I. The Cathedral was packed to maximum capacity with friends and family in attendance who all enjoyed the service very much. This is the fourth year that the Grammar School Choir have been invited to take part in the Carols For All and thoroughly enjoy it!
On Monday November 5th 2018 form 6 music class took a trip to the cinema to see the eagerly awaited Bohemian Rhapsody. The biographical film tells about the life of Freddie Mercury and the rock band Queen. The film featured hit songs by Queen including probably their most famous masterpiece of the same title. The students all agreed it was such a thrilling experience to learn about Bohemian Rhapsody which they are studying for the Leaving Certificate Music. On Monday January 21st 2019 form 6 music class went to the National Concert Hall. The internationally praised music educationalist Tom Redmond and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Gavin Maloney presented a step by step guide to Tchaikovsky’s *Romeo and Juliet* Fantasy Overture, highlighting key themes, excerpts and concluding with a full performance by the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra. It was presented with full symphonic forces and a big screen for musical illustrations.

On Tuesday January 22nd 2019 form 3 music class walked to the National Concert Hall to attend a concert entitled ‘A Junior Certificate Music Guide’ included the set works: *Hoedown* from Rodeo by Aaron Copland and *Morning, Anitra’s Dance and In the Hall of the Mountain King* from the
Peer Gynt Suite by Grieg. The RTÉ National Symphony orchestra also surprised the students with other works by Mozart, Vivaldi, John Williams and Britten, which were a wonderful treat. The narrator Tom Redmond guided the students through the concert giving them helpful tips to remember specific parts of each work. Schools from all over the country attended this amazing concert with PowerPoint presentation to follow the score. After the concert, the students met Catriona Ryan, principal flautist with the orchestra, and she spoke to them about the life as a professional musician.

On Friday April 5th students from form 4 worked with David Day from JabbaJabbaJembe. The students participated in a high energy drumming workshop learning various rhythms and patterns on all types of drums.
Educational Concert with the Irish Chamber Orchestra Academy

On Thursday 21st March 2019 music students from form 1 and 2 attended a free lunchtime concert by the Irish Chamber Orchestra Academy at the Gleeson Hall, DIT Kevin street. The ICOA, directed by Diane Daly, brings together members of the Irish Chamber Orchestra and a group of exceptionally talented students from conservatoires across the world. The concert featured the beautiful Serenade for Strings by Elgar and the exhilarating Bachianas Brasileiras No. 9 by Villa-Lobos. As a rare treat there will be a very special performance of ‘Summer’ from Vivaldi’s Four Seasons, in an innovative version integrating movement and theatre.

Irish Music Project

During Seachtain Na Gaeilge, Martin Tourish, accordion player with Altan, and Harper Cormac De Barra treated our form 3, 5 and 6 music students to a concert performance demonstrating dances, features and styles of Irish traditional music.
Wesley Interschools Music Festival 2019; Choral Competitions

The Interschools Music festival took place at Wesley College, Ballinteer on March 1st and 2nd. The school choirs performed in three choral competitions. To start off the evening, the School Choir sang *Blue Skies* by Irving Berlin featuring scat solos from 6th year students Callum Martin, Hanora Pitts and Oonagh O’ Malley. The choir were delighted to receive 2nd place, narrowly beaten by the choir of Kings Hospital. The Chamber Choir (senior students) gave a memorising performance of *Underneath the Stars* by Kate Rusby in the unaccompanied competition. In the final mixed choir competition of the evening, the School Choir performed the spiritual *Wade in the Water* featuring stellar solos from Callum Martin and Jenny Yusuf.

Overall, the adjudicator Dr. Joe Ryan complimented the St. Patrick’s Cathedral Grammar School Choirs on their mature sound, professionalism and excellent communication for which they received distinctions in all three competitions.
Early on Saturday morning, twenty-six students from SPCGS competed in individual and chamber music competitions. It was a record-breaking year receiving seven 1st place, five 2nd place prizes and many commendations. We are so very proud of all our musicians and vocalists- wishing them all the heartiest congratulations!
Classical Guitar Under 15. 1st; Leena May (Form 1).
Unaccompanied Irish Song Under 15. 1st; Sofia Fox (Form 2).
Brass Over 16. Roe-O'Leary Cup. 1st; Dylan Woods (Form 4).
Brass Over 16. 2nd; Eleanor Sweeney (Form 6).
Brass Under 16. Ranchi Cup. 1st; Daniel McNally (Form 1).
Chamber Music Under 15. 2nd; Davide Antochi, Gavin Dunphy, Sofia Fox, Leena May, Daniel McNally, Heather Sweeney, Oliver Woods (Forms 1-3).
Vocal Duet over 15. 1st Class Honours; Jenny Yusuf & Jenny Akpotor (Form 4).
Rock Bands Over 15. PTA Cup. 1st; Michael Kelly (Form 4).
Rock Bands Over 15. Commendation; Spacific Ocean: Gavin Dunphy, Joshua Bartschi, Shawn Arshad, Malakai Butler (Forms 3 and 4).
Piano Duet Under 15. 2nd; Angelo Morales & Saoirse Graham (Form 1).
Popular Singing Over 17A. Highly Commended; Oonagh O'Malley (Form 6).
Classical Singing Over 17. 2nd; Oonagh O'Malley (Form 6).
Classical Singing Under 14. Power Cup 1st; Davide Antochi (Form 2).
Solo Singing Popular Under 17B. 2nd; Jenny Yusuf (Form 4).
Solo Singing Popular Under 17/over17 Final; Woolfson Cup Final; Jenny Yusuf (Form 4)
The Life of Chorister

As a Chorister, I do at least nine weekly services over in the Cathedral, with occasional paid gigs for important visitors. In addition, we do quite a few concerts some of which are broadcast on the radio, especially around Easter, Saint Patrick’s Day and Christmas. It can be quite stressful especially when perfecting the pieces but performing is always great fun. Recently enough, the choir made a few CDs, which I highly recommend. Every two years the choir goes on tour to nearby countries. Most recently we visited Edinburgh, London, and this summer we are going to Sweden. A few years ago, we filmed a documentary about things we do after Christmas, singing many Christmas carols. It was kind of nerve wracking, being filmed for TV, but it was very enjoyable. Overall, being a chorister is a great experience and I recommend auditioning for a place.

By Angelo Morales

Choral Celebration with Trinity College Singers and Boydell Singers

The Choir of St. Patrick’s Cathedral Grammar School were invited by Mr. David Callaghan to sing with Trinity Singers and Boydell Singers for their ‘On an April Evening’ concert on April 5th. This collaboration was a huge success with many friends and family attending the concert in St. Catherine’s Church, Thomas Street.
The Cathedral Girls’ Choir

The Cathedral Girls’ Choir, under the directorship of David Leigh, is currently made up of students from the 2nd, 4th and 5th years and past pupils, Orla Bruce, Rosanna West and Eppie Claffey. The other members include Sofia Fox, Roisin Murphy, Shalom Ogbata, Joanna and Jennifer Yusuf, Rachel and Angel Akpotor, Lola-Blue Ryan, Caoimhe Griffin-Hayes and Veereesha Bundhoo. Being a member of the choir involves a lot of commitment and early mornings. The choir rehearse every Monday and Thursday before school and after.

Over the past school year, the choir have performed in many exciting and important events in addition to their weekly services. Last summer they travelled to Chichester and sang in their Cathedral for the week. The Choir also took part in the Remembrance Concert in November for those who lost their lives in WW1. They performed Edward Elgar’s ‘For the Fallen’ and Brahms’ ‘Ein Deutsches Requiem’ with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra. In February, they sang ‘A Ceremony of Carols’ by Benjamin Britten. In March, the choir performed ‘St. John’s Passion’ by J. S. Bach. Finally, the choir played a prominent role in Holy Week, performing multiple times during the Easter Break.

Being a part of this choir has given us great opportunities and has enabled us to develop our musical skills and knowledge. We are so fortunate that the cathedral provides us with singing lessons and lessons in an instrument of our choice. I joined this choir when I was in first year with no knowledge of any music theory and no prior experience in singing, but over the past five years I have learned so much and by challenging myself I have developed my confidence in performing. It was well worth joining for the friendships I have made and the skills I have acquired.

By Caoimhe Griffin-Hayes
**Traditional Group**

Our Traditional Group began in September 2018. The group is made up of students from forms 1 to 6, all ages and different skills. The following students are involved: Heather Sweeney, Alexandra Medves, Sofia Fox, Callum O’Connor, Rosa Downey, Jool Mc Auley Pratt, Harry Leech, Eleanor Fox. We generally meet every second Tuesday at lunch-time to rehearse, socialise and learn new tunes. The Traditional Group have played at assembly and other school events a number of times. Our amazing music teacher, Ms Balfe dedicates her time to helping and encouraging us along the way. Our Traditional Group hopes to compete at the Wesley Interschools competition next year. We enjoy performing and practising together and always welcome new musicians.

Eleanor and Sofia Fox

**Navan Choral Festival 2019**

On Thursday 9th May the school choir travelled to Navan to compete in the Choral Festival. In the morning, the Chamber Choir competed in the Liturgical Music Competition singing *For the Beauty of the Earth* by John Rutter and *Everytime I Feel the Spirit* arr. Bob Chilcott. They gave a beautiful performance demonstrating their stunning blend, dynamic contrasts and communication. The adjudicator Blánaid Murphy awarded 1st prize of the perpetual trophy and plate to the Chamber Choir.

In the afternoon, the School Choir and fourteen choirs from around Ireland competed in the School Choir of the Year competition, earning themselves 2nd prize and the plate. This is a wonderful achievement for a marvellous group of choristers.
Chamber Orchestra

To quote the legendary playwright, poet and all round “sound fella” William Shakespeare ‘All the world is a stage, and there is no one I’d rather see on the stage than the SPCGS Orchestra’. This year was a super busy year for the Chamber Orchestra with Jake Lalor-Zakrzewski occasionally gracing us with his presence on the glockenspiel. This year the Chamber Orchestra were lucky to gain many new incredible members including new 1st years; Teeny Sweeney, Mini McNally, Wittle Woodsy, Moynihan Twin A, the All-star duo Angelo Morales and Saoirse Graham and lastly our equivalent to Brian May; Leena May. We were kind enough to give up our pew seats and perform at all the services, play some cool tunes, and we really can’t wait to see how next year works out; fingers Dylan Woods and Eleanor crossed we’ll be allowed inside the cathedral Sweeney if we can appeal the restraining orders!

Finally, we get to say goodbye to some ‘great’ band members who will really be missed, and let’s be honest, it won’t be same without them (Thank-God) so we wish them the best in all their future careers... and now for Those Who Won’t Be Seen Again’ list: (don’t let the door hit you on the way out!) Callum ‘Fartin’ Martin on Saxophone, Oonagh O’Malley The REAL Piano Man!, ‘the ghost’ that is Jake Lalor Zhgugiwegfcubytui4yvqbtu... and...drum roll please...Eleanor ‘Makes the Boys Swoon’ Sweeney! A.K.A Orchestra Chairperson, General comedian, Ultimate Biscuit Consumer, Legendary human, Taxidermist, Sweet sue, Accomplished alchemist (6th year Chemistry) and she also happens to play a mean trumpet solo!

By Dylan Woods, Eleanor Sweeney and Jessica Sweeney
This year the school are delighted to have been awarded the prestigious PDST Wellread award. This initiative aims to encourage and promote reading and literacy in schools. The four main categories involved are students, teachers, parents and the community. More information is available at www.pdst/wellread.ie

One element is the Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) programme; students in First, Second and Fourth year are given a random twenty minutes each week to drop their usual class and read their book. We also introduced One School, One Book. The book chosen this year was ‘Moonrise’ by Sarah Crossan.

On Monday at lunchtime we held a Book Club in the Library and all students were welcome. Some books discussed included: ‘The Secret Life of Bees’ by Sue Monk Kidd, ‘Holes’ by Louis Sachar, ‘Little Women’ by Louisa May Alcott and ‘Murder On The Orient Express’ by Agatha Christie. We also started a Book Club for parents. The first book
discussed was ‘A Week In December’ by Sebastian Faulks and the second meeting looked at the Booker Prize winner ‘Milkman’ by Anna Burns. Our next meeting will be sometime in October and we’ve chosen two detective novels – ‘Christine Falls’ by Benjamin Black and ‘The Headless Corpse’ by French author Georges Simenon.

Parents and staff were very supportive and helped with the initiative – including nominating their favourite books for various displays around the school. The wonderful Kevin Street Library helped supply books and every class groups made a trip to Library for author talks and introductions. We also managed to catalogue all the books in our new school library- donations of books are always welcome!

We also set up a Library Committee who helped organise the school library. There is also now a place for students to place book recommendations on the wall in the library. Hopefully over the coming years we will build upon the progress made this year.
This year the school took part in two Model United Nations Conferences.

A Model United Nations is an exact simulation of the United Nations Conference, complete with Resolutions, the Security Council a General Assembly and an International Court of Justice. This year, our students represented Senegal, the leading democracy on the continent of Africa, and Mexico. Pupils represent a country but most importantly they champion an issue to be solved like Conflict in the Middle East or Global Warming. They come up with a solution to the problem called a resolution and then join their solutions with those suggested by pupils from another school to make a final resolution document. This discussion and amalgamation of resolutions or trying to get support for your own resolution is called lobbying. Students then make the case for their resolution and try to get it passed in a vote in the General Assembly. Our students debated issues like the role of Artificial Intelligence in Warfare, Disarmament, Cybercrime, the Effects of Technology on the Young and the Role of Social Media in Elections. Each student stated the position of their country on the relevant issues in Committee Meetings and then joined in debate in the General Assembly. These conferences are a wonderful way to discuss to political issues and are of interest to today’s generation who are all engaged by topics like the Climate Emergency championed by Greta Thunberg. M.U.N. is the perfect mix of socialising, discos, conversation and debate.
Rinne gach duine sa scoil sar-iarracht chun Gaeilge a labhairt agus spreagadh ar fud na scoile. Bhí orainn Gaeilge a labhairt i rith an seachtain seo. We started SNAG by running a whole school competition with both students and the teachers getting involved. The aim of the competition was to see who could speak the most Gaeilge in the school. At the end of SNAG we had a prize for the three people who spoke the most Irish in the school. Our winners were 1st Gavin Dunphy, 2nd Aoife Power, 3rd Joanna Yusuf. We also had prizes for people who participated in the event and the teacher prize went to Ms Macnamara.

Bhí céile ollmhór ag an gcéad bhliain ag deireadh SNAG. Bhí an chraic agus spraoi ag na daltaí an lá sin. Ms Barry, Ms Kavanagh, MS Macnamara and Mr Whyte dusted off their old dancing shoes and thought the first years how to dance the “Siege of Ennis” and the “Walls of Limerick”. There was also a poster competition for the junior years and both 2nd year and 5th year had a tráth na gceist.

*Is aoibhinn linn an Ghaeilge!*
The Patrician 2018-2019

Junior Mathematics Competition

The Junior Maths Competition is held every year for 1st year students. It consists of a school round where multiple choice brain teasers are answered by students in a forty minute period. The highest scoring students are then invited to participate in the regional final.

On Wednesday, 23rd January 2019, Form 1 students took part in Round 1 of the competition. Congratulations to Daniel McNally who got through to the regional final in Oatlands College to represent St. Patrick’s Cathedral Grammar School which was held on Friday, 29th March.

Maths Clinic

The school is continuing to provide a weekly Maths Clinic. The Maths Clinic is available to all students from 1st year to 6th year who would like to receive extra assistance with Maths topics. The Maths Clinic is being run by Ms. Kavanagh. Junior Maths Clinic is held every Monday at lunchtime in Room 4 and Senior Maths Clinic is held every Thursday at lunchtime in Room 4. All students are welcome to attend whenever they wish.

PRISM Competition

PRISM is an annual contest for second level maths students. It is run with the aim of encouraging students to develop their interest in mathematical problem solving and in mathematics in general. The contest takes the form of a one hour exam paper that is invigilated by each participating school.

This year, on Thursday 18th of October, thirty of our Form 4 students took part in the contest. Big congratulations to Nicole-May Farrell and Michael Kelly who received certificates for Senior School Champions. Well done to all participants.
Maths Week 2018

The 13th to the 21st October was Maths Week and again, this year there was lots of Maths related activities and games took place. Maths Week Ireland promotes awareness, appreciation and understanding of maths through a huge variety of events and activities.

**Form 1K and Form 1P Manga High**
First Place – Lilas Bailey
Second Place – Meadhbh Killiam
Third Place – Matthew McElligott

**Form 2 Maths Eyes Challenge**
Davide Antochi
Sofia Fox

**Form 4 Maths Week Table Quiz**
Shaun Arshad
Joshua Barschi
Charlie Dineen
Sabaya Learat
Breic Ó Gliasáin

**Form 4 PRISM Competition**
Nicole-May Farrell
Michael Kelly

**All Students Problem Solving Challenge**
Christine Lin (Form 3)
Avnie Tyagi (Form 3)
If you have been a visitor to our beautiful new school, you have probably noticed the French posters advertising the French Club which takes place on Friday's at lunchtime, from 12.40pm - 1.10pm.

The idea is to promote the French language and culture in a fun and relaxed environment through various stimuli e.g, quizzes, French films, French music, posters, projects and of course some French nibbles. We are lucky to have a large French Department within the school and many of the French staff members were involved. The main thing is that our students hear us speaking 'en français' whilst encouraging them also to use 'la langue vivante'.

'Vive la France'!

Siobhán Barry & Claudia De Santos
James, Luke, Seirid and I created a business for our Junior Cycle Business CBA. We brainstormed for an idea for two classes and finally decided as Easter was fast approaching it would be a good idea to sell Easter Hampers.

We had to research all the products that we would put into the hampers such as Easter Eggs, chocolate, sweets and the baskets themselves. We carried out field research by providing surveys to students and teachers in our school on what products they would like in their hampers and how much they would be willing to pay. We received really positive feedback so decided to order enough products for twelve baskets. It was really fun when all the products arrived and we made up the hampers and got to see the final product. We sold the hampers to our target market, the staff and students of our school. We really enjoyed doing our CBA and creating our own business. It was a fantastic experience to see some of the steps involved in making a real business and we even made 25 euro each which was a great motivation for the future.

Molly Sue Tyndall
The Gaisce Hike was a wonderful experience for all of us. We left Heuston station at 07:35 am on Friday 12th of April to Tullamore, County Offaly with Ms Sweeney and the former deputy principal Mr Ó Morain. On our arrival we were picked up by a bus and we made our way to Birr Adventure Centre, where we were supposed to meet the silver medallists who went the day before us with Ms McCarthy. We got changed into suitable gear and went to the Slieve Bloom Mountains at around 11 am to begin our 17 km hike.

The weather wasn’t great but we didn’t have a choice! It was cold and foggy but we enjoyed it since we had good gear. We started off by walking 1.5 km on the path and then we decided to make things more interesting by going through the marsh for 3 km. When we got to the top we were able to get a good view of the landscape and take some pictures. We started heading to where we were going to have our lunch in the woods which was relaxing since there was
a river flowing through. After having our lunch we continued with the rest of the hike which was quite fun since we were going through a woodland. We saw some deer at the end of the walk. We got the bus back to the hostel and we had dinner and afterwards we got ready to go camping for the night. Some of us helped setting up the tents while some of us were collecting the firewood for the campfire. We had marshmallows and we listened to stories from students and the supervisors. The following day we woke up and packed away the tents and left to go back to the hostel to get our breakfast and lunch for the day.

We left for the last 8 km hike at around 10 AM. We had our lunch at around 1pm and started making our way down as we were supposed to be getting the train back to Dublin at 4:25 pm. We got the bus back to the train station which was about 50 min away from the Adventure Centre. It was a wonderful experience and everyone enjoyed the adventure very much.
On the morning of Tuesday the 23rd October all second year science students and 6th year physics students accompanied by Ms. McCarthy, Mr Macari and Ms. Kennington set out for a field trip to Co. Offaly.

As part of the new Junior Cycle Science course students are required to learn about renewable energy, electricity, sustainability and technology; while Leaving Certificate Physics students are required to learn about how to generate electricity, how to calculate circular motion and sound intensity, and approaches to dealing with flickering effect of the blades. It was for this reason that Mountlucas was chosen for a guided tour of their wind farm facility.

The site of Mountlucas Wind Farm was originally a Bord na Móna operated bog for the harvesting of peat and turf, where processing first started in the 1950s. In 2000, due to falling demand, the local briquette factory was closed and by 2001, the Mountlucas bog had ceased production operations. In 2014 the 1,100 hectares of cutaway Peatlands was commissioned as a wind farm. There are twenty-eight 3MW turbines in operation in Mountlucas Wind Farm,
which have the capacity to generate enough power for over 45,000 homes.

On the day of our visit we were welcomed and given an overview of the site, its history and what goes on there now. We were told about the workings of the turbines, how they generate electricity, the problems that encountered in setting up the wind farm and how these problems were overcome and how the bog is being developed and maintained as an area for biodiversity.

After this students were split into two groups with one group experiencing the different levels of a wind turbine through virtual reality headsets. The turbines themselves can only be accessed by qualified personnel, so this allowed us to get a sense of their height and what the inner part of the turbine looks like. There was also a viewing deck outside this room where there were telescopes for observing the landscape of the bog and the turbines in the distance. Meanwhile the other half were experiencing the different aspects of electricity generation by wind turbines through interactive exhibits. One of these involved choosing the positioning and shape of the blades on a wind turbine to see which was the most effective. Another tested your knowledge of wind power with an interactive quiz. Afterwards we went outside to see the side of one of the blades in real life and to appreciate the sheer size of the tower of the actual turbines.
We held our first meeting in September and it was decided that the whole school would be consulted to find out what issues were important to the students. The representative from each year was tasked with compiling a list of those issues that their year had raised. A variety of issues were brought to the Student Council and then as a group we discussed how they could be acted on. The first issue that was tackled was that of provision of benches both inside and out. Myself and Ms. Balfe arranged a meeting with Mr. Gill to open up discussions on the matters most pressing. After open debate and discussion it was decided that the following actions could be taken to deal with the issues. To encourage more use of the outside facilities we organised benches to be placed around the basketball court. This provided everyone with a place to enjoy the sun on the rare occasion it showed itself. By request of the 4th and 5th years we provided extra coat racks. It was brought to our attention in January that the first year classes were getting unequal amounts of homework. This was a new problem for the school. We set about conducting a homework survey and so a homework timetable was proposed and put into action. When we checked up on this method the first years seemed very pleased with it. In January, the 5th years proposed a quiet space during lunch which would provide an area for those who wished to escape the noise of the GP room and hall. Ms. Cullen agreed to run this on a trial basis under
supervision of the library committee every Friday at lunch. This has proven to be a place of solace for those who sought a little peace and quiet. The Student Council decided to address the establishment of a school Basketball team following a request from the 2nd Year girls. In February, Ms. Sweeney agreed to coach and organise this and the team have met twice a week and from all accounts are enjoying it. Throughout the year the Student Council have endeavoured to listen to the students and facilitate a forum where students can raise issues to be brought to the attention of the school management. This allows easy communication between teachers and students in a more formal setting and keeps people on track to get issues resolved. While Mr. Gill does operate an open door policy with regards to listening to these issues there are some that are beyond the schools ability to remedy and these reasons seem to be mostly down to resources. The Student Council have managed to accomplish several things during our term and we strive to continue creating an environment in which students can express concerns and desires. As the outgoing Chairperson of the Student Council, I really enjoyed not only being able to have a say in school matters but also getting to know people I otherwise may not have met. I believe we have a lot of which to be proud. We may have taken baby steps but as JFK said “Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try”.

Emma Nicholson
Trip to Barcelona

42 members of the school choir and 4 teachers travelled to Barcelona for their second music tour between March 21st-23rd 2019. After a very early start on Thursday morning, the group arrived in sunny Barcelona and we dabbled in some Flamenco moves under the guidance of Juan De Pablo, everyone had a chance to learn a new dancing style. This was followed by a guided walking tour of the city, we learned all about the different architects including the famous Antoni Gaudí and his most famous piece still under construction La Sagrada Familia. After the tour we had a chance to go shopping at the Maremagnum. On Friday morning, after a full breakfast at the hotel, we had cruise around the port of Barcelona. It was especially nice with the hot weather we luckily had there. The group then had a guided tour of the beautiful Palau de la Música Catalana. The art and architecture inside and outside of the building was phenomenal and definitely a place to remember. After a spot of lunch we gave a recital at the Cathedral De Barcelona. Singing in the Cathedral De Barcelona was such an honour, we had a chance to share some of our home culture as well by singing Irish songs, but of course we also had a Spanish song also. That evening we dined at the HardRock Café before watching the synchronised water show at the Magic Fountain of Montjuic. It was a nice way to spend our last night, we had a bunch of photos taken and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Finally on Saturday morning, after the group waved goodbye to accommodation at
Hotel Park Gueil they took a tour of the Music Museum and then participated in a Gamelan drumming workshop. The final event of tour was an afternoon at the Tibidabo amusement park where everyone enjoyed the thrilling rides! Spending our last few hours in Barcelona was great in the amusement park, there were multiple different rides. At one stage the teachers went against the students in bumper cars and they all had a great laugh. The whole Barcelona trip was a great success and we wouldn’t have had it without the ever improving choir and our music teacher Ms. Balfe for making this trip happen.
Wednesday April 10th

At 4 15 we met at Dublin Airport. It was very early but we were too excited to be tired. When everyone had arrived we went through security and had 40 minutes to get food in duty free. After that we began the long and dreary walk down the corridors to our gate. At long last we got on the plane. Our flight lasted about an hour and a half and then we were finally in Paris. We met our coach and began our drive to Paris. When we arrived in central Paris we went to the Champs-Elysées for brunch. There was a McDonald’s and a Burger King right next to each other. Everyone went straight to McDonald’s so me and Lilac decided to avoid the queue and go to Burger King. After brunch we had a guided tour around Paris. I learnt a lot of cool things about Paris like the Paris Opera House was built on a lake which inspired the Phantom of the Opera’s lair. We stopped off at an Eiffel Tower viewpoint where I got a lot of great pictures. This was probably my favourite part of the day. After the tour we visited the Notre Dame cathedral. We are extremely lucky that we got to see it. We were probably some of the last people to see and take pictures of it. I loved the stain glass window and the sculptures outside. After Notre Dame we made our way to the Creperie Beaubourg. There were lots of modern sculptures that I really liked on the way there. For dinner I had a chicken and cheese crepe and for dessert, a Nutella one. I loved the food and would definitely go again. After dinner we went on a Bateaux Mouche cruise down the river Seine. Again, we got some great photos. When the cruise was over, we got back on the coach to the hotel. We got our room keys and went straight up to our rooms. I was sharing a room with Lilac. Curfew was 10 30 but the teachers had forgotten to tell us! After 2 hours of waiting we went to Mya, Patricia and Alexandra’s room and got the details. That ended our first day in Paris.

Thursday April 11th

We had breakfast at 8 and went straight to Montmartre to visit the Sacré-Cœur cathedral and Place du Tertre. The Sacré-Cœur cathedral was beautiful. It has 270 steps leading up to it. We walked all the way around it. I really liked the stain glass just the look of it. It looked very exotic, not really like a cathedral at all. We had about an hour to explore the streets of Montmartre which is where I got most of my souvenirs. We had lunch at Gigi’s Restaurant. After lunch we went to the Musée D’orsay. My favorite piece of art had no name but it was lots of different eyes overlapping each other in shape of a circle. It was very cool to look at. After the Musée D’orsay we went to the Tour Montparnasse which is an extremely high building that has the fast lift in Europe. Your ears go funny on the way up but it’s worth it. The view is amazing. There’s a viewing where you get a 360 degree view of Paris. There are even armchairs to sit on! Afterwards we went shopping at Aeroville shopping center. We were supposed to get 3 hours shopping but the traffic was horrendous so we only got about an hour and a half. After that we went back to our hotel.
**Friday April 12th**

We woke up early, had breakfast and had to pack up our rooms so that we could go to Disneyland. It didn’t take as long as I expected to get there and in no time at all we could all see the castle in front of us. We were all really excited. We went over the rules and were set free. The first ride I went on was small small world after we got fast passes. I loved Peter Pan. Basically, you were in a ship and flew over London, but it was pitch black and there were hundreds of fairy lights that looked like stars. I also loved Pirates of the Caribbean but I wished that there had been more drops. It wasn’t all good though, we queued for nearly 2 hours for a ride that lasted 1 minute and 25 seconds (yes, we timed it, we were bored). It flew by and soon it was time to meet up and leave. Just our luck, the parade had started, the paths were full, so we had to follow a Frozen float moving at a snail’s pace and blaring out “love is an open door” on a loop. FINALLY we got to the end of the parade and were able to run and meet everyone. We left Disneyland and began the drive to the airport. Our flight was delayed, and the charging station didn’t work so we were all bored. Plus, everyone was sad to be leaving and wished we could stay for longer. After waiting for ages we got on the plane and left Paris. When we arrived in Dublin they couldn’t find stairs to get off the plane so we had to wait for a good 40 minutes. By the time we got to passport control we were nearly crying, it was past midnight. In the queue though, we started laughing because one of airport attendants kept repeating “over eighteen with a European passport” over and over and over again. It had a beat to it and half the class were dancing to it. It was late and we were so tired we could laugh at just about everything. Even airport attendants doing their job. Then finally, we were through passport control and were collected. I loved our trip to Paris and will definitely go again. It is a great memory and we all had an amazing time.

By Lilas Bailey
1K
Collins Barracks

Collins Barracks is a museum in Dublin city that shows the history of the Irish military. This trip was a part of the history curriculum for this year. We went with Mr Brady and Mr Doyle, and were escorted in a guided tour of the museum. We saw many interesting relics of Irish military history, including British armaments from before Irish independence and relatively more modern UN peacekeeping equipment, including muskets, planes and tanks.

The Ploughing Championships

On the 18th of September 2018, our Transition Year class went to The Ploughing Championships in Co. Offaly, Tullamore. This was the first year the school had brought a class to attend the event. We departed early in the morning on a coach. When we arrived, there were a lot of other schools there from around the country.

At the event, some of the big companies included were; Lidl, Tesco & Aldi. These companies were there to advertise some of their products, for example, Tesco were giving out free samples of their meat and also had a live band performing. It was an amazing and fun atmosphere. Farmers brought out their tractors and had their animals on show. After going for a long stroll around the Championship, we found that there were plenty of activities to do including a fun fair. There was a competition on how far you could throw wellies! There was also a coke vs pepsi taste challenge. Our favourite part overall was the fun fair, it was quite expensive but definitely worth it.

Unfortunately, the day ended with a huge rain storm which led to everyone getting drenched. Typical Irish weather, but overall it was a good day.
**Glasnevin Cemetery**

We went to Glasnevin Cemetery Museum for two days, on 8th and 22th of March and explored the graves with the help of a tour guide. We worked closely with Allen, our experienced tour guide to learn the importance of tourism to the economy, the golden rules of customer service and how to engage visitors with the past. We developed the skills of research, writing and public speaking. We explored the history of 19th and 20th century Ireland. The first visit was the training portion of the programme, and on the second visit each student had to give a tour guide and perform, inform and entertain. Each student got a Genealogy Voucher which you can use on www.glasnevintrust.ie where you can get information on the person you're giving the tour on.

**Shout Out LGBTQ+ talk**

Two members of Shout Out came in to the Transition years at the start of the year to talk about the LGBTQ+ community. Shout Out is a community of volunteers and activists committed to improving life for LGBTQ+ people by sharing personal stories and educating school students, parents & guardians, teachers, youth workers and workplaces on LGBTQ+ issues. Ms McCarthy gave us the opportunity to have such an interesting talk.

**Urban Orienteering**

At the start of Transition year for our first EES trips we went urban orienteering in the city centre. Mr Brady put us all in groups of 5 or 6 and gave us 12 riddles for famous things and places around Dublin’s city centre and we had to look for them and take a picture with our team and our team mascots at the location that we discovered from the riddles. I think we all enjoyed the day and it was a good trip to be able to bond with each other.
Laughter Lounge

At the start of April our TY class went to the Laughter Lounge on Eden Quay to see a show about being a teenager experiencing puberty. When we arrived we were all very excited about the show that we were going to see. It was very funny and we all found it very relatable. We were there with a lot of other Transition Year students from 4 other schools. The comedian was extremely funny and he must’ve had lots of experience dealing with teenagers because all of his jokes were very up to date and we all enjoyed the experience of going there.

TY trip to the Central Criminal Courts

On the 10th and 13th of December 2018, TY visited the Central Criminal Courts on Parkgate street in Dublin. We visited the courts as it gave us an insight to what it would be like to go into a career of law when we left school. When we got to the courts we were allowed to go into different courts which had ongoing cases which were very interesting. We enjoyed this trip that Mr Brady organised for us and we would like to visit the Central Criminal Courts again.

Also a few weeks later, we had a visitor who was a barrister who came in to talk to us about what it’s like to be a barrister. She also gave us career advice if we wanted or were thinking about going into law as a career. This talk was very helpful and we are very thankful for her giving up her time to talk to us.

Transition Year Skiing Trip

On the 1st February 2019 Transition Year went to Stillorgan indoor ski centre. We got to learn how to ski by a moving carpet with actual ski equipment and it was a lot of fun. Everyone enjoyed it and had a great time and would definitely do it again. The staff were very friendly and helpful towards our students in helping others who were not confident to take part to ski. The place was big with lots of games to play while we waited our turn to ski. The teachers took part and had a great laugh and was overall a great day for the transition year class.
**Work Experience**

Our class had three allotted weeks of Transition Year Work Experience: the 3rd to the 7th of December, and the 4th to the 15th of February. This is our group's combined placements over the three weeks:

- St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir School & St.Vincent’s G.N.S
- The R.A.G.E - Video Game and Record Store
- Cocoa Atelier Chocolate Lab in La Rousse Foods
- Community Center
- New Theater
- Spar - Five Lamps
- ICON Clinical Research Lab

These placements offered us a wide variety of experiences, giving us an idea of future career options in the retail, entertainment, education, food and pharmaceutical industries. Work Experience is an excellent idea for all Transition Year students, as the entire year is built as a year for changing from the Junior Certificate course onto the Leaving Certificate course, where students are expected to be more responsible for their work and studies, as they grow closer to adult life. Work Experience is the one of the most important parts of the year for this reason.

*By James, Michael and Sadiyah*

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**Environmental Social Studies**

Transition year students undertook a cross-curricular project with their choice of topic. The project includes aspects of History, Geography, Business, Mathematics and is presented in I.T. format. Students worked on the project over a 3-week period with classes in each subject designated to their projects. The project was delivered to a panel and included a presentation and accompanying poster. Students were split into groups and were assessed on their presentation, poster, planning, communication and teamwork skills. The topics this year included Guitars, Human Trafficking, Ireland, Donald Trump, Currency, Kayne West, Chanel and Lamborghini.
Community Involvement

In our Transition Year we had to do a week’s work to help give back to the community the dates we worked were the 15th-20th of October. Community involvement is the power to bring positive, measurable change to both the communities in which you operate and to your business. Community involvement examples include in-kind and financial donations, employee volunteer days, enduring non-profit partnerships, and more.

We received a couple of reflections from the people in the class:

“I worked in a soup kitchen which fed the homeless and elderly people who were in need it was good to be able to help out and to give back to the people who really need it, it was good to see that the money people donate to helping people in need are being used correctly”

“When I was on community involvement I worked in a charity shop which was good because it let me know how to interact with people from a retail person and i also learned a lot of good skills.”

As a whole our class really enjoyed the week and we have all agreed that it works well for the class as we are giving back and we are also getting to know the ways of having a proper working job

By Karl Kennedy, AJ Butler and John Roe Dwyer

Angel Akpotor and Luke Donohue at TY Graduation
Transition Year Student of the Year—Charlie Dineen.

Once again the Science Dept ran a SciFest STEM fair
‘Back to the 80’s’
A TY musical

One of the biggest events in our ty course was our Transition Year play, and this year we decided to do a musical called **Back to the 80’s**. This was a fantastic event and all the students were incredible. The show ran three times over the course of the 28th and the 29th of November 2018.

For the months running up to the play the students were hard at work with teachers preparing sets, musical numbers, and acting. They had done an amazing job painting up lockers and walls on huge, hand-made, canvas screens. As well as that there was a car and a huge sign made as well as lockers to be painted up and decorations to be made. Not only the but our creative classmates designed leaflets, tickets and posters to be handed out around the school. And it wasn’t only making these things, a group of students had to also practice routines for moving and transitioning these sets for many an afternoon running up to the show. Ms. Balfe taught the music to the soloists, chorus & band. Callum Martin from 6th year and Ms. Kennington choreographed the show while Ms. Sweeney & Mr. Lynch, directors, staged the entire show.

Of course, all this cost a lot of money, but that didn’t stop our class. Working with their TY coordinator, the students went around to local businesses and arranged a wide variety of sponsors for this spectacular play. Not only that but they then continued to communicate with these sponsors as well as arrange all the advertisement needed. All the money was used for buying materials for the set and print-
ing tickets and posters as well as paying for sound and recording systems. And then preparing the music!! Our class is full of gifted singers and it really made it difficult for teachers to pick who would play all the parts. However in the end we had a brilliant cast. All the students practiced their songs day and night and on the day of the show people were not disappointed. All the songs were great and the show was full of great numbers like ‘Turn around’ with Mrs. Brannigan, ‘Material girl’ by Cyndie, ‘Walking on sunshine’ sung by Eileen, and ‘1000 miles’ duet by Corey and Michael, as well as many others. We were also lucky enough to have a great live band which was mainly made up of students from the school from lots of years and even a past pupil!

On the night of the show there was a buzz between all the students, but they got past their nerves and performed a brilliant show. Everyone both on the stage and watching it had a great time all the acting and singing was brilliant and all the performs were great on stage. All the actors and actresses enjoyed themselves and had practiced really hard for this play and gave it their all, and there were lots of laughs (and small mishaps!) on and off the stage...

The show got brilliant feedback and we really enjoyed not only show night but all the weeks running up to along with all the preparation we did. We want to give a huge thanks to all the people involved outside of our class with this event, it was definitely one of our favorite memories from this past year!
On the 8th October 2018, our trip to Killary began. The day started off with us waking up around 5:30 and getting ready. We found our way to Heuston station and met up with the whole class. When we were all there, we got on the train and left Dublin. We arrived to the train station and took the bus down to our hostel. We got put into three groups of 10 or 11 and went to our rooms to get ready. By that time, we already had our phones taken off of us. We had lunch and started our activities. Our first activity was the Turf Challenge. Even though we were separated, all 3 groups were doing the same thing. The Turf challenge consisted of us walking through cret mud and bog, obstacle courses and a slide down to a small lake. After the slide, we went down to a beach to wash off all the mud and have a quick swim. We went to the changing rooms to put some dry clothes on. We were all tired but ready for dinner. We were also excited to get our phones back for an hour. Then it was time for the evening games. The game was called “The Cereal Box Challenge”. For the challenge, you had to go down and pick up the cereal box with your mouth or teeth without touching the ground with your hands. It was interesting seeing both the box and the amount of people playing get smaller. We were all supportive of each other and loved chanting our names.

On Tuesday, we had an interesting day. It was pouring rain and cold. We started the day with breakfast and then made our way down to start the activities. We started off with the Climbing Wall. We had to pair up and hold the rope to help each other climb up and keep each other safe. Immediately after that, we did Archery. It would’ve been much more fun if it wasn’t so rainy and windy. We had to go back to the hostel a bit
earlier because of the weather. We had a small break and lunch and then our group discussion began. Part of our year wanted to go and do our afternoon activities, but because of the weather most of us wanted to stay inside. We got the option to decide what we wanted to do and only a small part of the class went and did the Giant Swing, climbing and the Abseiling Tower. Meanwhile, us who stayed inside had a fun night of games and relaxation. We had a few indoor challenges and played Maphia. We all got together for dinner and had a calm night. On the 3rd day, we started off with Bush Craft. It consisted of us learning about plants and our surroundings, walking down to a river and starting a fire. It was fun, easy and a great start to our day. After lunch, our group had 3 different activities. We did the Cliff Jumping, Gorge Walking and the Ringo rides. All three of them were really enjoyable... from walking through a river and jumping from a cliff, to being on a boat and having fun on the Ringo rides. That evening we had a bonfire. It was nice being warm and around a fire after being in the water for a few hours. We were roasting marshmallows, singing songs and telling stories. Wednesday was one of the best afternoons we had on this trip. Thursday started with a pretty simple but competitive activity - we did Archery combat. After already doing Archery and learning the basics, we were ready for this. It was a morning filled with arrows flying through the air and hitting your friends. That morning we also did the Killary Challenge which consisted of a few games, tricks and challenges. In the
afternoon we did the Sky Fall and the Giant Swing since no one in our group had previously done it. Some people had trouble enjoying themselves since they were afraid of heights but we loved it. For the Sky Fall, we first had to walk up two ropes and over a hanging bridge and then jump from the top of a tower. After that, we went over to the Giant Swing. Two people would do it at the same time and we all absolutely loved it. It would start with a high and fast swing but it was also really relaxing just sitting there and looking up at the sky. We spent that night in the Dome. We played football and other games and also had a few challenges.

That night was so bitter-sweet. We all enjoyed our trip so it was upsetting to think about the fact that we were leaving soon. A few of us started singing and playing the guitar in one of the rooms and soon everyone was part of it. After the teachers joined in and saw how much fun we were all having, they decided to bring us out to one of the common rooms. We spent a lot of time there singing along to our favourite songs, talking about the whole experience and taking pictures and videos. Of course, the highlight of that night was all of us singing to The Solar System Song and almost crying. The 12th of October 2018 was our last day at the Adventure Centre. We had one last activity to do. Our group did the Orienteering. We were split in even smaller groups and had to find specific spots around the building. It was a nice ending to everything as we got to look around and make memories. Because of a hurricane, we weren’t sure if we were going to be able to go down to the train station but everything went smoothly and we made it in time. We got on the train back to Dublin but it felt surreal. We all felt like our trip wasn’t ending but we were also
ready for our next great adventure. This trip to Killary brought all of us closer together. We became better friends and made amazing memories. We bonded over endless falls, splashes, cups of tea, songs and games of Uno. All of our instructors were nice and interesting people who really seemed to enjoy what they were doing. Of course, we can’t forget about Mr. Brady, Mr. Lynch and Ms. Kennington. They all made our trip so fun and we loved seeing a side of them we usually don’t get the chance to see in school. We never expected to see them singing along to some of the music we were playing, going through mud with us or going on Ringo rides. We certainly enjoyed going on an adventure like this as a class and it was one of our highlights from Transition year. We hope all of the other classes going in future years get as much joy out of the Killary Adventure Centre as every single one of us did. It was all a wonderful experience.

Eva Grgeta and Mollie Bulow-McCormick
St Patrick’s Cathedral Grammar School has a dynamic and committed Parents Association, that aims to support student and school life in a number of ways.

**Fundraising**
We run a number of fundraising initiatives including an annual Table Quiz, sponsored walks, a second hand book and uniform sale and have donated funds to a number of school projects including:
- Horticultural aid as part of the building works - plants and shrubs for the school garden, planters and benches
- Refreshments for school events such as the Open Day, TY Graduation.
- Painting/decorating and spring cleaning areas of the school which are in need of attention.

**School quiz**
This Table Quiz has become an annual event and is a great opportunity for parents, friends and students to socialise for a night of fun whilst raising funds for whatever is required.

**Support for the Parents’ Bookclub**
English teacher Mc Cullen organises a parents’ Book Club get-together once per term. In 2019 we have discussed:
* A Week in December* by Sebastian Faulks
* Milkman* by Anna Burns
Ms Cullen has plans for the next meeting in October 2019.
The Book Club meets in the Fourth Corner bar beside the school.
The Parents Association is funding complementary pizza for anyone who turns up on the night.

**After-school Rowing**
A limited number of students have been able to attend rowing training sessions in DCC rowing club during the Spring/Summer 2019 terms. This was organised by the Parents Association on a
first come first served basis. We hope to continue rowing in September. If any places become free due to students not continuing to attend, then the PA will offer places to students on the waiting list.

**School book and uniform sale**

In June every summer the Parents Association organises a second-hand school book and uniform sale. Students can sell on their used books to younger students - good for recycling and raising funds for the school as well as for students who sell their books.

From time to time, Members of the PA attend events and seminars hosted by Compass. All parents are welcome. The National Association of Compass is a Constituent body of the National Parents Council (Post Primary) representing all parents who choose to educate their children in schools or colleges which promote a Protestant or a minority ethos.

Regular school events, held annually such as TY Musical, the Open Day and TY Graduation call for volunteers from the PA to serve tea, coffee and refreshments.

The PA gives input into new school policies which are constantly being updated and have representatives on the Board of Management.

**Garden**

TY students helped to fill the new planters then planted various trees, shrubs, herbs and pollinators to brighten up the new school yard and encourage bees

If you would like to get involved in the Parents Association or find out more about what we do you can contact us on stpatricksgspa@gmail.com.

We would like to welcome any new students and parents to St Patrick’s Cathedral Grammar School.
Muck Run

On the 27th March a number of students kicked off their Health Week a week early, participating in a fun team event around the Furry Glen part of the Phoenix Park. The event was organised by Mount Sackville Secondary School as part of their in-house “Wellbeing Week” and was open to all secondary school students in the East Leinster region and their teachers.

We had 6 teams registered, 3 teams in the junior race (1st to 3rd year) and 3 teams in the senior race (4th to 6th year). Teams consisted of 4 people and they could be mixed, all boys or all girls. The 3km course took participants over rough trails, fallen trees up steep inclines, through woodland, over small streams and even over hay bales where they were sprayed with water just before the finish.

At the start line music was blared out over the area and before each race a warm-up was led by some of the organisers over a loudspeaker system with encouragement and motivation aplenty.

The difference about this race is that all team members are required to cross over the finish line together. The focus is not on competition, but on having fun, working together, and partaking in a team physical activity. Part of this teamwork ethic is evident in how teams are encouraged to dress in similar colours.

With the weather on the day being warm and sunny the event did not live up to its name! The course was unusually dry and not muddy underfoot, making for good running conditions. At the finish line water and fruit were waiting to replenish the runners. All in all, a great effort put in by our teams and a great day out. Thanks to all who made the effort to participate on their half-day.
Basketball

This year the girls in St Patricks were given the opportunity to get involved in basketball. Since it began the girls have shown great enthusiasm and dedication training twice a week on Mondays and Tuesdays after school. Unfortunately we started too late to enter any league competitions this year but they are ready and waiting for next year’s competition.
This year once again St Patrick’s CGS sent a large group to the Darkness Into Light 5k walk in aid of Pieta House. The walk took place at 4.15am in the Phoenix Park on 11th May. We are very proud of those who walked and the school community raised over €2000!
Boys Sports Day Cup winners: Senior Cup, Ross McGinley; Intermediate Cup, Rían Middleton; Junior Cup, Davide Antochi.

Girls Sports Day Cup winners: Junior Cup, Sofia Fox; Senior Cup, Hanora Pitts; Intermediate Cup, Georgia McCormick.

**Boys 100m**

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**Girls 100m**

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### Boys 200m

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<td>Rian Middleton</td>
<td>Ross McGinley</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Jason Gaynor</td>
<td>Craig Maguire</td>
<td>David Walsh</td>
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### Girls 200m

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Senior</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sofia Fox</td>
<td>Georgia McCormick</td>
<td>Hanora Pitts</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Oda Dineen</td>
<td>Abbie Murphy</td>
<td>Alannah Pitts</td>
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Boys 400m

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<tr>
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<th>Junior</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>James McCann</td>
<td>Rian Middleton</td>
<td>Ross McGinley</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Kevin Honer</td>
<td>Sabaya Learat</td>
<td>David Walsh</td>
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Girls 400m

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<tr>
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<th>Junior</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sofia Fox</td>
<td>Georgia McCor-mick</td>
<td>Alannah Pitts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Oda Dineen</td>
<td>Renee Ryan</td>
<td>Hanora Pitts</td>
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Boys 4 x 100m relay

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Intermediate/Senior</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>James McCann, Davide Antonio, Jason gaynor, Luke Collier</td>
<td>Rian Middleton, Craig Maguire, Adam Butler, Charlie Dineen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Kevin Honer, Tadhg Moynihan, Zack O’Neill, Reece Boylan</td>
<td>Ross McGinley, Jake Lalor Zakrewski, Cian Whittaker, Mr. White</td>
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Girls 4 x 100m relay

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Intermediate/Senior</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sofia Fox, Oda Dineen, Roisin Murphy, Dara Moynihan</td>
<td>Eleanor Fox, Caoimhe Griffin Hayes, Lily Timmins, Laura Gaynor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Lena May, Bianca Akpotor, Molly Nevin, Dara Moynihan</td>
<td>Georgia McCormick, Renee Ryan, Lavinia Stoppani, Saibh Fitzgerald</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Shot Putt - Boys

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Senior</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Jools McAuley Pratt</td>
<td>Rian Middleton</td>
<td>Lee McGaughran</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Usna Brennan</td>
<td>Luke Donohoe</td>
<td>Jake Lalor Zakrewski</td>
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Shot Putt – Girls

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Senior</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sofia Fox</td>
<td>Angel Akpotor</td>
<td>Hanora Pitts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Aoife Power</td>
<td>Nicole Farrell</td>
<td>Alannah Pitts</td>
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</table>
This year the Senior Boys Soccer team achieved great success and made it through to the final of the Inner Schools Cup. The final took place at the end of May in Brickfields Park. Unfortunately on the day Ringsend College proved too strong for St Patrick’s CGS. Despite going ahead in the first half the final score was 5:2 to Ringsend College.
Prize List 2018

Class Prizes: (€100, 60, 40)

Leaving Certificate 2018:
First and Larminie Prize: Ciaran Gartland
Second: Ioana Matei
Third: Emanuel Dascalu

In the other forms there are prizes for the 1st and 2nd placed students and a ‘Special Prize’ awarded to those students who made the most progress, over the course of the year, according to their teachers.

Fifth Year 2017/18 (€50, 30, 20)
First: Jake Lalor Zakrewski
Second: Callum Martin
Special mention: Killian Honer

Fourth Year 2017/18
First: Julia Melut
Second: Faye Reddington
Special mention: Holly Urwin

Third Year 2017/18
First: Dylan Woods
Second: James Parminter
Special mention: Veeresha Bundhoo

Second Year 2017/18
First: Avnie Tyagi & Rory McElligott
Second: Megan O’Brien
Special mention: Christine Lin

First Year 2017/18
First: Rachel Akpotor
Second: Tara Byrne
Special mention: Josh Farrell
Special Prizes donated to the Grammar School: (€30)

Risteard O Glaisne Memorial Prize for L.C. Irish Adam Quinn
Earnest Buchanan (English Essay Form 6) Ioana Matei
Arnold L. Horner Prize (Leaving Certificate Maths.) Ciaran Gartland
Arthur Wisdom Memorial Prize: (Senior Chemistry): Ciaran Gartland
Walter Scott Memorial Prize: Leaving Cert Music: Emanuel Dascalu
O’Russ Prize for Leaving Certificate French Emanuel Dascalu
Scott Prize (Junior Cert Maths) James Parminter
O’Russ Prize (Junior Cert French) Sadiyah Moussa

Risteard O Glaisne Memorial Prize for J.C. Irish Dylan Woods
Ovenden Bursary (Junior Cert Music) James Parminter
Miss Ellis Prize (J. Certificate English) Dylan Woods
John Lynch Memorial Prize for J.C. Art Dylan Woods
Arthur Wisdom Memorial Prize (J.C. Science) Dylan Woods

Parents Association Prizes for exceptional achievement in, OR exceptional contribution to a particular subject, for students in non-examination classes.

(€30 for seniors and €20 for juniors)

Form 5 Biology Emma Nicholson
Form 5 Physics Jake Lalar Zakrewski
Form 5 Geography Callum Martin
Form 5 Music Oonagh O’ Malley
Senior P.E. Prevaler Ogbata

Form 2 Music Rory McElligot
Form 2 French: Avnie Tyagi
Form 2 English Avnie Tyagi
Form 2 Art Lavinia Stoppani
Form 1 Irish Rachel Akpotor
Form 1 Business Mark McDonnell
Junior P.E. Nicole Farrell

Design Awards

The Patrician Design Award is presented to the winner of the competition to design the cover of the school year book, The Patrician. This years’ winner is Caioimhe Griffin Hayes. The Promotional Design Award is presented to the designer of the posters, tickets and programme for TY musical. This years’ winners are Dylan Woods & Sadiya Moussa.
**Attendance Prizes:** (Certificate) Prizes for full attendance this term year 2018/19.
- Bianca Akpotor
- Lilac Carters
- David Cooney
- Mia Crotty
- Will Donovan
- Saoirse Graham
- Patricia Imbrisca
- Giulia Medves
- Andrew Morales Espana
- Angelo Morales Espana

**Sports Day, 2018 (trophies)**

Junior Girl - Oda Dineen
Junior Boy - James Mc Cann
Intermediate Girl - Alannah Pitts
Intermediate Boy - Brad Hennessy
Senior Girl - Hanora Pitts
Senior Boy - Ciaran Gartland

**An Gaisce: Bronze medal winners:**

**Gaisce Silver medal winners:**
- Jake Lalor-Zakrzewski
- Callum Martin
- Ross McGinley
- Hanora Pitts
- Eleanor Sweeney

**Student of the Year 2017-18 (Trophy)**
This award is given to the student in the previous year’s form six who contributed to every area of school life – academic, musical & pastoral. This year’s winner has been described as wonderful singer, completely committed to the School Choirs during his time at the school. He was always willing to perform at the drop of a hat for all musical events including the School Musical, Carol services, Spring and Summer Concerts. He set an example to others in terms of his work ethic, his focus and commitment to his music and to his school work. He is a polite, helpful and respectful young man.

The winner of the overall Grammar School Student of the Year Award for 2016-17 is:

**Ciaran Gartland**
Principal’s Prize Day Speech December 2018

The Last year has seen a lot of changes at the Grammar School. We have finally moved into the new Kevin Street Building. This new building gives us a new music room, art room, library, general purpose room and three general classrooms. The new rooms are bright and warm and fully equipped to meet all the needs of modern classrooms. In the Close Building too, during the last year, we have had a new roof, windows and flooring as well as a new science lab and refurbished Home Economics room. In September, we gathered as a school community to mark the opening of the Kevin Street building and the building will be officially opened by the Minister of Education at the end of February.

When we look back over the last year it is interesting to see how quickly these changes have become the new normal. The new building is a fantastic asset for our school but with it have come increased overheads in terms of insurance, utility and maintenance costs. To cover these costs we continue to rely on the generosity of parents and guardians through the Voluntary Contribution scheme. These contributions are vital if we are to continue to maintain the high standard of educational facilities that we are so proud of.

Financial support is not the only way that parents and guardians can help the activities of the school and I would like to thank the growing number of parents who have got involved in the Parents Association this year. I would encourage all parents to get involved in whatever way they can. The PA have been involved in a number of fundraising activities this year including the book and uniform sale and the highly successful table quiz. They have also generously sponsored the new benches in our school yard. I would also like to thank the PA for their practical support in catering for events such as the recent TY play.

At a national level too there have been significant changes during the last year. The new general allocation model for Supporting Students with Special Educational Needs in Mainstream Schools is now in place. This new model changes the way that this support is delivered to students, with a move away from the practice of withdrawing students from their class group and towards a more inclusive approach involving in-class support and team teaching. These changes are to be welcomed as they allow for greater inclusion and allow for students to learn from their peers.

For the last couple of years there has been a lot of focus on the new junior cycle particularly with regard to the changes to teaching and learning and assessment. And, in a way, the new Junior Cycle is also rapidly becoming the new normal. Part of the new junior cycle involves a programme of Wellbeing. There is overwhelming evidence that students learn more effectively, if they are happy in their work, believe in themselves, and feel school is supporting them. However, I think that any teacher, parent or student could tell you that. Indeed, one of the things that is most often said to me by parents and guardians in relation to their children is “we just want them to be happy”. And schools have a very important role in this. The national guidelines for wellbeing list six indicators of wellbeing. They are that pupils should be Active, Responsible, Connected,
Resilient, Respected and Aware and as part of our school plan we will be looking at ways to continue to help all of our students to reach these goals.

Our new building is not the only significant change that has occurred in the last year. The other big change has been in pupil numbers, the school is now bigger than ever, with 200 pupils. And, this is due to rise to 220 in September. Since the school entered the free education scheme in 2015 we have become dependent on state funding for our school. The allocation of financial resources, teacher allocation and learning support resources are closely linked to the number of pupils enrolled in the school and this is why the increase in numbers has been so important. Increased pupil numbers also allow us to broaden our curriculum. This year’s first year students have been introduced to three new subjects: Classics, Digital media & literacy and Coding we also hope to be able to expand the senior cycle curriculum in the coming years. Increased numbers also bring a larger pool of pupils for school activities, particularly extra-curricular activities and sports. So, in one sense, bigger is better but we are still a small school and the sense of community traditionally associated with our small school is something we continue to place a high value on.

One of the highlights of last year was our participation in the Dublin Culture Connects project, a project that encourages young people to respond to their surroundings through creative writing and poetry. One of the poems to come out of the project was a joint venture written by a number of our second year students. The poem entitled Dublin is.. featured in displays on Dublin Bus shelters last summer and a selection of lines from the poem are now displayed on the walls and windows of the Kevin Street Building. During the project our students worked closely with Enda Wyley. And we are delighted to have Enda here with us today to present the prizes.

Enda is a poet and a children’s author. She has published five collections of poetry. Her poetry has been widely broadcast, translated and anthologised. Enda was the inaugural winner of the Vincent Buckley Poetry Prize for which she was Poet in Residence in Melbourne University. She has received many Arts Council Literature Bursaries for her writing and her poems have featured on the Leaving Cert English poetry course! Enda’s books for children from O’Brien Press are Boo and Bear and The Silver Notebook. Her book I Won’t Go to China! was awarded a Reading Association of Ireland Special Merit Award in 2011. In March 2015 Enda was elected to Aosdána, which celebrates artists who have contributed to the culture of Ireland.

We will hear from Enda in a moment but before I finish, I would like to thank all those that keep our school running on a daily basis: Our cleaning staff, Siyka and Milena and our administrative staff, Avril, Heather and David.

I would also like to give a special word of thanks to all the teachers of the Grammar school, for everything that they do for the children in our care. For their commitment to pastoral care and to extra-curricular activities. For embracing the many changes that they are faced with and for coming up with new ideas or new ways to do things. They display great enthusiasm for what they do and it seems that no matter what they have to face, they face it with good humour.
Form 6

Back Row: L Gaffney-Muxidin, T Walsh, L McGaughran, C Neylon, D Freeman, R McGinley, C Lally, C Martin, J Lalor-Zakrzewski,

Middle Row: J keogh, D Iyanuolywa Adeniji, J Freeman, K Honer, A Abdul, S Byrne, J Halpin, P Ryder


First Year in 2013
Fifth Year
Back row: A Carroll, D Walsh, S Ryan, P Ogbata, D Starikov, J Andrews, L Timmins, B Hennessy, M Fu, S Barsoum
Middle Row: D Cole, Z McConnell, D Brothers, D Ajisafe, M Dundan-Hanan, J Sweeney, E Fox, C Tyndall, L Gaynor

Fourth year
Back row: E Grgeta, C Maguire, K Honer, R Middleton, C Whittaker, D Woods, A Butler, J Roe-Dwyer, J Parminter, A Akpotor
Middle Row: C Dineen, S Learat, R Guy, A O'Shaughnessy Ward, S Arshad, K Kennedy, M Bulow-McCormick, B Gleason, J Bartschi,
Front Row: L Ryan, A Murphy, V Bundhoo, Z Janota, N Farrell, L Donohoe, R O'Connor, J Yusuf, S Ni Cheirigh S Moussa,
Absent – Michael Kelly
Third Year


Second Year

Back row: U Brennan, T Brunel, S Fox, J McAuley-Pratt, J McCann, L Collier, M McDonnell
Third row: C Carey, J Farrell, R Downey, S Gleason, A Darcy, O Dineen, R Akpotor, S Ogbata
Second Row: D O’Sullivan, G Caprani Monahan, C O’Connor, D Antochi, H Leech, R Murphy, T Byrne, J Yusuf,
Front Row: H Woods, J Quinn, A de Burca, M Tyndall, J Gaynor, Samia McNally, S Moore, I MacDiarmada,
Form 1K
Back row L to R: Mya Lynam, Patricia Imbrisca, Tadhg Moynihan, Cathal Ryan, Aoife Power, Daniel McNally, Oliver Guy, Cameron Marr.
Middle row L to R: Emma Perez, Marsha Kane-Duffy, Heather Sweeney, Alexandra Medves, Oisin Stokes, Troy Dowler, Reece Boylan.
Front Row L to R: Andrew Morales Espana, Mia Crotty, Lilac Carters, Lilas Bailey, Joanna Garland, Siri Basani, Luke Cruickshank, Kevin Honer