



DE LA SALLE COLLEGE

WATERFORD



ISSUE 1

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Message

Welcome to the Student Council De La Salle College Christmas Newsletter. As we come to the end of this school term I would like to thank the De La Salle Brothers in the College Community, staff, Board of Management, Parents Association, students and parents for their continued support this term. I hope you and your family have a lovely Christmas and every good wish for 2018.



Margaret Betts

Thomas Ashe Commemorative Ceremony 5th October 2017 De la Salle College

To commemorate the centenary of the death of Thomas Ashe past pupil of the De la Salle Teacher Training College a special commemorative Mass was held in the College Chapel on the 5th October. The College choir conducted by Br. Ben sang at the Mass. The Mass was followed by a lecture on Thomas Ashe's life delivered by Mícheál Ó Móráin from Baile Riach, Co. Kerry author of the book 'Thomas Ashe 1885-1917' Thomas Ashe was called to the De la Salle Training College in 1905. He completed his Christian Doctrine Diploma and also qualified in Irish, vocal music and plain chant. Whilst here in De la Salle College he played on the football team 1907. Thomas Ashe was an active member of the Gaelic League and GAA also whilst in the College. He was regarded as a gifted teacher who had a keen interest in the Irish Language, history, music and song.

A reception was held for all in the College dining hall following the Mass and lecture commemorating the centenary of the death of Thomas Ashe.



Thomas Ashe
1885 - 1917



We Will Rock You 17th-21st Oct -Interview with Ms White

Could you briefly describe the show?

'We Will Rock You' is a musical based around the music of the band Queen. It is set in the future in a time where technology has overtaken the music industry. A group called the "Bohemians" are beginning a revolution in order to find missing instruments. The main character, "Galileo" (the rebirth of Freddy Mercury) and his love interest, "Scaramouche", aim to find hidden instruments to bring Rock back.

How did you decide on the show?

Myself, Brother Ben, and Ms. Forsey brainstorm shows which would be suitable for our cast. With the help of the director, Vicki Grahah, we narrowed it down to two of our favourites. We chose 'We Will Rock You' as it brings an older style of music to a new generation. It's fun and lively and has many musical numbers.

How did you decide on the singers?

Auditions were held last Easter to see who would be interested in the show. From that group we held further auditions to pick the best actors/singers for the part. It was very hard to choose the best as all of our cast were very talented, but we narrowed it down.

How did the production go?

The production went very well. Our audiences were full every night and both matinees sold out completely.

How long has the show been running?

'We Will Rock You' is the 39th show and next year is a very big year as it is our 40th anniversary.

Could you give us a hint, or tell us what the next show will be?

I can't tell you what the show is, but I can tell you we are between two very lively shows with a bit more dancing than last years.

Jack Steenson



Special Concert for Br Ben 22nd October

On Sunday the 22nd of October, a very special concert took place in De La Salle College Sports Hall. It was a retirement concert for Br. Ben. However this was an event like no other in the College as it was planned (and indeed happened) as a complete surprise to him, no mean feat as he is Director of the Brothers' Community and lives in the building!

For about six months Music teachers Pamela Harrison and Margaret McCann had enlisted the help of teachers Jenny White and Laura Forsey Caulfield and had, with the help of social media contacted past pupils who might be interested in taking part. The response was overwhelming. Even if Br. Ben hadn't taught them, he still had a big influence on them, either through the school choirs or the annual school musical.

Michelle Condon, past choreographer and director of school shows came on board to help plan the programme and script. Rob O'Connor, Greg Porter and Louise O'Carroll took on a virtual choir, an audio-visual presentation and staging / rehearsal planning respectively. Photographs and biographical material were sourced from Ben's family and the brothers, in particular Br. Kevin McEvoy. This was then to be presented to Ben at the end of the night as a memento.

Permission was obtained from the Principal, Ms. Betts, and the Board of Management to stage a charity concert and call it "De La Salle College and Friends". The charity to benefit would be Touching Hearts which has a connection with the school through teacher Dermot Dooley. All was almost in place. Now

just to keep it a secret and to get him there....

His family and friends, along with the staff of the College, were invited to a reception in the dining hall before the concert. Br. Thomas was given the task of getting Ben to attend, and this is when he realised what was happening. All the plotting worked. He was surprised.

With Deputy Principal Declan O'Brien as MC, the concert began. A brass ensemble conducted by our brass teacher Michael Quinlan opened with "2001 a Space Odyssey" and the Virtual Choir followed with "When I'm 64" a favourite of Ben's. We then began looking at past shows that Ben had himself conducted. The line-up included many past pupils who have now gone on to make their living as professional actors, musicians, composers and singers as

soloists, including Andrew Holden, Ray Collins, Bill Stafford, Peter Power, David Flynn, Jamie Beamish, Richie Hayes, and Glenn Murphy. Younger past pupils Evan Croke and Ben Nolan also sang as soloists. The accompanists for the evening were Billy O'Brien, Richard Coady and Dylan Browne. Shows we visited included *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Guys and Dolls*, *My Fair Lady* and *West Side Story*.

Margaret McCann played "Moon Tango", a piece written by Ben. Emmet Byrne played a beautiful Sonata by Telemann on oboe and Billy O'Brien treated us to a Chopin Mazurka on piano. Ad Hoc Chorale, a choir that Ben sings in gave us "Who will Buy?" from the musical *Oliver*, and an octet from that group sang "Lida Rose" from *Music Man*. The Alumni Choir made a wonderful sound as they performed *Mansions of the Lord*, *Shenandoah* and Ben's own composition, *Ár nAthair*. The evening finished with Richie Hayes, Lynsey Penkert, Keith Reville and the entire ensemble singing "Brotherhood of Man" from *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

It was a wonderful occasion which hopefully did the man himself justice. When he spoke at the end of the night, Ben said how much the people of Waterford had given him and how happy he has been here. This concert has hopefully gone a little way in showing him that the

people of Waterford, and the staff and students of De La Salle College in particular, appreciate all he has done for its young people by getting them involved in music and by showing them, to quote the song from *How to Succeed*, "I Believe in You."



Munster Glory for De La Salle College

De La Salle College captured the U15 Gaelic Football Eamonn Martin cup in style against Ennistymon of Clare on Monday last in Lattin in Co Tipperary on a score line of 1-9 to 0-5. De La Salle led from the off and were very unlucky when an early James Aylward goal was controversially disallowed as it was deemed to be a square ball. While De La Salle

had most of the possession in the first half, they struggled to get scores. Mark Fitzgerald kept the scoreboard ticking over while Evan Hayes and Alex Keane worked hard in the forwards to show for the ball and were a constant threat. In fact most of De La Salle's scores came from frees which was a reflection of their dominance up front. The

backs and the goalkeeper, Luke Horgan, worked tirelessly and were solid as ever. Despite this dominance, De La Salle only led by a single point at half time, 0-4 to 0-3.

The second half saw a renewed determination and everyone upped their game significantly. With much more movement in the forwards, the scores started to

come, both from frees and from play. Sean O Dwyer set up James Aylward who with cool deliberation slotted the ball past the Ennistymon goalkeeper for the only goal of the match. This goal was the catalyst for the rest of the game with De La Salle ruling the roost for the last 20 minutes. Even when reduced to 14 men for an unfortunate red card, De La Salle kept their composure and with two points from Evan Hayes and a lovely dummy and point from Patrick Fitzgerald, it was only a matter of time before a Munster Gaelic Football title returned to De La Salle College for the first time since 2004.



Team: L. Horgan, D. Kiely, D. Treacy, C. Cantwell, D. Roche, P. Murphy, D. McLoughlin, M. Fitzgerald, S O Dwyer, O. Oseni, J. Aylward, B. Kirwan, P. Fitzgerald, A. Keane, E. Hayes, D. Stickel, K. Furlong, C. Goff, A. Walsh, B Kennedy Dunphy, S. Fitzgerald, E. McSweeney, O. Hartney, B. Regan, E. Walsh, S. Sutton.

Team Managers: Ms Ahern & Ms Kenneally.

Interview with Ms Ahern prior to U15 Gaelic Football Eamon Martin Cup Win.

What made you take up U15 Gaelic Football for De la Salle College?

Myself and Miss Kenneally did U14 last year. We tend to take teams from first year right up to senior year.

What do you hope to achieve at the end of 2017/18?

We hope to win the Corn Éamann Uí Mháirtín (Eamon Martin Cup) which is the U15 Munster final. We will also be doing u15.5 after Christmas and hope to win Waterford schools final in that.

What does success look like?

Tough question! Success is playing to the best of your ability. The obvious answer is to say to win a final. But success isn't always that obvious. For some success might be getting their place on the team. For others it might be bouncing back after an injury or a bad game.

Who are your influencers in Gaelic football for example the current Mayo team ?

I would have to mention Mayo - it's very difficult to come back year after

year without ever experiencing success. Apart from that I have always admired the Kerry football team.

If you were to describe in one word or phrase to your supporters that captures your team what would it be and why?

Commitment. Everyone on the panel has been hugely committed to training, matches and preparation. We are aware that hurling and soccer come high on the list of priorities but this group have shown it is possible to play more than one sport to a high level.

How does the school support you?

The school has been very supportive to date. We've played games in Lemybrien, Cork, Carrick and Mallow. Myself and Ms Kenneally have to get our classes covered and the school supports us in this. We would like to take this opportunity to thank De la Salle College for all their help up to this point.

What would be the last words before the match starts to your team mates?

We always tell the team how we have a chance to make history. How De la Salle have not been in a final since 2004, most of the team were only born then!!!!

How important is preparation?

Preparation is vital. Training has been going well. The attitude and effort is great. We are hoping that it will all come together on Monday. And that all the hard work will be rewarded. Either way we are very proud of all of them.

How important is sport to you?

Sport is hugely important to me. I started playing camogie and football at the age of seven. It has been great in terms of friendship, life lessons, hard work, effort, rewards. I would hope that everyone in De la Salle will find some form of sport or physical exercise to take part in.

Ryan O'Grady

Senior Debating

Since September Gerard O Connor, Shane Barrett Kavanagh, Lee Nolan Bolger, Brian Bourke, Cian Keogh, Francisco Lopez and Ciaran O Sullivan have been involved in the Concern debating league. Concern debates give students the opportunity to debate topics affecting people in the developing world. The programme gives students a chance to learn skills in research, critical thinking, public speaking and debate, and tackle some of the most important issues facing the world today.

This involved the team debating against C.B.S Thurles Secondary School, Presentation Waterford Secondary School, Loreto Secondary School Clonmel and C.B.S Secondary

School Kilkenny. This league was a huge commitment for our 6th years and they were required to meet every lunch time and after school in preparation for each debate.

This is the first year De La Salle College Waterford has participated in the Concern debates. However it has sparked much interest among the students. Hopefully this is something that will grow in years to come. We experienced a great win over Loreto Secondary School Clonmel but unfortunately lost out on nail biting debates against other schools that were more experienced in debating. We think there is a great future here in De La Salle College for our debating team. Thanks to our teachers Ms Dunne and Ms Carey.



Back Row: Cian Kehoe, Colm Maher, Darragh Quinn **Front Row:** Lee Nolan Bolger, Brian Burke, Francisco Lopez, Gearoid 'Connor'

Green Schools

The Green Schools Committee have had an eventful year. The committee was formed a year ago and has made some key and successful steps towards the Green Flag for litter and waste. The committee has recruited approximately 20 members who range from 1st to 6th year. The committee has initiated a poster campaign to raise awareness about litter and waste. We held a clean up day which helped restore the local area to its unblemished form and we hope to continue to make the surrounding area a cleaner place.

Ella Ryan from Waterford City and Council visited us recently to speak about environmental issues and to give us advice. We are looking forward to another eventful year in which we hope to recruit more members and achieve our aim to obtain the Green Flag.

Thanks to Mr Tallon, Ms Meagher, Ms Ryan and Ms Byrne.



Homework Club

2nd and 3rd year students who are currently in the Homework Club meet every Tuesday in room B3 from 4pm—5pm. After Christmas 1st years will be able to attend. The Homework Club is supervised by a teacher and TY students.

Thanks to Ms Boyd and all the teachers and students involved.

Car Boot Sale

We had a Car Boot sale on the 10th December 2017 to raise money for the Lasallian Developing World Projects which was held in the sports hall. It went very well. The table that I was running earned over €320! I even made some new friends. The hot food and drink was delicious (especially because it was freezing outside!). There were so many things to buy for great prices and festive music. There was a real Christmas atmosphere in the air. All the volunteers gave up their free time to help out and it was all well run! We all can't wait for the next Car Boot Sale!

Ivan Kiely

Citizens' Dialogue on the Future of



On the 13th December TY students met the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Tibor Navracsics, & Minister of State for European Affairs Helen McEntee TD in the Royal Irish Academy. The students took part in the interactive and live Q&A session which was a very positive experience for them. The event was moderated by Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin.

Internet Resilience and Study Skills Talks for Students and

During this term a representative from Child Watch presented talks for students from 1st year to 6th year on Internet Resilience/Internet Safety and also provided an evening information session for parents on this same topic.

A Study Skills presentation was delivered by Mr O' Doherty to both students and parents.

BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition

Cian Troy and I are 2nd year students who have been accepted into this years BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition. Both myself and Cian have an interest in farming and its environmental impact. Our project investigates the impact of 'zero grazing' on soil phosphate levels. High soil phosphate levels could cause the growth of algal bloom in rivers and lakes.

We have collected and tested lots of soil samples and are now busy analysing our results ahead of our trip to the RDS in January which we are looking forward to. We also want to thank our teacher Ms McDonagh.

Daniel Farrell.

UCD Entrance Scholars Awards 2017

Congratulations to six former De La Salle College Students Damilola Adeniki, Tadhg Brennan, Conor Giles Doran, Chris Glynn, Tomás Moore and Michael Smyth who were presented with UCD Entrance Scholars Awards on the 16th November. Mr Declan O'Brien Deputy Principal was present on the night to celebrate their achievements.

Newly Elected Student Council

Student Council elections were held on the 13th November and newly elected Council Members attended training on the 20th November.

The following members were elected

1st Year: Patrick Doyle, Conor Calvey, Fionn O'Doherty, Ivan Kiely, Christian Nanoc, Jack De Coursey, Zeyad Fouda and Jeff Caulfied.

2nd Year: Jack Steenson, George Dipceanu, Daniel Farrell, John Deveraux and Ryan O'Grady.

3rd Years: Richie Kiely, Bill Murphy, Óisín Henebery, Nikoloz Keidia-Ruytenburg, Jack Kavanagh, Alex Byrne and Ismail Elhassadi.

Lions Club Young Ambassador Award

Congratulations to Jack O'Neill 6th Year who recently won the Lions Club Young Ambassador Award at the ceremony held in the Tower hotel. Sixteen students were nominated by Waterford schools and youth organisations. Following interviews, six students were short listed for the final panel interviews. Jack is a very active member of the student council and involved with the school debating team. In his spare time Jack coaches football and lifesaving. De La Salle College are very proud of Jack's wonderful achievement.

Thanks to Mr Declan O'Brien.



WIT School of Business BSTAI Recognition Awards 2017

Congratulations to Eoin O'Brien, Jay Traynor, Cormac Doolan and Anuj Yadav who received the WIT School of Business BSTAI Recognition Awards in October for obtaining an A grade Junior Certificate Business.



Newsletter Summer 2018 will feature all of the vast array of extra-curricular activities which take place in the school and which we did not get to tell you about in this Christmas newsletter.

Happy Christmas to the De La Salle Brothers, Staff, Students and Parents.

Nollaig Shona Agus Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise Daoibh Go Léir!

Congratulations to all newly elected members.