



# DE LA SALLE COLLEGE

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## WATERFORD

Issue 8

May 2023

### **Message from the Principal**

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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 friends and former colleagues, Br. Tim and Br Stephen, passed away during the school year and will be sadly missed by all of us. Both men have left lasting memories for us all to relive and enjoy. It is very fitting that our new building is now named the Br. Tim O'Shea Wing which was officially opened on De La Salle Day, 12th of May.

I am delighted to report that our new Leaving Certificate subjects have been a great success. LCVP, Computer Science, and PE have serviced the needs of many of our students in terms of extended choice. Spanish will be coming to the school in the new school year.

I would like to extend my appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to all the De la Salle Brothers, the College Staff, students and their parents/guardians for all your hard work and loyalty shown to the College throughout this year. I look forward to working with you all in continuing to make the College a centre of excellence where all are welcome.

I wish all our students the very best of luck in their exams, those sitting the house exams, and of course, those taking the State Exams. I especially wish the Leaving Cert Class of 2023 great success and happiness in the years ahead as they find their path through life.

Here's wishing you all a safe and restful summer break in the knowledge that we are in the holy presence of God.

Best wishes,

Mick Walsh



### **The Upcoming DLS Show**

De La Salle auditions are underway for our next show and it will blow you away. 'We Will Rock You' is a jukebox musical from the most rocking band of our time, Queen. We Will Rock You is set hundreds of years in the future where music is banned, all students are going to rebel against the system and bring back rock n' roll. The fabulous Vicki Graham and Jennifer White conducted auditions for boys on the 28th of April and Girls the 29th. They sang a song of their choice and danced to the iconic 'Don't stop me now'. Students from schools all over Waterford auditioned and eagerly await the text that they've received a place for the De La Salle event of the year. The show will be here to rock your socks off the week of the 16th of October.



## **De La Salle Day 2023—A Unique Moment**



We celebrated De La Salle Day on Friday 12th May. Throughout the week, we heard many people in the school community speaking of what De La Salle means to them and what being a Lasallian is all about. We celebrated on the day with a very special mass, as is tradition. It was a beautiful ceremony, touching and reflective, where the celebration was enhanced by the choir and musicians. It reminded us of the real Lasallian spirit and how important it is to all in this community.

After the mass, we had a very special event, the unveiling of the new wing in the college, now named the Br. Tim O'Shea Wing. Members of Br. Tim's family, The Board of Management, members of CJ Falconer & Associate Architects, members of the Parents Association, members of the Student Council, past and present staff members, Brothers and friends of the College flocked to the chapel to be present for this wonderful occasion.

It is clear that many played important roles in the bringing about of this highly –appreciated facility; our former principal, Ms. Betts,

Boards of Management, Parents Associations, CJ Falconer & Associate Architects, Dept. Of Education and our present principal, Mr. Walsh. The new facility includes a Woodwork Room, a Home Economics Room (kitchen) and a Computer Science Classroom.

Br. Ben spoke of the legacy of Br. Tim who sadly passed away on 6th of December last year. There is no doubt that Br. Tim O'Shea touched the lives of many, many people and always in a positive and caring way. He epitomised the Lasallian way and treated everybody, no matter who they were, in a caring and gentle manner, always valuing the person. In retrospect, it probably explains why those who knew Br. Tim, felt he was their special friend...as indeed, he was. He had time and kindness in abundance for all.

Br. Ben explained that this wing is the only space in the school dedicated in name to anyone other than Saint Jean-Baptiste De La Salle. "To have that honour and privilege, of being the first and the only one to have a section of the building called after them, you have to be a very extra special person – and that's exactly what Tim O'Shea was – he was extra special."





The appreciation of Br. Ben's words in the chapel was palpable among the people gathered.

I suspect that many were happy to progress outside to the official unveiling of the Br. Tim O'Shea Wing where the sunshine helped to allow many an unshed tear go unnoticed.

Fr PJ Breen blessed the new Br. Tim O'Shea wing. Margaret Betts (former principal), Peggy and Rose O'Shea (Br. Tim's sisters-in-law) and Fergus Dunne (DLS Board of Management) unveiled the plaque and cut the ribbon.

Members of the Parents Association presented a cheque of €6,400 which will be used towards further fitting out this great facility.

The gathering for refreshments in the dining room was marked by the warmth and the friendships sown in the College over the years. Present staff treasured the opportunity to reminisce with former friends, staff and Brothers.

It was a privilege to be part of the school community on this De La Salle Day which allowed us to honour Br. Tim O'Shea in this way. May his kindness always be present here in the College.





## **Gaisce**

The Gaisce programme is a long running challenge for young people from the President of Ireland. This year we had students complete their bronze, silver and gold level challenges.

8 students achieved a bronze medal this year: Oisín Langford (3rd year), Luke O'Farrell, Luke Savage, Darragh Hogan, Steven Kurian, David Cullen, Gavin Doran, Shane White (all TY).

4 students achieved a silver medal this year: Noah Carson & Jeff Knox Hamm (TY), Darragh Bolger & Oisín Cooke (5th Year)

A huge congratulations to all of these students who received their medals and certs at the Awards night held on May 8th. Finally, a recent past pupil, Noah Cowman, completed his gold medal challenges with us last year during his Leaving Certificate Year and over the summer of 2022 after he completed his state exams. Noah is the first De La Salle College student to earn a gold medal in the Gaisce challenge and will receive his award in Aras an Uachtaráin later in the year. Well done to Noah and all involved in the Gaisce programme in DLS.



## **La Sallian Awards**

One of the highlights of this term was our students' success in this year's Lasallian Competition. The national competition is open to entries from all De La Salle schools and we had a number of entries this year which were all commended. This competition encourages our students to explore and develop their understanding of the Lasallian ethos in a meaningful way, as well as allowing them to be creative across whatever format suits them best. The title of this year's competition was 'One Life, One Man, One La Salle'.

Iqbal Marzuki and Raymond Pempho Chimwala created beautiful art pieces, while Cillian Calvey wrote a wonderful poem. The overall winner was a song, "We Are De La Salle", written and performed by Fionn McGrath, Oisín Cooke, Darragh Bolger, Ed Whelan, Liam Steenson, George Lyons and Br Tommy.

Throughout their time in the school these students have acknowledged the importance of both sport and music in one way or another, and give credit to positive role models like Br. Ben Hanlon, Br. Thomas Walsh and the school chaplain, Mr Dermot Dooley. "These men, like De La Salle, have touched our hearts through the life lessons of kindness and perseverance that they have taught us. Their teachings have changed our lives and we will always remember."





## **SVP Youth Day**

The Young SVP conference and their teacher Ms. McManus went to SETU Arena for a youth day comprising every Young SVP conference in the south-east of Ireland. They let out their creative side at this event to design and put together a stand of all the activities they did during their year as Young SVP. They participated in many activities at the Youth Day. Their stage presentation was absolutely fantastic and was well enjoyed by the other Young SVP Conferences. They represented the school very well and they are a credit to their school, families and friends.



## **Young SVP**

The Young SVP group continued to flourish in the second half of the year with the students planning many activities. After the success of the Annual Bucket Collection the students started planning a Teachers Vs Student football match, which again brought crowds of students to the sports hall to watch. After joining with the student council and their no uniform day they handed over €1348 to Debbie Donohoe and the rest of SVP Waterford. After that the committee organized and held a Bake Sale where all their members were in their kitchens baking or buying baked goods in the local shops, some members of staff also baked treats for the group to sell. They set up in the study hall and got busy, queues filled the hall with everyone wanting something from the table. By the time everything had been sold they had raised over €400 which again was donated to Debbie Donohoe and the rest of SVP Waterford. Their final act was giving a presentation to first year students about SVP and now they can help. We'd like to thank all the members of the Young SVP committee, Debbie Donohoe and Ms McManus who made everything the students did possible.





## **Awards Night**

The annual awards ceremonies took place in the College Chapel on Monday May 8th with former De La Salle Student, Moncrieff being the special guest on the evening. A record number of awards were given out to Junior Cycle students during the day when Brother Tommy spoke to them about the importance of community and belonging and what it means to be a De La Salle Student. This year saw the inaugural Brother Tim O'Shea Maths award. A huge thank you Mr Healy for organising and holding the event and well done to all those who received awards.

Br. Tim O'Shea was a dear friend to us all here in the College, who passed away this year. Tim was a renowned Teacher and mentor, and dedicated De La Salle Brother who devoted his life to serving others. He was also a true Mathematician who loved to help students who may have been struggling so that they could achieve their true potential.



A number of the students who were recognised at our Awards Night..

They received their awards for their excellent contributions inside and outside the classroom.

Congratulations to one and all!







## **Bronnadh na bhFáinní**

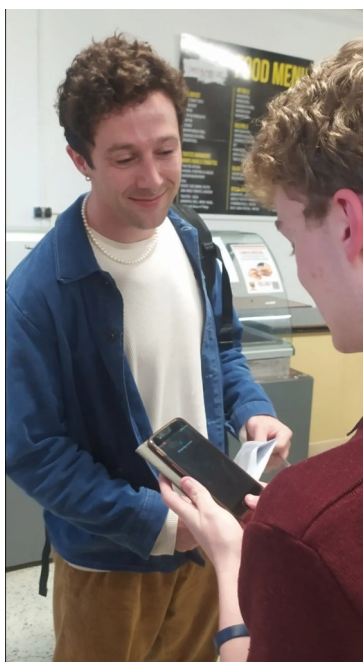
Bronnadh na bhFáinní ar scoláirí ón séú bliain as an gcaighdeán ard atá acu sa Ghaeilge.

Ón gclé : Cian Cunningham, Conor Farrell, Keegan Borla, Michael Walsh (Príomhoide), Aidan Burke, Jack Rogan.

Comhgairdeas le gach duine!

## **Interview with past pupil Moncrieff**

During the Snr Awards Night the college was lucky enough to have past pupil Chris Breheny aka Moncrieff as a special guest. Chris said a few words to the young men during the ceremony and talked to the lads in the canteen after and they took some photos. Darragh O'Dempsey interviewed Chris on both his professional career as a musician and his time in De La Salle. Chris has a truly tragic story and his music depicts a timeline of his life and often has themes of mental health struggles. "The name 'Moncrieff' came from an open mic night in London he met a man called Willaim Scott Moncrieff. I had a very interesting conversation with him, and basically both he and the whole universe was telling me to keep doing music, so I stole his name and that's it", said Chris when he was asked where his name originated from.



A big part of why Chris became a musician was the opportunity to express himself. He was going through some hard times in his life during his TY, 5th and 6th year inside of DLS, he unfortunately lost both his brother and sister during these years. Music was the only way he could express himself and he stopped caring about what everyone else thought and solely focussed on his music. In the early days of songwriting Chris said that his songs were probably the worst songs ever written, he remembers them vividly but wishes he could forget them because in his words "they were just so terrible". One of his first songs was a song called 'Ramone' because his friend called Ronan was dating a girl called Cassy Malone and there was some conflict between Chris and his friends and Cassy.

When asked what he would like to change about the industry he said, "Probably more of a focus on long term development of an artist's career rather than trying to just have one big single and trying to blow up off platforms like TikTok and Instagram." His advice for those young songwriters inside the walls of DLS is that you have to have a really good song and believe in the song. The only way to write a really good song is to write thousands of bad ones first and build up from those. Try to write three songs a week at least was his last piece of advice.

Chris had a lot of memories both good and bad inside of DLS but among his favourites were playing basketball with Br Tom in 1st year or on graduation night going out with all of his friends in the park and causing minor havoc and having the best crack. He has a lot of plans for the future, with his new EP 'Highways & Hurricanes' coming out at the end of May. He also said that in 2025 he'd headline Croke Park so we look forward to buying our ticket. Moncrieff from everyone here at De La Salle we wish you the best in your career and can't wait to see what you do in the future. Thank you so much for taking the time from your busy schedule to do our interview and a special thanks to Mr Healy who organised the awards ceremony and giving us the chance to talk about the wonderful past pupil Moncrieff who is an inspiration to many.



## **Harty Cup 2023**

With a panel of 40 De La Salle College began training in September. Their first game was v Nenagh CBS in Cashel on the 12 th of October. Nenagh started the brighter team and they went into a 6 point lead after a nervous start. It took 50 minutes before De La Salle got to grips with the Tipperary school.

Rory Wymberry got a very important goal to get us back into the game. There was a frantic finish with both sides exchanging points before Nenagh equalised in injury time to leave the game 1:18 De La Salle College to 2: 15 for Nenagh CBS.

The second round saw De La Salle College pitted against Gaelcholáiste Mhuire an Mhainistir Thuaigh. The old North Mon school brought a physicality that was matched and bettered by De La Salle College. The game ended as a competition with 10 minutes to go with the dismissal of 'The Mons' right half forward and we won on a score line of 1:17, to Gaelcholáistes 1:08.

On the 16 th of November we played our last game against a fancied CBC Cork side who were littered with ex Cork minors who won the All Ireland 2 yrs. ago. De La Salle College required just a draw to advance or else it would come down to scoring difference. We started very slow again going behind 1:03 to no score after 5 minutes. But this side has had a very tough campaign and showed tremendous resolve to claw their way back into the game going down 1:08; to 0:08 at half time. Word from Nenagh's game was 'they were winning well' so nothing less than a draw would do.

The game was going De La Salle Colleges way and Aaron O' Neill scored his 4th point from mid field to push us in front. Another goal went in for CBC and De La Salle College had to dig deep again. So with 30 seconds to go and the exit door open Colm Hartley landed a free in and around the square. The defence cleared it. The ball was heading out over the line and the ref had his whistle in his mouth. A CBC player kept the ball in play and Donnacha Fitzpatrick picked the ball and pumped it back into the CBC square. There was a scramble and super sub Robbie Doherty made a one handed pull and sent the ball through the keepers legs to send De La Salle College into the last 8 of the prestigious Dr. Harty Cup.

We played the Q final v Middleton CBS in Fethard Co. Tipperary on astro turf. Leading in injury time we were hit with 2 goals to loose by 4 points. We have over 14 players back next year and we look forward to 2024 where we will give everything to try and give Waterford a boost.





## **All Ireland U15 Super 9s in Gort**

The U15s hurling All Ireland team travelled to Gort Co. Galway where they played Super 9s on Tuesday 16th May. They stayed overnight in Castletown Co. Laois where they were looked after by the De La Salle brothers. They played Midleton CBS, Athenry, and Nenagh CBS in the group stages. When they got to the Cup Q Final they played Kilkenny CBS and beat them 1:5 to 7pts. After a comprehensive victory over Tulla in the semi they played St Kierans in a great final. They met the President of the GAA before the game, then after our national anthem it was on. Darragh Doyle scored the first goal. Kierans came back and took a 5pt lead at half time, they then clawed our way back and levelled with 3 mins left. The Kierans keeper saved 3 certain goals and they went on to win 3:9 to 3:6. It was a super competition and De La Salle College Waterford en-



## **Br Anselm Barrett**

The Br Anselm Barrett resumed April 28th with 12 teams competing for the prestigious All – Ireland u14 hurling competition held at SETU Arena Waterford. Thanks to our sponsors SETU, Greenfields, and The Waterford County Board ( medal sponsorship) for their support. There was 3 groups of 4 with Ard Scoil Ris Limerick getting to the final versus St Colman's Cork. St Colman's defeated De La Salle College on the way to the final and won by the minimalist of margins. The weather was great and the hurling was top class. Its a wonderful chance for local Waterford teams to measure up against the big guns from around the country. Presentation Athenry came a long way from Galway. Such is the interest on this competition that we have over 20 schools looming to partake In this competition. We look forward to 2024.



## **Senior Golf Team**

The Golf team played in the All Ireland competition on the 24th of April, being narrowly defeated in the semi finals by the eventual winners Calasanctius, Oranmore, Galway. The competition was held in Milltown Golf Club. Great O'Sullivan of Inspiring Minds for sponsoring the senior team.





## Scouting

Scouting is a big part of Waterford culture with 18 groups placed around the county. On the 21st to the 23rd of April the County Challenge took place, with groups like De La Salle, St. Paul's, Ballygunner, Faithleg, Copper Coat and more competed for the cup and their place in the Phoenix Challenge. Many students from inside De La Salle College were present on the weekend. The weekend started off with a site build which started at 7pm and finished at 11. For site build the teams and to set up camp for the weekend, they built a table, fire, dresser, two sleeping tents, a store tent and more.

Bases included testing them on their skills of backwoods, first aid, pioneering, team skills, and leadership from the Patrol Leaders. There was a wide range of bases that included setting up a shelter, making a fire, dealing with a patient with a broken bone, building a bridge, building a 10 minute tower, using a compass to set the Star of David and more. It wasn't all work though for the scouts, with groups taking polaroid pictures, dancing, singing, socialising with one another and making new friendships.

The closing ceremony took place on Sunday the 23rd where Ballygunner took home 1st place with DLS students Cillian Brosen (PL) and Aaron Hennessy being on the team, Faithleg took home 3rd with DLS students Max Philpott (PL) and David Keating. De La Salle came 4th with DLS students Ben Smith and Dean O'Neill. Naoise Cooke was on Ballygunners second team and Aaron Stokes from Sacred Heart. Best of luck to Ballygunner and Faithlegg who have qualified for Phoenix which will take place in August. There are many scouting groups around Waterford who would love to welcome any new members who are interested in joining, for example De La Salle's meetings take place every Thursday 7-9:30 up in St Stephen's.



## Soccer



We were delighted to see so many of our footballing students enjoy a wonderful year on the local and international stage. 3rd Year Mo Oladiti received his first call-up to the Irish Under-15 squad, where he and his teammates tasted success at the Torneo delle Nazioni Trophy in Italy, defeating Italy 2-1 in the final.

Last month, 5th Years Jason Healy and Romeo Akachukwu were part of the Irish Under-17 team to reach the quarter-finals of the European Championships in Hungary. The lads performed excellently throughout the tournament, with Jason making some vital saves and Romeo impressing in midfield.

Congratulations also to 6th Year student Dara Kavanagh who was selected for the Republic of Ireland Schools team for the Centenary Shield. Dara, who has continued to develop whilst a part of the Waterford FC first team, overcame an injury to make the team, and has a bright future ahead of him.



Our school teams were extremely competitive again this year, with Mr. O'Brien and Ms. Murray's Under-15 side losing narrowly in the Munster Final to CBC Cork. Our 1st Year team topped their group before exiting at the quarter-final stage, while the Senior and Under 17 squads were unlucky to bow out despite excellent performances on the day.



## **Squash**

We got a chance to talk to two squash players here in the De La Salle College, Adam Power a 1st year student and Aaron Knox a 2nd year student who both recently played for Ireland in the 5 Nations in Edinburgh. Both students really enjoyed this and were off again the 4th of May for another competition.

We were lucky enough to speak Aaron who said: “My family used to play squash when they were growing up, my Dad and uncle even played for Ireland. I train in celtic squash club four times a week and I love going there and every week getting better and learning new skills I can use on the court. I came 2nd in squash U15’s competition, I got to represent Ireland in different countries which was a great experience and a highlight in my career. I have been playing for around ten years.”



We were also lucky to talk to Adam Power who said: “My grand-uncle was number 1 in Ireland for a good few years and he kind of got me into it. He knew I was very sporty and he wanted me to try out a new sport and he told me to try out squash. I loved it and I started playing. I train in Celtic Squash Club on Barrack Street. I was Munster Champion two years in a row last year. I was Ulster, Leinster and Connacht champion last year as well as the National champion of Ireland. I train 6 days a week and take a break on Friday. I go out with my friends on Friday. I would recommend squash to other people as if you look it up it is one of the healthiest sports in the world and it's a very good way of keeping fit and it's just fun in general. One thing I like about squash is going away to different countries.”



## **Tennis**

Congratulations to our teachers in De La Salle College who won in St Anne’s Tennis Club Interfirms competition.

Included in the photograph are Ms Murray (captain), Ms C. Aherne, Mr W. Ormond and Mr J. O Mordha.

Ms Lacey, Mr O'Neill and Mr D. O'Brien also participated in bringing this team to victory. Well done to all who took part!

The School’s Under 17’s and Under 19’s tennis teams were playing in the Munster Schools Tennis Competition on the 24th of March. Both teams battled Ard Scoil na Mara from Tramore. The teams unfortunately lost to them but it was a lovely day and good fun was had by all.





## **Choir**

Br Ben's Senior Choir took to Cork Choral festival to compete in the same voices category in April, where they performed 'Joshua' arranged by Kirby Shaw and 'Dún Do Shúil' arranged by Br Ben Hanlon. The boys came second out of eleven schools and took home the best song performance for 'Joshua'. They were happy with their performance and enjoyed the day out in Cork City. A week later they performed at the Navan Choral Festival where they were met with many more choirs from all around Ireland. The lads received a fantastic score of 86% and wonderful comments from both adjudicators. The boys travelled to New Ross last month with Ms Harrison filling in for Br Ben. The lads sang 'Bring Him Home' from Les Misérables and their famous 'Joshua', again they came 2nd coming just one percent behind St Angela's Ursuline Waterford, the boys were upset with the result being so close but it was a good day for Waterford. Congratulations to the boys on their success over the past year and we look forward to hearing from them again soon. The boys ended the year with the DLS Summer Concert where they said goodbye to the 6th years as one big last hoorah!



## **DLS Summer Concert**

The De La Salle summer concert took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May '23. It was a wonderful evening with many students taking up an instrument or singing a song that they love.

With a total of 19 performances the night had a wide range of both musical talent and genre such as pop, rock, folk and acoustic. The audience was taken on a rollercoaster ride of emotions. There was a huge turnout which was great for both the school and the students. It was lovely to note that many brothers performed together on the stage. As the concert drew to a



close some tears fell from the eyes of 6<sup>th</sup> year choir students as this will be their last summer concert. They dedicated a song in appreciation to Br. Ben and presented him with a bouquet of flowers. They were thanked for their loyalty to the choir.

It will be a massive loss for the choir to lose the current 6th years but we wish them the best in the future and a big well done to all the performers. It certainly was a joyous night of celebration and showcased the fantastic and varied musical talent among our students. Well done to all!



## **DLS Got Talent**

On the 11th of May the music department held a talent show which they called 'De La Salle's Got Talent'. There were a total of fourteen entries of students ranging from 1st to 6th year. The level of talent was unbelievable with a wide range of performances taking over the night. There were singers covering songs as well as some originals, there were guitars and pianos and there was even a band which the students had formed for the evening. The outside adjudicator had the tough decision of picking a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Once she made up her mind all the performers took to the stage once more and stood arm in arm as they waited for the results. The anticipation was high and the crowd was on the edge of their seats. In the end there ended up being two 2nd places, Oliver Harris and George Lyons who both did their own original pieces and Oisín Cooke took home the grand prize of 100 euro with his beautiful piano medley. A big thanks to Ms Harrison, Br Ben and Ms Doolan who planned and helped out throughout the magical evening and Ms Flynn who was the photographer backstage.



## **Foyer and staff entrance**

The Art Department decorated the foyer and staff entrance to make the school more lively and welcoming. This wouldn't have been possible without the help of the art teachers Ms. E O'Connor and Ms. H Ryan and the art students, we would like to thank them for doing this as it is a nice thing to do especially for the incoming First years to make them know that the school is more than just an educational facility it will make them feel at home.







## **Rugby**

Congratulations to our Under -14 Rugby team who won the annual John O'Neill Memorial Blitz at Waterpark this year. The lads beat 12 other teams from schools across the South East of Munster. Alex Reddin won the Best Player Award on the Day, and the Most Improved Player Award given to Gonzalo Peralta. It was great to see the team's outstanding performance and hard-hitting tackling rewarded on the day.

A great day was had by all!



## **St Brigid's Cross**

Students of De La Salle College celebrated the Feast Day of St Brigid by making crosses in classes back in February to honour the occasion.

The excellent work of TY 2's Faustus Vaiksnoras is displayed in the picture.

Faustus learned the tradition of cross making from his grandfather and kindly donated them to members of the school community.





## **LCA**

On Thursday last the 18th of May our Leaving Certificate Applied class held their annual LCA Sports Day. The boys played an outdoor soccer blitz before having a pool tournament. At the end of the day the boys made their way around to their various teachers to thank them for their time in De La Salle. We wish the lads the very best for the future and the best of luck in their forthcoming exams.



## **Hub Activities**

The Hub has been very active since Christmas and the students have enjoyed various activities and excursions. The Junior cycle students went on the JCSP trips Airtastic in Cork and the Wibit in Dunmore East. They also enjoyed a cookery day with chef Lena Moran where delicious dishes and treats were made. We also enjoyed visiting our allotment in Wyse Park where students planted bulbs that will hopefully soon bloom. The students engaged in indoor soccer and indoor basketball against the Hub teachers and SNAs and they did orienteering in the Park. The Hub finished off the year with a very





## **Chess**

Our chess club has had another very busy year. Students play chess on Tuesday lunchtimes (12.30 & 13.10) and on Thursday after school (15.10-16.10) in C9. A number of successful challenge matches were played earlier in the year against St. Angela's Ursuline school and the Abbey Community College. While De La Salle won these games comfortably, the players involved gained invaluable match experience.

Usually our first competitive outing is in the Munster finals. As this was the first year to return to in-person competitions, the Munster finals didn't take place and so, we had to select 8 students for the national finals. Fortunately we had great success at the All-Ireland finals held in Templemore before Easter. After 6 rounds, two of our players finished in a 3 way tie for first place. Arthur Moull was crowned national champion after the playoff. Arthur has been a very dedicated chess player for many years and richly deserves this national title.

Gianmarco Carparelli, who is studying in Ireland this year, finished in 3rd place in the individual standings. Our teams finished in 2nd and 6th place overall.

A special mention to our players who made their competitive debuts at the national finals. Well done to all on a great day's work.!



## **Computer Science**

Computer Science began as a new subject this year in De la Salle, in the new Br. Tim O'Shea Wing of the school, taught by Ms. D. Grant and Ms. C. Molloy. The wing was visited by TD John Cummins as well. Along with the 5th years taking the subject in its first year. Also, Eoghan Murphy, a 6th year student, completed the course in just 1 year and he took his exams on the 24th of May.





## **EPAS Awards**

A selection of EPAS students attended a zoom meeting hosted by MEP Grace O'Sullivan. She spoke to students on European cooperation in regards to collective climate action goals. Students asked questions on the European transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. It was a very insightful and engaging event.

MEP for the Renew Europe Party, and member of Fianna Fail, Billy Kelleher, came to De La Salle and talked to EPAS students about the system of politics and bureaucracy in the European Union. His talk was quite informative, and those who participated in the talk gained a lot of knowledge on the inner workings of the EU.

A number of students took part in the *"What has 50 years of EU membership meant for Ireland?"* competition. This competition was led by MEP Billy Kelleher. Winners will win a trip to the European Parliament in Brussels. We wish all who entered the best of luck.

EPAS Students attended this year's EPAS Awards Ceremony in Bru Boru Cultural Centre, Cashel, Tipperary. They were joined by a selection of secondary schools across the south participating in the programme. Students were met by south consistency MEP's Billy Kelleher, Seán Kelly and Grace O'Sullivan. Students got the opportunity to discuss key EU topics and pose questions to the MEP's. De La Salle College was well received by the witty yet brilliant presentation given by Darragh O'Dempsey and Dean Parsons. It was a day enjoyed by all!!



## **International Students Discover the Historical Treasures of Waterford**

On Wednesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, some of our international students in 5<sup>th</sup> Year took a historical stroll through the city with 2 of their teachers. Having read quite an amount on the local history of Waterford, it was the ideal opportunity for them to discover and witness up close many of the treasures that our city has to offer. Some enjoyed positive conversations with locals that we met on our travels and this reinforced their appreciation of the warmth and friendliness of the Irish. They also were delighted that we were blessed with one of our first sunny days for the outing.





## **TY Year**

Coming back after the Christmas break there was a lot in store for the TY's. They began their first two days back online like the rest of the school which brought some students right back to Covid times. The first big thing offered to the students was Global Schools Training which was where eight students went off to St Patrick's Gateway Center where they joined schools like the Ursuline, The Abbey, Newtown, Mount Sion, The Presentation as well as The Mercy. The training was funded by Slí which stands for Sustainable Living Initiative, Slí is the Irish for the way. During the training week the students learned all about the environment and Sustainable Development Goals set out by the UN. They learned all about their invisible water footprint but the theme of this year's training was sustainable transport. They had to come up with ways to make Waterford's transport more sustainable. These students worked together and came up with so many ideas. At the end of the training they had to record a video talking all about sustainable transport and they all participated in the P&P Youth Challenge, stating how they would be more eco-friendly.



## **Workshops**

They had a First Aid workshop in the beginning of February where they students learned how to give CPR on both an adult and a baby, how to deal with cuts and broken bones. It was a fun experience for all and the boys learned a lot and are able to deal with certain emergencies until the authorities arrive.

The next workshop was the Forensic Science workshop where the boys studied the murder of ex President J.F.K. It was an immersive experience, they looked at fingerprints, the timeline of the day, the weapons and the autopsy. The boys then had to decide who they thought killed the President. It was a great experience for the lads and they got a look into forensic science as a possible future career. Fun was had by all!



The TY Students took part in a Self-Defense workshop where they learned how to defend themselves if they get attacked or picked on by other people in school or outside of school. All students enjoyed this workshop and benefited from it.

## **Mini Med**



Mini Med was an option that students who want to study medicine in the future had. Some students got to head out to the hospital and shadow staff there as they did their daily work load. The students enjoyed the experience and it was a fascinating insight into the world of medicine. As well as that there was an online course that even more students partook in. The course covered areas like pharmacy, physio and more.

## **Paired reading and maths in St. Stephens**

During the month of March and April many of our TY students volunteered to help out with paired reading and paired maths in St. Stephens. 10 TY students helped 6th class students with their maths and 10 TY students helped 5th class with their reading and pronunciation. All the TY's, 5th and 6th class students enjoyed this and the boys from 6th class asked some of the TY's about entering 1st year in the college.



## **Religion Trip**

TY 1, 2, 3, & 6 had their TY Religion Ritual Trip. The students went to Glendalough, Mount Mellary and Dunmore East to embrace nature and take care of their well being.



## **Delphi Trip**

The TY students went to Delphi from the 15th to the 17th of May. The way up and down was a 6 hour bus ride so the students were up bright and early on Monday morning. Delphi is a resort in Mayo placed on a river by the 12 Bens Mountain Range, it is a beautiful forested landscape. The students stayed in a dorm and did many activities, such as kayaking, high rope climbing and even a bog run. The TY students had great fun during the trip - regardless of the midges everywhere - and it was overall a successful trip.





## **The Student Council Fundraised for The Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal**



The Student Council held a No-Uniform Day on Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> of March. On this occasion, they added to the event by organising class sponsored walks for the students and the bakers from the staff provided 'cakes and bakes' at break time. The fresh crispy air and the treats were enjoyed by all.

The combined generosity of the students, staff and the whole school community paid off and the student council were delighted and proud to present a cheque of €8,325 to Unicef in aid of the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal. Thanks to all who participated and donated so generously to this very worthy cause.

## **Lasallian Project 2023**

A request came in from St Cyprian's School and parish in Butema in Uganda, to construct a Girls Dormitory for one hundred girls. The dormitory was necessary to prevent the girls travelling long distances to school daily and home again at night in the dark. We Lasallians volunteers have never been to Uganda but we accepted the challenge and we sent €44,000 for the project construction. Fr. Kirikarama has really given us daily updates on progress of the project.

Work began on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April this year with the blessing of the site and the clearance of bushes etc they have now roofed the building and are presently plastering the internal wall. The Girls Dormitory will be officially opened in three weeks time. A huge congratulations to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of this project.



**LA SALLIAN PROJECT 2024** will be to St Joseph's Higher Secondary School in Keelamudiman in India, (a De La Salle school) to construct eight classrooms which are badly needed in this rural region.

We are looking for volunteers to go next June for three/four weeks. You may know somebody who would be very interested or encourage someone to go. For more details contact the school office at 051 875294 or send a letter to Br Thomas Walsh. God bless you all, have a wonderful Summer from Lasallians Developing World Projects.



-Br Tom



## Visual Art

Ms Ryan's 5th year student Raymond Pempho Chimwala's art piece was selected to represent De La Salle Waterford at the 2023 Lasallian Awards. Raymond's art piece was selected along with other students from Lasallian schools across the country with competition celebrations taking place in Castletown.

**BLAST:** Ms. Ryan's 5th Year Visual Art Students got the opportunity to work with artist Eilis O'Toole through the BLAST initiative. The aim of this initiative is to give pupils in schools all over the country the opportunity to work with a professional artist on unique projects. Students created wonderful paintings, exploring painting techniques, colour and canvas.



Mrs O'Connor's students Naoise Cooke, Evan Wemyss, Alex Reddin and Liam Byrne were selected to attend the STE(A)M in Action in Schools initiative celebration of learning event. This initiative was implemented and supported by Ms Ryan, Ms O'Connor and Mr Walsh. Students engaged in the initiative collaboratively through three core Junior Cycle subjects Visual Art, SPHE and Maths. Students who attended the event represented the school with great enthusiasm, character and pride.

5th and 6th year students participated in a Visual Studies offsite class trip. Students visited the local arts center Garter Lane. Students got to experience a film dedicated to the life and work of Paul Cézanne followed by a visit to the Cathedral of The Most Holy Trinity.

Visual Art students created two artworks for the De La Salle Awards Night 2023. Students created a wonderful welcome piece for special guest and past student Chris Brehany (Moncreiff) and an entrance piece for the ceremony. Well done to all who participated in the creation of both artworks. Particular thanks to TY students Cole Campbell, Daniel Murphy, Charlie Power, Calum Kennedy-Dunphy who put great effort and time in creating the Chapel entrance piece.





## **Careers Events this term in De La Salle College**

The Guidance Department has been busy again this term, organising several career events this term and lots of alternative options for students.

Fabian from Waterford College of Further Education visited De La Salle College and gave a talk to 5th and 6th Year students on PLC Courses at WCFE and Pre-Apprenticeship courses.



Our students attended a talk on the ETB-FAI Player Development Course. The students were delighted to hear from Paddy Carey, as well as some past pupils, on the fantastic opportunities arising from the course. We have some great soccer players who will have a future in the game, and the past pupils (Sean Hearne, Shane O'Brien, Ziggy Galvin, Anthony Adenopo) outlined their experiences from doing the course.

We brought twenty students from De La Salle College on a tour of the WWETB Training Centre to see the wide range of Apprenticeship options available. They got to talk to the tutors and had opportunities to ask questions and then they were given lunch; a nice treat at the end of the tour. This was our second trip to the Apprenticeship training centre this academic year! We then had Bairbre Ruddock from the ETB Training centre in the school for a more detailed talk on Apprenticeship routes & options.

Speakers from ATU and two Waterford companies (Carton Controls and Dawn Meats) gave a talk. They are sponsoring a degree in Engineering in Mechatronic Systems. This is a blended course of online coursework and on-the-job learning in Waterford, so while the degree is awarded by ATU, students will be based in Waterford for the course and work placement, which begins in 1st year. We had a fantastic talk with speakers from Sanofi. The students in attendance heard about careers like Scientist, Engineer, Microbiologist, Process Engineer, and Apprenticeship routes. It was great to hear about the company and the many career opportunities they offer. There was a talk to students at the end of the year for those interested in studying abroad, hearing about UCAS and EUNICAS application process, and further afield.

Earlier in the term we also had speakers from SETU's department of Business and department of Sports & Exercise to discuss the variety of courses offered and extensive employment opportunities in these areas.

This week students received a tour at SETU where they heard about Architecture & Architecture BIM courses. The lads enjoyed a full tour of the building, were able to see the work students completed from Year 1 to Year 5 and heard about courses, career opportunities and links with other colleges abroad.

As part of a whole school guidance initiative, we launched our 6th years' Food for the Soul booklet - a Survive & Thrive guide for our 6th years as they begin the next chapter of their lives. As always, keep an eye on all the careers news on the various Careers Google Classroom, Careers Padlet, Guidance Twitter page, the Guidance section of the school website and our Guidance noticeboard - see QR codes for links! Well done to all our students for signing up for and participating so well in all the Guidance opportunities presented this term!

Finally, we wish our 6th years all the best in their exams and future endeavours - Ms Martin and Ms Murphy have enjoyed working with you all so much and have every confidence in your future success.

Guidance Department





## **A message to the 6th Years**

As we come to the end of your final year, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on all that we have achieved together. It has been an incredible year, filled with growth, learning, and new experiences. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such a talented, motivated, and inspiring group of students.

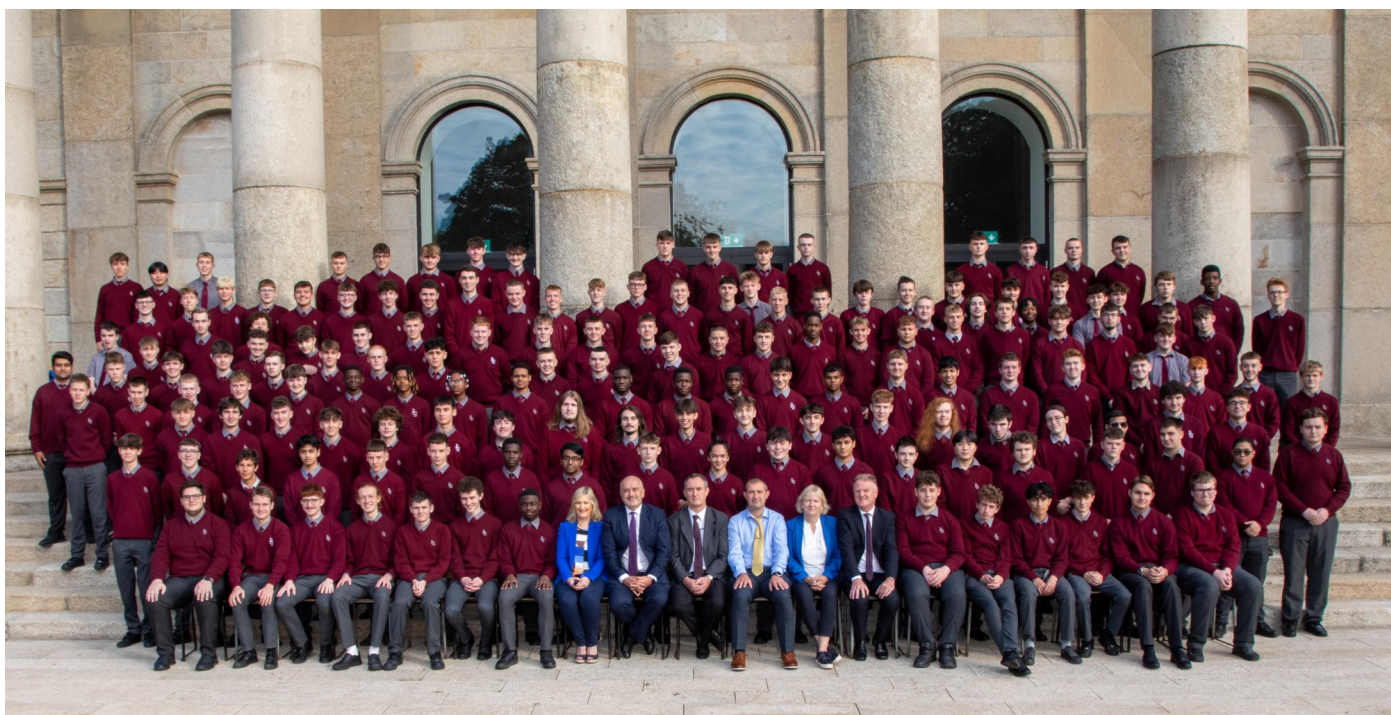
You have shown a commitment to excellence in everything you do, and it has been a privilege to watch you develop and grow over the years. You have embraced new challenges, pursued your passions, and supported one another through the ups and downs of high school life. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of you and all that you have accomplished.

As you prepare to embark on the next phase of your journey, I want to leave you with a quote from Maya Angelou, who once said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." I hope that you will carry this wisdom with you as you navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Remember that your success is not only measured by your academic achievements, but also by your character, your compassion, and your contribution to the world. I have no doubt that you will go on to do great things and make a positive impact on the world around you.

As we say goodbye, I want to thank you for making this year, and every year, so special. It has been an honour to work with you and to be a part of your journey. I wish you all the best as you move forward, and I know that you will achieve great things.

Sincerely, Enda O Doherty 6th Yearhead



Best of luck to all our 6th years in the years ahead from the Student Council. We hope you had a fantastic few years here in the Collage. "You can take the boy out of De La Salle, but you can't take De La Salle out of the boy!"



# Joyful June 2023

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY



5 Think of 3 things you're grateful for and write them down

6 Get out into green space and feel the joy that nature brings

7 Do something healthy which makes you feel good

1 Look good, feel good

8 Listen to music that makes you feel good

12 Write a gratitude letter to thank someone

13 Take a light-hearted approach. Choose to see the funny side

14 Share a happy memory with someone who means a lot to you

15 Spend time with someone who makes you feel good

19 Get outside and find the joy in being active

20 Rediscover and enjoy a fun childhood activity

21 Send a positive note to a friend who needs encouragement

22 Spend time with someone who makes you feel good



26 Make time to do something playful, just for the fun of it

27 Be kind to you. Do something that brings you joy

28 Notice how positive emotions are contagious between people

29 Spend time with someone who makes you feel good

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



## THURSDAY

1 Decide to look for what's good every day this month

5 Find joy in music: sing, play, dance, listen or share

6 Look for something to be thankful for where you least expect it

7 Watch something funny and enjoy how it helps to laugh

8 Share a friendly smile with people you see today

## FRIDAY

2 Say positive things in your conversations with others

9 Ask a friend what made them happy recently

16 Speak to others in a warm and friendly way

23 Create a playlist of uplifting songs to listen to

30 Make a list of the joys in your life (and keep adding to it)



## SATURDAY

3 Re-frame a worry and try to find a helpful way to think about it

10 Bring joy to others by doing something kind for them

17 Take time to notice things that you find beautiful

24 Bring to mind a favourite memory you feel grateful for



## SUNDAY

4 Take a photo of something that brings you joy and share it

11 Eat good food that makes you happy and really savour it

18 Look for something good in a difficult situation

25 Show your appreciation to people who are helping others





## **Reflection**

One of the schools that I have worked in was with students with behavioural and emotional difficulties. The students were challenging and the work was rewarding. A student, who I will name Dave, was given an after school detention. Having finished his detention he was being escorted out by his class teacher and the student asked me if I had any food. 'Yes' I said and gave him a chocolate bar. When the student had left the school his teacher came and said to me that I was rewarding his bad behaviour by giving him a chocolate bar.

I felt terrible but upon reflection I went back to the teacher and said, 'Did you see Dave's shoes?' 'No' the teacher said. I then explained that Dave's shoes were ripped and that you could see his grey socks and toes sticking out from the side and the front of his training shoes. I then said to the teacher that I was not rewarding Dave's bad behaviour by giving him a chocolate bar at the end of his school detention. I briefly clarified that I was moved with compassion when I looked at Dave's training shoes and felt the need to intervene. When I had explained my actions the teacher accepted that I was not rewarding Dave's bad behaviour.

We are all called upon to act compassionately towards others especially, when we are moved by the spirit to intervene in some small way. Every day, we are called by the spirit to intervene compassionately in the life of others.

Brother William

## **Thank You**

Whether you are a current student in De La Salle or a past pupil, a parent or relative, we'd like to thank you sincerely for reading this Newsletter. We hope to see most of you back in September! Have a great Summer! This Newsletter was compiled by Darragh O'Dempsey, Michael Hennigan, Dylan Cullen Kirwan & Caoilán Walsh (TY) and we'd just like to thank a few key people - to everyone who sent in articles, photos, or information, thank you so much, we couldn't have done it without you all! A special thank you to Ms Barry, Student Council Co-ordinator who helped in overseeing this project.

A huge thank you to Mr. R. Morrissey who assisted and enhanced the completion of this newsletter. His expertise and generosity are greatly appreciated. We haven't mentioned everyone but those who we've missed out, you know who you are, and thank you! Have a great Summer everyone, and we will see you all in September! (on behalf of The Student Council 2023)



## **De La Salle College Waterford Student Council May 2023**

