

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome once again to our annual Yearbook. This academic year was passing off relatively quietly until the beginning of March when the global pandemic, Covid-19, arrived on these shores. What happened subsequently was beyond our wildest imaginations and a new way of life became the norm for us all. Phrases such as "social-distancing" and "self-isolation" were to be heard everywhere as we adapted to the challenges posed by the virus. It was everyone's hope that as a school community we would remain safe from the horrors of the virus but alas that was not to be the case. In late April word filtered through that 6th Year student, Sally Maaz, had very sadly passed away. This was a real hammer-blow to us all but particularly to Sally's grieving family. Sally was a wonderful young person who was a joy to have in our school. We felt helpless as we could not recognise Sally's passing in the usual ways due to the Covid-19 restrictions. However, the tributes that emerged online on our Facebook page were testament to the esteem in which Sally was held by both students and staff alike. We extend our deepest sympathies to her family and friends, may she Rest in Peace.



We also lost a much-loved member of our school community last summer. We had just broken up for the holidays when we received the very sad news of Callum Casey's passing. Callum was a fine young man with huge potential. He was popular with both students and staff alike and news of his untimely passing knocked us all back on our heels. There was a huge outpouring of grief and from that emerged a tremendous sense of solidarity which sustained us all throughout the year. Again, I want to extend our deepest sympathies to Callum's family and friends, may he Rest in Peace. These tragedies certainly put things into perspective. But life, and school life particularly, is relentless and we have had to move along even though it felt at times that we shouldn't. The pandemic has posed huge challenges to Irish society and of course the education sector has had to make huge changes to adapt to the new reality. "Distance-Learning" became the buzz word in educational sectors as students and teachers scrambled to keep pace with the evolving situation. This has undeniably created huge anxiety for many, particularly the State Exam Cohorts, and it has made an already challenging time even more stressful. The JC students eventually got some clarity late in the day with the cancellation of the exams. As I write the LC Exams are scheduled for late July. However, there remains huge speculation about this timing which I am sure is adding to already elevated stress levels. I hope definitive timelines emerge as soon as possible.

In many respects the last academic year has been the time when the school's new facilities became part of daily life for both students and staff in BCS. While some loose ends still remain to be attended to the school is at substantial completion and we can look to the future with ambition and confidence. The one thing that struck me throughout the year is the way that we move on so quickly and assimilate what is new into our daily routine. This is of course how it should be. We can never be satisfied with where we are – we must always strive for improvement and attempt to move onto the next level. I look forward to working with all the stakeholders in the next number of years as we continue to grow and flourish. The last academic year was the first for almost 20 years without the irrepressible Ms. Eva Brogan by our side. Eva was greatly valued in BCS by both students and staff alike. Eva was a wonderful teacher of Irish and Geography but was also a committed teacher outside of the classroom. Eva did much to raise awareness of environmental matters amongst our students and was always available to assist with any initiative undertaken by the school. It is fair to say that her boundless energy and enthusiasm rubbed off on all who were fortunate enough to meet with her during her time in BCS. As a colleague in the Geography Department I always found Eva to be supportive and generous; the innate qualities of a true team player. On my appointment as Principal those qualities were once more in evidence and I would like to thank Eva for her loyalty and support during these years. As Principal I would meet with Eva weekly in her role as Year Head. What always struck me was her commitment to the welfare of her students and her commitment to doing her work with the greatest amount of care possible. Although Year Head meetings can be serious affairs there was always with Eva, the opportunity to see the lighter side of life and one always left her company in better form than before. We will miss her good humour and boundless "Joie de Vivre" I would like to take this opportunity to wish Eva, her husband Greg and their family the very best in the years ahead.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the contributions made to BCS by Ms. Aine Whelan and Fr. Joe Cooney who sadly passed away in the past year. Aine was the school's PE Teacher for almost 30 years and was also synonymous with the school's musicals. Fr. Joe was the school's Chaplain and also served on the Board for many years. Both made significant contributions to the tapestry of life in BCS and the school was greatly enhanced by their presence. On my own behalf and on behalf of all in BCS I wish to extend our sincere condolences to their loved ones. May they Rest in Peace. I want to pay tribute to Mr. Ginty for his hard work in compiling this excellent publication. This is a difficult task at the best of times but this year he had to contend with the Corona Virus outbreak which greatly complicated matters. But as always, he rose to the challenge and I wish to commend him for his efforts once again. He was, as always, ably assisted by a terrific team of students who can also take great pride from being involved in such a wonderful project. A special thanks to Fr. Farragher and Mr. McGarry who are responsible for most, if not all, of the pictures in the magazine. Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes to our Leaving Certificate students who will be starting their own life journeys next year. We wish them health and happiness in whatever path they ultimately find themselves on. I sincerely hope the values and wisdom they have acquired here will sustain them in whatever challenges they may face in the years ahead.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. EVA BROGAN ON HER RETIREMENT

People often say "a picture paints a thousand words" and this photograph taken on a sunny September morning sums up the legend that is Mrs. B. She is young at heart, quick witted and has a fantastic sense of fun – all the magic ingredients that made Mrs. B a hugely popular member of staff - the staffroom is not the same without her! Eva, enjoy your retirement you've earned it.



Geography and Irish Department

It has been an honour and privilege to have known and worked with Eva Brogan. Eva is a very considerate, caring and compassionate person with a trojan work ethic. She was an inspiration to all in the Geography department. She was always willing and eager to help when we needed support and guidance irrespective of her own busy schedule. Eva was a most knowledgeable geography teacher. She was much admired and praised by her students. Eva was a very committed teacher who took an individual interest in all her students. She challenged her students and in the process taught them the joy of learning, helped shape their careers and their successes. Eva was an invaluable member of the staff and Geography team here at B.C.S. She taught me (Ms. K. Phillips) geography when I was a student here myself and when I started in B.C.S as a geography teacher I found her to be so kind and welcoming. Eva had an incredible rapport among staff and students alike. I remember talking to one of her 1st year classes one day and they said "Ms. Brogan is the best, we have great craic in class but we also learn a lot while we are at it." This is the perfect way to characterise Eva as a teacher.

Ms. K. Phillips.

Eva always believed in bringing the teaching and learning to the great outdoors. She always wanted students not only to learn from a textbook but from their own experiences, from Croagh Patrick to the Aran Islands. Eva was in her element experiencing it all with the students, passing on her world of knowledge to them all.

Ms. A. Varden.

Eva was excellent as head of the Geography Department. She was the person to whom all in the Geography faculty turned to whenever we needed a problem solved. She gave selflessly beyond the call of duty to various activities in B.C.S – but particularly to the Green schools committee. On a personal note, Eva has been a great friend to me. Her generosity and class prep. chats have been second to none. Thanks Eva for your kindness and friendship over the years. I will miss our chats (all Geographical of course!). Eva was a true and loyal friend to all and her many acts of kindness were appreciated by students and staff alike. Eva had a great ability to find humour in serious situations. She had a wonderful sense of humour. She was on hand to celebrate with us in the good times and comfort us in the bad. You are one in a million, Eva. I miss you greatly.

Ms. G. Cunniffe.

On behalf of the Geography Teachers we would like to thank Eva for her help and support over the years. She gave willingly of her time to help organise fieldtrips, working on subject plans together, sharing of resources and knowledge, her wonderful sense of humour and her calming presence. You are greatly missed. To conclude we would like to take this opportunity to wish Eva a long and happy retirement with her husband, Greg and family.

Geography Department.

EVA BROGAN

Ba mhór an onóir dúinn aithne a bheith againn ar ár gcomhghleacaí Eva, mar mhúinteoir agus cara. Ní hionadh é mar sin go raibh ár gcroíthe trom le brón nuair a d'fhógair sí go ag éirí as a post.

As a colleague and a teacher, Eva Brogan was considerate, caring and compassionate. Eva was a person who provided you with solid, logical and professional advice whenever it was needed. She was never too busy to listen when one needed support or guidance. Eva always gave encouragement and this instilled confidence in her colleagues and her students.

Eva provided each colleague in the Irish Department both new and old with generosity, hospitality and friendship. Eva always brought the fun factor to the table and no matter what, when she was present you were guaranteed a real laugh!!

Eva loved teaching, she had a great 'grá' for the Irish language and this was always evident in her classroom. Eva possessed all the characteristics of a great teacher, she had the amazing gift of being able to engage even the most reluctant of students. Eva always identified with the students' background and had the ability to explain the Irish language effortlessly and simply. She always knew how to bring out the best in her students, striking the perfect balance between getting the work done and ensuring the students enjoyed her class. Eva had a depth of knowledge and she inspired both inside and outside the classroom. Eva has left a big legacy, one that each of us will lean on for many years to come, Eva, you will be sorely missed by all in the Irish Department.

A Eva, guímid o chroí gach rath sonas agus sláinte mhaith ort i do shaol amach anseo
Roinn na Gaeilge

BCS STAFF 2019/20



Back row (L-R): David Mitchell, Micheal Ginty, Ann Varden, Michael Murray, Padraic Shannon

2nd from back (L-R): Orla Phillips, Colm Caulfield, Claire Lawless, Colin Quinn, Gillian Madden, Josephine Loftus, John Madden, Sean McHugh, Olive Lyons.

2nd from front (L-R): Marian Phelan, Anna Henry, Sinead Niland, Siobhan Garvey, Aishling O'Brien, Kirsty Phillips, Mary Mooney, Sharon Mulroy, Sharon Gibbons, Francis Gormley.

Front row (L-R): Aine Fallon, Bernie Osgood, Raymond Woolley, Justina Lyons, David McDonagh, Patrick Noone, Antoinette Lennon, Caroline Burns.

Missing from photo: Orla Macken, Anne Marie O'Reilly, Anne Marie Walsh, Aoife Keane, Bernadine Waldron, Carmel Cox, Colleen Hayes, Catriona Murphy, Catherine Monaghan, Eadaoin Flynn, Geraldine Cuniffe, Grainne Glavey, Genny Murray, Geraldine O'Loughlin, Karen Moran, Máiread Conway, Nicola Nolan, Patricia Hargaden-Whyte, Patrick McGarry, Paul Lawless, Paul Ryan, Siobhan Mannix, Patricia Gaughan, Gerry Glavey, Dermot O'Sullivan

A WORD FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

Ms Burns

Life is so unpredictable. It constantly surprises us, and we cannot control what will happen to us, no matter how hard we try or how much we want to. Who would have thought that our lives would change so much this year? There we were, working away at school, meeting our friends and teachers, and getting on with the day-to-day challenges of life – exams, homework, relationships, sports matches, hobbies, so many things which filled our busy days. And then our world was turned upside down by something beyond our control – the Covid-19 virus. Now, as I write this message, our whole country – in fact our whole world – is trying to manage life in these uniquely challenging times, separating ourselves from others and following the advice of government ministers and medical experts. It can seem very scary and overwhelming sometimes, especially as we hear daily reports of people becoming seriously ill and even dying from this terrible virus. This is a time when we are all being challenged. The big question is: Can we rise to this challenge?

My message to you at this time is this: you are not alone. You are never alone. Even though we are all living lives of separation now, we are linked together with ties that cannot be broken. We can communicate with each other online or by phone. We have to adapt and overcome all of the challenges we face in life. This is just another one of the many challenges we will encounter. We are not alone because God is always with us. He holds us in his the palm of his hand. Moreover, God works through you and me. Every time we offer kindness and support to someone else, God is there, working through us. The best way to feel better about things yourself is to help others. That is what makes being part of a community so special.

BCS has a reputation for being a special community which cares and responds to challenges with courage and integrity. At this time, which can sometimes seem dark, let your light shine for others to see. Do things which help your classmates, your friends, and family. As you try to adjust to studying at home, try your very best to meet this new challenge. Reach out to others – your teachers, parents, friends – when you need to talk about things. Be a listening ear to others when they are struggling. Together, we can get through this tough time and come out the other side stronger and wiser. Life is unpredictable. It is full of challenges. Together, in God's love and care, we will overcome them all.

Let Your Light Shine

Make Your Life The Best It Can Be

*Each day is a blank page in the
Diary of Your Life.*

*The pen is in your hand, but the lines will not all be
written the way you choose,
some will come from the world and the circumstances
that surround you.*

*The secret of your life is in making your story as beautiful
as it can be.*

*Write the diary of your days and fill the pages with
words that come from the heart.*

*As the pages take you through time, you will discover
paths that add to your happiness and your sorrows,
but if you can be aware of a Greater Hand guiding
yours as you write there will always be hope in your
tomorrows.*

*Follow your dreams. Work hard.
Be Kind.*

*Remember goodness will reward.
Smiles will pay you back.*

NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER



In November, the whole school community remembered those friends, family members, and colleagues who passed away this year. We thought of them with love and respect. The sacred space was a place to pause and think about our dearly departed loved ones. A special Book of Remembrance was made available for all to read and contribute to, by writing in the names of those who have died and a little message to them or prayer for them. The great respect shown for this sacred space and special book was a sign of our wonderful school community.

Ms Burns

ÁINE WHELAN – A TRIBUTE

Anna Henry

I was greatly saddened, but not altogether surprised, by the news of Áine's passing on October 9th. We had known for some months that her health was in decline, and I must say I really admired the way in which she coped with this difficult situation. On one of my last visits with her, she asked myself and Siobhán to do the music for her funeral mass. Although she looked quite frail and weak, her mind was still very strong and she betrayed no sense of feeling sorry for herself. I first met Áine in September 1991. Within two weeks I was on a bus to Achill with her for a weekend of outdoor pursuits with the then 4th year students. I have no doubt that many of our past students and teachers have fond memories of these weekends! Another great love of Aine's was music, in particular musical theatre. She was a wonderful choreographer, not only in school musicals but also in the Ballyhaunis Musical Society, of which she was a founder member. Áine was very generous with her time, and even came to our house to teach my husband how to tap-dance for his role in 'Calamity Jane'!

Áine had a great appreciation of food and the art of socialising. She was a wonderful hostess and loved entertaining visitors to her home. She was famous for her beef stroganoff and garlic potatoes. Staff members both past and present will fondly recall many great nights in Aine's company.

I wish to convey my sympathy to Aine's family, particularly to Vera who looked after her so well in her final months. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam uasal.



BCS ORIGINAL STAFF



Original Staff Photo – Ballyhaunis Community School 1977 / 1978

Back row l-r: Pat Higgins, Micheal Smyth, Chris Pratt, John Cleary, Fr. Michael Lyons, Michael Murren, Aidan Kelly, Vincent Healy, Fr. Des Walsh, Morgan Jennings, Anto O'Malley RIP, Matt O'Dwyer RIP, Michael Glynn RIP, Hugh Rudden.

Middle row l-r: Jarlath Fahy, Terry Coleman, Sr. Teresina Daly, Rene Burke, Imelda McGreal, Sr. Dolores Bowden, Patricia Waldron RIP, Sr. Joan Fahey, Helen Hurley, Aine Whelan RIP, Sr. Assumpta Flannery RIP, Tom Grogan, Ray Charles, Patsy Noone.

Front row l-r: Sally Higgins, Mary Neenan, Maura Griffin RIP, Jim Higgins, Teresa Lynskey, Eddie Thornton RIP, Fr. Francis McMyler RIP, Brid Whyte, Mary Freeley RIP, Christy Ruane, Sr. Margurite Togher.

A TRIBUTE TO FR. JOE COONEY

O. Macken

In writing this tribute I'll avoid using Fr. Joe's official title as he didn't like the title Canon, he used to joke "Once you become a Canon you cease to be a person as people start referring to you as "The Canon"! Fr. Joe Cooney was not only parish priest of Ballyhaunis he was also very much part of the fabric of our school community as he served as sacramental chaplain from 2003 until his retirement in 2011. He also served on the Board of Management for many years where he took his responsibilities seriously and could be relied upon to offer advice that was always sound and sensible. Fr. Joe was first and foremost a deeply religious man who had a marvellous capacity with words. His homily at the annual Graduation Mass was always powerfully expressed with a firm conviction of the importance of faith especially for our young people. He captured the essence of the moment and his advice to the leaving certs who were about to move on into the wider world was always sincere and from the heart.



"If you stand for nothing you fall for everything". These words expressed how he truly believed how important it was for young people to have a faith and to be true to it, to rely on it and most importantly to be proud of it. He delivered these words with the perfect mixture of humour and seriousness and when he spoke he commanded the attention of everyone in the room. You knew that Fr Joe cared and that he meant every word that he said. He willingly attended for confessions in the school at both Christmas and Easter, and long after he had retired, he sat for several hours because he knew that it was important to remain in touch with young people and encourage them to practice their faith for as long as possible. Fr. Joe had the ability to appreciate the events that were important to young people in a way that people many years younger did not. Fr. Joe passed away from this life on March 20th just at the beginning of the restrictions introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and unfortunately there wasn't an opportunity to pay tribute and honour him the way he truly deserved. Fr. Joe's passing is a happy release for him, but it is tinged with sadness for those of us who knew and loved him as we recognise that we have lost a genuinely good person and a friend. Fr. Joe has earned his heavenly place with God, our prayer is that he continues to be a beacon of light and hope for us from his new eternal home.

God rest his gentle soul. Ar dhéis De go raibh a anam dlís.

1ST YEAR



1A

Back Row(l-r): Aidan Culliney, Lauren Clancy, Alicia Aylward, Oisín Casey, Jason Burke, Clara Byrne, Stas Vaitiekus, Simon Reilly.

Middle Row(l-r): Sophia Balbino Romao, Jennifer Polhosova, Gabriele Bacyte, Mahommed Ridwaan Alom, Jarlath Concannon, Ava Brennan, Patrick Culliney.

Front Row(l-r): Shane Clarke, Julia Buczak, Callum Lyons, Dylan Groarke, Maeve Caulfield, Eva Casey, Harry Coyle

Missing from photo: Aishat Ashu Egbe, Kyle Scattrel Kamba.



1B

Back Row(l-r): Siam Raihan, Aaron Thomas Kelly, Jovana Drobic, Sarah Gill, Jason Kelly, PJ Grealley, Shane Flanagan, Edel Fleming, Laura Flanagan.

Middle Row(l-r): Shane Finnegan, Marwa Lubna, Ruth Grealley, Cathy Grealley, Laoise Grealley, Madison Glavey, Matthew Delaney.

Front Row(l-r): Callum Mitchell, Dalla Rahmani, Éabha Delaney, Fionn Delaney, Matthew Elwood, Cullen Glavey, Micheál Fleming.

Missing from photo: Michael McDonagh



1C

Back Row(l-r): Nathan O'Toole, Oskar Chownacki, Fintan Mulrennan, Alex Leva, Pdraig Murphy, Darragh Ganley, Martin Keely.

Middle Row(l-r): Jason Kavanagh, Keeva Hunt, Serena Henry, Abbey Jennings, Fernanda Nunes, Emily Pereira Silva, Alind Hameed, Sophia Marques, Jasmine Jurakova.

Front Row(l-r): Jennifer Da Silva, Mahreen Asif, Sara Cancarevic, Edward Hickman, David Owusu, Cora Hurley, Julie Lecky

Missing from photo: Caitlin Keadin.



1D

Back Row(l-r): Paulina Koralewska, Leah Rogers, Sarah Dee, Shannon Moylan, Áine Mannion, Ryan McGowen Gleeson, Alex Fitzmaurice.

Middle Row(l-r): Iqra Tahir Mahmood, Eva McDonagh, Niamh Murphy, Derry óg Cox, Charlie Johnston, Oisín Kelly, James Hussey.

Front Row(l-r): Alesha McGarry, Ella Morley, Tadhg Moore, Seamus McDonagh, Seán McGuire, Bradley Lynch Burke, Aaron McWalter.

Missing from photo: Lydia Gannon, Jack Kelly, Emils Laureckis, Carlagh Peake, Jamie McGuire



1E

Back Row(l-r): Ethan Henry, Shane Gallagher, Yuzdzhann Ismailov, Emma Doran, Séan Wallace, Desmond Yobouet, Grainne Waldron.

Middle Row(l-r): Noor Ui Aman, Nikas Aravicius, Ava Padfield, Orláith Regan, Rebekah Monaghan, Sinéad O'Neill, Elizabeth Burcovski, Orla Smith.

Front Row(l-r): Paige O'Reilly, Dean Reidy, Sam Tynan, Carlos Lima Rocha, Lucy Phillips, Fiza Shoaib.

Missing from photo: Kate Tener, Oskar Dorosz, Kelley Ronan.

1ST YEAR TALENT SHOW

The annual First Year Talent Show was held on March 3rd. There were a variety of acts this year, ranging from Irish dancing to traditional musicians, to singers and contemporary dancers. The Judging Panel consisted of teachers Mr. Noone and Mrs. Henry, and TY students Raif Costello and Victoria Burcovski. The Show was opened by the Second Year music class, performing a mashup of "Counting Stars" and "Timber", as well as their rendition of Ed Sheeran's "Castle On The Hill". Following the Second Years was Carlagh Peake, singing John Legend's "All of Me". Next up was David Owusu, who danced to Michael Jackson, as the audience cheered him on. As the show went on, we saw a wide variety of acts from the First Year Students. Alind Hameed performed an incredible piece of Turkish Music on the Saz, before taking to the stage again a short time later with Mohammed Alom, performing a hilarious and impressive Variety Dance. Sinead O' Neill and Ella Morley wowed the crowd with their amazing Irish Dancing piece. The Culliney twins Aidan and Patrick then took to the stage, performing "Whistling Banshee" on Irish traditional instruments. Sofia Balbino Romao, Jennifer Da Silva, Fernanda Nunes and Emily Pereira Silva gave us their interpretation of several viral dances. To close out the show, Elizabeth Burcovski and Cathy Greally performed "Eleanor Plunkett" on the harp and accordion respectively. After the final act the Judges made the tough decision of choosing the results. In first place was Sinead O' Neill & Ella Morley with their Irish Dancing. In second place was Alind Hameed & Mahommed Alom with their Variety Dance and in third place was Carlagh Peake, who sang "All of Me". The Talent Show was a great success, and raised just short of €300 for Pieta House.



Judges



Winners Ella Morley
and Sinead O'Neill
with
Ms. Grainne Glavey

1ST YEAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

Louise Cox

We started off the year well with an amazing turnout of over 30 girls coming out to our first training. Most of the girls had never played basketball before so they struggled at first but were good listeners and improved quickly. After a few weeks of training their first match came around against Ballinrobe. The girls were nervous since it was their first match but they did their trainers and themselves proud beating Ballinrobe by an outstanding 20 points. This gave the girls some much needed confidence in themselves which they needed before their group stage matches and this was vital going forward. The girls continued to train and improve their skills until the day came when we played a strong Foxford side at home. They had a rocky start but soon got more comfortable and dominated the game with standout performances of Sinead O'Neill and Katie Madden scoring baskets to secure the win. The girls beat Foxford 39 to 18. The next match wasn't going to be an easy one as they were going for their first away match of the year against Westport. Westport were tough competition and it was a nail-biting match to watch and went down to the last moments to decide who would win. In the last moments both sides were level. There was a foul on Serena Henry and that meant we had free throws which she scored at ease putting us back in the lead. The girls scored one more basket before the final whistle and the final score was 23-19.

Unfortunately, before we could compete in the Connaught regional semi-final as schools around the country were closed. However, we know the girls would have continued to dominate games and done us proud as they did all year. We loved every minute of training the girls and we are confident this team has the potential to win titles next year. Thank you so much to the girls for their participation, never-ending determination and enthusiasm throughout the year and a big thanks to their coach Ms Niland for taking time out of her schedule to train the girls. We would also like to thank Ms Lawless who was also a great help throughout the year.



back row (left to right) : Ms. Niland, Laoise Grealy , Jovana Drobic, Leah Rogers , Lydia Gannon, Aine Mannion, Shannon Moylan , Kate Tener, Maeve Donnellan, Orlaith Coffey, Louise Cox

Front row: Rebekah Monaghan , Serena Henry, Sinead O'Neill, Katie Madden, Carlagh Peake, Aleesha McGarry, Cathy Grealley.

1ST YEAR BOYS BASKETBALL

For the first year boys learning the skills of basketball was a difficult task. There were just a few short weeks of training before they had a match so the pressure was on to learn the skills and the rules of the game as many had not played before. There was huge interest from the start as 45 first years made their way out to the first training session all eager to get playing a match.

The aim in first year is to try to be as inclusive as possible while also remaining competitive and we really got the balance right here allowing a huge amount of students to experience the skills required for the game as well as the atmosphere in the hall during a match. The students who did make it onto the court did the school proud with a great performance against Ballinrobe losing out by a single basket in a game that they dominated and led in for the majority of the game. Even the referee could not believe Ballyhaunis came out on the losing side. As runner up in the group Ballyhaunis were now in a Regional semi final.

In this game Ballyhaunis again dominated in the entire first half but only had a slender one basket lead. This was to prove their downfall as the lads lost to Abbey Community College, Boyle again by a single basket. A little more match practice and some better shooting could have seen this team go further and there are real green shoots for the future of Ballyhaunis Basketball.

Squad that travelled to Boyle: Shane Clarke, Derry Og Cox, Sean McGuire, Ethan Henry, Jack Kelly, Charlie Johnson, Oisín Casey, David Owusa, Jarlath Concannon, Shane Gallagher, PJ Greally, Oisín Kelly, Oskar Chownacki

BONDING DAY

A bonding retreat day was arranged for all first-year students to get to know and mix with each other. We travelled in two buses to Esker and, when we arrived, Carmel and the team made us feel very welcome. Then we were divided into two even groups of girls and boys, so we had a chance to work together with people we didn't usually talk to on a daily basis. We then completed several activities to encourage us to connect with the members of our group. The games we played helped our socialising skills. After a while, we were treated to some tea and biscuits. After our bonding time, the two groups divided into four smaller groups. We went into a room, discussed our hobbies and ourselves, and played more games that were fun. We then went into another room, met up with our friends again, enjoyed our packed lunches, and chatted about our day. We arrived back home at around 4:30 pm. After the day, we realised that we knew more people from our year and felt more confident to speak with the people in our class and other classes. This retreat was fabulous and helpful to all students who attended. We recommend this retreat to all students who are new to this school and want to bond in an enjoyable way. A big thank you goes to the teachers who attended the trip with us: Ms Burns, Mr Gormally, Ms Mooney, Ms Waldron, and Ms Walsh. A special thank you goes to the 16 terrific mentors who helped and supported us throughout the day.



ST. BRIGID'S DAY & ASH WEDNESDAY

To celebrate the feast day of St Brigid, first year students made St Brigid's crosses. Micheál Fleming kindly provided the reeds for the workshop and the results were terrific. Much fun was had by all involved as we remembered our special Irish saint. The first years then surprised special members of the school community by giving them the crosses to take home as a gift.



OUR CANTEEN PARTNERS - CASTLE CATERING

Gormley Castle Catering Ltd. t/a

Food for School

Phone Gerradine: 087 2792070 or Margaret: 086 8778252
Email: info@foodforschool.ie Web: www.foodforschool.ie

The School Catering Experts with over 20 years in the School Sector

Nurturing bright minds starts with fuelling active bodies.
We believe that everyone deserves access to high quality food made with carefully considered ingredients. We believe in food that tastes good, food that promotes growth and development.
We stand for food you can feel good about because our kids deserve nothing less.







Healthy Meals & Snacks
Food for School delivers a customised food catering and school canteen service to secondary colleges and schools.
We focus on making our meals and snacks nutritious and healthy in line with dietary requirements for growing bodies and minds.

Sample Menus	Prices from
Homemade Scones with Jam and Butter	€1.00
Homemade Brown Bread and Butter	1 Slice: 50c
Homemade Soup	Small Cup €1.00 Large Cup €2.00
Plain Roll with Butter	€1.00
Hot Chicken Roll	€3.00
Paninis	€3.00
Selection of filled Rolls	€3.00
Selection of Hot Rolls	€3.00
Chicken Goujons Wraps	€3.00
Filled Wraps	€3.00
Selection of freshly Made Sandwiches	€2.50
Tea	€1.00
Coffee	€1.00
Milk	€1.00
Water	€1.50 for Litre €1.00 for 500mls 50c for 250mls
Fresh Fruit Cup	€2.00
Melon Cup	€2.00
Fruit Salad Cup with Granola & Natural Yogurt	€2.00
 Lunch Break	
A choice of 3 Lunch Specials Daily	Small €4.00 Large €5.00
 An Example of our Lunch Specials:	
Loin of Bacon and Cabbage with Potato	
Roast Chicken with Veg and Potato	
Pasta Bolognaise	
Chicken Curry with Rice	
Chicken Stir Fry with Rice	
Roast Turkey and Ham with Veg and Potato	
Homemade Baked Lasagne with Veg and Potato	
Breaded Chicken Fillet with Pepper Sauce with Veg and Potato	
Cottage Pie with Vegetable and Potato	
Chicken and Vegetable Pie with Vegetable and Potato	
Homemade Cod Goujons with Veg and Potato	
Chicken and Pasta Bake	
Beef Stew with Veg and Potato	
 Cold Meat Salads	
	Small Plate €4.00 Large Plate €5.00

We can also cater for special dietary requirements on request





THE CUBE

Our first years got to take part in this great bonding exercise during Wellness Week. Well done to Mr. Wooley, Mr. Lawless and TY's for organising the event.



1ST YEAR GAELIC

Congratulations to our 1st Year Boys Gaelic side who progressed to the Connaught semi-final stage after a hard fought victory over St. Brendan's, Belmullet. We went in at half time two points down, after playing against a strong breeze and a very spirited Belmullet side. However, a dominant second half display saw the BCS lads score some very well taken goals and points and kept the opposition scoreless throughout, to emerge victorious.



Back-row, left to right: Oisín Kelly, Grace Greally, Shane Flanagan, Fintan Mulrennan, Sam Tynan, Mahommed Alom, Charlie Johnston, PJ Greally, Jarlath Concannon, Shane Clarke, Derry Og Cox, Oisín Kelly, Desmond Yobouet, Shane Gallagher, Cullen Glavey, Padraic Murphy, Bradley Lynch Burke, Stas Vaitiekus, Mr. Lawless

Front-Row, left to right: Seamus McDonagh, James Hussey, Alind Hameed, Sean McGuire, Dylan Groarke, Matthew Delaney, Jack Kelly, Fionn Delaney, Matthew Elwood, Oisín Casey, Micheál Fleming, Aaron McWalter

Missing from photo: Ethan Henry, Tadgh Moore, Darragh Ganley, Nathan O'Toole

MATHS WEEK

As part of Maths week our 1st Years took part in a 'Figure Me Out' poster competition. After some fantastic efforts the prize winners were; Stas Vaitiekus, Fiza Shoaib, Aishat Ashu Egbe, Serena Henry, Jovana Drobic, Eabha Delaney, Charlie Johnson, Alesha McGarry. The winners of our Maths Week puzzles competition were Aaron McWalter, Alex Fitzmaurice, Aadil Rizwan and Micheal Fleming.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Congratulations to Carlagh Peake who continues to add to her list of achievements becoming Champion at the Esker Boxcup

CROSS COUNTRY 2020

On the 23rd of February, 1st and 2nd year students took part in the Cross Country Competition in County Sligo. 23 students participated, and the Minor boys team came an impressive 1st place over all, with top runners from the team Oisín Kelly coming 7th, Shane Gallagher 8th, and Oisín Casey coming 13th. The Minor girls also came 7th as a team overall, with top runners Sinead O'Neill coming 10th, Laoise Greally 19th, and Carlagh Peake coming 35th. With the top 15 runners from each Category and also the boys minor team qualifying for the All Ireland's, the runners headed to Santry, Dublin on March 7th. The boys minor team came 8th overall, with top runners from the team Shane Gallagher coming 55th, Oisín Kelly coming 61st and Oisín Casey coming 66th. Sinead O'Neill also ran after individually qualifying and came 53rd overall.



1ST YEAR WOODWORK

Pictured are first year students with their completed woodwork pieces



BCS IRELAND SUPPORTERS



2ND YEAR



2A

Back Row(l-r): Daire Caulfield, Adam Noone, Matej Stevko, Caolán Boyle, Alicia Cleary, Emma Colleran, Isobel Coggins.

Middle Row(l-r): Katie Carr, Caoilynn Ashe, Chloe Kate Byrne, Erin Mills, Austėja Armonaviciute, Kamile Aleksionaitė, Maheen Amjad.

Front Row(l-r): Erica Byrne, Maryam Ashraf, Roisín Conway, Niki Nikolaev, Abdullah Ashraf, Polly Cox.

Missing from photo: Laura May Allen, Brian Sweeney.



2B

Back Row(l-r): Isabelle Cox, Jacob Flanagan, Michéal Finnegan, Eoghan Conlon, Maeve Flanagan, Kate Doyle.

Middle Row(l-r): Kate Flanagan, Katelyn Coyle, Rianna Prendergast, Alice Curran, Jessalyn Jennings, Shauna Finn, Vanessa Graciová.

Front Row(l-r): Marcus Denning, Jack Delaney, Trystan Folliard, Harrison Collins, Michael Maughan.

Missing from photo: Seán Crawley, Laura Dillon, Éoin Conway, Michaela Fitzmaurice.



2C

Back Row(l-r): Jake Glavey, Siobhán Greene, Daniel Hagney, Senan Guilfoyle, James Flynn.

Middle Row(l-r): Claire Ruane, Stella Gale, Katie Hayden, Ella Gormley, Shannon Hibbitt, Róisín Glynn, Isabelle Henry, Aimee Kerrigan.

Front Row(l-r): Kevin Heelan, Neil Keaveney, Yazmin Harrison, Leah Grealley, Emer Gill, Evan McNamara, Edwards Hámanis.

Missing from photo: Chloe Henry, Annie McDonagh.



2D

Back Row(l-r): Sedra Shawi, Nicole Madoda, Tara Phillips, Aoibhin Lynskey, Cillian Kinnarney, Seán Keadin.

Middle Row(l-r): Emma Lenehan, Leah McDermott, Cara Keaveney, Jack Brennan, Treasa McDermott, Seán Lynskey.

Front Row(l-r): Stefania Sarisska, Ali Keeze, Nicole Kirrane, Maia Phillips

Missing from photo: Conor Henry, Mahad Maqsood, Rhian Keane-Higgins, Jason Lyons



2E

Back Row(l-r): Ghena Shawi, Aoife Ruane, Seán Moran, John Ross Roche, Ríain Murphy-Maitland, James Ronan.

Middle Row(l-r): Victoria Fasanmi, Moon Shabbir, Ahmad Naveed, Kerry Niland, Anna Murray

Front Row(l-r): Rayan Rahmani, Rawan Rahmani, Kéleigh Roddy-Cullen, Colm Rattigan, Ciara Reynolds, Simon Morley..

Missing from photo: Nikita Cleary, Jessica Holmoková, Shannon Morgan, Kian Morley.



2F

Back Row(l-r): Daria Zota, Katarina Strapková, Tehreem Sohail, Ethan Taylor, Adam Walsh, Daniel Sharman.

Middle Row(l-r): Gabriel Alves Ferreira, Conor Walsh, Shanice Sturdy, Vanessa Whelan, Deimantas Uzkuras, Ahmad Zahoor.

Front Row(l-r): Varban Marinov, Isha Younas, Aicha Sakkar, Alice Sullivan, Noor Sharif.

Missing from photo: Ljubo Spajic, Serena Squire Keane, Patrick Ward.

2ND YEAR RETREAT TO KNOCK

At the end of February, 2nd year Religion classes visited Knock on retreat. We were welcomed by our retreat leaders, Nicola and Louise. First we assembled in a circle to introduce ourselves. Once the leaders got to know us, we were divided into groups to take part in activities such as role plays, based on Bible stories. Then these stories were translated into real life situations. We felt more relaxed in each other's presence after this activity. Then, we discussed questions about God, which we answered anonymously. After our lunch break we got on with the second half of the day's activities. These included a tour of Knock Museum, where we found out about how people used to live and the visits of Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis, and a tour of the Basilica and Knock grounds. We learned about the apparition of Our Lady and we were shown the wonderful mosaic that illustrated the story of the apparition. At the end of the day we felt that we had spent time reflecting on God and our religion. We had a great day and bonded with each other. A big thank you goes to Ms Burns and Ms Flynn for going on the retreat with us and to our year heads, Mr Noone and Ms O'Reilly for joining us at lunchtime. Also, our retreat leaders, Nicola and Louise deserve a big thank you from all of us!

SHOE BOX APPEAL

Well done to our 2A Religion class for hosting a very successful Bake Sale in aid of the shoe box appeal. They raised a total of €250. Thank you to all who supported this very worthy cause.



U15 BOYS SOCCER

The u15 soccer team had a short season of ups and downs with four games. They started with two tough games against Summerhill College & St Gerald's where they unfortunately came up short in losing 2-1 and 5-4. With everyone in top form and more clinical finishing it could well have been a different outcome.

The lads didn't drop the heads as they later took on Coláiste Chiaráin in Milebush. With David Smith alongside Oisín Kelly up top they knew where the goals were. Luke Ruane, Senan Guilfoyle and Daniel Hagney were also excellent when tackles needed to be put in and clearances to be made. The subs also made an impact coming off the bench and scoring goals when needed. David Owusu and Sean Brehony certainly made life easier on the boys when coming on and making a difference on the score line. It was an excellent team performance and the game finished 9-0 to Ballyhaunis as Mr Gormally had the homework done and tactics spot on. In our final game against Calasanz College we needed a win to have any hope of progressing out of the group. However, we came unstuck against a strong team in tough conditions.

Although the boys didn't bring back any silverware, they did their school proud and were unlucky to get knocked out early. This team has great potential, and with young lads like Oisín Kelly and Derry Og Cox getting the call up there is sure to be success in the coming seasons. A special thanks to Darragh Flynn, Oisín Kelly & Jack Sullivan for helping and supporting the lads throughout the year.

Panel: Ryan Finn, Luke Ruane, Senan Guilfoyle, Caolan Boyle, Sean Keadin, Daniel Hagney, David Smith, Sean Brehony, Micheal Finnegan, Conor Henry, Yazan Rahmani, Clayton Nolan, John McDonagh, Marcus Denning, Oisín Kelly, David Owusu, Derry Og Cox, Sean Lynskey, Jake Glavey, Sean Crawley

CORONAVIRUS CRISIS: A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Anna Murray

On Thursday, March 12th, life suddenly changed for students nationwide.

Ireland's first coronavirus related death occurred on March 11th, sending the country into a state of shock. The next day it was announced that all schools, colleges and childcare facilities would close, with an initial plan to reopen on March 29th. Talk of the virus was already running through BCS but after we found out the school would close, it was all anyone could talk about. Everyone was wondering if a lockdown would be called, or if we would really be back to school by the end of the month. It was a really nerve-wracking time for most of us, especially people who had family, friends or neighbours who would be at risk.

At the end of that day, we were all leaving school with as many books as we could carry. Some teachers had already assigned some work to start with, others said they would be keeping in touch via Microsoft Teams. Most of us thought we would be back to school in two weeks and we didn't think there was any need for so much work to be assigned to us. We were told to stay safe, stay healthy and work hard. With that, normality came to a close and a new lifestyle began. Our teachers recommended working as though we were still at school, by following a timetable as if we were still going to our classes. So, we all worked from home. I found that some days were tough – it sometimes became too easy to lose focus and just give up working. The days dragged by. In a way, schoolwork felt like it was just optional, even though it wasn't.

Then the lockdown announcement came. It wasn't really a surprise, but I remember just truly realising just how serious this situation was – the world was beginning to shut down. This was a time that would end up in history books. In all honesty, not a whole lot changed when lockdown began. Both of my parents were home full-time, but really the lockdown had already started for us students – we were already staying home, and social distancing, away from our friends and families. That's the hardest part of this whole ordeal – being separated from loved ones at a time like this.

I never thought I would say this, but I miss getting up early to get the bus into school. I miss having a reliable routine that let me see my friends, that let me go out to training and that let me be more than 2 kilometers away from my house.

The new routine is different. Yes, there's still schoolwork, but we can't see our friends and family. At least, not in person. Yeah, we have Facetime, we can text and send pictures to each other - but it's just not the same. A new part of routine has been checking for the numbers, finding out how much the virus has spread.

Everyone has had to make sacrifices for the sake of our safety. But the real heroes of this crisis are the people working in shops like Supervalu, Tesco, Lidl and Aldi, who have been keeping the shelves stocked. The heroes are the doctors and nurses who risk their health and safety to treat people, now more than ever. The heroes are the pharmacists who are selling the medicines that people need to survive, the people who are volunteering at the testing centers, the people who are trying to develop a vaccine. We can all do our parts to help them by self-isolating, washing our hands and only making the trips that are necessary for us. By doing all of these we are reducing the chances of spreading the virus to others.

This crisis will only end if we all stay at home and stay safe and if we do, we will rise above the virus and return to how life was before Thursday, March 12th.

BALLYHAUNIS TABLE TENNIS

Kelan Henry

The year started off with a bang, with the annual school tournament to establish the ladder rankings. Mo Kezze was victorious in the boys final, in a 3-1 thriller that seen one of the sets go to 19-17, and he would win the overall Boys competition. In the girl's tournament, Austeja would prevail and become the table tennis champ for the girls. 1st years boys winner would come in the form of Ethan Henry, and Sinead O'Neill would become the 1st year girls champ.

The annual Centenary cup also took place this year. Ballyhaunis came out strong and has managed to retain the coveted trophy for 3 years in a row now, which is a great achievement. Ballyhaunis were also hopeful of retaining their Connaught titles this year, but unfortunately the year has been cut short due to the coronavirus, meaning the Connaught Championships have been cancelled. It was still a very successful year for the school table tennis club, with a very strong pool of players rising the ranks. The future looks to be very bright for the club, with many more trophies to come for sure!



JUVENILE GAELIC

This year our juvenile boys Gaelic team had a good season. Managed and trained by Mr. Colm Caulfield with the assistance of his TY helpers Jack Madden and Nathan Dee. With the team of over 20 lads winning both their games in the O'Haire competition with great scores against challenging teams such as, Swinford which BCS won 6-8 to 5-1 and against Balla which BCS also won 7-6 to 6-3. These 2 wins led them on to the final, after improving every game, against St Gerald's which they came out on top of to win 6-9 to 1-8 after some beautiful scores and great play and determination. This led them onto the Juvenile league in a high division with their biggest challenge yet against two big teams from Strokestown and Manorhamilton who are a strong team at underage. This led them onto be knocked out of the league with 2 losses after hard battles and unfortunate circumstances.



Juvenile Boys Gaelic 19/20 Team Photo

Back row left to right

Eoghan Conlon, Senan Guilfoyle, Jake Glavey, John McDonagh, Clayton Nolan, Sean Keadin, James Flynn, Daniel Hagney, Sean Crawley, Caolan Boyle, Ryan Finn, Aaron Kelly, David Smith, Micheal Finnegan, Mr. Caulfield

Front row left to right

Marcus Denning, Sean Lynskey, John Ross Roche, Luke Ruane, Conor Henry, Conor Donnellan, Sean Brehony, Evan McNamara, Rhian Keane Higgins

2ND YEAR BOYS BASKETBALL

Second year boys had a really good start in first year and had performed quite well being unlucky not to qualify for the regional final. They wanted to carry on that good form. Unfortunately things got off to a losing start against St. Coleman's, Claremorris. In a close game where all of the team had time on the court Ballyhaunis just missed out by a couple of baskets. This made the second game against Ballinrobe at home a must win game. The team performed really well on the day and came out convincing winners with Micheal Finnegan and Senan Guilfoyle scoring 10 points each. The Second years were just beginning to hit their stride and had a big game in the regional semi final coming up when the Coronavirus restrictions meant all basketball was called off. As with the First years there are green shoots here and the future of BCS boys Basketball looks bright.



Back row: I-R: Rhian Keane-Higgins, Adam Noone, Sean Crawley, Micheal Finnegan, Senan Guilfoyle, Daniel Hagney, James Flynn, Adam Walsh, Patrick Ward

Front row: I-r: Conor Henry, Sean Lynskey, Eoin Conway, Jake Glavey, Caolan Boyle, Eoghan Conlon, Jack Brennan

2ND YEAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

Niamh Duffy and Ellen Tener

Our season began after Christmas and we started with a panel of 30 girls. We had training once a week and the girls had a very good grasp of the game from playing last year with Mrs. Lawless. The girls had their first match against Ballinrobe. This was an extremely close match, but our girls dug deep to come out on top by the small margin of one point. Our next game was against St Joseph's from Foxford. It was another tight match, but the girls persevered and came out on top with a final score of 22-20.

Our final game of the group stage was against Sacred Heart of Westport this was our first away match of the season. Our girls went ready and focused and produced an amazing performance against a very physical Westport team with the final score of 34-22.

With three wins from three this meant our girls topped the group. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 situation the girls didn't get to finish the season. These are an amazing group of girls with a brilliant attitude who have a great passion for the game. Huge thanks to Mrs. Lawless for all her hard work with trainings after school. Her enthusiasm is infectious as the girls can't help but push themselves further after her encouragement, we wouldn't have a team without her support! We would encourage all the girls to keep practicing their skills over the summer and be ready for the third-year season!



Back row(L-R): Mrs. Lawless, Austėja Armonaviciute, Isobel Coggins, Maeve Flanagan, Kate Doyle , Alice Curran, Emma Colleran, Treasa McDermott, Nicole Kirrane

Front Row(L-R): Ellen Tener, Aoibhin Lynskey, Ella Gormley, Shannon Hibbitt, Erica Byrne, Alice Sullivan, Maia Phillips, Niamh Duffy



HENRY MADDEN FUND

Congratulations to our Leaving Cert students who organised and participated in a fancy dress sponsored walk in aid of the Henry Madden Tanzania fund. Kathleen and Henry Madden were presented with a total of €800 by their seven grandchildren, Mr. McDonagh, LC students and Religion teachers Ms. Murphy and Ms. Mulroy. Well done to all involved and thank you to all who sponsored our students.

Pictured l-r: Henry Madden, Darragh Madden, Katie Madden, Henry Madden (Senior) Jarlath Concannon, Kathleen Madden, Darren Concannon, Jack Madden, Laura Madden.



3RD YEAR



3A

Back Row(l-r): Enda Cleary, Josh Cleary, Ethan Cooke, Kian Burke, Harry Fagan, Nathan Byrne, Evan Cleary. **Middle Row(l-r):** Jack Fleming, Noah Walsh, John McDonagh, Ciara Fitzmaurice, Rebecca Klein, Darren Concannon, Dean Coyne, Phillip Costello..

Front Row(l-r): Dagne Kalainaitė, Lilly Duffy, Chloe Kirrane, Saoirse Delaney, Émer Delaney, Mia Fitzmaurice, Caoimhe Delaney.

Missing from photo: Niamh Coyne



3B

Back Row(l-r): Cathal Greally, Pijus Bloze, James Greally, Aadal Ashraf, Ali Ahmad, Fiachra Glavey, Mark Doran.

Middle Row(l-r): Michael Burke, Brendan Cullen, Leigh Fitzpatrick, James Dooney, Aoife Gill, Rebecca Gavin, Jade Groarke, Eva Henry, Amy Fleming.

Front Row(l-r): Conor Donnellan, Eoin Ryan, Oisín Collins, Emily Coffey, Shauna McNamera, Malaaz Hamze.

Missing from photo: Martynka Ubynch, Waleed Sakkar..



3C

Back Row(l-r): Eoghan Duffy, Martin McDonagh, Ryan Finn, Darren Keadin, Ivan Illiev, Phillip Morris, Dylan Golden, Scott Jennings.

Middle Row(l-r): Simona Polhosova, Viktória Lavrovicová, Areeba Shahzadi, Sofia Hopkova, Bisma Maqsood, Shauna Jennings, Geri-Maye Henry, Chanel Marques, Iqra Afzal.

Front Row(l-r): Mark Jordan, Badeer Kezze, Matthew Johnston, Micheál Finn Richardson, Lorna Higgins, Megan Maguire

Missing from photo: Aaron Kelly



3D

Back Row(l-r): Dáire Mcdermott Cunningham, Conor McGuire, Brian McHugh, Cillian Mcdermott Cunningham, Evan McLoughlin, Aadil Rizwan, Asad Munir.

Middle Row(l-r): Darragh Madden, Alannah Morley, Mia Ronane, Alex Coffey, Muhammad Saad Asif, Ahmed Tayyab, Kate Tynan, Yordan Kirchev, John McDonagh.

Front Row(l-r): Matthew Folliard, Rory Regan, Rosie Ganley, Rebecca Mulligan, Nia Murphy, Meadhb Monaghan.

Missing from photo: Nikita Tighe, Darragh Tarmey.



3E

Back Row(l-r): Mohid Shahid, David Smith, Vakaris Vaitiekus, Clayton Nolan, Conor Ruane, Luke Ruane, Seán Brehony

Middle Row(l-r): Aidan Sloyan, Mike Wiktor, Michelle Ryan, Madina Zamir, Roisín Lynskey, Sarah Ronayne, Jessica Gannon, Kaitlyn Maughan.

Front Row(l-r): Zahir Sattar, Yazan Rahmani, Holly Gallagher, Cicely Costello, Ava Walsh, Aoife Loftus.

Missing from photo: Darijus Valciukas, Patrick McDonagh.

BCS CHESS CLUB



3RD YEAR BALLINTUBBER ABBEY RETREAT

The third year students' retreat was held in October with Ms. Phelan and Ms Burns taking the students to Ballintubber Abbey. The atmosphere on the bus to Ballintubber was filled with enthusiasm and anticipation. When we first arrived, we were met at the entrance and given a warm welcome by Fr Frank. As we neared the altar, we genuflected as a sign of respect. Father Frank led us up some stairs to a small room above the altar. We introduced ourselves and played some ice-breaking games to get to know each other better and create a relaxed atmosphere. Father Frank explained the history of the abbey, which was founded by an Irish king in 1216. There was a fire at the abbey in the 1600s, which was the second attempt to destroy it. Father Tom Egan oversaw the renovation of the abbey in the 1960s. We divided into groups, put on wellies and went on our walk. We saw the beautiful grounds of Ballintubber Abbey and got some invigorating fresh air. When we came back, we reflected on our experiences of the retreat. Fr Frank gave us a gift of a special stone. We returned to Ballyhaunis feeling energized, more self-confident, and closer as classmates and friends. Overall, we all had a terrific day and we would recommend this experience to next year's third year students.



3RD YEAR VISIT TO THE FRANCISCAN FRIARY IN GALWAY

Mark Jordan, Megan McGuire, Ivan Iliev and Chanel Marques

On Monday, the 10th February the 3A, 3C and 3E Classes visited the Franciscans in Galway, accompanied by their teachers Ms. Burns, Ms. Fallon and Ms. Phillips. Our aim was to interview the Franciscans for our Religion Journal. When we arrived at the Franciscan Church, we met with Fr. David, who is in charge of the Franciscan community in Galway. He wore a long dark robe with crocs. He told us about their founder St. Francis of Assisi whom Pope Francis is called after. He also told us why he became a Franciscan; he had reached a stage in his life where he felt there was something missing. He told us that he wasn't looking for a wife or a significant other, but felt a vocation from God to work for the Franciscans. He explained that he had to make a lot of sacrifices to become a Franciscan, for example, he had to sell some of his most valuable belongings such as his house and car. The whole process of becoming a Franciscan takes a total of eight to nine years. The Franciscans take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. They are not permitted to marry as they are metaphorically married to religion. One surprising thing we learnt was how much the Franciscans do to serve people in need. They run a drug rehabilitation centre and a homeless



service in Merchants Quay in Dublin, where they offer a drug rehabilitation programme to addicts and meals/emergency accommodation to the homeless. They have also set up a Housing Charity called Respond which provides housing for people around the country. After interviewing Fr. David, we got some free time to have something to eat and to look at the various shops. As interesting as chatting to Fr. David was, this was the highlight of the trip for a lot of us.

3RD YEAR TRIP TO THE POOR CLARES

On a bright and sunny morning in February 2020, 3rd year students set out on a trip to Galway. Classes 3B and 3D accompanied by their teacher Ms. Mulroy visited the Poor Clare's community on Nun's Island Galway city. This religious order consists of a small group of nuns. They are an enclosed order who dedicate their daily lives to prayer. Third years were fascinated to see first-hand how meaningful and fulfilling their lives are. Sr. Colette spoke with a happy smile outlining a typical day in their lives. Their day starts and finishes with prayer, punctuated with work in the kitchen and garden. One of the most surprising things we learned is that people call regularly in person to the sisters where they ask for prayers regarding a specific concern or trouble they have. We also learned how the people of Galway really value having the nuns in their community. Every morning, mass is celebrated in the church that is attached to the convent and many people from the city of Galway join the sisters. Everyone really enjoyed the day and were delighted to know more about people who dedicate their lives to God through joining a religious community. It helped to enlighten us and broaden our minds about faith and the different ways people choose to live their lives.

CADET BASKETBALL

There is a huge interest in basketball in this Cadet team. They had trained really well in the lead into the first game. Unfortunately there was not many games to look forward to. With only 2 other teams in our group and one of them pulling out it meant our first game was an effective knockout game. Before that there was a challenge game against St. Colemans that didn't give us much in terms of preparation.

The first competitive game was against Ballinrobe and after a poor first quarter Ballyhaunis were down by 6 points. Ballyhaunis played really well in the next two quarters and went ahead in the 3rd quarter. Some great performances by Darren Keadin, Darren Concannon and Eoghan Duffy were keeping us well in the game. This was short lived as a Ballinrobe sharpshooter was on fire scoring 23 points and chasing the game in the final quarter Ballyhaunis were well beaten in the end. This team deserved more game time and hopefully they will get it when they progress to Senior where they will join some students who will be hungry for success.



Back row(l-r): Conor McGuire, Darragh Madden, Philip Costello, Matthew Johnson, Darren Concannon, Eoghan Duffy.

Front row(l-r): Conor Donnellan, Mikey Regan, Darren Keadin, Ethan Cooke, Matthew Frayne, Aidan Sloyan

MY PASSION By Cathy Grealley

Some girls love fashion,
But GAA is my passion.
No words can describe the fire in your belly,
When you see your team winning on the telly.
To sit and listen to the old men's tales,
Of long gone legends, their glory still hails.

All stars nights with dresses full of glitter,
I'd swap it all to catch that sliotar.
That winning point scored in Croke Park,
Makes up for all the hard work in the dark.
And wearing the leather off the ball,
Will we ever finish at the wall?

All the way to Dublin passing through the toll,
The roar of the crowd when you score the winning goal.
Marching behind the artane boys band,
Running up the steps of the Hogan Stand.
Pride in the jersey, pulling every stunt,
Football or hurling, backdoor or front.

We'll always remember the days we stood tall,
When Tooreen's Sean Flanagan lifted the cup for football.
Your friends are always there to pick you up if you fall,
Whatever game you play, big ball or small.
We'll remember the legends of the beautiful game,
And always and ever take pride in their name.

WELLNESS WEEK



WELLNESS WEEK DIARY

Monday –Day 1 of wellness week

7.30: I was so excited when I woke up this morning. It's the beginning of Wellness Week!

9.00: Wellness Week began with Ms Burns' reflection speech on the intercom. She wished everyone a good Wellness Week.

9.30: Everyone gathered for a whole school assembly this morning. Two Leaving Cert students, Dean McGarry and Fiona Crawley lead the introductions of Wellness Week. This year's special guest speaker was iRadio presenter, Sharron Lynskey. Sharron spoke about the stresses of the leaving cert and how to choose what career is right for you. Sharron loves her job, but she has worked incredibly hard to get where she is today. She advised us to work hard, to exercise, and most of all, to take care of ourselves. It was so inspiring to see a past pupil of the school, someone who was once in my shoes, doing so well for themselves.

11.20: The leaving cert students went to the study hall to listen to Joanne Cregg give a talk about balancing college life. This was a very informative talk, especially for students who are about to embark on their college life. Her advice was invaluable, she spoke about socialising, studying, time management, and mental health. Joanne is an incredibly motivated person. She is the mid-fielder for the Roscommon Ladies football team and is currently studying medicine. She highlighted that good mental health is key, in achieving at school and on the football pitch.

12.20: Later, I attended a talk about protecting yourself on a night out. The speaker, Pat Conway, spoke mainly about underage drinking and how to deal with peer pressure. I learned a lot about how to socialise safely. Waiting until you are older to drink is so important for your physical and mental health.



Wednesday – Day 3 of wellness week

7.30: I woke up full of energy this morning. Today is such a busy day!! Today we all get to take part in wellness activities!

9.55: Today the 3rd year students took part in several fun social activities, including drumming, social dancing, laughter yoga, basketball, and soccer.

11.20: Later, the 5th year, LCA, and TY students got to take part in similar activities, including Zumba, yoga, drumming, gym class, soccer, art therapy, and basketball.

12.20: The 1st and 2nd year students took part in drumming, social dancing, games class, an art workshop, self-defence, and soccer.

2.00: Later, the TY students attended a physical training and exercise talk by Conor Finn. He introduced us to the basics of physical training in the gym. We learnt that going to the gym to exercise can significantly improve your fitness, muscle growth, and overall physical health.



Thursday – Day 4 of wellness week

7.30: Can't wait to go to school today! It's been such a fun week!

9.00: The 3rd year students attended a presentation called "Breathe" by Lianne McManamon from the Mayo Mental Health Association. They learned about depression and mental illness, and how to cope with stress and anxiety.

9.10: The TY1 students hosted a school musical for 1st and 2nd year students. The musical contained scenes from the students' favourite Disney films, including Moana, Beauty and the Beast, Teen Beach Movie, Toy Story, and High School Musical. The performance was both funny and dramatic in parts, showcasing the musical talent of the TY students.

11.40: The 3rd year, TY, LCA, and 5th year students attended a one-man show in the study hall, which followed the story of a teenage boy who was addicted to drugs, and how this addiction came to ruin his life and his relationships. This performance was eye-opening for both the students and teachers who attended. It was a reminder of how dangerous drug use really is.

2.00: The leaving cert students took part in fun social activities, such as yoga, soccer, Zumba, and art therapy. This was an opportunity for students to have fun, and a chance to take a break from the academic side of school.

2.00: In the gym, half of the 1st year students took part in "The Cube". Similar to the television show, students completed a series of tasks, which required balance, concentration, and agility. This was a really fun activity for 1st years, it was a chance for them to bond and socialise.



Friday – Day 5 of wellness week

7.30: Today is the final day of Wellness Week. So sad!!

9.00: This morning, the other 1st year students took part in "The Cube".

10.00: The leaving cert students attended a presentation on Mental Health by Tomas Murphy, the director of Mental Health Nursing in Sligo and Leitrim. The leaving cert students found this presentation very informative and engaging.

12.00: Along with Ms Osgood, the TY students organised a class-based quiz for every class group in the school. Students and teachers took the quiz very seriously, as a box of chocolates would be awarded to the winners! This was a great activity to mark the end of a very successful week, as it engaged every member of the school. This year's winners of the quiz was Mr Noone's leaving cert DCG class.

1.00: To conclude Wellness Week, our chaplain Ms Burns reflected on the success and enjoyment of the previous few days. It was a great week for everyone involved, happy wellness!



MULTI-CULTURAL DAY

On Thursday 5th of March Ballyhaunis Community School held its Intercultural Day . There are 33 different cultures in our school to date with 27 presenting on the day . Our motto for the day was to:

'share our similarities and celebrate our differences'.

There was a carnival like atmosphere in the study hall as students shared their traditional foods, music , dance and language. The high point of the day was when a large number of students some in traditional dress , some in their national football jerseys joined together and danced with a real sense of unity in diversity.

The students were joined by members of the Direct Provision Centre in Ballyhaunis who are facilitating a workshop in the school entitled **'stories of refuge stories of welcome.'** The workshop is funded by Amnesty International. This special event was planned and coordinated by our enthusiastic Transition Years. Thanks to Ms. Murray for all her hard work in preparation for the day.





ENROLMENT EVENING





CHRISTMAS CHEER



THE SPIRIT OF BCS



WELLNESS WEEK ART COMPETITION

Congratulations to Clodagh Byrne and Bisma Maqsood, well deserving winners of the Wellness Art Competition. Mr McDonagh presented both students with a €50 One4All gift voucher. 'Thank you' to all students who entered the competition. The standard was very high once again this year. The winning artworks were voted for by the student community.



BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL CAMOGIE 2020

Ellen Tener

The Ballyhaunis Community Schools camogie team this year was made up of students right through from 3rd to 6th year, captained by Grainne Delaney. One thing about our team this year was that we had to be the one of the youngest teams you would find at senior level. Our first match we played Woodford Secondary School of Galway. These were a very tough side and it was no doubt that the BCS girls would come out on top. We led at half time but we knew we didn't have the win under our belt quite yet. So we took to the pitch for the second half overcoming the woodford side on an enormous scoreline of more than half of which they scored. This was a great confidence boost to the team as we felt good entering the competition with a win in the bag after the first match. Our second opposition that we were meant to play was Ballinasloe Secondary School from Galway. We did not play this side as they conceded and we were given the points. Again, a match we would have loved to play and show off our skills but we were happy enough with the points at the end of the day. Our third and unfortunate final match was against the Mercy Roscommon. Again, one of the most nail-biting games that we would have played in the competition. In spite of the very bad weather conditions, rain and hail we surely put the Roscommon side to a test. We were very evenly matched oppositions. But unfortunately, Roscommon got the better of us on the day beating us by 2 points. A massive effort was put in from every girl who played and proudly represented BCS that day. As a team



at the end of the competition we were all disappointed but no doubt we will come back stronger as ever next year. We had 3 students this year playing and studying for the leaving cert, Grainne Delaney, Méabh Delaney and Ellis Duffy. We wish these girls the best of luck in their leaving cert and hopefully they will continue and keep up camogie right through college.



Well done to Na Brideoga Camogie Club, featuring a large contingent of past and present BCS students, on their fantastic All-Ireland triumph.

ANNE GROGAN MEMORIAL BLITZ

Dear Anne,

May 14th was to be the day we were going to pause, put the books and pencils down, pick up a football and do what you loved best, play a few games of football down at the pitch!

Unfortunately, the world has a way of changing plans and we are unable to host the 1st Year LGFA Blitz in your name this year as we had hoped to, but we promise we will be back. You would have been exceptionally proud of both the Junior and Senior teams this year - it has been a great year for Ladies GAA in BCS and long may it continue.

Your legacy will still carry, your memory we still hold on tight.

From Siobhan, Kirsty and all the LGFA Players of BCS.



JUNIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL

We began our campaign this year with a visit from local rivals Kiltimagh. We went into the game knowing it wasn't going to be an easy game, so our girls really put it up to them. Luckily, we came out on top with a scoreline of 2-15 to 1-5 victory. We then travelled over the road to MSM Claremorris to battle it out for our second win of the season and once again came out on top with a pleasant scoreline of 4-9 to 1-4. In our 3rd round clash we came up against a strong Dunmore side which we were well capable of beating but nothing was going right for these girls in this game. Sadly, we finished with Dunmore coming out as victors just by the skin of their teeth by 2 points. It finished Dunmore 7-7 Ballyhaunis 4-15, with some very sad faces coming off the pitch as the girls thought it was all over for them. But luckily, they had one more shot as the draw fell the right way for them. They now had to face their worst enemies once again, Dunmore, in the Connaught Qualifier knockout.

We were very well prepared to give our all for this game and we weren't coming out without a victory. The opposition came thinking they just had to show up and would walk over us but within the first 5 minutes we had 3 goals under our belts and there was no sign of stopping the BCS girls. With all our forwards on fire there were goals and points popping over all the time, and magnificent saves from our goalie Chanel Marques really kept our hopes high to come out of this game with a win. Dunmore didn't know what hit them when the final whistle went but BCS knew they were progressing to the Connaught semi-final. Final score in the COE: Ballyhaunis 9-17 Dunmore 3-4.

It was another nerve-racking build up to the quarter final for the junior girls team and their manager, Ms. Phillips. The girls knew this wasn't going to be an easy match and without 2 of their star players, Ciara Fitzmaurice and Erin Murray out due to injury, this didn't make the contest any easier. Davitt College began with a whooping start with a goal and a point within the opening moments. The Ballyhaunis Girls then realized they had to up their game, and within minutes they switched the play up to the other side of the pitch, with 3 unanswered points. But Ballyhaunis' scoring streak didn't last for long with two more goals from the opposition. It was fair to say the girls' heads weren't held too high going in at half time, being down by 11 points. With an encouraging speech at half time from Ms. Phillips, aided the team to go out more confident in the second half. And this stuck to them. This really pushed the girls on to win Davitt College's kickouts and get scores from the turnovers. In the final minutes, Ballyhaunis really kept the ball rolling with Emer Delaney scoring two goals to ensure a win. With the final minutes closing in, everyone was nervous everytime the opposition made an attack, but with strong and defensive backs, Ballyhaunis were conceding nothing. At long last, Gary Owen blew the final whistle, but no one reacted. With every girl mad to rush up and find out the proper score, the players were all nervous. But eventually Ballyhaunis did come out on top and there was nothing but passion and emotion shown within the team, knowing they're now progressing to the

Connacht Semi-Final within the coming weeks. This was an excellent performance put in by the girls and it was a real "Never Say Die" attitude with tremendous character shown by storming back in the second half. Final score in Swinford, Ballyhaunis CS- 4:17; Davitt College 6:09.

It was a quiet trip to Aghamore for the semi- final as each girl knew what they had to do and who they were coming up against. Ballyhaunis got off to a great start, but it was neck and neck the whole way to the final whistle. It was fair to say that the both sides were evenly matched, and neither team were getting an easy win out of this. With Ballyhaunis down at half time, by a narrow margin, they knew they had to fight for a victory in the second half. The girls came out with their heads held high and were ready to put in a tough second half. Sadly, Ballyhaunis came out on the losing side on the day, by as little as 3 points, but overall, they had a great year and made some great memories. No doubt they will come back fighting again next year!! Massive thanks to Ms. Phillips for putting in the hard work all year and guiding them to a Connaught semi-final.



Junior girls: Back row L-R: Maia Phillips, Treasa McDermott, Shannon Hibbitt, Mia Ronane, Geri-Maye Henry, Ciara Fitzmaurice, Isobel Coggins, Sarah Ronayne, Jessica Gannon, Lilian Keane, Chanel Marques, Siobhan Greene, Amy Fleming, Eva Henry, Megan McGuire, Ms Kirsty Phillips, Claire Flanagan.
Front row L-R: Saoirse Delaney, Niamh Coyne, Nikita Tighe, Chloe Kirrane, Caoimhe Delaney, Niamh Duffy, Ellen Tener, Emer Delaney, Roisin Denning, Lilly Duffy, Beth Lloyd and Erin Murray.

SENIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL



Senior girls: Back row L-R: Shannon Hibbitt, Aoibheann Crawley, Lilian Keane, Rachel Cleary, Fiona Crawley, Dearbhla Glavey, Laura Madden, Anna Lyons, Sarah Morris, Aisling Regan, Grainne Delaney, Niamh Duffy, Erin Murray.
Front row L-R: Méabh Delaney, Chanel Marques, Amy Fleming, Hannah Burke, Saoirse Delaney, Niamh Smith, Grainne Collins, Claire Flanagan, Hannah Clarke, Aoife Doherty and Leah Johnston.

We began our season this year with a visit from Strokestown, which we also played first last year as well and didn't come out with a win, but this year was going to be different and we knew there wasn't going to be anything easy out of it. Luckily, we came out on top by way more than we had imagined but we weren't complaining! The result in Round 1: Ballyhaunis Community School 7-15, Strokestown 1-8. Local rivals Dunmore then landed to Ballyhaunis to contest round 2 but it finished all square in this battle. Final score: Ballyhaunis 4-14, Dunmore 3-17. Round 3 consisted of a long trip to Louisburgh which

once again wasn't an easy battle and the girls just edging a 2-point victory here, with the scoreline finishing Ballyhaunis 5-13, Louisburgh Sancta Maria 3-17. Our final group game involved a visit from neighbours St. Louis, which we had a comfortable win of 7-6 to 3-7. So, this left us in a Connaught semi-final position where we were going up against Gortnor Abbey of Crossmolina. Nothing was going right for us and the opposition just kept firing in scores. With a few points on the board, a win didn't look likely at half time. We went out in the second half knowing we had a battle ahead of us, but we were willing to put up a fight and come out victorious. The opposition weren't willing to give us any time to get scores and their lead just began to increase. When the 60 minutes were up, there were no happy Ballyhaunis faces as we knew that was the end of the road. Final score: Ballyhaunis 1-8; Gortnor Abbey 5-11. Once again, we got to the late stages in the Connaught competition but there was no silverware coming to the school this year. No doubt we will have a strong team again next year and we will battle it out once again. We would like to commend the girls on their hard work ethic all year and wish our Leaving Cert girls every success in their future footballing careers. They have been amazing ambassadors for women's sport in the school and they have left behind a great legacy and big shoes to fill. Huge thanks to Ms. Phillips and Ms. Garvey for all their hard work they have put in throughout the year.

TY 1



Back row: Jack Sullivan, Jack Madden, Edward Groarke, James Duffy, James Lyons, Nathan Dee, Daniel Regan, Kyah Legg.

Middle Row: Darragh Flynn, Ciara Hosty, Lorna Davis, Áine Glynn, Claire Flanagan, Lana Biesty, Elizabeth Lloyd, Karen Morgan, Éilis O'Brien,

Front Row: Carragh Kilcoyne-Burke, Deirbhile Boland, Niamh Duffy, Jessica Henry, Ellen Tener, Roisín Denning, Chloe Mulrennan.

TY 2



Back row: Oisín Kelly, Páidi Murphy, Mikey Regan, Shane Gavin, Niall Regan, Kelan Henry.

Middle Row: Victoria Burcovschi, Orlaith Coffey, Maeve Donnellan, Louise Cox, Shane Reidy, Matthew Frayne, Raif Costello.

Front Row: Grace Greally, Sarah Morris, Niamh Greally, Rebecca Lyons, Megan Ronane, Niamh Mannion, Rebecca Osgood-Daly.

Missing From Photo: Lilian Keane, Leah Guilfoyle, Caoimhe Moran, Erin Kilbride.

TRANSITION YEAR

Sarah Morris and Nathan Dee

Transition Year was an enriching experience, full of great craic, rewarding challenges, and lasting memories. This year, the TY students took part in an array of activities, went on several school trips, and gained experience in a working environment.

In October, the TY students headed to Killary Adventure Centre for a 3-day trip. Located on the coast of Connemara in Galway, they were surrounded by the beautiful scenery of the ocean and mountains. During the day, they participated in several outdoor activities such as kayaking, cliff jumping, wall climbing, and archery. During the evenings, students took part in group challenges and games. This trip was one of the highlights of the year.

Community Care was one of the most rewarding aspects of transition year. The TY students got the opportunity to volunteer at different places in the local area. Some of these facilities include Western Care, MSPCA, Scoil Iosa and Meals on Wheels. By helping out in the local community, students learned more about the valuable services that are provided in the Ballyhaunis area.

This year the TY students took part in a variety of unique workshops on film making, radio presenting, and forensic science.

In November, the students participated in radio transmission workshop, where they made an advertisement suitable for radio. First, they had to write a script, and then record their piece in a radio van.

In December, the students took part in a movie production workshop, where they learned how to make short films. Some students made comedy skits and used special effects, while others made a news report about an issue in the school.

In February, students participated in a CSI Workshop. They learned about the role of a forensic scientist and how forensic science is used to solve crimes. In the study hall, the students investigated a mock crime scene. They wore full bodysuits and gloves, and were assigned different jobs as part of the investigation.

This year three teams took part in the Junk Couture competition. This competition sees teams from different schools throughout the country design dresses using recycled materials to express their creativity and imaginations. With the assistance of Ms Lennon, each team made very interesting and extravagant dresses, using a range of recycled materials.

Designed by Maeve Donnellan, Louise Cox, and Orlaith Coffey, the "Colourtrending" dress was made using recycled paint cards and old paintbrushes for the headpiece. Lana Biesty, Beth Lloyd and Jessica Henry made a dress called "Queen of Hearts", by using old playing cards as the dress and casino chips as a waist piece. The final dress, named "Denim Warrior" was designed by Niamh Duffy, Deirbhile Boland and Roisin Denning using recycled denim for the dress and top, and recycled wood for the sword, shield, and headpiece. Maeve, Jessica and Deirbhile were the models for their dresses.

The "Denim Warrior" dress modeled by Deirbhile, made it to the western regional finals in the TF in Castlebar, but unfortunately, they did not qualify for the finals in Dublin.

This year, eight TY students accompanied by Mr McGarry and Ms Hargaden-Whyte took part in the Erasmus student exchange program in collaboration with other schools from Reunion Island, Spain, Italy and France. The school exchange was hosted by a Spanish school in Olot, Spain. Unfortunately, the Italian school couldn't make the trip due to Covid-19.

The TY students departed the school early on the 9th of February to spend a week with their host families in Olot. They attended school with their host every day and got to experience school life in a different country. They took part in activities to learn about their lifestyles and about the region of Catalonia.

They visited Barcelona and some famous landmarks such as Park Guell - a natural park, Camp Nou - Barcelona's home stadium, La Sagrada Família and La Ramblas. The students thoroughly enjoyed their experience abroad.

For the TY students, this was a year full of great memories and new experiences. They will never forget it!

JUNK KOUTURE

Niamh Duffy, Deirbhile Boland and Roisin Denning

There are many projects TY students can get involved in but junk kouture is by far the most popular one. Junk kouture is a recycled fashion competition, groups of three enter and create a design from recycled materials. It is an opportunity for TY students to use their flexible school timetables and do something productive. It allows you to get to know your classmates in a completely different environment. Our Junk Kouture journey began in October when TY students were given the opportunity to apply. The school only enter three groups and this year there was huge interest with a total of 6 groups applying. We had to fill out a form with sketches and detailed descriptions of our designs, Ms Lennon was then tasked with picking three groups. The three groups chosen were "The Denim Warrior", "Colour Trending" and "The Queen of Hearts".

The queen of hearts consisted of TY1 students Lana Beisty, Beth Lloyd and Jessica Henry. Their dress was made from playing cards. They used poker chips as a belt and made a handbag as their accessory. This dress was probably the most challenging dress to make as the playing cards were probably the hardest material to work with. Dresses ripped and fell apart, but this didn't stop the girls, they persevered and produced a wonderful creation with hours of hard work staying after school put into their creation.

The colour trending group consisted of TY2 girls Louise Cox, Orlaith Coffey and Maeve Donnellan. Their dress was made from recycled paint sample cards. The girls approached colour trend paints and got old paint sample cards that were no longer in use. They used a petticoat to make their skirt princess like. They made a crown from old paint brushes and created a beautiful design which is extremely colourful and appealing to the eye.



The denim warrior group consisted of TY1 girls Deirbhile Boland, Roisin Denning and Niamh Duffy. This dress was made from recycled denim. They used different shades of denim to create an ombre effect. The darker shades at the bottom represent people's darkest thoughts as the colours change and get lighter, they show the happier thoughts. The colour yellow is used to represent happiness. From afar the dress looks perfect but as you come closer you can see quotes are written on the skirt these quotes are about different struggles students face, there are helplines written along the belt to show that there is help out there. The accessories used are a sword and shield, on these accessories there are positive quote written to show you can fight through even your darkest of thoughts.

We were allocated our amount of "junk kouture" time per week but with help from Ms. Lennon and all the teachers support the three dresses were completed by January. We had to send off our pictures and wait for the results, unfortunately The Denim Warrior was the only group to make it through to the regional finals in the TF in Castlebar. The regional finals was a fashion show where designs from around the region came out on stage and performed their routine to showcase their design. The standard at the regional final was extremely

high and with only 15 dresses going through out of a possible 80, unfortunately we didn't make it through. The day in castlebar was a lot of fun and we got to see the work that goes into the production of a fashion show. Deirbhile came out on stage and performed an amazing routine to a packed TF and we couldn't have been prouder of her. Overall Junk Kouture was a brilliant experience that all students involved enjoyed. New friendships were formed, a few fights over glue guns, many an evening spent after school and the odd trip to the Chinese made this an extremely enjoyable experience where we could use our time to be as creative as possible. Huge thanks to Ms Lennon for all her help and guidance throughout the project. Without her help our ideas wouldn't have been able to come to life!



BALLYHAUNIS CS JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In early September our Transition Year students were all invited to join the inaugural Ballyhaunis Community School Chamber of Commerce. The aim of BCS Junior Chamber is to give a voice to the young people through the chamber and to create the space for students to develop their role as autonomous participative and responsible members of society. BCS JC worked on several key projects throughout the year. The first event was to help organise and run an event. Culture Night Friday September 20th which was a huge success. Next was the National Seminar- Embracing Diversity on Friday 18th of October in the Centre Of Excellence, Beken. It was an Opportunity to celebrate the significant achievements in Ballyhaunis in the past 40 years in assimilating many different nationalities into the life of the town. The students worked in conjunction with representatives from Department of Justice, the Department of Rural & Community Development & Mayo County Council, as well as our fellow students, Ballyhaunis Foroige and over 20 local Community groups. The day was a huge success with over 200 attendees. Students got to meet Keynote Speaker Sean Og O hAilpin, Minister for Rural & Community Development Michael Ring, Minister for Equality Immigration & Integration David Stanton.

The next event was the lovely community occasion of Christmas Lights, followed by the Christmas markets. Again the students helped with organisation and they also worked on their own stalls selling their homemade products from their Student Enterprise Projects. The plan was to continue working on the Ballyhaunis Video project, the Easter Parade and the Summer Festival.... but alas. May I take this opportunity to thank the Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce & Anne Cunnane & Tom Forde supporting the Chamber throughout the year. Well done to all of our Junior Chambers members. It was fabulous working with such enthusiastic young people throughout the year. Congratulations on your well deserved nomination at The Mayo Garda Youth Awards and thank you for your dedication.

Ballyhaunis Community School Junior Chamber 2019-20,

Back Row: Claire Flanagan, Ellen Tener, Anne Cunnane CEO & Tom Forde President Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce, Bernie Osgood, Raif Costello, Oisín Kelly.

Front Row: Rebecca Osgood-Daly, Kyah Legg, Victoria Burcovschi, Caoimhe Moran, Grace Grealley, Eilis O'Brien, Kelan Henry, Absent: Erin Kilbride



CSI



DEBATE IN DUBLIN CASTLE

Eilís O'Brien

On Thursday the 27th of March, the council of European Union Debate took place in Dublin Castle. The Council of European Union Debate is an event in which many schools across the country are all assigned a Country in the European Union to represent. The topic of the Debate this year was the European Green Deal, specifically reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The debate is based on how the actual European Union would discuss new motions to bring or not bring into law. This usually involves opening speeches from each country, followed by an open floor debate and voting on the topics brought up in the debate. This was the first year our school took part and our school was given Austria to represent at the debate. To get on the team we had to make a speech about climate change in Austria. I made the team with Elizabeth Lloyd and Ciara Hosty. Ciara and I were the main speakers and Elizabeth was the note taker. We had to do a lot of research and prepare an opening speech before the day of the debate. On the day of the debate we got the train to Dublin from Ballyhaunis at 6am. We got to Dublin Castle at 11 to sign in. We received badges with our country and school name on it, and flags from our country. We then got our picture taken and met the Austrian deputy ambassador, and she gave us badges and Austrian chocolate. When the debate started for the first round every team made an opening speech, Ciara made our opening speech. For the second and third rounds it was an open floor debate, in round two each country made a speech to further their points in round one, and in round three each team made a speech to address what other countries had commented on in round one and two. There were many topics debated on the day of the debate, such as how each country in the European Union uses renewable energy, and whether or not Nuclear energy is a suitable replacement for fossil fuels was the main subject of debate in the third round. Another topic of debate was whether there should be a punishment fine on countries that don't meet the goal of 40% carbon emissions reduction, this was frequently discussed in the second and third rounds. Both of these topics were opposed by a general majority vote. The runner up team was Slovenia and everyone on the team won an ipad each, and the winning team was Germany, their prize was a trip to debate internationally in Brussels and an ipad for every member of the team. We all learnt many things about how the European Union brings in new policies and how actual business is conducted in the real European Parliament. It was a brilliant experience and we hope to go again next year.



TRINITY COLLEGE AND LEINSTER HOUSE

TYS had an exciting day touring Trinity College on Conferring Day and visiting The Houses of the Oireachtas. The students got to meet Denis Naughton TD, Michael Fitzmaurice TD, Dara Calleary TD and Minister Michael Ring. The students were in the Dail when tributes were paid to Gay Byrne and during the minutes silence followed by Leaders Questions. We also visited the Seanad where they were discussing Irish Sheep's wool exports to Japan. Many thanks to Ms Loftus and Ms Osgood for accompanying the students on this trip.



HORSE RIDING



KILLARY



TY MUSICAL

This year TY 1 put on a mini musical as part of a class collaboration between Ms. Glavey's Music class and Ms. Nolan's English class. They decided as a class they wanted to do something to do with Disney, so the great minds of Ms. Glavey and Ms. Nolan decided to mash up a few of our favorite Disney movies into one musical. This included: Moana, High School Musical, Teen Beach Movie, Toy Story, Beauty and the Beast and The Lion King. They all took their roles and wrote up the script themselves before putting their first show on for first years. Roisin Denning taking the role of Moana, started off Scene 1 of the show with her rendition of "How Far I'll Go". Daragh Flynn, Áine Glynn and Ellen Tener took the roles of Moana's family. Eddie Graorke, Ellis O'Brien and Caragh Burke were the villagers.

Next into scene 2 as the characters from Lion King met Moana, we had Daniel Regan and James Lyons as the comical Pumba and Timon with James Duffy as Simba doing their dance to "Hakuna Matata" in their onesies. In Scene 3 we saw Jack Sullivan as Woody, Jessica Henry as Jessie and Jack Madden as Buzz Lightyear from Toy Story take to the stage with a game of football before they met Moana. Woody and Moana are shot by Cupid (Ellis O'Brien). Scene 4 was Teen Beach Movie. James Lyons took the role of Butchy with his biker lads Darragh, James and Daniel and Lana Biesty as Lela. They performed the dance to Cruisin for a Bruisin where we see Claire Flanagan slide in as Brady. Derbhile, Ellen, Niamh, Jessica, Karen, Ciara and Lorna were the biker girls. Scene 5 saw Beth Lloyd as Belle and Nathan Dee as the Beast doing a waltz to "Tale as Old as Time" but after a short time a group of cheer leaders crowd the stage and cover belle and the beast before they break free again as Troy Bolton and Gabrielle from High school musical and sing a duet to Breaking Free. This is just before the whole cast come back on stage to "Were All in this Together".



ERASMUS MOBILITY TO SPAIN



This year eight TY students and two of their teachers took part in the Erasmus student exchange program in collaboration with 4 other schools from Reunion Island, Spain, Italy and France hosted by the Spanish school in Olot, Catalonia. Unfortunately, the Italian school couldn't make the trip due to Covid-19. They departed on the 9th of February to spend an action-packed week with their host

families in Olot and live as they do. They attended school with their host every day and got to experience what school is like for young people in a different country and also took part in activities to learn about their lifestyles and about the region of Catalonia and finished the day off spending time with their families. They were escorted to the town hall where they were welcomed by the mayor of Olot. After this, they split into teams and the Spanish students showed our students around the town of Olot and surrounding areas and sights including some of the local volcanoes such as Montsacopa and Volcà Croscat and also to some lava flows and basalt deposits as the area used to be very volcanically active. They also saw some sights such as a local cathedral and a local museum. They learned about traditions in Catalonia such as dances and foods and learned some Catalan too. After visiting a local dairy and yoghurt factory they took part in a cycling tour of the area and visited a volcano and a local artists gallery who uses volcanic rocks in his paintings. They visited Barcelona and learned about the history and visited some of the famous landmarks such as Park Guell, a natural park, Camp Nou, Barcelona's home stadium, La Sagrada Familia a one-of-a-kind temple that's been in construction for over 100 years and La Ramblas a famous street in Barcelona.



STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS

On the 12th of March two mini business groups from transition year represented Ballyhaunis in the student enterprise awards in Breaffy. At the start of the school year Peter and James from the Mayo Student Enterprise Office came to our school to introduce the idea of creating a mini business. We found out that over 18,000 students from across Ireland enter in this prestigious competition. Everyone was then put into different groups and began to brainstorm ideas. After sales of our products and writing up business plans with the help of our business teacher Ms.Osgood we were told only two groups from our school could get through to the mayo final where our product/service would be judged on innovation,sales,design and promotion.

The two groups that got through from our school were Grá go deo. This was an irish activity book created by Kelan Henry, Rebecca Osgood Daly, Raif Costello, Louise Cox and Grace Grealy. The other group that got through was Get A Grip which sold customizable pop sockets for phones. In this group there was Áine Glynn, Claire Flanagan, Ellen Tener and Darragh Flynn. We spent the next couple of days working on our stalls,updating our business plans and increasing sales. Once we arrived at Breaffy on the day we started setting up our stalls and preparing for judging. After we were judged by three different judges we got to look at the other schools products and services that were competing against us. After the judging was over they came together and decided on who would be the winner of the various categories. Unfortunately ballyhaunis were not in luck and we didn't get any awards however it was a great day out and a very enjoyable programme to get involved in!

TY BUSINESS - JANE BUCKLEY

Many thanks to past pupil and hugely successful local entrepreneur, Jane Buckley, of JROC RONOCO Import & Distribution Company, (exclusive distributors in Ireland for: Bellamianta Tan, Iconic Bronze, Jenny Glow Fragrances, BH Cosmetics, JustJack) who came in to talk to our TY Business class recently. We learned all about the dynamic world of the cosmetic industry and her journey from being a BCS student to the successful entrepreneur she is today. Jane described the changing world of marketing and the use of influencers in brand promotion. She told us how she encouraged Longford native, Maura Higgins, to go on Love Island and of her collaborations with Lisa McGowan from Lisa's Lust List. She also told us about her favourite past-time, playing LGFA with the 'Gaelic for Mother's and Others' in Ballyhaunis GAA & her love of rallying while finding time to balance it all with her busy family life with 3 young children at home.



VELVET CLOUD

Many thanks to Aisling Flanagan from Velvet Cloud - local artisan producers of Sheep's yoghurt and cheese who gave a wonderful interactive presentation to our TYs, complete with blind taste tests and selection of products for our students and teachers.

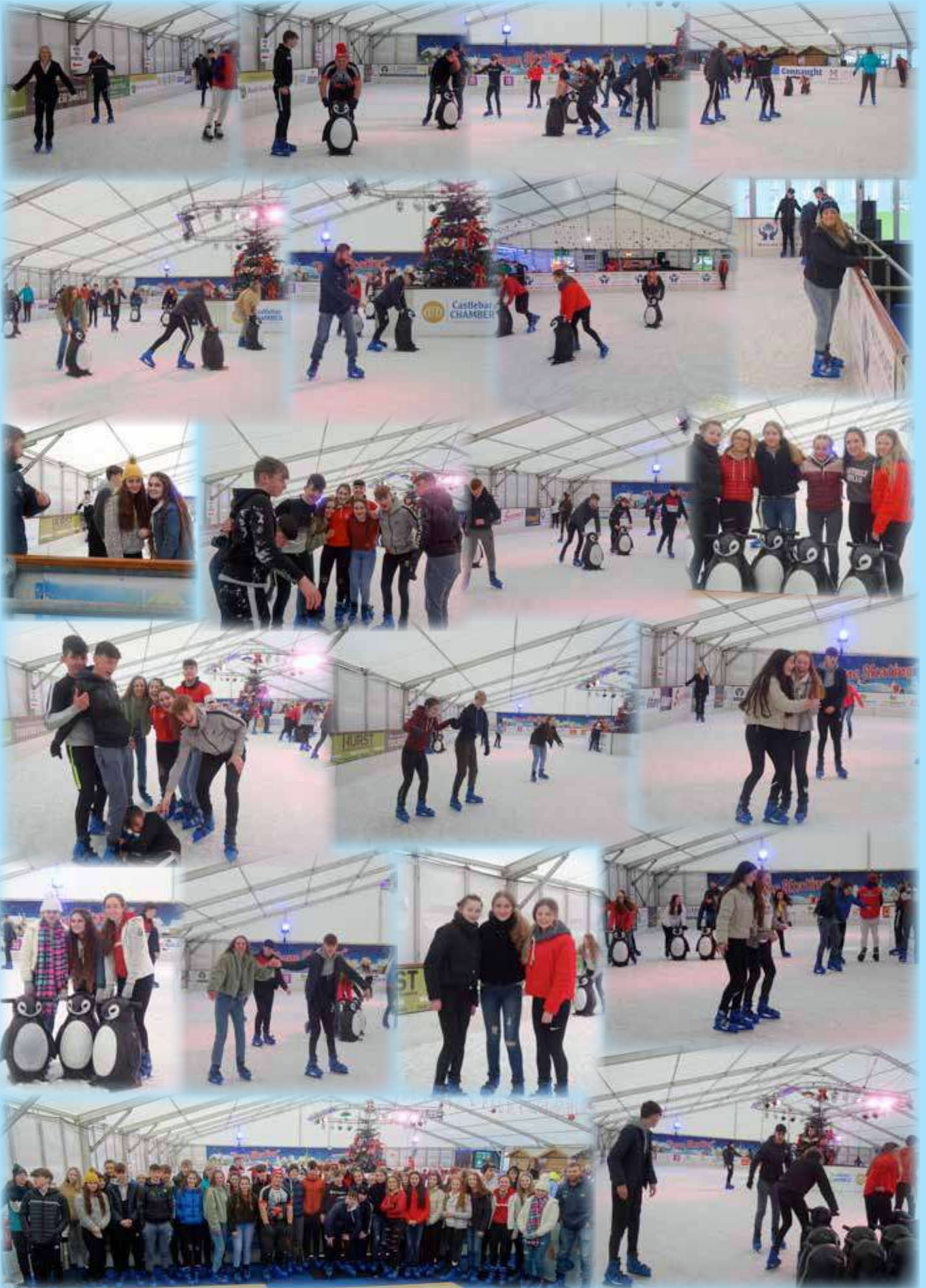


MAKE A WISH FUNDRAISER

TY students are pictured presenting Martina Greene, from the Make-a-Wish Foundation, a cheque for €300 which they raised through their Christmas Jumper Day event. Many thanks to Martina for talking to the whole TY group about the charity's work. Thanks also to TY student, Rebecca Osgood-Daly, an ambassador for the charity, who bravely told her classmates about her own personal Make-a-Wish journey.



ICE SKATING



LCA



Back row: Tara Blot, Adam Reilly, Chloe McDonagh, Chantelle Maughan.

Front Row: Dominyka Maselskyte, David Hennessy, Vanessa Polhosova, Darren Groarke, Denika Copper-Sturdy.

Missing From Photo: Dylan Caulfield, William Thabeng

LCA CONSTRUCTION

Pictured are the LCA students with their completed construction projects



CHRISTMAS FAIR

The TY and LCA classes alongside Ms Lennon and Mr Caulfield came up with the idea of a Christmas craft fair in which they would sell Christmas decorations and all the money raised would go to pieta house Ireland. During all the woodwork classes we would make different types of



decorations, then in art classes we would decorate them with paint and glitter to make them look nice. Then we could sell them at the Christmas market that would be held down in Ballyhaunis in Supervalu. They would be sold by students. There was a really high standard of work done on the decorations. The people that were buying them really liked them and would buy more than one. After selling them in Supervalu and in school where teachers and students bought them to decorate their houses for the festive season we had raised 2130 euro to go to pieta house Ireland. Pieta house then sent a speaker to our school who told us about how this money helps out with the work they do and thanked us for the money that we had raised for them and they were so thankful. They also talked to us about darkness into light. The TYs and LCAs really enjoyed their experience making decorations and selling them to the community and they would gladly do it again for a good cause.



ARTS & CRAFTS



WESTERN CARE VISIT



Paris TY 2019

Kate Delaney

On the 8th of May 2019 we left school on the bus at half twelve at night. We had our suitcases packed, and all ready to go to Paris! We arrived at the airport around 3am and were all wrecked but the excitement kept us going. Most of us had a well-deserved sleep on the plane to prepare us for the busy day ahead. When we left the airport, we got on our bus that would practically be our home for the next three days. Before our day of touring, we had a quick stop off at McDonalds where we ate most of our meals. Our first tourist attraction we went to was the Sacré-Coeur which was truly beautiful. After, we went on a bus tour around the city of Paris, passing the Louvre and the Notre Dame Cathedral.. Our last stop was the world-renowned Eiffel Tower. This was a perfect opportunity to get some pictures and buy some souvenirs. On the second day, we got on the bus and headed to the close by Disneyland Paris. We spent the whole day here going on rides such as Big Thunder Mountain and Star Wars- Hyperspace Mountain. These were thrilling and of course we went to see the Parade through the park. We had been looking forward to this so much, and it did not disappoint. When we got back to the hotel we got to enjoy the Pizza Takeaway and the pool! The last day was sad, as nobody wanted to leave. We drove an hour to the infamous Palace of Versailles where we learned about the history and got to take in the immaculate gardens. After, we went back into the city for one last time. We went shopping for a while, and bought some last-minute gifts. This made for an



unforgettable end to an amazing holiday!! We arrived to the airport. Our flight was delayed an hour and we were all wrecked by the time we got on the plane. When our plane finally was ready to leave, we were heartbroken. We went on a bus back to Ballyhaunis, and arrived at around 3:30 on the 11th of May. Going to Paris was definitely the highlight of TY 2019. We'll never forget it!!

for an



5TH YEAR TRIP TO ACHILL 2019



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Well done to Erin Murray on adding to her long list of achievements after being named Connaught Rising Star 2019

B.C.S. ARTWORK



B.C.S. ARTWORK



5TH YEAR



5A

Back row: Dylan Lyons, Cian Walsh, Kevin Durkan, Daniel Fagan, Diarmuid Phillips, Adam Keane.

Middle Row: Jamie Allen, Ugnius Zvybas, Kshaunish Bundoo, Kate Delaney, Seán Caulfield, Colin Cooper, Mark Gavin.

Front Row: Rachel Cleary, Hannah Clarke, Ushna Ahmad, Julia Grabiasz, Eliza Kepale, Dara Rattigan.



5B

Backrow: Dan Sheridan, Matthew Lynch, Ciarán Kerrigan, Aredas Armonavicius, Umar Tayyab, Pearce McDermott.

Middle Row: Kinza Tahir Mahmood, Malaiyka Asim, Bernadette Staunton, Hassan Naseer, Igor Posaric, Daniyal Gul.

Front Row: Sabina Illichova, Helena Cala, Caoimhe Hagney, Courtney Clifford, Marwa Zamir, Nikki Hickman, Annie Naveed.

Missing From Photo: Leanne Cornwall, Tamara Squire Keane, Massa Rahmani, Zara Akbar, Naweed Jugoo, Jade Keely, Mujtaba Rehman



5C

Back row: Nathan Noone, Claire Fleming, Caitlín Coll, Anna Tigue, Erin Murray, Laura Godfrey, Aoibheann Crawley.

Middle Row: Daniel Hill, James Doyle, Shaun Morley, Jack Jennings, Oísín Duffy, Jack Harrington, Kieran O'Gara, Aaron Keaveney.

Front Row: Peter Morris, Jack Deegan, Ahmed Rahim Khan, Jourdan Guan Yuan Tan, Prince Owusu, Hannah Burke, Samira Dorneles Nobre..



5D

Back row: Declan Henry, Cian Rogers, Jason Reinhardt, Conal Hession, Daniel Murray, Henry Concannon, Stephen Cannon.

Middle Row: Matthew O'Reilly, Mark Mulkeen, Patrick Mannion, Anna Cunnane, Roisin Murphy, James McCormack.

Front Row: Aoife Doherty, Laura Madden, Megan Henry, Dearbhla Glavey, Hannah Tener, Kym O'Reilly.

Missing From Photo: Nathan Colleran, Clodagh Byrne, Nathan McGarry, Guilherme Rodrigues

A TRIBUTE TO OUR FRIEND CALLUM

Callum was a truly special person. He was such an outgoing and lovable character. His ability to make others laugh was unparalleled. Once he had others laughing he was sure to start himself, and once he started there was no stopping him – even if it was not entirely appropriate. In fact this just made it funnier. I think everybody can say that Callum's laugh was distinct and easily recognisable. While he may have claimed that he wasn't fond of school work, he loved the social side of coming to school. He was in his element cracking jokes and having a laugh at the lunch table and the days he wasn't in, his absence was felt. For some us, Callum was a friend and also a team mate as far back as primary school. He was always a big lover of sport, in particular gaelic and soccer. He'd spend most of his days at the Aghamore GAA pitch with his friends or even just playing in the back garden with his siblings. Some of us were very fortunate to have won a county title with Callum back in 2018. It's memories like this that we'll hold dearly forever. While he may have been a joker Callum also had his more caring side. He was always a good person to talk to, and you were sure that anything he was told in confidence would be safe with him. He always had a good relationship with classmates and teachers alike and we know his presence in the classroom and corridors is dearly missed. Although Callum was such a cheerful character, behind the laughter he struggled with his mental health. Callum opened up to the people he trusted about his ongoing battle which was an extremely difficult but brave thing to do. We supported Callum throughout, and respected him even more for his willingness to seek help. During his time in the school Callum left us with some great memories that will forever be looked back on fondly. From junior cert "study days" spent at the river, the daily walks into town at lunch time to the countless sporting outings, we will cherish the times we spent in his company. We know that in years to come when we look back on our happiest teenage days, Callum will be front and centre of our memories.

Daniel Murray, Conal Hession and Oisín Duffy.



Callum was my best friend. He was my rock. He was funny, very funny. It wasn't too long before his mischievous antics started to rub off on me. I'd like to think of ourselves as the dynamic duo. Wherever he went I followed.... usually ending up in trouble! A particular memory that stands out for me was the time Callum and I decided to take my mum's car for a spin. He had me fully convinced that he was a good driver, as anyone who was close to Callum would know that this wasn't true. It was going great until it was time to turn around at the top of the road. I don't even need to say what happened next.... long story short we both ended up grounded for a long time and that gave us time to plan our next adventure!

Rebecca Reynolds



REMEMBERING CALLUM

It was with great sadness that Ballyhaunis Community School learned of the untimely passing of Callum Casey. Callum was a fifth-year student in B.C.S. He was charming, spontaneous, intelligent, mischievous, talented, very popular and fun-loving. He was loved by all of us who were privileged to have known him. Callum was a talented and skilled Gaelic player. He played as a forward for his local club Aghamore and he played for B.C.S. He also had a great passion for soccer. He played for Kiltimagh/Knock United. He was also an integral part of the soccer squad throughout his time in B.C.S. He never missed a training session or a match. When Mr. Ryan and Mr. Noone introduced the Ireland Supporters' Club and students travelled to Dublin for all the home games Callum attended every game. He also attended the Ireland games during the summer holidays. Callum also liked music especially techno/party genre. Mumford and Sons was one of his favourite bands and Dolly Parton's 9-5 was a regular on his playlist. Callum was very popular and had many friends. Glowing tributes ensued when we invited his teachers to participate in remembering him and the following treasured memories will sum up the larger than life character that Callum was.

Comments from teachers. "Callum was a very bright young lad who would pick and choose when to apply himself." "Loveable rogue", "Cheeky grin", "Bouncing bob", "Mischievous smile".

His presence made a great contribution to the spirit of our school and his spirit of volunteerism was evident on a daily basis throughout the corridors and classrooms of B.C.S. On entering the TY Community Care class, Callum informed the teacher that "I don't mind where I go or what I do, I'm your man for volunteering!". We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to his beloved parents, family, extended family and friends. B.C.S are holding you in our thoughts and prayers. Callum you are fondly remembered and missed by all in B.C.S. We have so many treasured memories of your too short life. May your gentle soul rest in peace Callum. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Patricia Hargaden Whyte and Orla Phillips (6th YR. Year Heads)

CALLUM CASEY

O. Macken



On a beautiful Sunday morning, June 2nd, 2019, we woke to the tragic news that Callum Casey, one of our much loved 5th year students had sadly passed away.

Callum's young life unfortunately ended before it had a chance to really begin. Callum joined the school in Sept. 2015 as a typical 1st year- shy and hesitant. But as the saying goes, he soon found his feet. Over the years Callum's confidence grew as he learned in the classroom and excelled on the sports field. I think it is safe to say as teachers we quickly realised that Callum was at his happiest outside the classroom rather than inside!

My memory of Callum is that of a young man who was courteous, respectful and always appeared calm. I now know that behind that shy cheeky smile was a young man who thought deeply about things and carried a weight on his young shoulders. Like many young people who suffer with mental health issues, Callum also had a fun loving and adventurous side, sharing laughs and many happy occasions with his friends and creating precious memories which will remain with them for a lifetime and offers comfort and consolation to Callum's family.

I am including the Poem 'Footprints' in this tribute to Callum. This is a poem that will be familiar to a lot of you. The sentiment reminds us that even in the darkest times of our lives, there is always hope - even when we feel totally alone, we are not. For a time Callum lost sight of the footprints and couldn't find his way. This is a gentle reminder to us all to reach out, to never give up, and always hold onto hope.

Footprints in the Sand

Last night I had a dream. I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two
sets of footprints in the sand: one belonged to me, the other to the Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you, You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, when I needed You the most,
You would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My son, my precious child, I love you and I would never leave you.
During your times of suffering, when you could see only one set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you."

May Callum's gentle soul rest in peace.

LCVP DAWN MEATS

Many thanks to Health & Safety manager Caroline Cavanagh and everyone at Dawn Meats who facilitated a visit from Ms Osgood's 6th Year LCVP class.



SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL

The senior basketball team this year was full of students who had made a big contribution to basketball throughout their time in BCS. After some good training sessions, a confident team took to the court against St Coleman's Claremorris and were rewarded with a narrow victory. The performance of the team was excellent with Joshua Webb being singled out for praise by the referee. This was a great result after being on the wrong side of close games with St. Coleman's in the past it was nice to finally taste victory. This result brought huge enthusiasm to training and into the next game against Ballinrobe. Unfortunately, this game ended in defeat and the year was cut short. Well done to all the lads for their efforts this year. There is still a strong team left to play senior basketball next year as well as some good talent coming through from the Cadet squad.



Back row (left to right): Nathan McGarry, Guilherme Rodrigues, Nathan Colleran, Declan Henry, Joshua Webb, Auredas Armonavicius, James Doyle

Front Row (left to right): Prince Owusu, Kelan Henry, Ugnius Zvybas, Jack Jennings, Igor Posaric, Eddie Groarke

MENTORS

Ms Caroline Burns, Chaplain

"What you want in a mentor is someone who truly cares for you and who will look after your interests and not just their own. When you do come across the right person to mentor you, start by showing them that the time they spend with you is worthwhile."

Vivek Wadhwa

The 'Peer Mentoring Programme' in our school continues to go from strength to strength, providing great rewards for those who are mentored and those who are mentors. By being positive role models for first years, our Leaving Cert students, have enriched the whole school community this year with their commitment and energy. Under the guidance and leadership of Ms O'Reilly and Ms Burns, the student mentors have shown responsibility, understanding, motivation skills, and dedication – all very important qualities that will no doubt be of huge benefit to them in the future. Special thanks go to you all, for your constant support of others, for your involvement in the training day facilitated by Pat Murphy, for your work at the 'Meet and Greet' evening, and for your contribution to the school in so many ways, including organizing lockers, lunchtime supervision, and helping with Induction Day and Bonding Day. You have been influential role models and, unquestionably, you will be inspiring, compassionate leaders in the future.

"Mentoring is a two-way street. You get out what you put in."

Steve Washington

Congratulations to our mentors of 2019-20

Meabh Delaney, Opeyemi Fabunmi, Tony Aylward, Ethan Keane, Shane Glynn, Aoibhinn Kelly, Luke Walsh, Modesta Kucinskate, Megan Morley, Clodagh Conway, Ciara Loftus, Molly Curran, Conor Kinnarney, Grainne Delaney, Hannah Waldron, Niall Flanagan, Amy Keane, Eimhin Conboy, Kamile Pasukeciute, Nathan Coll, Dean McGarry, Amy Waldron, Anna Lyons, Lorna Donnellan, Leah Johnston, Sheena Roddy, Niamh Smith, Brianna Casey, Grainne Collins, Aisling Regan, Fiona Crawley, Mary Carr, Ella Dunleavy, Amy Gildea, Lorna Gormley, James Frayne, Niamh O'Neill, Jack McGoldrick, Aine Phillips, Aoibhe Coggins, Roisin Kerrigan, Ellis Duffy, Rida Naseer, Rona Hosty.



MACRA QUIZ

Pictured is the Macra Quiz team here who came second in the quiz in the Castlebar Tennis Club in December 2019. Thank you to Ms.Osgood and Ms.Walsh for organising.



SCHOLARSHIPS



Congratulations to Katie Ronayne and Michelle Grogan who were awarded Entrance Scholarships in UCD. The awards were received in recognition of their outstanding results in their Leaving Certificate exams. Well done girls and best of luck in the future!



Congratulations to past pupil of BCS, Nadeeha Jugoo, who was awarded a sanctuary scholarship by the President of GMIT. Nadeeha is currently studying Fashion and Design. Nadeeha is the first student to achieve this recently introduced award.

John Paul II Award Recipients



Congratulations to the BCS students who were presented with their John Paul II Awards at a ceremony in the Basilica in Knock on Thursday, November 14th, 2019. The awards are in recognition of the contribution made by the students to the life of their parishes and communities. Thanks to Ms Catriona Murphy for coordinating the programme. Pictured with Archbishop Michael Neary are: Back row l-r: James Doyle, Hannah Waldron, Wiktor Siemionkowski, Claire Fleming, Aoibheann Crawley. Middle row l-r: Mary Carr, Dominic Parr, Hannah Tener, Laura Godfrey. Front row l-r: Lorna Donnellan, Aoife Doherty, Megan Henry, Hannah Burke, Laura Madden.

LEAVING CERT PHOTOS



Sara Althabhaney



Egis Aravicius



Maham Asif



Tony Aylward



Rey Benkheifla



Gráinne Byrne



Aoife Carney



Mary Carr



Brianna Casey



Gabriella Cervenak



Tanzilla Chaudry



Aoibhe Coggins



Gráinne Collins



Nathan Coll



Eimhín Conboy



Ethan Conneely



Clodagh Conway



Aidan Cooper



Daniel Coyne



Tara Coyne



Fiona Crawley



Molly Curran



Gráinne Delaney



Méabh Delaney



Ruairí Delaney



Rachel Dillon



Lorna Donnellan



Stephen Dooney



Éilís Duffy



Ella Dunleavy



Opeyemi Fabunmi



Emmet Flanagan



Niall Flanagan



Shane Flanagan



James Frayne



Sarah Gavin



Amy Gildea



Jasmin Glavey



Shane Glynn



Lauyrn Golden



Lorna Gormley



Oisín Greally



Joel Grennan



Adel Habib



Ruth Henry



Rona Hosty



Mohammad Ibrahim



Leah Johnston



Jakub Jurak



Bothina Kazzeah



Ryan Keadin



Amy Keane



Conor Keane



Ethan Keane



Thomas Keane



Aoibhinn Kelly



Róisín Kerrigan



Hala Kezze



Houda Kezze



Mohamad Kezze



Zeeshan Khan



Angela Killeen



Conor Kinnarney



Modesta Kucinskaite



Lena Kudamati



Liam Lavin



Ciara Loftus



Anna Lyons



Dean Lyons



Sally Maaz



Janna Maaz



Mila Maciukaite



Tom Mahlis



Peter Maughan



Dean McGarry



Jack McGoldrick



Jamie McGowan



Ronan Moran



Megan Morley



Conor Morley



Kiran Muqadas



Rida Naseer



Niamh O'Neill



Kamile Pasukeviciute



Merlin Pearson



Aine Phillips



Salwa Rahmani



Erin Raleigh



Aisling Regan



Rebecca Reynolds



Sheena Roddy



Emily Sharman



Niamh Smith



Eliska Vichtová



Amy Waldron



Hannah Waldron



Luke Walsh



Joshua Webb



Tamzin Whelan Manning

REPEATS



Left to Right: Grace O' Gara, Thomas Coffey.

YEARBOOK EDITORS MESSAGE

M. Ginty

The 2020 yearbook brought its difficulties this year more than any other. The greatest incentive for students to help was often the few times they may get out of class to assist. It has to be said though that despite this, many students and teachers pulled together in a huge way beyond what is their duty to help to make sure we got it over the line and I want to pay tribute to them for that. I would like to particularly thank, Fr. Stephen Farragher for his great photography. I would like to thank Mr. McGarry for his huge contribution providing most of the photos throughout the yearbook. I would also like to thank, Ms. Macken, Mr. McDonagh, Ms. O Phillips, Ms. K Phillips, Ms. Garvey, Ms. Hargaden-Whyte, Ms. Osgood and all teachers who provided material for the publication. In terms of students, I want to thank Aine Glynn, Sarah Morris, Nathan Dee, Kelan Henry, Raif Costello, Niamh Duffy, Ellen Tenner, Rebecca Osgood-Daily, Eilis O'Brien and any other student that contributed to the yearbook. I also want to thank Michelle and Sean from Berry printing who have delivered again on another great yearbook.

Since the last publication the school has again gone through a tough time with two students losing their lives. I just want to pay tribute to them both.

Callum was a great young man with a cheeky grin who didn't enjoy the inside of the classroom but loved the camaraderie of his schoolmates in the corridors and on the football field. He is hugely missed especially by those who were closest to him.

Sally was a wonderful student who had true grit and determination and demonstrated this within the Maths class time and time again getting good results despite all her difficulties. I want to pass on my condolences to her family and friends particularly her sister Jana.

The last thing I normally do is wish the students luck in their Certificate exams but this year I hope everyone keeps safe and I wish the Leaving Certs luck in whatever comes next for them.

6TH YEAR RETREAT

Ms Burns

6th Year students experienced a day off from their demanding study schedule in November at Ballyhaunis Parochial Hall with retreat co-ordinator, Declan Browne. The reaction from the students was exceedingly positive, with many declaring that it was one of the most excellent experiences of their lives! The students felt inspired to live the rest of their lives with self-confidence and grace and they highly recommended the experience. There was a combination of experiences during the day – laughter, tears, reflection, and deep thinking. Students were guided to speak openly and honestly to each other and to share their feelings in a thoughtful and sincere way. Congratulations to everyone participating and a very big thank you to Ms Hargaden-Whyte and Ms Macken who joined us for tea and biscuits at break time. It was good to see them and to share special time with them on the day. Special thanks to Declan Browne for sharing his wonderful gift with us.



TRIBUTE TO SALLY MAAZ

Lena Kudamati

*Hush dear friends, don't say a word.
Our classmate is gone and free like a bird.
Free to fly in the heavens above,
as a friend we'll always be thinking of.
She is gone from where we can see,
but in our hearts is where she'll always be.
Memories can never be taken away,
so we'll remember her when we learn and play.
Sadness, anger, and wondering why?
Are feelings that will make us cry.
But, our dear friend will help us grieve
because her spirit will never leave.*



My classmates and I are at a loss for words. The sudden death of our fellow classmate shocked us all. She was a positive, confident, respected and a kind-hearted person. Despite her suffering from a congenital heart defect, she never gave up. She attended school like all of us, without showing any sign of her struggle. She consistently participated in all school activities in order to prevent herself from thinking that she is any different to everyone else. Her dream was to graduate the leaving cert with her friends and go to college. She wanted to become a surgeon so she would look after people. I was one of Sally's closest friends. She always had a smile on her face no matter what. She used to inspire me to not think of what people say. The best memory I have of her is when her and I were auditioning for the school talent show in 1st year. I was going to sing and she was going to rap. We were a great duo. After the audition I was too afraid to go on stage in front of the whole school and I backed out. But that didn't stop her. She had the courage to dance on stage while everyone was watching. I was very proud of Sally. She grew in my eyes. Sally, our dear friend, we all love and miss you so much. You may be gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.

مهدو جوب انتاي ح انيلع نوؤلم ي اوناك نم طلا م ح

TRIBUTE TO SALLY MAAZ R.I.P.

O. Macken

I was greatly saddened to hear of the untimely passing of our Leaving Cert student Sally Maaz on the morning of Friday, April 24th. My immediate response was to think about how we could reach out to Sally's family, her friends and her classmates. Due to the government and HSE restrictions in place at this time we had to find a different way to show support and solidarity to Sally's family. The Candle tribute organized in remembrance of the beautiful life of Sally did just that and touched the hearts of many.

One of my fond memories of Sally was of her at the 1st year Talent Show in 2016. There she was, bright-eyed and sparkling, gliding around the stage performing an unusual style of dance! I was struck that day by her confidence and bravery to get up on stage and perform this dance in front of her peers. I have since learned a lot about the fighting spirit Sally possessed, I watched her blossom and grow but also do battle and fight. Lots of students hate school - Sally would have done anything to be in school! We lost a treasure the day Sally passed from our world into the next. Our school is all the richer for having had Sally as part of our family. She has left a great legacy, she has taught each of us the importance of grabbing every day and making the most of it, give everything you do 100%, not to be afraid and to believe in yourself. For a lot of us, it takes a life-time to learn these lessons, Sally had it figured out at a young age, she was mature beyond her years!



May her beautiful and sparkling soul rest in peace.

My sincere sympathies to Sally's parents, her sister Janna and younger brother Gany, who have to carry the burden of her loss, also to her extended family, her Class mates and friends.

REMEMBERING SALLY...

Orla Phillips and Patricia Hargaden-Whyte (6th Yr. Year Heads)

When we asked teachers to describe Sally, we heard words like: "conscientious", "lovely", "beautiful smile", "warm", "always had work done", "interested", "cheerful". Sally was all of these things. At first glance, Sally came across as a quiet, unassuming student whom you saw before you heard. But on chatting to her, one discovered a depth to Sally. Perhaps, because of her own health issues, Sally dreamed of becoming a doctor and worked hard to make this dream a reality. Even though her declining health meant that she missed a lot of time in her last year in school, she remained focused on her goal of doing the Leaving Cert and going to College. Her beloved sister Janna was equally committed to making this happen and liaised with teachers to keep Sally up to date with school. Sally's last day in school was on Wednesday 4th March last, when she came in to hand in her Leaving Cert. LCVP portfolio. But this commitment to her studies was just one part of Sally. As her Leaving Cert photo and YouTube posts show, Sally was a vivacious, self-confident, beautiful young woman who loved dancing, singing, make up, clothes and going on her phone. We first glimpsed this side of Sally, when she did a solo dance in the 1st Year school talent show. Other glimpses of Sally's energetic and fun-side were gleaned in her table tennis games at lunch-time in the gym, in her flawless use of eye make-up and her coming into school especially, to make pink ribbons for the Mayo Cycle Pink Ribbon Day with her 5th Year Religion Class. Perhaps, this is the nicest photo of Sally in school as it shows her smiling, surrounded by her loving sister and friends. Our deepest sympathies are with her heart-broken parents and family. Although Sally was a petite student, she left a big imprint in our hearts!



These are some of the comments about Sally:

"I had Sally for JC History. All I can say is that she would always say thank you after class. She was so conscientious. Anytime she missed classtime she would always enquire for the work she had missed. I will always remember her beautiful smile. Lovely young lady. RIP Sally" (Catriona Raftery)

I taught Sally for Junior Geography, fond memories of her huge smile always. She would enter class and always have a warm hello and a big thank you upon leaving! She would oftentimes be absent, but would have caught up on her work before returning, very eager and had great ability in the subject, took great pride in her copy and folder. (Nicola Nolan)

"I taught Sally science in Junior Cert and she was such an interested student. . At that stage, she had already spent much time in hospitals during her childhood and from that she developed a keen interest in the world of medicine. She told me when she was in 1st year that she hoped one day to work in medicine. You could always depend on Sally to give you a nod or a cheerful "hello" when you met her in the corridor with her school bag rolling behind her. RIP Sally. (Mr. Shannon)



KRAKOW SCHOOL TOUR 2019

Raif Costello and Julia Grabiasz



On the 23rd of October 2019, a group of 48 students consisting of Mainly Fifth and Sixth year students made their way to Dublin Airport, to go to Krakow Poland for their Senior School Tour. We arrived at our hotel late that night, excited to begin our Tour of the historical city.

The next morning after a wonderful breakfast, we got a guided tour of Old Town Krakow, one of Europe's best-preserved Medieval Towns. One of the Tour's most magnificent stops was the Wawel Cathedral, a stunning cathedral atop a huge hill. We then made our way to the Kazimierz district, where we visited the Schindler's Factory Museum. In the Museum we learned all about what the Jewish People suffered during Hitler's rise to power and the Holocaust. After a long day of sightseeing, we were treated to a night of Bowling at a local Bowling Alley, which was great fun for all.

On our third day in Poland, we got a bus to Auschwitz Concentration Camp, one of the most horrific and tragic sights in Europe. Once there, we learned what the conditions were like for the people who were forced here during WWII and the Holocaust. It was a haunting experience we'll never forget. After returning to the hotel and having a delicious 3-course dinner, we were treated to 2 hours at Aqua Park Wodny, a huge water park filled with slides and pools. An enjoyable evening and a definite highlight from our trip.

On our forth and final day, we made our way to Wieliczka Salt Mines. A massive salt mine built in the 13th century. We were given a guided tour of the mine, and we got to see many magnificent structures and endless caves. We were then given some time in Galeria Krakowska, a gigantic shopping center in the city.





STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Well done to Niamh O'Neill adding to her growing haul of medals winning Silver in National Junior championships in the 60m Hurdles.



Well done to Peter Maughan who brought home 2 gold medals from the International Gloves up, Guns down Boxcup in New York.

SENIOR BOYS GAELIC

Kelan Henry

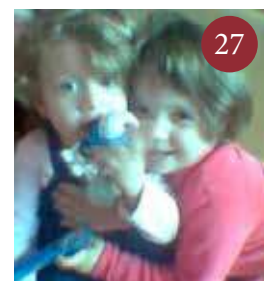
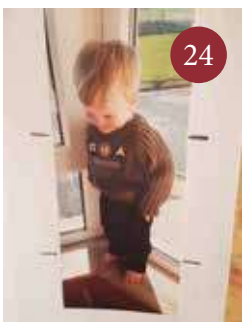
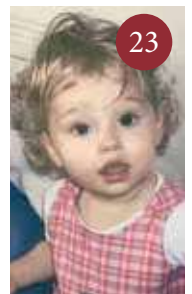
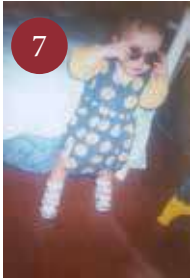
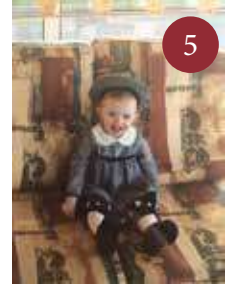
Coming into this season Ballyhaunis had high hopes on contending for trophies and having a long season. This would not be an easy task as the group they were placed in was extremely tough. Their first match was against Balla, and everyone wanted to start the season off with a win. The lads came out strong but were struggling to convert their opportunities to points. By halftime, the lads were frustrated to not have a massive lead due to the amount of chances they got. The second half, their accuracy had improved significantly, with players like Dean McGarry keep the midfield in tight unison. Unfortunately, Balla just edged out Ballyhaunis in the end, with Ballyhaunis losing by just a single point. The final scoreline was Balla 1-13 Ballyhaunis 1-12. Our next opponent was Gordnorr Abbey, and everyone was keen on getting out on the pitch and winning. Ballyhaunis had a slow start however, with free kicks from Liam Lavin and Conor Keane and an Oisín Duffy solo goal keeping them in contention. Going into halftime, the lads showed their character and got fired up. Stand out players such as Dean McGarry, Henry Concannon and Shane Glynn showing true leadership and helped edge out the game in a 1-point victory! Next up was Foxford, and the lads didn't need the win to get through the group but were still hungry for the win. They came out in the first half swinging, with a lovely passing play with Dean Lyons to Jack Madden goal. A second goal came from Liam Lavin, but Foxford didn't want to just roll over. They turned a 5-point deficit into a 7-point lead going into halftime. Ballyhaunis gave it their everything the second half, but just came up short in an unfortunate loss. Finally, Ballyhaunis had made it to their first Championship match of the year. If they won against Strokestown, they would be through to the Semi-finals, so the atmosphere was tense. Oisín Greally was doing a brilliant job in the backs being a sweeper, having a great read of the game. Dean Lyon's opened Ballyhaunis goal notebook by slotting a lovely shot into the top left corner. Going into halftime, Ballyhaunis was up 1-4 to 1-3. In the second half the game began to slip from Ballyhaunis's grasp, despite their last minute heroics. It was a heartbreaking loss, but this match was a testament to the senior lad's relentless mentality to never give up. The game ended with Ballyhaunis losing by 5 points, but they can hold their heads high. Every single lad on that team gave it their all, which is more important than anything else as they all have bright futures ahead of them. It was a pleasure to be their TY helper, and I wish them all the best of luck past secondary school!



Back Row (right to left): Diarmuid Phillips, Henry Concannon, Eimhin Conboy, Dylan Caulfield, Jack McGoldrick, Davey Hennessy, Tony Aylward, Jason Reinhardt, Conal Hession, Jack Madden, Conor Morley, Daniel Hill, Dean McGarry, Mr Mitchell (coach)

Front row (left to right): Oisín Greally, Stephen Cannon, Kevin Durkan, Conor Keane, Dean Lyons, Ryan Keadin, Daniel Murray, Oisín Duffy, Declan Henry, Liam Lavin

BABY PHOTOS



1. Roisin Kerrigan 2. Sheena Roddy 3. Sarah Gavin 4. Niamh O'Neill
5. Mary Carr 6. Salwa Rahmani 7. Megan Moley 8. Ronan Moran
9. Molly Curran 10. Oisín Greally 11. Rhona Hosty 12. Rachel Dillon
13. Conor Keane 14. Leah Johnson
15. Lena Kudamati 16. Grainne Delaney 17. Grainne Collins
18. Lorna Donnellon 19. Grainne Byrne 20. Fiona Crawley, Oisín Greally, Liam Lavin & Eimhin Conboy 21. Ethan and Amy Keane
22. Ciara Loftus 23. Emily Sharman 24. Conor Kinnarney 25. Conor Keane & Aine Philips 26. Clodagh Conway 27. Hala & Houda Kezze
28. Brianna Casey 29. Aoibhe Coggins & Lorna Gormley
30. Aoife Carney 31. Aisling Regan

SENIOR BOYS HURLING

Eddie Groarke

It was a great year for the senior hurlers. Training started in early December in preparation for a monstrous clash against Westport in the prestigious Centre of Excellence. When match day came you could tell Ballyhaunis meant business with Goals from Ryan Keadin and points from Liam Lavin, Conal Hession and Oisín Grealley. In the end the Ballyhaunis lads were far superior to the boys from Westport and it finished 5-11 to 3-04. When the full time whistle blew the crowd burst onto the field it was a day to remember for everyone involved.

Next up was the Connacht Championship and the players were buzzing to get going. In the group stage we claimed wins over St Jarlaths of Tuam and a win by forfeit to Roscommon C.B.S and lost by a point to Ballygar although if Hawkeye was available the result could have been different. With these results we finished second in our group which set us up with a mouth-watering clash with St Killians in mid-January in Mountbellew. The game was fought right until the end and not even the Backup brigade from the bench could change that. On behalf of the players we would like to thank our great coach Mr Woolley and the great staff at the canteen for always having hot grub for the lads after games and training.



Liam Lavin receiving the trophy as BCS were once again crowned North Connacht champions.



Back Row: Diarmuid Phillips, Daniel Murray, Conor Keane, Dylan Caulfield, Sean Keadin, Clayton Nolan, Brian McHugh, James Frayne, James Doyle, Danny Hill, Eibhín Conboy, Mark Mulkeen, Shaun Morley, Declan Henry

Front Row: Oisín Duffy, Kevin Durkan, Stephen Cannon, Conal Hession, Eddie Groarke, Ryan Keadin, Oisín Grealley, Liam Lavin, Micheál Finn Richardson, Eoin Ryan, Fiachra Glavey, Cathal Grealley

Missing from Photo: Daniel Coyne

MEMORY LANE

Class of 2020 – well, here we are, almost at the end (probably), and I think we can all agree our Leaving Cert year definitely won't be forgotten anytime soon. We were on the brink of plunging into what everyone calls 'the most stressful time of our lives' followed by the most relieving, when our whole lives were put on hold. The finish line was well in sight, we could practically see freedom on the horizon, before the whole world went into lockdown, taking our final school days with it

On the 11th of March, in the middle of fourth class on a Thursday, it was announced that all schools across the country would be closing the next day indefinitely. For some of us, panic ensued. Others celebrated what was believed to be a "two-week holiday". None of us could have guessed that we would never experience a proper school day again. No one knows with any certainty what our future, or even our much-anticipated summer holiday, will hold. No one even knows if there will be toilet paper in the shops tomorrow. What we can do is look back on our time in BCS, the good, the bad, and the ugly of our secondary school lives, and hope we get a chance to finish it all out on a high note... because there is no way we're missing the famous leaving cert pizza party

It seems like a lifetime ago since we all rocked up in first year, lads with bright schoolbags bigger than ourselves and shiny new "dubes" for the girls (and James). Despite being told by Fr. Stephen time and time again that we were all 'small fish in a big pond', friendships quickly formed. Relationships blossomed before dying after 2 weeks, only one of which has stood the test of time and continues today. The big school that once seemed so scary soon became our second home. Skipathons, talent shows, and sports teams helped ease us into the daunting new setting

Second year quickly came, joined by that impossible decision of our subject choices and the new experience of being completely forgotten about and left to our own devices, hidden behind the narrow block-work corridors of the then-C and -B areas (now sadly renamed to E and C, respectively). Girls used this new area to their full advantage, missing more classes after returning from games than anyone could imagine

We all came down to reality with a bang as the big JC became a reality in third year. Our confidence was knocked down even further since the entire school seemed to have to eat their lunches on benches a foot off the floor in the old assembly area. Having studied 'An t-Ádh' under three different teachers, Ms. Brogan's class still had nothing on Ms. O'Loughlin's, who could recite "Timpiste" inside out by June (some of whom wrote it several times in their Junior Cert as well as their Leaving Cert mock). School also became a construction site much to the delight of all scanners who now got to see diggers and tractors right outside their windows. Being the first lab rats for the new Junior Cycle proved too stressful for fifty of us and so we kicked back and relaxed as the first ever double-class Transition Year.

It's safe to say Mr McGarry was put to the test trying to keep tabs on all of us, and nearly lost a few to the bogs of Killary. Some of the lads even got to spend a night with Geoff from Limerick, who, after a string of events got locked in their room for the night. Along with the refurbishment of the school, we all underwent some remaking of ourselves. While the lads racked up wins in Fortnite, the girls had plenty of time to experiment with tan, makeup and new hairstyles. Several man buns would also emerge over the coming years. With the refurbishment well underway, we now had to walk outside and around the school to get to most classes. This led to golden excuses such as "we couldn't come to class because it was raining". Our new and improved selves jetted off to Rome for a much-needed break from Mr Ginty chasing after us about our ECDL exams. With only Mr McGarry and Ms Hargaden-Whyte there to keep us in check, it's not surprising that we spent most of the time searching the streets for missing people. Despite Rome being famous for its world-renowned cuisine, most of us chowed down on Big Macs and McFlurrys.

Fifth year brought a whole load of new things into our lives, including new classmates from the year below. Just as we had learned the names of everyone in our year, 50 new faces joined us. The newcomers quickly became intertwined with new friend groups. We all had a chance to bond in Achill – well, those of us who didn't skip the trip for the ploughing. We were lucky to go in the end as the treacherous winds blew the bumper off the bus before we even left school grounds. Just as we were settling down into Hamlet and the joys of Leaving Cert preparations, some of us were whisked away by the Sound of Music. The dodgy harmonies, ginger Nazis and crazy costume changes were but a few of our favourite things... In early 2019 the school suffered the loss of much-loved teacher, Ms Grogan. Having taught many of us and been a role model to even more, this was a huge blow to everyone in the school, teachers and students alike. Memorials and ceremonies were carried out in memory of Anne. She will never leave our hearts

Before we knew it, we were all set to enjoy a well-earned Summer off before heading into school as the top dogs on the first day of Sixth Year. The dream of a glorious Summer of relaxation was cut short as once again, tragedy struck our year. The loss of former classmate, Callum Casey, was one that we will never forget. An integral part of the year and an amazing friend to many, Callum will always be remembered as the funniest person to ever be a member of our year. We banded together and marched through these sad times as a year group rather than individuals.

Sixth year came and the mentor badges adorning our jumpers added to our new-found sense of power, however it must be said, I'm not certain how many of us were entirely sure who our First Year mentees are – there's far too many to tell them apart. The dreaded CAO booklets were handed out and things started to become all too real. Those of us who thought jam-jar making in the Aran Islands involved fruit and not wood had some serious thinking to do. With Ms O'Reilly's persistent reminders about the January deadline to get that €15 off, we all managed to put something down in time, even if for 50% of us it was sports science. Next thing we knew, we were being divided up class by class (except the three who were put with the 6Bs for some reason) and settled into our mocks. Though on second thoughts, some of us probably spent more time in the toilets than the actual classrooms. Project deadlines, orals, even after school Engineering and DCG, began to take over our lives until that fateful Thursday afternoon when Leo Varadkar himself announced, to everyone's surprise, the closure of the schools. Unfortunately, his timing was rather inopportune, as Ms Mulroy's English Class ended up missing that extra double English class due to the mayhem. While all of us were in lockdown, we had to deal with the shocking news that our classmate, Sally Maaz, had passed away. Once again, our year was shaken to its foundations as we mourned the loss of a much-loved classmate. Sally was a gifted girl, who always gave 100% in the classroom. To many of us she was a friend. Our thoughts and prayers particularly went out to Sally's sister Janna, who is also a shining light in our year. Right now, we are all separated, stuck at home, glued to our desks. Trying to learn differentiation via video, or how to type French into a QWERTY keyboard while awaiting the next drip of information concerning our exams at the same time. In the middle of a pandemic, with half the world in lockdown, only one thing is certain- this Leaving Cert year is unlike any other. Having suffered more trials and tribulations than any year prior and having overcome them all as a group, it's safe to say that the class of 2020 will go down in history.

MEMORY LANE

We didn't realise we were making memories when we were having so much fun



