

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2023 Ballyhaunis CS Yearbook. As you leaf through the pages I hope you get a sense of the vibrant, dynamic community that we are fortunate to possess here in our school.

I am happy to report that the school continues to thrive and flourish. Student numbers currently stand at 720 with further growth occurring again next year. Last September saw the establishment of an ASD Unit in the school. This development allows us to more fully meet the needs of the community we serve. This year has also seen the introduction of the School Meals Programme in BCS. This means that every student has access to healthy, nutritious food each and every school day. This initiative is as a result of our newly acquired DEIS status. DEIS stands for Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools. The rolling out of our ASD Unit and the implementation of the DEIS programme will do much for the more vulnerable members of our school community and this is something to be greatly welcomed.

The summer of 2022 saw a huge influx of new talent into the school staff. Fifteen new faces ensured that there was a real buzz and energy around the place as we faced into the new academic year. However, it was a familiar face that filled the most significant vacancy. Mr. Patrick McGarry was appointed to the position of Deputy Principal over the summer months and it is fair to say that his appointment was well received both inside and outside of the school. Mr. McGarry has brought the same skills to bear in his new role that were synonymous with his teaching. He continues to be hugely dedicated, innovative and precise in everything that he does. As a teacher he was always thinking outside the box and looking to improve and the same is true now. I have no doubt that Mr. McGarry's talents will ensure that BCS will remain a wonderful place for students to attend and be educated for many years to come.



*Senior management Team:
Patrick McGarry (Deputy
Principal), David McDonagh
(Principal), Orla Macken
(Deputy Principal)*

Since the publication of last year's Yearbook Ms. Éadaoin Flynn has made the decision to retire. Éadaoin was a teacher of Home Economics and Religion in BCS since 2005. Éadaoin had a wonderful command of both subjects but what really set Éadaoin apart was her energy, commitment and fastidious attention to detail. Nothing was left to chance by Éadaoin and students reaped the rewards of her dedication. Éadaoin's commitment to her students was widely acknowledged by all. Not only were students prepared for their exams, they were given life skills that would stand them in good stead after they left school. I know for a fact that as a result of Éadaoin's gentle nurturing of the students in her care that many went on to have very successful careers in food preparation and in the hospitality sector which would most likely would never happened only for Éadaoin's care and encouragement. Éadaoin can truly look back with pride and satisfaction on the many influential interventions she made on young people's lives. This is truly a worth legacy.

It goes without saying that everybody associated with the school wishes Éadaoin a healthy and happy retirement.

Ms. Aine Fallon also moved onto newer pastures last summer. Áine was a teacher of English and Religion in BCS since 2004. Áine's vibrant personality ensured her popularity with both students and staff alike. As well as being an excellent educator Áine forged very meaningful connections with her students and was that "one significant adult" within the school community for many students. Her gentle interventions with students were invaluable and led to enhanced outcomes for many. We wish her well in her new role in Colaiste Chiaráin, Athlone.

Just before the Christmas Dermot O'Sullivan drew the curtain on a long and distinguished career as a caretaker in BCS. Dermot joined the staff in 1996 and made a significant contribution to the development of BCS over the years. His roguish personality and cute Kerry charm ensured that Dermot brought great colour to our school. As a caretaker he was reliable and diligent and took great pride in the school. As well as tending to the grounds and facilities he always had a watchful eye for students who may be struggling to find their feet.

We miss his unique personality around the school and we wish him many years of health and happiness in retirement.

I would also like to wish Patricia Gaughan many years of health and happiness in her retirement. In June 2022 Patricia decided to bow out after giving sterling service to the school for over 20 years. In that time, she served in a number of roles but in later years Patricia was on reception. Her professionalism, her kindness and her big smile ensured that people's first impression of the school was positive and welcoming.

We all miss her infectious good humour and we also wish Patricia many years of health and happiness in her retirement.

Over the last 12 months we were saddened to hear of the passing of two highly regarded past members of Staff; Mr. Michéal Murren and Mr. Vinnie Healy. Both men made huge contributions to the school over many decades. They were members of the original staff in the Community School and did much to cement the school's reputation as a centre of educational excellence. Both men were also very involved in extra-curricular activities, particularly on the football pitch. Many students benefitted from their generosity of time and effort as they brought teams all over Mayo and Connacht. Victories were savoured, defeats endured but it was the opportunity to allow students to learn and grow outside the classroom that motivated both Michéal and Vinnie. They had a real understanding of the mindset of young people and they both contributed to the well-being of the school community long before it became a buzz word in educational circles. However, it was in the classroom of course that both men excelled. Both had encyclopaedic knowledge of their respective subject areas and were able to impart that knowledge in a way that allowed all students, irrespective of ability, the opportunity to learn and achieve. Michéal and Vinnie contributed hugely to the education of thousands of students and that is indeed a wonderful legacy. On behalf of the whole school community I wish to extend sympathies to their families and friends. May they Rest in Peace.

I want to pay tribute to Mr. Ginty for his hard work in compiling this excellent publication. This is no easy task but, as always, he rose to the challenge and I wish to commend him for his efforts once again. He was 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 who is 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.

TEACHING STAFF 2023



Backrow (L-R): Seán Folan, Danielle Coyne, Nicola O'Donnell, Kirsty Phillips, Paul Lawless, Micheál Ginty, Gavin Duffy, Brian Waters, Michael Murray, Declan Flattery, Declan McManamon.

3rd Row(L-R): Paul Ryan, Marian Phelan, Gillian Madden, Niamh Morley, Shannon O'Connor, Ellis Ronayne, Ciara Hunt, Siobhán Garvey, Geraldine Cunneiffe, Patricia Hargaden-Whyte, Josephinoftus, Mairéad Quinn, Aishling O'Brien, Sharon Mulroy, Colm Caulfield.

2nd Row(L-R): Connor Freeley, Caoimhe O'Grady, Shannon McDonagh, Jacqueline Flattery, Caroline Burns, Aoife Hegarty, Siobhán Mannix, Maeve Leheny, Bernie Osgood, Marie Murphy, Marie Flaherty.

Front Row(L-R): Carmel Cox, Patrick Noone, Anna Henry, Orla Macken, David McDonagh, Patrick McGarry, Mairéad Conway, Aoife Keane, Orla Phillips, Edel Kinsella.

Missing from photo: Antoinette Lennon, Ann Varden, Anne Marie O'Reilly, Bernadine Waldron, Claire Lawless, Colleen Hayes, Colin Quinn, Catriona Murphy, Catherine Monaghan, David Mitchell, Éadaoin Flynn, Francis Gormally, Gráinne Glavey, Genny Murray, Geraldine O'Loughlin, Mary Mooney, Nicola Nolan, Olive Lyons, Padraic Shannon, Raymond Wooley, Sinéad Niland, Fiona Campbell.

CARETAKERS



Pictured: I-r: Zuzanna Stevkova, Gerry Glavey, Michael O'Shaughnessy

OFFICE STAFF



Pictured: L-r: Justina Lyons and Sharon Gibbons

SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANTS



Pictured: L-r: Anne-Marie Walsh, Louise Joyce, Michelle Delaney, Michelle Kavanagh (*Missing from photo: Geraldine Donnellan*)

NEW STAFF



Back row l-r :

Nicola O'Donnell, Declan McManamon, Brian Waters, Gavin Duffy, Declan Flattery, Callum Cole, Caroline McGuire.

Front row l-r:

Caoimhe O'Grady, Eilis Ronayne, Jacqueline Flattery, Marie Flaherty, Shannon McDonagh, Maeve Leheny, Niamh Morley.

Staff news

Congratulations to Mary Mooney, Marian Phelan, Nicola Nolan, Grainne Glavey, and Claire Lawless on the birth of their babies this year.



Aoibh Tarpey



Conn Kavanagh



Cian Walsh



Luca Murphy



Shay Lawless

Dermot O'Sullivan Retirement

As Dermot O'Sullivan retires from his role as caretaker at Ballyhaunis Community School, the students, staff, and community alike bid him a fond farewell. For 27 years, Dermot has been a constant presence at the school, ensuring that everything was in order and that the students had a safe and clean environment to learn in. But Dermot was much more than just a caretaker - he was a friend to many students, especially those who were struggling to fit in. He had a kind and gentle manner that put everyone at ease, and he always had time to listen and offer words of encouragement. One of Dermot's passions was football, and he loved nothing more than chatting about it with anyone who would listen. And of course, being from Kerry, he was especially happy when his team was winning. Dermot will be missed by all who knew him, but we wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement. His dedication and kindness to the school and its students will never be forgotten. Thank you, Dermot, and enjoy your well-deserved rest!

Pat Noone and Micheál Ginty



Pictured: L-R: Gerry Glavey, Zuzanna Stevkova, Sharon Gibbons, Justina Lyons, Dermot O'Sullivan



Pictured: L-R: Sean McHugh, Dermot O'Sullivan and David McDonagh

Patricia Gaughan Retirement

We would like to extend our best wishes to Patricia Gaughan who retired at the end of the last school year. Patricia made a significant impact during her time at BCS. She initially worked in the school Book Shop and later as a receptionist. Throughout her tenure, Patricia exhibited exceptional organisational skills and maintained a high level of professionalism.

Patricia's infectious laugh and good humour were notable attributes that brightened up any day. She also had a courteous and pleasant tone when dealing with people on the phone and she maintained a high level of confidentiality when dealing with sensitive information, earning the trust and confidence of her colleagues.

As Patricia retires, we can only wish her every good wish for a long and healthy retirement. Her vibrant, colourful, and fun-loving personality will be missed, but her dedication, reliability, and hard work will always be remembered.



Pictured R-L: Padraic Shannon, Orla Macken, Patricia Gaughan and David McDonagh



Pictured L-R: Justina Lyons, Patricia Gaughan and Sharon Gibbons

School Meals Programme

We are delighted to announce that our recently awarded DEIS Status has allowed BCS to access the School Meals Programme. Since, 6th December all students were eligible to access, free of charge, an attractive, healthy menu during first break. This is being delivered in conjunction with "Castle Catering" who have been our catering partners for a number of years.



Eadaoin Flynn Retirement

Eadaoin arrived in BCS in 2005 as a Home Economics and Religion teacher. Thinking back over the years it is amazing how quickly time goes by and it is now time to reflect on the time Eadaoin spent with us.

Eadaoin is a teacher of many talents both inside and outside the classroom. She insisted on high standards and ensured that all of her students were afforded the opportunity to fulfil their potential. She is gifted in her area of expertise, she is "All About Home Economics", she is cakey, bakey, cookey and crafty! She brought the absolute best out in her students in the kitchen and produced dishes in exams and tasks that were of Fine Dining standard. Her coffee mornings were looked forward to in the staff room and were second to none. She could turn her hand to anything and was very generous with her time and talents even to us teachers in her department! The Home Economics rooms that we teach in today are a testament to her highly tuned organisational skills, her hard work and commitment helped create a highly functional department that is the envy of all Home Economics teachers and Inspectors that visit our school. She was also always willing to help out with Graduations, Musicals and Folk Groups among other things. Her musical ability is amazing and all of the above benefitted from her wonderful talents as a musician and leader down through the years.

Finally, Eadaoin as a colleague has been supportive, collaborative, kind, generous, understanding and funny, most of all funny. She loves a practical joke, a funny meme and indeed anything that brings a bit of humour into the day. We will miss her putting a bit of "smacht" on us in the Department but also her sense of fun and laughter. We wish Eadaoin health and happiness as she embarks on this new phase of her life.

Aoife Keane, Siobhan Mannix, Home Economics Department BCS.

RE Department

Every year brings many changes to our school. This year we welcomed many new faces to our Staff, but we are also saying "adieu and bon chance" to Eadaoin Flynn, a very valued member of our Staff and RE team. Since joining B.C.S. in 2005, Eadaoin has enriched our Staff with her great sense of humour, empathy, and friendliness. We also greatly appreciated her many welcome culinary treats! Over the years, Eadaoin has showed a deep commitment to high professional standards and to helping students achieve their personal best. She delighted in imparting skills to her Home Economic students that would stand to them in the future. Each year, we marvelled at the skills her LCA students demonstrated as they cooked and served up a four-course meal. Without a doubt each meal was worthy of 4-stars!

In Religion Class, Eadaoin showed great interest in her students' well-being. Many former 6th Year students will happily recall Ms. Flynn providing a well-deserved break from study with a chat over tea and biscuits. Eadaoin cared about her students and had a special interest in those that needed a bit of extra support.. She was an ally and an advocate for students. They knew she were there for them. She made a difference to their lives. As teachers this is something we all try to practise and Eadaoin lived this approach.

Eadaoin's knowledge of her subjects was impressive. She imparted this knowledge with passion and conviction. She inspired students to become teachers themselves and it is reassuring to know that there are teachers up and down the country who are upholding the excellent standards and values set by Eadaoin. It was this ability to combine high standards of professionalism and knowledge, with a very approachable and kind attitude that made Eadaoin special to us all.

Eadaoin's contribution to the school also extended outside the classroom. Each year, she involved RE students in making pink bows for the Mayo Pink Ribbon Charity event. She also contributed to the school folk choir, playing the guitar at all major liturgical events. As part of the Home Economics Department, she played a major role in making and altering costumes for our bi-annual school musicals and providing much needed refreshments after Graduation Masses. Eadaoin did not, as the saying goes, like to blow her own trumpet but she is without a doubt an exceptionally talented person.

As this BCS chapter in Eadaoin's life closes, and another more relaxed one begins, we in the RE Department wish Eadaoin good health, happiness, and many fun-filled adventures. Enjoy and keep in touch with your friends in B.C.S.



*Orla Phillips and Sharon Mulroy
on behalf of the RE Department*

'Fragile Life'



On Friday, March 31st members of staff came together with the family and friends of loved ones who had passed away in recent times. In particular, our former colleague Anne Grogan and students Sally Maaz and Callum Casey were remembered in a special way. The Art installation Fragile Life which was officially unveiled during the service was created from a desire amongst the staff and students to commemorate those we have lost from our school community in the last number of years.

The creation story of 'Fragile life'

The school received a Creative Engagement grant to help finance the project and commissioned Westport based Stain Glass Artist Linda Grieve-Mulloy to design and create the artwork. The artist collaborated with the Art department and the artwork of 60 students has been embedded in the piece.



The medium of glass was chosen as it symbolises fragility, vulnerability but also invisible protection. Both the glass and the flowers represent fragile beauty while the tree reflects strength and growth. Together we will face storms and emerge stronger although shaped by one's trials. The roots from the tree is the legacy we leave, forever concreted into the earth.

The Art Installation allows us to positively remember those we very much miss and it is a reminder to us of the fragility of life.

Thank you to David Murphy and his team for designing and creating the steel frame to hold the Stain glass piece in place, their time and generosity is much appreciated.

Thank you also to Gerry Glavey and Keith Curry for pouring the concrete base and helping with the installation.

Thanks to all the 60 students who for their beautiful flower paintings and leaf drawings.

"Life is fragile and short and worth all the loving presence we can bring to it."

Retired Staff reunion

We were delighted & honoured to welcome back to BCS a number of our former colleagues and friends early in Sept, 2022. This was their first opportunity to visit the school since the major refurbishment and extension project. Many were part of the original staff since the school's inception in 1977. It was a wonderful occasion for everyone to meet up, exchange stories from the past and showcase the school's state of the art facilities.



Pictured as follows: Back row (l-r): Sr. Teresina Daly, Justina Lyons, Mary Frances Cleary, John Cleary, Hugh Rudden, Chris Pratt, Ann Joyce, Sr. Maura Callaghan.

Middle row (l-r): Eileen Jennings, Fr. James O'Grady, Terry Coleman, Eva Brogan, Pat McHugh, Peggy Egan, Morgan Jennings, Eileen Byrne, Jarlath Fahey, Fr. Des Walsh.

Front row (l-r) Sr. Joan Fahey, Aidan Kelly, Micheal Smith, Tom Grogan, Brid White, Helen Hurley, Christy Ruane, Mary Reaney.



Vinny Healy - RIP

Late August, 2022 we learnt of the passing of our former colleague; Vinny Healy. Vinny was a member of the original staff of the Community School having taught in the Vocational school before joining the staff in 1977. Vinny was an excellent teacher who taught Science and Agricultural Science to hundreds of students over the course of his teaching career. He brought his qualities of hard work, common sense and love of farming to his teaching and instilled these qualities in the many students he taught right up to his retirement in 2007. We as a school community extend our sympathies to Vinny wife Irene, his daughter Ciara and his sons Vincent and Ronan and his extended family and his many friends.



Micheal Murren - RIP

In early June 2022 we also said goodbye to our retired colleague and friend Micheal Murren (Hawley). Hawley was a popular and well regarded member of the original teaching staff in BCS. As a Maths teacher he had the wonderful skill of being able to simplify the most complex maths problems and make it accessible for his students. He is fondly remembered as a great GAA man, many football teams benefited from his promotion of Gaelic Football as a coach and manager. He had a gentle, kind presence that earned him the respect of the entire school community. We extend our condolences to Hawley's brother Eamonn, his extended family and his many friends at this difficult time. In the words of Maya Angelou who wrote the poem *'When great Trees fall'* She acknowledges the painful feelings that come with grief but leaves us on a hopeful note; *"when great souls die, after a period peace blooms, our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us. They existed. They existed. We can be. Be and be better. For they existed"*.

May both Vinny and Hawley Rest in Peace.

O. Macken

November We Remember

When autumn comes, and the days grow short, the shadows lengthen, and the cold wind blows, the leaves begin to fall from the trees. At this time of year, we remember friends and family members who have passed from this world and gone to heaven to be with God in eternal peace. They remain in our minds and in our hearts, although we can no longer see them, touch their hands, or hear their voices,

In November 2023, we remembered all members of our school community who passed away over the past year. We recalled their lives with great fondness, love, and respect. The sacred space was a special place to pause and remember our dearly departed loved ones.

May we always remember that we are never alone, that we are always connected to others and to the eternal rhythm of the universe.

Níl ímithe uainn, atá said, ach ímithe romhainn. They are not gone from us, but gone before us.

The old saying that in 'November We Remember' means that, during autumn, when the shadows lengthen, the days grow short, the cold wind starts to blow, and the leaves begin to fall from the trees, we remember those friends and family that have passed from this world and gone to heaven to be with God in peace. Although we no longer see them, touch their hands, or hear their voices, they remain in our minds and in our hearts.

In November 2022, we remembered those of our school community - friends, family members, and colleagues - who passed away this year. We reflected on their lives with love and respect. The sacred space was a special place to pause and remember our dearly departed loved ones. The great respect shown during this time was a sign of the togetherness of our wonderful school community.

May we always recognize the power of love in our lives.

May we always remember that we are never alone, that we are always connected to others and to the eternal rhythm of the universe.

Ms Caroline Burns



A Word from Our Chaplain

Hello everyone,

As another academic year rolls around and we come to the end of the summer term, it's a good time to stop and take stock of where we are and what is happening in our lives. Too many times, it's so easy to get caught up in the excitement and fast-pace of school life, going from one thing to another and never finding time to be still and appreciate the wonderful mystery of life itself.

Some people like to think of life as a journey. In fact, one of the most used expressions that I hear is: 'Life is a journey, not a destination'. If you Google that phrase, this explanation comes up:

Life is a journey and at every step you'll be faced with choices that will determine the person you are when you reach your destination. If you constantly have the big picture in mind and take time to make the right decision instead of the easiest decision, you'll be able to look back and be proud of your journey.

These seem like wise words, but are we able to follow this advice? Sure, we face choices every day: decisions that have to be made that can be easy or very difficult and challenging. But what does that bit about the 'big picture' mean? Do any of us take time to stop and think about what the 'big picture' in our life really is? One way we can start to think of the 'big picture' in life is to imagine your life is like a book, or a movie. In this story, you are the leading character. How would you like your story to unfold? What would you like to achieve or experience in your story? What is the motivation behind your actions?

Now, think for a minute about who is in charge of your life. Is it you? Is it other people? Is it God? How much control do any of us have over our lives? If you think about it carefully, you might find out that the small choices you make, the small acts you do and things you say, all feed into the story of your life. Your life will have different chapters. It will have different characters who enter and exit as the story develops. But you will always be in this story. It is the story of you. Your life story. And only you can live it – no one else can.

As we complete another chapter at the end of this academic year, and we look forward to the summer holidays, no doubt all of us will have things to reflect on that we are proud of and other things that we wish we'd done better. That's all part of life. But the main thing to remember is that, each and every one of us is loved with a love beyond all telling by God. God is always there for us: we are never alone. We came from God and we will return to God and that is the ultimate truth of our life story. What happens in between? Well, that's up to each one of us. I encourage you to enjoy your story as much as you can. Live, laugh, love. Life is to be enjoyed. Spread your kindness and happiness wherever you go and it will come back to you multiplied many times. Make plans and work hard to achieve them. Help others who need it. Live a good life!

BCS is such a special place because the spirit of the school encourages all of its members to live their lives to the full. **At BCS we love to learn and learn to love, in all of the many things we do for each other each day.** Your own contribution to the story of our school's life has already made a huge difference. What will you do next year to enrich this wonderful story?
Ms Caroline Burns



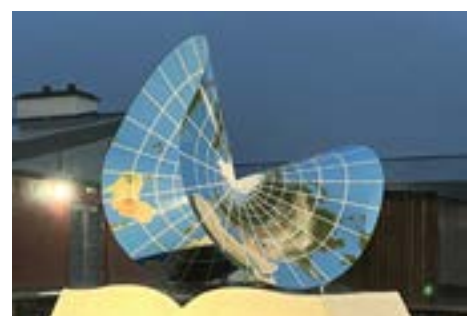
Ash Wednesday

To mark the beginning of Lent, the school community entered into the tradition of receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday. Ms Burns, Ms Murphy, Mr Flattery, Ms Phillips and Ms Mulroy distributed the ashes and the students were extremely respectful and prayerful throughout the ceremony. Ms Burns gave a talk on the significance of the Lenten journey and the ceremony of ashes. We gathered some beautiful pictures of staff and students displaying their ashes.



Art Sculpture

The installation of our fabulous new art sculpture is now completed. The sculpture was designed by renowned German artist Ralf Sander, in conjunction with BCS Art students.





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“we are very proud to include many past and present students as part of the SuperValu Ballyhaunis team and look forward to continuing to offer local employment and work experience opportunities in the coming years”

Mary Nolan

Ph: (094) 9630359

1A



Back row: L/ R; Tiernan Cox, Ewan Coggins, Mark Clancy, Liam Coggins, Jamie Brennan, Arshaam Asim, Daniel Aniyla
Middle row: L/R; Valeriia Litovchenko, Leanna Burke, Aoife Burke, Ruby Coggins, Pavel Cervenak, Nathan Coyne, Muhammed Haatim Amin, Pavel Cobzarw
Front row: L/R; Anna Voronova, Maisie Collins, Elizabeth Burke, Brihanna Cooper, Muazzama Asif, Imaan Ejaz.
Missing: Jack Buckley, Joshua Maughan

1B



Back row: L/ R; Eoin Crinigan, Dermot Fagan, Conor Doran, James Croghan McCarrick, Thomas Curran, Arthur De Sousa Gomes, Conn Delaney
Middle row: L/R; Jack Culliney, Holly Cunningham, Ruby Duffy, Martin Sarissky, Oran Fagan, Miguel Cala, Alex Dunkurs, Seán Flanagan
Front row: L/R; Tara Delaney, Emily Duffy, Lauren Feeney, Ruth Cunnane, Amy Fitzmaurice, Rachel Fleming

1C



Back row: L/ R; Renat Shokariev, Isaac Greally, Kieran Jennings, Adam Kinnarney, Hiago Henrique Godoi De Assis, Dylan Greally

Middle row: L/R; Senan Heaney, Jayden Glavey, Emily Gormley, Kyrak Jordan, Patrick Polhos, Benjie Hopkins, Eoin Lecky

Front row: L/R; Roisín Heneghan, Grace Gallagher, Kateryna Sakhnenko, Kayla Gannon, Sara Keane, Ipek Ismailova

Missing: Vivienne Gannon, Terry Maughan

1D



Back row: L/ R; Dominik Manke, Seamus Mongan, Craig Moylan, Fahad Mehmood , Ather Munir
Middle row: L/R; Ava Maloney, Cathal Lyons, Daniel Lupinek, Lukas Muzik, Adam Loftus, Hugo Marques, Adam Rahmani, Maya Murphy

Front row: L/R; Emily Moore, Ciara McDowell, Leah Lyons, Rani Jan, Ema Mesnjak,

Missing: Galena Angelova, Elena Marinova, Sabina Paradiova, Oisin Prendergast

1E



Back row: L/ R; Conor Osgood Daly, Bobby Roche, Liam Nolan, Tomás Ó Laighin, CJ Roos, Robert Saunders, Ali Sakkar
Middle row: L/R; Houda Rahmani, Charlotte Plunkett, Hannah Milanzie, TJ Peake, Sebastian Scsaszni, Conor O'Shaughnessy, Rían Kilbride, Ellie Teresa McDonagh

Front row: L/R; Meabh Scally, Erica Owens, Hellen Silva Nunes, Inara Gabryely Da Silva, Ciara Morley, Bridget Barbara McDonagh

Missing: Emily O'Reilly

1F



Back row: L/ R; Nikodem Zborowski, Edgaras Zajanckauskas, Matei Pyrcarea, Zack Smith, Austin Waldron, Bogdan Vuia
Middle row: L/R; Thomas McDonagh, Laiba Tayyab, Bethany Ward, Nathan Tighe, Alan Smith, Charlie Swanick, Jozo Spajic,
Front row: L/R; Ayesha Shabbir, Lilly Thompson, Amy Waldron, Molly Squires, Hannah Skeffington, Yashfa Shahzadi

Missing: Lochlan Waldron

First Year Boys Basketball

Our basketball season started in the beginning of January when we came back from the Christmas break. Mr. Waters was our coach, and he was very dedicated to the team. We trained for a few weeks for the short season we had ahead of us.

Our first match being on the 30th of January. It was at home against Rice College. We won the game with a scoreline of 43 – 6 dominating all throughout the game. Each quarter all the lads that started and came on contributed to this fantastic show of play. Our top scorers were Craig Moylan and Conn Delaney, having scored 4 baskets/ 8 points each. There were also some fantastic scores from Liam Nolan, Pavel Cobzarw, Zack Smith and Conor Doran. Winning our first ever match with the newfound team felt amazing. Everyone played well throughout the whole match, and everyone contributed to the game, helping us win the match.

We had a few more training sessions to prepare us for our second and last game. We worked on our shooting, passing and communication to have us going into the next match confident. The next match was away to Ballinrobe. We had to get a bus for the whole team, and it was fun. We arrived at the match eager to go up against Ballinrobe, everyone showed great improvement from our previous match, and it unfortunately did not go our way on the day as Ballinrobe were a very strong side. It wasn't nice to lose our last game, but we played our best and enjoyed it so that's all that matters. On the way back we got to stop for food so that made up for it.

Throughout the year the 1st years improved their basketball skills under the watch of Mr. Waters. He has unearthed some good talent that should help keep basketball as a successful sport in the school for the years to come. That concludes our basketball season for this year. It was fantastic, and I can't wait for next year!

- By Conn Delaney & Ewan Coggins



Back row L/R: Daniel Ayinla, Arshaam Asim, Conor Doran, Joshua Maughan, Isaac Greally, Austin Waldron, Zack Smith, Arthur De Sousa Gomes, Hiago Herique, Liam Nolan.
Front row L/R: Pavel Cobzarw, Charlie Swanick, Conor Osgood Daly, TJ Peake, Miguel Cala, Conn Delaney, Liam Coggins, Craig Moylan, Eoin Crinigan, Thomas Curran, Ewan Coggins.

First Year Girls Basketball

It was a successful year for Ballyhaunis Community School First Year girls basketball team. Starting the season out, the first game was away to Charlestown. We showed great skill and teamwork in our first game, winning 31-18. Our captain Vivienne Gannon netted 4 baskets, with Emily Gormley, Aoife Burke, Holly Cunningham and Ava Maloney scoring 2 baskets each.

We trained hard in the weeks leading up to the second game, which would be a home court game to visitors Claremorris. Eager to flag the BCS flag with a home crowd of supporters, we emerged with a nice win, victorious by 13 points.

A trip to Belmullet secured us another victory, beating their first year side on as scoreline of 22-16. With Vivienne Gannon scoring 6 baskets, Emily Gormley scoring 3 baskets, Ruby Coggins and Lauren Feeney scoring 1 basket each, we were performing well, or so we thought! In what was a tight game which saw us losing in the third quarter our girls showed great support for each other and determination to come out on top. We left Belmullet with our heads held high and the pride of returning with another win.

The next game we played was against Ballinrobe. This would be the toughest match yet, as we travelled with the knowledge that Ballinrobe had won all of their matches also and a victory would secure a place in the qualifiers. A good start from Ballinrobe left them ahead 15-5. Despite our strong comeback in the second half, only letting Ballinrobe score 1 basket we couldn't convert our free throws and unfortunately lost on a scoreline of 17-13. Seeing and knowing that this is a new sport for many of our girls we can all be very proud what was achieved this year. Hopefully BCS girls basketball can get further next year. The girls would like to thank coaches Ms. Ronayne and Ms. O'Donnell and also their TY helpers Lydia Gannon and Shannon Moylan for all their help and a great season of basketball.

- Vivienne Gannon, Emily Gormley & Meabh Scally



Back Row L/R: Ruth Cunnane, Ava Maloney, Emily Gormally, Meabh Scally, Vivienne Gannon, Ruby Coggins, Emily Moore, Rachel Fleming, Lauren Feeney
Front Row L/R: Leanna Burke, Lily Thompson, Aoife Burke, Amy Fitzmaurice, Holly Cunningham, Ciara McDowell



First Year Bonding Day

Our amazing first year students really enjoyed their retreat at Knock. Many thanks to the Knock Pastoral Care Team and to Mr Waters, Ms Osgood, and Mr Flattery for their terrific support on the days. The students enjoyed playing friendship and trust games. They also went on a tour of Knock and took part in a quiz. Mairead and Aoife were super team leaders and everyone should be commended for their excellent behaviour. Students also collected holy water for their grans and grandads and another highlight of the day was the lunchtime talent show which was great entertainment for all! Well done everyone!

Ms Burns

Bonding Day for 1st Years By Meabh Scally

On the 6th and 7th of December 2022 the First Year students went on a bonding trip in Knock. The classes of 1A, 1B and 1C went on the 6th and 1D, 1E and 1F went on the 7th. We went on a bus first thing in the morning and we came back at the end of the day. When we arrived, we got sorted into two groups. Each group had a small five minute break in between activities. We were directed by Mairead and Aoife. The first thing we did was fun games. These games included musical chairs, fruit salad, and a cup game. Then we wrote a letter to God. This was a peaceful activity because you had time to take a break and connect with God. Then we had a long break. We exchanged jokes and stories and went down to the local Centra. We had time to buy Holy Water from Knock's gift shop. After the break we answered deep questions anonymously and had a bit of fun with it. Then we had a relaxing meditation session. We lit candles and sat in silence. This was nice because we had time to reflect on ourselves. All of the First Years thought it was a very enjoyable day and we appreciated the day out and we would love to do it again. We got lots of praise from Mairead, Aoife, and Ms Burns for our excellent behaviour.



BCS Book Club

When Mrs Mulroy and Mr Duffy started the book club earlier this year, quite a few people came and left and only those of us who love books - the real ones - stayed. The community we have built up is truly something to marvel at. We are all connected by a common bond – books. We asked some members their thoughts on the book club and here is what they said: “Yeah, I like it” -Mike Kayanke. “Don’t be afraid to show your inner book lover” -Lukas Bacys. We have read several books and are all looking forward to our day out in May. It is book related and I have to say we all can’t wait!

The future of the book club is looking bright but could be even brighter with you in it. If you would ever like to join, simply ask Mrs Mulroy or Mr Duffy. We look forward to seeing you, and we hope you can reconnect with reading .

Caoilfhinn Baxter.



1st Year Boys Gaelic

The first-year boys' football was a busy year with manager Mr. Flattery and TY helpers Fionn Delaney, P.J Greal, Derry Cox and Jack Kelly. The lads' first game started against a strong Balla team, in which they lost (3-10 to 6-13).

After the hard Balla loss, the lads started picking up the pace and getting to know each other. Their second game and first victory was against St. Louis Kiltimagh (6-12 to 8-4). After Foxford conceded their game, the lads had to take on St. Louis Kiltimagh again in a league semi-final. The lads played very impressively together in a great win to come out over them once again (4-9 to 2-3).

After a break from the league the lads played their first game of their championship campaign against Glenamaddy (8-12 to 3-6). The lads showed no mercy in a very one-sided win. The lads continued their championship winning streak in a tight game vs Dunmore in the Dome (8-16 to 8-6). The boys were picking up form and were now confident in each other and had the final game of the championship group stage against Boyle which the boys had a hard fought draw (4-14 to 7-5).

The boys next game and most recent game of writing was the league final against Balla. The boys played very well to lift their first silverware of the year, winning with an impressive score of 6-9 to 2-3. The lads also had a good run in the Championship, but the highlight was the Mayo League win.



Back row: Jack Culliney, Senan Heaney, Cathal Lyons, Conor Doran, Pavel Cobzarw, Jamie Brennan, Isaac Greal, Liam Nolan, Ewan Coggins, Hugo Marques, Conor Osgood Daly, Craig Moynan, Jayden Glavey

Front Row: Mark Clancy, Jack Buckley, Adam Loftus, Charlie Swanick, Bobby Roche, Con Delaney, Alan Smith, Eoin Crinnigan, Dylan Greal, Zack Smith, Conor O'Shaughnessy, Joshua Maughan, Liam Coggins, TJ Peake, Thomas Curran

1st year boys Soccer

The First-year boys soccer team had an eventful season. They were managed by Mr. Lawless and accompanied by Matthew Elwood and Shane Clarke, who were the TY helpers.

They started their season in Solar 21 Park. It finished in a massive 7-0 win against St Louis of Kiltimagh. Later that day, they went on to play Ballinrobe CS and coming back from behind, the boys thrived on to win the game 2-1.

After much training they went to Celtic Park to take on Rice College of Westport. The lads went 1-0 but Westport pulled a goal back. With minutes to play Westport scored the winner.

It broke the BSC boys hearts but they will remember this memorable season and will back be stronger next year



Back Row L-R: Pavel Cobzarw, Ewan Coggins, Eoin Crinigan, Isaac Greal, Charlie Swanick, Adam Loftus, Jack Buckley, Craig Moylan, Thomas Curran, TJ Peake. **Front Row L-R:** Conn Delaney, Muhammad Haatim Amin, Alan Smith, Hugo Marques, Conor O'Shaughnesy, Liam Nolan, Dylan Greal, Joshua Maughan, Conor Osgood Daly.

Music in BCS

As a leaving cert music student, I was lucky to be able to play and listen to music all throughout my years in the school. This year was no different.

In November, my music class benefitted from the opportunity of seeing a musical in the Bord Gais Theatre in Dublin with Transition years. We watched a musical called Jersey Boys which is about a band named the Four Seasons. The day was amazing, and I am so glad I got the chance to see it.

I was in the folk choir at school before covid and I was delighted to see it make a comeback this year. I enjoyed singing with my friends again. At Christmas time, the folk choir were asked to sing at the turning on of the Christmas lights in town. We got to sing Christmas carols on a stage for everyone to see and enjoy the festivities. I had done this before lockdowns and to be able to do it again was really lovely.

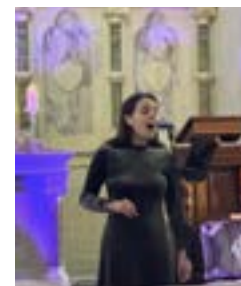
Additional to the folk choir, I was part of the traditional group in school. The traditional group allows anyone who plays Irish music a chance to come together and play with their peers. We got to play for many different events throughout the school year. The first time was at the opening year

school mass. We played at Christmas when we were invited to play music in the friary, here in Ballyhaunis town for the cheese and wine tasting. People from the surrounding area got the chance to see our musical abilities as we played both traditional music and Christmas tunes to get people into the Christmas spirit.

At Open Day for the incoming first years and their parents, we were set up outside the music room and played for them as they entered the school. This permitted future students to get the chance to see that their musical abilities are welcome and wanted in the school. Finally, we played for Seachtain na nGaeilge at both breaks on the Wednesday of this week. We took up our instruments and played a variety of tunes for our peers, teachers and management, to celebrate our language, culture and heritage.

To be able to make music in the school has been a wonderful experience. I am so glad that I was able to make so many memories through music in school. I hope that music will continue to be a significant and large part of school life here in Ballyhaunis Community School even well after I am gone.

-Lilly Duffy



FOLK CHOIR

As three first year girls with a big interest in music and singing, joining the folk choir was a huge opportunity for us to expand our singing interests with others. Singing with Ms Flattery is such a great opportunity and we are all so grateful we took the chance in singing in the choir. We all participated in the school opening Mass, carol singing in Ballyhaunis and singing at the carol services in school. We also sang at the unveiling of the artwork of the school's D courtyard in March. Singing together in a group with other students from different years makes singing much more enjoyable and we hope lots more students will join us next year.

-Leah Lyons, Hannah Milanze and Sara Keane (1st year students)

Talent show

Hi! My name is Magda and I was one of the contestants in the school talent show back in November. I decided to audition for the show because every since I was six years old, I have always wanted to be part of a singing competition like BGT or The X Factor. So this was an opportunity to finally fulfill a 'tiny me' dream!

For the show, I sang "The Ballad of Jane Doe" from the hauntingly beautiful musical "Ride the Cyclone". I recommend giving it a watch! To be honest, I should have gone for something far easier but it's good to challenge yourself and I was proud of my performance. As for the show itself, it was a very pleasant experience. I got to talk to some old friends and get closer to new ones. Overall, I loved being part of something so magical and I hope to see another version of the show in the future. Thank you!

TRAD GROUP

By Fiona (2nd year) and Emily (1st year) Duffy

We were very excited to hear that the Trad Group would be starting up again in September 2022. As we prepared for our first performance of the year, the Opening of the School Year Mass, it was great to see so many musicians swapping tunes and practising together. We were hopeful we would make a good first impression, and we think we did! Next, we played at the Ballyhaunis Christmas Festival on December 4th which was pretty nerve wracking but we ended up enjoying the atmosphere of the day. It was a big event in the Friary which was very festive and it was exciting to be involved. Then some of the Trad Group entertained the prospective first years coming into the school on the Open Day and also introduced them to the music department. We also played more Christmas tunes as we joined the choir for the Christmas Carol service and most recently, we played at lunchtime during Seachtain Na Gaeilge to entertain students and staff. We are very grateful to have been given the opportunity to play with such a talented group of musicians and the Trad Group was a great way to boost our confidence playing in front of people. We would like to thank Ms O'Donnell, Ms. Flattery and Ms. Delaney for their tireless work organising practices and printing out and learning tunes for us. We look forward to playing with the trad group for many years to come.

Pi Challenge

Our 1st Year students participated in the National Pi Day challenge recently.

The students had to recite as many digits of Pi as possible. Our Inspiring 6 finalists were Valeria, Rachel, Katarina, Lukas, Rian, and Ayesha. They all coped admirably with the pressure of performing in front of all their peers. The overall winner was Ayesha Shabbir in 1F who was able to recite a phenomenal 119 numbers after the decimal point!!!!



2A



Back row: L/ R; Cían Moran, Seamus Pearson, James Flanagan, Lukas Bacys, Rahan Alom, Aun Asghar, Conor Smith, Connor Reynolds

Middle row: L/R; Isaac Walsh, Amara Njeri, Dirren Murphy , Molly Collins, Victoria Balik-Nowak, Olivia Zota, Brandon Casey, George Richards,

Front row: L/R; Lamar Rahmani, Caoilfhinn Baxter, Melissa Devaney, Kate Colleran, Sara Brennan, Rebecca Clancy, Jennifer Bednarikova

Missing: Bridget Allen, Nicole Forde

2B



Back row: L/ R; John William Burke, Fionn Conlon, Aaron Finnegan, Oliver Cunniffe, Michael Dee, Usman Zahoor, Aqeel Amjad, Rahim Rizwan

Middle row: L/R; Tadhg Farrell, Lauren Groarke, Amara Dube, Kealan Flynn, Ross Ruane Dalton, Tom Donnellan, Liam Fleming, Eoin McLoughlin, Rafah Shawi,

Front row: L/R; Fiona Duffy, Méabh Fleming, Melissa Clarke, Rhianna Caulfield, Éala Greally, Lucy Flanagan, Zainib Shoaib

Missing: Aoibhinn Gallagher

2C



Back row: L/ R; Harry Waldron, Dylan Hunt, Paddy Vanraepenbusch , Brandon McGowan, Oisín Keaveney, Liam Hill, Youssef Habib
Middle row: L/R; Cian Carty, Andrei Cristian Istrate, Caél Hannon, Mike Kayange, Mary McDonagh, Rachel Lawless, Jorja Hession, Niall Haldane, Tomiwa Mustapha, Aaron Jordan
Front row: L/R; Meryam Hamze, Shifa Naveed, Gwen Heneghan, Emma McGuire, Erin Hibbitt, Amelia Gryczuk, Nicole Greally
Missing: Nikola Kosteckova

2D



Back row: L/ R; Tadhg Kelly, John Greally, Jamie Nolan, Jack Nolan, Carlos Kirrane, Jimmy Whelan, Ben Byrne,
Middle row: L/R; Sarah Jane Keadin, Saoirse McKermitt, Alex Keane, Joseph Phelan, Patrick Murphy, John Jennings, Kevin Lukac, Jason Finnegan,
Front row: L/R; Caoilagh Kelly, Grace Thompson, Annie Keaveney, Grace Heneghan, Lauren Lyons, Emily Lyons, Chloe Hurley
Missing: Gany Maaz, Naomi McDonagh, Klaudia Kozłowska

2E



Back row: L/ R; Eamon Monaghan, Christiano Manke, Patryk Manke , Gustas Lukosevicius, Ruairí McWalter, Darragh Mulrennan
Middle row: L/R; Sultan Noor, Caitlin Cooper, Ana Posaric, Cillian Caulfield, Luka Posaric, Jason Powers, Talha Rehman
Front row: L/R; Clodagh Mitchell, Sinéad Mannion, Eva Boyle, Kamila Caetano De Oliveira, Ava Neary, Ellen Murphy
Missing: Daniel Plunkett, Bilqys Obebe, Hazel Nolan, Alana Mongan, Bader Ashif, WJ Van Dyk

2F



Back row: L/ R; Darragh Hunt, Josh Saunders, Adam McGowan Vagenknecht, Guilherme Cruz, Cathal Wallace, Talha Tayyab, Usef Sakkar, Erik Tallosi
Middle row: L/R; Logan Davis, James Tynan, Tiffany Obakpolor, Katelyn McLoughlin, Christina Ruane, Hudda Maqsood, Jessica Urbanova, Emma Caulfield
Front row: L/R; Ruth Waldron, Kamile Ziziunaite, Emma Swanick, Chloe Donohoe, Megan Finnegan, Sarah Hussey
Missing: Daragh Rogers, Adam Ronan, Zargham Mohammad Asim



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U14 Girls Football 2023

Our u14 season got off to a good start with a great win against Mercy Roscommon. The score line did not reflect our match in the end because it was a very tight game with only a two-point win. We had a strong squad of 55 leaving Mr. Folen, Ms. McGuire, and our TY helpers, Laoise and Sinéad, with very tough decisions to make. We played our next game locally, in the Centre of Excellence, against Glenamaddy. We came out on top of that game, with a victorious win of 16 points. Unfortunately, our next game did not go as well, when a strong Carrick-On-Shannon team got the better of us. We did not let the match drop our heads as we came back out fighting. After a few tough training sessions, our next match was extremely exciting as it was the first match played on the school pitch in years! Mr Folen and a few Tys gave up their time to get the pitch ready for our big game. After a few setbacks, due to weather conditions, we finally got to play our must win match against Mountbellew. We had lots of support on the day encouraging us. We had a smashing win and made it to the semi-final against St. Joseph's in Castlebar! We had a great win against them! We then went onto the final, in which we played Mercy Roscommon once again. Unfortunately, Mercy was the better team on the day. Thanks to Mr. Folen, Ms. McGuire, Sinéad O'Neill and Laoise Greally for putting up with us all year! We really enjoyed having them as our trainers because they knew how to bring us on as a squad. Hopefully, we will bring home even more grass next year!



Back row L/R: Leanna Burke, Ruby Coggins, Rachel Lawless, Jorja Hession, Chloe Hurley, Aoife Burke, Gwen Heneghan, Emily Lyons, Ellen Murphy, Rebecca Clancy, Amy Waldron, Grace Heneghan, Lucy Flanagan, Lilly Thompson, Aoibhinn Gallagher, Amara Dube, Roisin Heneghan, Kyrah Jordan, Méabh Scally.

Front row L/R: Caoilagh Kelly, Vivienne Gannon, Lauren Feeney, Emily Duffy, Sara Brennan, Katelyn McLoughlin, Emma McGuire, Sarah-Jane Keadin, Éala Greally, Eva Boyle, Rachel Fleming, Ruby Duffy, Erin Hibitt, Emily Gormley.

Second Year Basketball

This year the second-year girls got the wonderful opportunity to play basketball representing the school! For many this was very new and it took us a good few training sessions to hack it. We eventually got the basics and it was time for our first match. We played Charlestown, away. We got off to a rocky start but after time we eased into it and seen the game out. After the match we learned there was a lot to improve on!

Our next match was home against local rivals Mount Saint Michael. We won the game comfortably and it was onto our third match against Belmullet. It was a long trek to Belmullet and unfortunately, we were beaten by a strong, experienced Belmullet side. After the game we gathered ourselves together and didn't let our heads drop.

It was then time for our final group stage match. We played Ballinrobe in their own grounds. It was a thrilling match and shout out to our captain Emma McGuire who scored a few amazing shots to seal the win.

Sadly, we did not make it out of the group stage, we narrowly missed out and Belmullet made it through. Many thanks to our coaches Ms. Ronayne and Ms. Henry and our Ty helpers Sarah Gill and Lucy Phillips,

-Sara Brennan.



Back Row L/R: Sarah Gill, Aoibhinn Gallagher, Fiona Duffy, Eva Boyle, Sinéad Mannion, Ava Neary, Jorja Hession, Chloe Hurley, Gwen Heneghan, Lucy Flanagan, Eala Greally, Lucy Phillips

Front Row L/R: Méabh Fleming, Ellen Murphy, Lauren Lyons, Emily Lyons, Sara Brennan, Caoilagh Kelly, Erin Hibitt, Emma McGuire, Melissa Clarke.

Second Year Basketball

Our second-year boys' basketball had a successful year this year. Our season began in early January when we started training with our coach Mr. Ginty. Mr. Ginty was extremely dedicated to helping us improve at the sport to be prepared for our upcoming games.

Our season started off with our first match being at home to Rice College Westport. After an incredibly good game of basketball with all team members showing great skill and determination, we edged the win. The game was tight throughout, which made for an extremely exciting game where all the lads were determined to come away with this result. The match ended on a scoreline of 31-21. Our top scorer in this match was John Jennings with 6 two pointers and a three pointer. As well as some fantastic scores during the match by Seamus Pierson, Fionn Conlon, Eamon Monaghan, Michael Dee, and Tom Donnellan.



Back Row L/R - Conor Smith, John Jennings, Seamus Pearson, Eamon Monaghan, Joseph Phelan, Michael Dee, Gustus Lukosevicius, Josh Sanders, Cristiano Manke, Cillian Caulfield, Harry Waldron, Brandon McGowan, Guilherme Cruz.

Front Row L/R - Tom Donnellan, Liam Fleming, John William Burke, Fionn Conlon, Jason Powers, Brandon Sweeney, James Tynan, Tamiwa Mustapha, Bader Ashif.

Our second match was away to Ballinrobe. With our confidence high from our previous win, we went into this match with our heads held high ready to face Ballinrobe who are always a strong side when it comes to basketball. We fought hard throughout the game, which was close the whole way through, and we were unfortunate to come away from this match losing narrowly by only one point. Although we lost this match many of the lads showed vast improvement and we were playing extremely well together as a team. There was a very mentionable and fantastic score by Jamie Nolan who scored a three pointer from the halfway line making the shot look so easy using just one hand.

Our third and final game was a home game and this time we faced St. Colmans College Claremorris. All the lads were ready for this match. Some fantastic scoring, passing and teamwork left us victorious with a final score of 35-25. John Jennings again was our top scorer, this time scoring 18 of our points. There were also some mentionable scores by Jamie Nolan who scored 4 points a great three pointer from Seamus Pearson. Fionn Conlon, Cillian Caulfield, Carlos Kirrane and Tom Donnellan all came away from the match with some vital scores that kept us ahead and gave us that slight edge over Claremorris.

We all enjoyed the basketball season and look forward to playing together again as a team in the years ahead.

By Fionn Conlon & Cillian Caulfield.

Juvenile Boys Gaelic football team: Connacht Final

he Juvenile boys Gaelic team are having a busy year with a lot of matches with their manager Mr. Duffy and their TY helpers, Oisín Kelly, Derry Óg Cox and Cathy Grealley. They had many challenge matches to get ready for the league. They made it to the league final but unfortunately lost to Balla which was the third meeting between the sides over a very short period of time.

In the first game of the league, they drew against Balla. It was a very high scoring game. In the second game they beat Kiltimagh. In the third game against Balla they lost and in the final group game against Kiltimagh they drew.

They won their first two matches in the C Championship against Gortnor Abbey, Crossmolina on the 3rd of March (8-13 to 4-07) and Summerhill College Sligo on the 13th March (7-16 to 3-10). Despite losing the final group game to St Tiernan's, Crossmolina the lads progressed on to the Knockout stages. In the quarter final St Jarlath's Tuam were beaten comprehensively before a nerve wracking one point win against Boyle, on a scoreline of 2-10 to 1-12, saw the lads progress to a Connacht final and a much sought after rematch with St Tiernan's.

After a frantic week of preparation that was marred by a number of injury scares the lads fell just short to a strong St Tiernan's side in a hotly contested final. Despite the disappointment of losing the team had a successful year and improved consistently over the season.



Back Row L/R: Kealan Flynn, Oliver Cunniffe, Seamus Pearson, Conor Smith, Jack Nolan, Michael Dee, Cian Carty, Eamon Monaghan, Adam Kelly, Dylan Hunt, Jamie Nolan, James Fitzmaurice, Zack Smith

Front Row L/R: Carlos Kirrane, Fionn Conlon, Tom Donnellan, John William Burke, Michael Morley, Cillian Caulfield, Cian O'Shaughnessy, John Jennings, Ben Byrne, Liam Fleming

2nd Year Retreat to Knock

In February 2023, 2nd year Religion classes enjoyed retreats to Knock with Ms Phelan, Ms McGuire, Ms Kavanagh, Mr Waters, and Ms Burns. They were warmly welcomed by the Knock retreat leaders. To start, the students introduced themselves and performed ice-breaker activities. Then, they worked in groups doing activities such as role plays in order to bond together. Everyone enjoyed the day and seemed to relax in each other's company. The students were a real credit to the school with their mature attitude and behaviour setting an excellent example, as they explored questions about the challenges of life and what faith means to them.

A tour of Knock Museum was also included in the day. Students found out about how people used to live in Co Mayo, and they learned about the visits of Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis to Knock. After the tour, everyone enjoyed a tour of the Basilica and Knock grounds, and hearing about the apparition of Our Lady which transformed this small Mayo town. The beautiful mosaic that depicted the story of the famous apparition was shown to the students. By the end of the day, everyone who participated had enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on their faith. A wonderful day was had by all! Special thanks to the Knock Retreat Team for their inspiring work, to the teachers who looked after everyone on the day, and to our amazing students who did the school proud.

Ms Burns



Climate Crisis

Ms. Flattery's 2E Religious Education class were learning about the wellbeing of our planet and stewardship this term. They were concerned about the climate emergency our world is currently facing and realise that there is no Planet B. The class researched the consequences of climate change and learned that those who have caused the least damage are experiencing the most severe impacts through extreme weather events like droughts. The students brainstormed on ways they could live more sustainably and be more energy conscious and came up with some brilliant ideas. They also wrote a letter to send to local politicians, asking for an update on the Climate Action Act and to find out what else they could do as individuals.

They were pleased to receive replies from Dara Calleary TD, Minister of State with Responsibility for Trade Promotion, and Senator Pippa Hackett, Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity. Both provided updates on the government's work in this area. Minister Calleary was very encouraging he wrote: "Yours is the most educated generation Ireland has seen. You have access to a wealth of knowledge and information previous generations could not ever have dreamed of. Use it wisely for the good of your future and the future of the planet." Senator Hackett thanked the class for their enthusiasm and commitment, "I was delighted to receive your letter and learn not only were you concerned for the environment, but you also want to take climate action. She also wrote that she believes "we are turning the climate and biodiversity situation around; it is not easy, but it is possible." 2E are felling inspired to make small changes in their lives and encourage all students in BCS to do the same. Every little helps: every shorter shower, every bike ride or walk to school, every can or bottle you recycle, every light you turn off. In the words of Mother Teresa, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."



U15s Soccer

We started our journey with a trip to Summerhill in Sligo for a very tough opening group game. Our second game was a polar opposite to our first when we inflicted a heavy defeat on our opponents Davitt College, with Ross Ruane Dalton, Conor Coyne, Micheal Morley and Fionn Conlon among the scorers. As a consequence of our first two results the fate of our group rested on our fixture with Rice College Westport. Never an easy place to go to get a result at club or schools level but BCS were outstanding on the day and turned out our best performance of the year, the game finely balanced at 2-1 in the final ten minutes with both teams needing a win to progress from the group and BCS applying endless pressure but just could not find that elusive equaliser and then we were unlucky to get caught on the break to put the result to bed in Westport's favour. The final group game against St Gerald's became a dead rubber for both teams and progression to the shield was the fate for both teams.

Our run in the shield took us to semi final stage with a comprehensive win over Clarin College Athenry in round 1 which included second half goals from our goal keeper Seamus Pearson. This was followed by an epic QF win away to St Mary's with an extra time winner from Muhammad Ismail Naseer to secure a 3-2 victory. Our Journey came to an end in a titanic semi final clash against Calasancius of Oranmore. Isaac Owusu scored to begin the fightback after we conceded two early goals, but despite constant BCS pressure and despite hitting the cross bar and a Cian O'Shaughnessy effort skimming the outside of the post in the dying minutes we just could not find that equaliser that was fully deserved on the day.

Overall a great year with 33 players getting at least 30 mins playing time over the season. We established a great foundation to build on for next year and hopefully bring home some silverware.



From Left to right:

Back Row: Desmond Youbet, Jack Nolan, Sean Gormely, Seamus Pearson, Wayne Maughan, Aaron Finnegan, Emanuel Fasanmi, Conor Coyne, Thomas Hayden, Oisín Keaveney, James Hayden, Ross Ruane Dolton, Jason Burke.

Front Row: Conor Smith, Ismail Naseer, Dara Mulrennan, Kealan Flynn, Jason Powers, Michael Morely, Rahan Alom, Dylan Hunt, Fionn Conlon, Liam Fleming, Niall Haldane, Patrick Murphy, Rory MacWalter, Cillian Caufield, Cian O'Shaughnessy.

3A



Back row: L/ R; Isaac Owusu, Thomas Curtin, Kyle Burke, Rayan Sharif,
Middle row: L/R; Yameena Parveen, Sarah Caulfield, Amar Sakkar, Shoaib Ahmad, Basmali Shawi, Fatima Kezze, Amy Clancy
Front row: L/R; Chantelle McDonagh , Violeta Nikolaeva, Aoife Collins, Marissa Collins, Emma Casey
Missing: Cian O'Shaughnessy, Muhammad Shoaib, Alisha Forde, Bila Hussain

3B



Back row: L/ R; Andrei Leva, Cathal Forde, Brian Greally, Mark Feeney, Oskar Dorosz, Daniel Petras
Middle row: L/R; Ciara Gill, Sarah Corcoran, James Fitzmaurice, David Delaney, Ryan Giblin, Síofra Forde, Ciara Dooney
Front row: L/R; Maria Vuia, Chloe Fitzmaurice, Lana Spajic, Niamh Donnellan, Leah Finnegan, Aoibhin Greally
Missing: Conor Coyne, Emmanuel Fasanmi, Connor Grogan, Nessa Ruane Dalton

3C



Back row: L/ R; Ben O'Reilly, Reliance Arku, Finbarr Regan, Fionn Kilbride, Ivan Polhos

Middle row: L/R; Callum Kelly, Thomas Hayden, Bassel Kezze, James Hayden, Sean Gormley, Ellena Coffey, Samuel Polhos

Front row: L/R; Heidi Belen Morel Galeano, Fatima Shawi, Greta Cuitaite, Magdalena Manke, Leandra Pesut, Believe Mudimbi.

Missing: Darren Quinn, Valentina Pesut

3D



Back row: L/ R; Alex Byrne, Eoin Loftus, Jason Jennings, Josh Kavanagh, Eddie Henry, Cameron Costello, Arnas Krizka, Daniel Bowen,

Middle row: L/R; Shahd Kezze, Saoirse Higgins, Viktorija Anisoaite, Emma Henry, Yusuf Kezze, David Lupinek, Rowan Johnston, Ethan Kilbane

Front row: L/R; Roisin Henry, Sadhbh Lyons, Amanda Hamane, Sara Kaczmarek, Lily Harrington, Saule Mimaite

Missing: Adam Kelly

3E



Back row: L/ R; Shane Flanagan, Conor Morley, Jack Mulligan, Wayne Maughan, Keith Flanagan, Michael Nolan, Seán Haldane
Middle row: L/R; Michael Morley, Samuel Ayinla, Muhammad Ismail Naseer, Ruby Mulhall, Ena Mrden, Leah Niland, Kate McDermott, Darragh Morris, Muhammad Hashir Amin
Front row: L/R; Theordora Obakpolar, Arfa Nawaz, Vejune Blozyte, Emma O'Brien, Emma McLoughlin, Ava McCormack
Missing: Ian Murray, Jake Powers

3F



Back row: L/ R; Erik Moisin, Carl Waldron, Joshua Cunnane, Adnan Khan, Ausrius Vaitickus,
Middle row: L/R; Brenda Da Silva, Rehmeen Sohail, Darragh Ronayne, Eoin Heneghan, Luke Duffy, Alex Paluba,
Front row: L/R; Hana Rahmani, Amel Cherbatji, Keeley Ronane, Katie Damron, Emma Ruane
Missing: Sarah Polhosova, Amelia Churbatji, Kerria Farrell, Norbert Siemionkowski, Emma-Jane Reinhardt

Junior Camogie

This year the Junior Camogie team was managed by Ms Morley and Ms Coyne. The team was made up of First Year to TY students. We had a very strong start against Mercy Tuam with a scoreline of 8-12 to 3 points. This was a great start to the year as it gave the girls confidence for the year ahead. Our next game was against Roscommon CC where we had a fantastic game with a very impressive score of 17-12 to 0-0. We then went up against a strong Westport side. After a very competitive game, Westport scored a last minute goal to seal victory on a scoreline of 2-8 to 4-4. After two comfortable wins, we reached the Connacht Semi-Final where we met a very strong team from Mercy Roscommon. They had a comfortable win, and subsequently went on to win the All Ireland Final.

We were delighted to have a Junior Camogie team in the school this year and we are looking forward to building the team further next year. Thank you to Ms Morley and Ms Coyne and well done to everyone involved in the team.

By Laoise Greally, Laura Flanagan and Éabha Delaney



Back Row L/R: Síofra Forde, Ciara Dooney, Lauren Groarke, Laoise Greally, Sarah Caulfield, Emma O'Brien, Éala Greally, Molly Squires, Tara Delaney

Front Row L/R: Marissa Collins, Madison Glavey, Éabha Delaney, Laura Flanagan, Kate Tener, Cathy Greally, Rebekah Monaghan, Aoibhín Greally, Holly Cunningham

Missing From Photo: Katie Damron, Ciara Morley

Maths week

Well done to everyone who participated in our recent annual Maths Week. We had lots of activities throughout the week to highlight the importance of Maths in everyday life.

Congratulations to all the winners of the various competitions which took place throughout the week.



Creeslough Fundraiser

A massive 'Thank You' to all the students and staff in BCS for supporting the Student Council Cake Sale. A total of €375 was raised in aid of the Creeslough families of the deceased and injured.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and all of the community.



Well done to the students who took part in the inter-school Pi Day Maths quiz.

Back Row L/R: Darragh Ronayne, Michael Nolan, Ian Murray, Emma McLoughlin, Keeley Ronane, Thomas Curtin, Rowan Johnston.

Front Row L/R: Síofra Forde, Emma O'Brien, Hashir Amin, Ciara Gill, Niamh Donnellan

Shoebox appeal

Well done to the Student Council representatives of BCS who organised the collection of 45 Shoeboxes for 'Team Hope'. This Shoebox

Appeal is an annual campaign that delivers gifts straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. Often these shoebox gifts are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas and the joy that they bring is incredible.

Thank you to all the students and staff for supporting this wonderful initiative.



Daffodils

From small things, great things grow!

Our 2nd Years planted daffodil bulbs when they were in 1st year and now we have beautiful pictures of how they bloomed in the springtime.

Every student received their own daffodil bulb. The mentors distributed them during RE classes. It was the first project that the mentors undertook this year and they were very excited about it. The bulbs signify the start of the journey each student is experiencing as they begin school life at BCS. The mentors explained how the daffodils symbolize the students as they are planted and nurtured by our school community. The students were asked to plant these bulbs somewhere special at home and to tend them until the Spring when they will grow and flower. Then, everyone was invited to post pictures of the daffodils as powerful symbols of hope and joy.



Ms Burns

St Brigid's Day Crosses

To celebrate St Brigid's Day, we arranged workshops for making St Brigid's crosses in the school. It involved some Junior Cycle classes and many students were terrific in bringing in rushes from the fields at home.

Lots of teachers helped to supervise and assist the students as they made the crosses. There was a video playing with instructions plus demonstrators in the room showing how it should be done. It was a special time to reflect on everything that we have and what we can look forward to as the natural world begins to reawaken after Winter.

Prayer to St. Brigid

You were a voice for the wounded and the weary.

Strengthen what is weak within us.

Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.

May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body, and spirit.

Amen.

At the end of the day, we gifted the crosses to Fr Stephen and the parish church. As you'll see from the photos, a great day was had by everyone involved!

Ms Burns



Cadette Boys Basketball

Our Cadette boys' basketball team had a good year. We started off the year with training in September with all the lads eager to start the season. Mr. Ginty was our coach and was dedicated to helping us improve our skills and play well together for our upcoming matches.

Our season began with a game against Coláiste Muire, Ballymote at home. Unfortunately, we were defeated by a strong side on a scoreline of 39-15. Despite the defeat it was good to get out playing together as a team. Mark Feeney and Jason Jennings were our top scorers for this game, scoring two baskets each. As well as some good scores by Brian Greally, Fionn Conlon and Emmanuel Fasanmi.

After this loss it did not discourage us going into our second match, which was again a home game versus Coláiste Eascaigh. This time we went into the game as a far stronger side than we did for the first match. We played very well together as a team, and this resulted in us coming out on top on a scoreline of 19-12. The top scorer in this match was again Jason Jennings after he scored two baskets as well as scores from Oisín Kelly, Adam Kelly, Jake Powers, Mark Feeney and Emmanuel Fasanmi. This match gave the lads the boost that we needed after the first game to keep us encouraged and dedicated. Everyone showed great skill and determination throughout the match, and this combined with the hard work we were putting in at training is what edged us to this win.

We had one game left in the group stage. Before this game we had training to prepare us by working on skills and working on playing well as a team. This game was also a home game and this time we faced Ballinrobe Community School. Ballinrobe are always a strong side in basketball and unfortunately, we were narrowly defeated in this last game on a scoreline 22-15. Despite the fact we had lost, it was to a strong team and the positive of this was that we put up a hard battle against them and kept within a few scores of them throughout the whole match. This time our top scorer was Isaac Owusu after he scored two fantastic 3 pointers and 1 two pointer. In addition, there were some fantastic scores from Jason Jennings and Mark Feeney.

The whole team never lost their positive attitude the whole season and we all grew much closer to each other throughout. We all look forward to playing basketball next year and in the years to come in school.

By Mark Feeney & Ethan Kilbane



Back row L – R: Wayne Maughan, Cameron Costello, Sean Gormally, Ausrius Vaitickus Erik Holmok, Norbert Siemionkowski, Jack Mulligan, Emanuel Fasanmi, Josh Kavanagh, Rowan Johnston, Mark Feeney, Kyle Burke, Keith Flanagan.

Front row L – R: Eoin Heneghan, Arnas Krizka, Carl Waldron, Andrei Leva, Isaac Owusu, Jake Powers, Connor Grogan, Ethan Kilbane, Samuel Ayinla, Fionn Delaney, Jason Jennings.

Cadette Girls Basketball

Our basketball season started in mid-September. We trained every Thursday morning from 8am-9am and all girls turned up extremely dedicated. Our coaches were Ms. Ronayne and Ms. Donnellan, who helped us improve over the season. They helped us with our skills such as lay-ups, free throws and passing. They also helped us learn all the rules of the game as it was some girls' first time ever playing on a basketball team. They also helped us learn tactics that we would use for our matches such as the fact we would be playing in zones.

Our first match was at home to Mount St. Michael. Amanda Hamane was our top scorer, scoring 2 two pointers and a free throw but unfortunately, we lost this match on a scoreline of 21-5. Despite this, everyone showed great skills and determination, and this did not discourage us for the rest of the season.

Our next match was away to Charlestown. Charlestown were a strong side as they always are and we fell short of a win again. We did, however, show significant improvement and we were playing well together as a team. Even though we had lost these matches, the girls never lost their positive attitude. The team improved massively over the season, we bonded well and grew closer, and we look forward to next year.

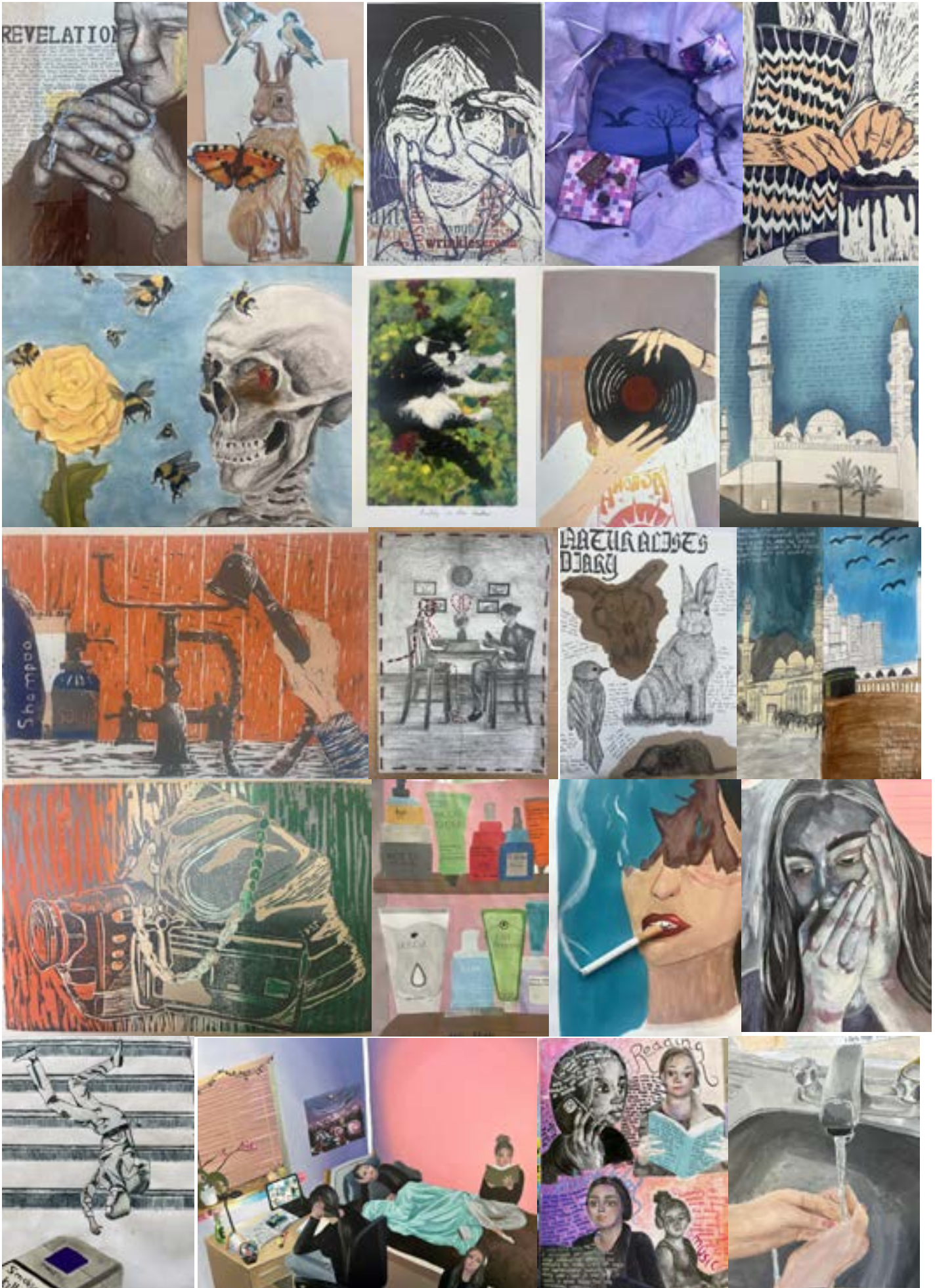
By Leah Finnegan & Aoife Collins.



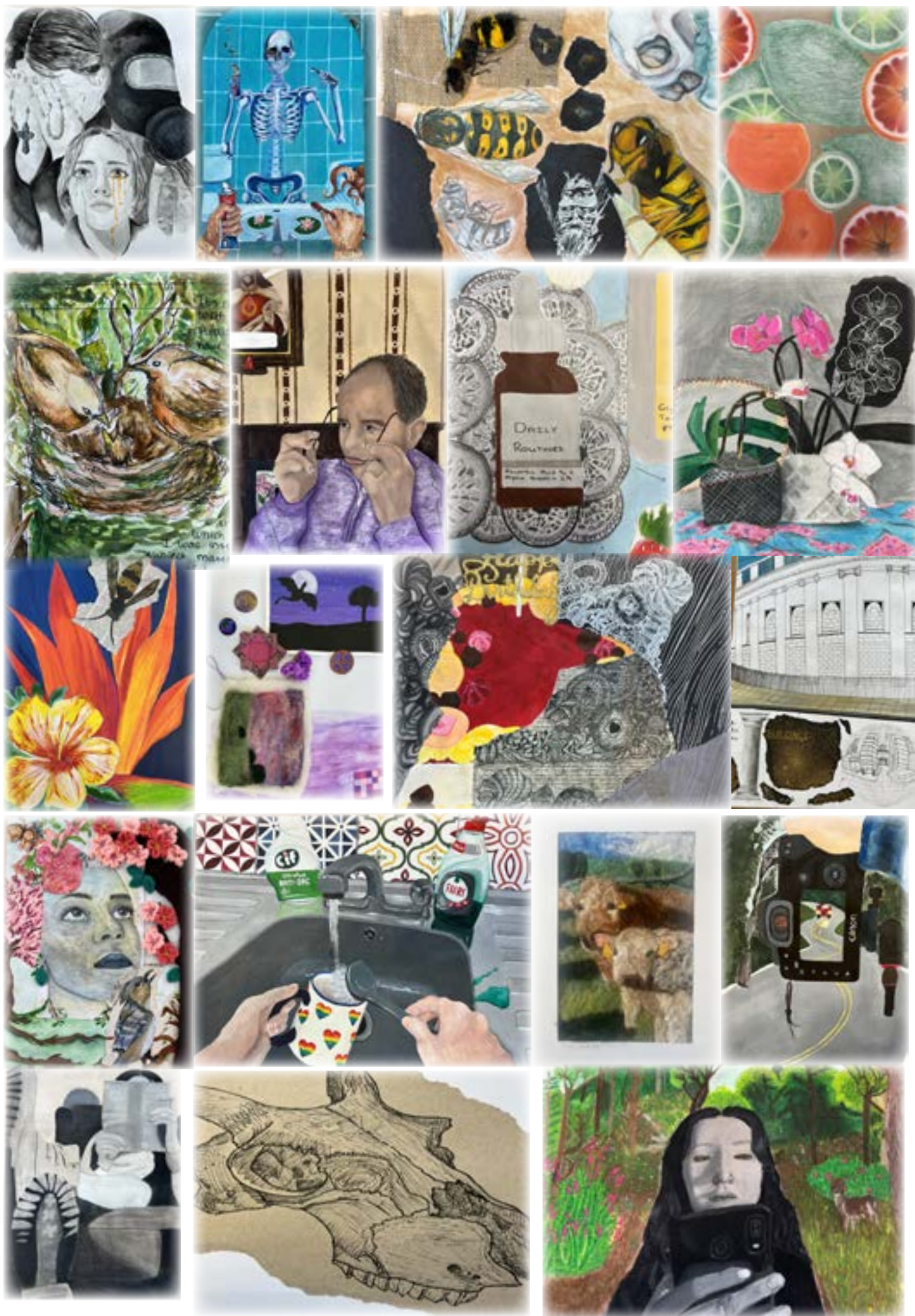
Back Row L-R: Sarah Corcoran, Leah Finnegan, Róisín Henry, Emma Casey, Sábh Lyons, Leah Rogers, Orla Smyth, Niamh Donnellan, Kate McDermott, Emma McLoughlin, Ava McCormac, Katie Damron, Believe Mudimbi

Front Row L-R: Sarah Caulfield, Chloe Fitzmaurice, Arfa Nawaz, Aoibhinn Greally, Síofra Forde, Aoife Collins, Sara Kazmarek, Ciara Gill, Amanda Humane, Ailsa Forde.

Art Collage



Art Collage



Day in the life of a BCS student



Beep beep beep' goes the sound of my clock
 I was up late studying for my mock
 My mum is downstairs "we're late" she screams
 I was still in my bed away in my dreams

I hear the bell go it's time for class
 I want to be first I have to be fast
 I looked out the window beside my locker
 Oh, to be on the Astro playing soccer

I hear the bell go it's time for lunch
 Can't wait to line up and get free munch
 Lunch is the best time for fun
 You make a joke or share a pun

I hear the bell go it's time for PE
 We run three laps and wonder why I have a gammy knee
 It's time for a water break the best part
 I love PE but water breaks have my heart

I hear the bell go it's time to go home
 I say bye to my friends and finally check my phone
 School life is simply so joyful it's truly a bliss
 And I know in adulthood these moments I will miss

BCS Irish Supporters Club



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023

Ag tús na bliana, bheartaigh muid mar Roinn Gaeilge go raibh muid chun iarracht ollmhór a dhéanamh chun na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge.

D'eagraíomar scideal forleathan don tseachtain. Is iomaí imeachtaí a bhí ar siúl i gcaitheamh na seachtaine agus bhí atmaisféar dearfach i leith na Gaeilge le brath sa scoil.

Bhí tráth na gceist, biongó, maidin caife, lá scannáin, lá glas, seisiún ceoil, agus buaicphointe na seachtaine ná go raibh céilí ar siúl sa halla gleacaíochta agus bhain muid an-taitneamh agus spraoi as.

Chomh maith leis sin fógraíodh seanfhocal an lae, focal an lae agus dushlán an lae ar na scáileáin timpeall na scoile. Bhí deis ag na scoláirí labhairt ar an idirchum trí mheán na Gaeilge chun na scoláirí a chur ar an eolas faoi na himeachtaí éagsúla.

Tá nuacht iontach againn freisin gur éirigh le beirt scoláire scoláireacht a fháil ar luach 850 euro chun tréimhse a chaitheamh sa Ghaeltacht le linn an tsamhraidh. Comhghairdeas le Norbert Siemionkowski agus Aqeel Amjad, agus guímid gach rath oraibh!



Wellness Week



After the strenuous semester one exams, we as students count on wellness week to lift our spirits and bring us together as a school community. Each year an amazing week is guaranteed by the committee. This year leaving cert students participated in many activities such as; line dancing, basketball, soccer, tag rugby and an art workshop. These activities not only provided us with physical exercise but thorough enjoyment together as a year. It allowed us to take time out of our busy leaving cert life of studying and schoolwork. Along with this we were spoiled with the amount of insightful self-help talks. We had a tear-jerking



presentation from Paul Coughlan “change is achievable- the 10% game” this was about a man who overcame his battle with cancer and told us how to keep our mindset positive even in stressful and uncertain times. The next day some of us participated in Declan Browne’s “wellness retreat” this was a day long activity that was an emotional rollercoaster, tears, laughter, reflection and fun! This was a great opportunity that allowed the leaving cert students to write goodbye letters to each other as we embark on our separate journeys through life. These are memories that we will cherish forever, thank you to Declan Browne. On Wednesday our year had a presentation from well-known local entrepreneur Jane Buckley, Jane is the owner of nationwide company ‘Jenny Glow’ Jane gave us an insight into the highs and lows of the business world and answered questions from the crowd, she also gave away some company favorite Free-Bees which was loved and appreciated by all! Later that day Mr. Nolan gave us a presentation about study skills and managing the leaving cert as a whole, these were skills that helped a lot of people and I know we will take with us towards June! We also had an



insightful presentation from members of Gamblers Anonymous. This was eye opening to us as leaving cert students as we are now of the age to gamble and this talk from real people gave us a good insight into the dangers and the life changing effects it can have on us if not handled properly, this advice was advice for life. On Thursday some of the teachers in the school gave us an advice talk on our transition to college. This was a prevalent topic on our lips, as we soon will be leaving home and making this change, it was great to get a look into the lives we soon will be part of. Our final presentation of the week was one from the Cenaclo community. This was a presentation given to us by 3 men who had experienced addiction in their lives, they had everyone in the palm of their hand with their inspiring stories and there was not a dry eye in the place. These are stories that will stick with us forever.



Finally, as a leaving cert year we would like to thank Ms. Philips and the wellness week committee for the years of hard work and

memories you have created by putting on wellness week every year. They are memories we will cherish forever, and we are all so grateful to be part of a school that cares about our wellbeing and health.

Aoife Loftus and Rebecca Mulligan



Wellness Week 2022: A 5th year perspective

This was a great opportunity for us fifth years to unwind. On Monday, 5th years got a presentation by “alcoholic anonymous” on alcohol addiction. This was a very helpful and educational talk as the speaker shared their personal experiences with alcohol addiction. The speaker talked about the recommended alcohol intake limits and the potential health risks associated with excessive alcohol consumption. I think I speak for the whole year when I say it was an extremely helpful talk which forced us to be more mindful of the things we were consuming.

The next day we got our second talk on “Active Consent” By Dr. Siobhan O’Higgins. In this Talk we were taught about the importance of active consent and how to spot and differentiate between consent and sexual assault. Dr. Siobhan Higgins delivered an enlightening talk, making use of games and audience engagement to alleviate the seriousness of the topic in a fun and light-hearted manner while keeping the discussion informative

Wellness week 2022 also offered a golden opportunity for students to showcase their natural talents on the stage of the music room. Fifth year students Daire Caulfield and Jacob Flanagan bravely took to the stage to perform and entertain the masses. Daire Caulfield performed a soulful cover of Leonard Cohen’s ‘Hallelujah’ while Jacob Flanagan showed off his impressive talent on the piano playing Runaway by Kanye West. The two fifth year students were the only seniors to perform and didn’t let this hold them back from wowing the crowd. And wow they did. The Talent show was a great spectacle for the week and created a lovely atmosphere in the school, being able to remind staff and students alike of the talent in the school. The event of course would not have been the same without the hilarious hosting of Ethan Henry and Aishat Egbe.

For the wellness week this year. Students had the opportunity to engage in one of six activities: Soccer, Basketball, Zumba, line-dancing, dodgeball and art.

Overall wellness week 2022 was a resounding success as always. With Fifth Year students being able to relax and enjoy the wonderful opportunities beyond books and copies presented to them by the staff at BCS.

By Fiza Shoaib and Adam Walsh

Wellness Week: A first year perspective

Wellness Week kicked off on Monday with the chaplain, Ms. Burns' reflection. This was directly followed by a speech from former principal of BCS, Pat McHugh. This was directly followed by a speech by former principal of BCS, Pat McHugh, held in the Assembly area. It was watched in person by TYs, fifth years and sixth years, while it was watched over zoom by the junior years.

The next activity was held on the following Tuesday, which was a 1st and 3rd Year chess and draughts tournament arranged by Ms Cox. The winner of the Chess was Holly Cunningham (1st yr). On Wednesday, was a 1st year fitness and health presentation, presented by Cathal Cregg. First years found this talk very interesting and helpful. Also on Wednesday, was a 1st year decorate-off for the home economics classes. This proved to be very entertaining. Thursday was also a very engaging day, with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd year talent show being performed.

To finish off this eventful week was the much-anticipated Cube. The cube was set up by the pe teachers and the TYs and was held in the gym. It was a series of physical activities such as basketball shots and walking blindfolded. We'd like to thank everyone who make this week so special for all the years. It is much appreciated.

By Lilly Thompson and Molly Squires

The Cube

As is the annual tradition our 1st year got to try the BCS PE department version of the hit TV Game show. It's a great way for first year to get to know each other, their teachers and students from other year groups in a less formal environment.



Pat McHugh Guest speaker

We were delighted to welcome back our former Principal, Mr Pat Mc Hugh, to BCS. Pat was the guest speaker for the opening ceremony of Wellness Week '22. Pat spoke eloquently on the theme of Wellness and his words were very well received by our staff & students.



TY student Lydia Gannon completed the prestigious 'Looking into Law' programme this year

Diversity Week

The town of Ballyhaunis is one of the most diverse and intercultural towns in the whole country, so without a doubt it is clear that our school is a very diverse town with many nationalities and cultures. There is also no doubt that Ballyhaunis Community School appreciates each one of these cultures.

There are around forty plus cultures and nationalities in our school, during diversity week everyday there are 2 announcements where certain people from their home countries go up and talk in their language, they also say a quote/thought of the day. On a specific day, this year (Thursday) there were different tables/stalls representing a country with the traditional food, souvenirs, flags and more. During the day there are performances and dances for entertainment, the people at the tables wear their traditional clothes with pride to showcase their rich culture! It is clear that the students and teachers think that Intercultural week is a hit every time.

Arfa Nawaz (3rd Year)



Anne Grogan Memorial blitz

On the 10th of May we held our 3rd Annual Anne Grogan Memorial Blitz in Ballyhaunis GAA Pitch. This is an important event in our school calendar because it remembers a very special teacher of ours, Anne Grogan. This event was brilliantly organised by TYs, Ms Siobhan Garvey, Ms Kirsty Phillips and Mr Raymond Woolley. The day ran smoothly despite the weather conditions on the day.

Transition years ran the event with each of them fulfilling their roles to the highest quality. TY's were the officials, linesmen, referees, umpires, journalists, event managers, shop keepers, first aid, MC's, performance analysts, team managers and assistants. They did a great job of running the event. The teams who attended were Salerno, Merlin, Dunmore, Tuam, Balla and Headford as well as 2 of our own Ballyhaunis Red and Black teams. Many thanks to the teams who travelled for the blitz.

The winning team on the day was Headford who defeated our own Ballyhaunis Reds in the final and Balla won the shield final against Salerno. The cup and Shield were presented by Anne Grogan's brother Martin Keane and her daughter Aine Grogan.

There was a great day had by all and the dance off between games really added to the fun of the day!

By Cathy Greally



TY A Class



Back row: L/ R; PJ Greally, Jason Burke, Derry Óg Cox, Darragh Ganley, Sam Tynan, Kelley Ronan, Clara Byrne
Middle row: L/R; Callum Lyons, Eva McDonagh, Niamh Murphy, Leah Rogers, Orla Smith, Ava Padfield, Ruth Grealy, Aaron Caulfield
Front row: L/R; James Hussey, Dylan Groarke, Matthew Elwood, Desmond Yobouet, Madison Glavey, Julie Lecky
Missing: Nikas Aravicius, Lauren Clancy,

TY B Class



Back row: L/ R; Jason Kelly, Jarlath Concannon, Bradley Lynch Burke, Grainne Waldron, Iqra Mahmood, Ethan Henry
Middle row: L/R; Micheál Fleming, Keeva Hunt, Edel Fleming, Shannon Moylan, Lucy Phillips, Sarah Gill, Cathy Greally
Front row: L/R; Alicia Alyward, Maeve Caulfield, Jamie McGuire, Oskar Dorosz, Lubna Marwa, Cora Hurley
Missing: Oisín Casey, Cullen Glavey, Kate Tener, Harry Coyle, Aaron McWalter,

TY C Class



Back row: L/ R; Fionn Delaney, Shane Flanagan, Shane Clarke, Charlie Johnston, Oisín Kelly, Shane Gallagher, Jack Kelly, Alex Fitzmaurice
Middle row: L/R; Yuzdzhán Ismailov, Sinéad O'Neill, Elizabeth Burcovski, Orlaith Regan, Lydia Gannon, Sean Wallace, Laura Flanagan, Laoise Greally, Simon Reilly
Front row: L/R; Éabha Delaney, Ella Morley, Sophia Marques, Ava Brennan, Aishat Ashu Egbe, Eva Casey, Jovava Drobic

TY EXPERIENCE

TY is always a different experience for everyone. Some people go into TY and make loads of new friends, some people work on building confidence and there's always the people who use the year like a 'get out of jail free' card. Personally, TY is something I'd tell everyone to do, it's a relaxing enough year once you get settled in. You'll never know what to expect in a day, you could be sweeping the woodwork room one day or doing the yearbook the next (shoutout to the Tooreen gals x) At the start of the year you'll probably feel like you're never going to get to do any jobs but by the end you'll probably be flat out doing different bits for teachers.

Obviously, there've been a few ups and downs (Killary, if ykyk) but as a year group I think we've all gotten a lot closer since then, getting covered in mud together is a great bonding experience apparently. Thankfully Mr. Caulfield made sure we only did fun workshops like the makeup workshop, barista workshop, first-aid course etc, etc. I'd tell everyone doing TY to do as many of the activities as they can, just because you never know what you could miss out on.

One of my favorite parts of TY has to be the change in the way teachers treat you. You get a lot more time to get friendly with teachers, especially the ones you have multiple times a week (Miss Hunt of course) As long as you're not marked AWOL half the time teachers will be happy to give you jobs and take you out of class.

Whatever you do, don't go into TY expecting not to do any work and to just sit around the whole day. I'd say I've done at least 20 projects since TY started, something I don't think any of us expected to be doing. If you even just make the tiniest bit of an effort at them your teachers will be happy out. Be ready to do a lot of presenting to your class as well, it's something that most teachers get students to do. It does seem scary at first but after you get settled in and make friends in your class, you'll find it doesn't bother you at all.

There's only one piece of advice I'd give to anyone going into TY; always volunteer to do everything. Make sure you put your name down for helping with a sport team, for organising different sports activities with Miss Phillips, for Junk Kouture and everything else you get asked about. I hope ye all enjoy TY and I'll (try) enjoy fifth year.

Ava Brennan



Croagh Patrick

One of our first “trips” in Transition Year was going to Westport to climb Croagh Patrick. Brilliant right?! Like what could go wrong , besides not listening to one of the many instructions that were given to wear shoes suitable for climbing . I had nothing to worry about. Except the morning of when we’re all sat at the assembly for roll call, I took a quick look at my shoes to realize I had *accidentally forgotten to wear the proper shoes. You can easily climb Croagh Patrick in Converse....right?

Luckily for me one of my friends also made that mistake so at least I wasn’t getting blisters on my feet alone. The bus made its way to Westport. Things started to get real now. We made it to the location and stopped at the gift shop to grab something to eat before climbing. So what better option than ice cream and a pack of Taytos to start my journey of torture. We got split into groups and made our way to the starting point. We started off strong, A few lads had already started sprinting to try get to the half way mark faster (what show-offs) I was confident in the speed I was going at. I thought to myself “Jeez I should wear Converse more often”. Little did I know it only got worse from there. My Friend and I filmed a TikTok documenting our progress to the summit, so occasionally, as we were panting and feeling the burn in our legs, we’d stop to take pictures and videos and act like we weren’t considering walking turning around.

After 2.5hours of blood sweat and tears, me and my converse had reached the summit. It was gorgeous. We had lunch, took pictures and enjoyed the beautiful view before making our way back down, and when I tell you walking up it was easier than walking down. As much as I enjoyed being best dressed shoes wise, I give converse a one star for sole support. It felt like I was walking barefoot.

Overall let’s just say I will not be participating in such a climb in converse again....

Yuzdzhann Ismailov



Killary 2023



Welcome to the TY Portion of the yearbook aka the reason we all bought the yearbook in the first place. (< JOKES) Personally, when I think of a highlight from TY I think of when we went to Killary, which was the trip that started it all.

So, let's begin this tale..

On the 15th of September we made our way to the Killary Adventure Centre in Co. Galway. We all brought our comfiest clothes, speakers and snacks for the journey we had ahead. Most of us had never been to Killary and so there were many ways this could go. "Do you know we won't have wifi" "apparently the food is really bad" None of these conversations were helping.

The closer we got the more nervous we all became.

I remember looking at the mountains and lakes and thinking "we really are in the middle of nowhere". For activities we got to do the mud run and orienteering (mud run was an overall fave) Surprisingly it did work as a great icebreaker as we all had to help each other reach the end. Also it's proven that mud draws out impurities from the skin so really it was a win win for all of us, Great Skin = Great Memories.

One thing I really enjoyed about the Killary Experience is that in a way it felt like college. Like we all had our own room keys, roommates', we'd meet in the canteen hall for food and it helped our year get a whole lot closer.

During the evening of our first night, we were all lurking around the halls, playing pool, evening games the vibe was quite chill if you ask me.

ANYWAYS Killary was great and was definitely a time to remember for anyone going into Transition year in the year 2023, Killary is 100% a 5 star trip.

By Aishat Egbe

TY Fundraising



Shannon River Adventure



Girls Badminton



L-R: Melissa Devaney, Yashfa Shahzadi, Ayesha Shabbir, Anna Voronova



L-R: Believe Mudimbi, Leandra Pesut, Arfa Nawaz, Ruth Cunnane



L-R: Vivienne Gannon, Ava Maloney, Emily Moore, Méabh Scally.

A great day of badminton was enjoyed by BCS competitors from 1st-4th Year at Ballina Sports Centre recently.

20 participants competed in the all girl's competition as part of the event organised by Connaught Badminton. Some very enthusiastic first-time badminton competitors and some more experienced players competed and played fantastically well to reach Plate Final stages in both the 1st & 2nd year competitions and also the 3rd & 4th year competition. All players thoroughly enjoyed their day in Ballina with Ms. O' Donnell & 5th Year helper and badminton enthusiast Mahreen Asif. The day finished off with a canteen celebration for departing teammate and colleague Anna Voronova who is leaving the area. We wish her well in her future.



L-R: Valeriia Litovchenko, Ema Mesnjak, Ciara Morley, Charlotte Plunkett.



L-R: Iqra Tahir Mahmood, Ava Brennan, Eva Casey, Aishat Ashu Egbe.

Boys Badminton

The BCS Badminton club had a very successful trip to the Boys Connacht championships in Ballina. They came home with 4 sets of medals. The 5th/6th year teams came first and second. Ahmad Naveed, Moon, Mahad and Ahmed Zahoor got the better of Ljubo, Eduards, Abdullah and Ismail in the final. In the 3rd/4th year cup competition Wayne, Bidal, Bilal and Shoaib came second in a round robin series. A second BCS team consisting of Yuzdhan, Dominic, Senan and Jaden came close to getting within the medals too. In the 1st/2nd year competition. 2 young first year teams came out second best in the cup semi finals against a more experienced St Gerald's and Lacken Cross team. Liam, Pavel, Adam, Lukas, Miguel, Isaac, CJ and Conor are all eligible for same competition next year. Finally in the 1st/2nd year plate competition Usman, Rahim, Conn and Eoin prevailed in the final against a good lacken cross team. All the boys gave an excellent account of themselves playing some super badminton along the way.



The GAA Future Leaders Programme

The GAA Future Leaders programme is a relatively new programme added to TY. The programme is facilitated by teachers across many different subjects and co-ordinated by Ms Kirsty Phillips. Over the past 4 years, the Future Leaders Programme has given pupils the knowledge and skills to support all roles required in the effective staging of Gaelic Games. The Leadership skills students learn across all modules can benefit them in all aspects of their future lives and career prospects.

In this class we do many different modules including Refereeing, Event Management, Sustainability, Performance Analysis, Sports Journalism and Coaching.

Sustainability:

One of the modules that we learnt about in future leaders is sustainability which is focused on Green Clubs. In this module we learnt about different ways to make your GAA club more sustainable. Examples that we learnt about are creating a biodiversity walk, adding solar panels, a beehive and a wildflower section.

Refereeing:

In this module we learnt about the powers and duties of a referee, different types of fouls and what you have to do to become a referee. We interviewed different referees such as John Glavey (GAA) and Caoimhe Halligan (GAA + LGFA) and asked them questions such as why they wanted to become referees and what it is like to referee a game.

Event Management:

In this module we organised many events such as fun PE classes, BCS' Fittest Class and the Anne Grogan Memorial Blitz for U14 girls. BCS hosts this blitz inviting many schools to play and compete. The Future Leaders classes run this blitz and take part by being referees, linesmen/women, umpires and coaches. As well as that we have presenters, performance analysts and event co-ordinators in action throughout the day. This is the highlight of the Future Leaders programme for many students.

Sports Journalism:

In this module, we study legendary GAA commentators and commentate over their favorite three minute clip from an iconic match. Then, we got the opportunity to interview past and present GAA legends in the interview task. This year, students interviewed many inter-county and local club GAA stars on the topic 'what the GAA means to you'.

Performance Analysis:

This was a really interesting module as we got to look into the details that you wouldn't notice while watching a game. We looked at the statistics of a match, for example, kickouts, turnovers, possession and more. This gave us an insight of what the management of teams have to look at after every game.

By Laoise Greally, Laura Flanagan and Éabha Delaney



TY Belfast

Our journey started bright and early at half 6 in the morning. Needless to say, we were all absolutely wrecked so we tried to sleep, even though some people kept us awake (@Cullen Glavey) It was about 3 hours until our first stop in a service station which we had about 10 to 20 minutes to get what we needed, obviously we ignored this. Once we actually got to the North, the lads really gave their opinions about Unionism. A former Unionist prisoner gave us an interesting tour of the area, and we all left our mark on the Peace Wall. A Republican came on after him and showed the second side of the story. We dropped our tour guides off and made our way to the Eileen Hickey Museum where we got to have much needed munch. We had a good look at the displays and got to take a magnet or keychain each. Our last activity in Belfast was the Titanic Museum, which we got around and looked at all the information on the titanic. There was a cable car ride that we all found thrilling.

After another hour on the bus we finally got to Carlingford, where we ate and then left for a night hike. Everyone was absolutely buzzing and not tired at all, especially when the workers kept shouting at us to move quicker. After the night hike we were free to do what we wanted so we went to the sweet shop that was connected to the center, hung around talking etc. Then at 11 we were sent to bed after a while the lad came knocking on the doors of the lad's room saying that they were throwing a rave in one of the rooms and so like any sane person would do most of the lads went to the rave. After the lads finally decided to go to sleep, there were rumors of someone breaking and entering (@JH) Thankfully most of us had a good nights sleep and were rearing to go when we woke up. We ate breakfast before we were told to get ready for kayaking. We had planned not to wet our hair at all, however that didn't really work out for us (@charlie and jarlath) It was great to get to do the activities as a year group rather than in smaller groups unlike in Killary. After we'd finished kayaking we went back for lunch and to get changed for laser tag. There were some people who really got into the laser tag including our teachers Mr. Ryan and Ms. Keane (who def was not cheating) At 3 we landed back to the center to get our stuff gathered up to leave. The journey back was awful quiet and most people ended up fast asleep, Matthew being so tired there was a whole stack of sweets on his head before he woke up. We got home even though we thought the bus wasn't going to manage it, thanks to Austin the mechanic we all got home in one piece. The trip really was a great way to finish the TY experience.

Ava Brennan



Junk Kouture

This year 3 groups of our TY students entered into Junk Kouture. These were Red Hot Raven, Changing Seasons and Genderless Junk. The recycling rate for plastic is 8.7%. 10M tons of plastic is dumped in oceans annually, harming environment and wildlife. This is why our groups used plastic as our main resource. We collected old plastic from our school and placed boxes in our canteen for collecting. We reused materials like cardboard, shoelaces, bed sheets, metal rods, diamonds from an Irish dance dress, a old oragami from decorations and more! Our groups created 3 beautiful creations, with 2 of our groups, Red Hot Raven and Changing Seasons becoming regional finalists. Shortly after, our Red Hot Ravens were announced as NATIONAL FINALISTS! This is an amazing achievement and the first time this has ever been done in our school. This event will take place on the 4th of May in the 3arena and will definitely be a great experience.



Sinead O'Neill

5A



Back row: L/ R; Matthew Stevko (5E), Rhián Keane Higgins, Jake Glavey, Conor Henry, Daniel Hagney, Senan Guilfoyle, Nikolai Voronov

Middle row: L/R; Shannon Hibbitt, Siobhán Greene, Isabelle Henry, Fernanda Nunes, Ella Gormley

Front row: L/R; Aine Mannion, Katie Madden, Alesha McGarry, Emer Gill, Roisin Glynn, Kevin Heelan

Missing: Chloe Henry, Otar Margishuli

5B



Back row: L/ R; Oskar Chojnacki, Kian Morley, Ethan Taylor, Harrison Collins, Jason Lyons, Aidan Culliney

Middle row: L/R; Alex Leva, David Owusu, Carlos Lima Rocha, Conor Walsh, Isabelle Cox, Jasmine Jurakova

Front row: L/R; Dalla Rahmani, Sara Chancarevic, Katie Hayden, Ciara Reynolds, Yasmin Harrison, Sofia Balbino Romao

Missing: Molly Browne, Cillian Coleman, Roisín Conway, Rianna Prendergast, Emanuel Tolic

5C



Back row: L/ R; Edward Hickman, Jacob Flanagan, James Flynn, Marucs Denning, Seán Crawley, Adam Noone
Middle row: L/R; Matthew Delaney, Alice Curran, Aoife Ruane, Isobel Coggins, Jack Delaney, Eoin Conway, Shauna Finn
Front row: L/R; Sarah Dee, Caragh Peake, Mahreen Asif, Emily Pereira Silva, Jessalyn Jennings, Julia Buczak
Missing: Serena Henry, Abbey Jennings, Vurban Marinov

5D



Back row: L/ R; Adam Walsh, Micheál Finnegan, Eoghan Conlon , Caolán Boyle, Jack Brennan, Evan Small McNamara, Daire Caulfield
Middle row: L/R; Fiza Shoaib, Chloe Byrne, Polly Cox, Emma Doran, Katie Carr, Rebekah Monaghan, Dean Reidy, Padraig Murphy
Front row: L/R; Erica Byrne, Alicia Cleary, Maeve Flanagan, Kamile Aleksunaite, Emma Colleran, Cara Keaveney

5E



Back row: L/ R; Noor Ul Aman, Seán Keadin, John Ross Roche, Seán Lynskey, Trystan Folliard, Cillian Kinnarney, Sean Moran,

Middle row: L/R; Laura Dillion, Vanessa Whelan, Tara Phillips, Daria Zota, Tadhg Moore, Colm Rattigan, Seán McGuire

Front row: L/R; Kate Doyle, Aoibhin Lynskey, Leah McDermott, Maia Phillips, Shannon Morgan, Alice Sullivan

Missing: Anna Murray

Junior Girls Gaelic

This year the Junior football was managed by Ms O'Connor and Ms Garvey. The team was made up of second year to fifth year students. We had a strong start to the year beating Boyle away 5-07 to 3-11. We went from strength to strength as we came up against a strong Ballinamore side at home where we beat them 8-10 to 4-11. Our next game was against Strokestown which was our toughest game yet and unfortunately, they came out on top. Our final game of the year was against St.Nathys. It was a tough battle right to the end finishing with a win for St.Nathys. We had a really good year but unfortunately we didn't go any further in the competition. Well done to everyone involved and a huge thanks to Ms O Connor and Ms Garvey for coaching us this year.

By Laoise Greally, Laura Flanagan and Éabha Delaney.



Back Row L/R: Ava Neary, Serena Henry, Abbey Jennings, Sarah Caulfield, Sadhbh Lyons, Leah Finnegan, Niamh Donnellan, Aoife Collins, Emma Henry, Orlaith Regan, Melissa Clarke, Emma McLoughlin

Front Row L/R: Éabha Delaney, Fiona Duffy, Laoise Greally, Cathy Greally, Orla Smith, Laura Flanagan, Leah Rogers, Madison Glavey, Ciara Gill, Kate McDermott

Missing From Photo: Sinead O'Neill

Italy Trip 2023

On the 9th of March 2023, 50 very excited students and 4 very nervous teachers set off from snowy Knock to sunny Bergamo, Milan. After the big trek through Knock's security 50 well-deserved fries were gobbled down. When the humidity hit us on arrival we realised we were inadequately overdressed. Our bus driver Vlad became our private tour guide for the next 3 days.

Sirmione on the shores of Lake Garda was our first stop of the trip, where we all got ice-cream bigger than our heads ! With ABBA music blaring, the sun setting, we jetted off on the speed boats around the lake.

On arrival at the hotel we were delighted (some more than others) to learn that there was a large group of Sicilians also staying there. Overall the hotel was adequate apart from the few creepy crawlies which only Mr.Mitchell was brave enough to face ! We were all on edge to see what we would have to eat for the next 3 nights, but to our surprise the food was lovely, especially the chips ! The lads maxed out on the 'all you can eat' buffet.

With an early start and very little sleep, thanks to our Sicilian neighbours we set off to Venice. The sites were absolutely breath taking and some of us were lucky enough to go on a gondola. We had the great opportunity to experience Venice through a guided tour where we learned about the cities famous origin. As the same way we got there, we got a water taxi to the mainland. Our personal chauffeur Vlad was kind enough to stop in a shopping centre on the way home, where we stocked up on make up and snacks that we never finished and buying clothes that we all knew well would not fit in our 10kg suitcases home. That night we said farewell to our rowdy housemates with a friendly soccer game- to which we won't reveal the score !

On day 3 we departed for the famous city of love, Verona ! But first with the adrenaline pumping through our veins we made our way over to the jungle adventure park where we took part in the rope climbing courses and zip line rides. While Ms.Henry and Mr.Mitchell took on the heights with the students, Ms.Mulroy and Mr.Murray went on a long stroll to get a break from the students and of course to enjoy an Italian coffee in the picturesque village. After a few quick outfit changes we arrived to the city of Verona. We were blessed with the opportunity to go into the Colosseum and forced to climb up the 135 steps for yet another group photo. The bold James Flynn took over the role of navigator... who lead us on a scenic route to Juliets house rather than the direct one ! After our morning activities and extra steps in the wrong direction we had some free time to grab some food and enjoy the beauty of the city, in the sun. Although, we missed the perfect photo opportunity on the balcony, the atmosphere in the courtyard is something we'll never forget. We then hopped into our bowling shoes and the competitive side of many of us was released.

It was a relaxing final night, soaking up the last few moments. We flew home with slightly overpacked suitcases and bellies full of pizza and pasta, although we were early arriving at the airport we just about made it on the plane. After a hectic fun-filled 3 days we were all looking forward to sleeping in our own beds !!!

This was a trip of a lifetime ! We are all very grateful to our parents for financing this trip, thanks to management for facilities and last but not least a massive thank you to the teachers who escorted us !

By Kamile, Alice & Alicia



5th Year Retreat

The 5th Years enjoyed a terrific retreat when the team from An Tobar Nua visited the school on Tuesday 28th March 2023. There were team-building games, fabulous presentations, a prayer experience, and lots of opportunities for students to express their world views. There were also wellbeing talks on topics including how to build resilience, step into happiness, unblocking your potential, the importance of friendship, and unconditional love. A great music playlist was shared with the students and everyone had a wonderful day. The students gave the retreat 10/10 and special thanks are owed to Ruth and Mike for leading the day.

Ms Burns

5th Year Achill Trip

The Fifth Years enjoyed an action-packed trip to Achill on the 19th to the 21st of September. We did many activities like archery, rock climbing, surfing, paddle boarding, canoeing and cops and robbers before bed. The trip was brilliant, and memories were made with each other like singing in the canteen for a longer curfew. I recommend the trip to all future fifth years and thanks to Mr. Ryan and Ms. Phillips for accompanying us on this exciting adventure.

Jessalyn Jennings



European Mock Parliament

Congratulations to our TY students who had the honour of representing BCS at the European Mock Parliament recently. The European Mock Parliament is an initiative of the European Commission here in Ireland that allows young people to engage in a simulation of a debate of the European Parliament. This year's topic was 'Climate Change' and the students involved, Iqra Tahir Mahmood, Jovana Drobic, Sophia Marques and Speakers Aisha Ashu Egbe and Ava Brennan all learned a lot about Europe's approach to climate change and how the European Parliament resolves differences among members and tries to find consensus across the EU bloc to create laws and regulations.

Well done to all involved!



Carlagh Peake



Congratulations to 5th Year student, Carlagh Peake, who secured her 5th Irish Boxing Title recently at the National Stadium in Dublin. It's another fantastic achievement from this supremely talented athlete.

Erasmus TY May 2022 Reunion Mobility

In May of last year six students and three teachers got the once in a lifetime opportunity to travel to Reunion Island off the coast of Madagascar. It was part of the Erasmus eTwinning programme that took place from 2019 to 2022. It was an amazing five-day experience full of sea, sun and adventure. Students were immersed in the culture of the island and saw all the local attractions. It was a fantastic trip that neither the students nor teachers involved would forget for the rest of their lives.



eTwinning Quality Label

eTwinning Quality Label

Patrick McGarry
Ballyhaunis community school , Ireland

is awarded with the Quality Label
For the project:

#EDLComp19 Culture en vie, envie de culture - Live culture, love culture

22.09.2022

Emma Grainger
National Support Service
Ireland



We were delighted to receive the prestigious eTwinning Label recently. This award was recognition for the outstanding work done by our Erasmus team of staff and students on their 'Culture en vie, Envie de Culture' project.

Girl Power!

By Leah Mc Dermott and Katie Carr.

On the 14th of March, our Year Head Ms. Mulroy brought eight fifth year students to a Conference for girls held in Atlantic Technological University, Castlebar. This inspiring event was organised by Soroptimist International Castlebar who run a public speaking competition with the goal of improving young women's self-confidence and personality and enhancing career opportunities.



The theme of this conference was "A Million Dreams" which empowered all of us through the motivating speeches made by guest speakers. The encouraging speakers included Irish boxer Bethany Doocey, Mayo Ladies captain Kathryn Sullivan, renowned basketball player Siobhan Kilkenny, actor Phillipa Dunne, musician Sal Heneghan and Martina Jennings CEO of Mayo Roscommon Hospice. We were enlightened by all these inspirational women who have succeeded in different careers and reminded us of how powerful our dreams really are.

In particular, we found Martina Jennings truly inspiring as she dealt with personal struggles with her family and with college life. She also spoke about how she overcame financial difficulties while trying to set up a life-changing clinic for those suffering with cystic fibrosis. After pursuing her dreams of helping others, she has been awarded several awards including Mayo Person of the Year 2020. Martina's dedication inspired all of us as she overcame many setbacks and aimed for her dreams.

The highlight of our day was seeing our own fellow classmates, Anna Murray and Jessalyn Jennings, give uplifting speeches about the importance of public speaking and striving towards our goals. They acted as role models for all the young women gathered. They were impressive ambassadors for our school.



Overall, we took a lot away from this conference. It really empowered us to work towards our ambitions for the future. It has encouraged us to work hard and make our dreams a reality. When we put our minds to it, we can achieve the impossible. We would encourage students to seize every opportunity that comes our way.

BCS 5K run 2023



LCA 1



Back row: L/ R; Shane Finnegan, Stas Vaitiekus, Patrick Culliney, Fintan Mulrennan, Ryan McGowan Gleeson

Middle row: L/R; Neil Keaveney, Thomas Polhosova, Callum Mitchell, Seamus McDonagh,
Mahommad Ridwaan Alom, Jason Kavanagh

Front row: L/R; Paulina Koralewska, Jenifer Polholsova, Carla Araujo Souza, Brenda Cruz, Jennifer Da Silva

Missing: Martin Keeley

LCA1 Christmas Centre Pieces

Great work from our LCA1 students who were busy completing their Christmas Centrepieces for their Agriculture/Horticulture course.



Hotel Catering and Tourism LCA1



LCA1 Lino Prints



LCA2 Graphics & Construction studies



LCA2 Art



LCA Go Karting



Papal awards



Congratulations and to our LC student Aoife Loftus for receiving the prestigious Papal Cross award by completing 60 hours of volunteering. Well done also to our 5th year student katie Carr on receiving her Gold JPIL Award by completing 40hours of volunteering. You are inspirational to young and old.

VAKS



Last summer we took part in the volunteering at Knock Shrine programme, VAKS. This is a yearly programme where senior students have an opportunity to volunteer at Knock.

Most people shy away from VAKS as it is perceived to be solely religion based. However, in our experience, this was not always the case. We felt we could connect with our community by taking part in this extremely beneficial experience.

During our introduction, we were given a tour of Knock and learnt about the apparition. During this we got a good sense of the importance of Knock and met the staff that keep the show on the road. We were given an overview of the roles we would be partaking in. Over the course of our introduction day, we met people of our own age from all over Mayo. We took part in icebreakers, allowing us to settle in and get to know each other.

Nearing the end of the day, we were given the option of two different volunteering opportunities. This included an overnight weekend stay, where we would volunteer around the grounds of the Basilica. We did attend the second option, which involved helping at a children's summer camp. Singing songs and playing games filled our days throughout the week. On the last day, we got to go on our last exciting tour together. We were lucky enough to go to Graune Pet Farm where we went into the soft play, playground, and fed the animals, while still fulfilling our role as volunteers.

This is an exhilarating experience where we met so many new characters and learnt so much about ourselves and others. This was a great opportunity, not only for the aul CV, but for developing our own potential. This is something we would genuinely recommend anyone considering and it is an experience you will hold with you for the rest of your life. The memories and experience gained will benefit you in untold ways and the free jumper will keep you warm.

Mia Fitzmaurice and Aoife Loftus

Scholarship Award



Congratulations to 2022 Leaving Certificate student, Ciara Hosty, who was a worthy recent recipient of the prestigious UCD Entrance Scholarship Award. Ciara is currently a Medicine student. Many thanks to all of Ciara's teachers who have helped her along the way.

LC Mentors



Our amazing mentors did a great job this year. They supported our 1st year students throughout the year, helping them to settle into our school by giving them guidance, support, and advice. An excellent job everyone! **Ms Burns**

NUIG Awards



Congratulations to **Cian Walsh** and **Aureadas Armonavicius**, recent recipients of Scholarship Awards from the NUIG.

Aureadas received the Excellence Scholarship Award.. Cian received the James Massey Keegan Scholarship Award.

Well done to both students on this fantastic achievement.

Science Graduation



Congratulations to our 'LC Class of 2018' students Eoin Delaney, Grainne Robinson, Lauren Casey, Cait Phillips and Conor Hunt who recently graduated with Science Teaching degrees from the University of Limerick.

We wish them all the best in their future careers.

Senior Girls Gaelic Football

This year's senior football campaign started in mid-October, 3 weeks before our first championship game. With a mixture of TYs, fifth years and sixth years we were well prepared to commit to the tough season ahead. Our first game was away versus Headford. We all gave an immense effort that day but unfortunately Headford emerged victorious on the day. Our next game was against our greatest rivals Dunmore Community School. As per usual Dunmore put us to the test and it was by no means an easy game. We had an excellent first half filled with great passages of play with TYs and fifth years stepping up to the challenge with the leaving certs leading the way. Despite our efforts, Dunmore put up a strong second half performance which earned them the win on the day. Our final game was against Mercy Tuam in the Connacht Air Dome. This was a great experience for everyone and was a highly enjoyable game for both players and spectators. This was a brilliant way for the leaving certs to finish off their football career in BCS. On behalf of the leaving girls, we would like to thank Miss Phillips for all her hard work and dedication throughout the years, also to Miss Ronayne for her valued contribution and expertise this year. There's no doubt that BCS has a bright footballing future ahead of itself!

Caoimhe Delaney and Eva Henry



Back Row L/R: Ms K Phillips, Siobhán Greene, Aoibhín Lynskey, Kate Doyle, Alice Sullivan, Aoife Ruane, Erica Byrne, Mia Ronane, Katie Madden, Serena Henry, Abbey Jennings, Lydia Gannon, Sarah Dee, Orla Smith, Chanel Marques, Shannon Hibbit, Isobel Coggins

Front Row L/R: Amy Fleming, Eva Henry, Alice Curran, Laoise Greally, Éabha Delaney, Niamh Coyne, Chloe Kirrane, Laura Flanagan, Cathy Greally, Sinéad O'Neill, Caoimhe Delaney, Treasa McDermott, Kéiligh Roddy Cullen, Ciara Fitzmaurice, Saoirse Waldron

Missing From Photo: Leah Rogers, Shauna Finn

Senior Camogie

Throughout my past six years at BCS, camogie in the school has gone from strength to strength. We entered our first Connacht competition in 2019 and we had never competed at this high standard before. Our Junior team ranged from 1st to 5th years, all from the one club, but this did not hinder our performance in the slightest. We managed to reach an All-Ireland semi-final in our first year but unfortunately St. Colms High School Draperstown were the better team on the day. Since then, we have also managed to field Senior teams as well as Junior which is a massive achievement to say the least. Over the past few years we have come very close to winning a Connacht title but despite our efforts, have unfortunately fallen short. This year's team was no different from previous years, consisting of a total of one leaving cert, six 5th years and the remainder made up of junior members. It's fair to say we had yet another incredibly young team, but this has not stopped us in the past. We got off to a flying start beating Roscommon and Pres Tuam by a tremendous scoreline. It was at this point we came across our greatest rivals Westport, both of us fighting for a Connacht Semi-Final position. We unfortunately narrowly missed out and it was the end of the road for our Senior Camogie team. It has been such an honour to play alongside these girls for the past six years and I have made memories I will never forget. I would also like to thank Ms. Morley and Ms. Coyne for managing us this year and the many other teachers, trainers and parents who have been so involved in BCS camogie throughout the years.



Back Row L/R: Laoise Greally, Sarah Caulfield, Lauren Groarke, Grainne Waldron, Kate Doyle, Maeve Flanagan, Sarah Dee, Ciara Dooney, Katie Damron, Marissa Collins, Siofra Forde, Alice Curran

Front Row L/R: Kate Tener, Emma O'Brien, Éala Greally, Laura Flanagan, Caoimhe Delaney, Rebekah Monaghan, Madison Glavey, Éabha Delaney, Aoibhín Greally

Missing From Photo: Cathy Greally, Aoibhín Lynskey

Senior Boys Gaelic Football

Throughout our football journey in BCS we have endured victory and heartbreak. From first year to sixth year, we competed at a high level, but always falling that bit short of the finish line. During our time we had many ups and downs from winning the Campbell Cup to getting knocked out on our first day out in fifth year. We started our year with a poor performance against a superior Balla team. This loss was a steppingstone for our year and drove us to work harder than we had worked in previous years. We committed to training hard under the lights in Ballyhaunis with Mr. Mitchell and David Delaney. We had a stronger performance against a strong B side opposition of St. Louis losing out 4-10 to 3-14 to a last-minute Ronan Clarke free kick. After this stoic effort the lads put their heads down and travelled down to Louisburgh winning 5-18 to 3-12. The lads continued this winning form beating Gortnor Abbey. Next we faced a tough opposition of Foxford, losing out to the strong side in the end. This loss did not knock our spirits and we continued to train hard. The next game was one for the ages against Boyle. It had it all; cancelled due to snow, poor conditions and last minute drama. The lads were stuck exchanging blows unable to beat the deadlock. Coming to the end Boyle had crept ahead with a 2 point lead, that was until a moment of pure drive from the lads Charlie Johnston turned over the ball and played it into the full forward line where Kian Burke put it in the back of the net. Ballyhaunis won the game and were going on to a Quarter Final against Coláiste na Coiribe of Galway. After an exciting game the lads just fell short losing out 11 points to 1-9. All the lads would like to give a special thanks to Mr. Mitchell, David Delaney and Mr. Freeley who were committed to training on the cold wet evenings in Ballyhaunis.



Back Row L/R: Mr. Mitchell, Ryan Finn, Darragh Madden, Seán Keadin, Jake Glavey, Caolán Boyle, Kian Burke, Charlie Johnston, James Flynn, Seán Brehony, Daniel Hagney, Micheál Finnegan, Senan Guilfoyle, Seán Crawley, Eoghan Conlon

Front Row L/R: Shane Gallagher, Eoghan Duffy, Oisín Kelly, Jarlath Concannon, Conor Henry, Seán Lynsky, Shane Clarke, P.J Grealley, Luke Ruane, Conor Donnellan, Marcus Denning, David Smith

Senior Hurling



Back row (l-r): Shane Gallagher, Dylan Groake, Sean Keadin, Fiachra Glavey, Eoghan Conlon, Ryan Finn, Cullen Glavey, James Grealley, Jake Glavey, Darragh Ganley, Fionn Delaney, Mr. Ray Woolley

Front row (l-r): Matthew Delaney, Michael Finn Richardson, Eoin Ryan, Sean Lynskey, Eoin Conway, Oisín Casey, Evan McNamara, David Delaney

Missing from photo: Adnan Khan and Eoghan Duffy

There was a sense of excitement as the Senior Hurling team travelled to the Connacht Centre of Excellence to kickstart their Connacht Championship against Easkey Community School, Sligo. The game was tight and very competitive and could have gone either way, however the lads saw it through with a top-class goal from Adnan Khan rifling the top net in the dying minutes of the game. The final score ended up BCS 2:08 (15) to Easkeys 1:10 (13). This win led the team to travel to the COE again on December 9th to play Enniscrone Community School and once again, it was a hard fought encounter. Goals from James Grealley, Eoin Ryan, David Delaney, Adnan Khan and Sean Lynskey, along with excellent defending from Ryan Finn and Sean Keadin especially, all contributed to a 5:08 to 2:09 win for BCS. This win secured a Connacht Semi-Final spot, which unfortunately ended in a 7 point loss.

Next up was the North Connacht Championship and a clash with Rice College Westport. The team performed superbly, with goals from James Grealley and Fionn Delaney adding to their total tally. Magnificent work rate from Matthew Delaney, however, drove the team on to a final score of BCS 4:13, Rice College 2:07. This win led us to the North Schools Championship Final where the lads faced rivals St.Columans of Claremorris in the Airdome in Began. Early points from David Delaney set the tone for the game. Goals from Fionn Delaney, Eoin Ryan and James Grealley alongside brilliant defending from Jake Glavey especially, inspired a fantastic win, resulting in the lads finishing the year with a trophy.

Senior Girls Basketball Team

Our Senior Girls basketball team had a good year for 2022-2023. Our team was managed by Miss Ronayne and Miss Donnellon. We started off the year by beginning training in mid-September and we were all so excited to get back to basketball after covid. We trained every Friday morning from 8-9 before school. Miss Ronayne and Miss Donnellon helped us with our skills in these trainings, especially our lay-ups and the different types of passes we would need to use, as well as tactics on how we would play the games which for our team they decided we would play in zones.

We had our first game at home to Mount Saint Michael Claremorris on the 25th of October. This was a very tight game which ended with us beating Claremorris narrowly on a scoreline of 15-13. Sarah Gill scored a two-pointer and Katie Madden was a vital part of this win, scoring 13 of our points, 6 two-pointers and one free throw. This game left us all very encouraged and excited to keep playing basketball for the season. Overall, in this match everyone had a good game and each person played a big role in winning the match.

Next, we had our second match, which was this time away to Charlestown. This school always has strong basketball teams and so, we knew going into the match it was going to be a tough game. Despite this, we went into the game as a much-improved team and we played to the best of our ability. Unfortunately, it wasn't our day when we were beaten by a strong Charlestown team. This being the last game of the group stage meant that we hadn't qualified to go through to the next round.

Although we didn't get to regional stages and our season had now ended, we have all come away from it as stronger players, a closer team and we all look forward to being back playing next year.

By Lydia Gannon & Shannon Moylan.



Back Row L-R: Lydia Gannon, Polly Cox, Chloe Henry, Lucy Phillips, Sarah Gill, Laoise Greally, Daria Zota, Serena Henry, Abbey Jennings, Katie Madden, Alannah Hession, Holly Gallagher.
Front Row L-R: Carla Peake, Maia Philips, Laura Flanagan, Shannon Moylan, Cathy Greally, Sinéad O' Neill, Katie Hayden, Sophia Balbio, Eabha Delaney.

Senior Boys basketball



Back row L/R: Adam Noone, Rhian Keane, Matthew Stevko, Oskar Chownacki, Conor McGuire

Front row L/R: Shane Gallagher, Trystan Folliard, David Owusu, Oisín Kelly, Gabriel Ferreira

Missing: Kian Burke, Mohammad Alom

Our basketball season started mid-September. We trained every Friday after school. We had some difficult training sessions to help us improve for the upcoming season. Mr. Waters was a great coach and was very dedicated to the team. Our school has great facilities, such as the gym; because of this all our games were at home.

Our first match was against Ballymote and it did not go our way. The final score was 32 points to Ballymote and 22 points to Ballyhaunis. Rhian Keane was our top scorer for this game, having scored 2 baskets. There were also scores in this game by Sean Moran, Trystan Folliard, Matthew Stevko, Conor McGuire, Adam Noone, and David Owusu. We had lost the match, but we had played an excellent game of basketball showing excellent shooting, passing and teamwork. Despite this loss, it did not take away our determination for our upcoming matches.

Our second game was against St. Colman's College Claremorris. This was a tight game throughout with each player on our team showing significant improvement individually and together as a team. Unfortunately, we lost this game narrowly again, with a scoreline of 54 – 43. Matthew Stevko was the top scorer of this game with 7 baskets and 2 free throws.

Additional to this, Rhian Keane, Conor McGuire, David Owusu, Oisín Kelly, Trystan Folliard, and Adam Noone all came away from the game with some fantastic scores that helped to keep us with the competition, throughout the intense match. Although it was another loss, Mr. Waters did not let this get us down. He kept our spirits high as we continued to train and work on anything he felt was causing us these losses.

Our third match was against Coláiste Eascaigh, and finally after all the hard work we put in at the training sessions, we secured the win. After showing great skill throughout the match, we all felt it was a well-deserved victory. The final score was 46 – 35 with Rhian Keane being our top scorer with 4 baskets and 1 free throw as well as some fantastic scores by Ljubo Spajic, Matthew Stevko, Sean Moran, David Owusu, Adam Noone, Conor McGuire, Kian Burke, and Trystan Folliard.

Winning for the first time gave us confidence as we prepared for our fourth and final game against Ballinrobe CS. We played to the best of our ability, with this being some of the lads last time getting to play basketball with the school. However, despite everyone's excellent effort we unfortunately ended the season with a loss on a scoreline of 49 – 22. Our top scorer was David Owusu with 3 baskets and 2 free throws also with scores from Kian Burke, and Adam Noone.

Although we had an unsuccessful year, everyone on the team showed exciting potential, many of which can still play senior basketball again next year. We enjoyed every minute of it and will not let it discourage us from playing again next year.

By Matthew Stevko and Rhian Keane.

Leaving Certificate Business and LCVP Visit to Leinster House and Trinity College Dublin



On October 4th 2022 6B LCVP and Leaving Certificate Business class enjoyed a trip to Leinster House. They were welcomed personally by Leader of the Opposition Mary Lou McDonald and An Taoiseach Micheál Martin, Roscommon/Galway TDs Claire Kerrane, Michael Fitzmaurice, Mayo TDS Rose Conway-Walsh, Dara Calleary, and Sligo- Leitrim TD Marian Harkin who all spent time with the students discussing politics, life of a politician and the needs of young people and rural communities. We were treated to break time snacks in the café at Leinster House and we had a tour of both chambers. The highlight of the day was a name check for our school during leaders questions by Mary Lou McDonald during her question's and then by an Taoiseach also. The students sitting in public viewing gallery were delighted with this! We also visited the adjacent National Museum of Ireland and also had time for a spot of shopping in Grafton Street before heading home. Many thanks to Mr. Waters for accompany us and our students.

Ms.Osgood & Ms.Conway.

Study Skills Workshop

Our 3rd/6th Year students participated in a Study Skills Workshop recently. The workshop was delivered by Inspire Education.

Students gained valuable skills and techniques to focus their study and revision in a very important year on their journey in BCS. Techniques included revision strategies, memory techniques, time management, note taking, goal setting and planning to name a few.

Prayers for Examination Time

Prayer for Preparation to Study

Lord, I know you are with me and love me.
Give me peace of mind as I prepare for this time of study.
Help me to focus on my books and notes,
Keep me from all distractions so that I will make the best use
Of this time that is available to me.
Give me insight that I might understand what I am studying ,
And help me to remember it when the time comes.
Above all, I thank you for the ability to be able to study
And for the many gifts and talents you have given me.
Help me always to use them in such a way
That they honour you and do justice to myself.
Amen

Prayer for those preparing for exams

Dear Lord, as I take this exam,
I thank you that my value is not based on my performance,
But on your great love for me.
Come into my heart so that we can walk through this time together.

Help me, not only with this test,
But the many tests of life that are sure to come my way.
As I take this exam, bring back to my mind everything I studied
And be gracious with what I have overlooked.
Help me to remain focused and calm, confident in the facts
and in my ability,
And firm in the knowledge that no matter what happens today,
You are there with me.
Amen.

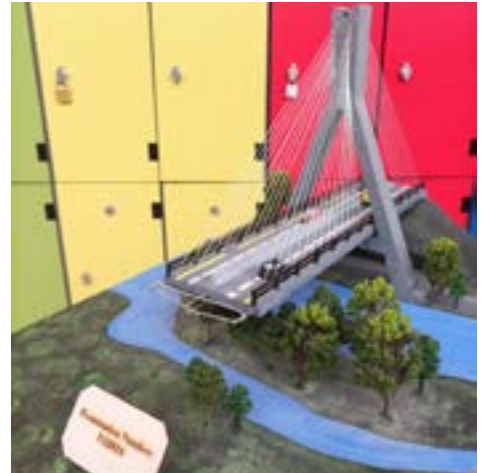
Prayer before an Examination

Lord you are my friend and you are with me today and always.
You have blessed my life with many gifts and talents.
As the exams approach I feel nervous so I pray for your peace.
Calm my mind so that I can think clearly and write down what I know.
Help me to remember what I have learned and to do my best.
Lord your loving presence surrounds me.
Help me to trust that you will guide me.
Amen

LC Engineering, DCG & Woodwork



LC Engineering, DCG & Woodwork



6th Year Retreat

In November 2022, 6th Year students enjoyed a break from their busy study schedule in school with retreat co-ordinator, Declan Browne. The response and reaction from the students was extremely positive, with many saying that it was an amazing experience!

The students were encouraged to face the future with self-confidence and hope and they really enjoyed and highly recommended the retreat experience. There was a plenty of opportunity for reflections and expressing emotions during the day, with plenty of fun too, as well as time for deep thinking. Students were encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings openly and honestly with each other in a meaningful way. Congratulations to everyone who attended. Special thanks to Declan Browne for sharing his wonderful gift with us. He commented on the wonderful welcome he received from everyone at BCS.

Ms Burns

Leaving Certificate Class 2023



Fábio Gabriel Alves Ferreira



Maheen Amjad



Asteja Armonaviciute



Abdullah Ashraf



Maryam Ashraf



Seán Brehony



Kian Burke



Maria Eduarda Caetano
de Oliveira



Josh Cleary



Emily Coffey



Oisín Collins



Cicely Costello



Philip Costello



Dean Coyne



Katelyn Coyne



Niamh Coyne



Caoimhe Delaney



Conor Donnellan



Eoghan Duffy



Lilly Duffy



Rowan Earls



Victoria Fasanmi



Ryan Finn



Micheál Finn Richardson



Ciara Fitzmaurice

Leaving Certificate Class 2023



Mia Fitzmaurice



Michaela Fitzmaurice



Leigh Fitzpatrick



Kate Flanagan



Amy Fleming



Jack Fleming



Stella Gale



Holly Gallagher



Jessica Gannon



Rebecca Gavin



Aoife Gill



Fiachra Glavey



Vanesa Graciová



James Greally



Leah Greally



Jade Groarke



Amy Haldane



Edwards Hāmanis



Eva Henry



Alannah Hession



Matthew Johnston



Mark Jordan



Millie Keogh



Aimee Kerrigan



Ali Kezze

Leaving Certificate Class 2023



Chloe Korrane



Nicole Korrane



Viktória Lavrovicová



Emma Lenehan



Aoife Loftus



Lorant Lukac



Darragh Madden



Nicole Madoda



Mahad Maqsood



Chanel Marques



Treasa McDermott



Conor McGuire



Megan McGuire



Evan McLoughlin



Erin Mills



Meadbh Monaghan



Simon Morley



Rebecca Mulligan



Riain Murphy Maitland



Nia Murphy



Ahmad Naveed



Niki Nikolaev



Rawan Rahmani



Rayan Rahmani



Kéleigh Roddy-Cullen

Leaving Certificate Class 2023



James Ronan



Mia Ronane



Sarah Ronayne



Claire Ruane



Luke Ruane



Eoin Ryan



Aicha Sakkar



Stefania Sarisska



Moon Shabbir



Noor Sharif



Sedra Shawi



Emanuelle Silva Nunes



Shauna Small McNamara



David Smith



Tehreem Sohail



Ljubo Spajic



Katarina Strapková



Darragh Tarmey



Kate Tynan



Saoirse Waldron



Ava Walsh



Isha Younas



Ahmad Zahoor

Leaving Certificate Baby Photos



1 Abdullah Ashraf, 2 Alannah Hession, 3 Aoife Gill, 4 Kate Tyan, 5 Ava Walsh & Cicely Costello, 6 Caoimhe Delaney, 7 Chanel Marques, 8 Jessica Gannon & Kate Tynan, 9 Ciara Fitzmaurice, 10 Claire Ruane, 11 Conor Donnellan, 12 Emanuelle Silva Nunez, 13 Emily Coffee & Lily Duffy, 14 Emily Coffee, 15 Evan McLoughlin, 16 Holly Gallagher, 17 Jade Groarke, 18 Nicole Kirrane, 19 Katarina Strapkova, 20 Keleigh Roddy Cullen, 21 Leah Greally, 22 Leigh Fitzpatrick, 23 Maria Eduarda Caetano De Olivera, 24 Mark Jordan, 25 Matthew Johnston, 26 Mayram Ashraf, 27 Meadh Monaghan, 28 Megan & Conor McGuire

Leaving Certificate Baby Photos



29 Mia Fitzmaurica, 30 Mia Ronane, 31 Michael Finn Richardson, Kian Burke & Eoin Ryan, 32 Michael Finn Richardson, 33 Nia Murphy, 34 Sean Brehony, 35 Noor Sharif, 36 Oisín Collins, 37 Phillip Costello, 38 Rawan & Rayan Rahmani, 39 Treasa McDermott, 40 Rebecca Gavin, 41 Rebecca Mulligan, 42 Shauna Small McNamara, 43 Simon Morely, 44 James Greally, 45 Saoirse Waldron



Leaving Cert Awards 2023

**Bromance**

Sean Brehony and Dean Coyne

Sister Act

Jade Groarke and Shauna McNamara

Couple of the Year

Eoghan Duffy and Saoirse Waldron

Most likely to win the lotto, loose the ticket

Dean Coyne

Best Hair

Jack Fleming and Mia Ronane

Soundest Person of the Year

Evan McLoughlin and Megan McGuire

Most likely to be ID'd at 30

Leigh Fitzpatrick

First to make a million

Conor Donnellan

First Drop out

Riain Murphy-Maitland

Scan of the Year

Phillip Costello and Sarah Ronayne

Most likely to become President

Kate Tynan

Most Musical

Treasa McDermott

Biggest Nerd

Eoin Ryan

Most likely to not return from the debts

Rebecca Gavin and Oisín Collins

Sports person of the year

Caoimhe Delaney and Luke Ruane

Biggest Teachers Pet

Kian Burke and Rebecca Mulligan

Most likely to go on Love Island

Amy Haldane and Micheal Finn-Richardson

Babe of the Year

Matthew Johnston and Niamh Coyne

Glow up of the Year

Leigh Fitzpatrick and Nia Murphy

Best to bring home to your Auld lady

Conor Donnellan and Aoife Loftus

Drama king and queen

Sean Brehony and Rebecca Mulligan

Comedian of the Year

Fiachra Glavey

Memory Lane article

Class of 2023, we have finally come to the end of our six long years here at BCS. What a journey it has been, ups and downs but it's over now, Thank God! Looking ahead to our graduation we are taking the time to look back on some fond memories we have had throughout the years together. Much like every other year we all came into first year, not knowing many people but that soon changed as we began to form lifelong friendships.

One of the first core memories from first year was the annual skipathon won by none other than Ciara Fitzmaurice and Clayton Nolan, a monumental moment to say the least! Not to be overlooked by Hornica's clean sweep at the first year talent show with her french rendition of Let it Go. We concluded our first year with a school trip to Westport. Here we took part in a ferocious game of lazer tag and tried our hand at archery.

Roll on second year and times only got better. Throughout second year we really found our feet and got used to life in BCS. The new refurbishment of the school was opened and put an end to the dreaded walk around the side of the school between classes.

As third year approached, studying became a regular thing.....for some. We began the year with a retreat to Ballintubber Abbey. A day spent exploring the grounds in our rain gear and wellies. This was soon followed by a day out in Galway, shopping and we also visited the Poor Clares where we learned about their daily lives. On the 12th of March the school was buzzing to learn of two weeks off due to covid. Fortunately, those two weeks off turned into a six-month summer and the dreaded junior cert was no longer a concern. However, the novelty of online classes and teams assignments soon wore off and days at Errit lake became a bigger priority.

The doss did not stop there as for most of us a six month summer was followed by TY. Although covid let us off the hook we made up for it with the lack of trips in TY. Many would say the highlight of the year was our trip to Rooskey in September. Rock climbing, archery, kayaking and best of all the mud slide left us all with hypothermia but more importantly great memories. This trip was shortly followed by a trek up Croagh Patrick. Our TY journey was cut short due to covid and when we returned after Easter we tried our hand in mandrin, chinese and made the journey all the way to Cloonfad for a scenic walk. We concluded our TY with a pizza party in the assembly area!

5th year got off to a good start; making new friends, trying out new subjects and preparing for the next two years. The highlight of the year was our two night all-inclusive trip to Achill Island. We honed our skills in paddle boarding, canoeing and surfing. Nights spent playing cards and eating pot noodles. The novelty of the water sports soon wore off as on the second day, the idea of getting back in the water didn't appeal and instead we opted for a walk along the beach.

Now on the home stretch, 6th year began and so did hours of study each week, but we took every opportunity to have some fun. Our final wellness week consisted of the usual line dancing and sport activities along with a number of really insightful talks that we all took something from. The mocks were followed by a night out in Westport. The highly anticipated orals came and went quicker than expected and now all focus turns to June. It is hard to believe our time here is nearly over, but we cannot wait for what's to come and no doubt we are all leaving with many lifelong memories and friends.

-Jessica Gannon & Sarah Ronayne

MEMORY LANE



MEMORY LANE

