



St. Dominic's College

Newsletter - June 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Teachers and all School Staff,

This is our second and final newsletter of the academic year 2019-2020. To say that we were moving along nicely as we published our last issue in October without the slightest idea of what lay ahead is an understatement.

Usually May is a very busy month. It is the time we bring all students towards their final state or house exams. It is the time of year our TY students finish their wonderful year and reflect on lots of great opportunity. It is a time when we put in the final preparations for our 6th and 3rd year exam students and prepare to get them all over the line. We usually have our 6th year graduation and say a tearful goodbye to the girls as they take their final steps in to the world beyond the security and safety of St Dominic's College and into the big world. We also say good bye to sixth year parents and guardians and thank them for supporting the school while their daughters were in the school and we also sometimes say good bye to some staff members.

Well, all of this is happening with some subtle twists. Our 6th years will not sit their LC exams and the 3rd years will not sit their JC exams either. Both traditional forms of assessment have changed this year.

All year groups had their time in school cut short in March and we have missed out on our normal end of year traditions and many good byes were left unsaid face to face. Our common hope is that we can return to school and get back down to what we do best, quality teaching and learning as soon as possible in August and September.

However, we were delighted to have our sixth year graduation on Zoom on Friday 22 May. We had it as a tribute to all our great 6th years, until we get to see you all sometime in the future for a reunion.

However, let us assess our performance as a school under the most difficult of circumstances for this last term. Although we were all shocked on Thursday 12th March as the schools closed, we quickly sprang into action and replaced teaching and learning in school with the same at home. There were technical systems to learn and get used to but we were ready for this and all students had been issued with school email addresses

the previous week so we zoomed and Google class roomed our way ahead. I am limited by space here, but to say that I am proud as Principal of this great school is wholly inadequate because the words don't feel strong enough. The students and teachers simply got on with it and made the very best of the terrible set of circumstances we found ourselves in. The teaching continued and the learning continued. Neither were easy, but I observed sheer determination from management, teachers and all staff that we would keep the show on the road and I saw resilience build in our students on a daily basis.

I saw teachers, care teams and tutors look out for students and the year heads worked tirelessly to make sure all the students in their year groups were well, were safe and were engaging with their school work.

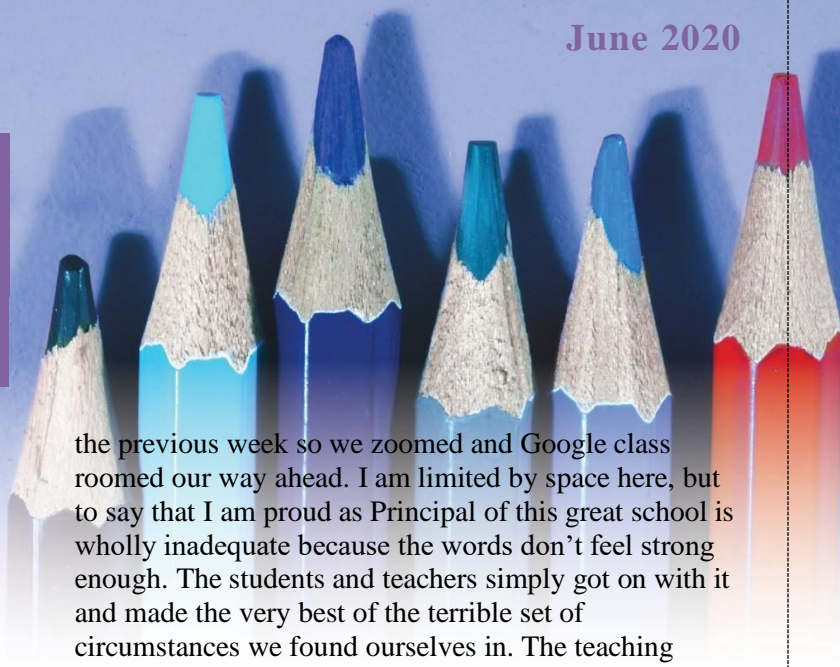
I received emails and letters from you the parents, thanking us for the great effort we made as a school, to continue the high standard of teaching and learning and for the care we showed always to our students. These messages of support which I shared with the staff helped us in our work and I thank you for them.

I have been appointed principal to a school with two amazing Deputy Principals, Ms Largey and Mr McBride. We held meetings each day over Zoom for many hours during the days of lockdown and tried as best as we could to keep the show on the road. I thank them for their professionalism and hard work during this difficult time too.

Thank you to the Board of Management and Parents Association for their support. I knew all I had to do was call them if I needed their help.

I want to thank the caretaking, admin, and Library staff that helped us all the way and made the tough days bearable with their help.

We have seen a new Ireland emerge, a very different one indeed. Who knows how long it will take us to return to what things used to be like. I hope that as we do, that we take the good parts of this lockdown with us, the comradery, humour, friendship, consideration, the family time, exercise and a simpler way of life. May we especially remember those who have died during this period of Covid 19. May they rest in peace.



Finally, I firmly believe that whatever we do in life and whatever we achieve is only possible from the sum of all the parts. It is what we all contributed to each other and to our great school that made things work out very well and got us to this place.

I wish you all health and happiness during your summer break and look forward to seeing you all again in the new academic year.

Is mise, le meas,
Ann Cameron
Principal

JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT PRESENTATIONS

The Junior Cycle class of 2019 gathered together in the library in January where they all received their certificates called the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement. It was a celebration of all their achievements in the State Exams, Classroom Based Assessments and Other Areas of Learning. During the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement presentation, we awarded framed certificates to the following students (Sarah Boland, Niamh Donlon, Keelin Gogarty, Ellie Landers Donegan, Maria Byrne, Christina Biju and Theja Tijo) who achieved excellent grades in their Junior Cert/Cycle exam and a special mention for Lara Donnelly who was one of 19 students nationwide who achieved top grades in all 11 subjects. All the students enjoyed a PowerPoint slideshow of pictures showing the many activities they were involved with in first to third year from Hospice Coffee Mornings, Trade Fairs, Health fest, Debating teams, Christmas Carol Services, Eco Team, Hockey, Camogie to name but a few of the many extra-curricular activities which students can avail of in the school and get recognition for in this certificate. We look forward to your continued contribution to life in St. Dominic's in the years ahead.



CHOIR ARTICLE

On the 6th of March, the pupils of the St. Dominic's choir took part in the annual Interschools Music Festival in Wesley College, Dundrum for the first time. In preparation for this, we practiced throughout lunchtimes for several weeks leading up to the competition with our conductor and choir teacher, Ms. Dowling. There was always a positive atmosphere, and everyone put tremendous effort into showing up for all the rehearsals. It was exciting seeing our piece take form as accompaniments and harmonies were combined and improved.

On the day of the competition, we left school early to make our way to the venue. Once we reached there, we were escorted to our designated practice room. We spent some time rehearsing and preparing for the performance. We were excited as well as nervous. It was a very rewarding experience which we fully enjoyed. It was also fascinating to see the talents of the other secondary schools. We hope to partake again next year with a larger ensemble. This would not have happened without our wonderfully talented choir teacher, Ms. Dowling with her unwavering support and motivation.

Written by Anilia Anil, Aileen Reji & Theja Tijo (5th Year)



TWO HUNDRED YEARS – TWO HUNDRED VOICES

The celebrations in 2019 of the Bicentenary of Dominican Women in Cabra represented much of the work that the choir was involved with throughout the course of the year. Beginning in January, with the Mass of Thanksgiving to open the year-long celebrations, we ended the year with a special celebration of Carols to mark Foundation Day itself, on December 12th.

Throughout 2019, a choral composing competition was run which invited composers to create a piece of music that would represent the Dominican ethos and which could become a part of the library of Dominican music. We were delighted to receive entries from all over the world – U.S.A., Italy, France, Canada and of course from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland too. A panel of adjudicators selected a winner in each of two competitions – the first which was open to established composers worldwide and the second, which invited entries from new & emerging composers who were pupils or past pupils of Dominican schools. The first competition was won by Mr. Padraig Meredith, from Kildare whose piece – “We are Called to Praise” captured the judges’ imagination and the second competition was won by Ms. Nuala Murray a past-pupil from Fortwilliam, Belfast, who composed “By My Life”, again capturing the Dominican ethos in its lyrics. Ifunanya Ogochukwu currently a student in 3rd year, was awarded a special prize by the adjudicating panel for her piece “The Light” which was highly commended.

We had a wonderful day in the Chapel on November 21st, when under the guidance and expertise of sound engineers Ben & Laoise from JiggeryPokery Productions, both songs were recorded. The day was greatly enhanced by a visit from the choir from Fortwilliam, Belfast who recorded “By My Life” under the guidance of their conductor, Ms. Maebh McKeon. In the afternoon, it was our turn, and a smaller-than-usual choir from Cabra, consisting of both pupils and past-pupils recorded “We are Called to Praise” accompanied by Mr. Curran, Ms. Dowling, Ms. Feighery & Ms. McGoldrick. The composer, Padraig Meredith popped in on the day to give us a helping hand. The recordings of both songs are available to hear on our school website at the following link - <https://stdominics.ie/about-st-dominics/bicentenary-of-the-dominicans-in-cabra/>.

The year ended on a high note, literally with our annual Christmas Carol service on Dec. 11th followed on Foundation Day, December 12th, with a very special event. Joined by our guests, the staff of St. Dominic’s welcomed Dominican Sisters from all over Ireland for a very special service and concert of carols. The choir numbers swelled from 168 on December 11th to 200 voices on December 12th, as student members were joined by teachers, past-pupils, future-pupils, parents, and Dominican Sisters to perform well-known carols and the two successful songs from the Bicentenary Competition to a full chapel.

A big thank-you to all our students who gave up many lunchtimes in preparation for all these events – 2019 was a great year for the school-choir!

3RD YEAR VISIT TO THE CAPUCHIN DAY CENTRE

On the 7th of November, three of the third-year classes visited the Capuchin Day Centre as apart of work for our religion journal, where we were studying the ways in which one religious order in Ireland is serving the needs of people today. We chose to learn about the Capuchins, a local religious group with a day centre for the homeless. During our visit we got a tour from Brother Kevin where he told us about all the work, he and the Capuchin volunteers do to help the homeless community in Ireland. They provide food services, medical care and essential care packages. We got to see first-hand how important their work and charity is to people in need. It was an emotional experience seeing how many people depended and needed the different services provided by the Capuchins. Our class felt very grateful and saw how lucky we are from our experience at the day centre. We really respect the community for their acceptance and gratitude and for opening our eyes to see that we can help people in need. In the certain circumstances in our world today, we need to support and remember the charities like the Capuchins who help so many people daily, but they can’t do that without the support of others. The Capuchins are an incredible community that accept, respect and help everyone and anyone they can. Our visit to the Day Centre was a very eye-opening experience that I think we’ll all remember.

Libby Dunne

STUDENT COUNCIL – ARTWORK 2020

After many long weeks of careful planning, the Student Council have started on the art project promoting inclusivity and equality.

We would like to thank one of our talented art teachers, Ms. Armstrong for helping us along the way. Our 5th year Student Council representative, Fionna Vergel made basic sketches and ideas which we then later developed together. SC members, Jade Merton, Nicola Carr, Kwakyewaah Addo, Saoirse Mulvaney and Deabhan Murray stayed after school to measure the wall and did all the calculations, assuring the correct visuals for our mural. We cut out sheets of tracing paper and Fionna drew the designs onto them. Romavida Byrne, Adeola Akintonde, Rinnu Skariah all stayed back late after school and helped Fionna trace out the design on the wall.

The completed mural will consist of a diverse array of vibrant coloured characters holding hands; this mural will take the full length of the wall outside Mr. Kearney's room.

Unfortunately, the school closure happened before we had a chance to finish the work. As soon as we return, we will get back to it and complete the task.

We want to encourage all our students to accept each other the way we are. Young people have many pressures on them to look or to act in a certain way. We are all different, but we are a community that work well together. The Student Council want to encourage every girl in St. Dominic's to accept our diversity. Our combined talents make us stronger. Our diversity makes us interesting.

ST. DOMINIC'S TRADE FAIR



LE CHÉILE SCHOOLS TRUST CONFERENCE 2020

The Conference was held this year on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th February in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone. The theme of this year's conference was '**Wisdom**': **Ecology, Sustainability & Hope.**

Ms Cameron and Ms O Byrne, the 5th year Year Head, attended the conference. The student body of St Dominic's Cabra was represented by the 5th year students Alina Joseph and Mona Jiang.

All students were required to do a small project on any two programmes they carry out in their school based on this year's theme. Our students worked on SVP "Yellow day" and the Bio-degradable water bottles.

Highlights:

- ✓ An opening liturgy with music by students
- ✓ Talks between students and staff members about climate change, sustainability and ideas to be brought back to their schools
- ✓ Various workshops with other students
- ✓ Guest speakers to talk about ecology and sustainability



ECO TEAM NEWS

There are three Eco teams here in St. Dominic's, the Junior Team = 1st, 2nd and 3rd years, a Senior team of 5th years and a Senior team of 6th years. The Eco Team try to enhance the school environment inside and outside working in collaboration with the maintenance staff, cleaning staff and our Principal. We have at any one time a number of projects on the go - for example, paper recycling, plastic bottle recycling, energy reduction, cleaning the indoor plant collection, propagating new plants for our school, planting bulbs in the open beds and in containers, planting of bulbs on our school avenue, to mention just a few. A special project initiated by our Principal Ms. Cameron is to reduce the energy bill in our school by replacing all light bulbs with LED fittings over the next few years, indeed some rooms have their new LED lights fitted already.

We are blessed to have our school sitting in such beautiful surroundings. We acknowledge the work done by previous generations of gardeners who have provided us with the magnificent grounds which we enjoy today. The Eco Team aim to make the school environment pleasing both inside and outside for all who call St Dominic's home.



THE CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

The Creative Writing Club has been running on Wednesday afternoons all year. It is led by two students – Ana Maria Gheorghiu and Aoife Roche – with a little help from the Librarian, Ms. Dickson. The club is a great place for students to share their own writing and mix with other students who love to write. This year we have heard poetry, stories and even early chapters of books from its members.

The standard of writing is very high, and students are respectful and enthusiastic when others share their work, giving helpful feedback and lots of encouragement. Thank you to everyone who took part this year, and thanks to Ana Maria and Aoife for all their work. We hope to have a virtual Google Hangout meeting before the end of the academic year and see our

old members and many new members in September 2020!

After the trip the girls were full of wonderful ideas for their C.B.A. and in fact they produced an excellent range of projects, such as the funeral of Michael Collins, the impact of grave robbers on the cemetery, the building of the cemetery itself, Daniel O'Connell's round tower and the funerals of Irish Nationalists.

If you are interested in finding the answers to any of the questions posed in this piece, I would strongly recommend a trip to Glasnevin Cemetery you won't be disappointed.

Tina Whelan.

THIRD YEAR TRIP TO 'BLOOD BROTHERS' THE MUSICAL

On the 26th of February students from Ms. McNamara's English went to see 'Blood Brothers' by the Liverpool playwright Willy Russell. The musical took place on stage in a sold out Bord Gáis Theatre, to a student audience from across Ireland.

The world-famous musical has been coming back to the Bord Gáis Theatre for a number of years and is set for another stint in the Bord Gáis Theatre this Summer. Blood Brothers tells the captivating and moving tale of male twins who are separated at birth; but, grow up together without knowing they are related. It continues to be a very popular choice for students to study in English at Junior Cycle level.



2nd YEAR HISTORY TRIP TO GLASNEVIN CEMETERY

As part of the new Junior Cycle, history students are required to do a C.B.A. in second year. The C.B.A. is titled 'The Past in My Place'. They are also required to visit a historical repository. With these in mind my history class, 2 Reid, and I arranged to pay a visit to Glasnevin Cemetery in November 2019.

When we arrived, we met with our guide, Warren who had just recently qualified as a history teacher. This was a great asset as his love for both history and Glasnevin was obvious. Before our trip the class had prepared a list of ten questions that they hoped would help with their C.B.A.s. Warren appeared to be happy with this, as he

himself explained, C.B.A.s in history are new to everyone and the people who run the museum are keen to make Glasnevin a place that can fulfil the necessary criteria.

The C.B.A. requires students to investigate key events, places or buildings in their locality. Warren brought the students to Daniel O'Connell's round tower. They were brought inside the crypt at the base of the tower where Warren regaled them with stories about O'Connell, his achievements, his family and the reason why only his body is in the lead-lined coffin and his heart is elsewhere. They were also given lots of information about the tower itself; how much it cost, how long it took to build, its height and the bombing in the 1970s that caused quite a lot of damage.

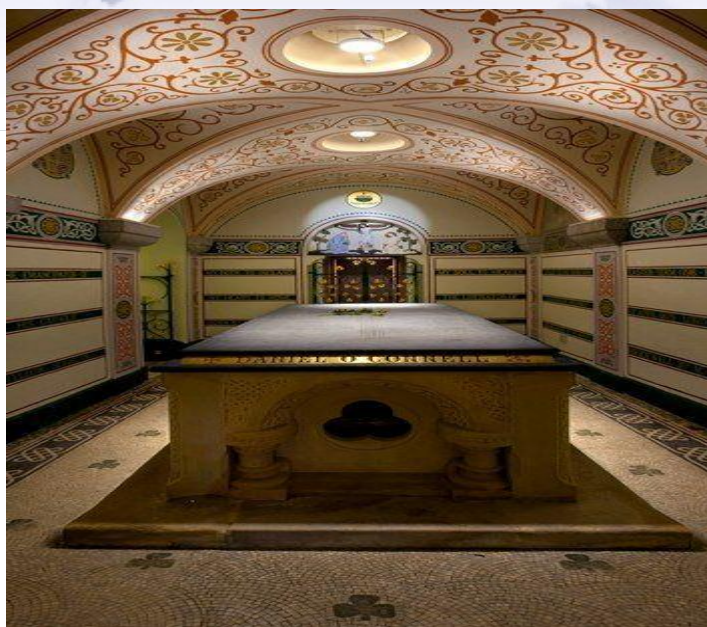


Figure 1 The Coffin of Daniel O'Connell

They visited the graves of Parnell and were told why he was buried in a mass grave for cholera victims. They visited the grave of Michael Collins and heard about the mysterious French lady, Veronique who regularly sends flowers to his grave. A visit to the grave of Eamonn de Valera revealed why he was buried in quite a modest grave compared to other Irish nationalists.



First year German language students take on the challenge to create their own tourist brochures for German speaking visitors to Dublin! *Willkommen in Dublin*



NATIONAL GERMAN TEACHERS CONFERENCE DAY

5th year German students Alina Joseph, Mona Jiang, Christeena Thomas and Sarah Ward pictured here with their German teacher Ms. McCarthy in Maynooth University. Over the past 20 years senior students from St. Dominic's College are invited each year to help at the national German teachers Conference Day in Trinity College or in Maynooth University. Our students were highly praised by the President of the GDI for their organisational skills, hard work, their politeness and of course for their willingness to give up their weekend to help at the conference! We say thank you, Danke schön for representing yourselves and our school so well.

Together we are St. Dominic's College



Food tasting with Glanmore Foods for our new menu in the canteen.

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ (APRIL 24TH 2020)

On Friday 24th April, St Dominic's College celebrated Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) along with the rest of the country. Every year, we take part in D.E.A.R., and run it alongside Book in the Bag as part of our Literacy programme. This year, despite being out of school, many of our students and staff stopped whatever they were doing at 12pm and read a book or magazine.

Thank you to all the students who sent in photos of themselves reading and pictures of their books. We also enjoyed seeing some of you at the Library Hangout and we're sure many of you were able to read at home with family too. We've picked two of your reading selfies as winners of National Book Tokens. Well done to Niamh Remolacio and Crina Melut!



Thanks to all the staff who took part in the Library's Drop Everything and Read celebration too. We hope you enjoy seeing some of your teachers' faces here!

SCIENCE WEEK 2019

Science was celebrated in St Dominic's College at the end of November. This year's theme was trees, as we all know they play a vital role in our fight against climate change, absorbing all the carbon dioxide we release in our daily activities. They also play a pivotal role in our ecosystem supporting various life forms and the biodiversity that we need for our habitats to thrive. With this theme in mind the community at St Dominic's set itself the task of planting seeds of some of our native trees; oak, horse chestnut and scots pine. In early February we moved our young saplings outside to continue their growth, we have some promising looking saplings which we hope to plant in the coming months. We also had our annual 1st year chemistry magic show, this is shows aims to amaze students with the magic of science. Highlights this year included many of our brave teachers putting their hands-on fire, much to the delight of the 1st years. This year the 2nd years had access to a dissection lab, they got to view some animal organs up close with our senior students volunteering to show them various structures in the organ and describing their function. Seeing the lungs inflate and deflate was a huge crowd pleaser with the 2nd years.



Reading is one hobby that we can all keep up throughout our time at home. If you're stuck for ideas and need help picking something to read, don't forget to check out the St Dominic's Library Information Pack and the Library Google Classroom for some help!



BOOKLET FOR 5TH YEARS

This is Muarig Anwar and Jodie Curley who received their 5th year booklet, which helps fifth years cope with senior cycle. The booklet is given to all students in 5th year. In the booklet past 5th year students give advice and inform current 5th years how life in senior cycle is different to junior cycle. One comment from a past fifth year was that 5th year is "scary at first, bearable throughout and the end hopefully you are laughing", and we hope at the end of this year that this will be the case even with the current COVID 19 crisis. Accompanying the book is a presentation to 5th years. The presentation reinforces the booklet with items on mindfulness and cognitive behaviour therapy. Cognitive behaviour therapy aims to get students to challenge their thoughts to assess are some of their thoughts true or accurate. The attendance committee also drew on the expertise of Dr Harry Barry and showed a video on how to deal with panic attacks. There is also a section for parents. Parents are asked not to get anxious themselves if they see their child anxious. The last part of the book is sourced from various leading psychologists in Ireland. It gives other strategies to cope, including setting up a designated worry time, recounting past successes, and dividing a problem into 8 bite-sized pieces and tackling one bite at a time. We remind both 5th and 6th years to revisit this booklet if they are finding it hard to cope in the current times.



Most of the 45 students in TY and Fifth Year who opted to take on the GAISCE President's Award Challenge have made great progress with their community, physical and personal challenges at either Bronze or Silver Award level. The pandemic however has presented an extra challenge to the St. Dominic's GAISCE team. We have had to rethink and adapt some of the challenges so that activities within each area of the award can be completed.

Our annual adventure challenge too was dealt a blow! It was due to take place this weekend (8th – 10 May) – 25 K hike for the Bronze award participants and 50K for the Silver Award! Boots were at the ready, the route was measured out, a team of volunteer helpers in place and the hike training schedule was underway. Yes, we were disappointed initially when we had to postpone our Hike - a highlight of the GAISCE year – but rather than walk away we decided to walk on!

So whether the hike takes place later this year or even if not until May of next year or whether we will take up the alternative "backyard adventure journey" now offered by Gaisce, we will remain positive and determined and will use the extra time and the daily exercise 5 km zone now available to us to be fit and at the ready! Ms McCarthy



These boots were made for walking....
And that's what they're going to do...
It will now not be this May time....
but that's ok with us too...
Hanging boots up is not an option...
To that we say "no way"
We will not give up the challenge
To complete the 25 or 50 K
Covid 19 has had its impact
On the plans of our GAISCE team
But it will not deter us
From achieving our GAISCE dream



'JIGS AND REELS, LAUGHS AND MEMORIES'

The annual St Dominic's-St Declan's TY Céilí took place on Tuesday, 10th March in our school library. This fundraiser was brilliantly organised by the RESPECT committee, Nia Campion, Kate Harold, Yasmeen Elamin and Katie Hynes, as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge. It was a huge success. All students had a great time (after the initial, usual and highly entertaining awkwardness!). All money raised will go to RESPECT who work to provide care, education and training to people with an intellectual disability. Huge thanks to Ms. Doohan, Ms. Duignan and Ms. Hanrahan for facilitating the event and providing the craic agus ceol. Domino's Pizza on the Cabra Road were also very kind to donate delicious pizzas for the ravenous rinceoirí. Finally, thank you to the students who really got into the spirit of the event and represented their schools with such distinction. The TY Carol Service Team

The parents Association run the Annual Carol Service each year in St. Dominic's and this year it was held on the 11th of December 2019.

Transition year students are always keen to help out and this year we had a very enthusiastic team and a passionate leader.

The team showed tremendous team spirit in completing all the jobs that needed to be done on the night, from cooking and serving mince pies, to welcoming people into the church. Every job was done seamlessly.

Students were:

Mariam Tsereteli, Elena Javakhishvili,

Lara Donnelly, Robyn King, Grace Owen, Lucy Newman and

Clodagh Mulvaney (leader)

It really was a wonderful night and I would really like to thank these girls who helped both myself and the Parents Association on the night to organise it.

After the Carol Service I interviewed Clodagh to get her reflections on how it felt to be a leader of a team and this what Clodagh had to say.



Hello. My name is Clodagh Mulvaney, I'm in TY and I'm writing about my experience as a team leader. I lead a team of my peers to help out during the school's Christmas Carol Service. The first task of being the leader was to consult with the teacher, Ms. Shanley Blake, about information such as, meeting times and different tasks we were going to do throughout the night. When I had all the information, I had to make sure I told all of my peers the right information and that they would be there to help out. On the night of the Carol Service we had different tasks and jobs to do, so I had to give the girls their tasks and make sure they understood what they had to do. The one thing I learned about being a leader is if you explain things clearly and ask nicely, your team will be more enthusiastic to help out.

Well done Clodagh. It is great to see how learning about leadership is not just confined to the classroom and the textbook.

Ms Shanley Blake

On Wednesday 29th January the Parents Association held a Fun Quiz for the 1st year students and their families. We had nineteen teams on the night. With prizes galore the competition was fierce. The quiz included music rounds and name the teacher's pet! Ms. McGarry showcased her turtles on the night! Mr. Kearney was the MC for the night. Ms. Doddy, Year Head to 1st years, ran a general knowledge round. In the end two teams came in joint first place. Congratulations to all who participated and a big thank you to the Parents Association and staff that organised a fun evening. We look forward to seeing you all at our next event.

Ms. Ciara McGarry

(A liaising Teacher with the PA)



SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE 2020

Bhí neart imeachtaí eagraithe sa scoil i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge i mbliana. Bhí ceiliúradh iontach a dhéanamh le damhsa, Tráth na gCeist agus spraoi! Míle buíochas leis na daltaí agus na múinteoirí a ghlac páirt. Beatha teanga í a labhairt!

ANNUAL ST. VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL

The annual fund-raising event, *Yellow Day*, for the local St. Vincent de Paul took place on 22nd November last. Both students and staff accessorised by wearing yellow and each brought in a specific food item for the food collection. Students each donated €2 and a total of €1,467 was collected on the day.

Ms. Largey very generously organised yellow wrist bands with the motto *Care and Share*. Each student on the day was presented with one of these wrist bands.

Later in the day the Second Year students took on the teachers in the annual Teacher V Student basketball match. Traditionally, students and teachers play in front of the entire first and second year classes. Yet again a very well trained team under the guidance of Ms. Aherne and the very competitive teachers took to the court! Fairness ruled the day, when at full time both teams had scored 34 points each. All agreed it was an enjoyable and exciting day.

In mid-December fifty seven hampers were made-up. Each family received a meat voucher along with their food hamper. The local conference of the St. Vincent de Paul distributed these hampers and extended its sincere thanks for the generosity and support that was given by the school. Thank you to all who helped in the organisation of the various events. A particular word of thanks must go to the Transition Year students who once again gave so generously of their time. Well done girls!





CHRISTMAS AT THE CABRA LIBRARY

The transition year students were asked to sing in a small concert of Christmas carols in the Cabra Library on the Navan Road in December. They were so enthusiastic to sing and were a pleasure to bring out and represent the school. The senior Librarian Anne Pigott was so pleased and appreciative for the lovely Christmas concert that the students presented to the community and said that they are a credit to the school – “so talented and very well behaved”. Thank you to all transition year students who attended as I know not all could attend due to other engagements in the school. To take part in such an event is an important community event for the library and indeed for schools. The audience were very impressed with their performance and the students had a great experience and a lovely day out was had by all.

Thank you.

Ms. Mc Goldrick

5TH YEAR LCVP CLASS

Our 5th year LCVP class enjoyed a very active year organising events and visits in and out of the school. They kicked their year off by organising the very successful Trade Fair, which saw over 60 businesses take part. This was a great opportunity for the budding entrepreneurs in St. Dominic's College to display their creative talents and businesses. Thank you to all the sponsors involved who kindly donated prizes for the Trade Fair. Well done to the 5th year LCVP class for organising such a successful and enjoyable day for all who attended while also raising €634 for the Irish Cancer Society. The class then invited Michael, from the Irish Cancer Society, into the school to give a talk to them on the work of the charity. This was a very valuable opportunity for the girls to see what is involved when volunteering.



Finally, the girls had the task of researching and organising a visit to a local enterprise. This year's visit was to McCaffrey's chocolate factory, where the students learned all the ins and outs to running a successful business. The tour finished up with the students and teachers putting their master chocolateries skills to the test, making personalised chocolates just in time for Valentine's Day.



MINI COMPANY

The Mini company module saw students set up and run their own enterprises, experiencing everything from creating business ideas to developing marketing plans, financial strategies, production processes and everything in between. All students took part in selling their products at the Trade Fair and it's definitely fair to say we have many future entrepreneurs in our midst.

Our Mini company students then took part in the Junior Achievement, in partnership with Accenture, Programme - Skills for Success. During this they learned effective communication skills, Teamwork, Personal branding and Interview skills. They also got the opportunity to take part in a mock job interview for a career of their choice. The volunteer interviewers spoke in high praise of each student and commended them on their excellent interview skills.



LCA ENTERPRISE

Our 5th year Leaving Certificate Applied Enterprise class had great success this year. Session 1 of Enterprise saw the students set up a mini company with a profit motive. This year the class set up the Luxury Christmas Glasses and Vases company selling handmade glitter glasses and candy cane vases. It was a great success and the business enjoyed a healthy profit from the selling of their products.

In Session 2 of Enterprise students are set with the task of organising an event for a non-for-profit. This year's class decided to host a school talent show to raise funds for the Marie Keating foundation. The girls put in tremendous work - they held auditions, contacted the charity and sponsors, organised finance, promoted and planned the event and sold Marie Keating merchandise to raise money. The talent show was due to take place on Thursday the 19th of March and therefore unfortunately could not go ahead as planned. Luckily, they were able to raise €146 for the Marie Keating Foundation before the school closed - well done 5LCA!



BUSINESS

Congratulations to 4th year Lara Donnelly who received an award from the UCD Quinn School of Business for achieving a Distinction in her Junior Cycle Business exam 2019.

This year the school was awarded for their Contribution to Teaching and Promotion of Excellence in Junior Certificate Business Studies, by Maynooth University on behalf of the students who excelled in Junior Cycle Business. Each year Maynooth University celebrates the achievements of these students in their Junior Cycle Business exam. The event is organised in conjunction with the Business Studies Teachers' Association. This year we had 29 students who were celebrated, and they were represented graciously on the night by 4th year student Kellie Gill.



Well done to 1st year - Erin Yumul - business name: VSCO DISCO, 2nd years - Emma O'Reilly and Lauren McGarry - business name: Eco logical and 4th year Yasmeen Elamin - business name: Eco Apparel who participated in the Student Enterprise Programme's City Final. Each business presented to a panel of judges on their business's journey and what they have learned from the experience of setting up their own business. Well done girls you did yourselves and the school proud! Commendations to our 2nd and 3rd year Business Studies who completed their CBA1 and CBA2, respectively, this year. They all put in a huge effort to complete their CBAs while gaining and developing valuable skills along the way.



The Guidance and Counselling department in our school held one of its displays at the open evening in the CAD room on Wednesday 23rd of October. It was a hive of activity as people flowed in and out to have a closer look at the signs and symbols displayed to reflect some of the work done by our colleagues on the teaching staff and the three Guidance Counsellors Mr Curran, Ms Lynch and Ms O'Brien.

The Guidance Department provides Personal and Social, Educational and Career Guidance to students.

From left to Right of picture.

Demilade Atoyebe holds a book which is a symbol of the teaching and learning that takes place in our school. As Guidance Counsellors we work to support the teaching and learning through helping students to make career, educational and life choices which are in alignment with their personalities, skills, aptitudes, interests and values. Keep an eye out on the Guidance and Counselling website for updates.

At the front is Riya Blessy Ajit holding a telephone. The telephone is a symbol for good communication. As Guidance Counsellors we link in with school management, Year heads, chaplains and our teaching colleagues to ensure that the student's holistic development is attended to. We are just a phone call away and are happy to chat to parents and guardians if needs be.

To the left standing is Kloiida Qarraj browsing through one of our university prospectuses. We encourage students to prepare and research thoroughly their college courses. Preparation is key to success and annually we organise events such as a career information evening, study skills, mindfulness and a subject choice meeting. Sixth year students are accompanied annually to the Higher Options and we use psychometric tests and interest inventories to ensure students are



on the right path. We invite guest speakers from across a range of career sectors to speak to our students to prepare them for life after the leaving certificate.

On the stand is a sunflower which represents hope, happiness and vitality. Student wellbeing is very important to us. We have a Wellbeing Committee which includes the three Guidance Counsellors along with teaching Colleagues. We have a "transition to secondary school induction programme" to help our first years adjust to secondary school. Every year we visit local primary schools in the area prior to the student's entry. We hold each student high and each student is important to our school.

The mirror is a symbol for taking personal responsibility. Each student is encouraged to take a realistic look at themselves and take responsibility for their choices, grades, success, words and actions. We encourage student leadership and the Guidance Counsellors have been actively involved in creating a programme to further encourage opportunities for leadership within our school. The mirror symbolises being "Seen". We encourage students to use their gifts and talents and we work to instill confidence and resilience in our students so that they can successfully navigate the secondary school years.

The microphone is a symbol for student voice. Student voice allows students to share who they are, what they believe in, and why they believe what they do, with their peers, parents, teachers and the entire school.

Finally, centre back holding a swan and a card with the words "*Be the best that you can be*" is Mariana Silva. The swan is a symbol for achieving potential. We believe that every student can achieve their potential through consistent hard work both in school and at home.

The window symbolises opportunity. We would like our students to avail of the many opportunities available to them curricular and extra-curricular during their time with us at St. Dominic's.

Remember when Charlie in the Chocolate factory received the Golden Ticket and he could not wait to get home to let his family know. Well dear students we have good news for all of you. You too can achieve success with hard work, patience and determination.

In the words of Jamie Escalante "*Education is the ticket to success*" and there yes there is one for everyone in our school.



ART

Earlier in the year the Transition year students took part in an art competition for Mental Wellness Awareness week. Fortunately, two of our students, Yasmeen Elamin and Ashley Macaspac won the CYPSC Draw Your Wellbeing Competition.

ARTWORK DURING THE PANDEMIC

Sketchbook pages Fiona Ann Vergal 5th yr.

This picture tells the story of our new reality; students working from home, in this case sketchbook work for art. The workspace is all set up and the St. Dominic's water bottle nearby for that all-important hydration.



This doodle was created by 6th year Dayna Kealy over Easter; an important reminder, don't you think?

This beautiful painting was created by 1st year student Janvi Menon, during her Easter holidays. It evokes a lovely sense of mindfulness for us all.



TRANSITION YEAR:

Since November 2019 a variety of rewarding and valuable experiences have got everyone in Transition Year involved. Here is just a flavour of what TY students have been up to.

Community Care Week took place mid- November. This is an educational activity, where the student finds a week's work experience with a charity of her own choice. It offers every TY student a taste of the world of work but also an invaluable opportunity to help their charity in a real way. Nursing homes, Youth and Community Centres, Day Care Centres and Charity Shops were just some of the placements this year.

TY students' ability this year to pool their energy and talents to raise money for a variety of charities and fund-raising events was impressive. This Christmas TY students took part in organising Christmas Hampers for St Vincent de Paul under the guidance and hard work of Mrs Woods.

In January, volunteers from Accenture visited the school for an invaluable workshop. Focus here was on how to improve Communication skills, Teamwork skills and Interview skills. Two weeks later Junior Achievement and Accenture interviews took place in Grand Canal Plaza, with feedback on the interviews and certificates presented.

The first two weeks of February Transition Year students had the opportunity to participate in their TY Work Experience Programme. The programme allowed students to sample careers they may have an interest in pursuing in their future. Students got an insight into the day-to-day elements of their chosen work placement and the experience can help them make informed decisions about subject choices for their Leaving Certificate. Many careers were sampled including child care, hairdressing, finance, health & beauty, law, leisure, medicine, nursing, teaching and pharmacy. For some students, work experience confirmed their career paths while for others it prompted rethinking on career choices. A sincere thank you to all the employers for the generosity and support received in offering these work placements.

In November and again in February students presented the two of their three portfolio assessments, embracing the opportunity to present their best quality work and reflect on their particular interests and strengths.

On **3rd March** TY students visited Microsoft *Dreamspace*. Firstly, they had a tour of the Microsoft office, learning about the architectural inspiration behind the layout of the office. Then they were introduced to coding and even got to do some coding of their own. After a tasty lunch they were put into groups and were given a project where they had to be creative and build a track for a marble to travel on with just the materials they were given! It proved to be a real fun and valuable experience for all!

The charity Respect sets out to create an awareness of people in our community who have special needs and to fundraise for The Daughters of Charity Navan Road. **The TY Respect team in St Dominic's** successfully ran **the Céilí** inviting St Declan's TY students to St. Dominic's. A sincere '*Míle buíochas*' to Ms. Doohan for organising and instructing the students. Well done to all involved in the Respect team and especially to Ms. Winters for all her hard work and commitment throughout the year.

So, while some events that had been planned and looked forward to didn't take place this year due to Covid-19, on reflection, Transition Year 2019/20 has proven to be a very different but still valuable and productive year with lots of opportunities and events included.

A sincere thank you to all of the Transition Year students and their hard-working teaching staff!

Gemma Branigan

TY Co-ordinator



TRANSITION YEAR TRIP

All of TY took a trip to the Irish Film Institute in Temple Bar in on January 8th.

Accompanying teachers were Ms Byrne, Mr Sweetman and Ms Winter.

We attended a school screening of the film 'Eight Grade'.

It was a moving story about a young American teenager coming of age and learning how to navigate relationships in the age of social media.



On the 9th of March I began a week of work experience with An Garda Síochána in Blanchardstown. On the first day we were given an insight into working as a guard and the different roles within the organisation. On the second day we went to the Criminal Courts of Justice. We sat in on court cases, it was very interesting to see how the courts are run and operated. On Wednesday we went to the Garda College in Templemore Co. Tipperary. This was a great opportunity to see the training and exams you must do to become a member of An Garda Síochána. Unfortunately, the week was cut short to due to the coronavirus restrictions. I really enjoyed the week and learned so much about the organisation.

Keelin Gogarty

TRANSITION YEAR TOUR GUIDING MODULE

This year as a part of our Transition Year Programme we had a new module, tour guiding, which was organised by our teacher Ms.Cluskey in association with Glasnevin Cemetery.

In order to fully understand what the module would entail we went down to Glasnevin Cemetery to learn more about the skills of an engaging tour guide. When we first got there two of the tour guides gave us a tour of the cemetery. They guided us through the grounds and brought us down to see Daniel O'Connell's crypt. Daniel O'Connell also known as the Liberator is best known for the peaceful protests he held to gain rights for the Catholics in Ireland. Many other well-known names are buried in Glasnevin Cemetery such as Michael Collins, Jim Larkin, Grace Gifford, Eamonn De Valera and Charles Stewart Parnell. After the tour we were presented with a slideshow presentation which explained to us the 5 golden rules of tour guiding which include eye contact, projecting your voice, humour, including statistics and facts and smiling. We were then told that we would have to pick a grave in the cemetery and research the person, create a speech, learn it off by heart before returning to the cemetery to individually act as a tour guide and present our tour to the class. We had ten weeks to research one particular person and become an expert on that person. Even though all of the information we learned we didn't use in our presentations it was best to know as much as possible about the person. On our return to Glasnevin everyone was nervous about presenting however once the first tour was presented everyone felt much calmer and enjoyed the experience. All of our hard work paid off as everybody was able to stand up and speak for two minutes about our chosen person with ease. Tour Guiding was a new experience for all of us in Transition Year but one we all enjoyed.

By Sarah Boland TY

TY MODULE: PHILOSOPHY

In our Transition Year programme, there are an array of different modules completed each year. Each module introduces the TY students to new skills and ways of thinking. One of these modules is Philosophy.

Philosophy is the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline.

In the class, and throughout the course, the students learn to think about philosophy in many ways. The choices include studying about the great philosophers such as Plato Socrates and Aristotle or looking at new philosophy in the modern world and in our own lives using mediums such as the enneagram and even personal zodiacs.

I believe that the philosophy module is a great way to get students thinking about challenging ideas and questions on life that have fascinated thinkers for centuries. It is a great change of thinking for students and, I feel confident that it can help the TY students in making important decisions for the coming years.

The Philosophy class once a week encourages us, without any pressure, to think critically about the world; it is, after all, the foundation of all knowledge and when utilized properly, can provide us with huge benefits. By exercising your mind in the disciplines of critical and logical thought, you gain the ability to imagine, debate, and clarify the nature of the good life.

It is a great opportunity to be 'taken out of time'.

By Robyn King TY

MAYTIME MUSINGS

As I stand in the beautiful grounds of the Dominican campus here in Cabra on a lovely sunny day in May – out for my walk and grateful for the fact that we can now go as far as 5 km from home—I am struck initially and even a little saddened by the silence all around, the impressive but empty buildings, the absence of students and teachers coming and going, the absence of corridor and classroom chatter, the absence of life as we knew it before March 2020.

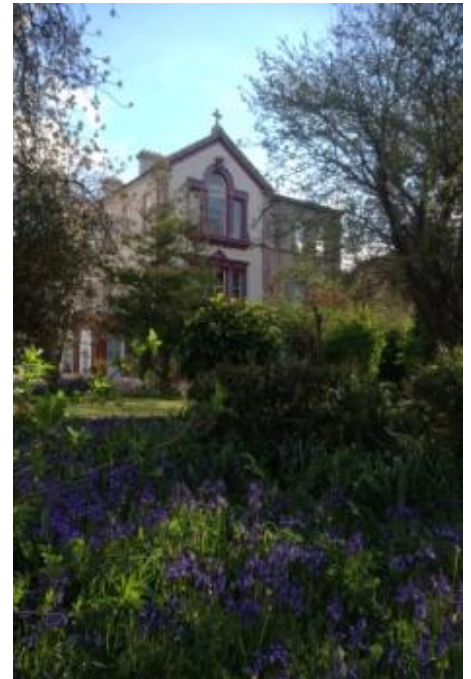
But I am pleasantly surprised that all is still well and welcoming: the bluebells are once again in bloom, the trees full of new growth and colour, cherry blossom and may flower petals continue to provide a carpet of confetti on lawns that are all so well kept, and the lovely medley of music from the birds makes me smile and feel all will be well in our world. They, in particular, seem happy to have more freedom to do as they please and that their birdsong is once again the music of the air. The twittering of the magpie (in Dominican colours!) the robin, the blackbird wood pigeon, to name but a few, seems to suggest they know we are not around, they look forward to our return but that they are content to be custodians of this place in our absence. And I am reminded as I look around that they too belong here and that maybe we should remember that a little more when we return.

Sitting a while on the front steps, the facade of the original convent building is like a central backdrop on a fine stage. Relaxed and at ease my mind wanders back to another May time that of 1819 – exactly 201 years ago - when a small group of Dominican women came to Cabra and walked up these steps for the first time.

On that occasion they were on a trip to the 'countryside' from their then residence in Clontarf- with a view to perhaps coming to live here in "Great Cabragh" in the Barony of Castleknock!

Impressed by this place and encouraged by their own Faith and vision of what they hoped to achieve, just a few months later this group of Dominican nuns took up residence here and a new chapter in the story of Dominican women in Ireland and beyond began. No doubt they too faced many trials and tribulations in many May times here, and yet remained determined to stay the course, as we too must do. And no doubt they had many delightful May times... just as we have had and will again have too.

Ms. McCarthy



SIXTH YEARS

To the class of 2020,

What a year it has been. None of us expected our year to traverse the way it has but as 6th years your strength is shining through. As 6th Years you are told it will fly by and indeed it has. My students have worked extremely hard this year and all students are facing challenges no other 6th year cohort ever has.

Although we are missing the day to day interactions, we have many fond memories of this year. Even Santa came to visit us last Christmas! I miss the daily greetings on the corridor, at the lockers and of course in the classroom. I even miss the random knock on the door of a 6th year during my classes. What I miss most is the conversations with students and when I walk away in awe of the students who despite what lays ahead of them continue to amaze me by their strength, their inspiration and resilience to overcome any obstacle. To the class of 2020, you are stronger than you know.

Life has changed but we will meet again soon.

Best wishes,

Ciara McGarry

6th Year Head 2020.

PANDEMIC TEACHING

‘Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain.’

You might recall these lines spoken by the wizard in the beloved classic ‘The Wizard of Oz’. As Dorothy stands defiantly before the hovering, menacing figure of the powerful wizard -demanding he keep his end of the bargain and deliver her home to Kansas - her little dog Toto, in an act of mischievous excitement, disengages himself, runs off, tugs at a curtain and reveals a fraught, stressed, aged man: the real wizard.

So, what is the relevance to teaching through this pandemic? It doesn’t require too much contemplation: defiant, eager, mischievous students, the spectre of the almighty, all powerful wizard that is the internet – Google Classroom, Zoom, Teams etc. – terms that were nothing but collective buzzwords of the more technologically minded amongst us. The figure behind the curtain of this pandemic? The fraught, aging, stressed figure of the teacher.

It’s a disservice to suggest that the human wizard had no intention of delivering on his promise to the young Dorothy; indeed, he makes the decision to get her home by hook or by crook. In the end, Dorothy is shown that she had the power all along to get herself where she wanted to go.

As teachers, working through these extraordinary times, we take on the role of that wizard. We seek to encourage, motivate and guide our students along the way. Ultimately, we try to take them as far as they can go. The end result? Hopefully, it is they who realise they have the power to go wherever they wish.

By Mr. Duffy

MS HAYDEN

On behalf of all the Board of Management, Students, Parents and Colleagues, I would like to wish Ms Judith Hayden the very best as she makes her decision to leave St Dominic's College after many years’ service to the school and to her students. We wish you well with your future plans and change of direction.

6TH YEAR GRADUATION ON ZOOM

We never thought that as we started this academic year that we would end up saying our first goodbye graduation to our 6th year Class of 2020 by Zoom. We held a lovely ceremony on Friday 22 May and had a huge number of people tuning in on the night. It was a temporary goodbye to our 6th year girls and we will have another night for them later in the year or early next year as soon as it is safe for large groups to meet once again. For now, we say a big goodbye girl.

I would like to say a big thank you to the Sixth Year Head Ms McGarry for all her hard work over the last two years with the girls. Thank you to the Music department, RE department, Mr McBride, Ms Largey, Mr Kearney and Elise too for all their help with the preparation for the night.

GOODBYE

Goodbye and a big thank you to teachers or school staff that will be leaving us to take other jobs elsewhere and to those who intend taking a leave of absence next year. We wish them well with their plans. Thank you sincerely for all your contribution.

ATHLETICS

At the start of January, the Senior Girls Athletics team ran in the North Leinster cross country race in the Phoenix Park. The girls all performed really well around the 2.5km course. With Celine 2nd, Dora 5th, Sarah 6th and Gillian 11th. They were happy to win their category overall.

On the 12th of February the Senior Girls team competed in the Leinster school's cross-country championships in Santry, Dublin. The course was 2 loops of the park and measured 2.5 km. The team of Celine Gavin, Sarah Byrne, Gillian Murphy, Dora Medgyesy and Claire O' Conor set out to qualify for the All Ireland's. All the girls performed really well on the day. Celine had one of her best races ever coming in first place with Sarah 12th, Dora 19th and Gillian and Claire following closely behind. The girls were delighted to win best Senior Girls Team in Leinster, which was a close battle between them and Loreto Kilkenny.

On March 7th the girls had All Ireland's on their home turf again in Santry. The course was now 3.5km with an added loop. The mucky ground and hills not making it any easier. The team set out again hopeful for a medal after the year's long training. The girls braved the tough course with the team managing to secure third place overall. Celine Gavin had a fantastic run coming 2nd overall with Dora, Claire and Sarah in close pursuit.

At the start of January, the Senior Girls Athletics team ran in the North Leinster's cross-country race in the Phoenix Park. The girls all performed really well around the 2.5km course. With Celine 2nd, Dora 5th, Sarah 6th and Gillian 11th. They were happy to win their category overall.

On the 12th of February the Senior Girls team competed in the Leinster school's cross-country championships in Santry, Dublin. The course was 2 loops of the park and measured 2.5 km. The team of Celine Gavin, Sarah Byrne, Gillian Murphy, Dora Medgyesy and Claire O' Conor set out to qualify for the All Ireland's. All the girls performed really well on the day. Celine had one of her best races ever coming in first place with Sarah 12th, Dora 19th and Gillian and Claire following closely behind. The girls were delighted to win best Senior Girls Team in Leinster, which was a close battle between them and Loreto Kilkenny.



CAMOGIE

Dominic's All Ireland Superstars

2020 witnessed one of the most successful years for the school in Gaelic games. The Senior Camogie Team were crowned Dublin Champions in a competition they dominated from the start. They went six games unbeaten in the Dublin Championship. In the final, they overcame St. Wolstan's in a flawless performance in Malahide. The girls claimed our first senior camogie title in five years.

However, the team was not finished there! The All-Ireland Series was their reward for a victorious Dublin campaign. Our first game was played in beautiful Kinvara, Co Galway. The opposition was Seamount College. This was by far, our performance of the year. I have rarely been as proud of a group of players. The opposition were incredibly strong and held a lead for the majority of the match. It was a very

physical encounter with an intimidating atmosphere due to a big home crowd and lots of car horns being blown. We managed to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat with a wonder goal from one of the youngest players on the team. It was a masterclass in the "never say die" attitude that all successful teams need.

Our semi-final was played in front of fantastic support on home soil – St. Oliver Plunkett's GAA grounds only a mile or two from St. Dominic's College. The team put in a serious shift and won comfortably after experiencing an uncomfortable 10 minutes in the second half when St Anne's of Killaloe threw the kitchen sink at us. Once again, we proved too strong and increased our undefeated run to eight in all competitions. What an achievement!

Reaching an all-Ireland final is a magnificent achievement that most players will never get to experience. This was only the third team in the school to reach a camogie all-Ireland. Alas, the final was not our day to shine. In the many sleepless nights I had after the competition, the one positive conclusion I drew was that defeat makes you stronger; it creates a resilience and humility in your character. Next time...

Thank you to the teachers of St Dominic's College who supported the team all year with their texts, well-wishes, cakes and most importantly, support at matches. The school management team really got behind us this year and we are very grateful. The parents of the players were legendary, especially at our home games. As ever, thanks to Seaghan Kearney and John Murphy for their constant effort behind the scenes with school teams over the years. Their knowledge was always invaluable and got us the extra mile. Special shout-out to Michelle Bergin for all the time and enthusiasm she gave to the teams this year.

To St Oliver Plunketts Eoghan Ruadh and Naomh Fionnbarra GAA clubs, a very, very special thank you. There would simply be no camogie teams in the school without the efforts and generosity of these great Dublin clubs. Both gave their facilities and expertise willingly throughout the competition. The school really appreciates this.

Finally, thanks to the players. I haven't mentioned any names in this article because in its truest essence, this group of players was a team. They did everything for the greater goal. They were magnificent and demonstrated all the qualities we strive for as people: selflessness, humility and tenacity. I am in awe of the courage they demonstrate every time they run out on the pitch. Take that with you in life girls and you can't go wrong. The future of Camogie in the school looks bright. Take care. **Mr Sweetman**



JUNIOR CAMOGIE TEAM

The Junior camogie team which was made up of 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th year students enjoyed a great season this year making it to the Dublin semi-finals. The team was captained by 5th year, Mollie Turner and vice-captained by 5th year, Siobhan Byrne, who both showed admirable leadership during the season. Throughout the season, the team displayed great teamwork, commitment and skill. Well done to all the girls involved in the Junior team this year and we look forward to welcoming new and past players again next year to continue their success.

Ms. Bergin



HOCKEY REPORT 2019-2020

This season again all of our school hockey teams compete in two league competitions, both the Leinster League and the North Leinster League. Both competitions have several divisions and are highly competitive.

Seniors:

We have a large squad at senior level, and competition for positions is always ongoing. The girls had a superb start to their season with some superb performances and wins in Leinster, but unfortunately, we did not qualify for a play-off place due to losses in a highly competitive away match to Loreto Bray and St Mary's College, Naas. Such disappointment in the Leinster drove the girls onwards in the North Leinster League and we got off to a very positive start. The season was only getting to the interesting stage of looking towards play-offs and awaiting other results to see if we would qualify for a semi-final spot. We were due to play The Kings Hospital School on Weds 11th March and a win would see us through to the final. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 the league committee cancelled all matches/ finals in light of health and safety concerns. And so our season stopped. With school then also finishing up two days later, the annual Dominican Cup was no longer. Such a sad end to a wonderful season but well done to all our Seniors, and here's to next season.



Juniors:

Our junior team had a slow start to the season and took a while to click and get into top gear. Tough losses again in the Leinster Leagues saw them finishing 3rd, just missing out of the qualification play-off spot.

As the season progressed, attendance and work level at training improved and this squad went from strength to strength with some amazing individual and team performances. Confidence grew within the team and they went on a winning streak after Christmas, winning all their North Leinster League matches. They were unstoppable! They topped the group and went straight through to the finals on March 19th. However, this could not take place and so too did their season end here. Nevertheless, we can view them as Champions with winning the group outright.

Well done to this fabulous fun committed group of girls. Your improvement this year was incredible, and we will endeavour to build on this next season. Congrats to you all.



Minors:

Our 2nd year team are certainly a team to be reckoned with. Attitude, attendance at training, skill, work rate... are all in abundance. In hard fought encounters in all their matches the team had some excellent wins and performances. Unfortunately, having narrowly missed out in qualification for Leinster quarter final spot, they went on and progressed well in the North Leinster League, winning all bar one of their matches and they too succeeded on reaching the final on 19th March. Unfortunately, and yet again, this final could not occur, but let's hope we can build on this next season and well done to you all.



1st Years:

Our first year team are total beginners at hockey so it is very much a level playing field for all those wanting to join the school team. Numbers, unfortunately, this year were quite low, but were enough to have a team and enter the North Leinster League. As it is a new sport for all the girls, training and friendlies mainly took place from Sept – Dec, in preparation for the competitive matches after Christmas. The girls trained well, learning all the new skills in PE lessons and then developing them further at training. The team started to take shape with positions and roles, and as matches started huge learning and progress occurred. The girls had some good wins in their league and looked forward to pushing through their last matches with further winning ways in the hope reaching the final. Alas, we will never know, as all matches ceased and there was no outright final positioning in the league table for this division.

I hope the 1st years can take some positivity with them from their short/ introductory season in hockey and look forward to going again as Minors. We would love also to see more 1st years try and join our hockey team as we know there is huge potential there.

Finally-

After such commitment, training effort, work... that went into this season it was so unfortunate and such a shame that this was our ending. We are so proud of these amazing girls/ teams and we admire their commitment, fun, interest and passion these girls have shown throughout the season, as well as all their achievements and successes. We look forward to striving forward next season, and for some, it will be their last year to represent St. Dominic's College, Cabra and wear the school crest with pride. Many thanks also to all our staff in their support of these girls as they represent our school. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Ms. Brennan, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Nolan

BASKETBALL 2019/20

The attendances at training sessions was the best I have had in years. We have some very talented basketball players in St. Dominic's.

In under 19 and under 16 we had three semi-finals. Unfortunately, we did not get to the final. However, much the same we had three semi-finals in Minor (1st years) and Junior (2nd years) I am happy to report Junior A reached the final. We were to play v Our Lady's, Drogheda in the Basketball Arena on the 25th March. Well done Jun. A
Eight of our Senior A team are leaving us this year. I would like to wish them all well. They are fantastic young people. It was a pleasure for me coaching them.
A sincere thank you to PE Staff for accommodating all the basketball matches. Keep Safe! **Pat Ahern.**



OUR TEAMS



STUDENTS MESSAGES:

A SIMPLE WORD: BY RINNU SKARIAH

An epidemic, the actual definition, the rapid spread of disease to many people in each population within a short period of time. You see before the year 2020 that was not a word, I heard a lot its everyday conversation. Word, that I in fact did know the meaning of, but often ignored. I never believed that a simple word would be able to rock me to my core, to unnerve billions of people all at once, but it did. Upon hearing this word, eyes were widened, hearts skipped a beat. You may think I am being dramatic but that is not the case. One simple word caused the world to pulp into crisis. How you may ask, well it became a reality. Let me explain, you see people talk tales war. Horrific stories that make us thankful that we were not around, to witness mankind at its worse. The idea of war scares us, but the word, when written on a piece of paper, it's hardly scary. Thought-provoking sure, but scary I think not. But the second that word, that idea becomes a reality that's when people start getting uneasy. You see I know that the world is in crisis, and that thousands of people are losing their love ones. But I hope to God that in fifty years when my grandkids ask me- "Hey Grandma, what were you doing when the coronavirus was a large"? I can say with both a laugh and a little bit of embarrassment that I was posting and texting my friends on Instagram. Hopefully, it's still a thing then. But yeah at the mere age of sixteen I am facing the sad reality that my world is in crisis. A fancy word has become reality and its scary. But I cannot lose hope that the storm will pass, and everything will turn out okay.

WHAT IT IS LIKE MOVING HOUSES DURING QUARANTINE?

We were packing up our old house, ready to move into our new one. All our clothes, dishes and other belongings were packed up into boxes ready to be moved. Every day, we would bring a couple of boxes to the new house, gradually unpacking and finding a new place for everything. And that is when it happened... lockdown. We were instructed to stay home from school and work. This is very convenient we all thought. We would not have to wake up early every day for school, we could finish unpacking everything quicker and get this over with. It turned out it was not as easy as we thought. At first it was, we all woke up at the same time as we would on a normal school day, bring over a couple of boxes and unpack as usual. In fact, this was much quicker and way more efficient. We got as much work done in a day as we did in a week before. Things were all going smoothly until a more serious lockdown was put into place. We were restricted to go more than 2km outside of our house unless absolutely necessary. We had received all our furniture, but we still had a few items remaining. At this point most of our things were already gone and we just had a few things left. This is when we got an email saying that our beds and our dining table order was cancelled and postponed until the lockdown was over. This is when things got complicated. All our belongings were at our new house, but we did not have any beds to sleep on or a dining table yet. At this point we decided to stay in our new house as it had mostly everything we owned, and it wouldn't make sense to stay at our old house. We had brought over our old mattresses from our old house and found some inflatable beds and had to sleep on those. When we were eating, we all sat on the floor and ate. It was difficult at times, but it was also incredibly fun. We would stay up late and watch movies and play board games with my family. In this time, I got to spend a lot of time with my family that I would've not have time to do normally. A while later our beds had arrived, but the assemblers were not allowed to come inside to build them, and we were set with the task of building our own beds. It took us 3 days to get all the beds assembled. Finally, we have adjusted to a bit of a routine, but we are still missing a lot of things. Hopefully when the virus is finished, we are able to get our routine back to normal.



As a current sixth year during these times, it is easy to daydream and reminisce about my time in the school. I think back to when I came into the school in first year, and how I thought I knew everything, but in fact knew so little. The school has taught me so many valuable lessons, both inside and outside of the classroom, and the past 6 years are truly irreplaceable.

From first year trips to Wexford, TY trips to Carlingford and Italy, and even the occasional short trip to the lake on the school grounds, there is always something to look forward to in your time at St. Dominic's.

It may not feel like we have much to look forward to at the moment, but if you think about it, we have SO much to look forward to. Things will get better, and we will appreciate everything that much more. However, I know that my time here is almost up, and although it has been cut short slightly, we will make up for it. We WILL graduate and we WILL walk through those doors again. I know my lunch table is missing my friends and I and the endless laughs we share at it. For now, I can be grateful for those times, and optimistic they will return.

Although my sixth year has been cut slightly short, every second of it has been amazing. A stressful year nevertheless, but filled with enjoyment, encouragement and support. Without a doubt, the stand out moment has to be Christmas time, when all the teachers and sixth years gathered in St. Patrick's hall go celebrate. I felt so part of a family at that moment and it is a memory I will cherish forever.

I always wondered if staff remember the different year groups that graduate. One thing that's for sure, is no one will ever forget the class of 2020 that had online school and summer school!!!

I can promise you, school goes by so quickly. Enjoy every moment with your teachers and your friends and never take school for granted. I think we've all learnt that!

Rachel Greene

5,4,3,2,1 there it was 2020 has finally begun this was going to be our year especially that we just started 1st year, 1st year was tough at first but friends and after school clubs got me through it, we done our Christmas exams and completed many tests until January took a turn. 2020 was already worse with Australia burning down, a basketball star died we all thought it couldn't get any worse until February, when one night we turned on our televisions and heard this disease called Corona virus it didn't worried us at first until we heard about the first case in Ireland... weeks passed and deaths went up there was really no changes until March 12th the announcement was made till the afternoon. When we all heard the news we were delighted - at first we had taken our WHOLE locker home which wasn't fun because I had to wait an extra hour for my parents to pick me up! I thought nothing could get any worse until I got home and felt the relief and pain in my back - I was in bits like Lego, anyway this home schooling thing was all new to me so it took a while before I came with a routine with all the homework, a couple of weeks passed and quarantine wasn't so fun no more I started to feel lonely- I missed my friends, my family and the most that actually shocked me was school also at this point I was fed up knowing that today is like tomorrow and weeks are like months but although this is a very worrying time for people I realised how lucky and grateful I am to not have any underline conditions and that I have a work space to do my work and that none of my family had passed from this horrible disease, thank God. Now at this point I just can't wait to get back out and have fun with my friend's family and just re-celebrate any events we missed -stay safe and stay inside!

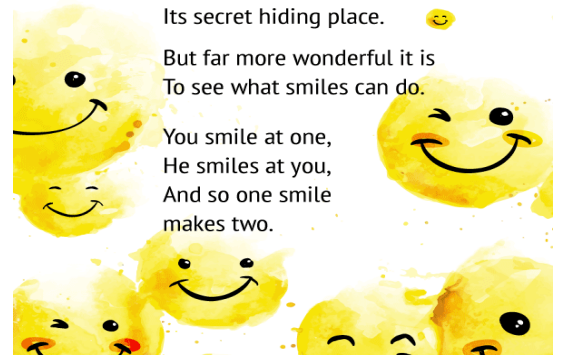
A SMILE

A smile is quite a funny thing,
It wrinkles up your face.

And when it's gone
you'll never find
Its secret hiding place.

But far more wonderful it is
To see what smiles can do.

You smile at one,
He smiles at you,
And so one smile
makes two.



This Moment

By Eavan Boland

A neighbourhood.

At dusk.

Things are getting ready
to happen

out of sight.

Stars and moths.

And rinds slanting around fruit.

But not yet.

One tree is black.

One window is yellow as butter.

A woman leans down to catch a child
who has run into her arms
this moment.

Stars rise.

Moths flutter.

Apples sweeten in the dark.

I've had many happy memories in school over the years, but our journey to the camogie final earlier this year has to be the best.

In September, we had our first camogie meeting, where we all signed our names on a list in the library; little did we know those same names would be on the program for the All-Ireland final in a few months' time! We had an interesting start to the season, playing our first match in a mixture of basketball singlets and assorted vintage jerseys, yet despite having only had two borrowed sliotars to warm up with, we came away with a landslide win. The jerseys were eventually found at the back of Mr Kearney's classroom for Match No.3, on the same morning that myself and a few others found ourselves running around the school calling into classes to round up extra numbers to field a team (shoutout to those teachers for being so sound!). Libby broke records sprinting home for spare gear and mams waited on the Navan Road with hurls and helmets, but all the hassle was worth it when we secured another win! Chaos seemed to be our lucky charm, or at least we hoped, as on the way to the Dublin final our double decker bus had to

reverse past a queue of cars, having tried to pass under a tiny railway bridge (And comically, again on the way home!). Now, I'm not taking any credit, but Murphy's Law of "anything that can go wrong will go wrong" could definitely sum up some of these days out! Although we didn't end on a win, the memories of our singing in the dressing rooms, studying for mocks on the bus to Galway, Mr Sweetman's legendary rapping skills and the amazing experience of reaching the final with such a fantastic group of girls are definitely worth more than any trophy. Big thank you to all the teachers and parents who provided cakes, sandwiches and support, to Mr Kearney for giving up time on his mid-term to train us in freezing Finbarrs and of course to Mr Sweetman for all his hard work and big words. Gargantuan effort from all.

Eimear Murphy 6B2

A FEW JOKES BY OUR STUDENTS:

- 1) My wife saw a spider, she told me to take it out. So, I did, he's a really nice guy. He works in 'Web Designing'.
- 2) Don't trust atoms. They make up everything!
- 3) I used to have a job at a calendar factory but I got the sack because I took a couple of days off.
- 4) When a woman is giving birth, she is literally kidding.
- 5) You're Russian when you go into the toilet, then European, lastly, you're Finnis



JUST A LITTLE

A little more kindness;
A little less greed;
A little more giving;
A little less creed;
A little more smile;
A little less frown;
A little less kicking;
A man when he is down.

A little more 'we';
A little less 'I';
A little more laugh
A little less cry;
A little more flowers
On the path of life;
And fewer on graves
At the end of the strife.

MY FAVOURITE SCHOOL MEMORY by Nicola Carr 6th year

"I have many great memories from throughout my years in St. Dominic's but one of my favourites is from 6th year. It was coming up to our Christmas break and as it was our last Christmas in the school, I wanted to make sure it was one to remember. I went to our vice principal Mr. McBride and pleaded with him "please could we wear Christmas jumpers on the Friday before Christmas break". It took a lot of convincing and lot of running around the school having discussions with all of the teachers from my year head Ms. McGarry to our principal Ms. Cameron but I achieved what I set out for. All of the teachers in the school started to embrace the idea and the school took our ideas on board.

During the last two classes on that Friday we had a big party. Everyone dressed up with their Christmas jumpers and Christmas accessories and the teachers had a fashion show for the 6th years to show off their outfits. There was music playing and some of the teachers and students got up and sang Christmas carols for everyone. All of the students got little goody bags with sweets and Santa even made an appearance to give out chocolates. Our whole year and all of our teachers got to have a good time together and dance and sing (with Mr. Kearney as the DJ). I can definitely say for myself and think the rest of my year will agree with me that we all really appreciated everything the school did for us. Something as little as wanted to wear a Christmas jumper in to school ended up creating one of my favourite school memories and I hope that it can become a tradition that carries on for years to come."



A memory from school this year that sticks out to me is our Christmas party with the whole of sixth year and all of the teachers. Everyone was in high spirits and enjoyed singing Christmas songs all together. With the uncertainty of our final school days this is a memory that I'll cherish from sixth year. (anonymous)

NOT A JOURNEY OF 5 YEARS BUT A JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

The first day I walked into St. Dominic's College, I walked into a place of strangers. Most of the girls had friends from their primary school to whom they were talking to but I was the only girl there from my primary school. I felt scared, lonely and this school is big. My journey for the next few years seemed very uncertain at that time. After five long and rollercoaster years those same strangers have become my friends, my companions, my people.

The very first friends I made in this school was Sarah Ward in 5th year and Kate Wray in sixth year. I still remember distinctively staring at Kate Wray in first year assembly in St. Patrick's hall as she was talking constantly and laughing hysterically. From then on I have made friends, not that all those friendships lasted but each girl I met in this school, each friendship made and lost taught me something new, helped me discover another part of myself, changed me in a way which cannot be explained in words.

I have spent some of my happiest moments in this school and some of my darkest moments too. Secondary school was a challenge for me which I had to fight every day. For most girls it's just school which they rather not go to but for me every single day done was like a battle overcome. The whole education system both Junior Cert and Leaving Cert was extremely emotionally distressing for me but every single moment someone at St. Dominic's was there who made it a little bit easier, be it a staff member, teacher or student. I would have not been able to survive the last five years if it was not for everyone at this school.

I feel like I owe the teachers, staff and authority for a lifetime for what they have done for me. Every time I fell, they picked me up, every time I wanted to give up, they forced me to go on. No matter how many thanks I give to my teachers, Ms. Largey, Mr. McBride, Ms. Lynch, Ms. Donnelly, Patsy, Ms. McGarry, Ms. Cameron, it will never be enough. Both myself and my parents are grateful for the support and kindness I was given by every member of the St. Dominic's community.

All through the last five years I kept thinking about how much I hated this school, how much I wanted to leave, which is a major factor why I didn't do 4th year. Now that I am nearly out of this school, I feel that maybe I don't hate this school as much as I thought. Maybe I am going to miss this place. I'll miss standing in the long queues of the canteen, I'll miss complaining about walking up to the stairs up to the labs, I'll even miss Mr. McBride's late stamps in my journal. This lockdown has already given me a taste of that.

I have had good times and bad times, but I had times I will never forget. I would like to say to every girl at St. Dominic's to enjoy the time they have left in this school. No matter how much you think you will never miss this school, trust me you will. No matter where I go in the future, what I do, who I become, St. Dominic's will have part played in that because this school has helped to shape me into the young adult I am today. I have grown up from a child in this place. For everything you have given me St. Dominic's, THANK YOU!

Sahrin Zarah 6th year.



LIFE AS A 6th YEAR IN COVID-19 QUARANTINE

The days are hard to distinguish. A 'new normal' is difficult to adjust to, and the lack of clarity about the future is frustrating. Waking up in time to (maybe) get dressed and have breakfast before a ZOOM class is the aim of the morning. That is closely followed by the constant flow of emails from various teachers, the principal and library giving us updates and more work to do. There is a break in the afternoon in order to check you phone for the latest press release on where the Leaving Cert stands and then is back to work. Essays to type, notes to write, emails to answer, videos to watch and classes to partake in. Finding a quiet space to work is sometimes hard, and the nice weather outside is just calling you to drop your books and have a BBQ in the back garden instead.

The daily quick walk within the 2km radius is mundane and crossing the road to avoid people is commonplace. Motivation is not in the air and facetimeing friends to complain about online school takes longer than it would to just do the work. In the evening it's dinner, chatting with the family, watching the news, attempting to relax and then off to bed to do it all again the next morning.

Also littered throughout the days are texts and emails coming in for the Order of Malta Ambulance Corps. Requests to do house and pharmacy calls or help at testing and assessment centres for the current Covid-19 pandemic. The activities of the Order of Malta are at an all-time high with members pitching in whenever possible, whether that be after school, college or work. Daily requests from local people cocooning in the community come through our Facebook page 'Order of Malta Ireland – Cabra Unit'. It is a pleasure to do this work for the people who are self-isolating. One woman we have been to visit a few times has said "It's great to know someone has my back, and that there is somebody there for me in these difficult times". Our ambulance can be seen driving around supporting and helping those in need during this time.

Adults in the Cabra unit as well as units all over the world are assisting the health services in the global outbreak of the virus. They have all be prepared to do their job correctly and putting safety first by partaking in training before volunteering. We are all doing our part helping when available and we hope you are doing your part too, by staying home and staying safe.

Gráinne Chaney 6th year.



LIFE DURING THE PANDEMIC

How was your quarantine?? I hope it was great!!

Well my quarantine at home is great because you can spend a lot of time with your family and do different fun games with them. Ever since Covid hit Ireland we were very scared for everyone in the country, but when the schools closed down I decided to try and think about the positives instead of the negative things about Covid and quarantine. The positive would be staying home with your family and there are many negatives as well.

When Easter came, we were very surprised at our neighbours putting Easter eggs at our front door, we were so overjoyed and in return we decided to give them some chocolate cake and they were thrilled. Overall, my quarantine is really great but I do miss my friends from school.

At the beginning of this pandemic me and my family stayed at home, then later on my father re-opened his restaurant (of course turning it into delivery service and take away while also cleaning the area regularly) These days my family have been helping my father and also doing studying and homework when I get time.

Raja Mrabti

During quarantine me and my family have been spending time together by playing old board games and watching movies. My mom has been working in the front line as well as her colleagues, by seeing her work I feel very grateful to all those who are in the medical field for helping those with the virus. As well as those who open shops because they help us get our food and groceries while in this pandemic. I hope you are keeping safe too. Thank you.

ANON

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC – MY EXPERIENCE

The coronavirus pandemic is something I never thought would happen. It was strange being in school as normal one day and suddenly being told we could be at home for months. I never thought I'd say this, but I'm actually looking forward to going back to school!

One of the things I miss most is not being able to see my grandparents. They live quite close to me and I usually see them two or three times a week. I always go to see my other grandparents in Donegal for Easter, and it's sad because now I can't see them for ages. It's hard not seeing my friends and even though I've been video-calling them, it's not the same. I also miss playing sport. I miss playing basketball and hockey in school especially because we were meant to be in the basketball final. I play Gaelic football for Plunketts, and our football season had just started, but now all our matches have been cancelled. I still like being able to get exercise, so my sister, my mum and I have been going for a walk or run in the morning. We also did Joe Wicks' PE class on YouTube.

Having more time at home is actually nice for a change because I'm usually very busy with sport and homework. It's great being able to watch movies with my family, play football in the garden or bake. Now my dad has time to do stuff around the house like painting my room.

It's weird how so many things have changed in such a short space of time. When my dad comes home from the shop we have to wipe down all the stuff and dry it before putting it away. Or also, when I'm watching TV and I see people hugging, I think, 'They're not two metres apart!'

I'm hoping this will all be over soon. The summer holidays won't be much fun if we're still in lockdown. I was looking forward to going to the Gaeltacht but like lots of other things, it's been cancelled.

It's strange to think of going back to normal when this is all over. I can imagine one day telling my grandchildren what it was like to live through these unusual times.

Sarah Fitzmaurice – 2 Bewick

HOW TO STAY FIT IN LOCKDOWN:

With all gyms, sports clubs and swimming pools closed, it might seem hard for teenagers to keep fit. However, there are plenty of ways to stay active while we're in lockdown.

Many fitness coaches are doing online live fitness videos on YouTube at different times throughout the day. The Body Coach, Joe Wicks, runs a live P.E. class every morning Monday to Friday at 9am. These are suitable for all ages, really useful for improving your fitness and great fun for the whole family. They have been hugely popular, with over 22 million viewers. If you're not up for getting up early, not to worry, you don't have to do it live – the videos remain on YouTube so you can take part at any time.

You might prefer a less vigorous workout. Strictly Come Dancing professionals Oti Mabuse and Karen Hauer have teamed up with their partners to host a series of online dance classes every Thursday at 10am. Dubliner Maura Rath has also been hosting virtual yoga sessions, while trying to spread positivity during these challenging times. These are great options for staying active and are all free and extremely enjoyable.

It's also very important to get outside – fresh air is proven to benefit your mental health. There are many different free Couch to 5k programmes available on the internet. Although 5k might sound like a lot, it is built up slowly over a six-week period with three runs every week. You'll be running that 5k in no time! You can go for runs alone, or with people from your household. Why not challenge your family members? A good thing to do is to create a playlist with upbeat songs that motivate you to run faster.

Going for a walk is very good for you too, such as to a local park – within two kilometres! – or even just around the block. It's a nice thing to do alone to have some peace and quiet but can also be a sociable activity to enjoy with your family. And if none of them want to come, bring the dog for a walk. I'm sure he'll enjoy it! More exciting alternatives are cycling, scooting, or even rollerblading.

Gardens provide excellent opportunities for being active. You may have swings, trampolines or football goals already. If not, it's time to get creative! I'm sure there's a football in your shed. You could practice passing, work on your skills or challenge your family to a penalty shoot-out using coats for goal posts. You could make a fitness circuit around the garden with different stations for squats, lunges, sit-ups and press-ups. Creating an obstacle course is a great way to spend a sunny afternoon. Use a stopwatch to see how fast you can complete it or race against your siblings.

There are so many ways for you and your family to stay fit. You just have to find the way that's fun for you.

Rachel Fitzmaurice - 2 Jellett

STATISTICS

No school, no work the whole world stopped
Like someone just took the batteries out of the worlds clock
Heroic people fighting this sickness
while human beings turn into statistics
These human beings are not statistics
But mothers and fathers and even grandparents
The victims to this horrible disease
Have to say goodbye to their loved ones through a screen
Then selfish people go outside because
'They're sick of being inside'
While frontline workers are risking everything, people still go out anyway
Families having to say goodbye to soon,
These people are not statistics, they're real life humans like you and me.

By Alanna Taite

A WALK AT DUSK

Orange tint stretches the sky
Dusk has arrived, pleasing my eye
So still is this night
With stars way up high.
I exhale contentedly
With a comforting sigh.
There is no sound,
We must stay strictly apart.
This shivering strange environment,
Weighs horribly heavy on my heart.
But I know if we stay strong.
We will come through
And when it's all over
A new day, and a new night will wait for you.

By Freya Kelly 3Oak

'DON'T COMPLAIN'

Is what I'll tell my kids when they want to stay in bed.
'Don't complain'
Is what I'll say when they don't want to go to school.
'Don't complain'
Is what I'll say when they can't play outside,
Because in 2020 we didn't get to go to school, in 2020 we couldn't eat out,
in fear of catching the evil sickness, the second 'Black Death'.
We are always told we have to get off our phones, computers etc.,
Now we have to do nothing, by doing nothing we are saving lives.
Stay Safe. Save Lives.

By Janvi Menon 1st year

It was a normal Thursday afternoon.

English class was casual almost every day except for that day. We were doing debates till our teacher told everyone to be quiet. He turned on the news, we all gathered around the laptop like moths swarming towards a bright light. Leo Varadkar was on the news. Suddenly everyone's jaws dropped, he said schools were going to be closed for two weeks due to the current Coronavirus situation. But education was still going to continue through online school apps. I thought it would be cool because I always wanted to be home-schooled but little did I know it was going to be way harder. English class ended. Maths class started. An emergency staff meeting was announced through the intercom the teachers left in a crowd all as confused as we were. Once the teachers left, the pupils talked amongst each other my friend turned back from her seat and faced

me we both gave each other a mischievous smile. There were some of us who were freaking out and some of us honestly didn't care then there were the girls who got out their hand sanitizer and basically drenched themselves in it. The day went on almost every class talked about it. At the end of the day it was like a rampage, we all wanted to get out all our books and leave. I basically took out my whole locker. Let me tell you my back hated me completely the next day, Thanks coronavirus. I'm still learning how to adapt to a routine. It is pretty hard I guess, but it's something for me to do during these weird days. Everywhere I go all I hear is Coronavirus or Covid-19. I hope this will be in History books in the future and I can tell my kids about how we went through a terrifying pandemic. Maybe I'll exaggerate a bit, because let's be honest sitting around and working all day isn't that heroic. Am I right?

By Janvi Menon 1st year

A FILM REVIEW OF PARASITE

It is hailed by many as the movie of 2019. **Parasite** is an Oscar award-winning South Korean film directed by Bong Joon-Ho with a storyline so versatile it fits into numerous, contrasting genres: comedy, horror, mystery and drama. It opens a window onto a culture that is unfamiliar to many people – like many good films.

The story revolves around a poor family living in a basement type house in the slums of Korea, struggling to find stable work for all of them. Then the son, Ki-Woo's friend offers him a job to act as his replacement as English language tutor to the girl he, the friend, romantically likes. This arises because the friend has to travel for a period. The class takes place at her mansion.

The poor family see an opportunity and use it as a gateway into getting new jobs, carefully planning how to take out the rich family's workers such as the driver and housemaid and conning the rich family into hiring them as replacements. While it all works out in their favour, the bliss doesn't last long when trouble comes knocking on their door one stormy night.

The movie is filmed exceptionally well, from the lighting, to camera shots and angles. The sets were built beautifully and the colours are very well chosen for each scene helping to reflect the mood intended for the viewer to feel.

You feel a lot of emotions as you watch the movie, not only that but these feelings are heightened to the maximum too. You laugh and marvel as you watch "Parasite". You flinch and tremble as you watch "Parasite". You sniffle and cry as you watch "Parasite".

Although the movie carries you through multiple genres of film and their respective emotions, it's done so very smoothly, the transitioning between the mood of the film is done so professionally you forget you were laughing not long before you're watching the screen from between your fingers. I admire that quality about the film very much.

"Parasite" is a layered film, requiring many viewings. You feel your mind expanding once you pick up on some foreshadowing that goes completely over first-time viewers' heads; it makes you more intuitive.

The movie really makes you realise the differences between the lives of people on different levels of society. We already know of social differences from the world of film but this movie does it in a humorous, yet deeply moving way. It could be argued that it is a social commentary without a lecture. The film takes us through the eyes of a family so desperate for a better life they become con artists, throwing their morals out of the window in order to scheme, plot and take advantage of welcoming arms.

I personally feel like "Parasite" is a film so exceptionally well done, one that contains so much depth and analysis that it could and should be studied **by film students** in the future. It's that impactful. I'd recommend it to any and everyone no matter the circumstance. That's how you know it's a good movie: when everyone can enjoy it. **Who is the Parasite?**

Riya Ajit 4P

MY FIRST YEAR AT ST. DOMINIC'S COLLEGE

My first year at St. Dominic's College was a particularly good one. I was welcomed very well by the principal Ms. Cameron and all the teachers at Dominic's. I did not really know what to expect at first because I was only coming from primary school. My expectations were a bit low because I was scared that there was going to be too much work, stress, homework and especially that I was going to do bad in exams and tests. Since my first day of secondary school I have learned a lot about myself and who my real friends are. The most important thing I have learned is to be yourself and you do not need to be included in the "popular" group to be a kind person. I have also learned that you do not need to put a lot of stress on yourself to do good in exams. If you simply just study and work hard you will do well. The staff of St. Dominic's have been incredibly helpful, kind and caring.

Thank you.

Anon.

LÁ I NDIADH LÁE

Le Clíodhna Nic Dhonnchaidh

I rith an gheimhridh bíonn an ascaill sleamhain, agus líonann screadanna áthasacha na daltaí an t-aer agus iad ag titim ar fud na háite. I rith an tsamhraidh, níl ann le cloisteáil ach ceol binn na n-éan, agus iad ag canadh sna sceacha. Cibé aimsir atá ann, is áit failteach í an scoil.

An chéad rud a chloiseann tú nuair a shroicheann tú an scoil ná meaisín na svaidhpcháirte ag bípeáil, agus na céadta dalta ag baint an scoil amach. Ansin, fuaimeanna na taisceadáin ag oscailt agus ag dúnadh, glórtha na scoláirí ag comhrá. An clog ag bualadh go réidh, daltaí ag rith ar nós na gaoithe go dtí na ranganna, nó chuig an tionól. Cuireann an clog stad leis an caint, agus tús leis an lá.

Rang Gaeilge i gColumba, foirgneamh nua, dath glas ar an staighre. Na seomraí i gcónaí fuar. Ansin, siúlóid fada go dtí an rang Fraincise i Sienna, suas na mílte céimeanna (mar a cheapann na daltaí). Scuaine ollmhór ag teacht síos an staighre tar éis daichead nóiméad – tá an doras ró bheag, agus ar aghaidh go dtí an rang mata i Veritas. Anois, suas go dtí Lima, foirgneamh atá cosúil leis an Spáinn mar ní mhúchann said na radaitheoirí riamh.

Faoi dheireadh, am lóin agus seans do scíth a ligint. Daltaí ag rith chomh tapaí le Usain Bolt chun bord a fháil, nó scuaine an ceaintín a bhaint amach. Na scéalta a bhíonn le cloisteáil faoi mhuinteoirí mífhoighneacha, daltaí dána agus ceachtanna craiceáilte!

I bhfaiteadh na súl, tá lá eile thart. Ciúnas faoi dheireadh sa scoil, agus í ag ullmhú don chéad lá eile.

Téann na laethanta thart chomh tapaí, sula i bhfad tá seachtain imithe, ansin mí, bliain, blianta. Fágann muid an scoil, bogann muid ar aghaidh inar saol, ach maireann na cuimhní fós. Cuimhní faoin gheimhreadh agus an ascaill sleamhain, faoin samhradh agus na héin ag canadh...

THE COVID-19 WORD SEARCH

O	D	N	D	U	G	A	I	W	M	O	E	O	J	X	Q	P	D	E	A
E	Q	K	T	E	B	O	S	U	I	T	H	V	G	Q	N	G	Y	M	Z
Y	U	V	A	X	R	F	O	N	S	M	R	A	F	A	O	L	C	B	O
C	A	E	P	J	E	N	X	G	O	H	K	L	E	B	H	O	W	P	O
O	R	S	I	N	A	G	Z	P	L	N	F	Y	V	D	N	V	O	C	M
R	A	U	L	M	T	V	S	I	A	E	N	T	E	I	W	E	S	I	K
O	N	R	S	O	H	J	R	K	T	W	C	Z	R	J	I	L	X	O	F
N	T	G	M	D	L	P	F	B	I	V	P	L	M	W	R	O	G	C	Z
A	I	Y	T	A	E	H	U	M	O	J	E	T	A	R	J	E	D	B	E
L	N	H	A	F	S	P	B	I	N	Z	D	P	H	S	C	W	L	X	M
H	E	Q	S	Y	S	K	X	J	Q	P	B	F	H	K	S	O	J	C	U
Z	G	C	S	Z	N	X	G	Q	G	K	Y	N	A	W	C	R	X	D	Y
I	V	M	I	Y	E	U	O	R	B	L	K	B	Q	K	T	E	O	V	A
W	A	F	G	Q	S	A	S	Q	P	A	N	D	E	M	I	C	W	O	T
R	Y	E	N	B	S	H	L	V	K	H	U	G	D	U	N	O	V	Z	M
R	A	I	M	K	R	U	N	R	C	W	L	T	B	C	G	U	X	D	J
F	U	Q	E	O	V	E	D	M	O	D	O	G	T	I	Q	G	M	U	L
G	Z	T	N	S	B	F	H	L	V	J	S	E	L	Q	M	H	Y	X	O
A	K	S	T	Z	D	S	B	F	C	Z	X	M	A	W	R	P	S	V	I
D	N	O	S	C	H	O	O	L	Z	P	F	K	N	Y	C	T	D	G	C

- Corona
- Pandemic
- Fever
- Cough
- No School
- Isolation
- Assignments
- Quarantine
- Breathlessness
- Google Classroom
- Zoom
- Edmodo
- Mask
- Gloves