



DE LA SALLE COLLEGE

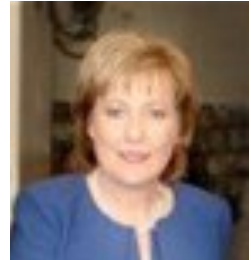
WATERFORD

Issue 6

May 2020

Message from the Principal

Welcome to the Student Council De la Salle College Summer Newsletter. There were many successes to celebrate, both academic and in the area of extra-curricular activities in the College this year.



Sadly for all of us in the school community, our beloved friend and former colleague Br. Charles Purcell passed away recently and will be sadly missed by all of us. On a more joyous note on behalf of everyone in the school community, I would like to wish our esteemed colleague and friend Br. Kilian O' Sullivan a very happy 90th birthday on the 9th June. Thank you, Br. Kilian, for all the wonderful memories that we have shared with you here in De la Salle College.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the Parents Association members who have done huge work with regard to the 'Who wants to be a Thousandaire' fundraiser, which is very much appreciated. This event has now been postponed until November 19th. A special thank you also to the Student Council who have been very active in the College throughout the school year. Your assistance to both staff and students with the operation of the online platform 'Google Classroom' throughout the school closure due to Covid-19 is to be highly commended. Thank you all for your ongoing commitment to the College.

I would like to extend my appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to all the De la Salle Brothers, and to the College staff, students and their parents/guardians for all your hard work and loyalty shown to the College throughout this year. You all showed great resilience at a time which presented many challenges for all of us, including having to adapt at very short notice to on-line teaching and learning due to school closure as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Wishing you all a safe and restful summer break.

Margaret Betts

Covid-19 and the Spanish Flu

The 2019/2020 academic year has truly turned out to be remarkable and historic. Little did we know when we returned after Christmas that things would take such an unexpected turn. In January and February 2020, we heard news reports of a mysterious virus spreading from China. Soon other countries including Italy, France and the UK were reporting cases. Ireland's first case was confirmed on February 29th. As the weeks progressed phrases like isolation, social distancing, Covid-19 and Coronavirus began to creep into our everyday vocabulary. However we did not know then the huge impact all of this would have on our everyday lives.

On March 12th the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, announced that all schools and colleges would close for a two week period in an attempt to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus. There was a palpable sense of relief, excitement and a 'holiday atmosphere' along the corridors of De La Salle College for the rest of the day. This was the first time in the history of the state that schools were closed down by government. But did you know that this is not the first time that De La Salle College closed due to illness and pandemic?

In recent months Ms. Stack and Ms. Mc Donagh have worked hard to preserve and display some unique and fascinating records from the archives of the College, including the Brother's journals from the late 19th and early 20th century. One of these journals gives an account of an outbreak of scarlet fever in 1907 and 1908. In 1907 'many students got the disease, but recovered after four or five days'. Sadly, one student from Co Roscommon became seriously ill and passed away in March. The Easter exams were postponed and the students were sent home. Similarly in 1908, there were 'several cases of scarlet fever' and on the advice of the medical officer, the College was closed.



The current Covid-19 pandemic has been described as a 'once in a century event' and compared to the Spanish Flu, 1918-1919. Mystery still surrounds the origins of the flu pandemic that spread around the world in the spring of 1918 and continued until late summer 1919. At that time World War 1 was entering its final months and governments had imposed strict media censorship so as not to affect the morale of troops or the general public. Only, the Spanish media, neutral during the war reported widely on the emergence of the deadly disease. This is one reason why it became known as the Spanish Flu.

The Brother's journals make reference to this global pandemic and report that in February 1918 'the influenza is beginning to trouble the students' and about a dozen students are ill. By October that year '120 students are in bed suffering from the flu'.

Extracts from the Brother's journals: Year 1918 - outbreak of influenza

Friday, 1st February 1918
 The Influenza is beginning to trouble the students. About a dozen are down with it. The weather is set in rather cold with a north wind blowing steadily.

October 8th - 9 students and 2 paying students came into Elly Place.
 18th - 120 students in bed suffering from "Flu".

Fear and anxiety gripped the world during this period as the virus was extremely contagious and there was no vaccine. In Ireland, it is estimated that 800,000 people were infected and around 23,000 people died. Isolation and social distancing were suggested as a way of tackling the disease.



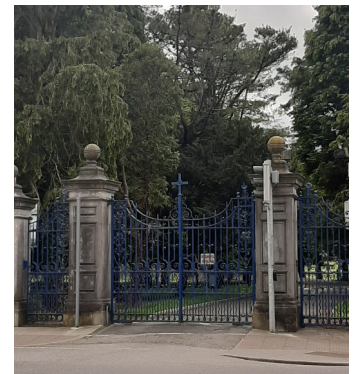
Events such as the Spanish Flu can be described as watershed moments in history. We are now living through a watershed. Life after Covid-19 will be radically different to what it was before. We have to do the most basic, everyday things in a very different way and get used to a 'new normal'. Social distancing will be part of our lives for the foreseeable future and that will impact all aspects of our lives.



We are all part of this global, watershed and truly historic time. Our experiences will be studied and analysed by historians, scientists and academics in the future. Your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will study this period in time when they are in school. They will watch news clips, read newspaper and internet articles, they will look at YouTube and Tiktok and all sorts of social media sources to learn about the 'Great Lockdown of 2020' and your experiences and accounts of the event will be their primary sources.

- Ms. M Gaskin

Even the gates of De La Salle College which are always open during the day, had to be kept closed during the lockdown. Technology has allowed us, the Lasallian community, to keep in touch and continue our educational communication. But it is not the same! We are looking forward to face to face interaction, where camaraderie and banter will once again be part of our daily routine.



Br. Charles Purcell RIP

1926 – 2020

Br. Charles Purcell died in Miguel House Castletown Co. Laois on Saturday May 9th at the age of 94. Described by a past pupil of his as ‘an inspirational gael, a gentle, humble and holy man,’ Br. Charles was born Rose Cottage, Bruree, Co. Limerick and was one of thirteen children. Two of the boys became De La Salle Brothers, while two of the girls became nuns.

In 1940 Br. Charles went to Castletown at the age of thirteen to join the Brothers. Some years later having completed his Leaving Certificate he went to France, where he studied French and did supervision work in the Brothers School in Grenoble. This time prepared him well for his studies at UCD, where he was awarded an honours degree in Latin and French.

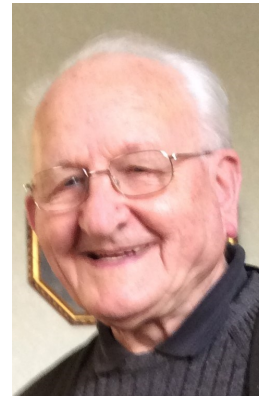
Br. Charles taught French at St Patrick’s Grammar School, Downpatrick from 1959 – 1986. He loved Downpatrick and was loved there by students, staff and the local community. A former student says ‘I cannot ever remember him raising his voice in class. He was a person of the people, a champion of the underdog, a man of honesty, integrity and fairness.’

While teaching in Downpatrick, he was often sought after by the inspectors to demonstrate good approaches to teaching French. He could give you at least three different ways of saying something, such was his command of the language.

However, it was his love of hurling that was to leave an enduring mark on the students, the town and even on the county. ‘He had a passion for hurling that was infectious.....we all wondered how he could pick up a sliotar on the inside of his black shoe and then drop it behind him to fire at pace through his legs right bang on target – while wearing a full length cassock.’ Such was his impact on his adopted community that in 2013, St Patrick’s Grammar School Downpatrick, named their pitches after him.

Br. Charles came to De La Salle College Waterford in 1986. He immediately settled in and happily spent the next thirty years of his life in the College. The Brothers and staff all remember him with great affection. In his early days he taught French and particularly enjoyed working with gifted students who shared the same interest in, and love for the French language that he possessed. He continued to assist the teachers of French especially when the oral exams were being prepared. He was sacristan for all his years in De La Salle and if we had a mass or a service, everything was always prepared and ready. He liked to talk to the chaplain in Latin and French and if the chaplain was struggling, Charles would try a bit of Irish! ‘Cha’ as the brothers liked to call him, was an excellent gardener producing the best of potatoes and vegetables for the community each summer. He also made a wonderful contribution to maintaining the extensive grounds of the College. Recently, Fr. John Treacy spoke about his first-hand experience of Cha’s very nourishing and tasty porridge. He was a man for all seasons and generously shared his talents. He was also a great community man who helped, encouraged, listened, supported and cheered others up. He gave a wonderful example by his genuine faith and his strong love of God.

Br. Charles went to Miguel House in Castletown in March 2016. He died on May 7th after a short illness. May his gentle soul rest in eternal peace. He will be sadly missed.



Interview with Br. Kilian



Br. Kilian O' Sullivan was born in Lehad, Tuosist, Co. Kerry in 1930 into a family of nine. Having spent six years in Rome, Br. Kilian arrived back from Rome in 1964 and was placed as director of scholastics in Faithlegg (now Faithlegg Hotel) and moved into De La Salle College in 1970 teaching French and Religion. He also taught in De La Salle Bagenalstown, Carlow and in St. John's College Ballyfermot. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to interview Br. Kilian, who is a friend to us all and a very welcome presence in the College community.

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

To be honest, it was a good Christian upbringing. My parents were very supportive of my decision and they encouraged me to follow my hope to become a De La Salle

Brother.

Tell us a little about your own education and about your time as a teacher

After finishing primary school, I had been studying with the De La Salle brothers in Castletown. I then spent six years in Rome studying for a Doctorate in Divinity (STD – Sacrae Theologiae Doctor), which is the final theological degree in the pontifical university system of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1963, I was awarded with the Doctorate of Divinity magna cum laude.

This was a very proud moment for me. I then went on to teaching French and Religion here in De La Salle College for over 30 years, which was no doubt difficult, but very rewarding.

I have given talks to both 1st and 6th Year students since I arrived in De La Salle College since 1970 and I hope they have been both informative and inspiring, as students start and leave their experience in the College.

I am able to give my own personal view as I spent a long time immersing myself in the culture and life of Rome and have done much research in these areas.

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

My favourite would have to be when I studied in Rome for the Doctorate and also being able to spend time in there. While in Rome, I also took part in and was in charge of Gaelic football teams with all of the Irish scholars from various religious orders in Rome and this was great because it gave us a space to meet each other and share our various experiences.



Would you tell us about some memories/moments that were special to you, throughout the years?

When Monsignor Piolanti, Head of the University in Rome, shared the news with me that I had received Magna Cum Laude with my Doctorate. I remember this vividly and it still brings me great satisfaction after having spent 6 years dedicating my life to my theological studies and practices.

What are the important aspects of life, in your opinion?

"It's not getting what I want, but coming to want what I ultimately am."

Your interest in sport, especially the GAA and golf, are well known here in the College. Your presence at events has been hugely appreciated by students and staff alike. Can you recall for us some of the best moments?

I can recall two major moments that have particularly stood out for me. The first being when Seán O' Sullivan sank an essential birdie in the play off and we subsequently won the Munster title and went on to win the Irish



Senior Schools All-Ireland, such an honour for the boys and the College. A second memory would have to be when Bill Murray got a par on the 18th hole to send the match into a play-off in Nenagh, when we were struggling and we subsequently went on and won the All-Ireland for the 2nd time. I had great enjoyment down through the years from being able to attend many events, meetings and celebrations over the last 40 years and seeing a number of successes in the area of golf and especially winning the Harty Cup and Croke Cup in 2007 and again 2008. They were special sporting memories. Another outstanding memory was when Br Patrick Kelly (RIP)

and I trained the Munster U15 Football Champions in the 1982 A competition. Great memories to live long in the memory.

Mr. Munroe and Br. Kilian have travelled the length and breadth of Ireland, bringing school golf teams to numerous competitions in Termonfeckin, Belfast, Sligo, Lucan etc. Great adventures were shared, many a laugh was had and unforgettable moments were cherished. It is with true warmth and appreciation that Mr. Munroe recalls the source of inspiration that Br. Kilian was to the young golfers in the school.



“Br. Kilian has been the driving force behind Golf in De La Salle College for over 40 years. Initially success was rare and for the first 30 years the school had a lone Munster title to show. Anyone that played golf in the school was encouraged by Br. Kilian and you would see him every Monday morning asking the lads had they played over the weekend and how they did. This attention to detail and encouragement paid off as the senior team went on to win 4 Munster title in row from 2011 to 2014. In 2012 and 2013, the College teams narrowly lost the All Ireland finals and each time Br. Kilian was heard to say, “we will win it next year”. True to his word, in 2014 at Nenagh Golf Club the College team won the Senior All Ireland for the second time.

Three years later... a few months short of his 87th birthday, the best was still to come. In Sept 2016 before a golf ball had been struck, at a meeting in the outside Science labs with the golfers Br. Kilian told the lads that they had the potential to “win everything”. The following April in Lucan Golf club the college Junior and Senior teams both won the All Ireland titles, and in doing so became the first and only team to achieve this rare feat.



To a man, all will agree that Br. Kilian is “Mr Golf” in De La Salle College and is the ‘Dalai Lama’ of the golf team.”

Br. Kilian has been a member of the Southeast Teachers Golf association and has served as president of it on a few occasions and often came home with prizes.

Br. Kilian has been and still is the president of the De La Salle Football and Hurling Club and has attended many great occasions in the club over the years.



What advice would you give to students here in De La Salle College about life as they go forward? Any words of wisdom?

“To thy own self be true and live a good, wholesome Christian life.”

On behalf of the Student Council and the wider De La Salle College community, we would like to sincerely wish Br. Kilian a very Happy 90th birthday on the 9th of June.

Interview conducted and produced by Conor Twomey

Ms. Dunne Camogie Success

Congratulations to Ms. Dunne and her team, Gailltír on their well-deserved All-Ireland victory. We at De La Salle College are all hugely proud of Ms Dunne's achievements. She never gave up and worked so hard to achieve her dream, something we are all inspired by. Many of our students here at De La Salle College had sisters, cousins and parents involved in the victory. We would like to wish Ms Dunne and her teammates a big congratulations from all of us after her team won the All Ireland Intermediate Club Camogie final.

After the bitter disappointment of last year's defeat and months of digging deep and tough training, Gailltír beat Lismore in the County Final in October in convincing fashion. The Munster final saw them face a strong Toomevara team with a number of Tipperary inter-county players, in early November. Gailltír again emerged worthy winners.



The semi-final draw saw them facing up against their old rivals Clonduff who had clinched the title from them in 2019. Pressure was mounting, but the Gailltír girls rose to the challenge and were winners by 6 points on the day. They were headed back for Croke Park in March. They faced St. Rynagh's of Offaly in the final this time. The Faithful County girls did not go down without a fight and were a point up after three minutes of injury time in the second half. But the Gailltír girls held out to secure a last minute cracker of a goal and follow up with a pointed free - the stuff dreams are made of!



Ski Trip February 2020

The annual De La Salle College ski trip to Italy took place during the February Mid-Term break. Mr. C Healy, Mr. A O'Brien, Mr. D O'Brien and Ms. S O' Shea travelled with 41 students, from Transition Year and 5th Year to the Ski resort of Andalo, where the students attended skill school each morning and afternoon.

Many of the students had never skied before the trip and advanced to the red slopes towards the end of the week, while the more advanced skiers attempted the black slopes on a daily basis.

The students were a credit to the school, their families and teachers and it was a very successful trip, thoroughly enjoyed by all who travelled to Italy.

Pictured across are the Ski group who travelled to Italy; and some students on the slopes of Andalo.



Le Chéile Conference 2020

On Thursday 6th and Friday 7th February, The Chairperson of the Board of Management Mr. M Lane, Principal Ms. M Betts and two De La Salle Students, Ed Whelan and Dario Dorcu represented the school at the annual Le Chéile Conference in Athlone.

In advance of the Conference, Ed and Dario prepared a project on the activities our school carried out under the ideas of ecology, sustainability and hope, which lead back to the core Le Chéile principle of Wisdom.



While at the conference, they attended workshops and took part in various activities.

There was also lots of musical talent on show over the two days, including Ed having the opportunity playing the bagpipes, having been tasked with waking up all attendees and also playing during a mass ceremony.

As shown throughout the conference, school communities are places which carry heritage and hope forward and this is witnessed from the classroom to the corridors, and now remotely online through our school platforms. We hope that this heritage and hope will see us through until we are all together again.

The conference was a great success and we look forward to many more in the future.



Chess Munster Finals 2020

On Monday 9th March, 24 De La Salle College Chess players travelled with St. Angela's Ursuline Convent to the Munster Finals in Limerick.

A very successful day was had by all. In the Champions category our teams took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Bill Branigan, Declan Voogt, Jack O'Neill and Michal Szerszan were on the winning team crowned Munster Champions.

In the novices category, our teams took 2nd and 3rd place. There were many outstanding individual performances on the day including Sam Livingston (2nd individual novices) and Bill Branigan and Michal Szerszan (joint 2nd individual champions).

We done to all our players on a fantastic performance and achievements in this year's Munster Finals.

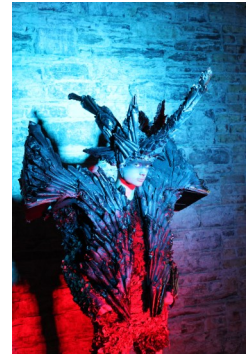
Junk Kouture 2020

Three 5th year students; Aaron Ryan, Ryan Tubbritt and Dean Hayes successfully make it through to the South Regional Finals of Junk Kouture with their costume called 'Crisp Condition.' The event took place on the 6th of March 2020 in University Concert Hall, Limerick.

The event also saw 5th year student Oisín O'Connor be selected for Southern Regional singer. Oisín got to perform his own original composition 'The Brighter Side' at the halftime show, which was very well received by the audience.

The team had an exciting and successful night when their costume 'Crisp Condition' being one of the 80 teams from 1,500 entries to make it through to the Grand Finals. The Grand Finals have been postponed until Autumn 2020, however it is a night our 'Crisp Condition' Junk Kouture 2020 team look forward to performing in.

Well done to these students and we wish them the best of luck as they progress into the finals later this year.



Green Schools Committee



This year the Green Schools team began work on the theme of Water - concerned with the conservation of water in the school and raising awareness of water issues, which was a challenging endeavour.

We got off to a great start by attending a workshop facilitated by the Green Schools HQ and sponsored by Uisce that set us on the right track to achieving our goals. This was progressed when the team set off around the College one morning and counted, looked at and logged all the accessible water points in the school. This was very informative as we counted over 300 points.



There were no major issues but we used this knowledge to come up with some ideas as to how we could improve the efficiency of these units in order to save water.

In addition to the running water points, we focused on reducing plastic water bottles in the school and that was facilitated by the decision of the Board of Management to discontinue the sale of these bottles in the Dining Hall.

To assist with the provision of fresh clean water for drinking we would also have hoped to upgrade the supply of taps for student use.

The Green Schools Committee also represented the school at the Waterford Comhairle na nÓg day in the Bridge Hotel and also at the Le Chéile Conference in Athlone where they shared experiences and ideas with other like-minded people.

De La Salle College Choir

After an abrupt end to preparations for Cork Choral Festival, which was due to take place from the 29th of April to the 3rd of May, the Senior Choir hopes to return in the new school year as positive as ever.

Unfortunately, we will be without our talented current 6th years who acted as leaders for the sections and undoubtedly, they will be sincerely missed by us all.



Up to that point, we had a relatively busy timetable with multiple performances at Christmas including Carols by Candlelight, our Christmas concert and carol service, singing for children in the paediatric ward in the hospital and at several primary schools, recording a live session with WLR and the occasional wedding thrown in the mix too. At the beginning of the New Year, we travelled to Laurel Hill Coláiste in Limerick City. It is one of my favourite trips in the choir calendar and I think many of the lads would agree. We perform on the second day in a concert with the girls' choir for the students there. This year, the concert was dedicated to Karl Kirby and we were joined by his family on the day. Jack O'Neill and Vincent Fleming flawlessly performed a beautiful piece by

Billy Joel with support from the combined chamber choirs. The standard of singing is just amazing and it's a great way to make new friends. Hopefully, next year the girls will be back down to visit and sing with us again when it is safe for us all.

Our TY choir members make a weekly trip to sing for the children with special needs in St. Joseph's school on the mall. The children say it is one of their favourite times during the week when the boys from De La Salle come to perform for them. The Octet were also busy with Leaving Cert mock practical exams. A small group of roughly nine or ten rehearse throughout the week at lunchtimes and mornings. We often perform when there is a visitor coming to the college. We sang a couple of pieces for a French brother, Frère Jacques, who was staying with the brothers for a number of weeks. We also surprised Br. Ben by performing for him in the staffroom to celebrate his 50th year as a brother.

When we return in the next school year, we will continue rehearsing as normal for several competitions and with the intent of bringing some silverware back to the college. As a man I know would say, we will do our bit for Ireland.

- Peter Rafter

It is also at this time that we remember our dear friend, Karl Kirby, whose anniversary falls on June 20th. He will remain in our hearts and prayers forever.



News & Star Green Room Awards

A huge congratulations to Isaac Casey who won Best Youth Performer at the News & Star Green Room Awards on Sunday 2nd February for his portrayal of Joseph in our school production 'Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. He beat off some stiff competition from around the county. On the night, Isaac along with four of the narrators from the show; Rhea Kennedy, Alex Collins, Rebecca Shanahan and Aoibheann Kelly performed a fabulous rendition of 'Close Every Door'.



A hearty congratulations also to Ms. J White who won the award for Best Female Performance in a Musical for her role as Velma in 'Chicago' on the same night. We are both delighted and proud that our school is so well represented at this level.

Well done to you both!

Br. Ben as Assistant Provincial

Last year I was given a new job for our Province. I now work as part of our leadership team for Ireland, UK and Malta. This is not something I originally sought. Indeed, the opposite was the case as I took my name out of the election.

However, there were two things not in my favour: firstly, we are getting older and therefore have fewer people to take on responsibility and secondly, I made a vow 'to go wherever I may be sent and do whatever may be required of me, whether by the body of the Institute or by its superiors.' So, in the end I didn't have a lot of choice.

However, the good thing is that I am allowed to remain in my community here in the College. To be honest, this has made all the difference as I have been able to continue to do a very tiny amount of teaching which I have always loved and also I have been able to stay working with the choirs and the show. In addition, I am still residing in what is my home and where most of those who have had the greatest influence on my life still live.



My work mostly consists of visiting our communities in Ireland, England and Malta, meeting the Brothers, making sure they are okay, and that the community is functioning satisfactorily. This is a very easy part of the job as the Brothers are always very welcoming, encouraging and usually open to ideas that I might have. Just before the lockdown I had also started a round of visits to our schools. I really enjoyed these occasions, meeting staff and students mostly in a fairly informal way. The welcome was top class in every school, and I was very impressed by how much all the schools carry the whole Lasallian spirit. They are all immensely proud to be Lasallian.

I also attend a lot of meetings. If I am to be honest, I find this work the least interesting. But I have to admit it is very important to meet people and hear what they have to say and then to set plans in motion which take account of people's views. I have also travelled abroad quite a bit. Since last June I have been in Rome four times and in Malta twice. There have been meetings in Liverpool, Oxford and Kintbury (near Reading). A meeting of European Provincials in Romania in March and another of European Principals in Poland in May, were both cancelled. If I am honest, I find this international travel very demanding and mostly boring and the damage I'm doing to the environment also concerns me. Since the lockdown, we have been doing all our meetings on zoom and while it's not perfect, at least we're not harming the planet.



Overall, at the end of the first year I am more relaxed about this work than when I began. I am also convinced that my living here in the College and my continued involvement in school has contributed enormously to my happiness and the success of the year.

- Br. Ben

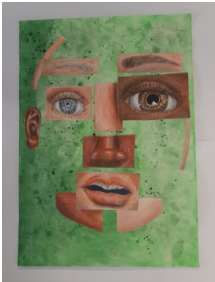
We wish Br. Ben the very best in this new post.

'Waterford 40 Years from Now' Exhibition

'Waterford 40 Years from Now' was a collaborative project between Garter Lane Arts Centre, Waterford Cultural Quarter & Creative Ireland. De La Salle College was one of four Post Primary Schools selected to participate. Ms. O'Connor and Ms. Ryan's second year students 'flourished with this four-part project. Students completed realised pieces which were exhibited in Garter Lane Arts Centre from January 13th-18th. Students created a wonderful mix of artwork, gaining the experience of engaging, creating and exhibiting in a professional gallery space. These 2nd year Visual Artists have now earned the important title of being 'Exhibited Visual Artists!'



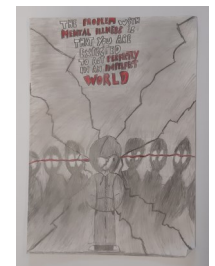
Texaco Art Competition



Texaco Children's Art Competition is an annual Art Competition that supports and encourages children of all ages to get involved in creating Art. It attracts over 20,000 submissions every year.

It is open to Primary and Post Primary students across the country from ages 6-18. De La Salle College had a selection of Ms. Ryan's Art students from 1st and 5th year enter this year's 2020 Competition. These students include Ben Quilty, Noah Byrne, Daniel Hanrahan (1st year students) and two entries from Aaron Ryan (5th year student).

We wish all students the best of luck when the results of the competition are announced at a later date this year.



Pobal Project Awards



An Pobal Project has been provided for young people by Children's Grouplink in the Waterford area for many years. The project provides participants with skills on communication, finding their talents and learning to interact with others. It gives students opportunities to learn about different skills and discuss topical issues.

Congratulations to all De La Salle College students; Aaron Mulhall, Blade Harding, Elliott Lepota, Corey Shanahan and Simon Jacob, who received their award this year after completing the programme.



Jaguar Land Rover 4x4 National Finals

De La Salle College 4x4 team, the “Deise Vikings” took part in this year’s Jaguar Land Rover 4x4 National Finals held in Bolton Street on the 5th March this year. Land Rover 4x4 in schools is an international educational programme that raises awareness of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) among students and school children in Ireland and across the world.

Spanning age ranges of 11 to 19 its main objective is to help change perceptions of STEM by creating fun and exciting learning environments for young people to develop and informed view about careers in engineering automotive design technology.



The team comprised of PJ Hennessy, Hubert Homa, Robbie Grogan, Daniel Farrell, John Pearson and Kieran Houlihan all from TY with the support of both Mr. Campbell and Mr. Ellis.



The challenge was to design a 4x4 RC vehicle given the basic motor and chassis which would compete on a course, it also had to adhere to various rules and regulations, for example, weight, size, Electronics, lights, tilt sensors etc. The group had to go through various presentations and scrutineering with judges going through every detail of the build. They had to present a portfolio and create a pit display.

A local Company in Waterford “Schivo” came on board and were a great help in supporting the team with the 3D printing of the Jeep and accessories. The competition was run by Junior Achievement Ireland in conjunction with Land Rover Jaguar Ireland.



The group received fantastic feedback from all companies involved and JA staff with regards to the fantastic enthusiasm, motivation and great behaviour from all the students involved. They came agonisingly close to winning but had to settle for third place overall but won 1st place for best pit display and portfolio.

Well done to the ‘Deise Vikings’ group!

Sponsored Walk Postponement

The Sponsored Walk on the Greenway that was scheduled to take place in May is postponed for now. We, the Student Council, are hopeful that it will be possible to reschedule at an appropriate time next year.



We intended to raise funds for Cheshire, Waterford who offer support to people with disabilities, helping them to live their lives as independently as possible. All preparations were already made for this endeavour, so, hopefully, circumstances will allow us to proceed next year.

LGBTQI Matters

Who are we?

We are a group of students who are interested in discussing LGBTQI matters both inside and outside of school.

Why do we meet?

Sometimes LGBTQI students can feel alone or even isolated. We felt that it was important to establish a society to help students on their journey.

What can we do?

We can discuss the difficulties that students may face and suggest ways to address these. Ms. Walsh helps to address these concerns.

One example was including an LGBTQI section in the College newsletter and hey presto here we are! As a group we advocate for awareness and full inclusion.

Is it all serious?

No no no!!! There is a serious side and there is a lot of chat and fun too. We share the same interests and hobbies as everyone else so sport, music, gigs etc.

Where do we meet?

We did meet each Wednesday after school in Ms. Walsh's classroom D4. This obviously has changed now due to the coronavirus.

Are there any LGBTQI supports outside of school?

Yes, there are many support services. The one that LGBTQI students in Waterford will be most familiar with is in the Manor. In the group that meets there young people work on projects to raise awareness of what works and what needs to be changed to improve young LGBTI+ people's lives. By communicating experiences from young people's point of view they aim to create awareness of the issues, to inspire behaviour change and to improve the focus on better outcomes for young LGBTI+ people.

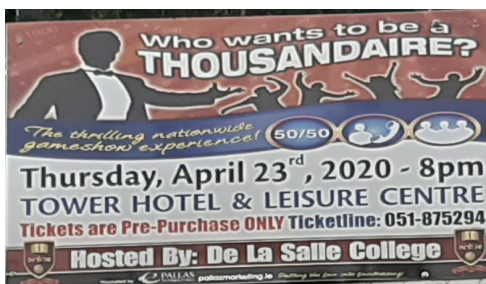


Manor Street Centre

Edmund Rice Youth & Community Multiplex, Manor Street, Waterford X91 TY8N
0860218941 or chillout@wstcys.ie

Have you any advice for students? Be kind!! This too will pass!!

'Who wants to be a Thousandaire Postponement



The 'Who wants to be a Thousandaire' fundraiser has been postponed until November 19th 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

A particular thank you to the Parents Association who organised the event and a special thanks to the Exhibitors and Advertisers for the event.

We are looking forward to this taking place later in the year.

SVP Cake Sale

The De La Salle St. Vincent De Paul Youth Conference hosted a Cake Sale on Friday 7th February. Both staff and students got to display their culinary skills. The Home Economics Department also kindly prepared lots of pastries.

The event was greatly supported and all proceeds went towards helping those in need in our community.

Well done also to the members of the St. Vincent De Paul Youth Conference in De La Salle who took part in organising the cake sale.



Tennis Success

A huge congratulations to Andrew Gaule, 5th year student, who won the Under 18 National Indoor Tennis Championships in January. Well done on this major achievement!



TY Advent Jigsaw Piece

A selection of Ms Ryan's TY and 5th year students created a collaborative 'Advent JigSaw' Art Piece for St Joseph & St Benildus Church. It was a well-received and welcomed art piece that was used throughout the Advent celebrations of St Joseph & St Benildus Church.



Athletics

The De La Salle College Inter Boys Cross Country team competed in the Waterford Schools Cross Country on Wednesday 15th January in St. Augustine's College, Dungarvan.

The boys won the overall category and there were some great performances on the day from the team.

Picture 1: Hubert Homa, Aidan Burke, Rory Dobbyn & Daniel Farrell - the first four over the line winning the overall category for their team.



Picture 2: the whole Inter-Team.

Well done to the Athletics team!



Reflections during Covid-19

Since De La Salle College closed on Thursday, March 12th, we have all been working and communicating in our homes on virtual screens, with 'Google Classroom' and online classes becoming the norm. The school gates may be closed, but our school is as lively as ever!

We invited teachers and students alike to share some of their experiences and thoughts on how they are managing these times. We have shared some of these below to best explain some of our feelings at this time. We hope you enjoy getting to read our common ground and hopes that are underpinning us all right now.

My Lockdown

So much sun to brighten our days

I.T. Zoom Parties, quizzes & bingo, being together differently with pals

Laughter over card and board games, yoga and Netflix, boules and badminton in the garden

Very surprising discoveries within 2km cycles from home

Everyone home unexpectedly, safely, joyfully

Recipes, old and new, successful and unsuccessful, but such fun in the making

Lots of walking, with socially distanced chats along the way

Inventive home celebrations for St Patrick's Day, Mother's Day, and Easter

Nature never more appreciated, in all its loveliness

Instead of the morning mayhem en route to DLS, I can stroll downstairs to "class" in pj's and slippers

Neighbourhood togetherness in applauding our frontline workers

Google Classroom, a poor substitute for the company of colleagues and pupils, but at least keeping us linked until we are all together again.

- Ms. J Brosnan

Message from Mr. Dooley

It's day 103 and I have driven my van twice since March 12th. The lawns are cut, and the weather is good. But there is something missing. Freedom to move and socialise has changed the way we live forever. This is one virus and God only knows how long we'll have it. Will we have full classrooms in September? Will we have hurling? These are the questions that bother me because the things we love are no longer accessible. Everyone likes the summer holidays, but this is not summer holidays for the kids. I feel sorry for the kids and teenagers who need human interaction to develop and grow. For all our children and students in De La Salle College, I pray that by July we will have a better healthier Ireland where we can get back together. This time will be different. I think we'll appreciate each other more. Not saying there won't be any upsets or problems, but all the things associated with school life are sadly missed by teachers and students alike. My advice even though I am struggling mentally with lockdown, but one thing I find great comfort in is prayer and in particular the rosary. It has a calming and soothing effect knowing that God is with us.

So, St. John Baptist De La Salle. Pray for us. Live Jesus in our hearts, forever.

- Mr. D Dooley

Dealing with the Mystery: A Consideration of the Greater Purpose of Daily living, inspired by John McGahern and Covid 19!

During this time of crisis and isolation, I have had a chance to revisit some of my John McGahern essays and novels. “John who?” I hear you say!! Hold tight we will get there. So, as I was reading it struck me how relevant the experience of isolation is while coming to terms with our new way of being. It is not all doom and gloom! There are many reasons to hope, there are even more opportunities to grow. Have you noticed how you have begun to appreciate the value of ordinary things in our lives? The value of a hug? Is it possible to put a value on a hug? Now we have a starting point!! That part of you that knows the value of a hug we are going to call the mysterious nature of life. Let me take you on a brief journey of how this McGahern guy explores this mysterious aspect of our lives in his writings.

“The best of life is life lived quietly, where nothing happens but our calm journey through the day, where change is imperceptible, and the precious life is everything.”

— **John McGahern, *All Will Be Well: A Memoir***

The author John McGahern through his writing explores what seems to be universal concerns, the quest to find meaning and truth. Why is this important? The simple answer is I don’t know! The more complex answer is there is a place deep within us all that seeks answers to the greatest questions in life like: Why are we here? Why do bad things happen to good people? Is there life after death? Is there a God? What is this all about? McGahern was not a religious author in the narrow institutional sense, in fact he parted company with the institutional Church very early in his writing career. His writing, however, is suffused with references to the spiritual, sacramental and ritualistic practices that he considered formative in his life.

“Certainly the Church was the most powerful thing in my upbringing,
In the spiritual and cultural sense, much more powerful than literature
Which was almost absent. It dealt with the mystery, which nobody else
Dealt with. The society was basically against the mystery”
(J. Andrews, “John McGahern *Education and the Arts* (1984), p.141.

As we enter what seems to be the 400th week of a new way of living, I find myself thinking about what we have in our lives that encourages us to explore these questions of what McGahern refers to as “the mystery”? How many of you have begun to read again? Have you taken up a new hobby? Have you rekindled a friendship over zoom? Have you listened to more music? Found some new band or artist you have been meaning to check out? Have you prayed? Perhaps the answers to all these questions is a plain NO. That’s ok too but do you have some method of engaging with “the mystery”?!! If you are reading this, I guarantee that you are finding your own way of navigating the mystery of life. Oh, if you arrive at the answer please tell me!! Ok getting back to this McGahern guy, whether it be Church or secular rituals, McGahern in his works describes the various movements and interactions which seek to uncover something of the mystery of life. He refers to this word “mystery” repeatedly in his interviews and his

works. He is thankful for the Church's role in making people consider the purpose of existence. In his view, the question would not have been otherwise addressed. Neither of McGahern's parents could read and therefore, he was not introduced to the world of literature until he was given access to a neighbour's library. This experience of having unlimited access to a world of literature changed his life! Now for some this might be a complete nightmare!! If so this is not your path! Perhaps it is music or art, or science try to explore new avenues! By the way, there is no one way to open the world of mystery, it could be simply appreciating a beautiful sunset!!

McGahern in his writings though returns repeatedly to the context of rural Ireland. It is the setting for most of his writing. It becomes clear that there is something in the simplicity of rural life that lends itself to a natural enquiry about the nature of life and existence. Nature is important! The nature of life is that it is in a constant state of change, we know that Summer always follows Spring! There are patterns of predictability built into the unpredictable. Think of Covid-19 who could have known this time last year that there would be a global pandemic and the world would shut down? Yet all signs show the resilience of humankind and the world goes on. We will adapt and go on! Perhaps you have been walking or running lately now that the gyms are closed? I am sure you have noticed the trees and the flowers as they bloom, we are drawn to beautiful things! What McGahern was getting at I think by placing his characters in the countryside is not only a spiritual awakening as a response to nature, but he indicates the tension that exists between the older generations attachment to the land and the younger generations aspirations to move to the cities. Sometimes we only know the value of things when we don't have access to them anymore. I am sure that even if you won't admit it the number of you who miss school is very high! When I say school, I'm referring to the physical space where you are together with your friends! The space where you interact with your teachers and play your sports. We often miss what we cannot have. I am so conscious that many changes have happened in all our lives. Change remember is not always a bad thing! It gives us time to consider what is of actual importance and not what we had perceived to be important. So there is some food for thought. If reading my reflections on Covid-19, isolation and McGahern has helped you on your journey into "the mystery" I am delighted.

Remember whether you are a first year beginning your journey in De La Salle or a 6th Year about to embark on another new chapter we are all on this journey through life together. There are many twists and turns, sometimes there are bumps in the road too. The car might even breakdown but remember to call for help! Life is a mystery; I am so thankful for this opportunity to encourage you to remember that. I hope as a teacher in De La Salle that I helped you to search for answers to some of the deeper questions in life. Be kind, stay safe and we will get through this together! Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.

- Ms. E Walsh

Covid-19 and me

In March, our world came tumbling down, the school closed and we went to ground.
 A virus you see called Covid 19 washed in like a Tsunami to every country.
 We watched as the news filtered in from Wuhan as the virus took over killing men and women.
 Children are “vectors” is all that we heard, but children died too – this was no ordinary flu.
 We watched as the trucks took Italy’s dead and my mother kept watching the ICU beds.
 My parents work frontline you see and that as you can imagine is a worry for me.
 No more hugs after work from mam when she got in – straight to the shower and clothes in the wash.
 Her hands are sore and bleeding but yet she smiles and tells us not to worry so much!
 Each day now we spend on Google Classroom and I miss my friends and our actual classrooms. We’re
 in touch with each other most days and we’re happy it’s almost the summer holidays.
 The days are spent running and cycling within 2km which isn’t too exciting. Joe Wicks has us breathless
 my brother and I as we do P.E on YouTube not Sky!
 Each night we watch the news to hear the numbers and hope we’ve done enough to flatten the curve.
 I hope by July the curve will be flatter as we can visit my Grandparents in Clare. They have cocooned
 and done all that was asked. Stay home! It’s a simple request and we had to trust that the government
 knew best.
 My first year in De la Salle College is almost over and its one I won’t forget. It’s been great in ways and
 I’ve learned so much and it was great to have made friends that have stayed in touch.
 So for now we’ll wash our hands, stay 2 metres apart, keep up our spirits as this too will pass.
 Stay home, stay safe and all going well in September we’ll all be back in De la Salle College.

- 1st year student

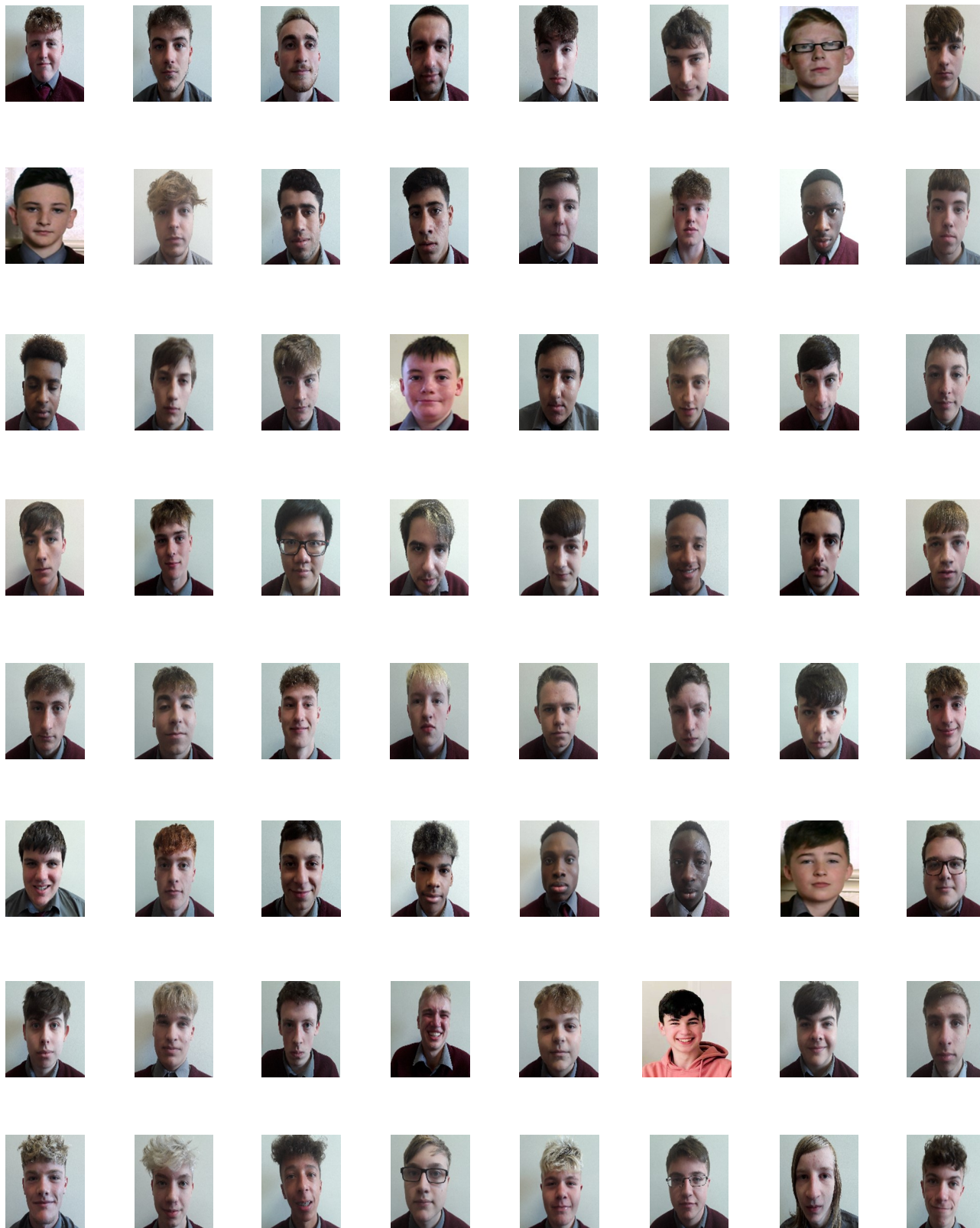
The Changes Since Covid-19

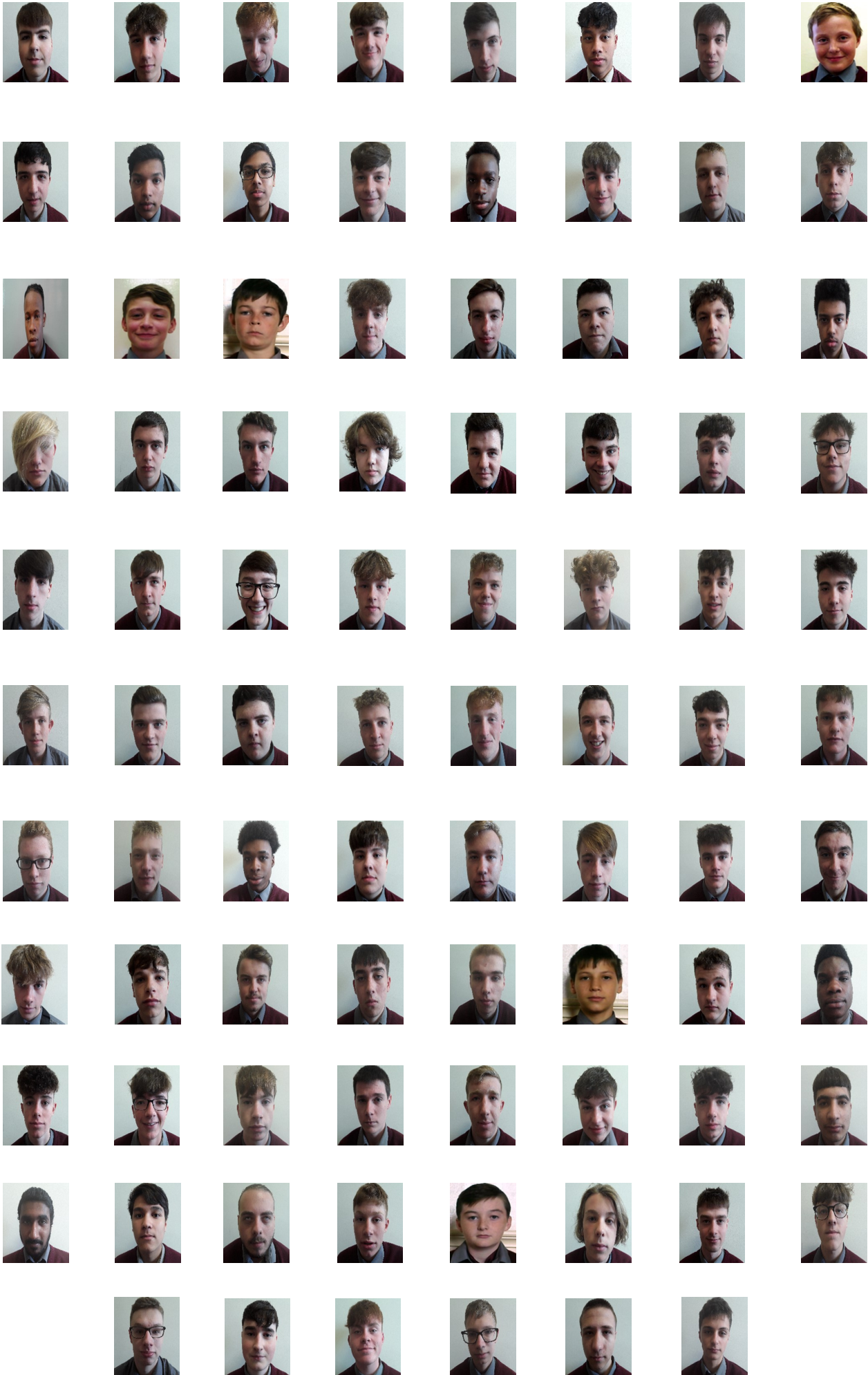
You feel as if you are a prisoner encaged within your home,
 That the world outside has frozen still, as if in tableau,
 You search perfunctory for people to meet or somewhere to roam,
 Yet you find no one, not a soul and you have nowhere to go.
 One cough, one sneeze, is all that it takes to fill you with fear,
 Have I got it? Am I safe? What do I do now?
 But who mollifies this fright when no one dares come near,
 I’ve got to keep safe, somewhere, somehow.
 Our school has gone from a building to screens,
 Our gyms to sitting rooms, and a chat to a text,
 We adapt and we change, to remain normal by any means.
 We yearn for our lives back but who knows what’s next
 Don’t be selfish, recalcitrant or disdainful,
 This threat can be dangerous, so don’t impugn those who know,
 How sinister this virus can be. So, if you look for something to do, don’t be hopeful,
 As you will find no one, not a soul and you have nowhere to go.

- Aidan Burke, 3rd year student

De La Salle College Class of 2020

We would like to especially wish the best of luck to all of our 6th year students, as they journey into the next part of their lives. We wish you all the best health, success and happiness for your future endeavours.





6th Year Reflection

Dear Leaving Cert Class of 2020,

Congratulations on reaching the end of your time in De La Salle College. At the start of the school year, we could never have imagined that just before St Patrick's Day the schools would close so suddenly and that your final year would come to an abrupt end. I'm sad that you missed all of the rituals that bring your secondary education to an end. Despite the stress and confusion of the last couple of months, this time will pass and slowly life will return to normal. One thing that we have all learned recently is to value what we take for granted-I don't think anyone would have realised how much we would miss school!

In the coming months you will start your journey into the next stage of your lives, be it to further education, an apprenticeship or into the workplace. As you leave us, we look back at your 5 or 6 years with us and think of the laughter and the tears that we have shared, the friendships that you have made and the huge contribution that you have all made to life in the College. There have been more good days than bad days, but this year has been especially difficult since we lost Karl Kirby who should have graduated with you. He will always be a part of the class of 2020.

Please remember that just because you are leaving us, it does not mean you need to be strangers! One of the unique things about the College is that it is not just a school, it is the Brothers' home and you will always be welcome visitors. Pop in to see Karen in the Office- you wouldn't have survived your school career without her to look out for you! Call to the staffroom to see us and let us know how you are getting on- we will be delighted to see you. We are very proud of each and every one of you and we wish you every success in your future.

Speaking personally, I would like to thank you all for the courtesy and respect that you have always shown to me as your Year Head. It has been my pleasure to look after you and I will miss you all. Also huge thanks to your teachers- they have worked very hard to give you the very best possible education. Enjoy the Summer and please God we will all see each other soon. Live Jesus in our hearts, forever.

- Ms. A Conway, Year Head

We would like to take a moment, to firstly thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, but also to wish all members of the De La Salle College community near and far a very happy, relaxing and safe summer break after the colourful academic year that 2019-2020 has been.

We look forward to being able to connect with you all again in September.

Ní neart go cur le chéile

Nesting Season

There is always
 a choice.
 Perhaps in these
 strange moments
 it is a simple one;
 to dwell on
 what has been taken away
 or to dwell
 in what we have been given;
 to build our nests anew
 weaving safe and soft
 a chance to breathe,
 with all the terrible
 possibility that brings;
 to reflect,
 to wonder,
 to sit anew
 in the secret depths
 of those actions
 of holy ordinariness;
 eating,
 drinking,
 walking,
 sleeping,
 cleaning,
 being with,
 being alone,
 simply being.
 Taking the time
 to watch the earth
 reset and heal,
 to allow our inner
 sky to clear of

all our worry weather,
 often as grey
 and insubstantial
 as clouds,
 until the
 one thing necessary
 shines through
 at last,
 and we see
 the present moment,
 sky blue,
 and fragile
 as a blackbird's egg,
 nesting secure
 in the heart,
 deep within
 the brambled hedge
 of our thorn tangled
 thoughts,
 awaiting the stillness
 of a spring morning
 when we grant ourselves
 new greening,
 awaiting the sunbeam
 of divine attention
 to warm it to life,
 awaiting our
 sitting breath,
 faith feathered
 and yielding,
 to hatch within us
 a new way.

By : Brother Richard, a Capuchin Monk
 in Ireland



De La Salle College Waterford

