

## U14 Gaelic Football North Leinster Champions 2020

Following on from their dramatic extra-time win in the North Leinster Schools final against Ashbourne Community College in December, the U14 Gaelic team continued their fine form this season by defeating Dublin champions Terenure College in the Leinster semi-final. The game was played in Abbotstown on a cold, blustery January day. Despite the bad conditions, the lads played some extremely good football in the first half, leading at half time 2-4 to 1-3.

In the second half, playing against the wind the team had to dig in deep as Terenure came back into the game, narrowing the gap to two points. However, goals from Cian Cleary and Ultan McLaughlin in the final minutes sealed the win 5-6 to 2-6, in what was a fine team performance by all involved. They now look forward to playing South Leinster champions St. Kieran's College, of Kilkenny in the final. This is to be scheduled later in the year.



U14 Gaelic Team with their mentors Mr. T. Callan, Mr. V. Corrigan & Mr. L. McQuillan

Mr. M. Trainor in conjunction with the Student Council is responsible for the production of the school newsletters. If any student, teacher or parent has any relevant news items they think may be suitable for future newsletters, please contact Mr. M. Trainor or e-mail [mtrainor@droghedacbs.ie](mailto:mtrainor@droghedacbs.ie).



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If you wish to meet a member of staff, please phone and make an appointment.



Check out the latest news on our School's Website  
[www.droghedacbs.ie](http://www.droghedacbs.ie)

## Louth Champion Boxer

Congratulations to our 2nd year student Antonio Bozkaya who was crowned Louth Champion Boxer at the Louth Open Championships in Dundalk in March.

Antonio boxes out of the local East Meath Boxing Club.



May 2020

| Volume 23 | Issue 2



# Newsletter

St. Joseph's Secondary School



Dear students, colleagues, parents and guardians,

I hope you are all keeping well and that you are managing to enjoy the great weather that has helped us through this unprecedented and very challenging time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of our school community for their patience and positivity in adapting since the 12<sup>th</sup> March to what has become a very different way of life for us.

Firstly to our students, I am aware of how difficult it has been for you to have your lives interrupted so dramatically and with very little warning. I certainly didn't think that we would not be returning to Newfownwell before the summer as we gathered our belongings in haste on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020. I am sure that you miss seeing your friends and that things have been very different for you as you establish a new routine during this time. I want to thank you for how well you have engaged with your teachers online. I hope you enjoy a well-earned break over the summer months and I hope to see you all in person whenever we are permitted to open the school to students again.

I want to extend a particular word of thanks to our sixth years. You have been a very special group of students and I do not say that lightly. You have always been a very committed and respectful group of young men. You went about your business in an exemplary fashion and represented the school and your families in an impeccable manner. I am certainly very proud to have been involved in your journey through school and I think I also speak on behalf of my colleagues when I say that. Mr. Ryan has worked closely with you as year-head since you started with us in September 2013/2014. I would like to thank him on your behalf for his support. It is unfortunate that we cannot mark the end of your time in St. Joseph's as we would normally and I am sure that you may feel cheated out of many milestones in life as the uncertainty continues for you. Please try and take positives from the current situation. You have had to adapt and develop a resilience that is not usual for students of your age. While this has been difficult for you, it will serve you in good stead in the future. I wish you every success as you move into the next stage of your lives and I hope that you will be in a position to organise something to mark the end of your time with us in the near future. You are always very welcome to return to visit us here and we will keep a keen eye on your progress over the coming years.

I want to thank my colleagues, teachers, SNA's and ancillary staff for their hard work since March 12<sup>th</sup>. The move from direct to remote teaching has provided many challenges for us. We were in the lucky position to have been able to roll out the delivery of remote teaching with relative ease. This was in no small part due to the efforts of Mr. Traynor who has been working on developing our use of the google G-suite since September 2017. All of our students have a school based Gmail account and as a result we were in a position to connect with you within a very short period of time to begin our delivery of remote teaching. I would like to thank Ms. Burke for all of her work in supporting students and staff with IT issues and for providing professional development in this area for us all. We have certainly made huge progress in the area of information technology in recent weeks and this can only have a positive impact on teaching and learning for us in the future. We have been working tirelessly to ensure that we can deliver lessons to all of our students. We have had to develop and amend some of our policies to ensure that the remote learning environment is safe for students and teachers alike. The Board of Management has ratified an interim Acceptable User Policy in an effort to protect us all as we engage in remote teaching and learning. This policy is available on our website. I would like to thank Mr. Lynch and Ms. Kelly for their work on policy development during the year. We have continued work through our Care teams since the start of lockdown to support teachers and students with issues in the area of online engagement. We have provided devices for some of our students to enable access to remote learning. Thank you to year heads, Mr Ryan, Ms. Grimes, Mr. Mc Cole, Mr. Stephenson, Mr. Mathews and Mrs. Mac Namee for their continued work in this area. Mr. Crummey, Ms Daly and Ms Barlow have been in touch with many of you in recent weeks following Care team meetings to provide AEN and Guidance support. I would like to thank them for the valuable support they provide throughout the year for our students.

I am aware that there have been many challenges for parents and guardians since March 12<sup>th</sup>. I am very grateful for your patience and continued support at this time. Many of our families have been impacted directly by Covid-19. I would like to extend the sympathies of our school community to any of you who have lost loved ones recently. I am also aware that there is ongoing uncertainty for many parents about employment at this time. In some instances it has been difficult to balance your own work commitments and at the same time try to motivate your son(s) to engage in remote lessons. Some of our catchment areas have ongoing problems with poor Wi-Fi and I know many households have had to schedule use of laptops and access to Wi-Fi to balance work commitments, third level commitments and our delivery of lessons. I hope things are a little less challenging over the coming weeks as students begin their summer holidays. If I can be of any support to you or your son(s) over the coming weeks and months and as we move into the next academic year please do not hesitate to contact me. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best. Stay safe and hopefully we will all be back to St. Josephs soon.

Best wishes,  
Paul Savage. (Principal)



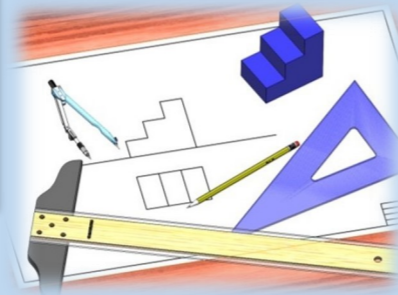
## Design & Communication Graphics Award

Congratulation to our past-pupil Conor Reynolds who obtained the second highest mark in the 2019 Leaving Certificate Examinations of Design and Communication Graphics at Higher Level. He was



Conor Reynolds (2nd left) with his teacher Mr. J. Mathews (3rd left) and members of the Techno Teachers Association

presented with an award by the Techno Teachers Association at the National Students Awards ceremony in Galway Mayo Institute of Technology on Saturday 7th March 2020. It was a privilege for him to attend the event to receive his award alongside his DCG teacher Mr. J. Mathews.



## Business Excellence in St. Joseph's

Well done to our 5th Year student Owen Murphy who received a distinction in Business Studies in his Junior Certificate 2019. Owen received an award for outstanding achievement in Business Studies at a ceremony in Maynooth University on February 4th 2020. He received his award from the President of Maynooth University Professor Philip Nolan and was accompanied at the awards ceremony by Mr. P. Traynor Deputy-Principal. Well done to Owen and his Business Studies teacher Mr. B. Lynch on a fantastic achievement.



L-R: Mr. P. Traynor Deputy Principal, Prof. Philip Nolan, Owen Murphy



## Transition Year AIB Build-A-Bank

Due to Covid-19, The AIB Build a Bank Competition in the RDS was cancelled for this year. However, AIB decided not to let all our hard work go to waste. They adapted to hold the competition online over conference calls.



The TY Build-A-Bank team on their conference call during the competition

Whilst we were extremely happy and decided to compete but slightly disappointed that only three of the team could present. On Thursday the 14th of May, we presented our Power-Point as The Retro Bankers to a panel of four judges whilst eight other schools watched. We were so happy just to participate, but then later that day we found out we had qualified for the National Final the next day. So, we woke up, bright and early to

practice and compete. Once again, we presented for the 7 other finalists and a panel of 4 judges. After this we had to do a two-minute Question & Answers session with the judges. We were delighted and did a great job with our presentation and responses. The results came out at 4pm later that day and we are delighted to be able to say that we won Best Specialism - Digital Bank. Thank you to everyone who has supported our bank this year, especially our customers. - Andrew Victory, Dominic Connor, and Stephen Moore.

## CHOOSE YOUR RETRO BANKER



The AIB Build-A-Bank Team 2020



## Our Lockdown Experiences - The Students Perspective

When the announcement came back on March 12<sup>th</sup> that schools would close that evening there was an air of disbelief and uncertainty around. Lots of us were unsure what was going on and we thought that we would be off for a couple of weeks and back into school in plenty of time for summer term.

It was not to be and week one very soon became several months – months when life as we once knew it has changed so much.

Like young people everywhere students at St Joseph's have had to cope, to adapt, to learn new ways of doing things, to face challenges and to hope for better days.

We asked a number of our students to share some of their experiences of "lockdown" with us – Words that emerged included – **Long, boring, chilled, relaxed, worried, nervous, lonely, afraid, angry, ok, aware, uncertain**.....it becomes clear that this experience has been many and varied. And for most of us we have had our good days and our bad days.

Students whose parents and family work in frontline services are proud of their family members but are also understandably worried. A first year student whose dad is a doctor writes **"my dad comes home from work and straight into the shower, he eats in a different room from us and spends half an hour with us in the evening in the garden at a distance"**

Luke Flood in fifth year has two uncles who are HSE paramedics, an aunt working in a nursing home and a cousin nursing in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. He describes a time of uncertainty with tough days. But Luke is also a reason for us to be proud of our young people at this time. Along with his dad and sister he is a member of The Irish Red Cross. During this pandemic they have acted as auxiliaries to the ambulance service by doing patient transfers, collecting, and dropping food and medicine to vulnerable people within the community.

The father of First year student Darragh O'Gorman travels to work in Dublin airport every day, one of many essential workers keeping the place open to allow for essential deliveries of medicine and PPE from abroad.

Students whose parents are guards spoke of their concerns – a second year puts it best when he writes **"I worry every day about my Dad especially when I hear about guards being spat at and coughed at. My dad does not talk much about his work, but we can see that he is struggling some days"**

Darragh misses his Nana and like so many of us cannot wait for the day when we can visit our grandparents. He was relieved when cocooners were allowed out for a walk because he knew that his Nana was at home alone and indoors for weeks. Seán, who is in second year, has grandparents in Dublin and Laois and faces many more weeks before he can visit them. He described missing his grandad's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday - Facetime is great but it is not the same. He also reminds us that friends have lost loved ones and have had family sick with Covid-19. Sean says that it was hard not being able to attend his friend's grandad's funeral or call over to his friend's house to offer support.

But there have been some good moments.....

Keane Kavanagh Smith of the student council here at St Joseph's describes how he found the early weeks hard. But he says he changed his perspective and it helped – having initially struggled with missing friends and socialising he saw it as an opportunity to get closer to his family and enjoy time together. He also began to write – something he says that he had pressed pause on and the time at home has allowed him to restart.

Keane's neighbours found a novel way to get together – a movie night outside projecting movies onto a white sheet with everyone sitting in their gardens viewing. Keane said he has gotten to know his

neighbours better as a result of the lockdown. Others have found themselves sharing Tik-Tok videos with their dad in the kitchen or in one student's case with the postman in the front garden. Adam describes his sisters 21<sup>st</sup> birthday with a drive by from her friends and a socially distanced singing of 'Happy Birthday'.

Luke Flood is baking and watching the Rookie, Friends and Chicago PD. Our TV and Netflix tastes are as varied as the experience – students listing Safe, Family reunion, Line of Duty and even re-runs of Dublin's Five-in-a-Row victory.

Several students spoke about news briefings on TV and news via social media – some said it became extremely hard to listen to daily figures of those who have died and those who have tested positive for Covid-19. In some households, families have a no phone hour when everyone switches off from the world of social media. A student wrote of the anxiety he feels every time his Nana's nursing home rings – there is the fear of bad news but then there is the relief when another day passes, and everyone is ok.

Sport is missed. Darragh mentions hurling, Gaelic, soccer.... the training, the friendships, the matches. Stuart Kinch in second year reminded us of the value of a hobby or a skill – baking, a musical instrument, exercise. Something perhaps to replace the hobbies we cannot do at the moment.

Time at home has become a new reality and many students spoke of family doing things together that they usually could not. Eating together, walking together, things we often do not do when lives are busy. Many students have found themselves working online alongside a parent who is working from home. Some students wrote of the importance of giving everyone space – even at the best of times we all need time alone.

Perhaps the biggest challenge we all face is the uncertainty about what lies ahead – and as one student wrote "nothing to look forward to this summer and not knowing if this will ever end". Darragh enjoyed a family holiday to Portugal last year and speaks fondly of the marina and nights out in restaurants. There will be no holidays abroad this year. Sixth years have had to postpone so many of the rituals we associate with this time in their life – Graduation, Debs, post Leaving Cert holiday and a certain Electric Picnic....but perhaps what Keane said about pausing things is the best perspective we can have on this time- Life has changed not ended. Life has paused not stopped altogether. Keane writes **"when times aren't great, hope will get us through it"**

So, as we face into a quite different summer holiday let us remember those we have lost and those who are sick at home and in hospital.

Lockdown is a new word in our vocabulary – but let us also remember the other words that have become so important at this time – **Family, Friends, Frontline, Community, Charity, Care, Recovery, Remembrance**.....and perhaps most of all – **Gratitude – Thank you.**

Have a safe summer.... See you soon

*Thank you to Luke Flood, Darragh O Gorman, Keane Kavanagh Smith, Stuart Kinch for their participation in this piece. And thanks to the students mentioned by first name or anonymously for sharing your experience with us.*





## TY Musical 2020 - Back to the 80s

Join the class of 2020 (1985) as they experience the fun and heartbreak of growing up in a totally awesome decade.

From the era that brought the world The Rubik Cube, The Ghostbusters and The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles comes the totally awesome musical Back To The 80s. Back To The 80s is a nostalgic journey through the greatest hits of the decade.



Back To The 80s tells the story of the senior class of William Ocean High School as remembered through the eyes of now 30-something year old, Corey Palmer Snr (Kyle Mc Elroy). 17-year-old Corey (Dominic Connor) is madly in love with his next-door neighbour, Tiffany Houston (Aoibheann Ní Fhearraigh), one of the coolest girls in the school. However, she is too busy mooning over Michael Feldman (Coinneach Farrell), the hottest guy around. Michael and his friends are athletic and good-looking - the kind of guys that Corey and his two best friends dream of being. However, while they may not be the coolest guys in school, they are still one up on Feargal McFerrin III (Emmet Murray), whose best friend is his computer, and who believes the crazy notion that one day CD will replace cassette tapes.

Our school's production of Back to the 80s by our Transition year students in association with Our Lady's College Greenhills was due to be held on the 7th and 8th of May 2020. With all the hard work and dedication that has gone into this all year, we could not let this occasion go without marking this day in some way. We compiled a video of all of the lead cast singing 'We are the World' and uploaded it onto our school website ([www.droghedacbs.ie](http://www.droghedacbs.ie)). This is just an example of the amazing talent these young people hold. Thank you all very much from The Performing Arts Team of 2020. Huge well done to the Transition Year Performance Arts class and their teachers Ms Murray, Ms McAdam, Ms McMahan, Mr Corrigan, and Ms McEvoy.



## Student Council Review 2020

**Luke Mohan TY** - With the Student Council this year, I worked with Green Schools and won a Scarecrow competition in the Navan Education Centre, where we had to build a scarecrow from scratch and use recycled materials, using the design of our 1st year Student Conor Murphy. With the start of the new year we were able to have more first years join the program. It was a pleasure to teach them about the social awareness and litter prevention in the local area around where they live. It was lovely to have first years voicing their opinions and it was a relief to know that the environment is in good hands.



**Rory Dunne 1st Year** - My favourite thing that the student council and I did this year was when we went to Croke Park. I liked it because I got to see the stadium when it was completely empty for the first time. We also got to talk with people from other Edmund Rice schools. When it was our school's turn to talk Keane and Andrew went up while Coinneach played the guitar. We got food halfway through, but it wasn't the best. We went back to the school before everyone else and on the way back we stopped at the Applegreen on the M1.

**Peter Meegan 3rd Year** - My favourite thing about the student council was being able to hear the concerns of other students and be able to voice them on the council.

**Andrew Victory TY** - My highlight of this year was the ERST conference at Croke Park. We had a good time at the conference. At the conference Keane Kavanagh Smith and I were asked to give a presentation on equality as an ERST school. I really enjoyed working on this presentation and hearing what other schools had to say.

**Keane Kavanagh Smith** - During the year my favourite bit of being part of the student council would have to be the opportunities it gave me inside and outside of the school environment, most prominently I am thankful for my position in the local Comhairle na nÓg which was offered to me after attending an event run by them in the Carrickdale Hotel in October. This position I was offered has allowed me to grow as a person and given me a voice to express my opinion on matters and have them heard. It also has given me the chance to sit in a council chamber meeting, attend inter border peace talks and do workshops in relation to conflict, mental health and climate change.

**Stuart Kinch 2nd Year** - As a member of the student council, I found the most enjoyable things were the informative meetings regarding school policies and principles. As a result of my involvement with the student council, I have developed skills such as learning to appreciate other people's differences of opinions to my own, imperative communication skills, and learned about how a second level institution functions regarding its rules and policies. Overall, I have found the whole experience engaging and self-developmental. I believe that the skills that I have learned will help me throughout life and would heavily recommend this experience to other students.

**Evan Reade TY** - My favourite part of TY was to be able to go and experience representing the school at certain events. In 1st, 2nd and 3rd year we didn't get many experiences representing the school at any events. I was lucky enough to go to the peer Ed meetings, the student council conference, the Irish Aid, Achill Island and Glasnevin Cemetery. These trips helped me get to know more people in my year. As well as this we also got to go on work experience. This was my favourite part of TY because I got to meet people from other schools and have more knowledge on what I do and don't want to do in the future.



## St. Joseph's Christmas Cards



Cheque presentation to Local Charities by Mr. P. Traynor, Ms. S. Moore and Ms. A. MacNamee

Well done to our Transition Years for selling our Christmas cards in the local community. The students raised €7,250 and the proceeds were divided between The Oncology Unit in The Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda Women's Refuge, SVP Drogheda, and Drogheda Homeless Aid. Thanks to all the local business who let the boys sell the cards outside their premises in December.



Pictured above: Emmett Delaney, Eoin Flanagan and Cian Yelland selling cards in AIB on Dyer Street.

Pictured below: The students from the ASD class make a presentation from their contribution to the Christmas Cards



Pictured above: Mr. P. Traynor, Ms. M. Barlow, Ms. S. Tully and the St. Joseph's Students making a cheque presentation to the Drogheda Branch of St. Vincent de Paul



## 5th Year Students & the Student Council attend Cycle Against Suicide Seminar

On January 17th, 5th year students and some members of the school Student Council accompanied by their teachers Mr. B. Sharkey and Mr. J. Connolly headed off to the City-West Hotel to an event organised by Cycle Against Suicide campaign. The students were entertained and informed about ongoing activities involving this campaign in Ireland and of successful events over the past number of years involving the organisation throughout the country. The events on the day involved a number of guest speakers including Ireland Rugby legend Alan Quinlan and performances from popular music artists such as Chasing Abbey.



## Wellbeing @ the Joey's Bakery Corner

### Butterfly Buns

Ingredients: 110g butter, softened, 110g caster sugar, 2 eggs, 1 tsp vanilla extract, 110g self-raising flour, ½ tsp baking powder, 1 tbsp milk, plus 2 tbsp if needed, to loosen the buttercream, strawberry jam (optional), sprinkles (optional). For the buttercream: 300g icing sugar, 150g butter, softened, 2 tsp vanilla paste.

Method: Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line a cupcake tin with 10 cases. To make the sponge, tip the butter, sugar, eggs, vanilla, flour, baking powder and milk into a large mixing bowl and beat with either a hand whisk or electric mixer until smooth, pale and combined. Divide the batter between the cases and bake for 15 mins until golden brown and a skewer inserted in the middle of a cake comes out clean. Leave on a wire rack to cool.

While the cakes are cooling, make the buttercream by beating together the icing sugar, butter and vanilla until pale and fluffy. Mix in the extra milk if the icing feels too stiff.

Once the cakes are cool, use a sharp knife to slice off the tops, then cut the tops in half. Pipe or spread the buttercream on top of the cakes, then gently push two semi-circular halves into the buttercream on each cake, doing this at an angle to look like butterfly wings. You can serve the cupcakes at this stage, or decorate them with a little blob of jam in the centre and a scattering of sprinkles, if you like.

Email a photo of your finished product onto the school email: [jkennealy@droghedacbs.ie](mailto:jkennealy@droghedacbs.ie)





## Literacy Week @ St. Joseph's 2020

Back at start of March first year students enjoyed a very successful literacy week.

Throughout the week students were encouraged to take part in activities all based around reading and vocabulary.

Local writer Ogie Harmon facilitated a very interesting workshop with class 1S – he shared his tips for creating a story from an idea. He read some of his work to the students and discussed what they thought of his writing. Some students read their work aloud and enjoyed hearing Ogie's response to what they had written.

First years had a table quiz where they battled over questions about Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings and David Walliams. Congrats to all the winning teams.

We had a lovely gathering in the school library with students from our ASD class and other first year classes presenting on their favourite book. We enjoyed hearing about what books students were reading and recommending to each other.

During the week of World Book Day, students all had a reading for pleasure hour in the library, where they enjoyed trying out the books on offer.

Throughout the week students in first year enjoyed a drop-everything-and-read class at the end of each school day - an opportunity to simply sit back, relax and read!

Many thanks to Ms Gilkes, Mr Maher, Ms Neary & Ms O Doherty for facilitating the week.



## Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020 i Meánscoil Naomh Iósaif

In an effort to promote Gaeilge throughout the school, we participated in Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 our week was cut short and we only got to celebrate Gaeilge until Thursday. However there were several school imeachtaí (*events*) organised for the seachtain.

Ar an Luan (*on Monday*), students participated in a lunchtime Kahoot quiz in which the buaiteoir (*winner*) received Ubh na Cásca (*Easter Egg*).

Ar an Máirt (*on Tuesday*), there was a toraíocht taisce (*treasure hunt*) at lunchtime. The atmosphere around the school was electric during this event and well done to all those who participated.

We also had a Céilí with the First year buachaillí this day. Even though Greenhills could not make it, the boys had a fantastic time and learned many traditional and contemporary Irish damhsaí (*dances*).

Ar an gCéadaoin (*on Wednesday*), there was a Pop Up Gaeltacht at lunchtime. Daltaí (*students*) were invited to Ms. Tully's room for tae and brioscaí and to show off and practice their Gaeilge. This was enjoyed by students from all year groups.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh to Ms. McMahon, Ms. Tully and Roinn na Gaeilge for putting together an excellent amchlár for the week!

## Seachtain na Gaeilge!

Dé Luain - Kahoot Quiz Comp 1

Dé Máirt - Céilí le Greenhills

Dé Céadaoin - Pop up Gaeltacht

Déardaoin - Drop Everything and Gaeilge

Dé hAoine - Lá Scannáin

9-13ú Márta 2020

Póstaer le Robert Wogan (Dalta sa chéad bhliain)



## Culture Week 2020 in St. Joseph's

Culture Day is celebrated across the world on May 21st each year. It is a time to come together to share the things that make us different but also what we have in common. An annual effort is made in St. Joseph's CBS to recognise the diversity in the school during Culture Week. Although circumstances are unexpectedly different this year, it was no exception. Teachers and students got creative under the theme 'We Are the World' and found ways online to celebrate the 37 cultures present at our school. Students created artwork, composed poetry, shared delicious traditional recipes and so much more. Although we usually have a vibrant school gym carefully decorated, there is no doubt that the teachers at St. Joseph's helped their classes share their hard work and exceptional creativity on online platforms. 'We Are the World' is a theme that resonates with us all during these hard times, but with the huge efforts made by those who got involved in Culture Week a strong sense of community was formed. Culture Week is an opportunity to be unified by pride in our culture and heritage and to celebrate all the richness and benefits we have from being such a diverse community.

CSPE First Year students were busy this week preparing for World Culture Day. Many students from classes 1N, 1U and 1S explored different aspects of culture including language, music and art. The theme was "We Are The World" and I think you will agree that the finished pieces were very creative.

### Culture Week

By Ciaran Devine 1F

In our school we have lots of nationalities,  
And we all know how to accept all their personalities.  
We know to forget our differences,  
And strive to have the best experiences.  
Cultures are intriguing and deserve to be respected,  
As many we know, like to be represented.  
By their families, practices and especially countries  
And we learn about who they are in social studies.  
This could include Poland or India,  
Spain, France, Denmark, Israel or Syria.  
It's great to learn what makes them, them  
And to know that they are a gem.

### Adriane

By Abraham Odukoya 1N

67 million people live in my country  
Thousands of people visit it monthly.  
For its beautiful terrain and delicious cuisine  
From art to music, everything in between  
Paris, the city of love  
Bordeaux, beautiful skies above.  
Masterclass football in Lyon  
Notre Dame overflowing with tradition.  
Breathtaking designs of Madeleine Vionnet  
And great compositions of George Bizet.  
To L'arlesienne we will dance  
Vive la France!

### We are the World

By Seán Cummins

Although we are all in the middle of a pandemic,  
And all locked in,  
Doesn't mean we can't be epic,  
Doesn't mean we can't have a grin.  
I know that this is scary,  
I know that it's frustrating,  
But grab your stationary,  
So you can stop your waiting.

Eventually this will all calm down,  
And Drogheda will be a normal town,  
So keep good hygiene,  
And keep your home clean.  
Keep our heads up in these harsh times,  
Maybe draw a picture or write out a rhyme,  
I know we are only in our teens,  
But together we can stop Covid-19.

Culture Week Posters  
from 1st Year Students. In  
a clockwise direction:  
Matthew McAloon (1U),  
Conor Murphy (1N), Adam  
Devlin (1N) and Darragh  
O'Gorman (1S).







## Peadar McCann Awards 2020



### Academic Achievement and Determination to Succeed Awards

#### First Year

	Academic Achievement	Determined to Succeed
Class 1F	Ciaran Devine	Aironas Blazaitis
Class 1N	Anish Molugu	Colm Hackett
Class 1R	Matthew McAloon	Maciej Bartusiak
Class 1S	Conor Mac Criosta	Seán Morgan
Class 1T	Darragh Stone	Cillian Matthews
Class 1U	Donal Quinn	Liam Reilly

#### Second Year

	Academic Achievement	Determined to Succeed
Class 2F	Matthew Fitzpatrick	Cathal Shiel
Class 2N	Diarmuid Davern	Evan Flanagan
Class 2R	Shane Curtis	Modestas Latonas
Class 2S	Jacob Hanratty	Joseph Floyd
Class 2T	Andrew Reilly	Cian McCole

#### Third Year

	Academic Achievement	Determined to Succeed
Class 3F	Tyler White	Ben McCabe
Class 3N	Rian Jordan	Benjamin Gordon
Class 3R	Jeswin Thomas	Kyle Meegan
Class 3S	Ibrahim Khan	Adam Pervaiz
Class 3T	Temitayo Laiyemo	Thomas Flanagan

#### Fifth Year

	Academic Achievement	Determined to Succeed
Class 5.1	James Forde	Aaron Donnelly
Class 5.2	Powel Sabu	Seán Griffith
Class 5.3	Dean McWeeney	Kamil Suchomski
Class 5.4	Theo Ugwuja	Alan Foley
Class 5.5	Carlo Hehir	Ryan Corrigan
LCA 1	Luca Vecchione	Toby Maguire

#### TY Active Engagement and Demonstrated Initiative Awards

	Active Engagement	Demonstrated Initiative
Class TY1	Rory Fitzpatrick	Anthony Clarke
Class TY2	Colm Smith & Ciaran Agnew	Connor Dunne
Class TY3	Tadhg Cairns	Ethan Martin
Class TY4	Andrew Victory	Callum Skinnader

#### Library Awards

Class 1F	Christian Keller
Class 1N	Mark Dowd
Class 1R	Pete Savage
Class 1S	Bazil Czajowski
Class 1T	Jacob Woods
Class 1U	Luke & Alex Walsh



#### School Academic and Contribution Awards

Green Schools	David Moroney & Luke Mohan
MEITHEAL Awards	Anthony Clarke & Tytus Walkowiak
Chess Player	Nikita Koush
Most Improved Chess Player	Órán McArdle
Junior Music Student	Stuart Kinch
Br Holland Shield, JC Technology	Piyapat Saoyood
Jim Hanlon Civic Award	Brandon Kennedy
Junior Cert Art	Ciaran Carroll
Leaving Cert Gold Medal for Academic Excellence 2019	
Neil Holdcroft	Evin McConnon
Seán Carolan	Peter Finegan
Conor Reynolds	Luke Callaghan
Cillian Walsh	Jack Hodgins
Bonn Comórtha Nollaig Ó Mórdha don Ghaeilge	Neil Holdcroft
Excellence Award for Design & Communication Graphics	Conor Reynolds
Jim Mooney Commemorative Medal for English	Seán Carolan
Junior Cert Gold Medal for Academic Excellence 2019	Daniel Butterly
James Ford	Johan Varghese
Steven Kinch	Alex Smyth
Prefect Awards 2019-2020	Theo Ugwuja
Kennenna Okwara	Richard Akinbola
Femi Laiyemo	Scott Daly
Keane Kavanagh Smith	Kamil Suchomski
Daire Collier	Timothy Ivare
Samuel Simeon	Soga Agunloye
Mark Uduburo	Seán Rice
Edmund Rice Ethos Award	
Keane Kavanagh Smith	Andrew Victory
Ross Walsh	James Ford
Rory Dunne	Daragh Mc Hugh
James Carton	Colm Hackett
Rory Fitzpatrick	Connor Dunne

#### Sporting Achievement Awards

Junior Athlete	Conor N. Murphy
Senior Athlete	Tadhg Donnelly
Junior Soccer Player	Matthew O'Brien
Senior Soccer Player	Michael Connolly
Golf Player	James Fanning
Junior Rugby Player	Morgan O'Reilly
Senior Rugby Player	James Keogh
Senior Basketball Player	Eoin Hackett
Junior Basketball Player	Danny Nugent
Junior Gaelic Football Player	Cathal O'Reilly
Senior Gaelic Football Player	Eseosa Omoregbe
U14 Hurling Player	Darragh Stone
U16 Hurling Player	Paddy Keane
Senior Hurling Player	Eoghan Ryan
Paddy Hallinan Trophy	Jake Neilon
Br. Hunt Overall Sports Star	Eseosa Omoregbe



Contribution to Music Award	
James Mulhall	Dillon Mc Donagh
Stuart Kinch	James Ford
Conor Sands	Eoin Diskin
Conor Murphy	Seán Murphy
Dominic Connor	Coinneach Farrell
Ryan Corrigan	Evan O'Reilly
Enda McEnteggart	Joe Savage
Oluwafemi Laiyemo	Thomas Maguire
Cathal Leonard	Darragh Leonard
Pete Savage	Diarmuid Davern
The Characteristic Spirit of the School Award	
Cian Garavaglia	Conor Breen
Adam McConnon	Vito King
Darragh Phelan	Julius Noer



## Poetry Ireland Day 30th April 2020

Poetry Ireland Day was held on April 30th. While we were all at home events took place online to mark the day.

President Michael D Higgins invited young people to write a poem inspired by an opening line he wrote "There will be time...."

We decided to try this with class 1S. So, we came up with the idea of each student in the class writing one line and then we would put it all together into a poem.

The resulting piece captures so much of what we are all feeling during this time. Students wrote about what they are missing and what they are hoping to do when this time ends.

We are delighted that Poetry Ireland have selected our poem as one of the poems to feature on their website. For us this piece of writing will be a reminder of this tough time in our lives.

Ms O Doherty and Ms Gilkes would like to thank the students of 1S who participated in this initiative.

### THERE WILL BE TIME...

March had a hundred Mondays  
April felt like a year  
So much time on our hands  
And now May is near.....

But.....  
There will be time ....  
For Family and friends when this tough  
time ends  
For banter and fun  
For chats with everyone

For the ball to be kicked once again  
For all things sport Amen! Amen!  
For the parties we miss  
For a grandmother's kiss  
For hobbies and fun

For laughter and sun  
For hugging grandparents tight  
For staying up all night

For the Premier League  
For the Gaelic games  
For eating out and holidays  
For memories and tears  
For better years

For standing close  
Not far apart  
For an end to a time  
That broke the worlds heart

*There will be time.....  
See you soon*

There  
Will  
Be  
Time



## LCA Task 2020 - The Dodgeball Challenge



On the 23rd of January students in LCA1 completed the first of their General tasks. The aim of this task was to organise and run an event which proceeds going to a charity. The class began work on this task many weeks before this, in fact as early as November/December 2019. As a group the class decided on running a dodgeball tournament for 1st year students in the school and any money raised would go towards the India Immersion Project fund being run in the school. The class showed some great skills over the number of weeks beforehand and on the day of the event. Skills shown were communication



skills, organisational skills, and teamwork skills. These skills were evident in the process of getting permission to complete the task, communicating with school staff and students, working together as a class to ensure a successful event.

On the day itself there was massive interest from the 1st year students with over 100 students taking part in the event. Each student was required to pay €3 to play with a total of



€326 raised on the day. We had 10 teams on the day where all students played 6 rounds of a round robin style of tournament. Winners and losers of each game were taken. After the 6 rounds a table was formed and teams then played a straight knockout playoff to determine the winner of the competition.

Overall, the 1st years students had a fantastic day and thoroughly enjoyed the competition with the bonus of €326 being raised for a fantastic school-based charity. The main reason for the event was for



the LCA class and their general task. The class rose to the occasion and showed tremendous organisational, communication and team working skills. The class are looking forward to their next general task in the upcoming year.



### Jiu-Jitsu Champion in our Midst

Massive congratulations to our 1st Year student Mark Dowd for winning a bronze medal at the Pan Am Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu International competition in California during the year. The Pan Am is the most prestigious children's Jiu-Jitsu competition in the world. Mark was narrowly beaten by the current world champion and is the second ever Irish person to medal at the Pan Am games. This is a fantastic achievement for Mark and his coaches Ben and Stephen from Primal Fitness in Drogheda. Ben and Stephen also train our 2nd Years and TY's Jiu-Jitsu as part of their Wellbeing program and the lads always look forward to going down each week.



Mark pictured second from the right at the Jiu-Jitsu Championships in California

### Senior Hurling 2020. Dublin Senior Hurling Shield Final 2020

All roads led to Abbotstown on the 10th of March where St. Joseph's were aiming to take home their first piece of hurling silverware. Lusk CC provided the opposition in an enthralling final. John O'Connell opened the scoring with a goal in the early stages to set the tone for the St. Joseph's outfit. Mark Holohan then took over scoring duties and proved that the next two years of hurling in St. Joseph's are in safe hands. St. Joseph's were solid at the back with superb performances from Neil Boylan and Eoghan Ryan, in their final games for the school. St. Joseph's won out 3-6 to 1-2 winners. To the delight of Mr. Ryan and Mr. O'Connell, Eoghan Ryan lifted the cup to cap off a great year for the senior hurlers.



**Team:** 1. Paddy Keane 2. Caelum Dolan 3. Eoin Hackett 4. Neil Boylan 5. Stephen O'Reilly 6. Eoghan Ryan 7. Alex McLeer 8. Shane Reilly 9. Leo Kelly 10. Eoin Murphy 11. John O'Connell 12. Ben Savage 13. Zack Lennon 14. Mark Holohan 15. Luke Matthews 16. Steven Vilalba.



### Athletics in St. Joseph's 2020



Pictured are Hugh McClean, John O'Connell, Peter Meegan, Tadhg Donnelly, Tom Cummins & Eseosa Omoregbe

2019/2020 proved to be another successful year for athletics in the Joeys with the highlight of the year coming with Cross Country success for our senior athletes in Santry. Well done to The Joeys cross country senior team who competed in Santry in February and March.

In the Leinster semi-finals the team battled over the gruelling 6,000m cross country track with 6th Year student Tadhg Donnelly, coming 4th overall, leading the way for his teammates. The team looked in danger of missing out on a return trip to Santry Park for the All-Ireland Championships in March at the half-way stage. Monumental performances from the team in the final lap where they gained eight places and secured a bronze medal to add to North Leinster silver.

The St. Joseph's lads returned to Santry on March 7th buoyed by their excellent finish in the Leinster Championship. Tadhg Donnelly once again led the team home in 14th place, followed by Peter Meegan, John O'Connell and Tom Cummins in quick succession. Eseosa Omoregbe, and the McClean brothers Hugh and Frank had their finest performances of the season.



St. Joseph's Senior Athletics Squad. L-R: Peter Meegan, Tadhg Donnelly, Tom Cummins, John O'Connell, Eseosa Omoregbe, Hugh Mc Clean, Frank McClean.

This was good enough for 5th in the team event for St. Joseph's, the highest placing for a school team in several years. It is a reward for the years of service the team has given the school. The result is even more impressive as St. Joseph's finished ahead of every Munster and Connacht team in the race. We hope that the feats of this team will serve as inspiration to those coming through the ranks in St. Joseph's, all battling to add to the rich history of athletics, fostered by Mr. M. Stephenson and aided by Mr. B O'Connell in our school.