



# DE LA SALLE COLLEGE

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## WATERFORD

ISSUE 4

MAY 2019

### Message from the Principal

Welcome to the Student Council De La Salle College Summer Newsletter. This is a special year in the history of the College, as it's the tercentenary of the death of our founder, Jean Baptiste de la Salle. The occasion was commemorated both in Knock and in the College by the Brothers, parents, current and retired staff and students. There were many successes to celebrate, both academic and in the area of extra-curricular activities in the school this year. Summer tests are currently underway and Junior and Leaving Cert Exams are starting on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Wishing you all a restful summer break.

Margaret Betts



### De La Salle College Awarded Green Flag 2019

De La Salle College was recently awarded the prestigious Green Flag from An Taisce for their work on the Green-Schools programme.

This Green Flag award is the first time for De La Salle College and the work on Litter and Waste theme of the programme is a great starting point for encouraging a sense of personal pride and responsibility amongst all students and staff in tackling two visible issues in our school community.

#### What is the purpose and motivation behind the initiative?

To attain the first green flag for De La Salle College Waterford, while also making the school community more responsible with recycling & waste segregation initiatives.

#### What activities have the committee carried out?

Litter surveys, numerous clean ups, classroom spring cleans, plastic bottle collections, awareness raising, poster campaigns and fund raising.

#### How did you feel when you found out about the status?



It was great to be recognised for the steps we have taken and the continued work being done. We have a lot yet to achieve with waste segregation in all areas of the college.

#### What are the future plans for the committee?

Bring recycling into the classrooms and corridors with composting waste in dining hall and staff room.

#### What does the green status mean for the school as a whole?

It means we care about the environment and are willing to take actions

to make a difference on a local and global level.

#### How do you feel about helping to run such a great cause?

We hope that our work will continue to motivate the rest of the school community and that staff and students will make a conscious effort to recycle and reduce single use plastics on a daily basis.

Interview conducted by Conor Twomey with Ms Ryan.



Over 1,000 bottles were collected in a 9 day period in the school. The bottles were put in a net in the dining hall to signify the amount of plastic polluting our environment.



De La Salle College had a non uniform day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Money was raised to fund future green school initiatives including installation of water fountains and purchase of reusable water bottles.

Thanks to Ella Ryan of Waterford County Council who came in to meet green school students and talk to TY5 about environmental awareness and projects they have been working on. She was very impressed with the enthusiasm and good work going on. We look forward to continuing to work with Ella and the council to improve the environment.



Co-ordinators of the Green Schools Initiative Ms. Ryan, Mr. Tallon and Ms. Byrne



## Darkness into Light



The lighthouse committee was set up in De La Salle College this year. The aim of the lighthouse committee is to promote positive mental health amongst students, encourage them to look out for one another and to seek help and support if needed.

The committee helps to plan and deliver events in the run up to special dates and organise activities in school that promote general wellbeing, kindness and inclusivity.

Our most recent event took place on Saturday the 11th of May when both staff and students completed the Darkness Into Light Walk raising much needed funds for Pieta House.



## Irish Guide Dogs visits DLS



1st Year Students met with volunteers from the Irish Guide Dog Association in College Library this week.

Brian Cahill and Jack Kavanagh Transition Year students kindly assisted the volunteers and their ambassador dogs in the presentations.

## Le Chéile 10th Anniversary Conference

On Thursday 8th and Friday 9th Feb, The Chairperson of the Board of Management Mr. James Brennan, Chairperson of the Parents Association Mr. Paul Fitzpatrick and the Principal Ms. M. Betts along with two members of the Student Council in Transition Year, Jack Kavanagh and Conor Twomey represented the school at the annual Le Chéile Conference in Athlone to mark the 10th anniversary of the trust. In advance of the conference, Jack and Conor prepared a presentation on what welcome means in our school and while there, they attended workshops inspired by the three characteristics of Le Chéile that have evolved over the past ten years - Welcome, Wisdom and Witness.

School communities are places which carry heritage and hope forward and this is witnessed from the classroom to the corridors. The conference was a great success and we look forward to many more in the future.

A special thanks to Ms. Betts and Ms. Barry for facilitating the event.



## Interview with Br. Tim



Br. Tim O'Shea was born in Tousit, Kenmare, Co. Kerry, in 1931. He was the third of a family of seven. Having spent 6 years in South Africa, Br. Tim arrived in De La Salle College in 1964 and has remained here since. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to interview Br. Tim who is a friend to all here in the College community.

### What were the influences that inspired you to become a brother?

To be honest, it was more accident than intent! A De La Salle Brother came to our school and presented us with the idea of joining. He brought pamphlets, and spoke fondly of the vocation. I was really impressed by the profession and saw teaching as an opportunity to make an impact.

After much thought, I approached the brother and began the process of entering. In 1944 after signing up, I travelled to Castletown to begin my studies.

### Were your parents supportive of this decision?

Yes, very much so. We discussed my plan but it was always my decision and they were very willing to support it.

### You have done many things in your life. What has been your favourite and why?

There are two areas I really enjoyed. I had a big interest in maths and so teaching it was very appropriate. I enjoyed the company of students and got on well with everyone. Showing an interest in your subject and helping everyone is the key to improving in the profession.

I also enjoyed my time as Bursar and spending time accounting for figures. Now it has been made easier with the addition of computers.

### The mass celebrating the tercentenary of the death of Jean Baptiste De La Salle was very special. It was an honour to see the renewal of vows. Was that a significant occasion for you?

As brothers, we renew our vows every year. Usually we do this on Trinity Sunday but there is flexibility in this. For me, it was similar to any other renewal, the only difference, of course being that there were many people in the chapel watching who had never experienced this before. The renewal was appropriate to the event, marking 300 years since the death of our founder.



### You obviously have witnessed lots of change in your life. Could you tell us about two changes that have impacted you?

There have been many! I would say the first major change in my life was the introduction in De La Salle of free second level education in 1967 – 3 years after I started working in the College. It was momentous. It effected everyone and was very exciting too. There were many new students attending, new buildings being created and an increase in staff numbers too. It was the best decision to be made.

Another big occasion for me was De La Salle winning the Harty Cup in '07 and '08. It was the first time (in '07) that we won such a big title and for me it beat all other competitions we entered. I was delighted to see the success of the team and the spirit of the Harty that has continued for many years. It is a big competition with big schools entering so it was a massive achievement.

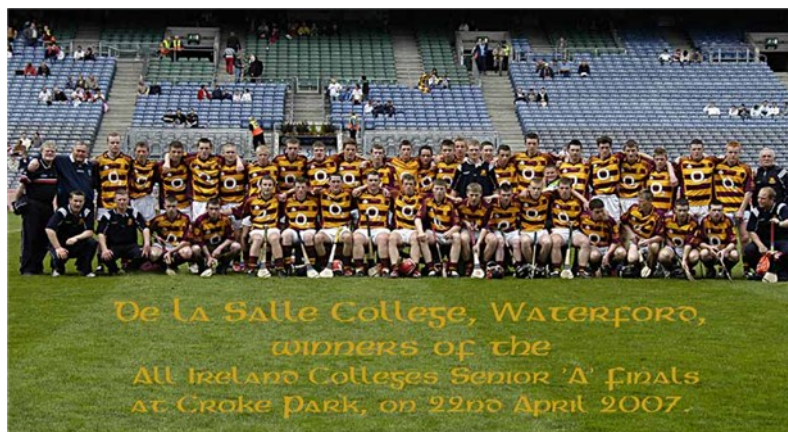


Mr. McGrath, Br. Tim and Mr. Dooley celebrating the Harty Cup and the Croke Cup in 2007

### What have you discovered that is important in life?

Prayer. Everyone here has a purpose in life and you should enjoy it. I enjoyed teaching and working as bursar but you must consider what you are doing and where your life is heading guided by prayer.





The Harty team of 2007 have a very special place in the hearts of the Lasallian community (past and present)

Mass every day is the core foundation of this belief and I see many benefits in doing this.

**You have been living in Waterford for many years. Would you consider yourself a Waterford man?**

No. Never! Some people have a love for their home county and I am certainly one of those people.

**If Waterford were playing against Kerry, who would you support?**

Whether they win or lose, it will always be Kerry.

**What advice would you give to students here in De La Salle about life after school? Any words of wisdom?**

The company and friends you keep are really important.

So called bad eggs can be negative influences on your life and it is vital to have good influences.

Prayer, and not the quantity, but believing that prayers are essential in life to provide a sense of comfort and belonging. You will struggle to overcome adversity unless prayer allows you to. You will always have one person to turn to, God.

**“Life is above and beyond the value of any material thing on Earth”**

Interview conducted and produced by Conor Twomey and Jack de Courcey

## The Great De La Salle College SVP Bake Off



De la Salle College SVP conference held rounds of the Bake Off on Tuesday 12th February. The standard of culinary skills was exceptionally good again! Students from 1st to 5th year strove to display their baking expertise under the watchful eyes of the 5 judges! The students were encouraged by members of the De La Salle College SVP Conference, Debbie O Halloran (SVP Education Officer) and Ms. Mc Manus. There was a great sense of enthusiasm, anticipation and positivity in the Home Economics Room. Many thanks to SVP and Ms. Mc Manus for making this

possible.

Many thanks to our Sponsors The Book Centre, Tony Roche Menswear, Stephen Street Barbers, Mary Grimes Catering and Food Hall, The Mansion House, Alfie Hale Sports and Sheridan's Trophies Waterford.



## Chess Munster Finals

The De La Salle College chess team had a very successful outing at this year's Munster final in Limerick.

Two teams entered in the champions category, and they finished 1st and 2nd.

1st place: Aaron Siddique, Bill Branigan, Diarmuid Sheehan and Jekabs Biscuss.  
2nd place: Declan Voogt, Michal Szerzen, Jack O'Neill and Conor Walsh.

Aaron Siddique and Diarmuid Sheehan also came joint 2nd in the individual champions awards winning 5 out of 6 games.

Three teams entered the novices category and we were placed joint 2nd and 3rd.

2nd place: Ryan Hodge, Zeyad Fouda, Arthur Moull and Ed Whelan.

2nd place: Kieran Macaereg, Roland Ardill, Shawn Callos and Ned Kulvinskis.



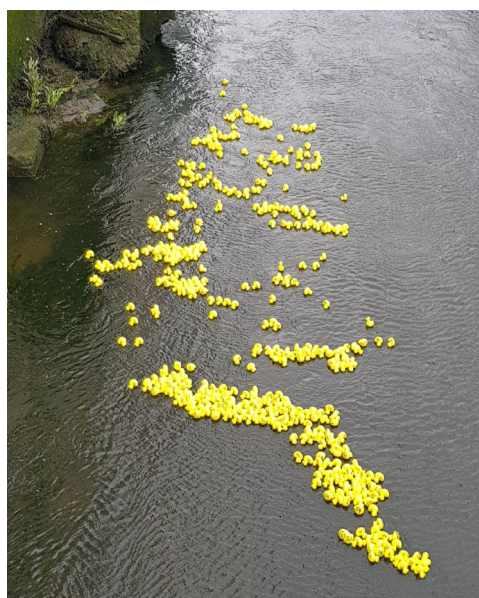
3rd place: Mateus Keating, Oisín Jackson, VJ Mooney and Dmitriy Nosatenko.

Ryan Hodge, Kieran Macaereg and Mateus Keating also came joint 3rd in the individual awards winning 5 out of 6 games.

This was a fantastic performance by all of our players. A particular congratulations is due to our ten players who made their competitive debut in Limerick.

Well done to all involved. A huge thank you to their teacher Ms Mc Donagh

## Duck Race



The annual duck race in support of the Lasallian Developing World Projects took place on Friday 3rd of May. 430 ducks were put into St. John's River and raced down as far as the Courthouse. The race raised € 928. Well done to all involved!

## 2019 De La Salle Talent Show/ Concert

The annual talent show was held on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May in the college chapel. This year's talent show was combined with the annual Senior Choir summer concert. On the night, there was acts competing in the talent show and there was also performances from numerous choir members, which were not competing.

The adjudicator for the talent show was Rob O'Connor from WLR. Rob kindly agreed to give us a hand on deciding a winner out of the 13 acts which was no easy feat. The talent on display that evening was astounding. There was a massive variety of talent from bands, solo singers, pianists, contemporary dance and hip hop dance routines. Three prizes were given out on the night; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> both received 50 euro and 1<sup>st</sup> place took home the grand prize of 100 euro.

All the funds raised on the evening were donated to Br. Tommy for his missionary work in India in the summer.

The winners on the night were a group named 'Contraband' which consisted of drums, guitar, piano and bass. They were extremely generous and decided they would give their prize to Br Tommy. As one of their members, Christopher Harris stated; 'tonight was more about the principle for us as a group' which was brilliant to see. In 3<sup>rd</sup> place was Rohit Das (2<sup>nd</sup> year) and 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Angel The Dancer (6<sup>th</sup> year).

The 2019 project is back to Keelamudiman in Southern India to complete a multi-purpose hall 20x20, this will serve every need of the school and the local organisations. We wish all the volunteers well with this endeavour.



## SMASHING TIMES FEBRUARY 2019



On Wednesday 6th March, The Smashing Times Theatre Company visited De La Salle College. They performed a presentation, focusing on the subject of positive mental health, resilience building and suicide prevention. A performance was given to all 6th year students in the College Chapel.

The performance took the form of a theatrical monologue, lasting about 20 minutes, followed by 40 minute workshop. This involved a post-show discussion with a registered psychotherapist and invited guest speakers from the Samaritans. We were very grateful to The Samaritans who funded the Workshop and The Granville Hotel who supported the event. The Samaritans have for many years given invaluable presentations to our students in this College.

## Greenway Sponsored Walk

The Student Council of De La Salle College organised a Sponsored Walk on the Greenway for the students. The walk took place on Thursday, the 11th of April. A wonderful and relaxing day was had by all participants, enhanced by the beautiful weather.

The funds raised, €1,228, will be shared equally between the local branch of the Samaritans and De La Salle College. Thanks to all who contributed, participated and supported both inside and outside the school community.

Thanks to Alfie Hale Sports Shop for their support. A special word of appreciation to the Fairway Coaches, the Samaritans, Waterford and South East, and Maria Kite, Waterford and Suir Valley Railway, Kilmeadan, who hugely contributed to the success and enjoyment of this event.

Pictured here are the Student Council presenting the cheque of €614 to Anne Woodworth, Director and Rory Fitzgerald from the local branch of the Samaritans.



## **French School Trip Paris - September 2020**



Plans are already underway for the next trip to Paris! It promises to be an action packed and exciting adventure. Among the highlights will be a Bateau Mouche boat trip on the river Seine, a visit to Sacré Coeur Basilique, a guided tour of Stade de France and a day in Eurodisney, Paris, and of course, some French language lessons. This trip is open to the 3rd Year group and the Transition Year group of next year, 2019/2020.

## **German School Trip Paris - October 2019**



In October 2019, 16 5th and 6th year students accompanied by their teachers Ms Conway and Ms Boyd will spend 5 days in Cologne, Germany's oldest city. As well as applying their language skills, they will visit the world famous Köln cathedral, the Ford factory, the Sport and Olympic museum, FC Köln Football club, the former Gestapo Headquarters and the Lindt Chocolate Museum.

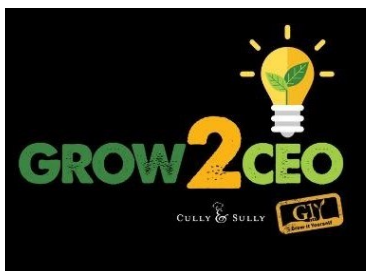
## **Br Killian O Sullivan**

Br Killian O Sullivan who spent six years in Rome doing a doctorate in Divinity, recently gave a number of illustrated talks on Rome and the Vatican to all the sixth year classes. He also met with all the first year classes. While in Rome Br Killian was privileged to stand guard with nine other De La Salle Brothers at the body of Pope John Paul XXIII while lying in State. On another occasion he met President De Valera at the De La Salle Mother House Via Aurelia, to pray at the relics of St John Baptist De La Salle.





## 1KM GROW2CEO Success



Well done to class 1KM who finished as runners up in this year's GROW2CEO competition. Over several weeks the

students grew spinach, learned about food production, food miles and running a food business, and devised and cooked a spinach soup recipe. This year 363 secondary schools took part in the competition, so finishing in the top 6 is a great achievement. Their reward is a trip to GIY headquarters in Ardkeen to meet with the "Grow Eat Cook" team from RTE. Well done to all involved.



## DLS Awards Night

The annual awards ceremony was celebrated Monday 13th May in De La Salle College. This is an integral part of life at DLS. The Awards recognises good work, a positive attitude, good behaviour and effort.

It is part of the school's policy to recognise and promote talents and skills which reflect a wide range of abilities. The awards are presented annually to students in the school community.

This year marked the inaugural Frank O' Callaghan Memorial award which recognised a student who has shown dedication, leadership and commitment in hurling during their

time at the College.

Our keynote speaker, on the night, was David Walsh, CEO, Netwatch Group, one of Ireland's most renowned entrepreneurs. David is a past student of the college and it was an honour to hear him speak.



Awards Co-ordinator, Mr. Healy

## Irish Ambassador to the USA, Dan Mulhall



His Excellency, The Irish Ambassador to the USA, Dan Mulhall visited the college to present the UN Flag and Charter to commemorate 50 years of the United Nations. He also introduced the Global Ireland Programme to students.



Pictured here is Paddy O'Brien, receiving the Principal's Award and Conor Ryan, receiving the inaugural Frank O' Callaghan Memorial Award.

## Wishing the Waterford Kennedy Cup Team every success

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Back left: Davin Power, Jack Twomey (captain), Conor McCabe, Dara Kavanagh, Jack Douglas Front Left: Calum Flynn, Conor Keane, Charlie Whitty, Dylan Harte, and Chris Biji Kocherackal absent from photo.

The Kennedy Cup will take place from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June in the University of Limerick. The Kennedy Cup is one of the biggest u14 football competitions around Europe. Out of the 20 boys selected for the panel, 10 of us are De La Salle students. Every county from Ireland plays in this competition. In our group we have Wexford, West Waterford and Wicklow competing.

## U14 Hurling Team

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The college U/14 hurling panel commenced training in January 2019 under the management of Ms Angela Kenneally and Ms Claire Dunne. Special thanks must be given to Mr Derek McGrath who worked with the first year groups before Christmas which gave them a great foundation for the season ahead.

The B team met Ardscoil na Mara, Tramore in the final on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May., when Tramore really hit scoring form and pulled away to take the victory. The spirit and determination shown by this group of players was fantastic and they were certainly embodying the La Sallian sense of brotherhood. Whilst disappointed, they all showed commitment and determination to continue representing the college in the years ahead.

The stage was set for another mouth-watering final versus the Lismore side for the A team. DLS started excellently, building a strong lead early on through some fine scores by Captain Jack Twomey and Eoin Cuddihy among others. Blackwater found their feet and by half time had closed the gap to four points. Jack Twomey stepped up to get the final point and seal a narrow victory DLS 3:10 Blackwater 3:9. Well done to all team members.



## Sporting Achievements



In February I went to Wales to play for the Ireland u18 Homebased team. The squad was picked based off a series of trials and friendly matches after the FAI Interprovincial tournament in October. Only players from local league clubs were eligible for selection. We played two games against the Welsh u18 Homebased team, winning the first 1-0 and the second 3-2, meaning we won the John Coughlan Memorial Trophy. I played 90 minutes in the first game and 30 minutes in the second. It was a great experience to play for my country and earn an Irish cap.

Niall McSweeney



During 4 weeks of March and April I represented the Irish under 18 schools team as captain in the annual centenary shield against Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales. The squad was picked after trials following an interprovincial tournament in November. We finished 3rd overall after drawing 1-1 in Scotland losing 2-0 and 3-1 to England and Northern Ireland and beating Wales 5-3 in

which I played every minute of. This was a huge honour for me to represent my school, family and country as captain and receive my first international cap.

Niall O' Keeffe



Well done to Cameron Power and Niall O' Keeffe, both 6th Years who represented Munster in the Interprovincial Soccer in 2018.

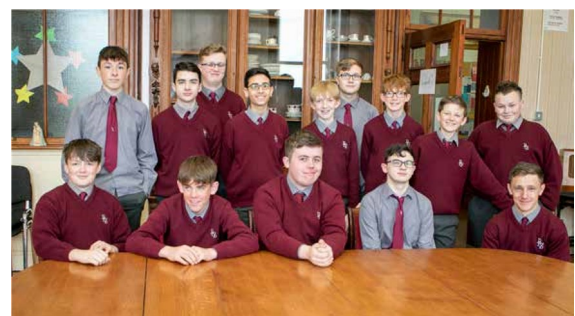
## Student Council

All members of the Student Council would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone in De La Salle for their continued support throughout the year.

We would like to wish everyone a lovely summer break and cannot wait to see everyone back in August as we begin a new academic year!

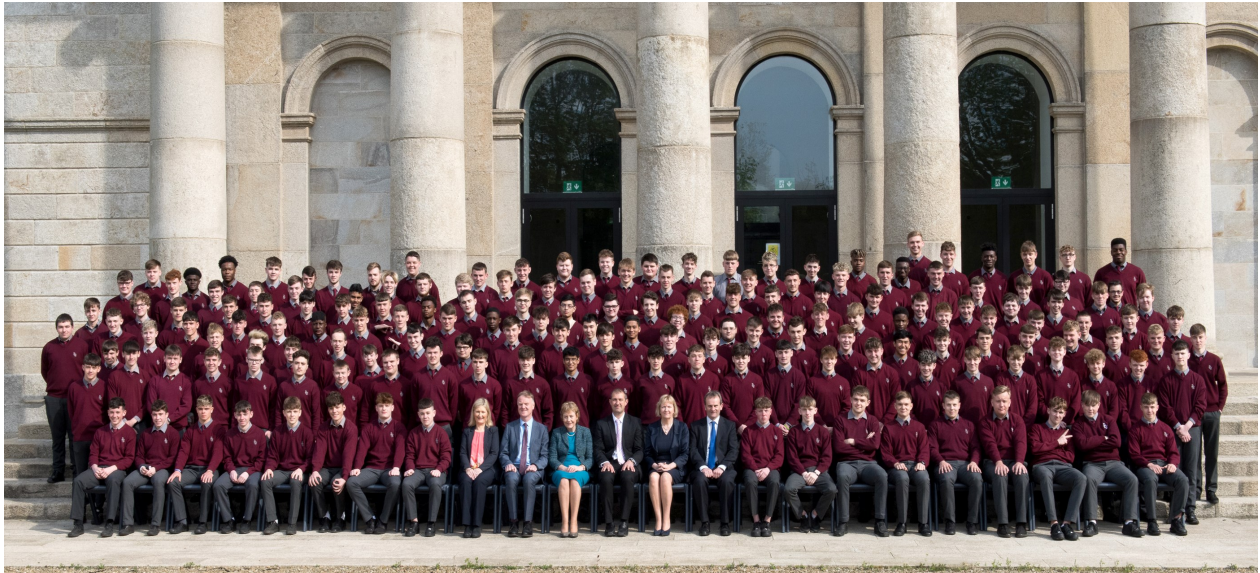
We would also like to announce that elections in the council will take place in early September.

“Make a choice, Be a voice.”



Some Student Council members 2018-2019

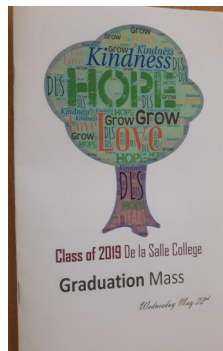
## Leaving Cert Class of 2019



Best wishes from all here in the Lasallian community as you move forward in the next stage of your lives.



Impromptu photo after graduation mass 22nd May of Br. Ben receiving “The Mightiest Man Award 2019” from 6th Year members of the Senior Choir.



“Lead in order to serve”



**Mr. Daly, 6th Yr Year Head**

Good luck to all the sixth years in their exams! Well done to all the students who participated in the Graduation Mass. I wish you all the very best in your future lives. May you grow in Kindness, Hope and Love as you follow your own paths in life!