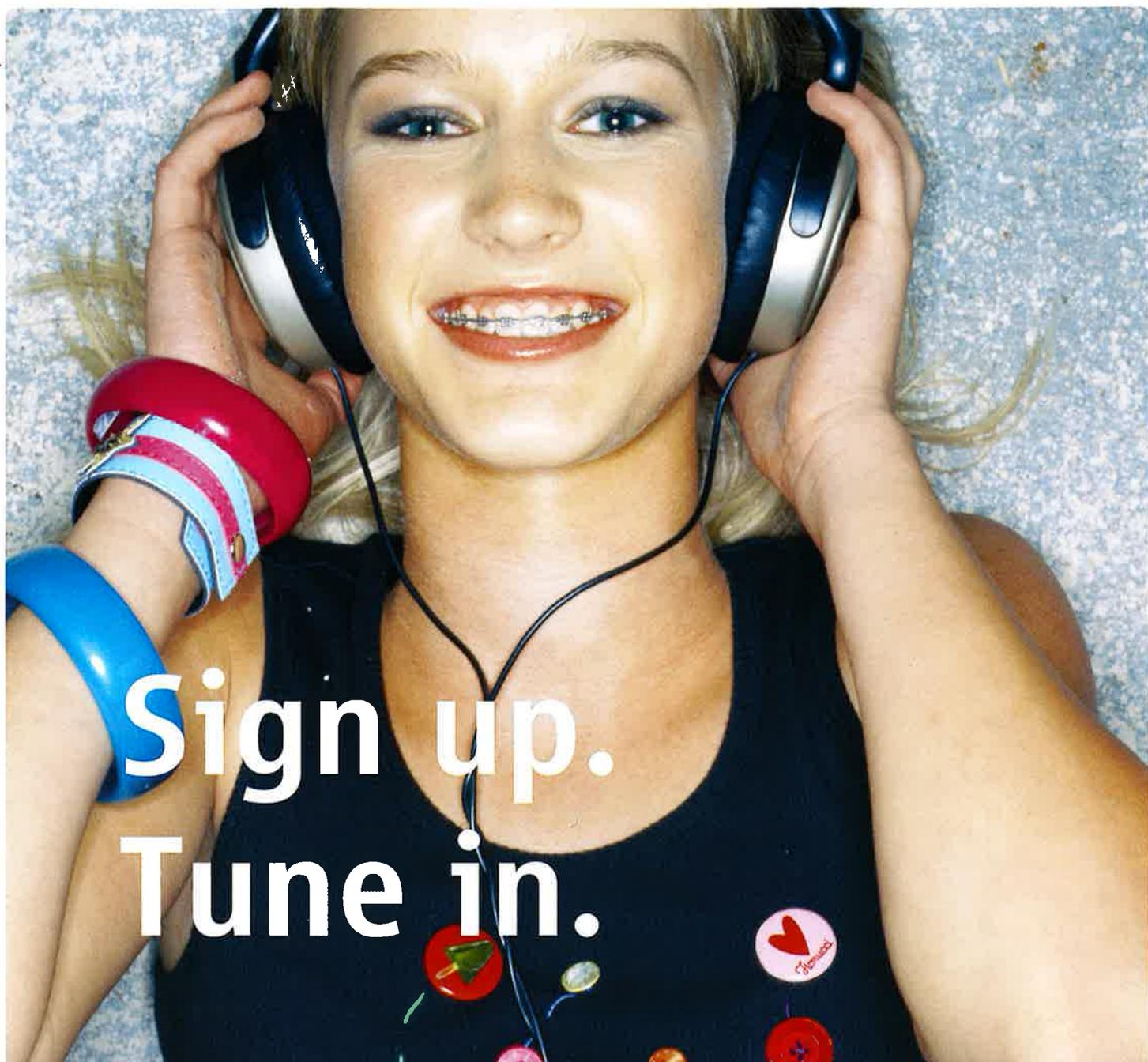


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The Magazine of
St. Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School
Glen Road, Belfast BT11 8NR

Principal
Mr. J. Sheerin, B.A., Dip Ed., D.A.S.E.



*Reverend Brother
Edmund Ignatius Rice*

1762 - 1844

Founder of the Christian Brothers

Acknowledgements

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Principal's Letter

I am very proud to be the Principal of St Mary's. I lead the school with a committed team of governors. We meet regularly and maintain an open and professional dialogue focused on standards and school improvement. I am strongly of the opinion that our parents and students are fantastic and deserve the very best standards of education. It is exhilarating to be leading a talented staff which is determined to improve the reputation of the school in the wider community, totally committed to further improving standards and dedicated to the wellbeing of each and every student.

The future of the school is secure and bright. In May 2009, the ETI Inspectorate visited the school and commented positively upon the enthusiasm of staff, our range of extra-curricular activities, our Primary School links, our strong sense of community within school, our parental support, our safe and secure environment for students and our effective practices in classes. We realise maintaining and improving from this base point is a considerable challenge but we are resolute in the pursuit of excellence. There are also exciting plans afoot for developing the existing school buildings including the development of a 3G Sports Centre. The speculation of a projected move to a new site in the Crumlin area was firmly laid to rest and we look forward to many years of continued service to our students and parents here on the Glen Road.

The year has brought many challenges: restructuring leadership teams, putting in place our plans to raise standards, staging a West Belfast Careers Convention, continuing our extraordinary commitment and success in extra-curricular provision etc. We have also worked to prepare for the changing face of educational provision through our role in the West Belfast Area Learning Group and the Post-Primary Review Team. Above all, issues surrounding Transfer 2010 have preoccupied Governors, staff, parents and children as we decided on an assessment procedure for November 2009. I was very proud of the changes our staff has initiated in the school. In particular we are aware of how narrowly our bid for Specialism did not succeed. We believe we are a centre of excellence for Sport in our area and we are resilient and will bid again next year. I am also very proud of the wonderful achievements of our students in their academic and extra-curricular successes.

The end of year brought significant changes in our personnel: Mr Fergus Manning retired as Head of Science, Mrs Breege Woods as Head of Art and Mr Dermot Campfield from the English Department also left us. All three gave many years of loyal service to St Mary's. We are grateful too to Mr Patrick Donaghy, Mr Martin Collins and Mr Cathal McEvoy who helped us this year as long term substitute teachers. Resignations also came from Mr John Cooley (Chair of Board of Governors) and Mr Fergus Woods (Curriculum VP). It would be impossible to quantify the contribution of these two stalwarts to the development of the school and the well-being of students and staff. Sadly too, the year also brought the passing of a number of student and staff family members and we also mourned the passing of Brother Mallon and Joe Mitchell, esteemed past teachers in St Mary's.

For 2009/10 I look ahead to building the improvements we intend for St Mary's and playing a full role in the seismic changes facing education.

Jim Sheerin
June 2009

Retirements



Fergus Woods Deputy Principal

Fergus, or Fergie as he is known to one and all, is retiring after spending forty years in St. Mary's. This loyalty of service is clearly an inherited quality as Fergus' father also spent his working lifetime with one employer, 'The Irish News'. As a QUB student in the late sixties, Fergus was a founder member of People's Democracy and their radicalising principles of justice and tolerance have motivated him throughout his life. Teaching in St. Mary's allowed Fergus to put these principles into practice, and he was particularly adept at quietly provoking pupils into thinking about their beliefs and attitudes. He taught a wide range of subjects including Latin, English

and Psychology (the story is probably apocryphal that in an English class on Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar', the Psychology teacher in Fergus prompted him to diagnose Caesar as suffering from acute clinical paranoia as Caesar felt that his colleagues were going to stab him in the back!). To each of these subjects he brought a curiosity of mind that was perennially youthful and engaged.

As a Senior Teacher and then as Deputy Principal, Fergus had a particular interest in curriculum development. As the SMT Representative on the Curriculum Committee, Fergus brought an unrivalled grasp of the detail of the ever changing legislation and endless initiatives relating to the curriculum. He would have made an excellent Education Minister if he had pursued his political career (it's still not too late, Fergus). Outside the classroom, Fergus contributed greatly to the extracurricular aspect of school life, managing the school's basketball teams which achieved All-Ireland success over a period of several years. He also ran the school's athletics teams which competed successfully in the Ulster Schools' Championships. Sport is a major interest

of Fergus and as a lifelong Spurs' supporter he has probably had to look outside football for sporting success.

Another interest of Fergus is music, particularly traditional music and he is a founder member of Belfast Folk Club. The Club is still a vibrant part of the music scene and Fergus regularly sings and plays guitar with undimmed passion (and no little skill). The story goes that one Thursday night, one of Fergus' music friends, the singer Paul Brady, agreed to play with Fergus in the Rossa Club for several members of St. Mary's staff. Paul Brady apparently failed to arrive, much to Fergus' embarrassment. It turned out however that an over zealous doorman had turned Paul Brady away as he was not a Rossa Club member! At the beginning it was mentioned that Fergus inherited his father's work ethic, another characteristic of the Woods Family is longevity, and if anyone has the inner resources to make profitable use of a long and healthy retirement, then it is Fergus Woods. His warmth and wit will be sadly missed by those members of staff and pupils who know him and who will remember him with genuine affection.



Mr. F. Manning

Fergus is a St. Mary's old boy. He left Barrack Street to study Physics at Queen's University, Belfast. When he graduated he spent three years working with the under privileged in Uganda. On

his return from Africa in 1972, he joined the Science department at St. Mary's C.B.G.S., Glen Road. As Head of Junior science, he led the department through numerous curricular changes.

He was also instrumental in the implementation of the Counselling system in the school in the late 70's. This included a programme of parenting skills which he delivered for several years to many groups of parents. Fergus was a member of the Curriculum committee where he contributed to the strategic planning of many curricular changes that were introduced in the

1980's.

Fergus was appointed as Head of science in 1988 and led the development of the new faculty structures with the appointments of the assistant heads of science to the Key Stage areas in the department.

He was respected and valued by staff and pupils. One past pupil described him as a 'sound teacher' and not just because he had to teach the topic!

We wish Fergus and Susie a long and happy retirement as they plan to travel more now that the bell no longer dictates.



Mr. D. Campfield

On a global scale, 1980 saw the rise of the Solidarity movement, the Iranian Embassy siege and the assassination of John Lennon. On a local level a much happier, but no less important, event was taking place: Dermot Campfield was appointed to the staff of the English Department here in St. Mary's.

Like the Irish Band, U2, who were emerging into the spotlight at that time, 'Dermot', as he is affectionately known, would go on to have a massive positive influence on the young people in our community. Bono and 'Dermot', that would be a debate worth listening to!

Dermot has given twenty nine years distinguished service to the school and students of this area. Students in Dermot's class enjoyed and experienced the company of a master wordsmith and a keen wit. His love of literature and mastery of the English language left an indelible mark on generations of students, many of whom have gone on to pursue successful

careers in the Arts, Law and other fields.

Dermot's contribution to school life extended to the extra-curricular with his successful development of the school's Debating Team. This lifetime commitment was justly rewarded in 2008, when under his stewardship, Deaglan Agnew and Darren Ward won the highly prestigious Northern Ireland Schools' Debating Competition, bringing great honour to St. Mary's. Dermot's wit and ability with the written word leaked out on occasions when we caught glimpses of his verse, written to amuse and entertain his colleagues. Perhaps now he will have more time to indulge his talents and converse with the Muse, in between his swims in the Whiterock (or as he fondly imagines, the 3000 mile breadth of the Atlantic he has crossed in his twenty years!) and his rambles on the mountain above our school.

Dermot, from all the staff and students in St. Mary's, have a happy and healthy retirement and it's not too late to swim the Channel yet!

sadness that we say farewell to Breege Woods.

As Head of Art, she effortlessly created a warm and welcoming atmosphere in her department while encouraging a positive and disciplined attitude to work. She has always been an extremely effective and talented teacher with the ability to transmit her enjoyment, love and appreciation of Art to the pupils, ensuring that they always reached their full potential.

As Head of Year 8, she was able to help the often nervous incoming pupils to grow in self-esteem and face the rigours of school with confidence, always able to defuse potentially challenging situations.

Breege is a woman who lends her individual flavour to all aspects of her life and work. She has the perspicacity and wisdom to see beyond the rules and regulations to the essence and spirit of their intention.

Her endearingly bubbly - albeit occasionally acerbic - sense of humour, craic, feistiness and instinctively bohemian dress are all hallmarks of her vivacious personality.

She will be greatly missed. We all, staff and students alike, wish her happiness and joy in whichever direction her life takes.



Mrs. B. Woods

After many years of dedicated teaching in St. Mary's, it is with great



Mrs. AM. Hughes

Annemarie has worked in the office for almost six years.

While initially employed to look after the bookstore and canteen, Annemarie then moved to the 'meet and greet' position at reception. Being on the 'front line,' Annemarie executed her duties with courtesy, professionalism and always with a smile. Pupils, staff and visitors were witness to her calm nature and friendly disposition. Many also enjoyed her excellent sense of humour. Annemarie will be greatly missed by all and we wish her every happiness in her new venture and for the future.



Mr. J. Cooley

Mr John Cooley:
Chair of the B.O.G. retires.

John retired this year as Chair of the Board of Governors of St. Mary's C.B.G.S. The staff and pupils are grateful for his dedication and commitment to the school community during his many years as Governor. John was himself a past pupil having studied in Barrack Street in the 1960's. The family tradition continued with his four sons going to Christian Brothers' schools, including St. Mary's C.B.G.S. and Edmund Rice College, Belfast.

John has given tremendous support and encouragement to St. Mary's outreach work in Zambia since its inception. In 2007 and 2008 John went a stage further by accompanying the school group on the Immersion project to Zambia. He was a most valued member of the team - always eager to get stuck into whatever task needed done. John continues to work in support of the people of Zambia through his involvement with St. Mary's and Camara Ireland.

His other voluntary work has seen him serve as a Governor in Holy Family P.S., and as President of the Christian Brothers' Past Pupils Union and the Society of St. Vincent De Paul, N.I.

We wish John well in his new position as one of the Directors of The Edmund Rice Schools Trust in Northern Ireland.



In Memoriam

Padraig Burns R.I.P.

A great wave of shock and sorrow swept through the St. Mary's and wider community last July when the news of the sudden and tragic death of Padraig came to light. Padraig died as a result of an accidental fall while on holiday in Spain following the completion of his G.C.S.E. exams. Padraig's loss to St. Mary's is still deeply felt by his peers, teachers and other members of the school community who had come to know, respect and admire him. Padraig achieved and contributed much in his five years at the school and it was a pleasure for all who knew him to watch as his many talents and abilities shone in many different aspects and parts of school life.

Padraig played a significant role in the school's growing accomplishments in his beloved Gaelic sports as a dual footballer and hurler. A Gort na Mona and former St. Gall's player, Padraig was a constant and courageous half-forward on successive Corn-na-Nóg, Dalton and Roc campaigns and an excellent and determined corner-back in helping the school to win the Gallagher and McNamee trophies on the field of hurling. All of his mentors point out that the qualities which Padraig demonstrated in his approach to sport were evident in all aspects of his life: courage, determination, honesty, respect, co-operation and dedication.

In my own experience of Padraig as his teacher of RE at G.C.S.E., I can honestly say that I experienced every one of these qualities being displayed by Padraig throughout the two years I was privileged to teach this young man. I would wish to add a few more including friendliness, humour and, above all else, a deep concern for

others motivated by his religious beliefs and desire to make a change to the lives of others who are in need. Padraig's sense of total concern for others is exemplified by his firm desire to go to Zambia as a member of the school's Project Zambia group. His reasons for wanting to volunteer to go to the margins were entirely selfless. He was motivated by total concern for others and to help to bring some justice to people who have been abandoned by the rich and powerful. Padraig was not able to go to Misisi, Kabwata or Mapepe in Zambia. He was prayed for in all of those communities and so he is, in a very real sense, part of those communities.

Life should not be measured by the length of time we live; rather it should be measured by the number of people we reached out to and touched in a positive and loving way. God gave Padraig life and Padraig used it to the full by reaching out and touching so many of us around him. While we - and especially his loving family - miss him, we can be comforted in the knowledge that Padraig is enjoying his eternal life and, I'm sure, smiling on us.

Go ndéana Dia trúcaire ar a anam dhílis.

**Joseph Mitchell
(Seosamh Misteal) R.I.P**

The death of Seosamh Misteal occurred in March this year. He was one of the founders of Ireland's only urban Gaeltacht on the Shaw's Road where he had lived since May 1969. It was from this solid foundation that the phenomenal development of Irish language education grew in the North.

Seosamh showed early academic promise, winning a scholarship to St. Malachy's College. However, his stay here was short lived due to the Belfast Blitz which forced him to be evacuated to the Glens of Antrim. On his return to Belfast he had various occupations but his love

of the Irish language was to grow and played a part in his meeting and marrying Caitlin Nic Sheain in 1961. He went on to Queen's University where he undertook an honours degree in Celtic studies as a mature student.

After university Seosamh trained as a teacher and went on to teach Irish at St. Mary's C.B.G.S. for more than 20 years. His dedication and commitment to his work and love of the Irish language was an inspiration to many. [We acknowledge the Irish Times for some source material in this article.]

A Mhuire na nGael, tabhair aire dó agus é anois ar shlí na fírinne.

**Brother Patrick Leo
'Titch' Mallon R.I.P.
(1920 - 2008)**

Brother Patrick 'Titch' Mallon was typical of the many wonderful Brothers who devoted their lives to the welfare and advancement of our students. 'Titch' was a Mathematics and Religion teacher. He was meticulous in his preparation and thorough in his lessons long before the time of success criteria etc.

Brother Mallon took football teams and, despite his diminutive size and quiet manner, coached with great vigour and passion.

He ran the school Legion of Mary and Pioneer Clubs and, of course, generations will remember him for his ability to co-ordinate an entire Canteen of 600-700 boys entirely on his own. Brother Mullan enjoyed his retirement initially in Belfast and then Newry. A great man and teacher.

Eternal rest grant unto him.



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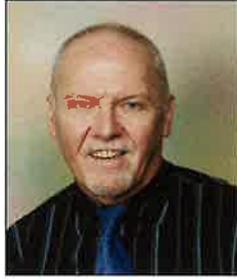
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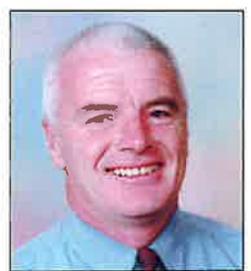
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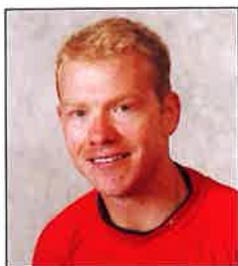
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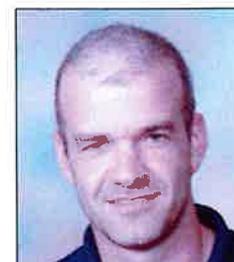
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2008 - 2009**

Mr D. Finnegan
Bursar



Mrs M. Johnston
Executive Office
Examinations



Miss M. Morris
Assistant Bursar



Mr P. Green
Librarian



Miss L. McAllister
Principal's P.A.

**TECHNICIANS
&
LABORATORY
ASSISTANTS**



Mrs P. McMahon
Chemistry



Ms T. Thompson
Biology



Ms O. Dempsey
Physics



Mr S. Smart
Computers



Mr D. Malone
Technology



Mr M. Hemsworth
Reprographics



Mr J. Donnelly
Office



Mr G. Vernon
Study Supervisor



Mr J. McBurney
Caretaker



Mr T. Doherty
Buildings Maintenance



Mr J. McGarry
Grounds Maintenance



Mrs D. Hamilton
Art



New Teaching Staff 2008-2009



Mrs C. Carson, Media Studies

I have worked in various schools such as Glenveagh, Dominican College and St Louise's. I have taught a variety of subjects which include English, Drama, Media Studies, Journalism and Health and Social Care.

In previous years I have worked for Cinemagic, both a charity and very successful Children's Film Festival, that introduces young people to the world of Media.

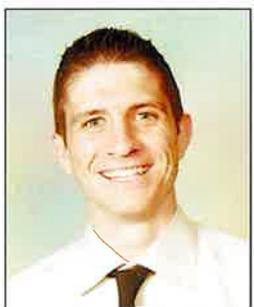
In my spare time I work for a Drama and Media School called 'The Talent Tribe'. The school is in pre-production for an Industry Mentored performance in the Grand Opera House and a television and radio series.



Mr. P. Gormley, Mathematics

I haven't always been a teacher!

I left St.Mary's as a pupil and went off to Coventry University to study Mathematics. On returning to Belfast, I applied for a job at the Northern Bank and was successful. During my time there, I worked as part of a team within the Treasury and International Department and it gave me a great insight into how banking works on a global scale. I enjoyed it, especially travelling throughout Europe and soaking up different cultures. However I felt that I would prefer a job that involved a lot more mathematics as this is was my passion, and began taking an Open University course in teaching. In 2008, I said goodbye to Northern Bank and hello again to St. Mary's!



Mr S. Kelly, Biology and Science

I attended Queen's University Belfast from 2000-2004 where I completed my degree in Biomedical sciences. After this I worked in the laboratories in the Royal Victoria Hospital. I travelled to Southampton to do my PGCE in September 2006 during which I taught in a private school and a comprehensive school. I completed the PGCE in June 2007 and took up my first full time teaching post in St Mary's the following September.



Mrs. C. Mc Gonagle, Business Studies

My Degree is from the University of Ulster Jordanstown: B.A Honours Business Studies. I completed my P.G.C.E. in Business Studies at Trinity and All Saints College, Leeds: I have previously taught in St Roses, St Colm's and Castle High School all in Belfast. I began teaching Business Studies in St. Mary's C.B.G.S. in September 2008.



Miss S. Rogan, English and Drama

I am a past pupil of St. Dominic's High School, Belfast.

I obtained my degree from Queen's University Belfast: (October 2003-June 2006)

BA Hons: in English Literature (major) and Scholastic Philosophy (minor)

and in September 2006-June 2007, my Postgraduate Certificate in Education with English, also from Queen's University Belfast.

I have taught in De La Salle College, Belfast and in St Colm's High School, Dunmurray.

I am currently teaching, English and Drama in St Mary's CBGS, Belfast and am due to teach English and Media Studies next year.

St. Mary's Junior Prizegiving

Friday 20th February 2009



St. Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School celebrated the academic and extra curricular achievements of last year's Key Stage 3 pupils. Awards were given for excellence in individual subjects, outstanding overall performance, attendance and sporting prowess. Congratulations to all the prizewinners.

**INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT
AWARD WINNERS.**

Gerard O'Prey (Art), John Nesbitt (Drama), Conall Sheppard (Music), Conor McGrath (Science/Spanish), Brian O'Neill (Technology), Daniel McKernan (P.E)



**INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT
AWARD WINNERS**

James Reid (Maths/ICT/Geography), Donal Brady (R.E/French), Jack McCrea (Learning for Life and Work), [Patrick McBride, David Nelson] Joint winners Irish, Joseph Cunningham (History)



Junior Prizewinners Subject Awards

Art	Gerard O'Prey	11G
Drama	John Nesbitt	11G
English	Niall Mc Cann	11A
French	Donal Brady	11A
Geography	James Reid	11A
History	Joseph Cunningham	11A
Irish	Patrick Mc Bride	11B
	David Nelson	11A
Information Technology	James Reid	11A
Learning for Life & Work	Jack Mc Crea	11F
Mathematics	James Reid	11A
Music	Conal Sheppard	11A
Physical Education	Daniel Mc Kernon	11B
Religion	Donal Brady	11A
Science	Conor Mc Grath	11A
Spanish	Conor Mc Grath	11A
Technology	Brian O'Neill	11B

Most Consistent Performance in Junior School

Ruairi Devine	11H
Cormac Livingstone	11C
Mark Mc Areavey	11A
Mark Mc Caffrey	11D
Paul Mc Cann	11H
Brendan Mc Donagh	11B
Aidan Mc Garrity	11B
Michael O'Neill	11C
Anthony Shortt	11E



100% Attendance

- Louis Donnelly 11B
- Jonathon O'Donnell 11H

*CONSISTENT PERFORMANCE IN JUNIOR SCHOOL
Ruairi Devine, Cormac Livingstone, Mark McAreavey,
Mark McCaffrey, Paul McCann,
Brendan McDonagh, Aidan McGarrity, Michael O' Neill and Anthony Shortt.*

Outstanding Performance

- Ciaran Adams 11C
- Nathan Callaghan 11H
- Conor Connolly 11B
- Cormac Kelly 11H
- Gerard Kelly 11D
- Conor Kettle 11H
- Ryan Parker 11D
- Mark Torbitt 11B
- David Wallace 11A



*BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE AT KEY STAGE 3/ ATTENDANCE
Conor Rainey & Conor Toner - Joint winners of the Bobby McCargo Medal 2009
for the best overall academic performance in the Junior School
Louis Donnelly & Jonathon O'Donnell- Joint winners of the Attendance award.*

Bobby McCargo Memorial Trophy

- Conor Rainey 11B
- Conor Toner 11A

Sporting Awards

- Gaelic Football - Conor Connolly 11B
- Hurling - Darragh Mc Guinness 11A
- Basketball - Donal Brady 11A
- Soccer - Stephen Mc Cullagh 11G
- Water Polo - Ruairi Fisher 11H



*SPORTING AWARDS
Ruairi Fisher (Water Polo), Darragh McGuinness (Hurling), Stephen Mc Cullagh (Soccer), Donal Brady (Basketball), Conor Connolly (Gaelic).*



G.C.S.E. Prizegiving Friday 7th November 2008

C.B.P.P.U. GOLD MEDAL

was awarded to

Michael Crossan

St. Peter's P.S.

and

Colm Dorris

Holy Child P.S.



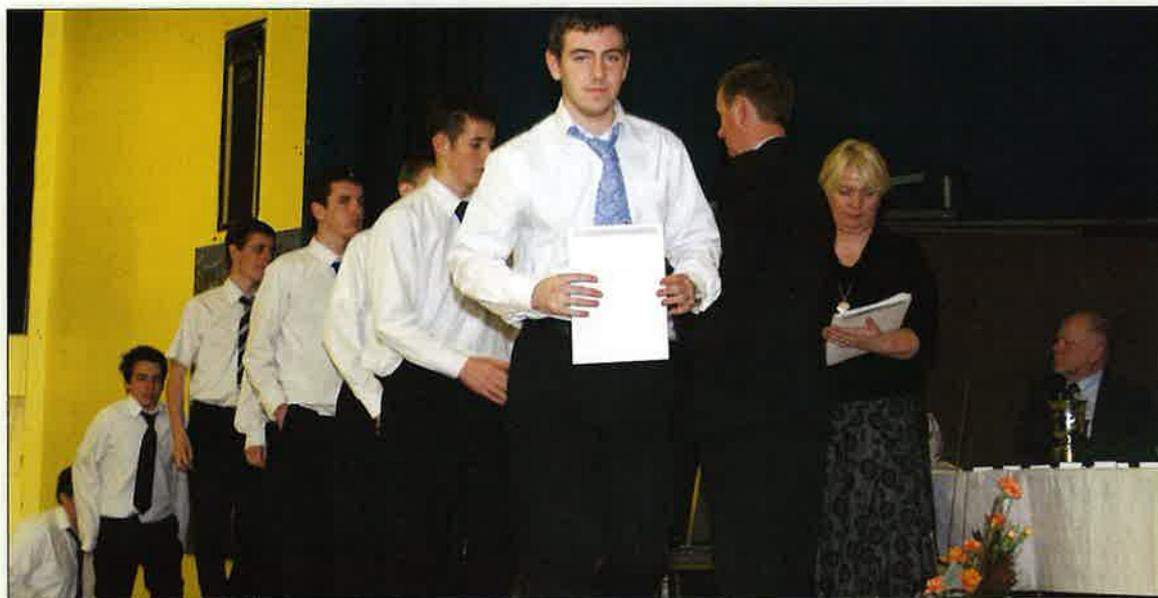
Best G.C.S.E. Students 2008

We offer a special welcome to our new students who joined Year Thirteen in September 2008.

Jonathan Brammeld
- St. Malachy's College
Francis Brennan
- St. Joseph's College
Stephen Brennan
- Rathmore Grammar School
Aodhan Cairns
- Coláiste Feirste

Michael Clarke - C.B.S.
Daniel Crossin
- Rathmore Grammar School
Padraig Fryers
- Coláiste Feirste
Paul Mc Carney
- Aquinas Grammar School
Desmond Mc Clean
- C.B.S.

Aaron Murphy
- C.B.S.
Domhnall O' Neill
- Coláiste Feirste
Ciaran Quinn
- Coláiste Feirste
Stephen Shannon
- Belfast Metropolitan College



A group of year 12 boys on stage after receiving their certificates.

Academic Awards at G.C.S.E.

G.C.S.E. Art
(The Graham Harron Medal)

Hayden Allen
-St. Joseph's P.S.,
Lisburn

G.C.S.E. Business Studies

Ryan Hyland
- Holy Trinity P.S.

G.C.S.E Drama & Theatre Arts

Calum Whyte
- St. Teresa's P.S.

G.C.S.E. English
(The Murphy Associates Medal)
Sponsored by the contractor
for the Edmund Rice Complex

Colm Dorris
- Holy Child P.S.

G.C.S.E. English Literature

Michael Crossan
- St. Peter's P.S.

G.C.S.E. French
(The Rev. Bro. Nannery Memorial Medal). This medal is dedicated to the memory of Bro. Nannery, a distinguished past teacher who gave significant service to pupils in St. Mary's throughout the '60's and '70's

Michael Crossan
- St. Peter's P.S.

G.C.S.E. Gaelic

Michael Jackson
- Bunscoil
Phobal Feirste

G.C.S.E. Geography

Mathew Hanna
- St. Colman's P.S.

G.C.S.E. History
(The Oliver McCann Medal)
Named in honour of a highly respected former Head of Department

Michael Crossan
- St. Peter's P.S.



G.C.S.E. Info. & Comm. Technology
(The Staff Memorial Medal)

Jonathan Curran - St. John the Baptist P.S.

G.C.S.E. Irish
(The Joe Devlin Medal)

Ryan Hyland - Holy Trinity P.S.

G.C.S.E. Learning for Life and Work

John Fox - St. Gall's P.S.

G.C.S.E. Mathematics
(The Rev. Bro. L. F. Ennis Medal)

George Teggart - Holy Child P.S.

G.C.S.E. Music

Michael Crossan - St. Peter's P.S.

G.C.S.E. Physical Education
(The Pdraig Burns Memorial Medal)

Conor Mc Clelland - Bunscoil Phobal Feirste

G.C.S.E. Religion
(The Kevin Dunne Memorial Medal)
This medal is dedicated to the memory
of a pupil who died tragically
in 1988 during his Year Eleven in St. Mary's

Michael Crossan - St. Peter's P.S.

FATHER Sean O'Neill Memorial Cup
Presented by the Mervyn Family of Tornaroy
whose son Thomas earned the
highest marks in Religion in the inaugural
year of the G.C.S.E. examinations

Michael Crossan - St. Peter's P.S.

G.C.S.E. Double Award Science

Stephen Durkan - Holy Child P.S.

G.C.S.E. Single Award Science

Anthony Hanna - Vere Foster P.S.

G.C.S.E. Spanish

Niall Smith - Holy Child P.S.

G.C.S.E. Technology
(The Ford Perpetual Trophy)

Emmanuel Barkley - St. Peter's P.S.



G.C.S.E. ICT
Jonathan Curran



G.C.S.E. Business Studies.
Ryan Hyland

Outstanding Performance at G.C.S.E.



- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Damien Boyle | - Holy Child P.S. |
| Anthony Brady | - Gaelscoil Na Bhfal P.S. |
| Patrick Copeland | - St. Luke's P.S. |
| Niall Doherty | - St. John the Baptist P.S. |
| Conal Mc Gettigan | - St. Anne's P.S. |
| Christopher Mc Guinness | - St. Colman's P.S. |
| Aodhan Mitchell | - Bunscoil Phobal Feirste P.S. |
| Gary Sharpe | - St. Anne's P.S. |

Attendance Awards

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Kylan Allsopp | - C.B.S. |
| Martin Connor | - Holy Child P.S. |
| Stephen Kane | - Holy Child P.S. |
| Kevin Mc Cullagh | - St. Joseph's P.S., Crumlin |
| Paul Mc Donald | - St. Teresa's P.S. |
| Eamonn Toner | - St. John the Baptist P.S. |

Sporting Achievements

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| BASKETBALL | |
| Adam O' Hare | - Holy Child P.S. |
| GAELIC | |
| Gerard Torney | - St. Anne's P.S. |
| HURLER | |
| Christopher Mc Guinness | - St. Colman's P.S. |
| SOCCER | |
| Kevin Parker | - St. Anne's P.S. |
| WATERPOLO | |
| Mathew Hanna | - St. Colman's P.S. |



Outstanding Performance at G.C.S.E.
Conal Mc Gettigan (above)
and Christopher Mc Guinness (below).



Attendance Award
Kylan Allsopp



Waterpolo Player of the year
Mathew Hanna



Congratulations and best wishes to all our pupils who completed their G.C.S.E. examinations in 2008.

ALLEN	Hayden	GORMLEY	Ciaran	McILWEE	Steven
ALLSOPP	Kylan	GRAHAM	Adam	McKENNA	Mark
ARMSTRONG	Thomas	HANNA	Anthony	McKERNAN	Marc
BARKLEY	Emmanuel	HANNA	Matthew	McKERNON	Conal
BEST	Daniel	HARBINSON	Thomas	McKIBBEN	Thomas
BOYD O'NEILL	Darron	HARTE	Anthony	McMULLAN	Padraig
BOYLE	Damian	HASSON	Ciaran	McNEILL	Conor
BOYLE	Ryan	HEATH	Thomas	McPHILIPS	Feargal
BRADY	Anthony	HICKS	Ciaran	MEGAHEY	Matthew
BRENNAN	Patrick	HILL	Kevin	MILNES	Kevin
BROPHY	Conor	HOLLAND	Kevin	MITCHELL	Aodan
BURNS	Paul	HYLAND	Ryan	MOORE	Daniel
CAMPBELL	Martin	JACKSON	Michael	MOORE	Darren
CLARKE	Brian	KANE	Michael	MORAN	Patrick
CONLON	Brendan	KANE	Stephen	MORGAN	Ryan
CONNOR	Martin	KAVANAGH	Liam	MULHOLLAND	Conor
COPELAND	Patrick	KELLY	Ciaran	MURRAY	Christopher
CORR	Brian	KELLY	Daniel	MURRAY	Conor
COTTERILL	Steven	KELLY	Dominic	MURRAY	David
CREANEY	Gregory	KERR	Adam	NEESON	Matthew
CROSSAN	Michael	KILLEEN	Michael	NUGENT	Aaron
CURRAN	Jonathan	LENNON	Conor	O'BRIEN	Caolin
CURRAN	Patrick	LOUGHRAN	Paul J	O'HAGAN	Steven
CUSHLEY	Aaron	LYNAGH	Colm	O'HARE	Adam
DALTON	Declan	LYNCH	Declan	PARKER	Kevin
DAWSON	Emmet	MADDEN	Darren	PRICE	Cuan
DEANE	Robert	MAGEE	Christopher	REA	Mark
DEVLIN	Christopher	MAGINN	Stephen	ROBINSON	Christopher
DEVLIN	Mark	MALLON	Ryan	SHARPE	Gary
DEVLIN	Matthew	MALONE	Michael	SMITH	Niall
DOHERTY	Niall	McCAFFREY	Joseph	SMYTH	Jamie
DOONE	Nathan	McCLEAVE	Matthew	SPENCE	Mark
DORRIS	Colm	McCLELLAND	Conor	STITT	Patrick
DURKAN	Stephen	McCREANOR	Damien	TEGGART	George
FARRELLY	Ryan	McCULLAGH	Kevin	TONER	Eamonn
FEENEY	Donal	McCULLOUGH	Ryan	TOOLAN	Kiefer
FLAVIN	Enda	McCURDY	Colm	TORNEY	Gerard
FLOYD	Ciaran	McCUSKER	Ciaran	TRACEY	Nicholas
FORRESTER	David	McDONALD	Paul	TURLEY	Sean
FRIZZELL	Steven	McGANN	Shane	WHYTE	Calum
GALLAGHER	John	McGEOUGH	Declan	WISDOM	Conor
GAULT	Matthew	McGETTIGAN	Conal	YOUNG-MOORE	Karl
GIBNEY	John	McGROARTY	Paul		
GIBNEY	Oliver	McGUINNESS	Christopher		

Edmund Rice Perpetual Trophy

Edmund Rice Gold Medal

(Named in honour of the founder of the Christian Brothers)

awarded to

Christopher O' Kane

*(St. John the Baptist P.S - now studying
Biomedical Science at U.U.C.)*

Best 'A' Level Student 2008



Senior Prizegiving - 'A'- Level

Wednesday 17th December, 2008

Guest speaker - Dr. Eugene Mc Kenna

Our guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Eugene Mc Kenna (BSc. (Hons.), Ph.D.), a former past pupil of the school.

1975-1982 - Pupil at St Mary's. He had a highly successful academic and sporting career. He won the medal for best 'A' level science student and the medal for sportsman of the year. His two main sports were basketball and high jumping. Won Irish and Ulster titles at these sports with school teams and was also selected to represent Ulster and Ireland at basketball and held Northern Ireland Senior Men's High Jump record while still a pupil at St Mary's.

1982 -1990 Eugene attended Queen's University, Belfast where he obtained a

first class honours degree in Chemistry and a Doctorate in Organic Chemistry. He continued his basketball and was selected for the British Universities team.

1990 - present He is currently working for Royal Dutch Shell as a senior manager in various parts of the world. Firstly in Chester (UK), then Melbourne (Responsible for Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands), Buenos Aires (Responsible for Latin America and Caribbean), Caracas (Responsible for Northern Latin America), and currently in Madrid (Spain) where he is the Global Solutions Business Development Director for Europe and Africa.



Dr Eugene MCKenna







Outstanding Performance at 'A' Level (Ancillary Staff Medal)

Deaghlán Agnew

(Holy Child P.S.) now studying Law at QUB

Ronan Campfield

(St. John the Baptist P.S.) now studying Quantity Surveying at UUU

Christopher Gilmartin

(St Anne's P.S.) now studying International Studies and Modern History at QUB

Conor Kearney

(St. John the Baptist P.S.) now studying Environmental Planning at QUB

Michael McCarthy

(St. John the Baptist P.S.) now studying Motorsport Engineering at Brunel University

Sean McHugh

(St. Aidan's P.S.) now studying Drama at John Moore's University

Attendance Awards

James Ferrin (Holy Child P.S.) now studying Law at University of Northumbria

Sean Flynn (St. Anne's P.S.) now studying Quantity Surveying at UUU

Robert McLister (St. Anne's P.S.) now studying Biomedical Engineering at UUU

Mark Prior (St. Gall's P.S.) now studying Psychology at QUB

Outstanding Performance at 'AS' Level

Graeme Flannagan - (St. John the Baptist P.S.)

Paul Johnston - (St. Oliver Plunkett P.S.)

Brendan Lundy - (St. John the Baptist P.S.)

Niall McCrory - (Ballymacward P.S.)

Gerard McGettigan - (St. Teresa's P.S.)



Academic Awards at A2

2 Art <i>The Dominic Shannon Memorial Award</i> <i>sponsored by the Shannon family</i>	- Paul Hesketh (<i>Holy Trinity P.S. - now studying Mechanical Engineering at Q.U.B.</i>)
2 Biology (<i>The Mc Clure Medal</i>)	- Christopher O'Kane (<i>St. John the Baptist P.S. - now studying Biomedical Science at UUC</i>)
2 Business Studies <i>The Ulster Business Equipment Medal</i>	- Michael Mc Mahon (<i>St. Kevin's P.S.- now studying Accountancy at Q.U.B.</i>)
2 Chemistry <i>The Northern Bank Medal</i>	- Christopher O'Kane (<i>St. John the Baptist P.S. - now studying Biomedical Science at UUC</i>)
2 Computing <i>The Kevin Jennings Medal</i> <i>sponsored by St. Mary's auditors</i>	- David Loughran (<i>Good Shepherd P.S. - now studying Business Information Technology at Q.U.B.</i>)
2 Drama <i>The Billy Adams Medal</i>	- Francis Mezza (<i>Bunscoil Phobal Feirste - now studying Law at Newcastle University</i>)
2 English Literature <i>The Serridge Medal</i>	- Darren Ward (<i>St. Aidan's P.S. - now studying Medicine at Q.U.B.</i>)
2 Geography <i>The Francis Rice Memorial Medal</i>	- Michael Mc Mahon (<i>St. Kevin's P.S. - now studying Accountancy at Q.U.B.</i>)
2 Government & Politics <i>First Trust Bank</i>	- Francis Mezza (<i>Bunscoil Phobal Feirste - now studying Law at Newcastle University</i>)
2 History <i>The Bank of Ireland</i>	- David Loughran (<i>Good Shepherd P.S. - now studying Business Information Technology at Q.U.B.</i>)
2 Irish <i>Eumann Gaelach Scoil Mhuire</i>	- Francis Mezza (<i>Bunscoil Phobal Feirste - now studying Law at Newcastle University</i>)
2 Mathematics <i>The Rev. Bro. McGreevy Medal</i> <i>The name of Brother McGreevy was synonymous with the teaching of Mathematics in St. Mary's in the '50's.</i>	- Christopher O'Kane (<i>St. John the Baptist P.S. - now studying Biomedical Science at UUC</i>)
2 Music	- Andrew Magee - (<i>St. Joseph's P.S - Gap Year</i>)
2 Physical Education <i>Glenn O'Hare Memorial Medal</i>	- James Ferrin (<i>Holy Child P.S. - now studying Law at University of Norththumbria</i>)
2 Physics <i>D.J. Mc Randal Medal</i>	- Christopher O'Kane (<i>St. John the Baptist P.S. - now studying Biomedical Science at UUC</i>)
2 Psychology	- Mark Prior (<i>St. Gall's P.S. now studying Psychology at Q.U.B.</i>)
2 Religion <i>The Brother Mallon Medal</i>) <i>Named after a distinguished former teacher and donated by an ex-pupil John Larkin, former Reid Professor of Criminology at Trinity College, Dublin.</i>	- Christopher Diver (<i>St. Peter's P.S. - now studying English at Q.U.B.</i>)
2 Spanish <i>The Mc Evoy Medal</i>	- Darren Ward (<i>St. Aidan's P.S. - now studying Medicine at Q.U.B.</i>)
2 Technology	- Robert Mc Lister (<i>St. Anne's P.S.- now studying Biomedical Engineering at U.U.J.</i>)
<i>The Brother Monaghan Cup</i> <i>Presented to the outstanding pupil who entered Senior School from our associated Secondary Schools.</i>	- Darren Savage (<i>Rathmore Grammar Sch. - now studying Politics and Econ. at U.U.J.</i>)
<i>Donn Sheamais Mhic Eachaidh</i>	- Rory Mc Manus (<i>St. Teresa's P.S.- now studying Irish at U.C.G.</i>)
<i>Northern Ireland Debating Competition</i> Winners <i>Organised by the Belfast Buildings Preservation Trust</i>	- Darren Ward (<i>St. Aidan's P.S. - now studying Medicine at Q.U.B.</i>) - Deaghlán Agnew (<i>Holy Child P.S. - now studying Law at Q.U.B.</i>)



We wish God's blessing on and every success to our 'A' Level students of 2008

Deaghlán Agnew
 Michael Allison
 Brendan Brophy
 Ronan Campfield
 James Cassidy
 Luke Cassidy
 Michael Christie
 Christopher Connolly
 Ciaran Connolly
 Niall Conway
 Stephen Corner
 Damian Cousins
 David Crawford
 James Darragh
 Conor Diamond
 Daniel Diamond
 Michael Dines
 Christopher Diver
 Darach Doherty
 Anthony Fenton
 James Ferrin
 Sean Finch
 Patrick Fitzpatrick
 Ciaran Flannery

Sean Flynn
 Adam George
 Ciaran George
 John Gibson
 Robert Gillespie
 Christopher Gilmartin
 Joseph Guiney
 Adrian Hanna
 Craig Haughey
 Connor Heaney
 Eoin Heatley
 Éamán Herron
 Paul Hesketh
 Conor Hill
 Eoin Holland
 Conor Kearney
 Peter Kelly
 Ciaran Kerr
 James Kerr
 Ciaran Lavery
 David Loughran
 Paul Lytle
 Rory Mac Manus
 Andrew Magee

Christopher Mallon
 Jamie Massey
 Philip McCabe
 Mark McCallum
 Michael McCarthy
 Ryan McCreanor
 James McCullagh
 Colm McGoldrick
 Mark McGrann
 Christopher McGrath
 Manuel McGuinness
 Sean McHugh
 Stephen McKeever
 Aidan McKiernan
 Gerard McKnight
 Peter McLaughlin
 Robert McLister
 David McMahan
 Michael McMahan
 Paul McMullan
 Martin McNally
 Gavin Megahey
 Francis Mezza
 Sean Monaghan

Sean Muldoon
 Christopher Murphy
 Ciaran Murphy
 Maurice Murphy
 Ruaidhri Murray
 Oisín Ó Murchú
 Christopher O'Kane
 David O'Neill
 Seamus O'Rawe
 Gerard Peake
 Mark Prior
 Conor Quinn
 Conall Reilly
 James Reilly
 Brian Rooney
 Darren Savage
 Christopher Smith
 Ciaran Stone
 Michael Sweeney
 Darren Ward
 Gareth Watters
 Conor Wilkinson



Sporting Awards

Bank of Ireland All Stars Gaelic Award

James Ferrin (Holy Child P.S. University of Northumbria, Law)

(Basketball Player of the Year 2008)

Robert McLister (St. Anne's P.S. - UUU, Biomedical Engineering)

**Gerry Magennis Memorial Award
 (Gaelic Footballer of the Year 2008)**

Sean Finch - (St. Anne's P.S. - now studying Pharmacy at QUB)

(Soccer Player of the Year 2008)

Ciaran Caldwell (Holy Child P.S. - Enhancing Grades at St. Mary's CBGS)

**Forresters' Medal
 (Hurler of the Year 2008)**

Colm McGoldrick - (Holy Child P.S. - now studying Housing at U.U.J.)

(Water Polo Player of the Year 2008)

Ronan Campfield (St. John the Baptist P.S. - UUU, Quantity Surveying)



Sporting Achievements

Living History

Year 10 pupils got the opportunity to work with some historical artefacts from World War One and World War Two this year. In particular the boys learned about the different weapons used in WWI and had an opportunity to try the uniforms on for size!



Some of the year 10 boys holding the machine gun.



Year 10 pupils examine the Lee Enfield Rifle.



The boys work at a task during their talk on weapons

Two year 10 pupils dressed up in uniform with their weapons



The Lee Enfield Rifle and the machine gun were the most popular and the boys demonstrated some superior knowledge about these weapons.

Carrickfergus Castle

Year 8 pupils got the opportunity to visit Carrickfergus Castle this year. They were able to show off their knowledge about how castles were attacked and defended, and they all tried to avoid the trick step in the staircase!





Colm Crothers
Good Shepherd PS



Gerard Dutton
St John The Baptist PS



Connor Ferris
St John The Baptist PS



Conall Fizsimons
Christ The Redeemer PS



David Flannagan
St John The Baptist PS



Aidan Gittens
St John The Baptist PS



Stephen Grant
St Colman's PS



Aidan Hamill
St Mark's PS



Liam Jennings
Holy Child PS



Conor Johnston
St Anne's PS



Kyle Kearns
St Colman's PS



Gary Keenan
Holy Child PS



Peter Keogh
St John The Baptist PS



Aidan Lunney
Our Lady Queen of Peace



Gerard McCaffrey
St Kevin's PS



Jonathan McCloskey
Our Lady Queen of Peace



Matthew McGowan
Our Lady of Lourdes PS



Christopher Megahey
St John the Baptist PS



Jonathan Molloy
St Kieran's PS



Mark Nolan
Holy Child PS



Liam Reynolds
Holy Trinity PS



Paedar Roberts
St Teresa's PS



Eamonn Rosbotham
St Joseph's PS Crumlin



Felix Sinott
St Bride's PS



Jay Smith
St Mark's PS



YEAR 8B Form Tutor: Miss K. Porter



Donal Stafford
Christ the Redeemer PS



Robert Bryson
Holy Trinity PS



Christopher Burns
St Teresa's PS



Patrick Doherty
St Teresa's PS



Conall Graham
Holy Trinity PS



Rian Greene
Holy Trinity PS



Conor Healey
Holy Trinity PS



John Hopkins
St Colman's PS



Daniel Hughes
St John the Baptist PS



Emmet Loughran
Holy Trinity PS



Joshua Lynch
Our Lady Queen of Peace



Sean Maguire
St Kevin's PS



Sean Maher
Holy Trinity PS



Kristian McAllister
St Malachy's PS



Darragh McCallin
Holy Child PS



Christopher McCarry
Oakwood Integrated PS



Conor McEvoy
St Colman's PS



Liam McShane
St Kevin's PS



Padraig Mervyn
St Oliver Plunkett PS



Ultan Murray
St Anthony's PS



Darren O'Brien
Christ the Redeemer PS



Patrick O'Halloran
Ballymacricricket PS



Cronan Rodgers
St Anne's PS



Sean Sharkey
St Peter's PS



Renzie Tagalog
St Paul's PS



Patrick Turley
St Teresa's PS



Gerard Walsh
St Kevin's PS



Thomas Cassidy
St Teresa's PS



Anthony Clarke
Good Shepherd PS



Kevin Connolly
St Anne's PS



Gerard Doran
Holy trinity PS



Basil Eldho
St Bride's PS



Aidan Foster
St Claire's PS



Brandon Gibson
Holy Child PS



Adam Guilar
Good Shepherd PS



Charles Harper
Christ the Redeemer PS



Christopher Heaney
St Paul's PS



Gabriel Hill Lavery
Holy Child PS



Stephen Hyslop
St Luke's PS



David Malone
St Kevin's PS



Conor McCann
St John the Baptist PS



Colm McCusker
St Anne's PS



Karl McGeough
Our Lady Queen of Peace



Henry McKee
Ballymacricket PS



Conall McKenna
St John the Baptist PS



Gary McPolin
St John the Baptist PS



Paul Mullan
St Peter's PS



Michael Murray
St Paul's PS



Coalan Rea
St Joseph's PS, Crumlin



Sean Paul Rice
Holy Trinity PS



Ryan Santos
Holy Rosary PS



Jordan Warnock
Holy Trinity PS



Christopher Whinnery
Good shepherd PS



Corey Allen
St Joseph's PS, Lisburn



Paul Barnes
St Teresa's PS



Ryan Diamond
Our Lady Queen of Peace PS



Christopher Doherty
St Colman's PS



Sean-Michael Dunlea
St Anne's PS



Ciaran Fennell
St Teresa's PS



Jamie Forsythe
Good Shepherd PS



Patrick Golden
St Kevin's PS



Michael Johnston
Holy Trinity PS



Manus Kearney
St Anne's PS



Brian Kennedy
St Teresa's PS



Gerard McAlinney
St Anne's PS



Jack McAllister
St Oliver Plunkett PS



Cormac McKernan
St Teresa's PS



Christopher Megaw
St Teresa's PS



Anthony Mervyn
St Luke's PS



Conor Murphy
Good Shepherd PS



Matthew Murray
St Joseph's PS, Crumlin



Niall O'Hanlon
Our Lady Queen of Peace



Alexander O'Neill
Our Lady Queen of Peace



Pierce Parker
St Claire's PS



James Rooney Kane
St John the Baptist PS



Conor Smith
St Anne's PS



Christopher Taggart
St Joseph's PS, Crumlin



Shane Travers
St Joseph's PS, Lisburn



Connor Walsh
St Kevin's PS



Caoimhin Adams
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste



Eoin Bradley
Scoil Na Fuisseige



Mark Chernek
St Anne's PS



Darius Conlon
Bunscoil an Tsleibhe Dhuibh



Eoin Connolly
Our Lady Queen of Peace PS



James Coogan
St Oliver Plunkett PS



Ciaran Cullen
St Luke's PS



Christopher Curran
St John the Baptist PS



Lee Doherty
St Mark's PS



Daniel Donnelly
St Colman's PS



Darragh Ginley
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste



Niall Kavanagh
St Claire's PS



Conall Kearney
St Paul's PS



Liam Lavery
Scoil Na Fuisseige



Colm Mag Uidhir
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste



Shane Magee
St Mark's PS



Emmet Maginn
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste



Jordan McAllister
St Teresa's PS



Ciaran McCarton
Malone Integrated College



Sean McDonnell
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste



Sean McGlone
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste



Rory McKernan
St Colman's PS



Kevin McMahon
St Mark's PS



Michael Monaghan
Christ the Redeemer PS



Connor Murphy
St Teresa's PS



Deaglan Murphy
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste

YEAR 8F Form Tutor: Miss C. Fyfe



Joseph Walsh
St Teresa's PS



Febin Abraham
St Kevin's PS



Ryan Brown
St Oliver Plunkett PS



Jonathan Cairns
St John the Baptist PS



Barry Chambers
Good Aidan's PS



Mark Christie
St Kevin's PS



Adam Donaghy
St Peter's PS



Michael Gorman
St Teresa's PS



Paul Hannan
St Joseph's PS, Crumlin



Ryan Haughey
St Peter's PS



Steven Jackson
St Anne's PS



Matthew Kane
St Mark's PS



Conor Kelly
St Anne's PS



David Magee
St Mark's PS



Lorcan Magee
St Anne's PS



Pearse McCabe
St Joseph's PS, Carryduff



Michael McCourt
Hazlewood Integrated PS



Brenton McCurry
St Joseph's PS, Crumlin



Sean McDonald
St John the Baptist PS



Eamon McFadden
Holy Trinity PS



Ryan Pendleton
St Aidan's PS



Sean Quinn
St Kevin's PS



Dara Rocks
Our Lady Queen of Peace PS



Anton Sharkey
St Aidan's PS



Aaron Smyth
St Joseph's, Carryduff

YEAR 8G Form Tutor: Miss E. Cleary



Ryan Smyth
St Colman's PS



Daniel Varndell
Good Shepherd PS



Ciaran Barkley
St Oliver Plunkett PS



Declan Bingham
St Mark's PS



Brendan Corr
Holy Trinity PS



Ben Crudden
Holy Trinity PS



Matthew Daly
St Teresa's PS



Daniel Fitzsimmons
St Mark's PS



Sean Floyd
St Colman's PS



Lewis Guy
St Colman's PS



Nathan Hanna
St Colman's PS



Ronan Kelly
St Anne's PS



James Kennedy
St Colman's PS



Declan Lees
St John the Baptist PS



Gerard McGleave
Holy Child PS



Gregory McGreevy
St John the Baptist PS



Sean McGreevy
Holy Trinity PS



Conall Murray
St John the Baptist PS



Conor Murray
Christ the Redeemer PS



Darren O'Neill
Holy Trinity PS



Kent Padayhag
St Joseph's, Slate St.



Padraic Woods
St Bernard's PS



History Castle Competition

The annual Year 8 Castle competition continues to go from strength to strength! This year's competition was very hotly contested and everyone came to E31 to hear the results. Fantastic work boys, well done!!



Castles from the year 8 castle competition.



History Castle Competition



Year 10 History Club Model Trench

Year 10 Trench model

The History Club

The Year 10 History club has had a very busy year!! Together with their Year 13 mentors Enda and Emmet, the boys have investigated the murders of Jack the Ripper, solved the case of the Manx vampire and discussed some of History's most gruesome deaths. To top it all the boys have been busy building a to-scale model trench, complete with tanks, soldiers, artillery and plenty of blood, mud and gore!

Poetry

Pádraic Fiacc

Mr. Quigg and a number of Year 14 English students had the pleasure of attending a celebration of Padraic Fiacc's poetry and life in St. Malachy's College. The students were introduced to a selection of Padraic's work from a new collection of his poems called 'Sea: Sixty Years of Poetry'. It was a pleasure to meet such a famous poet from Belfast and to witness his work impact on yet another generation of students.



Mini Sagas

Congratulations to pupils in 9G. They entered a competition to write a mini-saga in no more than 50 words.

The following boys will have their work published in an anthology in May entitled, "The Adventure Starts Here 2009".



Ding Fries Are Done

I woke up. I heard a scream. I ran to McDonalds to get ice cream. The worker said, "Do you want fries with that?" Suddenly he dropped dead. Imagine his last words were, "Do you want fries with that?" Suddenly he got up- and said, "Ding. Fries are done!"



I See Lights

People think I'm crazy because I see lights. Square, rectangular or irregular shapes. Blue or orange. Tonight I see my orange light get bigger. Then a huge black figure looms with fire as eyes, snakes in his heart, ears as horns and mouths as hands. It reaches out for me....

Gareth Hill 9G

Burger King

"Hi welcome to Burger King, may I take your order?"
 "Um, yeah, can I have medium coke, medium fries."
 "Actually, make the drink a super-sized like the Earth."
 "You want friends with that?"
 "What, I ordered fries anyway!"
 "Sir, don't get angry!"
 "I'm outta here."
 "Thank you, come again."



The Heist

Dingaling. The alarm bell rang and a masked man sprinted down the corridor, shooting everyone in his way. He raced to the closing doors, pushed his way through and jumped in the back of a white getaway van. The driver sped away from the scene in a cloud of dust.

Robert Howell 9G



Big Foot

This is probably the most unbelievable story you will ever hear in your life, but when I was at a monster truck derby an eight-foot tall hairy person came out and was run over by Bigfoot the truck. So Bigfoot was run over by a bigger, better, badder Bigfoot.

Patrick Crossan 9G

Not a Merry Christmas

It was a cold, wet winter's night when Kevin was walking home from the Christmas Eve party in Ryan's house. Kevin had a lot of drink. He trudged through the lonely, dark park when he saw a man and attacked him. This Christmas would not be a happy one.

Carl Toner 9G



Santa's Pink Elephant

As the reindeer sludged through the knee high snow, Santa and his reindeer got tired. So by the time they got to New York they could go no further. But then they saw a pink, bulgy, fat elephant. Santa fed the elephant a carrot and found that the animal could fly. So he kept it.

Conor Doran 9G



My Name is Paul McGrath!

Hi, my name is Paul McGrath. I am twelve years old and the most popular boy in my school. Most people think I am the sun and others treat me like God. I am a boy that's popular! The girls swarm over me like tiny bees.

Stephen Gaskin 9G



Afghanistan

My name is Mark Briggs. I'm in the Marines. Once when we were on the frontline, we were attacked by rebels. We got pinned down. There were bullets fired at us. Eventually we called in and support arrived at our positions like a convoy.

That is my story of war.

Coritiach McKenna 9G





A Port and a Boat



As the sun rose and the moon sank the busy port became visible, bit by bit. The heavy fog thinned, and birds in the leafless trees began to chirp loudly. The temperature rose dramatically, and people congregated in the empty market.

A boat began to sail in slowly, and docked at the sturdy wooden pier. The boat was built out of dark wood that bent at the front, and miniscule sculptures could be seen up close. At the back, a large window looked out into the vast ocean and it appeared to be made out of gold. The mast was placed in the centre of the hull and was as tall as a small mountain. It was pointed at the top and a cramped, dilapidated crows' nest seemed to be moving slightly in the wind. Jet black cannons, stuck out slightly through the holes in the hull, and the ebony coloured sails were ripped in places.

Eventually other boats, similar to the first one, sailed in and they contained large wooden barrels and crates that the crews carried to the market, which by this point, was largely populated.

The streets of the town were lined with cluttered stalls, made of metal bars and white cloth, in which people exchanged goods and bought items brought in by the ships, with shillings and pieces of copper and gold.

As night crawled towards the busy port town, an ominous looking lighthouse began to glow upon the rocky coast and the ships carrying goods sailed away hastily. But one boat remained docked upon the pier, and it seemed to be the first of the series of boats that sailed into the port town.

The boat bounced up and down, and splashed about in the water. There was no movement inside or around the boat. On the deck there were empty crates, buckets and rusty old swords. The wooden steering wheel appeared to be rotting and dark green moss was growing around it. Doors lay open, and each led to a different part of the ship.

In a small kitchen, the cooking utensils were lying all around the floor and the cups and plates were smashed into tiny fragments. In the corner of the kitchen, a door with crimson red X lay on its hinges, leading to an airy and spacious room, filled with hammocks that were black with dirt and violently ripped.

Back up on the deck, the moon, that was once visible, was now shrouded in black clouds, and thunder and lightning raged over violent ocean. The wind was picking up speed and the large waves shook the boat furiously.

The lightning shooting through the sky revealed a hidden stairway. Halfway down, there was a very strong stench of something rotting, the smell of death. As the light faded the smell got worse. At the bottom of the stairway, there was an outline of bars and a hole in the hull enabled the flashed of lightning to illuminate the room. Skeletons with dead and rotting flesh were laid along the side of the room, along with destroyed furniture and old clothes.

Thunder and lightning continued to rage outside, and progressively got louder. More of the lightning enabled a door behind a large post to be seen. The mysterious door was not locked, but required some force to move; eventually it opened with a large creak.

At a first glance it appeared as if an elderly man was sleeping on an old wooden chair, but further examination revealed the true picture. The remains of a man, most likely the captain, wearing red and gold clothes, were hunched over ancient maps showing small islands. Several jewels were scattered around the flimsy rectangular

table he was leaning on. Along the walls, there were other maps that had islands circled. One in particular stood out the most, a grim looking island shaped like a skull surrounded by several metres of craggy rock.

The wind picked up speed and the ebony coloured curtains blew open revealing the golden window frames with cracked windows. Suddenly everything went quiet. Nothing could be heard and the lightning could not be seen. Watches and clocks were stuck at twelve o'clock midnight. The water was still. The boat no longer rocked.

The journey back to the deck seemed to take longer than the previous times. There was an icy cold breeze blowing. The ship gave a violent jolt. Slowly, it began to glide across the water, gradually increasing in speed. Then the temperature fell and fell.

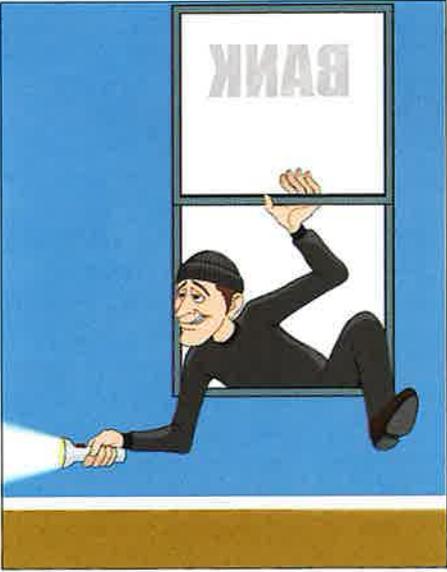
Hours passed and an ominous looking island with dead plants, rabid animals and destroyed buildings came into view. The self moving ship creaked, and the wooden steering wheel continued to stay stationary, as it moved up narrow rivers running through the island.

As the boat moved towards the large mountain at the centre of the deserted island, a large cave became evident. The mouth of the cave was twice the size as the ship and there were two large lanterns burning at each end.

The ghost ship did not stop, but proceeded inside the cave. It became darker and darker until nothing could be seen.

Ryan Smyth 11B





The Bank Job

We had it all planned out. We had been planning this for over two months now. There was no other way that we could pay off our huge debts. We had to do something and this was it. There was no other way out of this mess.

We were all nervous. We waited impatiently for the clock to strike at 3.00am. None of us would be able to sleep. We figured out that this was the best time to make this robbery happen. We had been watching the bank all week. We had a plan and we were going to stick to it.

It was time and my friend hadn't arrived in his van yet. We weren't the type of people who would normally rob a bank. We were good people. Not anymore. As I stared out the window I saw the dark, mysterious van pull up outside. This was it. We all bundled in quietly so that no neighbours would hear us. We were all kitted out. All dressed in black. The bank was about 10 minutes away and with no traffic on the roads the journey could be a bit shorter. The van was cold and the tension was unbearable.

I suddenly looked at my friend who was shaking. I wanted to help him. The van suddenly pulled up with a jerk. We all froze. The van engine was still going as one by one we all very quietly stepped

out the back door. Suddenly I saw movement, a shadow on the wall outside.

A large figure loomed. They knew we were up to something.

We had failed already. We had to run. I ran as fast as I could. I heard the quick footsteps behind me. I went round a corner and into an alley. My heart stopped. I tried to make as little noise as possible as I saw the large lanky man stop at the alley. He was only five or six steps away from me. All I could hear in the still night was my own heart beating, getting louder and louder. Before I knew it the figure was standing over me. This was itit was over:

Aidan Cregan 10C

Being Chased

I was filled with fear. I was only slightly ahead of the mysterious person chasing me. Whoever he was he was persistent. The bottoms of my shoes were ripped open. Pieces of glass and small stones were sticking into my feet. I ignored the pain and carried on running. This person must have been in detention or was just waiting for me to finish my I.C.T. work. But who would wait until 5pm just to catch me?

I ran through a double door which led into the school. My only hope was to find a classroom which was unlocked. Of course this task would be difficult since all of the teachers had already left.

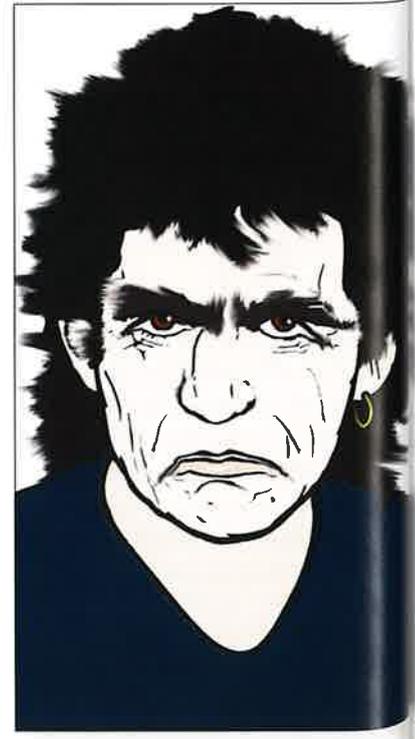
The person's heavy breathing got louder. Obviously he was getting closer. I ran into the Geography corridor and checked a few doors. They were all locked. I thought the man would have heard my desperate attempts to open a locked door but he didn't. I reached the I.C.T. corridor, on the lower floor where one door was unlocked. I went inside and quietly closed the door. All of the computers were turned off. I hid under



a desk in the eerie silence. The man walked past in a black hooded jump. The hood provided the perfect shrou over his face. This was my time to escape! I ran quickly out of the safe I.C.T. room. The man charged after me. There was a window smashed open. I began to climb out the window. The mysterious man grabbed my foot. I struggled and got my foot out of the shoe.

I landed on the top of the flyover. The man followed. He charged at me. I jumped out of the way, almost falling off the edge. But the man was not so lucky. He did not escape the cold grip of death and he fell off the fly-over and landed on a ping pong table. I heard his back snap like a twig. The sound was revolting. I didn't dare look down as I made my way back to the smashed window. But one question remained. Who was the mysterious hooded figure?

Aidan Campbell 10C





Winter

The snow was drifting down and down,
Like a cloud exploding in the sky.

Snow balls thrown from left and right,
With Mr Frosty hiding out of sight.

While mum and dad fight off the cold,
The kids have fun annoying grandad with snow.

The fun stops there as the sun comes out,
And searches for that white blanket of dust.

The kids frown as the parents smile,
No more snow, thank heavens for that!

Sean O'Neill 9C

Haiku

Birds pass the window
Gracefully, swiftly they fly
Around God's creation.

Eamon Mc Fadden 8F



Trees

Hour by hour day by day,
Trees dance wonderfully and their
branches sway.
They give us paper, they give us wood,
But that's not the only reason that
they're good.
They are the key to human -
So lumberjacks put down your knife
So let the trees grow up high and
Return the colours to the sky.

Ciaran McCabe

Ballyhornan Sea

Ballyhornan, a place near the sea,
Where seagulls fly and winds blow high,
There is no other place to be.

During the summer,
Waves splash against the rocks.
Children shout with joy,
As they swim out to sea.

Mystic creatures lurk in the fields,
Talking to the local badgers and foxes,
Staring into the distance towards
The misty sea.

At night the beach glows with light,
And the moon shines bright,
A fire is lit and marshmallows toasted,
There's nowhere else I'd rather be.

Christopher Mervyn 9C

Fragments of Heaven

They dance in the cold night air,
Singing howling songs of past tales,
At the mercy of where the wind blows
them.

When their journey of flight ends,
They group together for support,
To celebrate for their last time,
In the morning, as sun rises,
They go peacefully, as fragments of
heaven.

Martin Reid 9C

Football

Shooting, scoring, the fans always roaring
When you're running down the wing you can hear the people sing
Play makers, free-kick takers
They are fast and quick, using their skills and doing tricks
They can play for the 90, strong and mighty.
The wingers!

Aaron Harbinson 9F



TERROR IN DETENTION



So there I was sitting in the hall with three other guys serving my detention hours. Two of the three got let out at four o'clock and the other one got out at half past four. But not me I was supposed to get out at five o'clock but the vice-principal must have forgotten about me because I looked out the window and saw no-one and heard no-one.

I took my school bag and threw it through the window in the door. It smashed with ease and I squeezed my hand through the hole in the window and unlocked the door with the key that Mr Scott left in the keyhole.

I walked out into the corridor and walked down the stairs. It was so quiet that there was an echo of my footsteps. There was a creak. I jumped. I went down to the office and noticed that no-one was there. I walked out of the office and looked at the clock. It said quarter to six.

The first thing I thought of was my mum questioning herself about where I was. I could picture her ready to shout at me as soon as I came through the door and telling me that I was grounded.

I walked to the front door and tried to open it. It was locked. I tried all the doors in the school and not one would open.

I panicked and looked in my blazer for my mobile phone. After searching

I remembered that Mr Scott had taken it off me in detention. I ran into the school office. I picked up the phone and tried to phone home. It rang for a few seconds then suddenly it cut off. I froze and a few moments later I heard footsteps down the corridor. I opened the door and looked out and saw just an empty corridor. I hurried down into the detention room and noticed that it was different. The chairs were scattered all over the room and the window that I had smashed was covered up with tape and the glass had disappeared.

There was a blunt, heavy noise that broke the silence at the other end of the corridor. I nervously looked into the corridor but it was like a cellar, cold and empty. I walked towards a dark, thin object lying on the floor with small, slow footsteps. As I approached the brush like object a crooked, old hand stretched out and picked it up. I froze in terror as the broom and the hand rose from the floor. A dark shadow came forward and I stepped back. I tried to concentrate on the shadow but my mind was set on running. The shadow got bigger and formed the shape of a body. I knew then I was not alone.

I wanted to run but couldn't because I wanted to know who or what this was. Slowly I began making my way towards the shadow. With every step I took, my breathing got faster and

heavier. As I got closer to the shadow I started to hear noises, like someone was chanting. I saw a light. It was coming from the last room. I was almost there but my stops were getting shorter, like my body knew there was something wrong. I forced my body to go further and as I approached the door the chanting became clearer. It sounded more like singing.

The shadow was getting bigger and bigger until eventually the light was blocked from the doorway. In its place stood a small withered creature with white stubble on its face. I tried to focus my eyes on him to see who it was but it was too dark.

"Who's there?" It was the voice of an old man. He stepped forward and stared at me. It was the school caretaker. His face was pale, grey and faded. Could I really see him? Was he a ghost?

"My name is John," I replied. A knotted, grey, old finger pointed in through the door like it was telling me to go in. I hesitated but soon enough I entered through the freshly painted, wooden doorway and I found the source of the voice. It was our current caretaker.

Finally I was saved!

I had been terrified but the ghost of the former caretaker had been my salvation.

Paul Devlin 9D



Being Different

Yellow, brown
Black or white,
Doesn't matter they'll pick a fight
They all think they are right
Just because they are white.

How blind they are
And how small their minds,
They'll always be one step behind
Because most of us
Aren't coloured blind.

They'll be sitting
In the park
And I will be laughed
At because
I'm dark.

Daniel Brownlee 10E

A Scary Night

It was October 31st. It was cold and dark and the rain had just started. Marty headed to the local youth club but even though he always enjoyed the youth club, tonight he felt uneasy. Marty couldn't figure out why as he was not a superstitious type of person. He didn't believe in Halloween which was just a bit of fun for children and childish adults. Marty was better than that, too big to trick or treat and way too cool to dress up.

The sky was alight with fireworks and the smell of them hung heavy in the air. This was about the only thing Marty liked about Halloween, especially the smell. It reminded him of when he was a wee boy. Marty's father used to take him to the annual firework display in

the town centre but when Marty's mum died a bit of dad died also. That was when Marty grew up and no longer enjoyed Halloween.

When Marty got to the youth club it was in darkness. He thought that maybe because of Halloween it had been cancelled, but everyone said they were going that day. He walked towards the door and it slowly began to fall open. Marty looked into the darkness but he couldn't see anything. He called out to Paul the youth club leader but he was met with silence. Cautiously Marty felt the wall for the light switch. He flicked it on and gasped at the sight that he saw red- all over the place. Was it blood? Marty's heart started to race. Slowly he walked further into the building. Marty reached for his mobile phone



and slowly dialled 999. He whispered to the operator that he needed the police to come to the youth club. Then the line went dead. He had lost his signal. Marty slowly walked into the kitchen area of the club while all the time he was thinking, "Every horror film I have ever seen I tell the people not to go in and here I am!"

Marty looked at the cupboards when he noticed what looked like an arm hanging from it. Marty opened his eyes and saw his bedroom

Donal Stafford 8A

poetry



Summer!

Summer is coming
School is almost out
The bright sun is shining
As kids scream and shout!
Late nights with friends,
And foreign holidays
No homework to do
And we love to play.

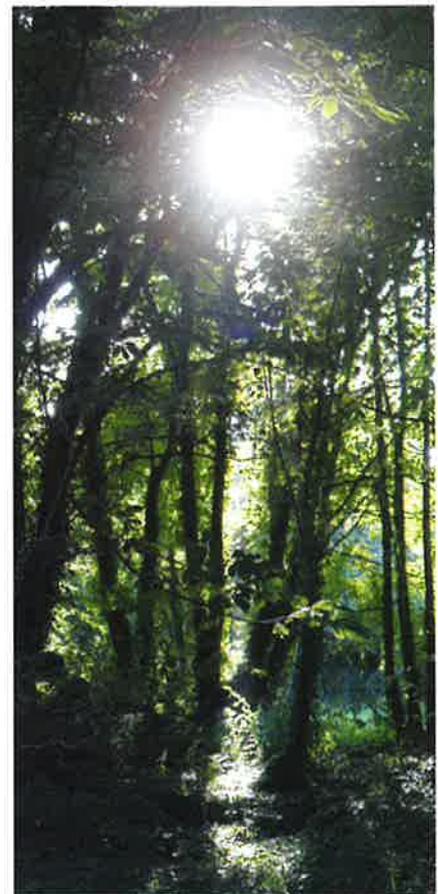
T-shirts and shorts
And water balloon fights
Football matches
And flying colourful kites.
I love summer!
But I hate it when it's done
School comes back
And ruins all the fun!

Danny Collins 9F

The Endangered Rain Forest

Swinging gracefully from tree to tree
As swift as a swallow
The sweet scent of bananas fills the air
The rain forest is my home.
So green and beautiful
It gives me everything I need.
But you have destroyed my home
Blinded by greed, cutting down
everything you see,
Wrecking and burning, you have hearts
of stone.
Nothing will be left for us.
It makes me so angry and sad
My home will soon be gone forever.

Matthew Kane 8F





The Day the World Ended



It was the 26th August, just three days after my birthday. I had recently been on holiday in France with my mum and dad's friends. They have a nice house in the Loire valley or should I say they had a house.

My family and I were on our way back from their cottage which was in a small village near the Loire. We made various stops on the way to Brittany and the port of Roscoff from where we were supposed to get a ferry to Cork harbour. We stopped to get petrol more times that I can count and we ate on numerous occasions. Since we had left the Loire in late afternoon we had planned to stop in a hotel to get a fresh start by travelling in the morning. But the unexpected happened.

There had been nuclear threats from the Superpowers such as Russia, China and North Korea. I remember reading something about it in the newspaper, back home but I didn't take much notice, (neither did the French people I expect, because there was no fuss about it while I was there.) As far as I was concerned it seemed like one of those far off conflicts that I did not understand.

We had just got into the Brittany region, when we heard these strange alerts on the radio and it wasn't long before we came across soldiers in strange suits searching cars and telling people what to do. One of the soldiers told us to continue to Roscoff and get on the ferry. He told us to do it with great haste, but he didn't tell us why.

When we arrived, the only people, in the streets (and what seemed to be the entire town) were hurrying to the harbour to catch the last of the ferries. We managed to get on board and

after we had finished with the car on the lower decks we waited a few hours for a cabin.

We got settled in and all of us went out on deck, to watch the ship leave port but after about a ten minute wait we were caught completely off guard. A huge, unexpected and apparently devastating glow struck our eyes and it would have blinded us if we had glared at it for too long.

Just as the ship had taken off and was about half a mile off, an explosion swallowed up the French coast in a ferocious bright light. When we looked up again, Roscoff was gone from the face of the earth and we watched, stunned.

I had read somewhere about nuclear wars, somewhere in school; something about the great atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan at the end of World War Two. I remember hearing about the aftermath of a nuclear strike, that the aftershock and the everlasting fallout would kill more that the actual bomb itself.

"Those poor people," I thought.

We were cleared off the deck immediately and were told that we were to stay in our cabins until we got instructions from the captain and crew. That hour was the longest hour of my life. Then the intercom started up. We all got ready and prepared for what we were about to hear.

"Attention! This is your captain speaking. No doubt you know why I am addressing you this evening. There has been a nuclear disaster which has reportedly struck each

nation of Western Europe".

We all stood silently, hanging on the Frenchman's every word. "I am afraid that you will still have to be ferried back to Ireland only to find your homes, businesses and ...families, destroyed and dead. But we...all of us have to be focused on one thing and one thing only...survival."

We looked round at one another to see all our different expressions. The thought of our loss and what we would never see again was invading our minds. Then the French captain spoke his lasts words, "My ladies and gentlemen.....all that we have ever believed in, has abandoned us.....may God be with us all."

We were tired and overwhelmed by what had happened. We were all just trying to adjust ourselves in our own little ways, and thinking to the future. I thought once more about what the captain said "Survival"..... That was my new goal.

Niall Devlin 10E



The Famine (An Gorta Mór)



Stuck in our homes
 Eating nettle stew.
 Our land has been taken
 And our corn is gone too.

The potatoes have rotted
 In the ground.
 No good potatoes to be found.



Hunger pains
 Day and night.
 Because of this
 Potato blight.

We're forced to eat
 Stinking nettle stew.
 I have to say
 It's worse than goo.

But we must eat it
 Or else we'll die.
 No proper food to eat
 No bacon to fry.

Most of our food
 Is exported to Spain
 And we are stuck
 With hunger pains.

It's England's fault
 We starve to death
 They've left us in
 A horrible mess.

And everytime
 We try to fight
 We lose our strength
 Try as we might.

We still can't get
 Our food back
 And the potatoes
 Remain black.

And in the year
 Of '47
 A lot of Irish
 Went to heaven.

The English they are
 Foul beasts
 Sitting with
 Their lovely feasts.

While we're stuck here
 With nettle stew
 I don't think it's fair
 Do you?

*Caolán Ó Coisheacháin
 10E*

War

That's it... The war started
 Everyone is a hero
 They are all fighting for their country
 While you're sitting there like a zero.

The guns are firing
 The engines are sounding
 But you're just reading the letters
 So enlist now, be a hero
 And you will take all the credit.

So take the training, be prepared
 And be ready for a fight.
 The Germans are just no match
 For your superior might.
 They get weapons, they get equipment
 They are all classed as brave.
 But you're sitting there
 In a ragged armchair
 Getting less respect than a slave.

So join, participate and just have a laugh-
 Fight until the very end. Use your skill expertly,
 You'll be Britain's Best friend.

Aidan Murphy 10G





The Takeover

As the sun began to rise and the light hit the land, the true beauty of the place began to show. In the distance the moon began to fade into the sky and no clouds could be seen.

A cool breeze swept through the place, passing by the old trees which towered over all of the animals below. The branches, which stuck out of the tree, were covered with bright green leaves. Among the branches and leaves were many birds' nests, with the little chicks cuddling up to each other inside. The huge trees seemed to encircle the place, as if acting as some sort of fortress, protecting it from the outside, or maybe, protecting the outside from something in there.

The birds were soaring through the air and some were even singing. The fresh scent of lavender filled the air and there were animals everywhere. The rabbits were bouncing around, chasing one another. Some tried to hide among the bushes, some camouflaged themselves by lying down in the long emerald grass which carpeted the land.

There was a long river, stretching out throughout the land. The water was crystal clear, pure enough to drink and flowed softly downstream. You could see the salmon and the trout resting at the bottom of the river and others swimming about, swaying their tails from side to side. The river led to a lake, where many ducks and swans were bathing as the sweltering heat struck them.

Many butterflies gently hovered in the air and many bees were buzzing around. They were going from flower to flower, in search of pollen to make their beloved golden honey.

The number of flowers in this place was incredible, more than you could ever have imagined. They were so colourful and were arranged into little flower-beds. A rainbow reached from one end, to the other and the contrast of colours was spectacular.

In the centre of the place, there was a hill and at the top of it, there was an ancient graveyard. At the bottom of the hill, there were two gates which had something written on them, which was barely visible because they were covered in rust. Around the graveyard, there was an old stone wall which was ten foot tall. It too was ancient and looked as if it would fall down. White crosses were everywhere and cypress trees were running alongside the wall. In the centre of the graveyard, there were four large rocks piled on top of each other, which resembled some sort of ancient tomb.

As darkness fell, the atmosphere changed drastically, as if someone had hit a switch. A thick fog began to encircle the graveyard until it had completely disappeared. Clouds began to form and rain fell, splashing off the ground. Howling winds blasted through the place and a screeching sound soared through the air. The sound of thunder began to

roar and the top of the stones within the graveyard were now visible. A massive bolt of lightning struck the stones and the fog began to clear, but what was there now was quite different than before.

As a witch like cry echoed and the sound of screaming filled the air, the true horror of the place began to show. The white crosses were upside down and the blood seemed to ooze out of them. The stones were in pieces and the cypress trees were burnt to ashes. Blood began to pour out from the cracks within the ancient wall.

Out of nowhere, hands which had torn and decaying flesh broke out from beneath the soil and within minutes the graveyard had been flooded with zombies. This had happened before, but the ancient wall had confined them within the graveyard. Now though, the wall was ready to fall down and when the zombies began to strike, it crumbled into a mass of rocks. The rocks had literally crushed the zombies but not even this could hold them back. They removed the rubble and moved on, towards a place which had literally been untouched.

Conor Rainey 11B





Clean Sweep



Hello. My name is Jim Smith. I am 13 years old and I am a chimney sweeper. Here is my story. It all started on May 3rd 1947. We had just won the war. I started off the day doing my normal rounds. I started with Mr and Mrs Sinnott. After that I went on to Miss Hamerten. I always hated clearing Miss Hamerten's chimneys. After you were finished she would check if there was any dirt and if there was she would send you up again and again until it was all gone. I started with the fireplace in her room. It was the worst of all. It was so small I even heard that someone got stuck in it. I went up the chimney barely getting through. I checked for any dirt.

"Good - no dirt in sight," I said to myself. Then I went down another chimney. "No!!" I said. I had gone down the wrong chimney. I was now in the abandoned house next door to Miss Hamerten's House. I quickly turned to go back up the chimney but then I saw a table with a candle and huge pages on the table. I went over to see what they were and what they were doing there but then I saw it. The pages on the table were plans to assassinate the Queen of England. I had uncovered a mysterious plot

.....

Felix Sinnott 8A



Hunted

She was running frantically, her legs were strained and bruised. The night air was crisp, giving a light drizzle. Beads of sweat dripped into her eyes as well as the rain. She could feel her heart pounding like a thumping headache. The muck and leaves were slippery under her feet and continued to give way, making her trip and even fall. She was dirty, wet and had been crying. Her hair was long and black and as smooth as a polished table. Her eyes were a bright green and she had the charm of an angel. The trees were plentiful and she could easily lose her pursuer or at least she thought so.

It seemed like miles and she couldn't run anymore. Sophie came to a clearing where the trees were few and a bed of grass were all that lay on the ground. Her rasping breath was forming clouds in the cold air. For a moment and only a moment, there was complete and utter silence. She could hear absolutely nothing. The moon shone a pale white in the sky, obscured by thin, black clouds. Her pursuer was nowhere to be seen.

She sat against a tree stump and gave her legs a light massage. Her heartbeat had eventually slowed and she was able to slightly relax. She thought to herself, "Halloween is supposed to be fun, isn't it?" That thought only lasted a second. Something moved about one hundred yards in front of her, just outside of the clearing. There were two bright yellow dots peering out of a small, dark bush. Her heart began to

thump again as the air around her seemed to turn to steam. She could hear a low growling possibly coming from the tiny dots. She was going to turn and run but there was a problem. When she focused back on the bright dots, there was more to it. A skulking, grey figure was literally galloping towards her. She now realised what it was. It was a skinny, scruffy devil of a dog. It had a cut on its side which made its ribs show; it was frothing at the mouth and ravenous. It was clearing metres in seconds and it was heading straight for her.

Sophie was frozen in place, filled to the brim with fear. Before she knew it, the dog had her on the ground, leaning heavily on her. It seemed like a tonne. All she could make out was the dog's mouth, a bubbling cauldron of yellow, broken teeth. She could swear an ocean was falling on her as the froth dripped from the destroyed cavities. The animal moved in for the kill but suddenly stopped.

The dog scampered away, whining for its life. Sophie got to her feet and regained her thoughts as well as her breath. "Why had the dog run away?" She realised why and turned white. She turned only to meet the unforgiving gaze of her pursuer. He was less than ten feet away and walking towards her at a stern pace. His face was ...not a face, it was something monstrous altogether. Its face lacked eye sockets, only pale, large spheres rested between bulging veins. It also had no cheeks-showing its teeth which smiled a cruel smirk. Its nose resembled two holes punctured into its face and ears were not present.

He was in front of her now and locked her wrists in his hands. She was powerless. She wanted to run but she couldn't. Sophie watched helplessly as the figure brandished a cloth and encircled it around her head and across her mouth. She tried to pull away but the cloth was wrapped tightly and she could feel herself suffocating. She needed to breathe. Her vision was fading and she was losing consciousness. She pulled at the cloth desperately but the strength of the creature was unreal. The only thing she could remember then was falling back into a dark abyss.

Martin Reid 9C



Fight For The Earth



It is day thirty-four of the devastating war against the Chalossian alien race. The platoon and I have dubbed the aliens "Chaosbots". The name comes from their ferocious attitude, ransacking small towns and cities, killing all in their path. So far the war seems bad for both sides. The Bots are finding it next to impossible to capture our territory but we have an astonishingly smaller number of well-trained, experienced soldiers. When they do capture some of our territory, their army grows. As a child, people thought I was just living in a dream world, thinking aliens were real. Thirty four days ago, they learned the devastating truth that I've known all along. We are not alone in this universe.

They collect the bodies of the deceased citizens and our brothers in arms and transport them to what were once warehouses used for storage of our goods. They are now the Chalossian conversion centres. The Chalossians installed liquid tubes as a form of transport to get the dead bodies from one side of the centre to the other. The bodies were sealed in these strange tubes. The metal used to create these is not of this earth, and the fluid inside is some sort of pale green slime, or so the rumour goes. These tubes lead into huge machines. What goes on in these machines, nobody knows. We have only seen the final result of this machine. The human corpses travel down the tubes into the machine. I do not know how long the process takes. If the Intel 1 collected from Dublin Road was accurate then it is between four and six hours. The final result is known as a "kid"; a newly formed Chalossian. Their eyes are rich golden yellow, no pupils- just beads of gold. Their skin is a pale grey colour; it looks like a dead body. The fat is drained off their body, their rib cage in full view. Their muscles have decreased in size but have been transformed into Chalossian flesh which is much stronger than human muscle.

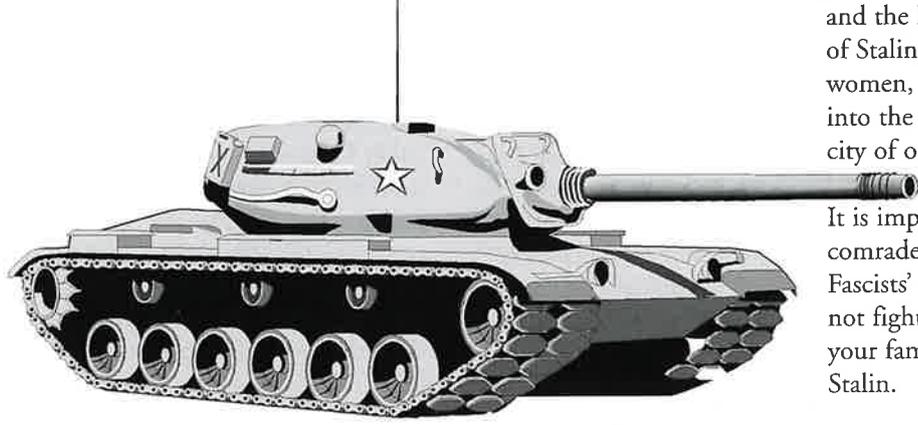
On Tuesday the 8th May, two soldiers arrived at Belfast. They were two scouts from the attack on Lisburn, both

Americans. They found our base at the city centre. The streets were so hauntingly quiet we heard them slowly dragging themselves down the destroyed and deserted street. One of the soldiers, noticeably shorter than the other, was struggling to stand up. He had one arm around the other soldier's neck for some stability. I met up with them in the medical ward of the base. Sergeant Brady and Private Jensen were their names. Jensen was shorter than Brady. He was around five foot four. It seemed as though Jensen barely ate any food at all. He was lacking in muscle and body fat and he was much frailer than Brady. Brady was six foot tall and was dark skinned. Every part of his body was raw muscle. He seemed as though he could lift a car over his head.

After the battle for Belfast was over, I set out to investigate more about these ferocious but interesting creatures. I examined one of the bodies. It seemed like the rest. All was quiet for a few minutes. Then I could hear static. It was coming from each of the dead bodies. I took a closer look at one of the bodies and found a micro speaker in its ear. I put it in my ear. From a short distance you could only hear static, but when it was in your ear you could hear it clearly; the screeching screams of a Chalossian. I called the other troops over to see could we trace what sort of infantry it was. Even Jensen and Brady couldn't make out

PERSUASIVE WRITING PERSUASIVE WRITING PERSUASIVE WRITING PERSUASIVE WRITING PERSUASIVE WRITING

The final Offensive



Brother, Comrades

Join us in the war against tyranny the Fuhrer and the Fascist Reich – to avenge the massacre of Stalingrad. They killed our families, our women, our children. The horrible Hun comes into the Motherland Russia and tries to take the city of our great and powerful leader Stalin.

It is imperative we fight back but we need you, comrades. Do you want to live under the filthy Fascists' rule? No, I thought not. But if you do not fight you are a traitor to the Motherland, your family, yourself but most of all your leader Stalin.



what infantry class it was. Brady radioed the Americans to inform them of our new discovery. No one knew what class it was. Maybe there was a leader among the Chalossians. Maybe they weren't mindless drones after all, but slaves to this one alien.

Brady and his troops were radioed by the army in the south of Ireland and informed that Belfast was the last to be secured. They were the closest team to Belfast so they had to check up on us as our radio had broken due to a grenade from the Chalossians. Private Jenson explained to me the nightmarish sights he encountered in Lisburn. He used to think to fight for your country was to be a hero and to die for your country was to be glorified and remembered throughout history. If you were to ask him about fighting for your country, or in this case the Earth and freedom, he would tell you the terrifying truth of war. The constant sound of guns and artillery shells were still sounding in his ears. If you had seen the horrific images that he had endured, bodies exploding into a million pieces, blood splattering everywhere, listening to the screams of your best friend slowly bleeding to death in your arms, you would be just like him. He hadn't slept in days. Brady just stared at him sitting in the corner of the room, curled up into a ball and muttering something to himself. The Chalossians are the vilest creatures ever to walk this earth; they are vicious

towards all living moving creatures on this planet. Their bodies have evolved like ours but with some minor differences. Their body resembles that of a human; their spine is curved giving them a hunchback. They have two fingers, one thumb, and their fingernails are as sharp as razor blades. Their feet are the shape of a dog's paw with huge muscular toes. They are also oxygen breathing creatures-which is probably why they are interested in taking our planet. Sergeant Brady advised us of what we might face in the future. There is not just one class of Chalossian infantry. Brady tells of more specialised infantry. Their stories of what happened in Lisburn tell of huge mutant Chalossians called mammoths. They are as tall as a terrace house. They have huge bulging arms that are one metre in diameter. The scientists in the headquarters told us to watch our backs. Their arms are one hundred percent muscle, not including the bone of course.

Day thirty-five, the platoon and I are now being transported out of Belfast on our way to Paris. Ireland is secured and is now refuge for any surviving civilians. I'm just hoping the transports make it from Germany. It is time to move to the larger countries. The mission will only get harder, with more ground to cover with a limited amount of time to cover it in. The Chalossians have taken the coastal cities of France. Fortunately for us, both the platoons parachuted in safely. Well, most

of the soldiers did. Their mission was to take out the turrets so that the Americans could launch an air strike on their main base on Bordeaux. This was "plan A" but our atomic bombs were used to wipe out the Chalossian threat in South America, Asia and Russia. On to "Plan B" which is to send us in an eight hundred foot drop into the lion's den. We have received very good compliments from army generals saying we are "The Best of the Best".

The North American troops radioed in saying they were holding up well. Just hoping, like the rest of us, that there won't be another wave of Chalossian troops. The coastal cities of the U.S.A. are under Chalossian control. For now. Along the border of Mexico and the U.S. the few remaining Chalossian troops from Mexico try to breach the border into the U.S. It seems as though victory is ours. However the Chalossian race is very unpredictable in any move they make. This mission is a critical move in this war. We have not failed a mission yet and we aren't going to start now. We will take them down from the inside.

They shouldn't have messed with us. They shouldn't have messed with our planet.

They shouldn't under-estimate our power, intelligence and will to survive.

Brian O'Neill 11B

PERSUASIVE WRITING PERSUASIVE WRITING PERSUASIVE WRITING PERSUASIVE WRITING

If the Krauts take the great city of Stalingrad they will take our great nation Russia. Therefore we must take back Stalingrad.

We will show no mercy as the Huns will show us none in return. No retreat, No surrender. That is our law.

Once and for all we will drive the fascists from the Motherland. We will launch a final huge offensive on Berlin. We will do this to avenge this massacre and to show them never to set foot in the Motherland again. This is the Huns' final stand and we have

outnumbered them 4-1. We will be swift, strong and merciless. We will not surrender and we will take no prisoners. We will kill everything and anything in our way.

When we complete this mission we will be forever free from the fascists' filthy hand, but if we fail we will live in total darkness and we would all be better off dead.

But we can stop this, Brothers. It is all up to you. Make Stalin proud!

Ciaran McNulty 10E





Why?



How? Why? Just how has it ended up like this? The wind whistles through my hair. The brisk breeze, numbs my fingers. As always the constant smell of fresh bread from the bakery facing me fills my nostrils and I fail to see how I find myself in this state. The business men and women stroll pass me. Their arrogance seems to mock me. They reject all my pleas repeatedly, grimacing at the sight of my outstretched arm and open palm.

My name is Nelson. Nelson Stuart. I currently have no home, no friends, no money...no life. Each day seems to be more painful than the previous, a greater struggle, a larger weight dropped on my shoulders. It didn't have to be like this though. I could be here today, a wealthy businessman, with a beautiful wife, kids, and a large family home. Yes, I could just be like the men who march past me each day, laughing at my scruffy beard, my weary, bloodshot eyes, the rags which I like to call clothes, and the larger rag, which I call shelter. I did bring this all upon myself, and now I'd like to share with you my downfall, from a smart, tidy, neat boy to a tramp, living on a street corner in Liverpool, with no life ahead of him and no prospect of change.

I suppose I should take you right back to the start. I was born on the 19th September 1975. My parents were loving and caring, and I had one older brother Jack. Right from the first few days of me entering school, my parents and teachers knew that I was an ideal student. Each morning my mother would send me off to school, with my hair perfectly combed, glistening white, uniform flawlessly ironed and a healthy lunch clutched in my hand. My mother was a proud woman.

She had been brought up that way by her mum, my nana. Nana died when I was quite young but from what I can remember of her she always was full of pride. My mother had long brown locks, a deep brown shade of eyes and always, always a shiny glow off her skin. She was stunning. Every morning as I set off, her last words were, "Do yourself proud son." The smile that accompanied those words stuck with me all day. From my first day of school in 1980, to my final day in 87; I had been a teacher's dream. Full marks on each exam, and never once spoken to about behaviour. I had earned my way into the top grammar school in the city, Warrant High, also the school that my older brother Jack attended. He was two years above me, and had not made my mother quite as proud as I had managed to.

To this day, I can vividly remember that first day at Warrant High.

"Hurry darling, don't want to be late on your first day," my mother yelled.

"I'm almost ready, just looking for my school bag," I replied.

When I had looked out my bedroom window that morning, the sun was splitting the trees. Flocks of pupils were greeting their friends after the summer break. I noticed a bird starting to lay the foundations for its new home on a tree to my immediate right- a typically stunning late summer morning. I rushed downstairs and sat myself at the breakfast table. My father was opposite me, hurriedly indulging in a bowl of cereal and taking a quick glance over the newspaper. Mother came over and sat down a steaming mug of coffee in front of him.

"Sorry honey, no time. I'm already

late, shall talk to you later," my dad said, and followed by a quick peck on the cheek, he had vanished through the kitchen door.

My father was also like my mother, a proud person. He never cared for anything but for Jack and I to lead a successful life when we grew up. He was quite a small man in height, with a stocky build, a rugged ginger moustache, and little, very little ginger hair. He was not always as immaculately presented as my mum. I would never argue or disrespect him, much like my mother, I knew now hard he worked for me.

"Come on son, chop, chop," my mum interrupted my train of thought.

I lifted my bag and walked out the front door, and began to walk the short distance to my new school. I can remember the feelings and emotions racing through me that day. Excitement, tinged with some fear and apprehension. Would I fit in? What if I didn't get used to my new surroundings, teachers, rules? At times on that short walk I prayed for the ground to open up and drag me into its clutches ...that didn't seem to happen though. Then, I finally reached the gates, an abandoned looking building, and a sign that read, 'You Are Most Welcome to Warrant High!'

I didn't feel so welcome. I apprehensively remember continuing my walk up the long, spiralling lane to the old building. I passed many other students, older and younger, some ghastly looking, some friendly looking. There was a football pitch to my left, with older students on it, kicking a fellow pupil's bag around in a circle.

"Oi! Fathead c'mere!" I heard one of the menacing students shout towards me.

"Me?" I replied silently and very much into myself.

"Wah?" was the reply.

Slightly louder I said, "Me, do you want me?"

"Course we're talkin' to you. D'you see anyone else wif a fat'ead round ere?"



His latest words were cheered with a massive chorus of laughter from the fellow pupils standing around him. I hadn't noticed right away, but as I nervously got closer to the group I realised it was my older brother, Jack. My brother was quite literally a state, his top three buttons were undone, revealing a crisp white, round-neck t-shirt underneath. Both his newly bought black shoes looked as if they were about to fall apart. His tie was loosened so that it hung halfway down his chest, and his trouser legs trailed along the ground. He had begun to develop his own moustache, and his face was littered with pimples. He was at the centre of his group of friends as he began to address me.

"Big boy now, eh? Mummy's favourite little boy is all grown up, awww, cute."

His friends sniggered at my expense. I opened my mouth to reply.

"...Save it fat 'ead, go to class", my brother interrupted. I noticed that as I retreated, the student whose bag had been getting kicked around had quickly grabbed it as my brother's gang's attention had been drawn to me. I couldn't blame him. My brother's friends all huddled and ran across to the school gates, where they were met by some school girls from our neighbouring, female school. I turned and went into the school building, my new home.

The rest of that day flew swiftly. In fact, it completely surprised me that after that minor incident at the beginning of the day, everything, absolutely everything couldn't have gone more smoothly. To be honest, the next few years of my life followed suit. School flew by without any

problems. I had two new best friends in Bill and Ryan. My school reports continued to be phenomenal. The new teachers were over the moon with my behaviour and attendances that I consistently produced. I think many teachers expected me to be like my brother, but they never actually said anything to me. Throughout the next three years my life was well and truly on the right tracks. Although I was really happy with the school progress, I always had one burning desire within me, one passion that was to be successful at football. I was an absolute fanatic. Growing up in the heart of Liverpool's city centre, it was natural that my team was Liverpool. On many occasions my father and I would make our way to Anfield to watch our beloved team. It was a much needed break from the pressure of school work each weekend, one of the few times that my father and I would both be on the same wavelength about a certain subject. I always dreamt of playing football and showing people there was more to me than just good academic grades. My brother was one of my main critics as you might have already been able to tell. He was one of the main reasons for my shy nature and low self esteem.

"You can't do anything right Nelson," and "Why try fat 'ead?" were two of the more common things I would hear. There was nothing more that I wanted than to prove him wrong...and one day, the opportunity finally arose.

I was in a Maths lesson at the beginning of my fourth year at Warrant High. By now I was really

beginning to mature into my own person and I knew who my friends for life were shaping up to be. There was a knock at my classroom door and Jack, now just beginning his senior year, walked into the room with one of his friends. He held a white sheet of paper. He strode over to my Maths teacher's desk, and after mumbling a few words to my teacher he turned and faced my class.

"Any of 'uzins wanna join the football team?" he yelled. No-one raised their hands.

"C'mon lads, our older team needs another player, Johnny broke his leg," my brother begged.

Still silence. No-one was interested in the slightest. Before even giving a second thought to what I was doing, I shot my hand upwards. Jack went pale. His jaw dropped.

"I'll go," I muttered.

My brother remained speechless.

"W-w-what you?" he questioned.

"Yeah, where's the match?"

Jack now realised I wasn't joking.

"Eh, after school, tomorrow", he replied.

He clearly was embarrassed by the situation in front of his friend. Me, the geeky, younger brother had volunteered.

He walked out and slammed the door



behind him. I couldn't focus the rest of that day. Finally I was getting the chance to do something I loved.

The next day seemed to drag on forever, but when the final bell rang at 3.30pm, I dashed to the school gym. I was like a seven year old waking up on Christmas morning. I laced up my new white and blue, flashy football boots. I didn't know anyone, and they were all two years older than me. It didn't bother me in the slightest.... I was playing for my school team. As I was informed that I would be starting on the bench, I wasn't honestly surprised, and it didn't affect my mental state one bit. I was 'psyched' up in case I was called upon. I settled on the bench to watch the first half. Warrant High were totally outclassed. Second to every ball, just not up to the pace and intensity. At half time we trailed 2-0.

"You kid, get your kit on, right mid," the gaffer said to me.

He was frustrated and ready to completely lose the plot. The whole team was chocked at my appointment on the right wing, but it couldn't possibly be any worse that what had already happened. The opponents, who had their 2-0 lead, arrogantly strode unto the pitch. My brother, playing in central midfield glared at me.

"Don't mess this up! he said.

I nodded back. The second half got underway, and from my first touch onwards, I completely controlled the game. Everything went perfectly. I set up two goals that brought us back level, and in the closing stages, I unleashed a venomous drive. It flew into the top corner and sent us into a 3-2 lead. Ecstatically I was mauled by my team mates as the final whistle was blown. I was on top of the world.

"Amazing mate!" "Where did ya pull that one from son?" were some of the plaudits aimed at me. My brother made his way towards me, followed by his usual band of mates. By this stage I was just making my way out of the changing rooms. He stopped me.

"Well, proved me wrong didn't ya?" he said.

One of his friends looked at me and said,

"Yeah, we can respect what you did there, you've got skills, son."

I was surprised that one of them had bothered talking to me.

"Ehh, ta," I thanked him.

"Anyway big Rabbo is havin' his 17th birthday party tonight, up for it?" Jack asked me.

I was taken back. My brother was inviting me out with him.

"Yeahhh, I suppose I'll go," was my hesitant reply.

As my brother and his friends turned and slowly walked off, I had a new sense of confidence within me. I thought that going out to get to know my brother's friends would be a great opportunity. Little did I know that I had just made the worst decision of my life.

I arrived at my destination around 7.30pm. My brother had texted me directions to his friend, Rabbo's house earlier that evening. While I had been at home getting ready I had been boasting to mum and dad about my match winning performance. As usual they were delighted. The door was answered by Rabbo when I eventually arrived.

"C'mon in son," he told me.

I walked into the house. All of Rabbo's mates, including Jack were packed in the back room. As I entered, Jack quickly put out a cigarette in the hope I hadn't seen him smoke it. I made myself at home. The majority of that night went well. Games, music, food. The odd girl or two would pop in every so often, but by 10.30pm, I was totally shattered. I told my brother I had enjoyed the night but I was heading home.

"Wise up child! It's only starting!" he replied.

"Sit yourself down and I'll get you sorted out bruv," he said and left the

room. I hadn't a clue what he meant. Get me sorted out? What?

He reappeared with an empty two litre bottle of Coca-Cola, sliced in half.

Wrapped around the half bottle was a Tesco's bag, and inside that a dollop of glue, lingering at the bottom.

"Go on lad, have a whiff of that, bout time you tried this," Jack said. And that was it. Foolishly without thinking, I had done it. I sniffed, and I sniffed, and I sniffed.

That was my last memory of that night. I have no recollection of anything else that happened. Next thing I knew, I was awakened lying in a prison cell, being told to get out of the bed and get down for questioning! You see, I had done a terrible thing that night. After making the mistake of giving into my brother's temptations, I committed a robbery. Not to any house, but to my best friend Bill's house. I had apparently stolen his father's car and crashed it into the side wall of Warrant High. The police told me everything I needed to know, and more. I was told that I should say my last goodbye to my family, as I wouldn't be seeing them for quite some time. It was this moment that stood out above all others. I phoned my mother, my father answered.

"Your mother wants nothing to do with you at the minute. How could you do this to us?" were my father's cold words.

I could hear his voice trembling. I had reduced my family to tears. I was dragged away from the phone, handcuffed. As the door shut on my cell, the thud, was like a brick falling on my life, I wanted to die. The final chapter had ended.

Here I am. 15 years on. As I have told you alone. My brother Jackdead. Drugs proved to be his demise. He was all I had. My mum and dad? I am a stranger to them. I have not heard from them since THAT phone call with my dad. The rain begins to fall on me now. I lift my blanket to cover my head. Once more I reach out my hand, asking for some money from my passers-by, but the only thing I am catchingis raindrops.

Cormac Kelly 11H



The Chase

I keep sprinting. I can't go on much longer, I think he is going to find me but I don't even want to think what will happen if I get caught. I am convinced I will escape. I gulp, and sprint along landscape. My clothes are so muddled and the rain is beating down on me. The cold water is dripping down my neck. I watch a bright light follow me in the distance but I must turn and run; there is no going back. I look in front of me, passing the swaying trees, the branches almost hitting me in the face. I hear footsteps in the distance, echoing in the trees. I keep on going. I need to get away from him and whatever he is planning.

I can't hear anything now. Maybe he has given up. I feel slightly concerned that he is still after me, so my first thought is overshadowed by fear. I need to keep running in case he is still there. I have no idea where. I have got to run but that doesn't matter now, all I have to do is escape. My heart is heaving rapidly now and has sunk into a pool of fear. I run behind a tree to hide and regain my breath. I crouch down and keep my eyes focused

behind me and hold on to the rough bark of the tree. Suddenly I hear rattling in bushes behind me. I fear the noise. I try to get up and run, but my mind is too filled with fear. I start to run and breathe heavily but something grabs my leg and I fall on a heap of jagged rocks. I don't know what to think. My mind is overwhelmed with fear.

I see complete darkness now. I think this is the end. My heart is beating fast and it is all that I can hear. I open my eyes and a dark figure is directly above me. I panic and try to run. It is no good, though. He grabs me firmly and pulls me along the marshy ground. I try to struggle away. It is pointless. He is too strong. I see the bright round moon shining above me, creating huge shadows. I look quickly but I can't believe what I am seeing. It is old gravestones. I am in a graveyard. I push the man away with all my strength. He attempts to grab me again but I hold him off and run for my life.



I don't know where to run. I am in so much shock and disbelief about what is going to happen to me. I run quickly across the muddy ground, dodging the obstacles in my way. I am tired but I can't give up. I don't know how to get home or what the time is. I need to keep running. I need to escape from him. I need to get home.

Thomas Mulligan 10C

The Chase



My body is tired. I've been running for about 30 minutes. Every time I hear him, I sprint. Trying to catch my breath, I jump into the grass that has no colour in the dark sky. The moon is the only light in the sky, with clouds streaming over it. Its terrain is grass and trees.

I hear him. He has stopped. Maybe he can see me! I quickly put my head down, burying it in the grass. I hear him storm off but I don't dare to lift

my head up. Slowly I raise my head and look around. He's out of sight. Slowing I crouch around the dark long roads.

I jump up and bolt down the path. I'm thinking the path would be the most obvious place to hide. I move then into the grass terrain. Down I go to the river. Suddenly I slip on a rock and crash down and I let out a deep breath and a little cry. I sit down catching my breath. I'm

starting to feel better. Rocks slide behind me. A flash of anger and panic grips me. I race across the strong stream of water. I run, faster, faster and panting for breath. I see my exit. I slide through the metal fence, crouching down to avoid the razor wire above the fence and through the muck then throw myself over the wall.

Kieran Gallagher 10C



YEAR 14A Form Tutor: Mr C. McCann



Niall Burke
St Anne's PS



James Corrigan
Holy Child PS



Matthew Devlin
St Anne's PS



Pearce Donnelly
Holy Child PS



Conor Gaskin
Holy Trinity PS



Paul Johnston
St Oliver Plunkett PS



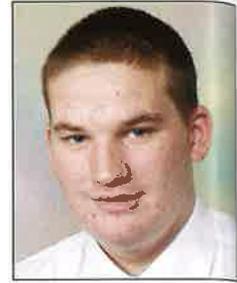
Patrick Lundy
Holy Trinity PS



Daire Maskey
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste



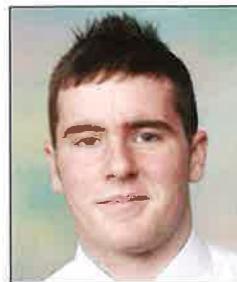
Niall McAlea
Meanscoil Feirste



Christopher McErlean
Holy trinity PS



Jonathan McGuinness
St Colman's PS



Ryan McKenna
St Aidan's PS



Darren McShane
St John the Baptist PS



Daryl Mullan
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste



Brendan Roberts
Scoil Na Fuisseige

YEAR 14B Form Tutor: Mr E. McToal



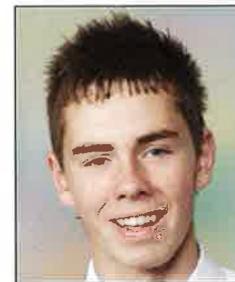
Michael Armstrong
St teresa's PS



James Cachart
Hazlewood Integrated PS



Thomas Cosgrove
St John the Baptist PS



Daniel Diamond
St Mark's PS



Aaron Duffy
St Kieran's PS



Ciaran Glennon
St Mark's PS



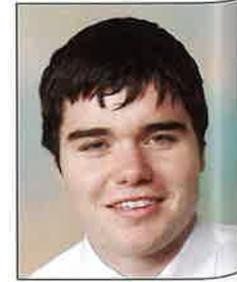
Aaron Kelly
Holy Cross PS



Ronan Lunney
St Anne's PS



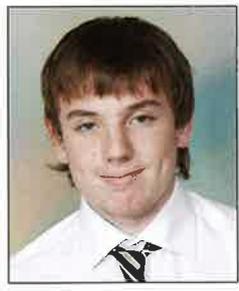
Matthew McArdle
St John the Baptist PS



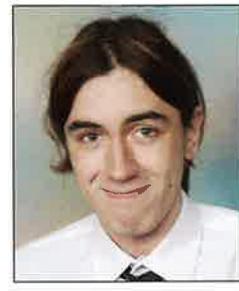
David McGarrity
Holy Child PS



Emmanuel McLaughlin
St Kevin's PS



Conor McVarnock
Ballymacward PS



Matthew Mulligan
St Anne's PS



Martin Ramsey
St Bride's PS

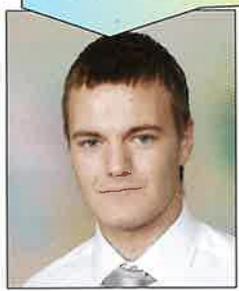


Conor Rocks
St Gall's PS

YEAR 14C Form Tutor: Mr G. Quigg



Joseph Sloan
St Anne's PS



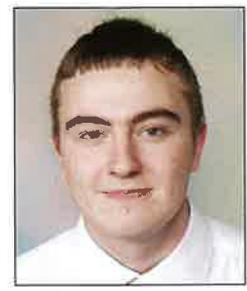
Niall Atkinson
Our Lady of Lourdes PS



Peter Casey
St Colman's PS



Stephen Clarke
St John the Baptist PS



Christopher Ferguson
St John the Baptist PS



Michael Griffen
St Teresa's PS



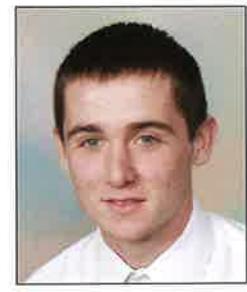
Lorcan Kerr
Scoil Na Fuisioige



Darren Lynass
St Malachy's PS



Sean McCafferty
St Mark's PS



Gerard McGettigan
St Teresa's PS

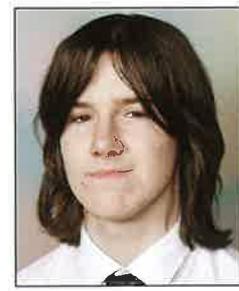
YEAR 14D Form Tutor: Mr M. Watson



Gary McLaughlin
Holy Trinity PS



Simon Ramsey
St Bride's PS



Calum Rooney
Holy Child PS



Joseph Smyth
Holy Child PS



Thomas Barnes
St Teresa's PS



Matthew Cassidy
St Teresa's PS



Mark Cousins
St Mark's PS



Manus Doherty
Holy trinity PS



Christopher Fitzpatrick
Good Shepherd PS



Niall Hamilton
St Luke's PS



Niall Larkin
Holy Family Boys' PS



Niall McGlone
St Teresa's PS



Niall McWilliams
Holy Child PS



Kevin Morgan
CBS Glen Road Secondary School



Mark O'Hara
St Bride's PS



Jonathan O'Reilly
St Kevin's PS



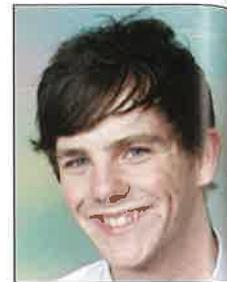
Gary Randall-O'Neill
St Kieran's PS



Conor Richmond
Scoil Na Fuisceige



Eamon Rooney
Good Shepherd PS



George Sloan
St Bride's PS

YEAR 14E Form Tutor: Dr A. Donaldson



Mark Small
St John the Baptist PS



Matthew Teeney
St Anne's PS



Ryan Bell
St Teresa's PS



Conor Cullen
St John the Baptist PS



Colum Curtis
St Mary's CBGS



Martin McDonald
St Bride's PS



Michael Fitzpatrick
St Anne's PS



Ciaran Herity
St Joseph's PS



Matthew Leonard
St Kevin's PS



Brendan Lundy
St John the Baptist PS



Ciaran Magee
St Mark's PS



Francis McCrudden
Holy Child PS



Kieran McFall
La Salle Secondary Sch.



Sean McGrath
St John the Baptist PS



Ryan McMahon
St John the Baptist PS



Colm Meir
St Bride's PS



Christopher Moyna
St Anne's PS



Jonathan Neeson
St Aloysius PS

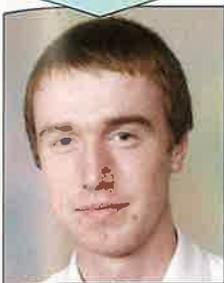


Patrick O'Hare
St Aidan's PS



Carl Reid
St Oliver Plunkett PS

YEAR 14F Form Tutor: Mr M. Robinson



Rory Best
St Anne's PS



Liam Boyce
St Joseph's PS (Slate St.)



Stephen Brennan
CBS Glen Road Secondary School



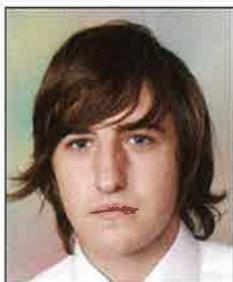
Ciaran Caldwell
Holy Child PS



Charles Clarke
St Oliver Plunkett PS



Cormac Copeland
Meanscoil Feirste



Conor Daykin
Good Shepherd PS



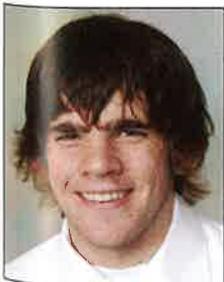
Paul Donnan
St Kieran's PS



Faeral Donnelly
St Joseph's PS, Crumlin



Paul Flack
St Anne's PS



Patrick Herron
St John the Baptist PS



Gerard Lewsley
St Anne's PS



Barry Maguire
St Anne's PS



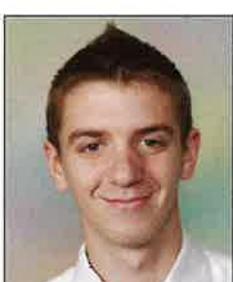
Niall McCrory
Ballymacward PS



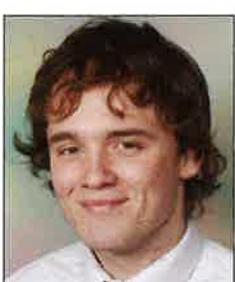
Conor McManus
St Anne's PS



Michael Mohan
St Anne's PS



Declan Reynolds
Crumlin High School



Paul Shields
St Luke's PS



Philip Bonner
St Teresa's PS



Conor Connolly
St John the Baptist PS

YEAR 14G Form Tutor: Mr D. Mahon



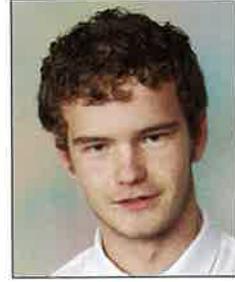
Daniel Cummings
St Anne's PS



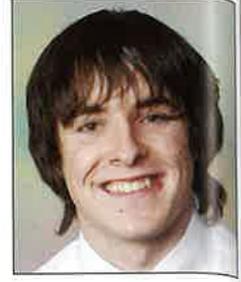
Anthony Donnelly
St John the Baptist PS



Graeme Flanagan
St John the Baptist PS



Stephen Hesketh
St Oliver Plunkett PS



Ryan Kielt
St Colman's PS



Paul Lewsley
St Teresa's PS



Ronan Maguire
Holy Child PS



Paul McCrory
Holy Child PS



Paul McGreevy
St Teresa's PS



Bryan McPolin
St Joseph's PS, Lisburn



Mark O'Neill
St Kevin's PS



Matthew Rice
St Teresa's PS



John Slack
St Teresa's PS

YEAR 14H Form Tutor: Mr M. Greene

Front Row (l-r):
Conor Richmond,
Brendan Lundy,
Conor Daykin.

Middle Row (l-r):
Jonathan O'Reilly,
Christopher Moyna,
Francis McCrudden.

Back Row (l-r)
Kieran McFall,
George Sloan,
Cormac Copeland,
Liam Boyce.

Absent:
Mark Small.



Year 14 Autographs, Class of '09





Dignitaries at the opening of the convention.

From L-R, St. Mary's C.B.G.S. career officer Cathy Moore, Principal of St. Mary's C.B.G.S. Jim Sheerin, Lord Mayor of Belfast Tom Hartley, Guest speaker Paul Clarke, U.T.V. and Principal of C.B.S. secondary school, Tom Armstrong.

West Belfast Area Learning Community Careers Convention 2009

St. Mary's hosted the largest ever careers and jobs convention for schools in West Belfast on Monday 2nd February, when over 1300 year 12 pupils passed through our doors from 9.30 to 3.30pm.

The all-day convention was then open to the public from 3.30 to 4.30pm to allow parents and other community members to avail of the careers advice.

Pupils from ten different post-primary schools came together for the event, organised by the West Belfast Area Learning Community (WBALC), which featured fifty

exhibitors in two separate halls with presentations from speakers in nine different disciplines.

Paul Clark from UTV, a past pupil of St. Mary's, opened the event and among the visiting dignitaries was the Lord Mayor, Tom Hartley.

The convention which will be hosted by a different school each year, is designed to give year 12 pupils and members of the community the chance to investigate a wide range of career areas and discuss employment opportunities with employers, representatives from professional

and training organisations and advisers from further and higher education.

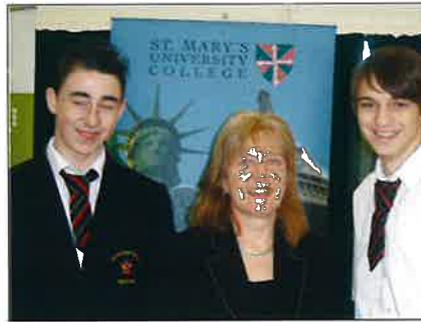
Attendance from our own year 12 pupils was very high and many of the boys found the experience very helpful in making decisions about choices at 'A' Level and for future careers.

The school was honoured to host the inaugural event which was a public display of the partnership and collaboration that has been developed strongly within West Belfast schools and which was a great success.

West Belfast Area Learning Community

Careers Convention

February 2nd 2009



A Year of careers.....

Our careers adviser Miss Moore commenced work in August 2008 and would like to share a "Year of careers" with you.

First of all I would like to introduce myself. I qualified as a careers adviser in 2005 after a year of postgraduate study in Careers Guidance & Counselling at University of Ulster (UU) Magee. My own career path has been varied with a background in modern languages, teaching, customer service, sales and IT support! I spent 2005-2008 working as a careers adviser in Northern Regional College (formerly East Antrim Institute) which has given me a wealth and breadth of professional experience with students and trainees of all ages, nationalities and academic levels. St Mary's CBGS has been very proactive in employing a fulltime careers adviser who can concentrate on the careers education and guidance needs of its students on a daily basis. As a member of both the Institute of Careers Guidance (ICG) and the Northern Ireland Schools & Colleges Careers Association (NISCA) I can liaise with other careers professionals from all sectors in Northern Ireland to ensure that any advice and guidance that I provide is accurate and up to date and that St Mary's CBGS students are receiving the best possible careers programme. I also represent NISCA on the ICG Careers Education committee in England, ensuring that all N.I. careers teachers have a voice in UK careers research and policies.

August

I started working in the school in August 2008. When GCSE and AS/A2 Level results came out it was all hands on deck! Mr Woods and Mrs Tohill interviewed lots of students and I was on hand afterwards to help boys make decisions and outline all options open to them.

September

Year 14 students were registered with and guided through the UCAS process and they continued their university research by attending local university Open Days. Mr Heaney and I brought approximately 95 boys to the Jordanstown campus of UU on 4th September. Over 100 students spent the morning of 12th September researching opportunities at Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and some of these students took the opportunity to visit the Methodist College Higher Education Convention that afternoon. Friday 19th September saw 11 Year 14 students attend the St Mary's University College Information Day where tours and talks gave an insight into Teacher Training and Liberal Arts degrees.



From the 29th September I began preparation with Year 13 students on their work shadowing programme.

October

From the beginning of October the Careers Service from the Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) worked with Year 12 students on a one-to-one basis to discuss choices at the age of sixteen. Year 12 students had the opportunity to have a careers interview every Monday until the middle of May 2009. The N.I. Careers Service play a vital role in post primary schools in N.I., providing focused careers guidance to Year 12 students making important decisions at the end of the year.

On 21st October Year 13 students took part in a day long Learning Skills workshop with Sentinus to prepare them for the rigours of A Level!

November

From 4th November onwards careers teachers from the West Belfast Area Learning Community (WBALC) began meeting to organise a careers convention for Year 12 students in our school. We also used these meetings to share information about careers provision in the nine area schools.

On 10th November the school were lucky to receive a talk from an NHS Pathologist about her daily work and career path.

On 18th November the President of the ICG (Richard Longson) made a flying visit to St Mary's CBGS to look at the role of a careers adviser in N.I. For some time in England and the Republic of Ireland, secondary schools have employed a full time careers adviser so Mr Longson was keen to see how this could work in N.I. schools.

On the 21st and 22nd November NISCA held its annual conference in the Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick. This is a valuable event for all careers teachers and practitioners in N.I. to meet each-other and receive training and

information on current careers issues.

Year 13 students participated in their work experience programme from 24th until 26th November. 143 Year 13 students spent 3 days shadowing a professional in a career area relevant to their interests. 50 of these students had already received a careers interview to clarify their careers interests and to ensure that they got the utmost benefit from the 3 day programme. The careers department visited many of these students on their placements and employers were complimentary about our students' behaviour and enthusiasm.

December

On Tuesday 2nd December QUB provided an Engineering information event in the ER Lecture Theatre for Year 12, 13 and 14 Maths and Science students. Representatives from all of the university's Engineering departments delivered interesting presentations and answered questions about Electrical, Chemical, Mechanical, Aeronautical and Civil Engineering.

January

Although senior students undertook modular examinations in January a number of them were still working on their UCAS applications. As the UCAS deadline is 15th January these students were cutting time very fine!

28th January - Mrs Gillespie and I accompanied Year 13 students to the QUB School of Management Information Day.

I also attended the launch of the Financial Service Skills Council (FSSC) in N.I. on the same day. The FSSC are one of 25 Sector Skills Council set up throughout the UK to promote careers in all of the industries. They were careful to point out that although the financial sector has been hit hard by the recession that there will be a surplus of jobs available in a few years' time, therefore students should be encouraged to look at the career opportunities within finance.

February

Monday 2nd February - the first WBALC Careers Convention was hosted in our assembly hall, canteen and classrooms. There were 50 exhibitors spread through the two halls and 10 classrooms accommodating guest speakers in the areas of Financial Services, Construction, ICT, Engineering, Tourism and Hospitality, Music, Media, Health and Social Care, Entrepreneurship and British Telecom. Approximately 1300 Year 12 students from the 10 West Belfast Post Primary schools were transported to the event on a tight schedule. This was the first of many events to be organised and promoted by the WBALC. The Lord Mayor and Paul Clark from UTV gave introductory speeches and many photographs were taken by the Andersonstown News, the Belfast Education and Library Board and of course by our own two intrepid reporters, Mrs Tohill and Mrs Jennings! Our school had taken an exceptional closure day for this event but our own Year 12, 13 and 14 students attended the afternoon session and found that the information and advice offered there was invaluable. Radio Ulster broadcasted a brief programme that evening on the convention and the Andersonstown News published a review of the event a week later. Our Year 12 students completed anonymous questionnaires about the convention and results will be used to inform the organisation of future careers conventions. However, overall 81% of St Mary's students said that they would recommend this convention to a friend!

A week after the WBALC convention, Sentinus were back in St Mary's to deliver a Career Planning workshop for all of year 10 students.

20th February - I brought four Year 13 students to Methodist College's annual Law Conference.

February is also a time when Year 14

Mr Paul Clarke, UTV and Mr Tom Hartley, Lord Mayor of Belfast with pupils representing schools in West Belfast at the careers convention in St Mary's.





students receive offers from university. I took an assembly for students to understand more about this part of the UCAS process and to explain how student finance works for higher education.

March

From the beginning of March until the end of April I organised university talks for Year 13 students from popular UK universities, UU, QUB and St Mary's University College. We also hosted a talk from Belfast Metropolitan College to Year 12 and Year 14 students during this period. It never hurts to have a back up plan and it is important that all students are aware of all the choices open to them at school leaving age.

Year 10 students were treated to a Career Choices production by the Drama company CragRats in our assembly hall and worked through career planning booklets and information sessions on GCSE options.

Year 12 students increased their trips to the Careers Room, many receiving careers interviews and were guided through both Sixth Form Options and Post Sixteen Options.

12th March - all Year 13 students attended the 2009 UCAS Convention in the King's Hall with Mr Woods and careers teachers. Many used this opportunity to have their questions answered about university courses and to gather more information on Higher Education.

During March we held our annual Options evenings for parents of Year 10 and Year 12 students.

13th March - a group of Year 12 students to attend a QUB Computer Games Design event. Maths students were treated to an interactive programme of Gaming courses and careers.

27th March - I took six Year 13 students to the Methodist College Medical Symposium. This is a huge annual event full of would-be medics from all schools in N.I.

At this time I also brought Student Finance N.I. in to talk to our year 14 students about grants, loans and bursaries for university and college life.

April

23rd April - 13 Year 12, 13 and 14 students who were interested in Accountancy were brought to careers presentations by the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Year 13 and 14 students were also brought to a Liberal Arts Information Session at St Mary's University College.

May

The beginning of May saw the last minute rush for Year 14 students to have after-school plans and back-up plans before they finished classes at St Mary's CBGS. I attended the Leavers' Mass for the first time and somehow still managed to dispense careers advice over sausage rolls straight after the Mass!

June.....

I am still available in the Careers Room for any student who requires careers information, advice or guidance and have already seen a number of our Year 12, 13 and 14 students who are officially on Study Leave. I will work throughout June, July and August to update our Careers Library, plan further careers education programmes and meet local employers and training organisations who could help our school.

Next year...

We hope to provide more intensive careers education to Year 10, 12, 13 and 14 students. I aim to provide focused careers talks from professionals in areas such as Law, Accountancy, Engineering, Sciences and Construction. These will take place during lunch times or after school hours and I would strongly encourage students of any age to make the most of these opportunities. I will plan another careers convention in partnership with St Dominic's High School, a smaller affair than this year's, concentrating on the careers within Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

We will also host a new information evening for parents of Year 14 students on 29th September 2009. This event will provide comprehensive information and advice about Post 18 choices, UCAS and the university

pathways. Parents can contact me during the school week by telephone or email but this particular evening is an opportunity to find out what Post 18 and university choices are all about!

Cathy Moore

cmoore619@stmarys.belfast.ni.sch.uk



French Department

Year 8 Connected Learning Project "Who Am I?"

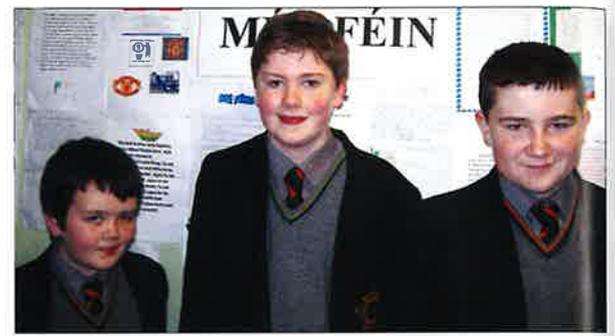
All year eight pupils recently took part in a Connected Learning Project across several Humanities subjects. In Languages classes, they answered the question "Who Am I?" by writing about themselves in the language studied. Pupils wrote a profile of themselves in French, Irish or Spanish. In French, their description was called "Moi-même", in Irish it was "Mé féin" and in Spanish it was "Yo mismo". The pupils gave personal information about themselves, including their name, age, birthday, where they live, their nationality, how many brothers and sisters they have and their likes and dislikes. Some pupils used ICT in the presentation of their projects while other pupils

illustrated the description with a photo of themselves. Students of History produced a roadmap showing their personal chronology, which is the story of their life so far. It demonstrates who they were when they arrived in St. Mary's at the beginning of year eight. In Geography, pupils used map skills that they had been taught to produce a sketch map showing their journey to school. On this map, they had to include some personal information such as places that are important to them and one thing that they would like to change about their map. Pictured below are students from 8A and 8D with some work produced for the display. Well done Year 8!

Miss I. Lawless



Colm Crothers, Peter Keough, Aidan Lunney and Connor Ferris 8A with the French display for their class.



Gerard McCaffrey, Peter Roberts and David Flanagan 8A with the year 8 Irish work.

French Film reviews: 'Les Choristes'

My film review of 'Les Choristes' by Gerard McCaffrey 8A

'Les Choristes' is a film about a music teacher called Clément Mathieu who has no other option but to go and teach in a French school called "Fond de L'étang".

It is an orphanage and a school for difficult children, but these children are not just difficult, they are the greatest nightmare Clément Mathieu has ever seen!

However, Mathieu had a different opinion of these pupils when he heard them sing a song they had made up about him. But why sing about him? His attitude was, sing about something worthwhile instead!

Mathieu decides to start a choir in the school, which becomes very successful. The choir had done well and had changed the school. Luckily, the children received fewer beatings.

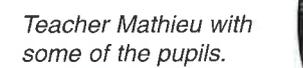
Although this is a film mostly about a good teacher, there are a few nasty characters. The nasty people in the film were the principal Mr. Rachin (an all-round evil person) and the new pupil called Mondain. He was an incredibly troublesome boy who was expelled from the school and decided to burn it down! This was a really enjoyable film. I liked watching it because it was very good and an added bonus was that it was free!



Scenes of unruly behaviour in the film.



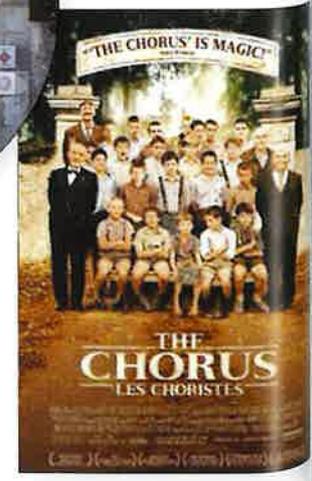
The Headmaster decides on a punishment.



Teacher Mathieu with some of the pupils.



The orphanage where the film is set.



The chorus.

French film review By Conall Fitzsimons 8A

On Monday, the 22nd of December, we watched a French film called "Les Choristes". It is about a school supervisor called Mathieu who goes to teach in a school for badly behaved boys. When he arrives at the school, the boys seem impossible to control. However, he soon discovers that some of the boys have good voices and he starts a school choir with the pupils in his class. I would recommend this film very much because it is funny and extremely exciting. My favourite part of the film is when Mathieu creates the choir. In the film, there are a few not so nice characters, like Mondain (who set fire to the school) and, of course, the Headmaster of the school who is evil! Overall, I can see why this film was a big hit in France and I really liked it.



My best friend

Jeudi, neuf avril 2009 à 9.10

The 2006 French hit comedy " Mon meilleur ami " (My best friend) was screened in the ER Lecture Theatre on Thursday 9th April 2009. All French classes from years 8 and 9 were invited to attend.

mon meilleur ami.

Catherine refuses to believe that her ruthless business partner, the unlikeable François has a best friend, so she challenges him to find a best friend by the end of the month. Desperate to find someone to pose as his best mate, François enlists the services of a talkative taxi driver to play the part.

For the next ten days, his life is a popularity contest . . .



Call to Arms

The boat trip is good, the action is great,
By the time you read this you will choose your fate
Stop playing with your spinning hoops,
And join our brave fighting troops.

If you're on the farm in your tractor,
Then get up on your feet, you've got the war factor
If you're on a seat, resting your feet,
Get up out of the house, and join the fleet.

A gun in your hand, and a helmet on your head
If you want to kill them then get out of bed
So come, run along, join the fight
Let the enemy feel our bite.

Conor Loughran 10E





Opportunity Europe Fair



On Wednesday 22nd October, 15 pupils from 10C visited the Opportunity Europe Fair at St. George's Market. There were stalls representing many European countries, giving out free pens, rulers and similar items essential for a respectable pencil case. Our boys sensibly took full advantage of this and generously requested extra supplies for their classmates who were not able to go.

The food stalls were kept busy too, with St. Mary's boys grazing their way round European cuisine, including paella and crepes. Some seemed very interested in the area of human rights, claiming that being 'grounded' at home and having to do homework contravened their right to freedom. Hmm... The boys' behaviour was excellent and as always they were a credit to the school.

Mrs. Jane McEvoy Head of Spanish



St. Mary's boys ready to learn about Europe.

Some pupils from 10C sample the foreign cuisine



Le marché de Noël

When I visited the Continental Christmas market at the City Hall in Belfast on Monday with my French class, I did lots of enjoyable things. We took a tour of the market, which is similar to the famous Christmas markets in Strasbourg in the east of France. We were offered free samples from the market traders and I tried kangaroo, ostrich, deer and wild boar. We also tasted Dutch pancakes, which were really tasty. We met a Persian trader who sold fair-trade products, like nuts and dried fruit. We spent some time chatting to the owner of the French sweet shop and it was a good opportunity to hear some French when we picked lots of free French sweets. That was the best part of the tour! I enjoyed the trip as I learned about other cultures throughout the world. I think I enjoyed the French stalls the most as the chocolate-covered waffles were great. C'était délicieux! J'adore le français!!

Daniel Cosgrove 11 Eré de Noël



Miss Lawless and the year 11 pupils with some of the French market traders.



France baguette.



French breakfast on the European Day of Languages

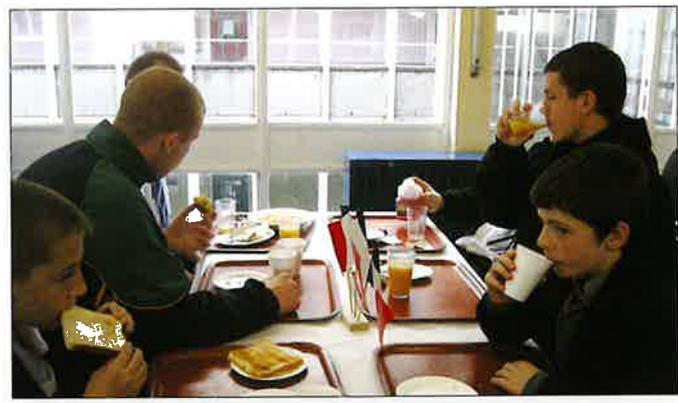
A continental French breakfast which included hot chocolate, croissants and pain au chocolats was served in the school canteen on Friday 26th September 2008. It was enjoyed by both pupils and teachers alike.



One pupil munches quietly on his pain au chocolat and sips his hot chocolate away from the buzz.



Mr Quigg enjoys a pain au chocolat and a quiet read!



Others tuck in straight away.

European Day of Languages Quiz

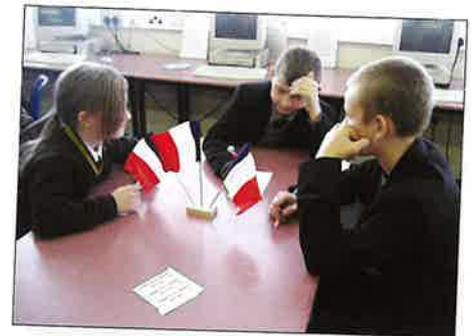
St. Mary's hosted a European Quiz in the school library with pupils from St. Louise's. The winners were Marisa Muckian and Billie Mills from St. Louise's and Peter Lynch (9A) from St. Mary's. Well done! The day was a great success, great craic and seems to have acquired the status of an annual event!



The winners with Mr. Greene.



The St. Mary's French 'Euro Quiz' team.



'No problem to us - we've got it sussed'.

G.C.S.E. IRISH PRESENTATIONS

Comrádaí

Tá Caolán Ó Coisneacháin ar cheann de na cairde is a bhí agam ariamh. Tá sé ceithre bliana déag d'aois. Tá a shúile gorm agus tá a chuid gruaige donn. Bíim i mo shuí in aice leis i gcuid mhór ranganna, an Ghaeilge ina measc. Tá muid mór le chéile mar tá sé greannmhar, agus tá cuid mhór cosúlachtaí eadrainn. Imrímid peil agus iománaíocht leis an chlub chéanna darbh ainm Cairdinéal Uí Dhónaill. Bhí sé ag freastal ar bhunscoil lán-Ghaelach agus bíonn sé ag labhairt Gaeilge sa teach an t-am ar fad mar a dhéanaim féin, lena dheartháireacha agus lena dheirfiúr. As Doire dá mháthair ó dhúchas agus is as Béal Feirste dá athair. Tá a sheanmháthair ina cónaí faoin tuath taobh amuigh de Lios na gCearrbhach. Tá sí abalta Gaeilge a labhairt freisin.

Is breá liom féin agus Caolán bheith ag léamh. Léigh muid na leabhair Harry Potter agus na leabhair Eragon, Eldast agus Brisingr. Sa scoil bíim féin, Caolán agus ár gcairde ag imirt iománaíochta ar scoil ag am loin gach lá. Bíonn sé ag imirt mar chosantóir nó chúl báire. Is maith leis bheith ag snámh freisin. Tá súil agam nuair a bhíonn mé féin agus Caolán níos sine go rachaidh muid go Páirc an Chrócaigh agus tá rún againn beirt cuairt a thabhairt ar Páirc na gCeilteach in Albain. Téim féin agus Caolán lenár gcairde chuig an phictiúrlann nó chuig an linn snámha gach deireadh seachtaine. Sílim go bhfuil mé féin agus Caolán cairdiúil go dtí seo mar is duine cinéalta agus réchúiseach é. Bíonn sé ann dom in am an ghátair agus bímse féin ann dó.
Tómas Ó Ciaráin 10E

Laethanta Saoire - Sa Bhaile nó Thar Sáile?

Is breá liom an samhradh. Is é an rud is fearr faoi, go mbíonn fáil le dul thar sáile. Is í an Bhulgáir an áit a dtéann mo theaghlach ann go minic.

Chuaigh mé ansin don chéad uair a trí nó a ceathair de bhlianta ó shin. Chuaigh mé trí huair ina dhiaidh sin. Bíonn sé iontach te sa samhradh ach millteanach fuar sa gheimhreadh. Bíonn na daoine ansin iontach deas agus iontach cairdiúil. Tá muid mór le daoine ansin go fóill. Sa Bhulgáir, tá a lán rudaí le déanamh. Anuraidh, d'imir mé mionghal, peil agus

Four boys presented the following pieces of oral work for their G.C.S.E. examination this year.

They were, **Tomás Ó Ciaráin 10E, Caolán Ó Coisneacháin 10E, Curtis Ó Maoláin 10E and Ruairí Wilson 10E.**

eitpheil, agus chuaigh muid ag snámh go rialta fosta. Tá an bia den chéad scoth agus bíonn na freastalaithe iontach gárach fosta. Is breá liom an Bhulgáir agus tá a lán cuimhní maithe agam uirthi. Ní thig liom fanacht go dtí go rachaidh mé ar ais arís.

Is áit iontach í an Bhulgáir, ach, ar a dóigh féin, is áit iontach í Dún na nGall fosta! Tá teach againn ansin agus tá sé measartha fairsing. Ar an ábhar sin, thig liom mo chairde a thabhairt anonn ó am go céile. Tháinig mo cholceathair ó Shasana anuraidh agus bhí craic galánta againn. Chuaigh muid chuig an trá go minic agus léim muid amach san fharrage ó na carraigeacha. Bhí lá amháin ann nuair a dhreap muid Sliabh an Earagail. Bhí achan duine tuirseach traochta ach amháin mé féin agus bhí mé ag iarraidh peil a imirt ar an bharr! Is é an buntaiste is mó atá ag Dún na nGall go bhfuil sé saor in aisce dúinn taisteal agus fanacht ann agus tá eolas maith againn ar achan chearn den áit. Ach ar ndóigh thig leat bheith ag brath ar an aimsir sa Bhulgáir, agus ní rud maith í an fheartainn agus tú ar saoire.

Caolán Ó Coisneacháin 10E

Cá bhfaighfeadh an scoláire an t-am don obair scoile?

Curtis is ainm do magus is déagóir mé. Is maith liom bheith aclaí ach is maith liom m'inchinn a úsáid fosta. Tá réimse leathan suimeanna agus caitheamh aimsire agam ach tá mé ag dul insint duit faoi na cinn is tabhachtaí dom.

Imrím sacar le Cumann Oilibhéar Pluincéid. Imrím áit ar bith ar an pháirc ach is fearr liom an chosaint. Scóráil mé cúl sa tseachtain roimh an Nollaig. Imrímid ar pháirceanna Lenadoon agus ar pháirceanna eile nach bhfuil i mBéal Feirste. Téimid go dtí na háiteanna seo i mionbhus. Bíonn treanail againn achan Satharn. Éamann an t-ainm atá ar ár mbainisteoir - ní maith le mórán de na gasúraí a bhainisteoireacht.

Ar ndóigh tá rudaí eile ar an domhan seo nach ndéantar ar pháirc féir iad. Tá suim agam sa leitheoireacht mar shampla. Is é 'The Keeper' a scríobh Mal Feet an leabhar is fearr liom. Is

leabhar peile é suite sa Bhreasail faoi chúl báire darbh ainm El Gato atá in agallamh le tuairisceoir nuachtáin. Cuireann Paul Faustine ceisteanna air faoin dóigh ar éirigh chomh maith sin leis sa spórt. Is grá liom leabhar le scéalta gnímh nó faoi eachtraí móra.

Caithim seal fada go leor gach seachtain ag imirt cluichí ríomhaire ar mo Xbox - Is é an consól is fearr ar an domhain gan amhras. Imrímid an-chuid cluichí éagsúla ach is é 'Call of Duty' an ceann is fearr liom amach is amach mar is féidir leat bheith ag imirt in éadan do chairde nuair atá siad ina suí ina dtithe féin!

Níl a fhios agam cad é mar a bhíonn an t-am agam an obair baile a chríochnú agus an méid ama a chaithim ar na himeachtaí éagsúla seo atá mar chaitheamh aimsire agam.
Curtis Ó Maoláin 10E

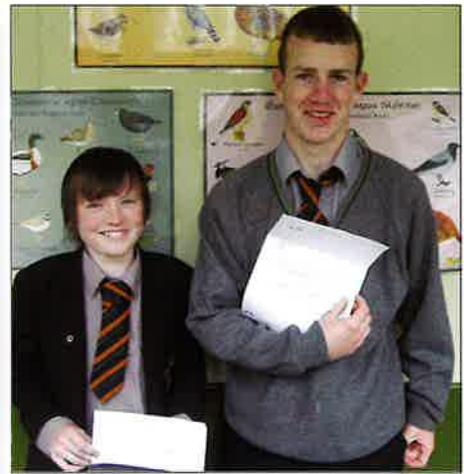
Scoil gan Spórt, Scoil gan Anam

Tá mise ag imirt spóirt, go háirithe an pheil Ghaelach ó bhí mé trí bliana d'aois. Tá grá agam don spórt. Imrím i lár na páirce le mo chumann Naomh Gall agus leis an scoil. Tá mé ag imirt le Naomh Gall le ceithre bliana anuas agus taitníonn sé go mór liom. Anuraidh bhí muid i gcluiche ceannais na hAontraine in éadan Naomh Eoin. Scóráil mise cúl ó sheacht slat is tríocha. Chaill muid an cluiche ach bhí bród an domhain orm mar dúirt gach duine gur imir mé go maith.

Is imreoir saoir mé chomh maith. Sílim gur tosaigh mé ag imirt sacar nuair a tosaigh mé ag siúl. Bhí mé i gcónaí á imirt sa sráid le mo chairde ach níor imir mé le foireann cheart go dtí go raibh mé deich mbliana d'aois. Glendowan an t-ainm a bhí ar an fhoireann. Thosaigh mé ar chúl ach in amanna thug mé ruaig chun tosaigh. Bhí orm éirí ar a hocht a chlog ar maidin Dé Sathairn le himirt ach i ndiaidh bliain amháin, d'éirigh mé as. Ach ab é na spóirt ar scoil, níl a fhios agam cad é a dhéanfainn. Imrím peil Ghaelach, iománaíocht agus sacar leis an scoil. Bhain mé corn amháin in achan cheann acu. Ach i mbliana tá muid ag dul corn Uladh a bhaint leis an sacar agus leis an iománaíocht. Bhain muid é anuraidh leis an iománaíocht. Bhí an cluiche ceannais ar



*Gael Linn Quiz Prizewinners from L - R,
Donal Quinn, Luke Kelly, Mark Napier and Chris Donegan, all 10E.*



*Gaeltacht Scholarship winners, 2009
L - Brendan Loughran R - Ruairí Wilson.*

fheabhas.

Tá an t-ádh orm go bhfuil suim agam sa spórt mar is fadhb í i measc na n-óg nach bhfuil siad aclaí go leor. Má bhíonn an corp sláintiúil

bíonn an inchinn sláintiúil agus cuidíonn sé leat obair na scoile a chríochnú. Sílim go gcaithfidh na daoine a bhfuil fadhb acu lena meachán éirí agus bheith sláintiúil. Tá súil agam go mbeidh post agam ina dtig liom bheith aclaí agus gan a

bheith i mo shuí an lá ar fad.

Ruairí Wilson 1

Gael Linn Public Speaking Competition 2009

This was the speech submitted by two year 12 pupils Donnchadh Fitzsimmons and Brendan Bradley.

The boys won their heat and qualified for the final in which they were beaten.

TABAIR '09

An Cuma leat faoi do Chruth?

A mholtóirí, a chomh-iomaitheoirí agus go háirithe a chailíní - tá mé anseo inniu le labhairt faoi rud a bhfuil an-suim agus an-duil agam ann - an corp.

Is aoibhinn liom bheith ag amharc ar choirp mná agus is ábhar spéise dom é na hathruithe is déanaí sna mainicíní ar chosan na gcat - tá na mná ag éirí níos raimhre arís - buíochas do Dhia.

Mar a dúirt Freud - is í an ollcheist í, agus ní bhfuair sé freagra riamh air - is é sin, cad é an rud a ba mhaith leis na mná? Ní thig le bean amharc sa scáthán agus a rá léi féin go bhfuil sí sásta lena corp. Tá cíocha níos mó agus tóin níos lú de dhíth ar bhean amháin, agus a mhalairt ar fad ar bhean eile.

Tá cuid mhór acu ag cur scairte ar an mhaín-lia plaisteach! Róbheag, rómhór, níl deireadh leis an amaidí seo.

Ní ábhar grinn é seo ar chor ar bith ar ndóigh. Agus ní bhaineann sé le cailíní amháin, má bhím macánta faoi. Tá a fhios agam go bhfuil sé an-deacair le bheith sásta sa lá atá inniu leis na híomhanna dathúla uilig os ár gcomhair in achan áit. Na daoine álainne: Tom Cruise agus Katie Holmes nó David agus Victoria Beckham ar an teilifís gach uile lá. Ach, ar an saol seo tá daoine mar a bhíonn bróga - achan chruth is achan mhéid is achan dath.

"Is lia barúil ná duine" a deir an seanfhocal. Déarfaidh fear nó bean amháin go bhfuil blas ar an bheagán. Déarfaidh fear nó bean eile nach féidir a bharraíocht de rud maith a bheith agat.

Níl mise i gcoinne maisiúchán coirp - má iarrann sibh orm taispeánfaidh mé an tatú atá agam! Ach le bheith dáiríre faoi, tá fadhb mhór ann má tá cailíní chomh hóg le ceithre bliana déag á ndó go buan faoi shoilse le dath gréine a fháil, nó ag aois sé bliana déag ag dul faoi scian le cur le méid a gcíocha.

Cuireadh an cheist ar céad caoga déagóir i mBéal Feirste - an bhfuil sé ar intinn agat dúl faoi scian mhaisiúcháin am éigin amach anseo. Dúirt tríocha a hocht faoin chéad go raibh.

Is maith liom Barbie chomh maith le fear, ach dá mbeadh gach bean ar an domhan méadaithe le plaisteach nó gearrtha le scian go dtí go raibh sí cosúil leis an íomhá mí-nadúrtha sin bheadh an domhan seo fuar agus aonghnéitheach. Ná trácht ar théamh domhanda. Is é an fuarú domhanda seo a bhfuil eagla orm faoi.

Brandán Ó Brolcháin a scríobh
Donnchadh Mac Siomóin a labhair

A Year in St. Mary's as a Spanish Assistant

Beatriz Cuervo was our popular Spanish Language Assistant this year. Here she writes about the positive experience she had teaching the students at GCSE and A level.

Hacer un balance de un curso nunca es fácil, y menos cuando solo se dispone de unas pocas líneas y se tiene tanto que decir. No obstante, el hecho de que todos los comentarios inclinen la balanza hacia el mismo lado facilita mucho la tarea y, por suerte, yo no puedo más que pensar en todas las cosas positivas y los buenos recuerdos que me llevaré de Belfast. Llegué aquí, como muchos de mis compañeros auxiliares, sin saber muy bien dónde me metía, y acabé viviendo uno de los mejores años de mi vida, en cualquier aspecto que se pueda imaginar. Si pienso en lo puramente profesional o formativo, este año ha sido absolutamente enriquecedor,

desde la mejora indudable de mis conocimientos de inglés hasta el primer contacto que he tomado con el campo de la enseñanza de lenguas, un tema que siempre me ha interesado pero al que nunca había tenido la oportunidad de acercarme más que someramente. La gran diferencia (y desafío) ha sido que, hasta ahora, la lengua de estudio siempre había sido el inglés, no el español, y es increíble comprobar la dificultad que supone a veces enseñar la propia lengua a personas extranjeras, porque hay que ir mucho más allá de las palabras o estructuras, que no hacen más que encubrir todo un mundo de conceptual. Aun así, resulta tremendamente gratificante ver cómo poco a poco es posible hacerse entender y, en especial, ver el progreso de los alumnos cuando ellos mismos no son conscientes de todo lo que han avanzado. En mi caso, el alumnado de St. Mary's siempre

fue muy receptivo y las profesoras, tanto Jane McEvoy como Joanne Mervyn, también siempre, desde su cálida bienvenida hasta el último día, me prestaron el apoyo que necesité; todo ello facilitó sin duda mi tarea como auxiliar y no puedo menos que sentirme agradecida y esperar haber sabido corresponderles a todos. Aunque no he estado en la escuela más que un día a la semana, al cabo del año me doy cuenta de todo el tiempo que pasé en realidad con los alumnos, en especial con los chicos de Year 14, a los que (aunque a menudo les dijera que me traían de cabeza) en el fondo voy a echar de menos; después de todo, no solo compartimos clases (más o menos entretenidas) mientras intentaba ayudarlos a progresar en sus estudios, sino que también los he visto avanzar en una (pequeña) parte de su vida y, a su vez, ellos me ayudaron a mí

a acercarme a la juventud de Irlanda y comprenderla mejor. Aquí he tenido la oportunidad de conocer a un gran número de chicos, de diversas procedencias, con diversos intereses, con infinitas inquietudes, pero todos con el mismo contagioso entusiasmo que le da vida a Belfast y que la hace tan especial.

La mayoría de la gente se sorprendía al oír decir a una española que su tierra es parecida a Irlanda, pero es cierto que España también esconde algún rincón lleno del encanto del verde y la lluvia. En ocasiones casi me atrevería a decir que Galicia es más parecida a este país que a gran parte del resto de la península y quizás en parte por eso, y en parte por lo acogedor de sus gentes, yo siempre me he sentido como en casa.

Beatriz Cuervo López

Connected Learning Year 8

Yo Mismo ~ Who am I?

Year 8 Spanish pupils worked hard to produce these colourful posters to celebrate the Connected Learning theme of "Who am I?" in November 2008. They were able to use the Spanish they had learned since September to give information about themselves or a famous person. Well done! They were displayed in the school foyer from November 2008.



Connected learning, website, Yo Mismo



Spanish Department visit to Barcelona

Barcelona 17th - 21st April 2009
 The forty-eight pupils and six teachers who went on the school trip to Barcelona voted it a great success - even the 1.30 am start on an inclement Irish Friday morning did not dampen enthusiasm. We visited the world-famous Aquarium, Nou Camp and cheered on RCD Español at the Olympic Stadium. A stroll down the Ramblas on a sunny afternoon was another memorable occasion, although some purchases from street vendors had to be confiscated - don't worry, parents, nothing more sinister than extremely irritating, high-pitched whistles!

The guided tour of Barcelona allowed many to enjoy the magic of Gaudi's architecture, such as Parc Guell, La Sagrada Familia and Casa Batllo. Sadly, however, even Gaudi's brilliance paled into insignificance when faced with the wonders of Port Aventura.....

Many thanks to all the teachers who gave up part of their holidays to accompany the group - Miss J.Mervyn, Mrs M.Gibson, Mr D.Armstrong, Mr J.McGreevy and Mr S.Kelly.

A special thank you to Miss Maria Morris (Assistant Bursar) whose help with the financial arrangements was invaluable and much appreciated.

Mrs J.McEvoy

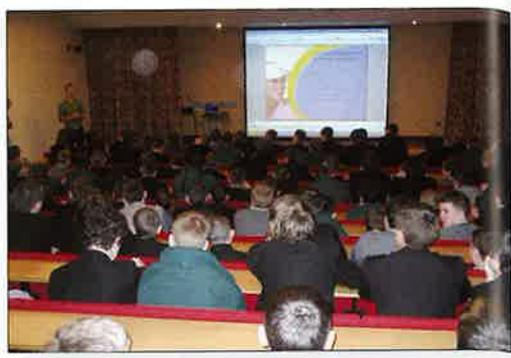




A Visit from QUB's Hispanic Department in March 20

Dr Isabel Torres from the Hispanic Dept at QUB, along with past pupil Eamon O'Neill, gave a Presentation to all our year 10, 11 and 12 pupils in the ERLT. Dr Torres spoke about the opportunities available with a qualification in Spanish and Eamon talked about some of his experiences during his year in Spain. There was very positive and enthusiastic feedback from their interesting and colourful presentation and St Mary's would like to thank Dr Torres and Eamon for so generously giving their time to encourage our pupils. Muchísimas gracias!

Dr Isabel Torres from the Hispanic Dept at QUB, along with past pupil Eamon O'Neill, deliver their lecture to Year 10, 11 and 12 pupils.



The Geography Department



Year 13 students withstand the elements on their Geography fieldwork trip to Murlough, Co. Down.



Geography Fieldwork

This year St. Mary's pupils have been involved in a wide range of fieldwork activities as always. This is a great opportunity for the pupils to get outside and see geography in action. It also allows pupils to test their skills in the field. Many thanks to all the pupils, staff and support staff who made each of

these trips a rewarding experience

Both the Senior pupils and Year 12 pupils have conducted a dune study in Murlough. The Year 12 pupils also visited Tryella Beach. Other Year 11 and Year 12 trips included a town study of Downpatrick and an investigation into the effects of counter-urbanisation on Crumlin, Co. Antrim.

The Junior school pupils in Year 10 visited Tayto castle in Tandragee as part of their investigation into industry and globalisation whilst the Year 8 pupils visited Colin Glen Forest Park to complete a river study. The Year 9 students were also kept busy with two school-based studies investigating the school's use of energy and conducting a micro-climate study.



Year 8 students in Colin Glen Forest Park.





Year 8 Student, Liam Jennings (8A) with his 100 million year old fossil which he found in Colin Glen Forest Park.

100 million Year Old Fossil Found!

On a recent trip to Colin Glen Forest Park with the school to conduct a river study, Year 8 pupil Liam Jennings discovered two ammonite fossils believed to be approximately 100 million years old. Ammonites are perhaps the most widely known fossil, possessing the typically ribbed spiral-form shell. These creatures lived in the seas from 240 to 65 million years ago, when they became extinct along with the dinosaurs. Ammonites belong to a group of predators known as cephalopods, which includes their living

relatives the octopus, squid, cuttlefish and nautilus.

Ammonites moved by jet propulsion, expelling water through a funnel-like opening to propel themselves in the opposite direction. They typically lived for two years, although some species survived beyond this and grew very large.

The fossils that Liam found would have formed part of a tropical sea bed which

has been shifted and reformed into its current position in Colin Glen over millions of years. The fossil shows us how the Glen's environment has fluctuated drastically through time. With the rise and fall of world sea levels and changes in climate, Liam's fossils are an indication of how this part of the world was once much warmer and drier than it is today.

Liam has been allowed to keep these fossils and he assures us that he will look after them for another 100 million years!

Geography Christmas Quiz

All pupils from Year 8-Year11 successfully took part in the annual Christmas quizzes hosted by the Geography Department. Three pupils were then selected to represent their class in the final stages of the quiz in each year group. As always, this is a hotly contested affair with bragging rights in Year 11 secured by Mr Watson's geography class. Many thanks to all the pupils and staff involved. This was an excellent way to finish another successful year.





A-LEVEL APPLIED SCIENCE

Applied Science was introduced in September 2009 for A-Level. It offers a balanced course covering biology, chemistry and physics. There are two portfolios and one examination in the first year of the subject. Unit 1 involves an industrial visit while Unit 3 involves five chemistry investigations. Unit 2 is a biology/physics examination. The subject may lead to any science course in University of Ulster with a few restrictions in Queen's University. The subject will allow pupils to study science in a variety of professions and industries. Careers include medical courses, environment and research science.

As part of the Unit 1, pupils visited Almac Pharmaceuticals, Craigavon as pupils are required to carry out an in depth survey of one local industry that uses science as part and parcel of its daily life. Initially they e-mailed a questionnaire to the company to allow them to prepare for the pupils' visit. Then on 19th February the pupils arrived at the very impressive headquarters of this global concern. In the grand surrounds of a large conference room, they were treated to a very professional



R.Mallon and D. Dalton



S. Mc Gann

power point presentation of how the company is structured and how it operates. Some of the key facts that they met were:

- 1968. Galen Pharmaceutical was founded by Sir Allen Maclay
- 2001. Sir Allen retires but is soon bored with retirement
- 2002. He founded Almac investing £320 million of his own personal wealth
- Almac has extensive facilities in NI and USA and partnerships with over 600 companies including market leaders like Smith-Kline French, Johnson & Johnson and Bayer.
- Employs over 2200 highly

- skilled people with nearly 1500 based in Craigavon
- Is actively recruiting for scientists even in this Global Credit Crunch.
- It takes 11 - 16 years and £1Billion to develop a new drug and since the Patent Protection only lasts 20 years this allows as little as 4 years to recoup the costs.

All in all, the talk and the visit to the laboratories was very productive and provided the pupils with all the data they needed to complete their portfolios. Asked to identify the highlights of the day one pupil listed his top three, in no particular order,

as a free yo-yo, tea and scones and the girls from Victoria College, that just happened to be there as well.

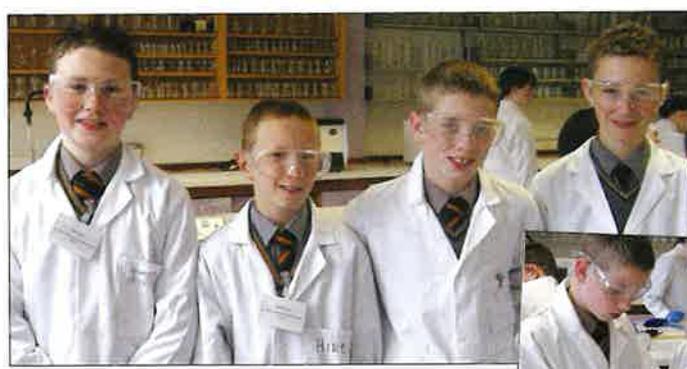


J. Mc Caffrey

Year 8 SALTERS' FESTIVAL OF CHEMISTRY

The Annual Chemistry competition was held in the University of Ulster, Coleraine on 19th May 2009. Twenty seven schools participated in two competitions - The Salter's' Challenge and the University Challenge. Pupils were also given a lecture on the Magic of Light.

Year 8 St. Mary's pupils who were highly commended included, Aidan Hamill, Michael Gorman, Gary McPolin and Patrick Golden. Well done to all!



Mission to Saturn

On the morning of the 19th February, 2009, we set off for the King's Hall. A group of very lucky year 10 students were going for a short lecture by Professor Carl Murray on the Cassini-Huygens project - a mission on which he is one of the leading astrophysicists. We arrived at the King's Hall and after a few short minutes we walked inside. We were greeted with an

atmosphere of mumbling anticipation and excitement.

The lecture was about the Cassini-Huygens mission, a probe that had been launched seven years ago to find out more about Saturn and its many moons. Prof. Murray introduced himself as being from Belfast and also as being a past pupil of St. Mary's.

He explained how he is one of a group of very few people who are responsible for receiving the data and processing the images from the probe. This is one of the most important jobs of the whole mission.

One of the things that interested me most was when he talked about how the probe travelled to Saturn, using plutonium to send it on its journey of millions of kilometres. When the lecture finished, he was awarded with a huge round of applause by the whole hall. Prof. Murray then answered some of our questions, for example:

'Can you run around Saturn's rings?' He explained that you could not as they are not solid but made of tiny grains of dust and rock.

The lecture had been organised to increase people's awareness of STEM subjects (i.e. Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and to show how working hard at these subjects can get you into some very interesting careers. Unfortunately, it was then announced that we had to go back to school, which was met with many complaints. The journey back was quick and so ended a very enjoyable and interesting morning.

Padraig Brady 10E



Left, Miss F. Ni Mhearain and Prof. C. Murray with boys at the conference.



Below left, the boys pose for a photo before returning to school.

Charitable work in St. Mary's

This year, the students of St. Mary's continued to support many charities with donations, fund raising, good deeds and time given freely. Many of our boys worked tirelessly in order to fill hampers for St. Vincent de Paul (S.V.P.) for which the whole school had been collecting food items in the weeks approaching Christmas. These hampers were then distributed by S.V.P. to needy families in the area. The boys also participated in a sponsored walk earlier in the year in order to raise funds for S.V.P.

In addition to this, all form classes made donations to the charity, Catholics Caring. Each class was given the name and age of a child

to buy for and their form teacher was then given the task of spending the money appropriately. As usual, there was a great effort throughout the year to raise money for our Zambia project which is on-going. Some of these events included a sponsored cycle by teachers, organised by Mr. Gormley, a sponsored leg wax by two male teachers from the R.E. department, namely Mr. Robinson and Dr. Donaldson, as well as many other events.

Thanks to everyone involved, pupils and teachers alike, especially Mrs. Farag in her work for S.V.P. and the R.E. Department, in particular, Dr. Donaldson.



Mrs. Farag, Mr. Sheerin and senior pupils from the S.V.P. society in St. Mary's with the Christmas hampers.



St. Mary's Grammar School: Catholics Caring

Catholics Caring was initiated over a quarter of a century ago by Cardinal Daly in an effort to raise awareness of social deprivation in the diocese while also providing practical help for those in need. This year St. Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School has joined the scheme. Each class was given the task of collecting money and choosing a gift for a local child- nominated by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The response from students, staff and parents has been overwhelming and will help bring a little festive cheer into many West Belfast homes this Christmas.



Pupils with the presents bought for children through 'Catholics Caring'.

The English Department



Story Competition

This is a picture of the successful storywinners in the story writing and poetry competition organised by the English department earlier in the year. Congratulations to the winners who are pictured here along with Principal Mr. Sheerin and Mrs. Hughes, English Dept.

The Journalism Club

In September 2008, St Mary's began teaching GCSE Journalism. From the start of the year, many budding journalists in St Mary's have had the opportunity to write about local issues and topics of interest that are relevant to them. The new Journalism Club has created a newsletter that will be written by the members. 'The Journal' will be sent home every term for pupils and parents to enjoy.



news team, for example Chief Editors, News and Sports Reporters, Photography Editors and Book Critics.

With Media Studies now becoming a newly available subject in the school, it looks likely that many pupils will be given the opportunity to learn new skills suitable for an exciting and growing industry. Also the school will be introducing a new Film Club which will encourage many pupils to review films and have the opportunity to write about films they enjoy.

The Journal consists of news stories, feature articles and sports news. There are many positions available within the



On the 5th May 2009, the feast day of Blessed Edmund Rice, Brother Mc Kenna, Mr. Gormley and myself journeyed to the distant counties of Kilkenny and Waterford accompanied by thirteen enthusiastic Year 8 pupils. Our initial destination was Callan, the birth place of Edmund Rice,



A Trip Down South to Callan, Waterford

the man ultimately responsible for establishing the long tradition of Christian Brothers schools throughout Ireland (and further a field). This tradition which is truly inspired by a preferential option for the poor and the holistic development of the human person is one that we in St. Mary's are not only proud of, but one that we are committed to actively promoting on a daily basis.

During our stop at Callan we got the opportunity to sample a piece of living history as we were taken on a brief tour which included a visit to the Rice family's home which has stood since on the same site since the late seventeenth century (1680s). The pupils also got the chance to reflect on how different and difficult life was growing up in Ireland at a time when Catholicism and Irish culture were outlawed by a brutal occupation and at a time when famine was rife. As our guide for the day Brother Michael Keane put it, "if you think life was hard for Edmund and his family and they were very wealthy, try to imagine how miserable and torturous life was for Ireland's poorest people."

After about two hours spent in Callan, which also included a viewing of the very famous Edmund Rice icon written by the modern Irish artist Desmond Kyne, we were on the road again, this time heading for Waterford, the city where Edmund established his first Christian Brothers school at Mount Sion in 1802. After we had eaten and finally checked in to a local hotel the pupils got the chance to let off some steam in the form of a very competitive football match on a pitch in the local park.

At 7.30 pm we assembled at the new church at Mount Sion for a Mass marking the feast of Blessed Edmund. Before Mass we were given a very warm welcome by the local Christian Brothers. After Mass

pupils and staff got the opportunity to relax before retiring to bed. Next morning we were all invited to breakfast at the Christian Brothers' monastery adjacent to the Church at Mount Sion. Afterwards, we were taken on a tour of the Edmund Rice Heritage Centre.



This was a very enjoyable and informative exercise. One exhibit had two busts: one which visualized Edmund as a man in his eighties and one as a man in his forties. These busts were created by a forensic pathologist who worked from the actual skull of Blessed Edmund. Other exhibits gave detailed accounts of the work carried out by the Christian Brothers throughout the world. One such exhibit was the fascinating story of "Black Johnny" who was a slave whom Edmund encountered one day as he was being whipped and verbally abused by his so called "master" on a ship which had recently docked at the Waterford quays. Edmund eventually persuaded his captor to release Johnny into his care where he remained until he was about eighteen before he was finally hired by the Brothers to maintain their grounds.

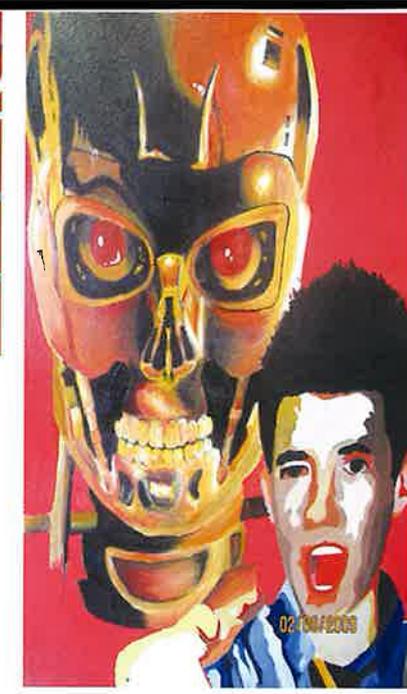


It would be fair to say that every one of us (pupils and teachers alike) fully enjoyed our trip to Callan and Waterford. This experience has undoubtedly given each pupil a deeper understanding of what it means to be a pupil in a Christian Brothers school.

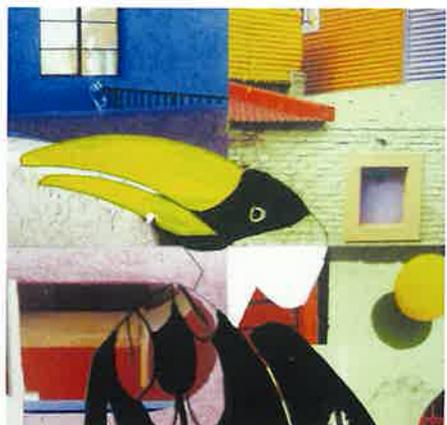


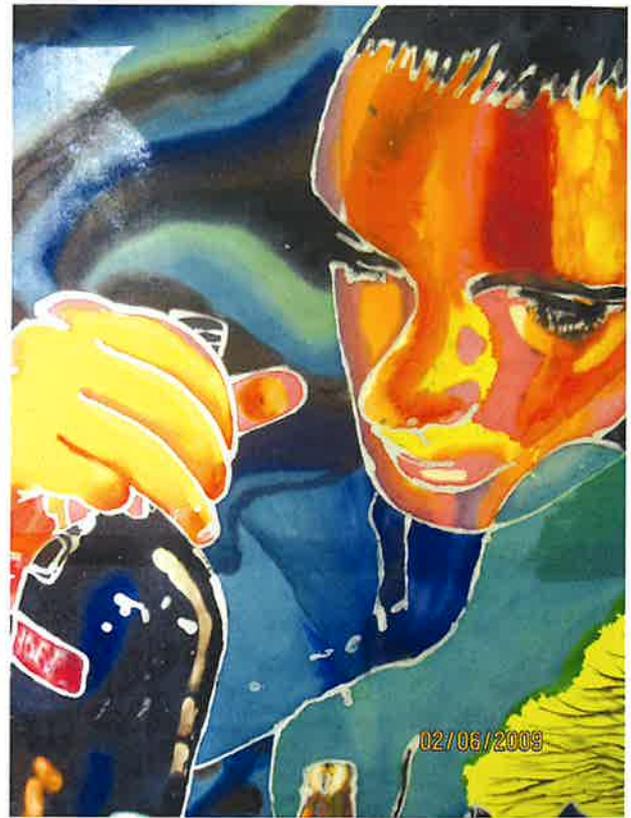
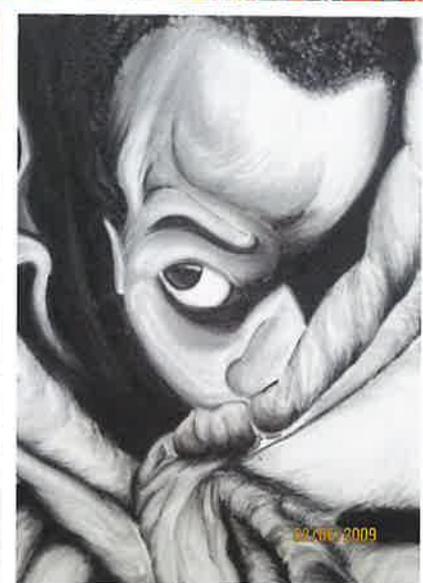
T Mc Caughey.





Art
Department
2008-2009







Year 12 Maths Challenge Award Winners pictured with Mr. G. O'Connor, Head of Mathematics. Left to Right - Jonathan Doyle, Michael Bingham, Ciaran Slavin, Thomas Morgan, John McGlone(all winners of Silver Certificates) and Jordan Fitzsimons winner of a Gold Award and a Certificate for Best in School.



Pictured with Mr. O'Connor are the winners of Bronze Awards in the Maths Challenge: Left to Right - John Curran, Conor Bannon, Chris Lennon, Ciaran Rice, Declan Scullion and Peter Forde.



Don't forget to wash your hands and put on your apron before you begin.
HAPPY HOME COOKING EVERYONE!

After 150 years of education in West Belfast and more than forty years of educating adolescent boys on this present site St. Mary's finally gave in and introduced Home-economics for all year eight boys in September 2008. The pupils arrived into class on September 1st full of excitement and enthusiasm and donned their new green St. Mary's aprons as easily as boys in previous years would have worn their new Gaelic jerseys. Before long they were using wooden spoons and balloon whisks as skilfully as they would a sliotar or a hurl.

Unfortunately the kitchen was still under construction in term 1, so we had to settle for cold cookery but the smoothies, fruit-salads and sandwiches were enough to attract attention and hoards of senior boys were soon gathering outside the door to pick up any left-overs when the classes finished. By January the kitchen was finished to the highest standard, with state of the art fridges, freezers, ovens, hobs and micro-waves ready for the year eight pupils to begin the full curriculum and their first real cooking lessons.

The Open Nights in January gave the pupils an opportunity to showcase their new kitchen, the year eight syllabus and their newly-acquired skills to staff, pupils and the wider public of prospective parents. On the two nights twelve year eight pupils ran what can only be described as an open-buffet serving: vegetable soup, potato skins, fruit smoothies, fruit-salad, cherry scones, chocolate crepes and a selection of crunchy vegetables with creamy dips. It was one of the highlights of the event with so many parents remarking on the competence,

confidence, etiquette and skill of our young pupils. Also in late January the "Livestock and Meat Commission" visited the school and hosted three days of cookery demonstrations in the home-economics kitchen to encourage pupils to cook more at home. It was a great success for everyone involved and we hope to repeat it again next year. By June 2009 all 175 year eights had been given the opportunity to prepare, cook and serve food and equally important, clear up afterwards. They also had lessons in food-

hygiene, healthy eating, roles in the family and the importance of breakfast every day.

The pupils really enjoyed the whole experience and will now, hopefully be able to rustle up the odd chocolate pancake, chicken fajita or even a tasty apple crumble for Sunday lunch. So, watch out mum! You may find your kitchen being taken over soon. What a pity the senior boys have missed out on the opportunity to develop these life-skills. They were clearly born too early!

If you would like to try some of the year eight or nine recipes for yourself, please visit the school website and download the recipe of your choice from those above:

Year 8

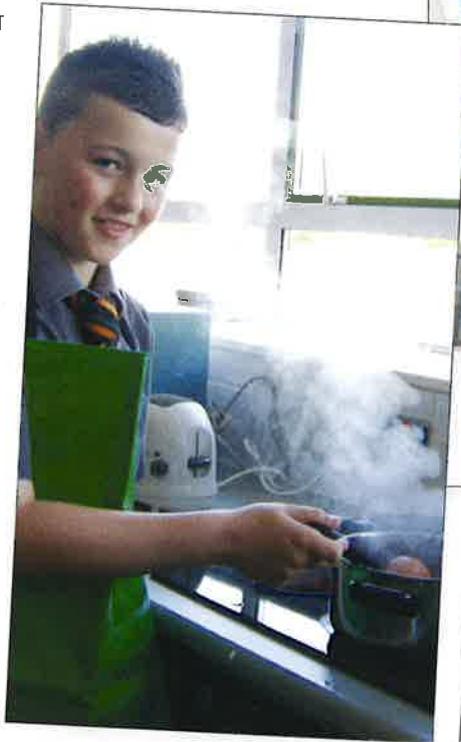
FRUIT SMOOTHIE
FRUIT-SALAD
CHICKEN FAJITAS

CHERRY SCONES
CHOCOLATE PANCAKES
BREAKFAST CHOICES

Year 9

CHOCOLATE CAKE
ONE POT PASTA
SAUSAGE BEAN AND POTATO PIE
CHICKEN WITH PASTA CARBONARA
AND BROCCOLI

BANANA LOAF
MEDITERRANEAN MEAT BALLS
PASTA BAKE
VEGETARIAN RICE CAKES



Recipe:

Apple Crumble:

Ingredients:

- 1kg fresh Bramley cooking apples
- 300g fine granulated sugar
- 150g margarine
- 300g flour
- 100g bread crumbs or biscuit crumbs
- 4 tablespoons water
- Pinch of cloves or cinnamon if you wish to add spice to your crumble

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 220oC
2. Wash, peel, core and chop apples into small pieces and place in an oven proof deep dish or bowl
3. Add 200g sugar and mix together
4. Add the spice at this stage if you enjoy the flavours
5. Add 4 tablespoons of cold water
6. Make up the crumble in a large mixing bowl. Place flour, crumbs and 100g sugar and margarine and work together with your hands to make a sticky crumbly mixture with no margarine pieces left visible in the bowl. This would take 5-10 mins working.
7. Spread the crumb topping over the apple mixture and place in the oven at 200 oC for 20 mins approx or until the topping is completely golden brown and apples are cooked through.
8. Serve hot or cold with custard or fresh cream.





The Junior Choir



The brass section

Spring Concert

The annual Spring concert this year was a great success. As always, a wide variety of groups performed a huge repertoire of music in many different styles; Johnny Cash, Coldplay and Stravinsky to name but a few.

Thanks to all the pupils who worked hard throughout the year at early morning and lunchtime rehearsals. It certainly was worthwhile! The evening was well attended by parents, staff and governors.

Thanks to all our staff who helped out on the night and a special thanks to our highly entertaining compere and Vice Principal, Mr. Fergus Woods.



The string section



The grand finale

The school band



The senior traditional group

The orchestra



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proposed site layout.



proposed site plan 1:2000



St Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School - Proposed development of a 3G Indoor Sports Arena and Ancillary Facilities

St Mary's has an ambitious vision for its future as an educational campus in West Belfast. An innovative and integral part of that long-term vision is a large-scale capital development plan, including the creation of 3G Indoor Sports Arena and ancillary facilities on campus.

The indoor training pitch will be a floodlit, third generation facility that will facilitate a diverse range of sports. Four new changing rooms and a minor hall will be situated within the new complex. The new facilities will also be complemented by car parking spaces and high level security around the site. St Mary's will also aim to appoint a Facility Development Manager, based at the site, to look after all aspects of community development, sport development, business development and administration of the new facilities. The Facility Development Manager will be further complemented by a bank of coaches to develop and deliver the sports development plan.

We believe these new facilities will provide an integrated

approach to the promotion of social inclusion, increase community relations, and address the needs of the school and local community. We hope to involve our partner Primary schools and other local clubs as there is a clear and identifiable shortage of this type of facility in the immediate area.

There are very few of these in existence but they are becoming more common. A couple of examples are UUJ and Lavey GAC. The idea would be for the school and its primary school partners to have full use from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday with the community partners then using the facility from 5pm to 11pm Monday to Friday and

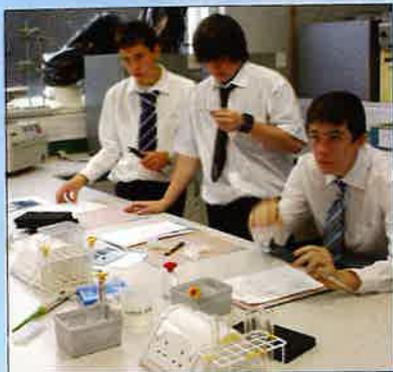
3 G Indoor Sports Arena and ancillary Facilities

all day Saturday and Sunday. The indoor arena will be the size of three large gymnasiums and will be divided into three to maximise its use. If you are

involved in a club or society that feel they could use the facility please contact the school.



Diary of the year in photos



SEPTEMBER: Year 14 Students take part in a Biochemistry workshop in Q.U.B.



OCTOBER: Outdoor pursuits course for Mentors and their Year 8 charges.



OCTOBER: Outdoor pursuits course for Mentors and their Year 8 charges.



NOVEMBER: Year 14 student, Ryan Mc Kenna receives a Business Studies award. Teacher is Mrs. C. Gillespie, Head of Dept.



DECEMBER: A selection of projects on Blessed Edmund Rice.



DECEMBER: Year 11 boys visit the continental market at Christmas time.

JANUARY:

Open Night, Music.



Open Night, English department.

Open Night, HE department.



Open Night, Science department.



Open Night, P.E. department.



MARCH: QUB gaming conference and games club.

FEBRUARY: WBALC Careers convention.

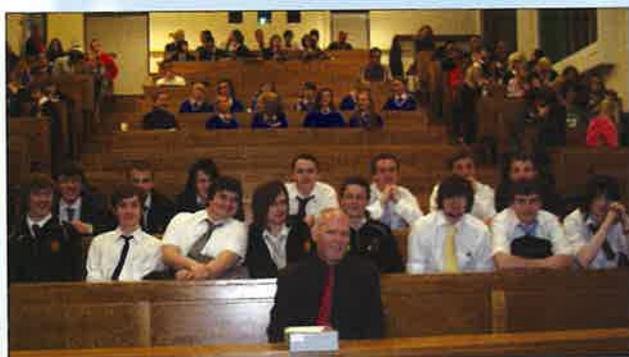


The St. Mary's teachers team who were runners up in the Association of Science (ASE) quiz for schools. They were narrowly beaten by the Methody 'A' team.





APRIL:
Year 9 Belfast Cup, St. Mary's C.B.G.S. v St. Malachy's College.



MAY:
Year 8 Literacy prizegiving

Mr. Woods with his Year 13 Psychology class at APT Psychology conference at Q.U.B.



SVP Dinner.
Year 8 pupils from the HE dept. helped to cook a meal for members of St. Mary's Saint Vincent de Paul Society.



Ms J. Mervyn presents senior boys with their Edmund Rice awards.



Elsvine Padayattil 12C, receives his record of achievements from his form teacher, Mr. A. Smyth.

JUNE:



The year 10 basketball team with their coach.

Leaver's Mass

This occasion culminates the school experience in St. Mary's for the Year 14 group. It is a sad but also a joyful event in which this group of boys get a final chance to spend some meaningful time with their peers in the company of their teachers and parents. Afterwards, refreshments are served and everyone mingles together.

PROJECT ZAMBIA

Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. For in truth I tell you, when you did it to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.

[Matthew 25: 31 - 40]

These were the words Father Martin Magill read in the Gospel at the mass and commissioning rite in the school oratory on 1st April 2009 as our immersion group prepared to go to Zambia on behalf of the whole school community. The months of preparation, often led by the Year 14 students (Ryan Bell, George Sloan, Aaron Kelly and Connor McManus) who had been on immersion the previous year and the magnificent response of the entire school community in terms of fundraising, support and encouragement were now complete. It was time for our young men to go to Africa. Mr. Sheerin and many of the teachers, staff and students, as well as parents joined together to celebrate Eucharist together before departure. In particular it was touching when parents placed the crucifix around their son's neck, a reminder that we were going to the missions. After saying our farewells to friends and family we set off from Belfast City Airport to London Heathrow where we boarded the BA flight to Lusaka. Some 11 hours later we arrived in Zambia - bleary eyed but excited - to be met by Caoimhe (my daughter) and Cecilia (one of the Project Zambia workers in Zambia). After getting our accommodation sorted out in Ku'Omboka Backpackers (a basic but safe and clean hostel in Lusaka) we set off to visit the immersion sites in which we would be working alongside our host communities for the next two weeks.

All of our group, including those of us who have been in the margins many times, were shocked and angered to see

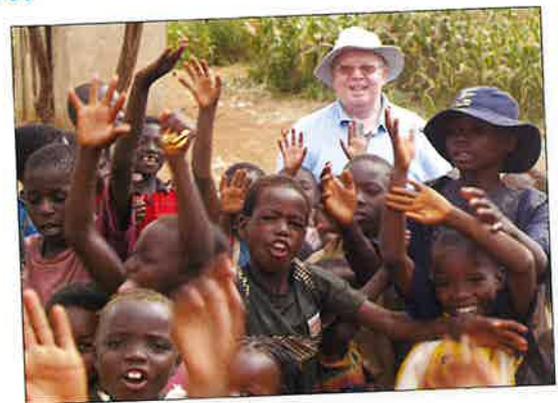
the conditions in the slums, townships and villages. It is a crime and a sin that so many people are forced to live in such degrading and inhuman conditions while others live in opulence and wealth. Let us ponder on some statistics:

- The three hundred richest people in the world own more of the world's wealth than half of humanity.
- We spend 30 times more on military expenditure than on international development.
- One million tons of food is thrown out each year in Europe alone.
- In the US they spend 5 times more on cosmetics than on helping the world's poor.
- 30,000 African children will die today of the single biggest avoidable cause of death - poverty

At the same time we can take great pride in our school community which has worked so hard along with the people there to make a difference. And the difference is truly uplifting and inspiring. Every immersion site is now a hive of activity and development as the people work to improve the conditions of the old, the sick and the children. It would be impossible to list in full the successes which Project Zambia has achieved over the short time St. Mary's has been involved in immersion or, indeed, a full list of the activities we engaged with while on immersion over Easter. My own personal highlights include the following:



Above, a great welcome!



Below, Brother Mc Kenna with a host of children.



Darren Lynass, year 14, enjoying his banana picking!



Art teacher, Miss McGonagle doing some painting of a different kind!



- Watching our lads preparing and handing over the food to the old grandparents who are looking after their orphaned children as part of the feeding programme which Project Zambia supports.
- Seeing the transformation 'auntie Linda' (as the children called Ms. McGonagle) and her team of painters made in St. Catherine's School.
- 'Mr. Mark' (as Mr. Robinson was called by everyone in Mapepe village) and 'Mr. Joe' (McBurney) handing over a new house we funded and helped to build for an old widow who had nowhere to live.
- Brother McKenna continually surrounded by a host of children everywhere he went.
- Darren Lynass, Ciaran Haddon and Stephen O'Hagan harvesting 3 tons of bananas which will be sold to support the Orphanage in Kabwata.
- The young men from St. Mary's working in the piggery, the chicken run and the agricultural project.
- All of our lads playing with the children in Mapepe and Misisi.
- The liturgy in Mapepe on Easter Sunday.

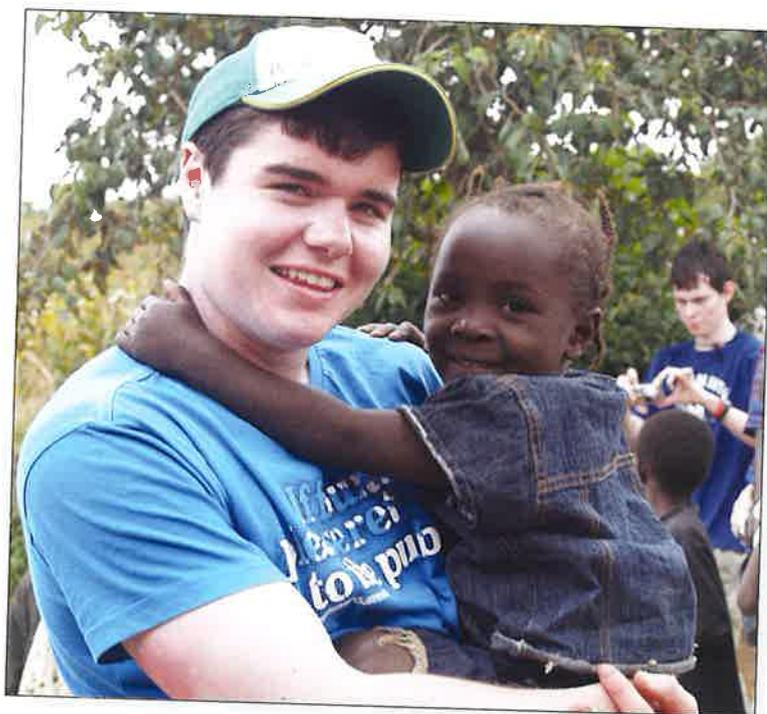
Perhaps the most important thing we have given to the people of Mapepe, Misisi, Kabwata and St. Lawrence's is hope, love and friendship. They realise that they are no longer forgotten and abandoned people. In return we too receive the love, friendship and prayers of the host communities. On behalf of all of those who went on behalf of St. Mary's CBGS on immersion and our host communities I would like to thank most sincerely all the members of our school community who have made such a difference to the lives of literally thousands of people whose

sole crime is to have been born into poverty. It was Brother McKenna who pointed out in our final reflection that we did indeed 'feed the hungry, care for the sick and vulnerable, give water to those who are thirsty and clothe the naked.' I think that we can indeed say that St. Mary's CBGS is very much in the Edmund Rice tradition. Zikomo!

Aidan Donaldson (Dr.)



Mass in Mapepe on Easter Sunday.



David McGarrity taking care of one of the local children in the village.



Nicholas Tracey, year 13, joins in the fun.

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

A reflection from Jim Sheerin



It was a great honour for me in September 2008 to succeed headmasters whom I continue to hold in very high regard. My links to the Christian Brothers go back to 1962 when I did not pass my 11+ and was transferred to Harding Street Secondary School off North Queen Street where I was encouraged by the Brothers to develop my potential. I moved to Barrack Street to sit my O-Levels in 1968 and completed my A-Levels in 1970 here on our Glen Road site. Subsequently I began my teaching career in St Mary's in September 1975. I have been taught by and worked alongside many Christian Brothers over those 47 years. I think I am well qualified to offer a personal observation on their influence over that period.

The last Christian Brother on our staff left us 17 years ago in 1992 but we are fortunate to have the voluntary services of

two retired brothers – Brother Carlin as a Governor and Gaelic football consultant and Brother McKenna who runs the Breakfast Club and immerses himself in many aspects of our school community including this year's trip to Zambia

The Brothers brought extraordinary commitment, passion and dedication to their work. They were deeply aspirational for their pupils and took enormous pride in their accomplishments. Thousands of boys in the past 50 years alone in Belfast and beyond are indebted to the Brothers who worked in St Mary's. These pupils were enabled to enter professions where they currently perform with great distinction. Many were given real life chances particularly before the emergence of an equality agenda in our society.

To this day, past pupils meet a classmate and can share

wonderful memories of the enjoyment and challenge of being taught by Brothers and the wonderful experience of extra-curricular involvement especially in Gaelic football and Hurling squads. The Brothers of course encouraged all forms of extra-curricular work from debating to water-polo to Young Enterprise to Film Clubs etc. I regularly open my e-mails in the morning to find messages of warmth and appreciation from the great diaspora of past pupils for the commitment of Brothers in and out of the classroom.

I am also aware of the support the Brothers in Airfield House offered to the greater West Belfast population throughout the period of the Troubles. In many instances, financial support was offered without hesitation. More importantly, the Brothers ensured that the school was an oasis of stability and reassurance at all times and ensured particular care

especially for boys suffering from violent family bereavements.

So, on behalf of all the pupils and the parents advantaged and advanced over the past 50 years I thank and recognise the Brothers for their devoted services in this hopefully complete yet hopelessly inadequate roll of honour. Sadly, of course, many of these men are no longer with us:

'The Boot' Brother McGreevy (Mathematics Genius #1)	Brother Dwyer
'The Real' Brother Gleason	Charlie Gallagher
Tim Monaghan	Brother Hynes
'Stoneface' O'Neill	JM Murphy
Brother Ennis	'Harry' Nolan
Brother Connolly	'Titch' Mallon
'Spike' O'Mahoney	Leo Kelly
Brother McKenna	Brother Mullan
Brother Lynam (Maths Genius #2)	Brother Beausang
Brother Carlin	Brother Dennis Gleeson
Brother Walshe	Brother Nannery
Brother Joe McDonald	D.B. McCrohan
Brother Garvey	Brother Heffernan
Brother Jennings	Brother Dargan
Brother O'Reilly	Brother Begley
Brother Colohan	Brother Carroll

The Ski Trip



Axamer Lizum 2009

In the early hours of the morning of 7th February a group of very sleepy St. Mary's students gathered at the International Airport at the start of what would be an eventful week of skiing.

We arrived in Axamer Lizum to the deepest snow we had encountered in many years of skiing. We were in the middle of the Austrian Alps, snow on all sides. The Hotel Olympia was at the top of a steep icy hill and proved a challenge to all of us dragging our suitcases. We shared the hotel with four other schools from Europe and one from Nigeria.

The snow conditions were ideal and allowed some of our advanced skiers to show off their skills almost immediately. Some afternoons, as the snow fell, visibility was limited and the skiing

became more challenging but no problem for our St. Mary's men! By mid-week most groups were skiing the long Olympic run from the restaurant at the top of the mountain.

The slopes around the hotel were perfect for bum-boarding and many pupils spent their free time hurtling through the snow at high speed! Michael even perfected his parking skills.

We took part in a number of après-ski activities, the most memorable being the toboggan run. Under the expert guidance of Herbert our rep, we set off down the mountain again at high speed led off by that intrepid dare devil Mr. Watson! In fact Ms. Curran and Miss Convery were screaming loud enough to start an avalanche! The intense snowballing helped calm them down. Thanks boys!

Speaking of Miss Convery we had to leave

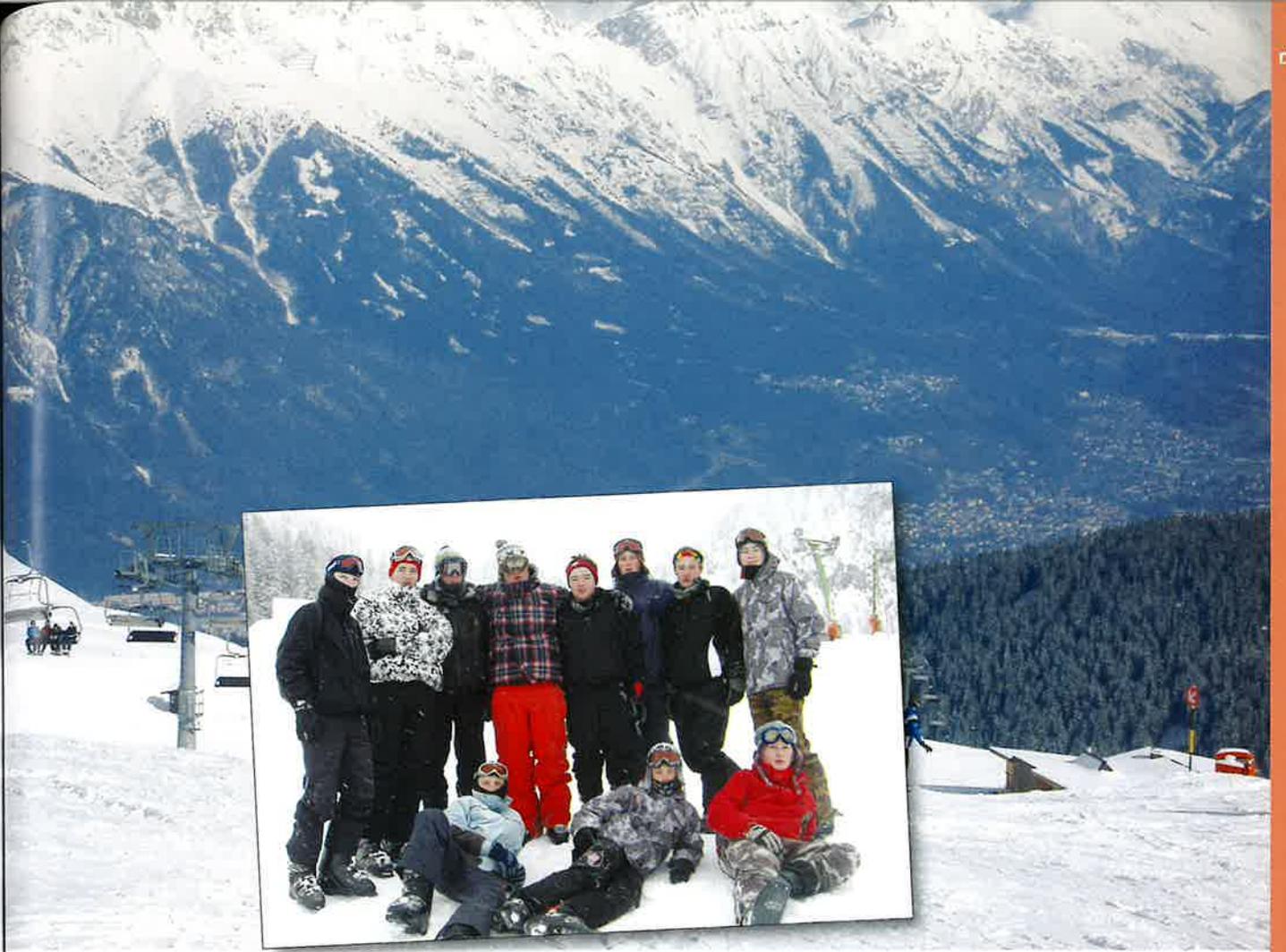
her behind in Austria due to a broken leg but I am glad to report that she made it home in one piece and we wish her a speedy recovery so that she is back on the slopes next year.

St. Mary's boys were competitive both on and off the slopes. There were a number of international "Dance offs." John and Eamonn led an enthusiastic St. Mary's group. Is there no end to their talents?

Preparations are already underway for next year and we are looking forward to it with enthusiasm!

We wish the following senior students, both long-serving and new recruits, every success in their future endeavours Michael Armstrong; Lorcan Kerr; Niall Larkin; Anthony Donnelly; Ryan Kielt and Paul McGreevy. We thank them for their generous help, good company and craic.





Ski Trip '09



Waterpolo

Having won two major water polo titles this year and having lost or drawn only one game throughout the whole season, 2008-09 has been a very successful year for St. Mary's water polo.

St. Mary's are the current holders of both the U-16 & U-19 Ulster titles.

This is the ninth consecutive year that St. Mary's have retained the U-19 Ulster title and the Canada Trophy and this

is testament to the consistent dedication and hard work of all the pupils and staff involved over that period of time. This year team captain Graeme Flanagan and Irish Internationals Matthew Hanna, Daniel Moore and Cathal Fitzpatrick were the key to guiding the team to success. Their experience, sportsmanship and their desire to win is a credit to all the pupils and staff involved in St. Mary's water polo.

In April St. Mary's U-16 water polo team also won their Ulster Title retaining the Bro Murphy Shield for the fourth year in a row. St. Mary's completed their campaign undefeated beating a rejuvenated St. Malachy's 8-4 in their final game.

However St. Mary's missed out on completing a grand slam of Irish and Ulster titles with no All Ireland competitions running this year due to circumstances out of the school's control. These competitions are due to take place however in October of 2009.

The U-14 team under the stewardship of Ronan Mc Clean had a great run in their competition finishing top the Ulster schools' league, but unfortunately lost the title on goal difference to St. Malachy's. St. Mary's finished with a goal difference of + 5, but St. Malachy's finished on + 6. BRA also finished the league with the same point's difference but with a goal difference of + 4.

The U-14 league has proved to be an excellent competition and the future of Ulster schools' polo looks encouraging. The addition of Ronan Mc Clean to the coaching staff in St. Mary's has proved to be a great success and an excellent investment by the school. Ronan has been well received by both the pupils and staff and we look forward to his help in the 2009-2010 season.



Training for the water polo team takes place in the school pool every Thursday at 3.30 - 4.30. All pupils are welcome.

The team coaches Mark Watson and Ronan Mc Clean would like to thank the St. Mary's players and parents for all their help and support. Well done boys and good luck next year!

The St. Mary's U-19 team included:

Graeme Flanagan (C)	Year 14
Matthew Hanna	Year 13
Stephen Durkan	Year 13
Daniel Moore	Year 13
Cathal Fitzpatrick	Year 12
Ciaran Mc Keever	Year 12
Connell Morgan	Year 11
Tiernan Monaghan	Year 10
James Mc Comish	Year 10

The St. Mary's U-16 team included:

Stephen Durkan (C)	Year 13
Daniel Moore	Year 13
Cathal Fitzpatrick	Year 12
Ciaran Mc Keever	Year 12
Connell Morgan	Year 11
Ruairi Fisher	Year 11
Cormac Flannary	Year 11
Tiernan Monaghan	Year 10
James Mc Comish	Year 10
Paul Moran	Year 9
Brendan Loughran	Year 9
Nathan Hanna	Year 8



U-19 team captain, Graeme Flanagan receives the Canada Trophy.

The St. Mary's U-19 waterpolo team who retained their U-19 Ulster title.

Basketball



St. Mary's U16 Ulster Runners Up Team



St. Mary's Basketball 2009

St. Mary's basketball continues to strive as a successful sport thanks to Head Coach Marc Mulholland and co-ordinator Miss Doherty. There have been a number of strong developments in the basketball programme allowing the boys to fully develop their skills both as individuals and as a team.

The year started with a very successful campaign by the under 19 boys and under 16 boys battling for places in the Ulster Schools' League Finals. With Rory Best captaining the side, in his final year at the school, it was seen by some senior players as their last chance to play together as a group of players and more importantly, friends. After an early winning streak in the first half of the under 19 season, the competition became a little too much as the under 19s narrowly missed out on a place in the Ulster Schools' League Finals day held in the University of Ulster Jordanstown.

The Under 16 boys progressed to the finals of the Ulster Schools' League Finals beating off a strong St. Patrick's Ballymena in the Semi Finals with a well executed, full court press, lead by Ulster Under 16 Squad -selected, Donal Brady. The stage was set for a showdown against Ulidia College and it was the St. Mary's boys who took the game to

Ulidia. Ulidia, overwhelmed by the defensive pressure, made some errors in the opening stages but from the second half it was a tight game with end to end baskets from both sides. Rising star, Year 10 pupil David Durkan, put on an impressive performance as he battled against players two years his senior. However the fairytale ending was not to happen as Ulidia's size dominated on the boards in the closing minutes of the game regardless of Donal Brady's last ditch three point effort in the dying seconds of the game. Aidan Lynagh, Marc Jordan and Robert Darling showed great leadership and will hopefully continue to play for the U19 team next year. However, being the runners up put St. Mary's U16 team into a playoff place for the All Ireland U16s in Dublin for the second year running.



Action shots of the match between St. Mary's and NewryHighschool, Nov. '08

This was a great start to the academic year for St. Mary's in 2008/9 and the New Year was to bring more medals for the school's Year 10 team. Led by some of the youngest talent Irish Basketball has to offer in David Durkan, Peter Ferguson (Selected for Ulster Academy),

James Lynn, Matt Kerr, and young Liam Mc Larnon (Selected for Irish Academy), the St. Mary's boys went undefeated in their Ulster League to be crowned Ulster Champions earning them entry for the All-Ireland Schools League Play Offs held in Donegal in April 2009.

St. Mary's Year 10 team with team coach Mark Mulholland.
BACK: Caolan Quinn , Michael Breen, Liam McCabe, Matthew Kerr, Michael McCabe, David Durkan (captain)
FRONT: David McGoldrick, Aidan Fitzpatrick, John McDaniel, Matthew Rainey, James Lynn





A photo of the St. Mary's and Belfast Bulldogs teams with coaches and Miss Doherty.

St. Mary's Basketball 2009

This was a fantastic achievement for the boys as they had past all expectations of Coach Marc Mulholland who was preparing them for their step up into Under-16 basketball in the 2009/10 season to come. Coach Mulholland quotes "These boys are a credit to themselves, the school, and their families. They have understood the importance of playing as a team at such a critical time in their development as players, and most importantly of all they have fun playing basketball; this is essential. Their commitment to playing basketball for their school has been outstanding and I have no doubt that these boys will develop into future stars in Irish Schools' Basketball."

seen in Northern Ireland to date'. This was a great compliment for St. Mary's and one that we will hope to uphold in the following years of basketball here at St. Mary's Grammar School.

Andersontown Basketball Club offered a six week coaching course with all local boys' schools. A team of 15 players was selected to take part. This was a great experience and all teams took part in a one day competition in Andersontown Leisure Centre. Thanks to coaches Chris Magee and Toni Kane. Rathmore won the tournament. Declan Murphy was one of the Most Valuable Players chosen.

The year culminated in a selection of All-Stars selected by Coach Mulholland to play in a match against a much older Full Court Peace Belfast Bulldogs side, a team comprised of Under 19 Dunmurry High school and St. Colm's Twinbrook who are travelling to America to play against High School Teams in the summer of 2009. The St. Mary's All Star's mainly made up of four 3rd years and four Under 16's where too much for the under 19 Belfast Bulldog side beating them by a massive twenty points. The final score was St. Mary's 50, Bulldogs 30. The Full Court Peace Coach Colin Powers and Manager TJ Reynolds later commented on the St. Mary's players as 'a team of some of the most advanced high school players we have



Action shots of the St. Mary's yr 8 team during the tournament which they won in Andersontown leisure centre in March 2009.



The year 8 team, winners of their tournament in Andersontown leisure centre. March 2009



Donal Brady, Yr 11 and Adam O'Hare, Yr 13 who will travel to Italy in August to represent Ulster. Donal Brady, Yr 11 and Adam O'Hare, Yr 13 who will travel to Italy in August to represent Ulster.



St. Mary's v Newry U-16 November 24th, 2008



St. Mary's v Ballymena, U-16 Ulster semi-finals, December 2nd 2008



St. Mary's U-16 team who were runners-up in the Ulster schools' league final in their match against Ulidia.



St. Mary's U-16 basketball team, runners-up in the Ulster final.

The extent of soccer success last year (2008), with two Northern Ireland championship wins (U16 & U18) and an U13 Belfast Cup triumph left a challenging legacy to follow up in 2009. Hopes of the historic U16 NI Cup double from 2007/2008 becoming a treble bit the dust with an early exit from the competition by the fifth years. The seniors fared better, with an excellent run in the U18 NI Cup. It seemed like another double was imminent, but a narrow 1-0 defeat in the semis left St Mary's emerging soccer credentials in doubt, with all the pressure piled on the junior teams.

UNDER 13

Mr Lavery's brand new Year 9 team was an unknown quantity and questions still lingered about whether sensitive drama teachers have any rightful place in the tough world of soccer. There were early wins in the Belfast Cup competition, but they were unconvincing and against average opposition. As the season progressed though, it became clear that a great young team was developing. Impressive defeats over established soccer stalwarts like Our Lady and St Patrick's and Corpus Christi ended any doubts. St Malachy's, our opponents for the final, however, had stormed through the competition and were favourites to lift the trophy.

Final: Under 13 Belfast District Cup

St. Mary's 3-2 St. Malachy's

Mr Lavery is always under pressure, it seems. In this case, the pressure stemmed from the fact that three trophies had been won under the guidance of non-teaching staff. Two teams led by teachers were out, so he had to try and save some didactic face. Lucky for him, then, that he had a highly talented Under 13 squad at his disposal, helping to make him look good. The venue for the final was Cherryvale.

It started off badly. Our captain and key midfielder stalwart Anthony

Allsopp hit the deck in the second minute, following a vicious tackle. Mr Herron, Head of Year 9 and medic for the day, was on hand with some deep heat and encouragement for big Anto to get off his (injured) posterior and carry on. He did- and then some; controlling midfield, supplying the wingers and generally thwarting the opposition. Despite this, a strong St Mal's took advantage of an early (uncharacteristic) error by St Mary's keeper Eoghan Rua Lambert, and we were a goal behind. Things were not looking good, nor were we, seeming a bit scrappy and disorganised in defence.

It looked a whole lot better when striker Lewis McDonald's foot only just found the ball as it swung into the box, wrong-footing the St Mal's keeper. Not long after, Ryan McAreevy had an easy time putting us ahead before half time. A cross from the right of St Mal's box found an empty goalmouth and Ryan unmarked- he did the necessaries. 2-1 to us.

We seemed to dominate more in the second half and a superb strike from right-winger Conor Mallon made it 3-1. It looked to be the winner, but St Mal's had other ideas.



Their second goal with 20 minutes to go and the sun in our eyes meant no room for complacency. We missed a couple of sitters but needed our own share of luck to keep the ball out of our net.

The last quarter was a war of attrition. St Mal's always looked dangerous but we were that bit stronger and frustration seemed to be cramping the opponents' style.

It was not our most beautiful performance to date, but we finished better than we started- which seems to have been the signature characteristic in our inaugural season. Our solid victories in the competition over strong opposition like Corpus Christi and Rathmore suggest we'll be the team to beat in next year's Northern Ireland Cup.

Action shots in the year 9 final between St. Mary's and St. Malachy's.



Final score: St. Mary's 3 St. Malachy's 2.

The year 9 (U13) winning squad.





Principal, Mr. Sheerin presents the St. Mary's U13 champions with the Belfast District Cup.

UNDER 14

Mr Malone, the technology technician had guided the Year 9 team to Belfast Cup glory in 2008. A fortunate scheduling technicality (that's a lot of 'tech!') meant that we could enter his Year 10 team for both the Belfast and NI Cup. Those who had witnessed the squad in action knew this was a special year group, and they didn't disappoint, reaching the finals of both competitions. Typical emphatic match results, like two 5-0 wins over both St Colm's and Orangefield underlined the reality that this squad were clearly without equal.



Belfast Cup Semi-final U-14
St. Mary's v Orangefield
Score 5 - 0

St. Mary's 4 - 1 St. Columb's Derry

Under 14 Northern Ireland Schools' Cup Final

The big final took place on a wet, blustery May afternoon at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena.

St. Columb's were out for revenge, following defeat at our hands in last year's U16 final. The Derry side started the stronger with the wind at their backs. Within 10 minutes, after some impressive passing play, they scored the opening goal. They continued to press and might have doubled their lead, had it not been for some staunch defending and a gymnastic save from goalkeeper Michael Brady.

As the half progressed, St. Mary's, with growing strength and confidence, began to create a few chances of their own with Ryan McLaughlin and Ruairi Wilson both coming tantalisingly close.

With five minutes to half time, the equaliser came - a corner was only

half cleared by the St. Columb's defence and dropped right at the feet of John Mallon, who coolly controlled the ball and smashed it into the net from 10 yards.

It was just the tonic St. Mary's needed and in the second half, with the wind behind them, St. Mary's took charge. Ryan McLaughlin was scythed down in the box for a penalty which he duly converted. Not satisfied with this, Ryan finished beautifully again minutes later, following a beautiful display of controlled

possession and passing. St. Mary's completed the route when Deaglan Smart crossed a teasing ball into the near left hand post. Domhnall Quinn unhesitatingly glanced in a spectacular diving header, to seal a well deserved victory.

Belfast Cup Final

St. Mary's v Our Lady + St. Patrick's
Score 4 - 0





Soccer

Under 14 Belfast District Schools' Cup Final at Windsor Park

St. Mary's 4 - 0 Our Lady and St. Patrick's

It was a perfect day for football at Windsor Park. A huge venue and dramatic 'double-header', with St. Mary's and Our Lady and St. Patrick's each fielding their Under 14 and Under 15 squads respectively against the other. Our second years had recently dismissed OL and St Pat's from the U13 competition so revenge for the Knock side might be sweet, times two.

First up was the Under 14 final. Our squad, fresh (actually very tired!) from victory just the previous day in the Northern Irish Cup final, had a so so start. The best of the early exchanges saw OL and St. Pat's enjoy the lion's share of chances, with a free-kick from 20 yards drifting just over the bar.

As the first half went on, St. Mary's strength, fitness and class began to show through. Ryan McLaughlin pounced on a loose ball 20 yards from goal. As the keeper sprinted out, Ryan coolly slid the ball past his right arm to open the scoring.

Next, some great play from Brendan Bennett on the right wing. Having strolled past two or three defenders, Brendan crossed a 'Bechhamesque' ball for Joe McManus to finish with the easiest of tap-ins.

The second half continued much as the first, with St. Mary's dominating in all areas of the pitch- goalkeeper Michael Brady having little to do but catch loose long balls.

The third goal was a superb individual effort from team captain Ryan McLaughlin. Having picked the ball up on the halfway line, he dribbled his way through the defence before slotting the ball past the out coming keeper. The day was rounded off when Piaras Webb crossed a tantalising ball to fellow substitute Mark

Cunningham who nicked the ball past the keeper for his first goal of the campaign, capping off a great win.

UNDER 15

Mr Vernon's Under 15 squad had, since Second Year, always lived with high expectations and bad luck. Two years earlier, a dominant start to the Belfast Cup competition was followed by an unfortunate exit, due only to an administrative error. Last year, they began the NI Cup competition strongly, only to leave due to a single lucky late goal, completely against the run of play, in a replay that should never have been! But it's a funny old game. Things actually looked less than promising this year, with the charismatic Mr Vernon suffering health problems and so unavailable for some of the time. As it turned out, though, they did Gerry proud, reaching the final, having conceded only two goals throughout.

Under 15 Belfast District Schools' Cup Final at Windsor Park

St. Mary's 3-0 Our Lady and St. Patrick's

The second final of the day at Windsor, with a legion of St Mary's supporters in fine voice, followed the Third Years' victory.

OL & St Pat's Fourth Years were determined not to make it double disaster.

The first half was an uneventful affair with both defences on top and chances limited to a few long range efforts. Half time 0-0.

The second half saw the introduction of Year 10 supremo Ryan McLaughlin. Ryan (having just won the Under 14 competition) was rested for the first half but made an immediate impact, playing a great through ball to Conor Connolly who turned and fired past the keeper. 1-0.

Next it was roles reversed - McLaughlin receiving the ball from Connolly and sliding the ball past the helpless keeper. 2-0. Conor Connolly scored again in the dying minutes of the games but it was long over by this stage. Final score 3-0. A sad day for Our Lady and St Pat's. We really were their bogey opponents this year.

CONCLUSION

It's been an outstanding year for soccer in our school. It's even more impressive in practice than on paper. The third years won everything they possibly could and it needs to be noted that it was only by virtue of byes in the

early stages that they had the scope this year to be in both competitions. But the same cannot be said of the U13 and U12 squads, who also won everything they could enter. There is no provincial competition in these age groups, so the Belfast Cup is the pinnacle. When we have come up against the established champions across the province, in competitions we could enter, we have more often than not prevailed. This almost certainly makes us the top soccer school in the north.

THIS IS NOT CAUSE FOR COMPLACENCY!
Teams evolve and develop through the years. We need the best players to play, yet it is rarely the case that any squad gets the best of all the year group. We need squad members to look after their nutrition, fitness and overall health and well-being so that the subs become the stars and the first team guys are fighting them off to stay on top! We need dedication in training as we are able to play much fewer games than would be ideal. Our success is truly an expression of all the school, with non-teachers like Mr Malone and Mr Vernon playing pivotal roles. We are also indebted to Brother McKenna (transport and photos), and Ray Collins (organisation of kit and equipment).



St. Mary's Year 11 Squad (Under 15)

Year 8 Year 8 Gaelic Football 2008- 2009

I would like to congratulate the Year 8 Gaelic football team for their efforts over the past school year. They have shown great attitude and a tremendous amount of commitment culminating in a semi final appearance at the prestigious Year 8 Ulster Colleges' Blitz where we lost out to an excellent Dungannon team. There was such a level of enthusiasm from the Year 8 footballers this year that we were able to field two teams in the competition. Our 'B' team were successful in winning the 'B' Blitz which was a magnificent achievement and a fitting reward for the hard work and effort displayed throughout the year.

From the beginning of the year Mr McGettigan, Mr McComb and Bro. Carlin put this new batch of talented first years through their paces with the Year 8 Gaelic league. A brilliant 8B ran out as eventual winners beating a very determined 8E side in the final.



The victorious Year 8 'B' team.

Stand-out performances throughout the Year 8 league came from Patrick Mervyn 8B, Sean Maher 8B, Jordan Warnock 8C, Gerard Doran 8C, Mark Cherek 8E, Sean Quinn 8F and Adam Donaghy 8F. These very competitive games provided the panel with a great start to our preparation for the Ulster Colleges' Blitz in June.



The industrious Mark Cherek gets away a hand-pass under pressure.

The Year 8 Ulster Colleges' 'A' panel

Our next challenge came in the form of a number of challenge games against the best opposition Belfast had to offer, which we came through unbeaten. This included impressive wins against CBS, Rathmore and Our Lady and St Patrick's Knock.



Gaelic Football

Gerard Doran working hard to retrieve the ball.

Amongst the excellent team that was formed this year four individuals made enough of an impact to be awarded a coveted Year 8 Antrim Allstar Football Award. These were; Conor Walsh 8C, Pearce McCabe 8F, Brendan Corr 8G and Conall Murray 8G. Other stars from the team this year included Conor McEvoy 8B, Gerard Walsh 8B, Deaglan Murphy 8E and Dara Rocks 8F all of whom were awarded a Year 8 Antrim Allstar Hurling Award.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and pupils who contributed to a successful and enjoyable year and I am confident we will go further next year.

Mr McComb



Emmet Maginn puts his man under pressure.



Deaglan Murphy goes on a run.

Mac Rory Cup

After an absence of 8 years St Mary's re-entered the Mac Rory Cup. Training progressed slowly due to the involvement of so many of the players in the Mageen Squad. Indeed the first two matches in the group stages were re-scheduled for that reason.

Group results

- St Mary's 2-12
- St Pat's Armagh 1-5
- St Mary's 5-8
- St Pat's Cavan 1-8
- St Mary's 2-6
- St Macartan's Monaghan 0-7
- St Mary's 1-10
- St Mary's Magherafelt 1-10
- St Mary's 0-5
- Omagh CBS 1-15

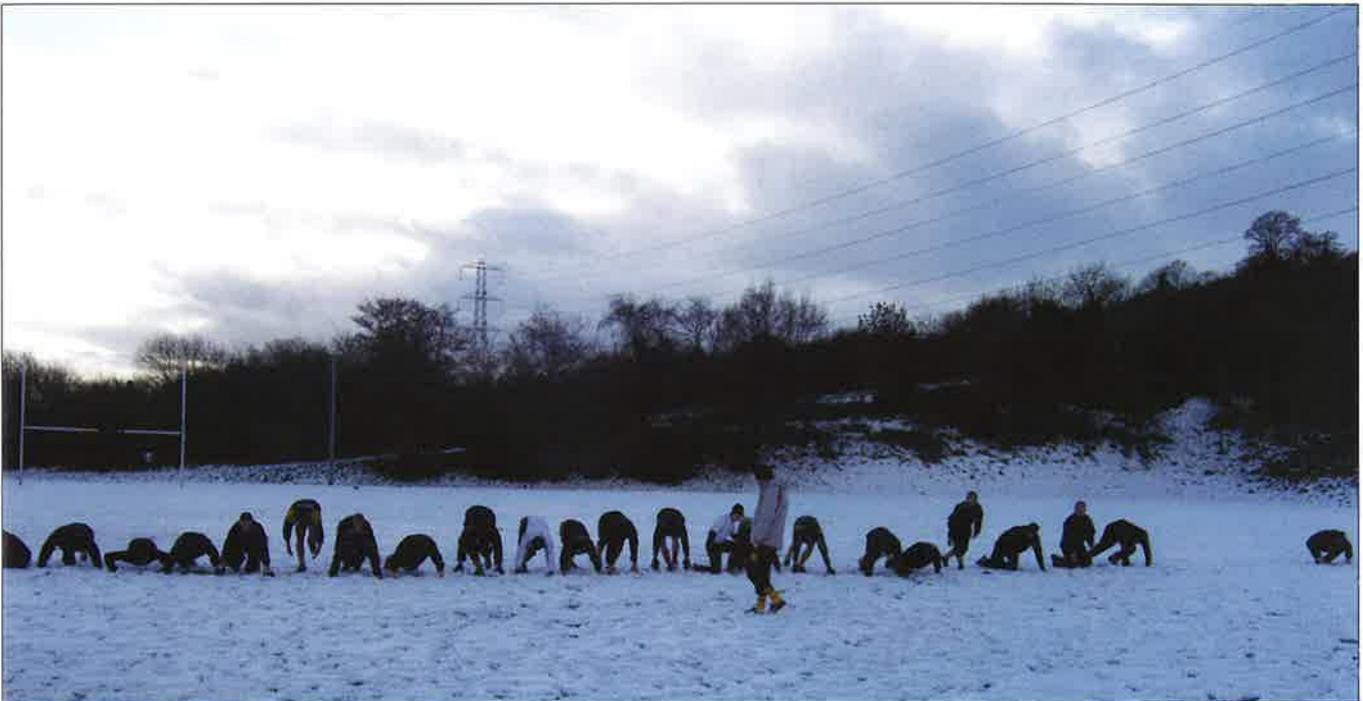
This allowed St Mary's to qualify in 2nd place in the group for the quarter finals. After some intensive fitness training courtesy of Mr Mc Toal and Mr Austin, Friday night matches under lights at Aghagallon and a new drill called "The Three Man Weave" the squad were in fantastic shape after the winter break. The first attempt to play the Quarter final against Monaghan was postponed due to a heavy snow fall. Donagh improvised a "warm weather" session up on our pitches much to Mc Garrity's delight!

They finally overcame the Monaghan challenge under lights at Healy Park on Friday 27th February. St Mary's laid the platform for victory in the first half as they established a six point lead before a misfiring Monaghan attack managed to find the target. Monaghan rallied after the interval and closed the gap to 2 points but some resolute defending from Stephen Shannon, Chris McGuinness, Paul Johnston and Niall Mc Alea saw the city side emerge victorious. St Mary's scorers: Dermot Mc Veigh 0-4, Mickey Armstrong 1-

1, Declan Lynch 0-1. With great excitement and no small amount of well deserved confidence St Mary's found themselves in the Mac Rory semi-finals for the first time in 20 years and against who else but Omagh CBS. This took place again under lights at The Athletic Grounds in Armagh on the 4th March. Omagh took an early 2 point lead before the Belfast lads got into their stride with points from D Mc Veigh and D Mc Lean and despite hitting the same post twice with goal bound shots, St



Warm weather training in La Manga!



Mary's went in at the interval trailing 0-8 to 0-4. Omagh extended their lead early in the second half with a long range point and a goal, palmed in after only a few minutes. There appeared no way back for the City team but then the great fighting spirit of St Mary's took over. D Mc Veigh and D Lynch pointed and a superb Mickey Armstrong goal brought it to 1-9 to 1-7 for the Omagh outfit. From the mid point of the second half St Mary's started to dominate in all areas of the pitch. A rather rash challenge from Stephen Shannon saw

Omagh score a penalty but St Mary's refused to give in and picked off point after point to leave only 3 points between the sides as the game entered injury time. A last gasp 45 was dropped into the Omagh square and in the resulting goalmouth scramble a CBS player touched the ball on the ground. Despite the immense pressure Big Dermot stepped forward but his low kick was saved by Mc Anenly in the Omagh nets. The resulting clearance kick was met with the final whistle. When St Mary's reflected on the narrow 2-9 to 1-9 loss and on

the sheer nature of their dominance in the final quarter they realised that they should have had a replay at the very least. Who knows how they would have fared in their first Mac Rory final in 21 years! One thing the squad can be proud of is their disciplinary record - with only two yellow cards picked up through out the entire campaign. Looking back they know that they can match the best schools in Ulster Colleges for skill, fitness and football ability. They certainly have carried the flag for the School, their clubs and Antrim

Football in general.

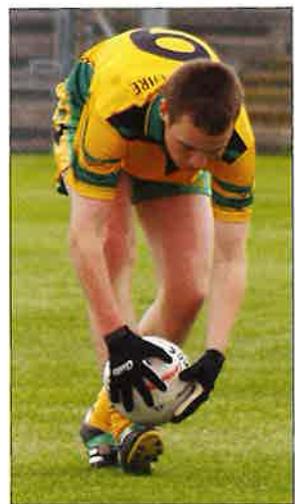
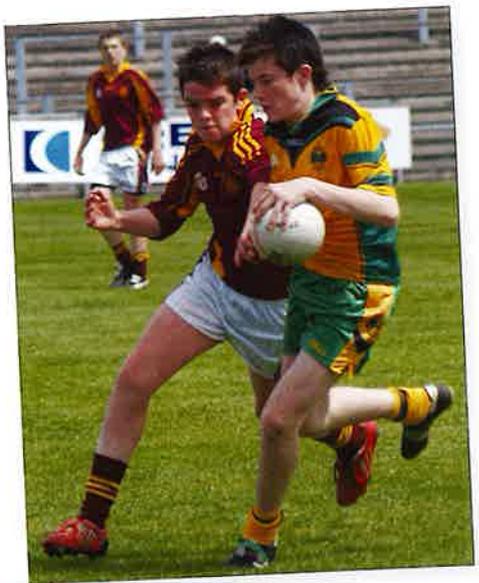
The squad:

- K Toolan, C Mc Varnock,
- S Shannon, P Johnston,
- Mc Alea, D Mc Garrity,
- C Mc Guinness, R Maguire,
- C Mc Clelland, D Boyd,
- D Mc Clean, P Donnelly,
- D Lynch, D Mc Veigh,
- M Armstrong, D Dalton,
- C Herrity, C Rocks,
- F Mc Crudden, M Connor,
- K Parker, G Mc Gettigan,
- G Torney, B Bradley, M Devlin,
- C Kelly, O Rogers, A O' Hare
- D Best.



Gaelic Football

Year 9 Gaelic
Corn Colmcille Winners



Hurling



Antrim Hurling and Football All Stars Year 8

St Mary's also won the Foresters Cup

**St Mary's, Belfast 2-10
Cross & Passion, Ballycastle 3-6**

5th Year 'A' Hurling



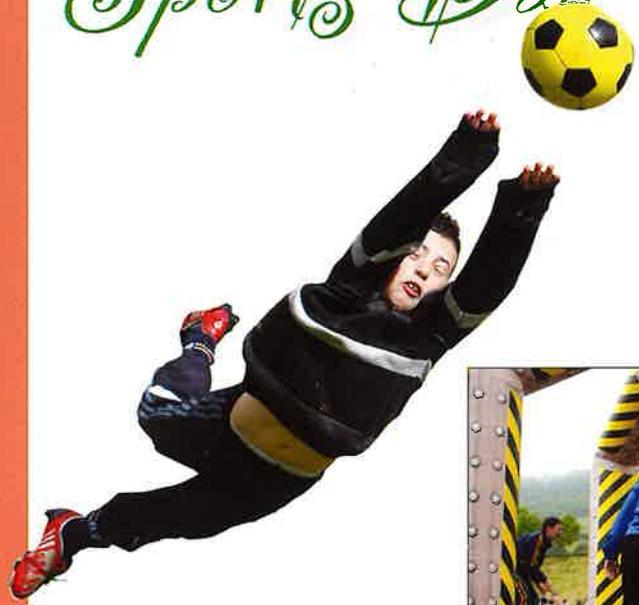
*Antrim
Hurling and
Football All
Stars Year
12*

*Winners of
the Gallagher
Cup Ulster
Colleges Year
10 Hurling*





Sports Day





Class 9A
Form Tutor: Mr S Moyes

Front Row (L-R)
Tiarnan Healey, Peter Lynch,
Aidan Perry, Ryan McFall,
Sean Murphy, Thomas Milne,
Martin McCauley, Niall Hughes.

Middle Row (L-R)
Declan Russell, David Moore,
Nathan Crudden, Gary McAnoy,
Connell Jackson, Brian Gibney,
Conor Mallon.

Back Row (L-R)
Adam Ferguson, James Sloan,
Kevin Auld, Peter McCloskey,
Ciaran Gallagher, James Johnstone.



Class 9B
Form Tutor: Mr M Leydon

Front Row (L-R)
Joshua McKenna, James Kennedy,
Saul Pelan, Paul Russell,
Cathal O'Neill, Shay McStravick,
Christopher Sutcu, Jonathan Denvir.

Middle Row (L-R)
James Irtwin, Ruairi Dillon,
Neil Armstrong, Garrett Mulholland,
David McGoldrick, John McCaffrey,
Sean McCallum.

Back Row (L-R)
Fergal Green, Declan Brown,
Daniel Boyd, Liam McLarnon,
Caolan Quinn.



Class 9C
Form Tutor: Mrs C Carson

Front Row (L-R)
Martin Reid, Kieron McAuley,
Ciaran McCabe, Darren McDonagh,
Connor Murdock, Aaron Murphy,
Conor O'Hare, Jonathan Rooney.

Middle Row (L-R)
Sean Owens, Gary Murphy,
Christopher Mervyn, Caolan Rooney,
Ryan McNally, Robert Murtagh,
Thomas McGoran, Rory McManus.

Back Row (L-R)
Eamonn O'Toole, Sean O'Neill,
Aaron McDonald, Patrick O'Connor,
Paul Moran, Connall Brazier.

Class 9D

Form Tutor: Mr T. McCaughey

Front Row (L-R)

John Monahan, Juan Gonzales,
Andrew Murray, Matthew McBride,
Conor Kehelly, Brownnyross Kudillil,
Caoilin Kearns, Conor Dodds.

Middle Row (L-R)

Joseph Crangle, Aaron Fairley,
Jordan Adams, Martin Deane,
James McMahon, Gary Coyle,
Paul Devlin.

Back Row (L-R)

Ciaran Churchill, Conor Floud,
Donnchadh Barr, Damian Christian,
Ciaran Jordan, Nathan Maginn,
Donal Carolan, Stephen Garland.



Class 9E

Form Tutor: Mr D O'Neill

Front Row (L-R)

Brendan Loughran, Conor Kerr,
Curtis Berry, Kevin Madden,
Conor McGeough, Ryan McAreavey,
Niall Fallon, Concobhar McBride.

Middle Row (L-R)

Ruairi McGrath, James Stott,
Ciaran Kelly, Cormac Bradley,
Conor Boyle, Eamonn Shannon,
Diarmuid Hillock, Micheál Hamilton.

Back Row (L-R)

Conor Wilson, Joseph Magee,
Nathan Lavery, Liam McCabe,
Anthony Allsopp, Adam Christian,
Christopher McLaughlin,
Caolán Park.

Absent

Ryan Daly, Seaghán Shannon



Class 9F

Form Tutor: Mrs M McGettigan

Front Row (L-R)

Stephen Healy, David Gallagher,
Aaron Harbinson, Patrick Robinson,
James Cunningham, Conor Hughes,
Daniel McArdle, Donal McCartney.

Middle Row (L-R)

Matthew Watson, Conor McCorry,
Martin Prior, Kieron Power,
Callum Shiels, Kevin Rice,
Kieran Sangster, Patrick Kilifin,
Barry Lawlor.

Back Row (L-R)

Deaglan Cullen, Keelan Brady,
Colm McKenna, Danny Collins,
Adam Quinn, Brendan Quinn,
David Steenson, Darren Weldon,
Pól Holmes.





Class 9G

Form Tutor: Mr S Kelly

Front Row (L-R)

Matthew Fitzpatrick, Cormach McKenna, Darren Pollock, Carl Toner, Stephen Gaskin, Conor Doran, Anthony Robinson.

Middle Row (L-R)

Darren Branney, Patricl Crossan, Caoimhin Hanna, Gareth Hill, Sean Magennis, Jack Boyle, Proinsias Malocco.

Back Row (L-R)

Callum McVeigh, Tony Green, Robert Howell, Sean Irvine.

Absent

Malachy Nolan



Class 10A

Form Tutor: Miss K Lavery

Front Row (L-R)

Daniel Rogan, Conor O'Kane, Stiofan Trainor, Aidan Fitzpatrick, John McDaniel, Conor McGuigan, John Elliman, Matthew Brennan.

Middle Row (L-R)

Darragh Murphy, John Meli, Martin O'Prey, Pearse McDermott, Aaron Mullan, Martin Sloan, Matthew Rainey, Daniel Reid, Darren McCann, Niall Adams.

Back Row (L-R)

David Durkan, Paul Bell, Stephen Edgar, Gerard McMurrugh, Conall Murphy, Daniel Sloan, Joseph Fitzsimmons, Conor O'Rawe.



Class 10B

Form Tutor: Miss D Murphy

Front Row (L-R)

Aidan Orchin, Christopher Coogan, Hugh O'Halloran, James McCourt, Peter Maguire, Tony Kelly, Stephen Hughes, Joseph Robinson.

Middle Row (L-R)

David O'Neill, Domhnall Moran, Christopher McCormish, Joseph McManus, Tiernan Monaghan, Pearse Vallely, David Burns, Sean Campbell, James Devine.

Back Row (L-R)

Kevin Connolly, James Carson, Patrick McKee, Liam Conlon, Anthony O'Neill, Dylan Neil, Christopher Keenan.

Class 10C

Form Tutor: Miss C. Stitt

Front Row (L-R)

Conor Devlin, Conor O'Donnell,
Eoin Connolly, Conal Lynagh,
Chris Boyle, Daniel Winchester,
James Mallon, Connor McCreanor.

Middle Row (L-R)

Stephen Toner, Brendan McKiernan,
Ben Hesketh, Aidan Campbell,
Gerard McKiernan, Aidan Cregan,
Sean Pat Donnelly.

Back Row (L-R)

John Keenan, Darren Ferris,
Lorcan McKeown, Thomas Mulligan,
Gary Mulhall, Patrick McQuillan.



Class 10D

Form Tutor: Mr G. O'Connor

Front Row (L-R)

James Lynn, Patrick Graham,
Ethan Tolan, Daniel McCabe,
Gavin Matthews, Emmett Fallon,
Mark Cunningham, Adam Jones.

Middle Row (L-R)

James Farrell, James McComish,
David Mason, Peter Ferguson,
John McCann,
Caoimhin Cullen O'Neill,
Ciaran Doherty, Bibiurss Kudill,
Daniel Doherty, Paul Brennan.

Back Row (L-R)

Simon Campbell, Luke Doyle,
Conor Heath, Mark Fitzsimons,
Ciaran McAllister, Michael McCabe,
Matthew Kerr, John Erskine.



Class 10E

Form Tutor: Mr V. Murphy

Front Row (L-R)

Sean Wylie, Pdraig Scott,
Domhall Quinn, Patrick Meenan,
Cris Donegan, Curtis Millen,
Steven Morris, Daniel Brownlee.

Middle Row (L-R)

Ciaran McAnulty, Ben Teague,
Seamus O'Neill, Niall Devlin,
Luke Kelly, Raymond McGeogh,
Tomas O'Ciarain.

Back Row (L-R)

Ruan McCready, Daniel McArdle,
Ryan McKee, Conor Browning,
Ruairi Wilson, Aidan Churchill.





Class 10F

Form Tutor: Dr T. Shannon

(Absent)

Front Row (L-R)

Sean McIlhatton, James Stuart,
Gavin Ritchie, James Smyth,
Gary McGuigan, Michael Ryan,
Eddie O'Neill, Brendan Wilkinson.

Middle Row (L-R)

Miss Lawless, Paul McGreevy,
Niall McDonald, Tom Barnes,
David Meehan, Kieran Moreland,
Caolan Malone, Jason Close,
Ciaran McKenna.

Back Row (L-R)

Deaglan Smart, Donal Rooney,
Corey Smith, Ciaran Murdoch,
Anthony Varndell, Kevin Taggart,
Padraig Walsh.

Absent

Ryan McLaughlin



Class 10G

Form Tutor: Mrs B. Breen

Front Row (L-R)

Padraig Brady, Rian McEvoy,
Aidan Murphy, Conor Smyth,
Chris King, Gerard Joyce,
Ciaran Doherty.

Middle Row (L-R)

Michael Brady, Sam Boyle,
Brendan Bennett, Colm Symth,
Mark Lyons, Seamus O'Kane.

Back Row (L-R)

Nial Fitzgerald, Christopher Larkin,
John Mallon, Daniel McBride,
Mark Scott.



Class 11A

Form Tutor: Mr N. Ward

Front Row (L-R)

Paul Manson, Ryan Clarke,
David Wallace, Conor Toner,
James Reid, Donal Brady,
Patrick Kelly, Felix Hagan.

Middle Row (L-R)

Jonathan Moyna, Ciaran Stewart,
Ciaran Rooney, Caolan Smith,
Conal Sheppard, Mark McAreevey,
Ruairi Boyle, Thomas Manning.

Back Row (L-R)

Shane McGarry, Daragh McGuinness,
Niall Quinn, David Nelson,
Niall McCann, Conor McGrath,
Conor McCaffrey.

Class 11B

Form Tutor: Miss C. Morris

Front Row (L-R)

Louis Donnelly, Kevin Murtagh,
Aidan Grant, Lee Sheridan,
Conor Rainey, Kevin Quinn,
Patrick McBride, Alan Hunter.

Middle Row (L-R)

Paul Robinson, Piers Cormican,
Brendan McDonagh, Ryan Short,
Michael White, Ryan McBride,
Andrew Reid, Ciaran Kerr.

Back Row (L-R)

Conor Connolly, Niall Lynagh,
Brian O'Neill, Aidan McGarrity,
Mark Torbitt, Jodie Traynor,
Stephen Rooney.



Class 11C

Form Tutor: Mr J. McGreevy

Front Row (L-R)

Conor Donnelly, Eamon Parker,
Michial Dudley, Lee Taylor,
Nathan Morris, Thomas Thibedeau,
Daryl Randall.

Middle Row (L-R)

Fintan McBride,
Christopher McGuigan,
Sean Maguire, Daniel Barr
Conleth Hendron, Ciaran Adams,
Brendan Donaghy.

Back Row (L-R)

Daniel Clarke, Cormac Livingstone,
Colm McKeown, Michael O'Neill,
Liam McLaverty, Stephen Rea.



Class 11D

Form Tutor: Mr P. Lavery

Front Row (L-R)

Patrick Smith, Nathan Hanley,
Jude Fallon, Stephen Larkin,
Ryan Parker, Matthew Hill.

Middle Row (L-R)

James Keenan, Thomas Gourley,
Stephen Courtney,
Conor O'Callaghan,
Jackson McGreevy,
Connell Morgon, Cormac Flannery.

Back Row (L-R)

Brendan Clarke, Michael Maxwell,
Mark McCaffrey, Gerard Kelly.





Class 11E

Form Tutor: Mr P. Tully

Front Row (L-R)

John James Loughran, Niall Connolly, Aodhan Doherty, Joseph McCall, Martin Hagans, Eamonn McNally, Anthony Shortt.

Middle Row (L-R)

Daniel Cosgrove, Gerard McShane, Darren Toner, Pearse McKenna, Eamonn Stitt, James Brownlee, Michael McCarthy.

Back Row (L-R)

Declan McCullough, Carl Davis, Conor Moore, Eamonn Smith, Brendan Haughey.



Class 11F

Form Tutor: Miss A. M Doherty

Front Row (L-R)

Nathaniel Daye, Kevin Finnegan, Niall McMahon, James Donnan, Anthony Harte, Stephen Carson, Sean Fox, Matthew Kearney.

Middle Row (L-R)

Declan McCavana, David Fraser, Marc Deighan, Thomas McCrory, Gerard Robert, Eoin McCarry, Ronan Campbell, Gerard McCullough.

Back Row (L-R)

Daniel Smyth, Jack McCrea, Mark Cummings, James Hopkins, Brendan Dougan, Kyle Brown.



Class 11G

Form Tutor: Miss L. McGonagle

Front Row (L-R)

Connor Jackson, Sean McGivern, Cormac Smyth, Gareth Walker, Conor Rooney, Declan Ferguson, Brian Donnelly.

Middle Row (L-R)

Eoin Brady, Gerard O'Prey, Gerard Fegan, John Lynn, James Keenan, Matthew Cassidy, Connor Brennan.

Back Row (L-R)

Jack McKenna, Gareth Patterson, John Nesbitt, Patrick McWilliams, Thomas McKeown, Aidan Scott.

Class 11H

Form Tutor: Mr T. Murphy

Front Row (l-r):
Matthew Murray, Jack Small,
Ruairi Fisher, Pearse Fryers,
Paul Smith, Aedan Marley,
Mícheál McGivern.

Middle Row (L-R)
Ruairi Devine, Gerard Lavery,
Stephen McCourt,
Matthew McKnight, Paul McCann.

Back Row (L-R)
Jonathon O'Donnell,
Nathan Callaghan,
Conor Kettle, Aaron Brady,
Cormac Kelly.



Class 12A

Form Tutor: Dr K. Robinson

Front Row (l-r):
Ryan Christie, Steven McElwee,
Michael Montgomery,
Sean Paul Taylor, Kevin Curran,
Connel McKeown, David Johnston.

Middle Row (L-R)
Paul McArdle, Patrick Hickey,
Jonathan Doyle, Peter Reynolds,
James Parker, Matthew O'Grady.

Back Row (L-R)
Ciaran Carville, Robert Darling,
Aodhan Lynagh, Conor Mogeey,
Joseph McConkey, Niall McNulty.



Class 12B

Form Tutor: Mr S. McGoldrick

Front Row (l-r):
John Curran, Niall McGarry,
James Todd, Conor Pelan,
Anthony Todd,
Dominic Sherry-Adams,
John Carson.

Back Row (L-R)
Conor Cunningham,
Eamonn Kennedy,
Matt Jordan,
Matthew McKiernan,
Karl Shaw,
Paraic Hannan,
Christopher Lennon.





Class 12C
Form Tutor: Mr A Smyth

Front Row (l-r):
Barry O'Neill, Ciaran Orchin,
Thomas Morgan, Elstein Padayattil,
Terence McGrath, Eamonn Magee,
Brendan McCloskey, Ciaran Murray.

Middle Row (L-R)
Marc Jordan, Michael Bingham,
Leo McKenna, James Farrell,
Ciaran Slavin, Emmet McPoland,
Stephen Scott, Jack Gunn.

Back Row (L-R)
Kevin Murphy, Matthew Cosgrove,
Tiarnan Mackel, Corey McGarry,
Ciaran Curran, Declan Scullion,
Peter Forde, Conor Bradley.



Class 12D
Form Tutor: Mrs M Jennings
/ Mrs A Burrows

Front Row (l-r):
Jordan Fitzsimons, Ryan Kavanagh,
Darren Franklin, Neil Slane,
Tyronne Irwin,
Christopher Pendleton,
Brian McDonagh,
Christopher McKenna.

Middle Row (L-R)
Joseph Maginn, Aidan McDonald,
James Downey, Ciaran Rice,
Joseph O'Neill, Brendan Bradley,
Colm Molloy, Aodhan Napier.

Back Row (L-R)
Niall Ward, Ciaran McKeever,
James Gaskin, Michael Smart,
Stephen McGuigan,
John McGlone, Michael Smith.



Class 12E
Form Tutor: Mrs M Murray

Front Row (l-r):
Michael Adair, Paul Raffo,
Andrew Gillen, Neil Crudden,
Christopher McKeown,
Paul Collins, Michael Lyons.

Middle Row (L-R)
Eoin Crean,
Gerard O'Rawe,
Fionntan Armstrong,
David Corbett, Ciaran Delaney,
Eoin Morgan.

Back Row (L-R)
John O'Neill, James Crilly,
Conor Mulholland,
Ryan Hull, Tom Livingstone.

Absent
Michael Edgar, Aaron Nolan,
Kevin Petticrew.

Class 12F

Form Tutor: Mrs M. Lewis

Front Row (l-r):
Ciaran McLaughlin,
Conor McGeown, Eamonn Quinn,
Nathan McKenna, Cormac Quinn,
Emmet Cunnings, Luke Ferguson,
Emmet Cosgrove.

Middle Row (L-R)
Stewart Phillips, Paul McShane,
Conor McCourt, Mark Loughran,
Jude Savage, Carl Maxwell,
Michael McSherry.

Back Row (L-R)
Thomas Burns, Kurtis McGreevy,
Christopher McGowan,
Peter Napier,
Pól Nolan, Tony McClean.

Absent
Ryan Caddell.



Class 12G

Form Tutor: Dr E. McCaffrey

Front Row (l-r):
Jonathan McNally,
Raymond Mullan,
Patrick McCormack,
Cathal Fitzpatrick,
Mark Richmond,
S. Docherty, Stephen O'Neill.

Middle Row (L-R)
Emmett Stewart,
Mark Salters,
Gerard Gorman,
Shea McGurnaghan,
M. Atcheson.

Back Row (L-R)
Ryan Duckett,
Donnchadh Fitzsimons,
Joe Donnelly,
Patrick Van Ohsen,
Peter Carson.



Class 12H

Form Tutor: Mrs J. Mervyn

Front Row (l-r):
Ryan Carleton, Emmet Dillon,
Christopher Moore,
Anthony McDonald,
Gavin McKee, Martan Shortt,
Michael Fallon.

Middle Row (L-R)
Ryan McConnell, Gerard Smith,
Anthony Shannon, Darren Floyd,
Kevin O'Brien, Daniel Glover.

Back Row (L-R)
Kevin Davey, Conor Mullan,
James Magee, Declan Creggan.

Absent
David McMullan, Carl Wylie,
Christopher Maguire.





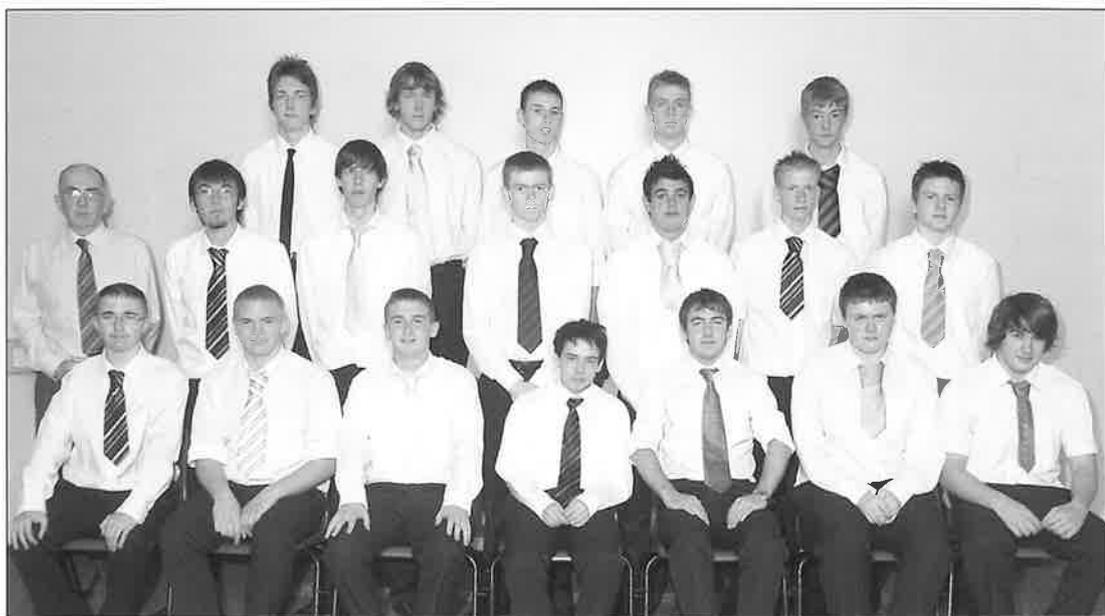
Class 13A

Form Tutor: Mr M. Greene

Front Row (l-r):
Steven Frizzell (left school),
Hayden Allen, Anthony Hanna,
Stephen Maginn, Aaron Cushley,
Colm McCurdy, Mark McKenna.

Middle Row (L-R)
Kevin Holland,
Matthew Megahey, Colm Dorris,
Mark Spence, Aaron McGuinness,
Mark Rea.

Back Row (L-R)
Conor Mulholland,
Daniel Moore, Adam Kerr,
Anthony Brady, Cotterhill.



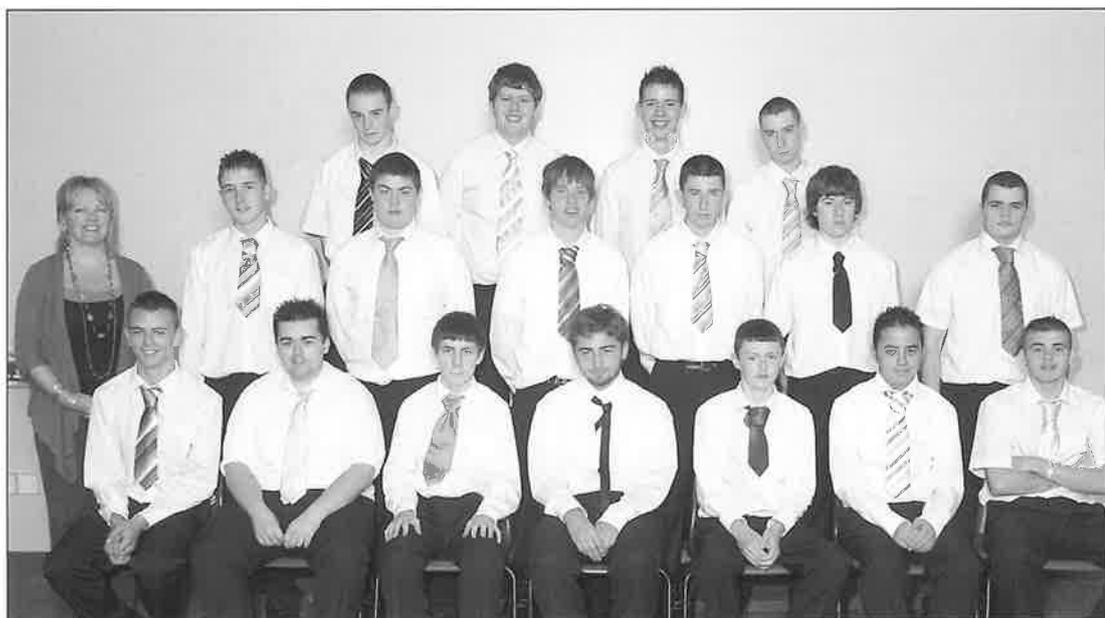
Class 13B

Form Tutor: Mr F. Manning

Front Row (l-r):
Patrick Brennan, Declan Dalton,
Greg Creaney,
Thomas Harbinson,
Matthew Gault,
Thomas McKibben,
Stephen Durkan.

Middle Row (L-R)
Kevin McCullough, Caolin O'Brien,
Oisin Rodgers, Des McLean,
Kevin Milnes.

Back Row (L-R)
Nicolas Tracey, Michael Killeen,
Michael Jackson, Nathan Doone,
Mathew Devlin.



Class 13C

Form Tutor: Mrs J. McEvoy

Front Row (l-r):
Christopher Robinson,
Anthony Harte, Declan McGeough,
Emmet Dawson, Conor Brophy,
Emmanuel Barkley, Francis Brennan.

Middle Row:
Michael Kane, Ryan Farrelly,
Adam O'Hare, Ryan Mallon,
Conor Murray, Brendan Conlon.

Back Row:
John Gallagher, Conor Lennon,
Aodhan Cairns, Ryan McCullough.

Absent:
Karl Young, Padraig McMullan.

Class 13D

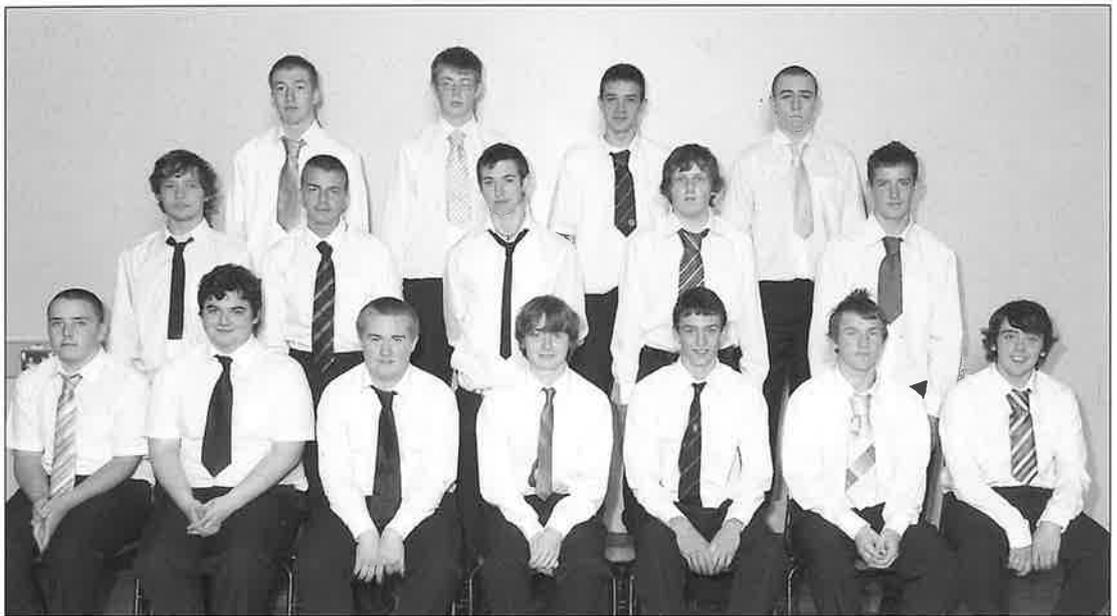
Form Tutor: Mr D. Campfield
(Absent)

Front Row (l-r):
Aaron Murphy, Conor McNeill,
Ciaran Floyd, Domhnall O'Neill,
Jamie Smyth, Kiefer Toolan.

Middle Row (L-R)
Ciaran McCusker,
Daniel Malone,
Brian Corr, Darren Moore,
John Gibney.

Back Row (L-R)
Daniel Best, Stephen Kane,
Kevin Hill.

Absent
Patrick Stiitt, Paul Loughran.



Class 13E

Form Tutor: Mr H. McGettigan

Front Row (l-r):
Brian Clarke, Eamonn Toner,
Ciaran Gormley, Niall Smith,
Patrick Moran, Daniel Kelly,
Robert Deane.

Middle Row (L-R)
Joseph McCaffrey,
Conor Wisdom, Patrick Curran,
Ciaran hasson, Kylan Allsopp,
Conor Wisdom.

Back Row (L-R)
David Forrester,
Stephen Brennan,
Chris Murray, Colum Lynagh.

Absent
Patrick Stiitt, Paul Loughran.



Class 13F

Form Tutor: Mr D. Armstrong

Front Row (l-r):
Adam Graham, Calum White,
Feargal McPhillips,
Patrick Copeland,
Niall Doherty, Ciaran Kelly,
Christopher McGuinness.

Middle Row (L-R)
Darron Boyd O'Neill,
Ryan Morgan, Paul Burns,
Garry Sharpe, Enda Flavin.

Back Row (L-R)
Gerard Torney, Thomas Heath,
Conor McClelland, Cuan Price.

Absent
Jonathan Brommeld,
Michael Clarke, Declan Lynch.





Class 13G

Form Tutor: Mrs C. Gillespie
(Absent)

Front Row (l-r):

Ryan Boyle, Jonathan Curran,
Oliver Gibney, Steven McIlwee,
Paul McDonald, Aaron Nugent,
Matthew Neeson.

Middle Row (L-R)

Damien McCreanor,
Christopher Devlin,
Steven O'Hagan, Donal Feeney,
Darren Madden, Dominic Kelly.

Back Row (L-R)

Ciaran Hicks, Paul McGroarty,
Conal McKernon, Stephen Shannon.

Absent

Sean McLaughlin,
Ciaran Quinn.



Class 13H

Form Tutor: Miss O. Convery/
Miss L. McGonagle

Front Row (l-r):

Matthew McCleave,
Ryan Hyland, Mark Devlin,
John Fox, Martin Campbell,
Matthew Hanna, Padraig Fryers.

Middle Row (L-R)

Daniel Crossin, Kevin Parker,
Conal McGettigan,
Liam Kavanagh, George Teggart,
Shane McGann.

Back Row (L-R)

Christopher Magee,
Michael Crossan, Damian Boyle,
Martin Connor, Aodan Mitchell.

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e-mail: kevin@kevinjennings.co.uk

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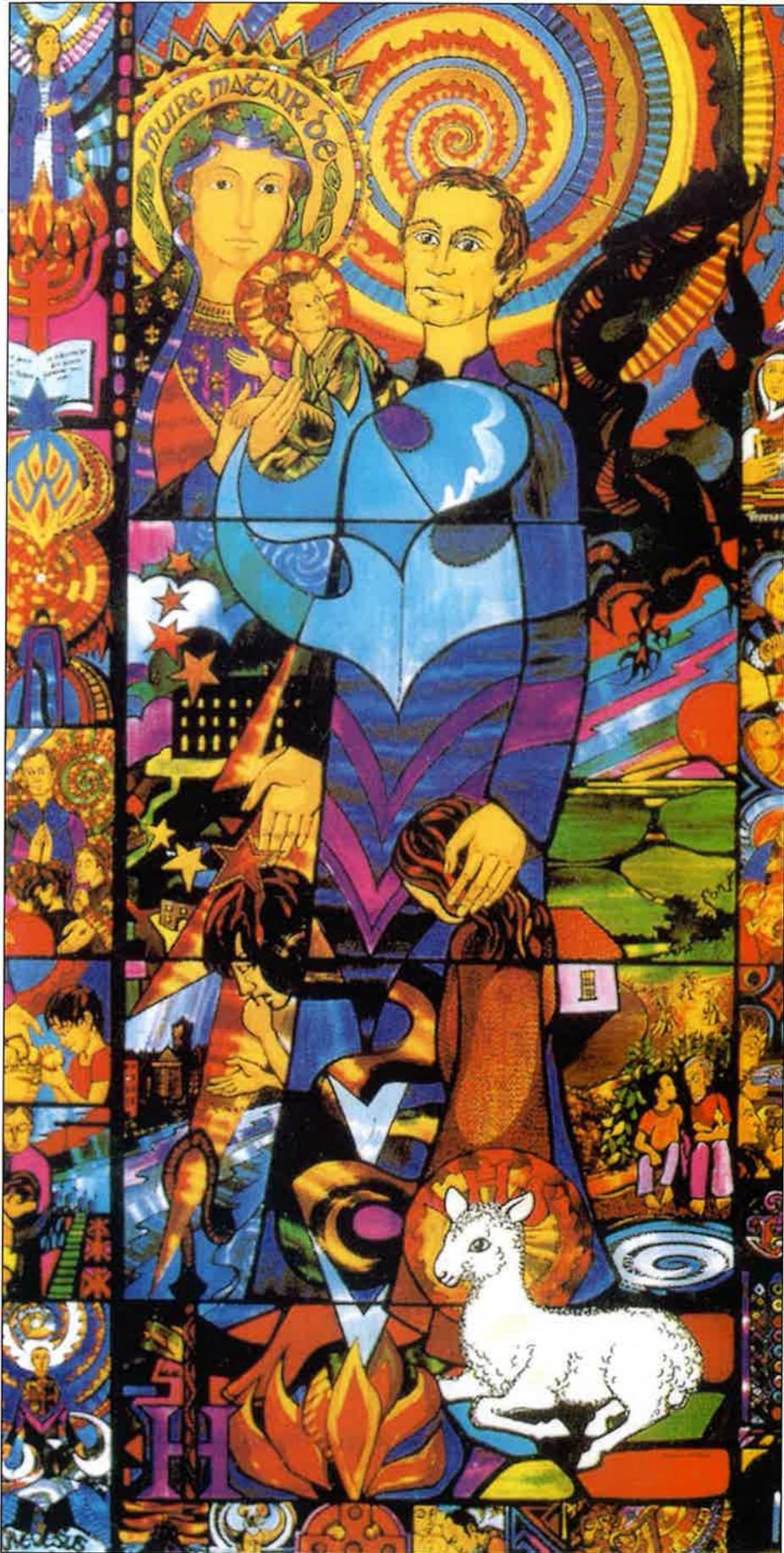
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