

GRAPEVINE

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- ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE -
GREASE MUSICAL 2017

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EDITORIAL

I am proud to introduce you to the Christmas Edition of Grapevine 2017. I have been approached on the corridors by a few people asking whether or not the magazine had been released yet, or had they simply missed the grand unveiling. Here it is! It took a while, but it is finally out. There are a lot of interesting pieces inside: interviews with past pupils, opinions on music and fascinating articles about current affairs. As promised, this edition has brought some changes. As the teachers stepped back, we had more freedom to put in what we believed to be relevant to the students of the college.

For me, the first term is the longest, most painful experience any student has to go through. All of us went into the year with a renewed enthusiasm, which quickly dwindled as the harsh reality of getting up before sunrise and stumbling through the corridors half asleep dawned on us. As it always has been, the first term was incredibly busy. Getting back into the swing of things after the three-month hiatus isn't easy for any student. But after a few weeks of forgetting copy books and which classes you have, things get easier.

This term was memorable for many reasons. Storm Ophelia gave us an excuse to stay inside and watch Netflix for a few days. The school musical was Grease this year, after tubs of hair gel and hours of rehearsals, it was a huge success. The Senior Boys' Hockey Team won the All-Irelands yet again and we also remembered our fallen soldiers in the Centenary Remembrance Services in the College.

Now we have said goodbye to the first term, we also say goodbye to 2017. I hope you all had a great Christmas and commit to the New Year's Resolutions that you at least try to keep. I hope you enjoyed the first term and I think we can all look forward to the weather getting warmer again!

Shane Hynes

**Uganda Trip
2017.
Pg 26**



What's New...



TY CAMPING TRIP

The countryside does not suit everyone but that's exactly why you experience it in transition year, to go out of your comfort zone, to embrace new challenges and try to have fun along the way, hail rain or sunshine.

The hiking journey to Glendalough was roughly four hours long and you felt it every step of the way. But for the right reason, as you ascend and descend mountains overlooking Dublin city, leap over small rivers, hug the sides of cliffs on the edge of a valley and walk through thick forests. There were many opportunities to take photos due to the high ground you find yourself on. Also students that have been to Glendalough on previous occasions come across new points of view and different perspectives of the valley.

You needed all of your equipment such as rain-coats, hiking boots and waterproof trousers as weather in the Irish countryside can be quite changeable. After your arduous trekking you receive a warm welcome at Ms. Holloways back yard where you also end your day. Tents, sleeping mats

and cooking stoves were provided. But the warmest of welcomes came from the two dogs, Woodie and Christie. Who were so excited to see us that they forgot to greet us.

Once we had made a botched attempt to cook pasta we all gathered round a fire pit and after that slept peacefully in our tents, which were shared, with three to four people.

Even if you didn't catch a full nights sleep there was still plenty of time to relax and eat breakfast with friends. There was also a possibility to cook sausages and fry eggs in a spacious wooden room with a Hearth in the middle, built by Ms. Holloway herself. But inevitably we made our way back to the forests for a steep ascent up the side of a mountain that made for a worthy view. Then the last thing we did was make our way down to the bus.

Luke Keenan

A Visit to the School...

In early October, a man named Simon James came into the school to talk to us. It was a Thursday morning and both 1st years and 2nd years sat down in the hall. Simon was mainly there to talk to us about cyber bullying, but was also there to sing for us. At the start, he sang a couple of songs and then he started talking about how to prevent and deal with cyber bullying. He tried to make it as fun as possible by answering questions and making jokes. After summarizing what he said, he sang one last song to us and told us how to find him on Instagram and Youtube. As we were leaving, Simon handed out pieces of paper with more information about him. He also

talked and sang to other years after us. It was a fun start to the morning and I think we all learnt a thing or two and enjoyed it at the same time.

Sofía Herranz Harmen

5IB Carlingford Trip

At the beginning of every year, St Andrew's is joined by a group fifth year students beginning the International Baccalaureate programme. This year was no exception, students from all over the world have arrived at our school this year ranging from the United States to India. The IB programme is not only comprised of international students but also students who have been in the school from the beginning of first year. To help integrate both these local and international students, IB coordinator Mr. Hehir organizes an overnight trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre during the second week of school.

This year, our group set off early on the first Friday of September before the school day had even begun. The barely ninety-minute drive flew by and we arrived in Carlingford, a small town just south of Northern Ireland.

We picked our rooms, set down our bags, and were told to prepare for our first adventure – the water activities. Our first activity was the pier jump and I was thankful for the wetsuit requirement because the water was frigid. The minute my body hit the water, I felt the chill. One jump was enough for me and I was happy when it came time for kayaking games.

After we were dried and fed, our next activity was announced – nightline. I had never heard of this before. Our guide explained the rules to us. We were to go to the forest where they would organize us into one big line. Then we would be blindfolded. We were to place our left hand on the person in front of us, our right hand on a rope leading us through an obstacle course in the forest. This caused absolute mayhem.

After about an hour of screaming and shouting and blindly scrambling over and under obstacles we had finally completed the course. We lifted our blindfolds and saw the course with our own eyes. I could not believe it. What had taken us an hour with blindfolds took me only 45 seconds to walk in full. I think we all thought that made the experience even more ridiculous and hilarious.

We then returned home, tired and muddy and had hot chocolate and cookies. Our group stayed up chatting and playing games until it was time to go to sleep. There were still more activities to conquer the next day.

And as promised, the next day did not disappoint, we started the day with some team bonding games. But what followed was the real highlight of the trip – laser combat. Like laser tag, laser combat has two teams each person with a laser gun but instead its outside and in the forest. We all wore camouflage onesies. We played three very intense games (all of which team red won.) but by the end everyone felt the exhaustion hit and we were ready to board the bus to go home.

This was an incredibly enjoyable trip and all the activities were so much fun. It is disappointing to think that our class will not return again next year. All the fun and games made this trip an unforgettable experience. Getting to know all the IB students in this way is truly a great way to get to know all your new classmates. I have one message for next years 5th years – I'm jealous!

Aoife O'Brien





An Interview With our Hockey Captain Ben Walker

Ben Walker, the captain of the Senior Boys' hockey team, discussed with me his time on the Senior Men's Irish team during the summer. Before I go into more detail, here's some background to Walker.

He is 18 years of age, plays Centre Forward/Centre Mid and currently plays for the Three Rock 1st Men's and St Andrew's College Senior Boys' hockey team. He has succeeded in representing Leinster at U16 and U18 levels, Ireland at all levels from U16 –U21 and remarkably the Irish Men's team. During this year he received 'The Herald Sports Award' at the Aviva in May. "He is a star; the bigger the game, the better he plays", is St Andrew's Coach Ivan Ovington assessment of Walker. Walker's summer consisted of playing

for the U18 side in Nottingham, then U21s and then being called up to the Irish Men's team for their preparations in Belgium for the tournament in Amsterdam. He was involved in the build-up games that lasted 5 days in Belgium. He then went on to represent Ireland at the Men's Euro Hockey Nations Championship in Amsterdam. He played in all 5 games in the tournament and picking up 1 assist. The lads were level to the Germans, hammered the Polish, lost to the English, lost to the Spaniards and drew to the Austrians. They finished the tournament in sixth place. Walker was the youngest player in the tournament, which was extraordinary.

St. Andrew's Hockey All-Ireland Champions



According to Walker, his most memorable moment of the tournament was “playing in front of 8,000 people against Germany.... compared to your school game [where] you have the odd 20 parents cheering you on”. Walker now holds 13 Caps to his name for the Senior Men’s side. His idols are Shane O’Donoghue and Conor Harte. Walker hopes to continue playing after school, no matter where his path leads him.

I discussed with Walker about the Senior Boy’s objectives for the 2017 All-Irelands. He believed the lads could win all five games in Cork and bring back the silverware to Dublin. The skipper emphasized that “the aim for us is to concede as few goals as possible and score a rapid amount of goals”.

Scott Thompson

The team’s selection for this year was:

Ben Walker (Captain)
Nick Judge (GK)
Matteo Romoli (Vice-captain)
David Shanahan
Greg Arrowsmith
Ben Mannion
Daniel O’Donovan
Riain McDonald
Cian Murphy
Sam Bryne
Charlie Denvir
Riley Marchant
Stephen McCann
Jamie Pullen
Mathew Dowse
Ryan Spencer



“He is a star; the bigger the game, the better he plays”
- St. Andrew’s Coach, Ivan Ovington, on Walker





EIRSTAT 1 - IRELAND'S FIRST SATELLITE



Ireland is about to take its first leap for mankind and launch the EIRSTAT-1 Satellite into space where it will orbit the planet for a year.

It is being developed under the ESA's (European space agency) Fly your satellite 2017 project. The ESA have previously worked with NASA on the International Ultraviolet Explorer, the world's first high orbit telescope launched back in 1978.

The satellite is being built by University College Dublin and Queen's University Belfast with Ronan Wall of Ireland's space industry directory (MOOG) as the manager.

The satellite is expected to launch from the International Space Station in the coming years with two payloads contained within a small, oblong box. They will contain technology built by the various industrial partners on the project and will be used for gathering data on Gamma Ray Bursts, the brightest electromagnetic bursts known to occur in the universe.

Among the industrial partners are Resonate Ltd, a company that develops and deploys digital railway and transport solutions, SensL, who provide Silicon Photomultipliers (photon sensitive devices), Parameter space that develops software for scientific missions, ENIBO, a pharmaceutical company based in Poland and Ronan Wall's own MOOG, a company that builds engines for various types of rockets.

It is likely to assume that the Satellite is currently

undergoing strict tests before being allowed to make its voyage away from the earth with ground control based at UCD.

It is believed that the success of the mission will help inspire students all over Ireland to take up STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). The lead scientist Professor Lorraine Hanlon of UCD Physics has stated "Our students will have an amazing opportunity to learn, not only from the wealth of expertise at ESA, but also from the other excellent teams participating in the programmes from across Europe. This hard work will prepare them very well for future careers in the space sector." Certain steps are already being taken towards those areas, as programmes will be held Blackrock Castle Observatory and Cork Institute of Technology with the aim of inspiring the students to study STEM subjects.

Luke Keenan



- How I Learned a New Language in Six Months -

As our world becomes increasingly globalised, there are more and more reasons to learn a new language. Whether it is to increase employability, improve memory or even fight off dementia, the reasons to learn languages are endless. However, the problem for many people is timing, dedication and method. I decided that the summer of 2017 was a time I would dedicate to learning a new language as well as I possibly could.

Although languages like Mandarin and Arabic are in high demand with employers, I decided it would make more sense to start with a language I had some understanding of. I picked Danish because my grandmother is from Denmark. Although I spoke virtually no Danish in May 2017, I recognised the sounds and pronunciation as well as having some background in Swedish. However, because I decided to keep it a secret from her to surprise her on her birthday in August, I let my mum help me. It is also important to pick a relatively popular language to start with. Although I eventually found the facilities to learn Danish, there are only 5 million native speakers and not a huge demand to learn it compared to languages like French or Spanish. If you want a good supply of resources, pick a language that lots of people want to learn unless, like me, you are doing it for a specific reason. After consulting my French and Irish teachers and finishing the 5th year summer exams, I began.

The first thing I did was buy a notebook and fill the page with the alphabet and how each sound is pronounced from a website – something that is crucial when learning a language with pronunciation as confusing as Danish. The next step was to make a Spotify playlist full of Danish songs to help immerse myself in the language whether I was at the gym or on the DART. After trawling through the charts, YouTube videos and the Danish versions of Disney songs, I put together a playlist of 60 songs to have whenever I wanted.

When it came to actually learning the language it was far less complicated than I thought. I downloaded Duolingo and set it to intense mode, meaning that I had to commit to it every day.

I rented a book from Greystones library which had writing exercises, language lessons and a long list of vocab at the back. I took advantage of this when I was invigilating the Leaving Cert in June and spent half an hour to an hour a day doing exercises and learning the vocab. I met a girl at SAIMUN this year who told me how she had learned Turkish just by watching TV shows, so I decided to give this a go. I had planned to watch the vast array of Danish crime dramas on my laptop, but unfortunately 2017 was the year the Department of Education decided to ban invigilators from using laptops.

Other things I did included Memrise, mangolanguages.com, reading Danish children's books and listening to Danish radio. However, the universally accepted best way to learn a language is to actually visit the place where it is spoken. Coincidentally, my family and I visited Denmark that summer and stayed on an island called Samsø, and visited my Danish family. Every day I forced myself to go down to the shops to practise speaking, which for me was a fantastic way to learn, especially because they assumed I was a native speaker, which pushed me out of my comfort zone. I was also able to watch the athletics on TV in Danish, buy some DVDs at garage sales and talk to the locals on the island. Even though I couldn't use Duolingo on holidays because there was no Wifi, my Danish improved vastly here.

Three months later, although I was not fluent, I was very confident speaking Danish. At the Higher Options Fair in the RDS I was able to chat to the Danish universities in Danish without difficulty and can understand the majority of what is said on Danish detective dramas. Learning Danish was one of the most fulfilling projects I have ever taken on and has given me a stronger connection to Denmark. Although it took work, I would highly recommend it to anyone finding themselves at a loose end next summer, when I will try to learn Spanish.

Elvi Wilson

My Experience Volunteering in an Orphanage in Brazil

Firstly, I would like to say, nothing in the world could have prepared me for this experience. For weeks prior to my trip I watched videos, read articles, reflected and thought on what it would be like, expecting the worst. However, it's sad to say that all my preparation and expectations were far removed from the reality I experienced. For the simple fact is that watching a video or reading an article is superficial, you process the information, but you never really get the full picture. However, being there, getting to know the people, discovering their story and their everyday struggle first-hand, is emotionally challenging at the best of times. I have never experienced anything that affected me like this did. This is my story, I hope that through this I can get across how rewarding, amazing, but equally difficult this process was for me. Also, I hope to give you an insight into the lives of the children of CEAC.

Most of you have probably never heard of CEAC (Centro Educacional de Apoio à Criança). It is an orphanage in a small town 2 hours away from São Paulo called São João da Boa Vista. There are currently 18 children up to 17 years of age living there. These are all children who have been lawfully taken out of abusive, drug dependant and criminal homes. They have been born into a world where they are exposed to violence, drug abuse and sex working. Many can't imagine a life better than this. CEAC takes these children and gives them a home, education and food.

During the week, I got to know everyone there individually. There are two carers there that are responsible for the running of the entire facility; it's safe to say it is a handful. I was placed in the nursery, caring for a three-month-old boy, a four year old girl and a one year old girl. These three kids showed such desire for affection, that as soon as I walked through the door, I was greeted by nothing but hugs. Every day I prepared the kids for school, played with them and taught them some English. Through the afternoon, when some of the kids went to school, I helped in the running of the orphanage, by cleaning and organising.

Though it seems like a breeze to be surrounded by small children, every day was a challenge in itself. On visiting days, some kids froze at the simple sight of their family and refused to talk to them. They'd

breakdown crying from the trauma they had suffered at the hands of their parents, who sometimes only come to visit for the food. Seeing an innocent child react to someone like that was heartbreaking. I lost count of the times they'd come up to me and hug me for ages, just because they wanted affection, which was never given to them at home.

Although we would like to think that because they are in the orphanage, they are safe from any violence or assault, sadly this is not the case. On my last day, coming into the nursery, a little girl hugged me and as she came closer, I saw her eye was bruised. Over night, she claimed she fell off her bed, but she said it with a sense of fear and insecurity. In her eyes, you could see she was lying, but would never admit the truth. Still, it's upsetting to think that they're better off here than in their own "homes".

What struck me the most out of all of this was the difference in lifestyle. While I tried to put myself in some of the girls' positions, I was shocked. There were people my age with one-month-old children, who had to quit school to take care of the baby. It becomes this vicious cycle where the parents, sons and grandchildren end up in the same orphanage, for the same reason. It made me think that if I was born into a different family, twenty minutes away from my own home in Brazil, that might have been me. It is a life I never thought to imagine myself in and that nobody really deserves. But then again, none of this situation is fair.

No child, anywhere, deserves to go through what those children do. They lack the affection, basic needs and attention that only a family could give them. Many lose hope of adoption and accept that they will not leave the orphanage, while others find a family and even end up living good lives. Now, I refuse to turn my back, because I know those kids are still there and many more are to come. I will continue to return to CEAC and through the year, come up with new ways to fundraise and to share those kids' voices, getting them the help and, hopefully, the homes they need.

Yasmin Ryan

The Giver



Review of The Giver by Lois Lowry

Welcome to a community where all emotion is gone and there is only peace and tranquillity, no big decision-making and no mistakes. When a child is born in this community they are tested; the weak and slow are “released”. Each child gets assigned a number when they are born, showing their birth order. Jonas, a boy in his late teens, joins the Ceremony of the Twelve where one young man or woman is chosen to be The Receiver.

The Receiver receives memories, memories of the past which are hidden from the community, for if released they would cause a great deal of pain and sensation. These memories cannot be forgotten, so they are passed on to The Receiver from The Giver, who must share his knowledge on the way humanity once was.

Jonas’s parents are normal, kind people. His dad is a nurturer who works with infants and his mum is an intelligent and understanding person, who has a notable position at the Department of Justice. Gabriel, a baby who the family nurtures as a part of the dad’s job, shares a bond with Jonas. Gabriel has trouble sleeping and Jonas can’t help but share some happy memories with him, something he wishes he could do with everyone. When The Giver informs Jonas that being “released” is equivalent to death, Jonas immediately sets about making a plan which will change the world forever, for Gabriel’s release was planned for the next day.

This was a very gripping and intense story. The whole book was like a journey, a journey that took many turns and twists. I would definitely recommend reading this book if you haven’t al-

ready, because you can connect with the main character on a very deep level; the emotions and feelings are described so incredibly well that you feel like you are, in fact, the main character himself. Phillip Noyce, an Australian film director, directed the movie. The movie brings the book to life and the cast fits the characters so well that every time I read the book I can’t imagine it with anyone else. I’ve heard people say that they often like the books more than the movies, and I could not agree more when you talk about most books in-general, but when it comes to The Giver, I find it hard to choose, because even though the book is so detailed and beautifully written, the movie is a very strong contender.

True, The Giver is fiction, but many themes can be compared to the world we live in. As a start the government decides most of what happens in our day to day life and many people don’t notice it. Furthermore, in the book the author creates a perfect society, which has eradicated fear, pain, conflict and hatred, something most of the population of the world would wish for. To conclude, I would like to add that in the book there is no freedom of speech, a big issue in some societies today. People like Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai and Abraham Lincoln (to name a few) have proved that it is, in fact, still a problem that needs to be addressed.

Varshika Mecheri



Salad Days are just Beginning at Sprout For Past Pupil and Entrepreneur Jack Kirwan...

“ *It’s cool to be a Healthy Person Now!* ”

Jack Kirwan’s company Sprout & Co has nearly 100 employees and since 2013, five shops have sprouted up around Dublin, all strategically located near millennial hotspots. Grapevine talked to him about his time in St Andrew’s, being in business with his brother and getting up at three in the morning to go grocery shopping on a huge scale.

It’s a typical day on Dawson Street, colourful students spill out of Trinity and the cloudy sky heaves darkly with rainwater. Nestled beside a sweet-smelling waffle shop and crowded frozen yoghurt store lies Sprout & Co, an oasis of green on this drab street. Its verdant interior drags me in, enticing me with clean-cut tiles and smiling workers.

I stumble in, feeling like I am intruding upon a sacred sanctum of kale steamers and college-goers. I have arrived at a time when the queues do not swallow the footpath, of which I have been warned. Behind the counter lies an explosion of colour, neon orange sweet potato, deep green rocket leaves and bursting tomatoes. All are used to create a delicious piece of food art, which any devout carnivore would be happy with. I am welcomed in with bright smiles and am urged to take a juice from the fridge, I gratefully pick up a ‘Supergreen’; it was indeed super. I am introduced to Jack Kirwan, food pioneer and alumni member. After discussing my role in the magazine, we got down to business. Things were getting crowded inside, so we decide to sit

on an out-of-place park bench on the street.

I start things off by asking him why he got into the health-food industry, ‘Whether or not it was healthy, it was what people wanted at the time,’ he states, ‘I was very interested in seasonality and using Irish ingredients’. He tells me his plan was to create a business that ‘wasn’t super expensive and didn’t involve working at the fine dining level of food’. The concept of Sprout was conceived in November 2013, and has grown steadily since then. He states ‘the first two years we were learning as much as we could about running a business, what was involved etc. You can afford to make lots of mistakes in a smaller environment, there wasn’t much risk involved. It resulted in us gaining more experience, which we now use with the higher stakes.’

Jack is in business with his younger brother, Theo, who both have different skill sets. ‘Theo being more front of house, while I am more on the food side of things. But we are both involved in all areas of the business’. I suggest the similarity between Steve and Dave Flynn of the Happy Pear, which he agrees with, stating that ‘it definitely adds to the strength, but also to the fun of it. Getting any business off the ground is incredibly difficult, the majority fail. So having someone to partner with you can make the journey a lot more exciting.’

“ *Getting any business off the ground is incredibly difficult, the majority fail. So having someone to partner with you can make the journey a lot more exciting* ”

We discuss which teachers have remained in the school since his time spent in St Andrew's and what has changed over the shy 10 years since he left. The best part of Andrew's for him was 'the relaxed nature, though the expectation to do well remained, but was emphasised in a relaxed manner. You could follow your interests, and had freedom. Personally I really liked the hockey aspect and that I could pursue that.' Jack played hockey competitively during his time in St Andrew's and later attended Loughborough University in the UK for its renowned sports facilities. He studied economics and international relations whilst there, but soon realised he 'wanted to follow [his] passions rather than the typical route', saying 'I spent more time watching cookery shows than studying, then I decided to just go work in the food industry. I wasn't thinking past 6 months into the future, and it just snowballed from there'.

When I ask him what his normal working day is, he responds with a chuckle, saying he gets asked it all the time. 'It used to be absolutely ridiculous. We would start at 3 or 4 in the morning, depend-

ing on how busy we were going to be. We would go to the market early in the morning, deliver it wherever we were juicing, bottle it, and then send it off. By the time you looked up it was 8 o'clock at night.' We both agree that this huge devotion and hustle is needed to make the company into what you want it to be. He says 'you have to get over the first year or two where you put in outrageous hours and do not get paid. When you are doing your own thing, you don't tend to think too much about the money, initially at least.' This is the classic entrepreneurs story, which is simply inspirational. Working hours aren't as 'outrageous' as they used to be for Jack. 'Nowadays, I start around 6 until around the same time in the evening. The biggest change is the thinking and planning aspect, rather than the manual labour we had to do back in the day.'

Jack and Theo Kirwan started Sprout in 2013 and business is booming.



“ *Having tunnel vision regarding simply whether it would work or not, that is what got me to where I am today.* ”

Which leads me on to ask him what hurdles the company faced and how they overcame them. He replies saying ‘Every day is a hurdle in a sense, every avenue we go down has bumps in the road. Fortunately, we hired really good people from the start, more experienced than we were to be honest.’ This was what he said got them over the smaller issues, none of which have had the potential to take the business down. He also feels very lucky that the business is still growing because ‘there are a lot of things that have gone our way, there has been a big shift over the past few years toward healthier eating’.

This is clearly evident with the huge expansion of similar healthy takeaways (Chopped and KC Peaches) also in consumer products which help make nutritious eating easier (Nutri bullets and Innocent Smoothies). The seemingly endless

lines that run from Sprout during lunch hour and from the Happy Pear on weekends validate this. ‘Over the past couple of years the general public have considered what they are putting into their bodies and are prepared to pay for real food with proper ingredients.’ The deliberate location of Sprout stores adds to the company’s success; Jack says ‘being situated beside Trinity definitely helps us. Young people are willing to eat green salads and juices, instead of spending all their money on alcohol, it’s cool to be a healthy person now.’

Shane Hynes

Jack Kirwan Pictured Left:

“ *I spent more time watching cookery shows than studying, then I decided to just go work in the food industry. I wasn’t thinking past 6 months into the future, and it just snowballed from there.* ”





Interview with Sam McGovern

Sam recently finished 'Once' at the Olympia Theatre and can be heard on CBBC's cartoon 'Zig and Zag'. He will reprise his role on RTE's legal drama 'Striking Out' in the new year. I managed to ask Sam some questions about his life and story:

1. Can you give me some background on who you are and what you do?

I'm an actor and voice-over artist. I work in television, film, theatre and radio. I also graduated from St Andrew's in 2009.

2. Tell us a bit about what your life in Andrew's was like.

Music and drama were my two passions. I was in a band all through school and played hockey - I was a goalkeeper. Literature Aloud was a great boost for my interest in performance and in sixth year I won the national Poetry Aloud competition. My favourite subjects were English, music and religious studies. I was known for doing impressions of the teachers...! I'd now like to thank them for all their support and encouragement.

3. What are some of the pros and cons in the life of an actor?

If you're lucky enough to make a living doing it, it's likely that you love it. What could be a better pro than that? Likewise when you're not working, it can be tough. Things are always in flux; some gigs you'll get, some you won't. Ultimately the only competition worth setting is with yourself.

4. What was it like working with your father to record "A Portrait of The Artist as a Young Man"?

We'd worked together before, but never in this medium. He's a Joyce buff and had a lot of experience - this was my first audiobook. Our parts were recorded separately; he voices half of the

narration and most older characters while I voice Stephen Dedalus and the younger passages. The audiobook is available for streaming and download via joyceportrait100.com.

5. What would be your dream role?

Playing Hamlet is the dream for many actors and I was lucky enough to play it while at UCD. Another would be Katurian in The Pillowman by Martin McDonagh. I have an aspiration to portray my hero, W.B. Yeats, in some shape or form.

6. What do you do on your time off?

I read, work out, go to the theatre and cinema and travel occasionally. You never stop learning and in the arts it's particularly important to open yourself up to new experiences.

7. Do you have any advice for students in Andrew's who might want to follow down the same path?

Find a place where you can act. For me it was the One-Act Drama Festival, the musicals and after-school drama class. Audition for everything available. The priority now is to have as much fun doing it as you can. After the Leaving Cert, training is a wise option if you're serious about it. But unless you're offered the role of a lifetime... stay in school!

8. Is there anything occurring around the world today that you would like to bring our attention to or advocate for?

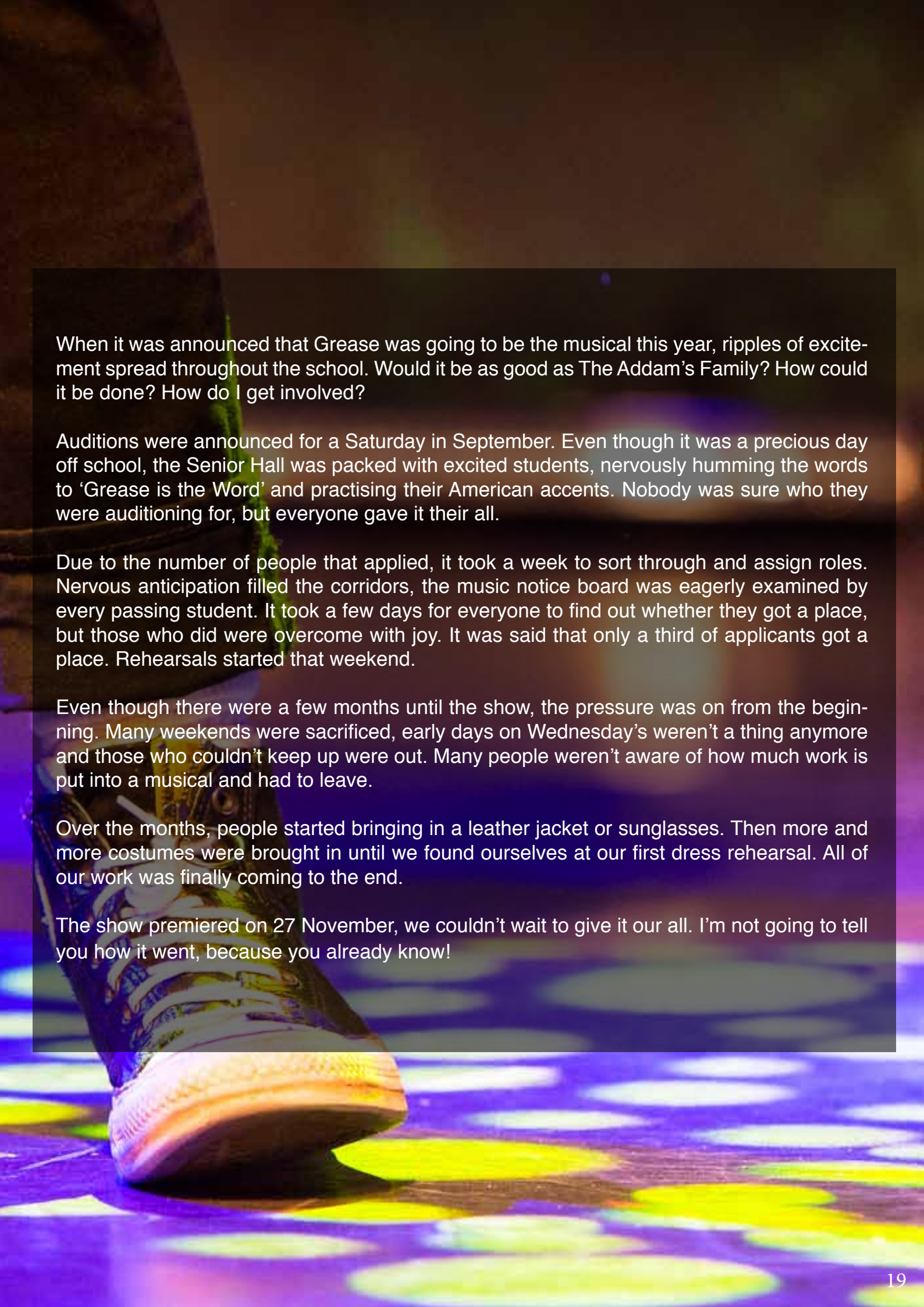
I hear Andrew's may be introducing mindfulness into the curriculum? As a meditator, I'm all for it. I believe it's the next frontier of human discovery. Mental health is crucial to success and well-being, whatever your chosen field. So look after yourself. You're right where you need to be.

Yasmin Ryan

Grease

THE MUSICAL





When it was announced that Grease was going to be the musical this year, ripples of excitement spread throughout the school. Would it be as good as The Addam's Family? How could it be done? How do I get involved?

Auditions were announced for a Saturday in September. Even though it was a precious day off school, the Senior Hall was packed with excited students, nervously humming the words to 'Grease is the Word' and practising their American accents. Nobody was sure who they were auditioning for, but everyone gave it their all.

Due to the number of people that applied, it took a week to sort through and assign roles. Nervous anticipation filled the corridors, the music notice board was eagerly examined by every passing student. It took a few days for everyone to find out whether they got a place, but those who did were overcome with joy. It was said that only a third of applicants got a place. Rehearsals started that weekend.

Even though there were a few months until the show, the pressure was on from the beginning. Many weekends were sacrificed, early days on Wednesday's weren't a thing anymore and those who couldn't keep up were out. Many people weren't aware of how much work is put into a musical and had to leave.

Over the months, people started bringing in a leather jacket or sunglasses. Then more and more costumes were brought in until we found ourselves at our first dress rehearsal. All of our work was finally coming to the end.

The show premiered on 27 November, we couldn't wait to give it our all. I'm not going to tell you how it went, because you already know!







DUNKIRK

- *Film Review* -

Dunkirk is a war-time epic movie starring Cillian Murphy, Harry Styles, Fionn Whitehead, Tom Glynn-Carney, Jack Lowden, Aneurin Barnard, Barry Keoghan, Mark Rylance, Tom Hardy and Kenneth Branagh and directed by Dutch director Hoyte van Hoytema. The film depicts the events that occurred in the Battle and the subsequent evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940. The film mainly discusses the longing to be home, which can be seen just across the sea. It is the highest grossing war film of all time, with over 520 million dollars at the box office.

The Battle of Dunkirk occurred when hundreds of thousands of Allied troops (mostly British) were landed on the beaches of Dunkirk, northern France. The film depicted the chain of events through the perspective of the stranded and fearful soldiers on the beach during the Nazi air raids. The story revolves around George, a teenager who impulsively decides to sail with his teenage friend Peter and his father to Dunkirk from England. While they are sailing to Dunkirk, the audience is introduced to Cillian Murphy's nameless, but effective character of a stranded shell-shocked officer. We hear the first words from the shell-shocked Murphy when he expresses his desperation not to return to Dunkirk. This results in a physical meltdown in which he injures Peter which results in Peter's blindness.

On the beaches of Dunkirk, we follow the story of a group of three British soldiers (Tommy, Gibson and Alex) who hide out in a ship-wreck from shooting Axis troops. As the tide rises, the shipwreck begins to sink as a result of the shots on the vessel. It is revealed that 'Gibson' was French and not a spy as suspected by the others. We learn that he assumed the identity of

a deceased British soldier so that he could escape the conflict. The soldiers swim towards a destroyer set to sail for England. Gibson drowns in the vessel and Tommy & Alex make it to the destroyer just before it is sunk by German air troops.

The end of the film sees the flock of fishing boats in their hundreds, sailing out to rescue the stranded soldiers. As the feeling of relief from the soldiers is conveyed to the audience, we witness commander Bolton being the last of the British army personnel to leave Dunkirk, as he confirms the evacuation of 300,000 troops, an astonishing achievement considering the aerial opposition. When they arrived back in England, the evacuated soldiers receive a hero's welcome from the British people and are congratulated in a speech made by Sir Winston Churchill.

The film found the right balance of silence and noise in my opinion. The silence of Cillian Murphy's character for the majority of the film strongly conveys the effects of shell-shock on people. The film explores the feeling of homesickness and in this case, how the soldiers could see home across the English Channel amidst the horrors of the ongoing war and the emotional turmoil it therefore creates.

Pamela Fitzsimons



“From Cutting Edge Jazz to Stadium Pop it was quite the Week!”

He has been described as the ‘biggest thing to hit jazz in years’. Kamasi Washington is a fresh reminder of the genre’s power. Born in California, Kamasi is a saxophonist often compared to the legendary John Coltrane. He’s also known to a wider audience for his work with Kendrick Lamar and Flying Lotus. I did not know this when I saw him in the National Concert Hall.

First of all, the idea of attending a gig with your dad doesn’t sound like the ideal concert experience to any teenager, so when I was presented with tickets to Kamasi I was reluctant to go. Nonetheless, I sat in seat T29 for two and a half hours and, not only did I enjoy every minute of it, I found a new appreciation for the jazz sound. Kamasi was on saxophone, along with two drum kits, five keyboards, vocals, trombone and his dad on clarinet. They delivered a beautiful rendition of ‘The Epic’, his album of 2015 that lit up the scene. I quickly realised that jazz is a fundamental influence on much of the music that is written today.

I don’t think it’s always acknowledged that music genres evolve, leading to new genres and new ones after that. Jazz came from the Blues, which is the foundation of rock ‘n’ roll, soul, hip-hop and most of the mainstream pop we hear today. Kamasi’s jazz is being called afro-futurist, a new branch of jazz deeply connected to the past.

Still recovering from Kamasi, I joined an audience of eighteen thousand, as the RDS hosted Justin Bieber, one of the most successful pop artists in recent years. Bieber was accidentally

discovered through his YouTube videos in 2007. His original music targeted a younger audience, but what do you do when your audience grows up? You grow up too! His most recent album *Purpose* contains more mature and serious content, which has gained him fans and recognition from other artists.

Bieber delivered his emotive pop album to Dublin, along with its catchy rhythm, vocals and overall contemporary sound. It was a night of singing, screaming and celebrating; a performance to behold. It had a different sound, atmosphere and audience to Kamasi. My dad wasn’t there either. But hints of similarity could be heard between the two.

The enjoyment of music should not be limiting to one style only and we shouldn’t confine ourselves to one genre. I attended gigs by a 36-year-old jazz saxophonist and a 23-year-old pop singer in the space of a week. I was fully immersed in each concert’s musical mood. I could even hear traces of one concert surfacing in the music of the other. It is fascinating that two artists could be so contrasting, but equally captivating at the same time. This is evidence of the wide range of music we can enjoy if we embrace it fully. It’s all music.

Evie Kelly



Outlying Islands

- Review of a Play Performed in the Samuel Beckett Theatre -

I entered the Samuel Beckett Theatre in Trinity with high expectations and I can assure you that I was not disappointed. I sat for what felt like only a few minutes, experiencing something I had never seen before. It was an intense catharsis of emotions pulling you into the story, with truly superb acting and dramatic music. The musicians heightened the intensity of the production and the actors kept you completely captivated throughout the duration of the play.

Outlying Islands is a play based on true events, written by David Greig and directed by Marc Atkinson. The play was produced by the Sugarglass Theatre Company, a Dublin/New York City theatre company which is comprised of five core members, all of whom met in Trinity College Dublin. The play is set in the summer of 1938, when two naturalists from Cambridge, John and Robert, are sent by the government to a Scottish island to observe the rare wildlife. The only people living on the island are Kirk, the island's owner and his young niece Ellen. When Kirk reveals the true reason the government sent the

boys, they discover that they have been duped and things are not what they seem. Soon they are drawn into a primeval world of emotional discovery, sexual passion and murder, in a race against time to save the island.

We see Ellen's personality flourish and develop throughout the performance. She starts off as a sheltered, innocent country girl unaware of real life, but then reaches a deeper understanding of the world and of herself after the death of her uncle. John is tempted by her new seductive mixture of innocence and sexual freedom, but his overwhelming inhibitions prevent their relationship from growing before the play ends. Robert is a man consumed by curiosity. He is always pushing boundaries, seeing how far he can take it; at one point he takes it too far. He sees animals as equal to humans and longs to experience what they feel. If birds can jump off a cliff then so can he.

Praise for 'Outlying Islands' from Reviewers:

"Comic, touching, powerfully erotic"
- *The Telegraph*

“Dizzily ambitious... Wonderfully inventive and richly immersive... Heavenly... A theatrical company to watch”
- *The Irish Times*

What made the play so special for me was the music. The music and drama were interwoven seamlessly, bringing out the moments of suspense and tension in the play. Sound design, so often dealt with by using pre-recordings, was replaced in ‘Outlying Islands’ by live music, including the piano, drums and saxophone. The musicians, Lester St. Louis (a well-known cellist from New York) and Lara Gallagher (Trinity College music student and previous St Andrew’s pupil) performed in alternation creating a cacophony of sound that lent ambiance and atmosphere to the play in all the right places.

The set was made up of natural textures. The circular stage was covered in a layer of real soil and directly in the centre of the stage was a hole where water sometimes dripped and occasionally streamed throughout the play. The connec-

tion the set had with the raw earth gave the performance something I have never seen before in a play. The way the actors were exposed to the earth and how they used the various textures to convey real life was genuinely convincing. The actors were not afraid to get dirty; they washed in the water and rolled in the mud and by the end of the play they were at one with their setting.

Overall, a very unique piece of theatre with a memorable performance by the cast, which made it a thoroughly enjoyable evening.


Elena Gallagher

Cast and Musicians of ‘Outlying Islands’ with past pupil Lara Gallagher on Sax





UGANDA 2017



After a tiring 9-hour flight from Schiphol and a short stop in Rwanda, the plane finally landed in a nation that had previously been a colony of the British empire, became independent in 1962 and since then, had been embroiled in a lengthy and costly civil war.

Since January 1986, Uganda has been under the leadership of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. It didn't hit me immediately that I was in a developing nation that had experienced the horrors depicted in many films, until we came to the customs at Entebbe Airport.

While waiting for our bags at the baggage collection point, the electricity unexpectedly turned off. This was our first blackout and most certainly not our last. In fact, that entire night on the bus could easily have been in any country on earth; it was pitch black. There was nothing to see or do on the bus, except talk about how happy we were to be in Uganda, even though we hadn't seen it yet.

The next morning, we got prepared for a day that would become one of the most important on our trip: going into the centre of Kampala. Kampala is Uganda's capital and its population is somewhere in the region of 2 million. It was named the 13th fastest growing city on the planet.

It was a huge culture shock. After spending almost an hour trying to get into the centre through grid-locked traffic, we quickly realized that the bigger the vehicle the more right of way you had on the road. We walked through a mall filled with people; the security guards had guns balanced casually aside the railing, against which they slept. As we walked further into the mall and finally to a balcony on the top floor of the building, you realized the meaning of population density. On the street below, you could honestly see 20,000 people, walking in every single direction. The noise was immense, litter was everywhere, people of all ages and sizes scrambled through the claustrophobic maze that was Kampala's road system. But we all loved it, it was just so different from Dublin and European cities in general.

Now I could say I was definitely in Uganda.

The next day we left for an orphanage outside Jinja called Good Shepherd's Fold. It is run by Mark and Amy Gwartne, who are two religious missionaries that came to GSF with their children. They are two incredibly dedicated, passionate and hard-working people, whose efforts to make the orphanage work have led to it becoming one of the most successful of its kind in Uganda. A place where children not only learn but become part of a loving family.

Our entrance to the orphanage was possibly one of the most bizarre experiences of my life so far. In the middle of nowhere, our bus drove through what seemed endless fields of maize and grain. The bus suddenly turned from this dilapidated road onto a better dirt road (though no dirt road can ever be great) named St Andrew's College Road, a reminder of what we were doing here. The moment we saw the children of GSF waiting for us with smiling faces in the scorching heat, we realised that the hard work of our Transition Year - collecting money, working at the fair and everything else - became so clear. The road, their faces and their signs of trust were all indication of what the people of St Andrew's College meant to them. These children, without any fear at all, came up to us, strangers, and hugged us and held our hand as they lead us to the guest houses.

Each place we visited - the orphanage, the school in Rubiriizi village and the hospital - emphasised a different part of the countries development, and further emphasised how far they had to go in terms of progression. I haven't gone into great detail on every place, as my hope is that someday you will go yourself. I know that some people won't be able to go or won't get an opportunity, but try. No matter what age you are.





International Night 2017

International Night took place on 15th November 2017. The evening celebrated the diversity of all the nationalities and their cultures represented by the people in our school. The opening ceremony was eloquently presented by Head Boy and Girl, David Shanahan and Robben Beatty where they outlined the events for the evening. This was followed by the parade with 160 students taking part in a vibrant display of 52 international flags representing an astounding number of countries from New Zealand to The Netherlands.

The parade was met with much applause from the hall full of spectators as it showcased our College's positive and open-minded approach to all cultures and nationalities and furthermore encouraging students to embrace their differences in unity. Many students brandished their nation's traditional dress. The stage lighting energised the enthusiastic audience adding to the lively atmosphere all round. After the opening ceremony had commenced, the food stalls were opened in the canteen representing 19 different national cuisines.

The stalls had been prepared by the helpful, hard-working parents and guardians of St. Andrew's College. The stalls included the rich cuisines of Australia, Korea, Ireland, USA, Colombia, Sweden, South Africa and more... Meanwhile, in House Area 2, activity booths were taking place. The activities included face painting, international dancing and a quiz booth testing your geographical knowledge by naming the capital cities of nations such as Mongolia or Papua New Guinea. As proceedings concluded, all the effort and meticulous amount of organisation put into each event was apparent to everyone's entertainment and enjoyment.



The Intercultural week was subsequently followed by Australasia Day and Asia Day including annual karaoke taking place in the Senior Hall. The school offers many thanks to the night's main organisers, Ms. Leggett, Ms. Devane, Ms. Miajlovic and Ms. Falconer who truly brought the night to life. International Night was made as an outlet to embrace our College's multicultural diversity and as a symbol of acceptance and celebration of similarities and differences in our school community.





Venture Scouts' Challenge 2017

By Sadhbh O'Mahony

During the summer, a friend and I participated in the Venture Scouts' Challenge 2017. Over the course of five days, we would have to walk 100 kilometres from a starting location somewhere in Ireland to our final destination, while completing a number of projects along the way.

We were required to attend a training weekend over the Easter holidays, to give us an idea of just how challenging those five days were going to be.

Come July, we were all packed and ready to get on the road. All 30 teams were filed onto two buses to be dropped separately in locations somewhere in Ireland. While silently hoping that we wouldn't be the first team kicked off the bus, I tried to get a glimpse at road signs to deduce where we might be headed.

We were all given a brown envelope, which contained our map, budget, project booklets, phone and an emergency envelope. We had been dropped off about 10 km from a town called Gort in Galway and that was the first place we headed. By the end of the day, we had walked 22km and eventually had arrived at a place where we were permitted to pitch our tent for the night.

Day two was by far the toughest day of the challenge. Both Aoife and I had bruises already forming on our shoulders and hips from carrying our rucksacks and, to make matters worse, it lashed rain all day, resulting in the bottoms of our feet being covered in blisters from the wet shoes. By the time it came to finding a place to stay for the

night, we realised that we had come too close to the city and there were only small council houses with no rooms or gardens to pitch our tent. We were distraught, but after being turned down for the sixteenth time the last house in the estate saw how desperate we looked in the pouring rain and they offered us a room.

By day three the sun had come out and, even though our bodies were aching, we had grown accustomed to it and so we set off for the city. We walked about 23km that day; we had found a rhythm and it wasn't such a struggle anymore. We couldn't believe our good fortune when the very first house we went to belonged to the Scouting Commissioner for Galway, who gave us a room, showers and dinner. To our pleasant surprise, our host cooked us a lovely fry-up the next morning, after which Aoife and I thanked her and hit the road once more, with only 35km left to complete.

For most of the journey we had been walking along large national roads. We were happy when our route on day four consisted of mostly quiet country roads. We had an enjoyable time walking, as the views were lovely and we could play music while we walked. Unfortunately, after lunch, as we were continuing with our walking, Aoife twisted her ankle. The quick pace that we had maintained for the whole journey decreased marginally, as she had to resort to limping. As evening fell, we faced more struggles. We were anxious about finding a house, but eventually we came across one belonging to an old couple. They were wary about allowing us stay at first, but after we explained that we may not find any-

where else for another few kilometres and it was getting late, they allowed us to stay in a guest house that they were doing work on in their garden. We were delighted with this; four out of five nights we had not needed our tent and sleeping bags which were probably still damp from day two.

Every night each team had to either text or ring in with the rough coordinates of where they were staying. By night four, the rules stated that no team could be within a 10km radius of the finishing point, but with Aoife's ankle we weren't sure if we were going to make it. Furthermore, knowing that the 15km hike up a mountain still awaited only made us more certain that we wouldn't achieve the certificate.

We set off on our final morning with all our sugary snacks. We took multiple things out of Aoife's rucksack and put them into my own to lessen the strain on her ankle. The final stretch was tough, but in the end, we made it. We were reunited with the other teams, all just as emotionally and physically drained as ourselves, but we had done it. Our final count was 108.5km.

Aoife was seen by a medic who confirmed that there was no possibility that she could do the hike with an ankle that swollen. We had an hour to empty the majority of items from our rucksacks to lighten the weight on our backs on the mountain and change into our hiking boots. Then, at different intervals, different teams headed up to

what we had now discovered were the Maumturk mountains in Connemara.

I realised pretty soon that there was no chance Aoife could've attempted the hike, as some parts were so steep I was practically crawling. All the teams had to meet certain leaders at different checkpoints along the way. The hike lasted eight hours and by the end my feet were bleeding and I was drained.

We received a warm welcome at base camp with everyone clapping as we got off the bus. It was only then that I realised just what I had accomplished and felt a great sense of fulfilment and pride. The assessors had understood the difficulty of the hike that had been set and still awarded the certificate to teams if all other aspects were successfully completed, as long as any physically able team members had completed the hike. We were both delighted at this.

The Ventures' Challenge tested my physical capabilities as well as my ability to think rationally when it came to managing food and money. I was able to encounter many different people along the journey and had enough of a first-hand experience of the landscape in the west of Ireland to last a lifetime. Although it was certainly a difficult challenge at times, it was one of the most rewarding experiences I've had.

Sadhbh O'Mahony



“ Over the course of five days, we would have to walk 100 kilometres from an unknown starting location, somewhere in Ireland. ”



Millfield Chess Tournament

On Friday the 6th of October, seven students from St. Andrew's as well as Mr. Quinn, set off to Millfield School in England for the annual Millfield International Chess Tournament. They were Ross Beaty (4th year), Sacha Bistany (4th year), William Walsh-Dowd (4th year), Jonathan Walsh-Dowd (2nd year), Eoghan O'Mahony (2nd year), Callum Scanlon (3rd year) and Gavin Holahan (1st year). We arrived in Bristol airport and from there drove to Glastonbury in Somerset. We spent the day resting and wandering around Glastonbury. That evening the chess practice began for the next day.

The next morning, we headed in to Millfield School where we prepared for the first day of the tournament. As our team did not have enough players we asked two students, one from CUS and one from Wesley College to join the team to help make up the numbers. A nice breakfast was supplied by Millfield school to all of the teams and by nine thirty we were facing our opponents ready for the first round. I for one was filled with nerves for the day ahead. The team played two preliminary rounds and afterwards we were put in the lower of the two groups, the majors. Also in that group, there was Torquay, Chepstow, St. Benildus, Eanna College A's and Eanna College B's.

After lunch, we played our first two rounds in the major group. We had a slightly shaky start but we finished the day in fourth place only a few points behind St. Benildus.

That evening, there was a swap-chess tournament in which teams of two played and tried to either beat your opponent or win as many pieces as possible to give to your partner. The competition was very fierce. The two players who were supplementing our team won the competition by one point. A badminton net and table tennis courts were brought out as well. Mr. Quinn's badminton abilities were much improved from last year.

The next day, the team played the last three rounds. Overall, the second day was much better than the first day with improved scores all round. We finished in fourth place just a couple points behind third place. In first place in our group was Torquay, second place was Chepstow followed by St. Benildus in third. Ross Beatty who captained the team won a board prize on his board. Congratulations to him. Everyone won at least one match and did very well.

I would like to thank Mr. Quinn for all the work he put into organising the trip and for accompanying us. It was such a fun experience and am really looking forward to hopefully doing it again next year.

Eoghan O'Mahony



Remembering Mr. Allen

The St Andrew's College community was saddened to learn last October of the death of Mike Allen after a long illness, fought with his customary determination. Born just outside Boston, Massachusetts, Mike started his multi-faceted career in St Andrew's in 1976 as a boarding master, teacher of history and counsellor to American pupils where his function was to help candidates for entry to American universities negotiate the complex admission process. Over the years, he shed some roles, such as boarding master, but undertook new ones. At various times over the years, in addition to history, Mike taught classical studies and theory of knowledge as part of the IB programme. For most pupils, however, Mike was synonymous with the MUN, having for many years been its director. Under his guidance, St Andrew's won many awards and accolades at the Royal Russell and The Hague, and countless students developed the important skill of public speaking under his tutelage.

Mike was nothing if not determined. In mid-career and with a young family, he decided to acquire extra academic qualifications and enrolled for a B.A. and then a H.Dip. Ed. in UCD. The final exam of this course required a certain level of proficiency in spoken Irish, something that most Irish people would have found intimidating. Mike, however, was undeterred by the fact that he had no knowledge of the language: dogged as always, he set about learning Irish from scratch and eventually was capable of holding a brief conversation in basic, but correct, Irish.

He was as demanding of his pupils as he was of himself. He expected pupils to rise to his expectations, which were always high, and almost invariably, they did. In class, his conversation was peppered with a number of time-worn sayings, chief of which was 'the slippery slope'. These three words formed a multi-purpose phrase that could serve as a warning against the uncertain and bleak future that lay ahead of pupils who failed to work hard; equally, they could act as an expression of regret when a pupil failed to produce homework. That Mike inspired affection and respect in his pupils is attested to by the large number of past pupils who attended his funeral or who sent messages of condolence.

Colleagues remember Mike as a devoted and hard-working teacher who was always to be found in his office at break-time or lunchtime, preparing classes or planning the next MUN conference. In conversation, he was well informed and highly amusing. Ill-health forced him to retire in 2012 but he maintained contact with many colleagues and retained an interest in the activities of the various MUN delegations.

Mike made a huge contribution to the life of St Andrew's College and he is missed by colleagues, friends and past pupils. The College offers its sympathies to his wife, Hazel, his children, Stacey and Mike, and his extended family.

Conall Hamill



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