

# *Grapevine*

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# Contributors

## COORDINATORS

Mr Quinn & Ms Hickey

## MANAGING EDITORS

Sarah Brownlee & Sofia Herranz Harmen

## EDITORS

Ava Donohue & Zara Griffin

## LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Stella Hurley, Elsa Micallef & Ruby Smart

## WITH THANKS TO...

Ms Marshall	Ms Jones
Mr Micallef	Ms O'Shea
Ms Carroll	Mr Fairbairn
Ms Costigan	Mr Hehir
Mrs Keddy	Ms Schulz
Mr Schuster	Mr Williams
Ms Garvey	Ms Taylor
Ms Owen	Mr McDermott
Ms Jennings	Ms McArdle
Mr Walshe	Dr Carter
Ms Leggett	Mr O'Reilly
Ms Ryan	Ms Reneaud & the
Mr Doyle	European Annex

## CONTRIBUTORS

Zara Griffin	Mykyta Akimenko	Lorenzo Pollastri
Ava Donohue	Grace Higgins	Rory Rusnak
Ms Jennings	Jiaer Chen	Moya Bourke
Finn Ó Dónaill	Patrick Fanning	Michelle Crofton
Stella Hurley	Alice Papon	Cara Holohan
Ciara Murphy	Amelia Hoggett	Billy Williams
Aylin Ustuner	Lorenzo Pollastri	Yitian Chen
Tómas Binns	Florence Donnelly	Chiara Sabatini
Alois Plissonneau	Sebastiano Joyce	Boyang Lu
Elsa Micallef	Amelia Flanagan	Emely Kaestner
Hugh Brownlee	Ruby Newall	Pippa Cole
Keelin O'Carroll	Fara Wagemakers	Chiyo Nakajima
Christopher Lane	Senan Travers	Oliver Simmington
Ben Holman	Isaac Currivan	Isabel Connolly
Weichen Huang	Isabel Light	Jenna Blair

**FRONT COVER:** Leah Drazin Garvey

# Editorial

Ava Donohue & Zara Griffin

**It is our pleasure to welcome you, for the first time as editors, to the 79th edition of Grapevine Magazine. We have received an outstanding number of submissions over the past few months, and we hope that you enjoy them.**

The end of another calendar year offers the opportunity to take time to reflect on the previous months and consider our hopes and ambitions going forward. That is what we aim to express in this edition, a collective reflection on and celebration of students' voices, perspectives and experiences thus far, while looking forward to the future and all the potential it may bring.

As we come to the close of the first term, we can't help but wonder how we've got here. For us, this is our 5th winter term in St Andrew's College and we still feel as if it has arrived in the blink of an eye. This term in particular has been full of milestones for us, many of them reflected in the articles of this magazine: the reopening of the library, the return of trips abroad and the first senior play in three years, to name just a few. Even the least sentimental among us find ourselves reflecting on the past year, remembering and reliving the challenges and triumphs, the hard times and the enjoyable ones, the extraordinary and the mundane.

But between this year and next year, there is a brief intermission for Christmas. Depending on your beliefs, Christmas means something different to everyone. For many, Christmas is a season of feasting, gift-giving and family time. Each family has their own traditions - old traditions, new traditions, unique traditions as well as more common ones.

For many, Christmas is a sad time. It can act as a reminder to people of what they're missing: a loved one who's passed, a sense of belonging or community, a place to call home, or food to fill their empty stomachs.

The cynic in all of us may sometimes feel as if Christmas has lost its true meaning, as if it's now just another excuse for consumerism and materialism - businesses sell their products to consumers who feel pressure to give gifts to anyone and everyone in their lives, without ever questioning whether people really need another pair of socks or a new bottle of perfume. But for some, Christmas is still a religious occasion: a celebration of the birth of Christ. Even those of us who aren't strictly 'religious' can take meaning from the message behind the festivities - the celebration of giving, a time for forgiveness, a time for togetherness, a time to think of others and a milestone for reflecting on who we are and who we want to become.

However, religion and spirituality are not the only ways people receive meaning and purpose from Christmas. We believe that the 30th President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, summed it up well: "Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

The beauty of being in an international school is that we don't have to go very far to realise that the fact that this holiday isn't necessarily celebrated by everyone doesn't take away from the beautiful sense of warmth and community at this time of year. Christmas is just one of many situations in life that we can embrace and obtain happiness from. Our festivities might be different to each other's, and different again to yours, but there is a shared feeling of joy. So, we ask you, what does Christmas mean to you?



# Eulogy for Vasso

Staff of the European Annex

**Vassiliki, or Vasso to us in the European Annex, was a real pleasure to work with and we are fortunate to have had the chance to know her very well.**

Vasso liked nothing more than sharing good conversations, especially with a cup of tea and a few biscuits. She was a terrific cook and we got to enjoy lots of Greek specialties.

Vasso loved teaching, loved seeing her students develop different skills. She was a secondary school teacher, however, adapted to teaching primary school with delight. She taught how to read in Greek at the same time as critical thinking to her IB students.

She also loved seeing her students as a whole person and always made a point of seeing their IB art exhibitions or their basketball games.

Vasso was a warm hearted, curious, open minded colleague of great culture and life experience. She moved through life, including all the challenges she faced, with grace and a smile on her face, until the very end. She is very fondly remembered and deeply missed by all of us in St. Andrew's.

# Jolie de Livres

Zara Griffin



**Certain moments become a memory before you've even realised it was so memorable. The first day of term is not necessarily extraordinary but one of those memorable moments, nevertheless.**

This term began with the inexpressible feeling of freedom. For those of us who are seniors, there was something oddly comforting about knowing that we were going back to normal and thrilling to think that we were among the few privileged to know what normal even was. Every corner you turned, there was something that screamed, the school is open again and now you have the freedom of belonging fully. I passed Third Years enchanted at being allowed to wander freely, exploring the exotic realms of House Area 1.

However, no matter how elated anyone felt, there was none so full of joie de vivre as Ms Ryan. Having been exiled for two years, she was back, and there was no way she was going to let the great event pass unnoticed. Gold balloons adorned the windows, spelling out that the library was OPEN. The red ribbon was cut by Mr Micallef and our senior library had officially reopened after two long years.

Led by their mentors, First Years were introduced to the library on their first day of secondary school. Ms Ryan paused her work to welcome the students, proudly showing off her brand-new flipped layout for increased relaxation. She delightedly reports that this new layout with more space for comfy sofas has resulted in an "influx" of students visiting during lunch to play chess. During the first week of school, no assembly went unvisited, no 8am opening unannounced and no year was excluded from an invite to the library for "tea and bikkies". Their host welcomed, or welcomed them back, with open arms and endless enthusiasm. The occasion was marked on both SACA Instagram and Twitter accounts and countless people commented, reminiscing about their "safe haven".

Ms Ryan is "delighted to be back", thrilled to once again "provide a service to the students, for the students". Whether reading for pleasure, doing homework or working on a project, this space has been greatly missed by both students and staff.

**Ms Ryan, we're glad you're back.**



## 5IB Visual Art Gallery Visit

Fara Wagemakers

**On Monday the 10th of October, an art trip was organized for the 5IB art students. We were all excited and with sketchbooks in hand, six of us and Ms. Owen, took the dart to Pearse station in the early morning with the sun brightly shining.**

When we arrived at the station, we quickly grabbed a coffee in a little café before heading on our way to the Donald Teskey exhibition at the Royal Hibernian Academy. The Donald Teskey exhibition is my personal favourite. When we arrived, we were surrounded by spectacular acrylic and oil paintings, we straightaway dived into sketching his work with pencil and fine liner. It was difficult to leave as we had limited time at both exhibitions. When we had finished there, we moved onto the National Gallery of Ireland where we got to see the Turner exhibition. Turner's exhibition was outstanding, his work is mainly watercolour paintings, which are very detailed and full of colour. With our sketchbooks full of unique drawings, we took the dart back to Booterstown and back to school.

## Classical Studies Competition

Finn Ó Dónaill

**In May 2022, the SAC Classical Studies Department ran a competition for First Year students. They were asked to re-create either a building from the Ancient Roman Forum, the 'Forum Romanus,' or a scene from Ancient Roman Daily life.**

A number of entries were submitted including models of the Temple of Vesta, Basilica Julia, The Temple of Jupiter as well as scenes from inside a Roman bakery, Pistrinum, a classroom, Ludus, and inside a food outlet, Thermopolium. Each intricate physical model was crafted by the students themselves to give us an insight into the lives of an average Roman.

There were a number of prize winners which can be seen here. Josephine Bennett & Alanna O' Neill won first prize in the group category for their model of the 'Temple of Vesta.' This model depicts the special temple dedicated to Vesta, the goddess of the home. It is made of clay and has a small candle inside, representing the sacred flame of Rome, and the Vestal Virgins' job was to protect this.

I was delighted to win the individual prize for my model of a Thermopolium, which I created using insulation-backed plasterboard. I had tiles representing the mosaics that were present in Thermoplia with mini jam jars to serve as food pots, 'dolia' in the counter. A Thermopolium was a fast-food shop, where Romans (without the equipment to cook at home) could eat for little money. The Thermopolia is one of the most popular buildings we can see in the modern world, when we remember that they are reminiscent of takeaways nowadays like McDonalds or Dominos. While today, these restaurants are bigger, global chains, they still satisfy our century- old craving for fast food.

Overall, creating these models gave us knowledge into the daily life and architecture of the Ancient Roman world.

# Am I Too Close To The Stars?

Stella Hurley

By science, my name describes a burning ball of gas  
 However, through my roots it means celestial star  
 Through a telescope a star appears to be vicious,  
 destructive, and untamed  
 Yet through the heart it is ultimate beauty  
 Stars are forged from a collection of gas and dust, which  
 collapses due to gravity  
 And starts to form stars... that is how a star is born  
 It seems unfortunate how a star is created from dust-  
 unwanted, unuseful and unloved  
 But little did you know that they come from molecular  
 clouds that look like elysian visions  
 A floating paradise, a vibrant oasis it is

A gaseous cloud formed from dead stars...remains from  
 profitless ancestors  
 Their hope to look like heaven from Earth is with God  
 Assuming that fate has decided this course for them yet  
 Destiny desired something greater for the unlucky  
 A rebirth of chance, to become another spark of hope  
 that sits on a canvas of darkness  
 Oh, to stud the night sky gloriously has become the holy  
 grail for many  
 To know that you bring optimism to the unfortunate  
 That they whisper their wish to you it hopes a miracle  
 might be brought  
 From Earth each star is a drop of euphoria in an ocean  
 of nothingness

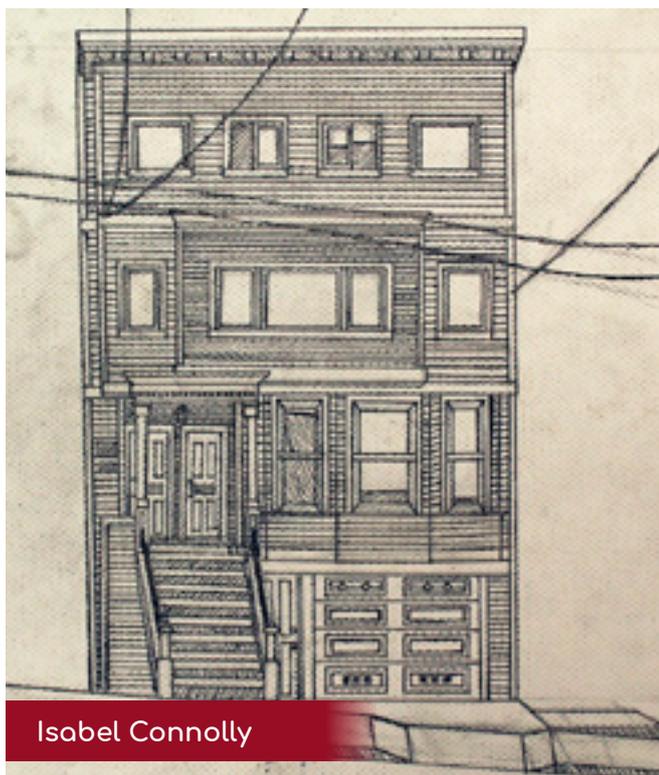
The universe is unfathomable, and its beauty has no end  
 We will remain here for your comfort, continue to light  
 up the night sky without fail  
 Our glow is always here to lend a hand, that is a promise  
 that will not be broken.

# Accepting the Things We Cannot Change

Zara Griffin

**Left to my own devices I could probably move mountains, as long as it could be done in a linear fashion, efficient and cohesive. That's just the way my brain works. As an extremely rational person, I often feel the desire to be able to do things my own way. I can find myself irritated by the things that I consider to be wrong or inefficient. But if I learnt just one thing from Transition Year, it would be the value and the necessity of being able to accept the things we cannot change.**

It's extremely easy to sit and complain about all the things we don't like. As a citizen of a world with a population of 8 billion people, everything isn't always going to go our way. We spend so much time riling ourselves and each other up about the things that we cannot change. Often, it's easier to complain, to see all the things that aren't perfect. But all that's achieving is creating dissatisfaction with things in our life that we are incredibly privileged to have. Faraway hills are always greener.



Isabel Connolly

Queen Elizabeth II passed away on September 8th and although I knew her to be a good woman whom people generally had a lot of respect for, I completely underestimated the place and status she held in the world. I knew my grandparents had regard for her but after seeing the lengths they went to so that they would be free at 8 pm one Sunday night for the minutes' silence, I realised that the Queen had been a huge part of their identity as British citizens. And yet there were those who were completely unable to let the poor woman rest in peace. They insisted on pinpointing everything Britain had ever done wrong in history and by association, the Queen was guilty. They insisted that there was no longer a place for monarchy in the world and that any person of such profile should have been held responsible for Britain's wrongdoings. But at the end of the day, what does any of that achieve? Can she not be remembered for the relatively good, honest woman that she was? Is it realistic to judge historic events by modern standards? Much of what we believe to be right today is different from what it was even just ten years ago. What's right and wrong is merely a social construct decided by who can present the loudest, best argument. Nowadays it's often backed by science and as civilisation evolves so does human knowledge and understanding. Is it right to erase integral parts of historical society merely because they do not meet the conventions of what is seen as right today? There is a time and a place for everything. You have a right to believe what you want, but so do I, and just because we might not agree doesn't necessarily mean that either of us must be wrong.

I came across an old proverb about Chinese farmer who lived many years ago. While his only son was riding one of their wild horses, he fell off and broke his leg. Everyone said, "What bad luck!" The old man replied, "Bad luck, good luck, who knows?" One day, the army came to the village, and took all the



strong young men to be soldiers. Only the old farmer's son was spared, because he could not fight with a broken leg. Everyone said, "What good luck!" The old man replied, "Good luck, bad luck, who knows?"

Our mind has what's known as an egocentric bias, we tend to overestimate our contributions and underestimate others. This is simply because we experience and remember vividly all that we do but not what everyone else does. This bias leads us to underestimate the influence of other things on a situation, like the role luck plays in success. There are things that happen in our lives that have gone horribly wrong, and we immediately look to see what we can blame. These events have ultimately taught us some of the most important lessons. Likewise, we are all largely oblivious to the fortunate events that support our success. Probably the most significant bit of luck many of us enjoy is being born into a highly developed and prosperous country. Do we ever attribute our success to being born in a highly developed, prosperous country? Probably not. People think it must be either skill or luck that explains success, but the truth is you need both. Being talented and hardworking is important but it's not enough to guarantee success. The difference between one person's success and another's failure

could come down to something so menial as genetic predisposition, their birthday or simply being in the right place at the right time. But the harder we work the more luck we have. And so, although paradoxical, we must believe that we are in complete control of our destiny and that our success comes down only to our own talent and hard work, while also understanding that there is an abundance of things that we have no control over. We must be able to accept the things we cannot change.

There is a time and place for everything; the sooner we recognise that, the easier it is to rid ourselves of the unrealistic expectations that we have and be content with reality. To have empathy is about replacing judgment with curiosity. There is no fixed label that we can place on something, write it off and dispose of it. Even as I sit and write these different thoughts that I've collected and tried to explain in some sort of a tangible way, which I believe to be true, I also must realise that there will be those who will disagree. Perhaps in the future I will too, but that doesn't diminish their present value. There are lots of things we can change, so perhaps it's a matter of controlling the controllables, accepting the things we cannot change and changing the things we cannot accept. I don't know.



## 'Murdered to Death'

Ciara Murphy

**As many of you may know, every second year, the senior college puts on a school play, directed by the wonderful Mr Mansfield. While there are many other dramatic events throughout the school year, such as the One Act Drama Festival and Page to Stage, the school play is arguably the most exciting, because with the absence of the school musical, it sets the tone of St Andrew's drama at the beginning of the school year.**

This year, the play 'Murdered to Death' by Peter Gordon was chosen. It is an Agatha Christie murder mystery spoof! The play is set in the 1930s, in the drawing room of an English country manor. There are ten wildly unique characters in the play, and it is terribly exciting to discover who they really are, as their lies and secrets are revealed throughout the play. The play is really quite funny, thanks to the foolish detective in charge and the audience are always kept guessing, who could the murderer be? There is never a spare moment to be bored during this play, as there is always either an argument going on, something hilarious happening, or someone being murdered!

We started rehearsing at the very beginning of September, with six hours of rehearsals every week, if not more! These rehearsals were filled with the cast screaming their lines, perfecting their moves across the stage, and the realisation that perhaps Mr Mansfield should be performing the play as a one man show. There were always things to be done at these rehearsals for backstage crew as well, organising props, preparing the tickets and programmes, painting the set and practising makeup looks for the cast. Although we may have been a bit tight for time, we managed to put on a wonderful performance for three nights, on the 25th, 26th and the 27th of October, and we hope that anyone who came to the performances thoroughly enjoyed the show!

We would like to thank the following people for making it possible to be involved in such a fantastic production, Mr Mansfield, Mr Williams, the St Patrick's Dramatic Society Dalkey, Ms Elizabeth Mansfield, Roger Hill, Noel Dicker and Paul Macken.

Finally, well done to the cast and crew, if it were not for the commitment of all of you, this play would not have been possible.



# Book Censorship

Aylin Ustuner

## STORYTELLING.

**Possibly the most underappreciated art. The raw talent and skill it takes to create a world out of a pen, paper and the imagination is unlike any other. Quite similarly, the attempts to ban stories is unlike the banning of anything else.**

Throughout history, groups of people have challenged books, trying to remove them from society. Although society has evolved, parts of the human race seem to be stuck in the same mindset it was in hundreds of years ago. One that is against learning and furthering oneself with the use of literature and art. Books are still challenged and tried to be removed from libraries, schools and bookstores all over the world. Banning books is still a prevalent issue that must be faced to protect the freedom of speech of writers and to protect our ability to learn.

Anybody can ban books. Parents, teachers, school boards, individuals, groups, governments. This is why it is so important to be aware of the consequences of banning books. Especially in the case of governments, it is vital that corrupt governments should not be able to ban books or authors to keep their population under a certain mindset and hinder their development.

Of course, not all these people are being malicious. They may simply be trying to protect their relatives, students, or friends from

material that they see as harmful or offensive. But they do not have the right to take away somebody else's voice, or somebody else's ability to read and receive an education.

Books may be banned due to certain themes running through them. They may be thought to be insulting – being seen as racially insensitive or containing what is thought to be vulgar language.

Usually, when we think of banned books, more recent times do not come to mind. Instead, people tend to think of banning books as a thing of the past, something we abandoned as our society progressed. So, here are a few examples of more recent banned books to prove that book banning is still a problem. 'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins was banned as it was thought to be 'satanic' and 'anti-family'. The greatly loved 'Harry Potter' series by J.K. Rowling was banned due to witchcraft. Even the dictionary was banned in Alaska, for containing 'objectionable entries', mostly slang words.

Banned Book Week takes place for one week in September or October. It will be from the 1st to the 7th of October in 2023. Banned Book Week was started in 1982 as an effort to battle censorship in media and to encourage all voices to speak up. More and more people are slowly becoming aware of this week and are participating in events to celebrate and support it. Hopefully, others will follow and will begin to understand the gravity of the situation and what they can do to combat it.



Library Opening Day

# RRSIMUN

Elsa Micallef & Hugh Brownlee

In October, we were lucky enough to travel to Royal Russell School for their 40th annual MUN conference. It was a unique and enjoyable experience that we would soon not forget. It was filled with highs - POIs, speeches, heated debates, even more heated discos, and the fanciest coffee machine we've ever seen.

Like most good trips it started with a rude awakening at 3 am, followed by a long wait in the airport. After two hours of travel, we found ourselves pulling into the Harry Potter-esque, redbrick, old school where we were greeted by the enthusiastic admin team. That first day was filled with meeting new people, collaboration, tight suits and the opening speeches. Following this, we rushed into our pyjamas, ready for MUN disco night one, which was rudely cut short due to a blown fuse.

With day one done and dusted the next few days were a blur of St Andrew's participation in committees, ICJ and General Assembly. The committee rooms were filled with many fruitful debates, POIs, confident speeches, constructive amendments, and crushing counter arguments which culminated in two out of four of our resolutions being passed in GA. Although we reckon it could've been four of four if it weren't for the frenemies that we managed to make in the committee rooms - this may have been due to our stellar performance in the talent show and our enthusiastic voters.

Now to the important bit - something that has never been done before in those 40 years - St Andrew's won two out of the three top outstanding delegation awards, as well as the plethora of other awards in individual committees, (almost) bringing Mr Hehir to tears. We began our celebrations, which led us to a fabulous Italian restaurant in the heart of Croydon. In high spirits, we ended up telling the waiters that it was Ms O'Shea's birthday. When she was greeted by the cake, a choir of waiters and the birthday bell, she was understandably confused, as



her birthday is usually during the summer months. We rounded up the night with karaoke in the common room, including a special performance from the teachers.

All in all, it was a brilliant trip thanks to our fabulous and welcoming hosts at Royal Russell School who made the trip that much more enjoyable. We've become even closer as a group, and as our first conference abroad it couldn't have gone any better. We are all back home now with funny stories to tell and fond memories to look back on. We hugely appreciate all the time, work, contribution, support and planning put into the trip by the teachers. To Ms O'Shea, Ms Dooley and Ms Shanahan for their encouragement, and their 'slaying' Instagram coverage, especially Ms O'Shea's creative and entertaining content of the conference. To Mr Quinn and Mr Micallef for their help and brilliant photographs, which made many an appearance on delegate's Instagrams. To Mr Quinn, again, who had the misfortune of being our tour guide for our brilliant day out in London, where we wandered around the West End and were lucky enough to see the changing of guards at Buckingham Palace before we headed home.

To give credit where credit is due, none of this would've been possible without Mr Hehir. His relentless optimism, organisation, and enthusiasm is the reason MUN functions as it does, and why we have the many brilliant opportunities within MUN that we do.

We yield our time to the chair.

**MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 23**

Tomás Binns

# Camp des Milles



Upon arriving at the gates of the Camp des Milles, I was greeted by a small, grey box of a building where our belongings were scanned and bags searched. I wasn't sure whether it was the few hours of sleep I was running on or if it was the sun that was just beating particularly hard that day, but I could feel the veins behind my eyes throbbing as I walked across the barren, weed-infested courtyard. It was not hard to picture the droves of undesirables who once inhabited this building; aimlessly roaming around the same slab of concrete I was currently standing on.

Previously a French tile factory, the building was appropriated by the Vichy government to house those fleeing persecution under Hitler's regime. A large share of these internees had creative occupations; mostly German artists, writers, and intellectuals who were allowed to pursue their artistic endeavours under the lenient watch of the guards. This created

a particularly unique environment where people were able to produce plays, perform music, create at least 300 works of art, and decorate the walls with cartoons and graffiti. Some notable prisoners included Max Ernst and Hans Bellmer, among dozens of others.

I came here with my grandmother. Her mother, my great-grandmother, was an Austrian photo-journalist. She also happened to be a Jew who escaped before it was too late. The first thing I noticed about the interior was its colour; the lack of it. There was a visible disparity between the modern, polished look of the renovated concrete and the rough, seasoned stone and iron from the original construction. It truly felt like the quintessential industrial era building, with its almost cavernous interior and uniform layout of windows, doors, and rust-coloured beams. This made the juxtaposition between the soulless atmosphere and the cheerful, almost animated murals particularly jarring. We then sat down to watch the introductory video, where I was able to load up my camera with a fresh roll of black & white film.

Following France's surrender in 1940, the permissive nature of the camp had changed. Despite the camp being located in the 'free' part of Southern France, it still had a collaborationist government who played along with many of Germany's fascist policies. It went from a place of refuge for enemies of the Nazi state, to a grim way-station for Jews and others on their way to concentration camps, particularly Auschwitz. Following the war, the building reverted to its original purpose of making red roof tiles, until it was left abandoned for many years.

Beneath the ground floor, there is an almost maze-like system of bricked caves and tunnels. Originally used as kilns to fire tiles, these chambers were given a more sinister purpose following occupation. Remnants of this can still be seen on the walls through the preserved scratchings and graffiti. Visitors are still free to explore and even touch these chambers. Feeling the grooves and scratches

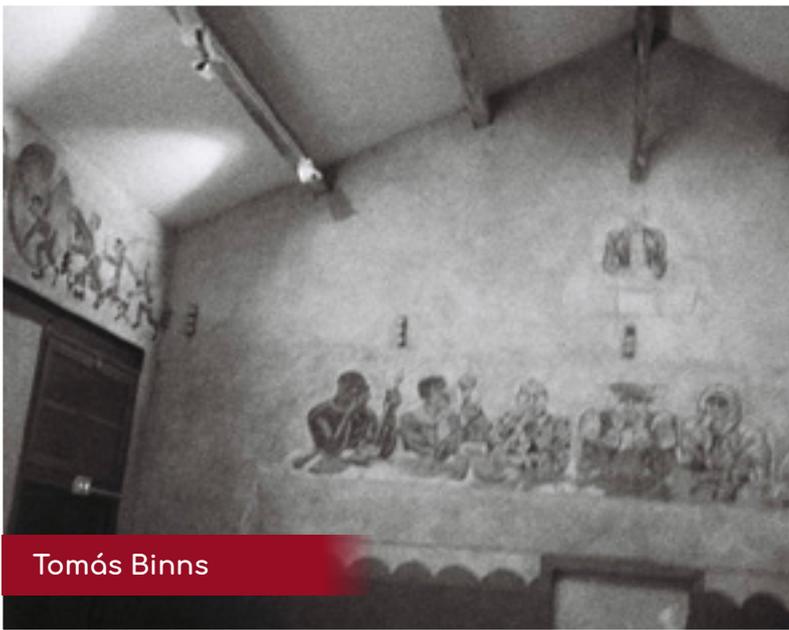
in the wall gave me a feeling I had never felt before. A feeling of a tangible connection to history. This trip happened at a time when I was starting to explore my own history, particularly my Jewish roots. I never paid much attention to this for most of my life as it never really occurred to me that this seemingly trivial fact about myself could actually have any impact on me. But I was starting to see the palpable effects of something as far removed as WWII and the Holocaust actually had on my upbringing and development as a person.

Towards the end of my visit, we went to a screen that, thanks to the Nazis' devotion to impeccable record keeping, had access to a data base of every single person who had gone through the camp. My granny inserted the family name of some relatives whom she recently discovered had died in Auschwitz. Haas. We then saw two names. At least two of our relatives had stopped in this very place on the journey to their meeting with death. I don't believe I have ever experienced anything like this. As both an artist and a person of Jewish

descent, I felt a deep connection to this place in a definitively tangible way. I'm not sure if it was the tactile nature of the experience, the visible remains of its previous inhabitants, or if it was just one of those days, but I will always remember the purity of this moment of catharsis.

Following decades of neglect and ruin, the building was renovated and eventually opened to the public as a permanent memorial of what happened there. Today, it remains as one of the only preserved internment camps in France thanks to a 30-year struggle to keep it open. There were many opponents who would have preferred to keep it out of sight and out of mind. However, thanks to some hard-working people, it can exist today as a testament to the past and a reminder of the importance of moving on, but not forgetting. Never forgetting.

Through art and blood, I could feel the presence of everything that had happened and every person who had been.



Tomás Binns





I make origami tessellations, which in my opinion is the most mathematical art and form of origami. I love this form of art and the most satisfying part is seeing how it all came together over the course of the designing of the crease pattern, folding the grid, making off grid creases and finally collapsing, the entire process is very satisfying. Some examples:

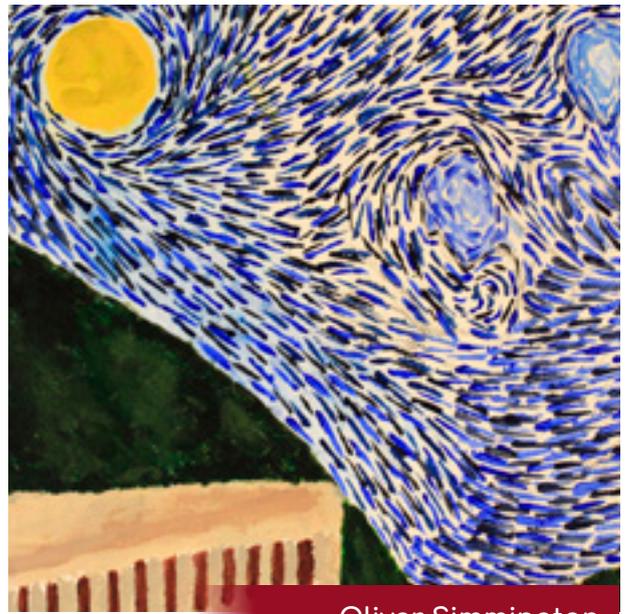
## **CBA 2 Art**

Alois Plissonneau

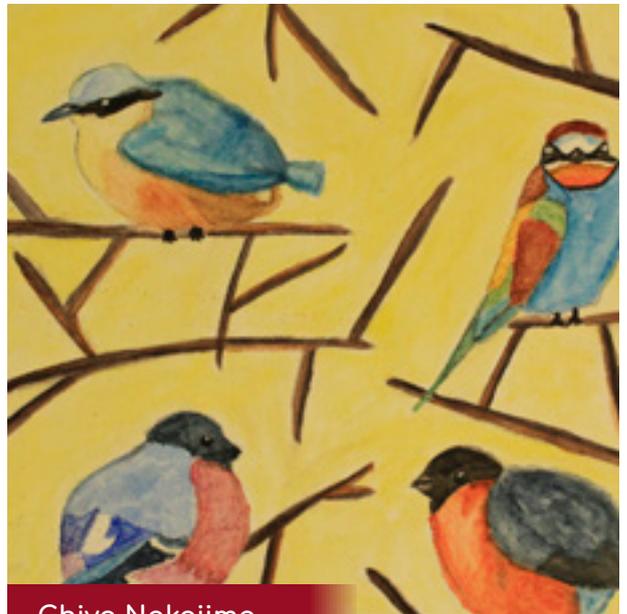




Emely Koestner



Oliver Simmington



Chiyo Nakajima



Pippa Cole

# Intercultural Week

Keelin O'Carroll

**Ní hnío, cześć, hola – these are just a few of the phrases that were learned at the language kiosks on the Monday of Intercultural week. However, this was only the start of what is one of the most memorable weeks in the school calendar.**

Intercultural Week is a time for learning about other cultures and nationalities. We learn to appreciate the differences amongst them, whilst also cherishing our own. Throughout the week there were numerous events, including Just Dance, bake sales, quizzes and a chéile.

Ultimately, it all came down to Wednesday night, International Night. After weeks of preparation and planning, over 50 nationalities were represented in the flag parade and food stalls. This night is a reminder of just how wide our school community spans and how many different cultures we experience every day.

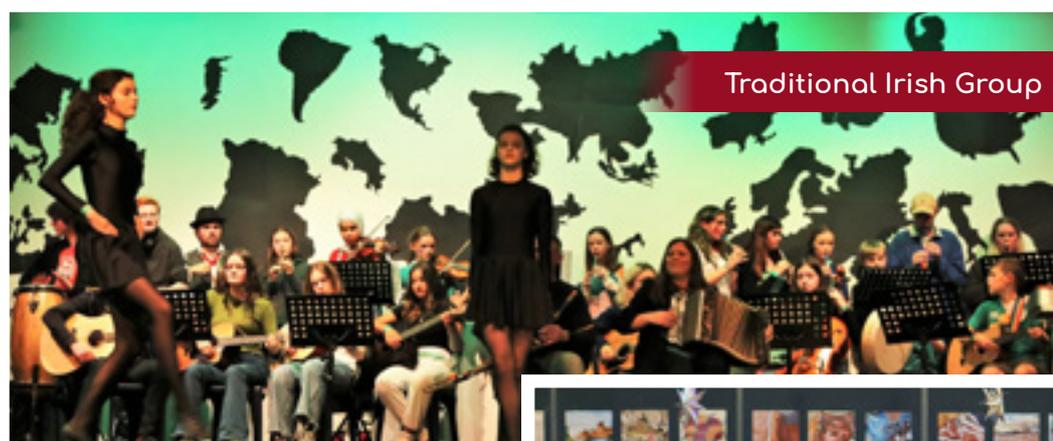
The week ended with a whole school karaoke at lunchtime on Friday - not the most international event but a uniting one which shows that St Andrew's is a school where everyone is accepted and welcomed no matter their culture or nationality!



Karaoke



Food Stalls



Traditional Irish Group



International Parade



Lunch Time Activities

# First Lego League

Chris Lane

The Robotics and Engineering Club in the school is back up and running in recent weeks, and is competing in its First Lego League. An open day was held on the 11th of October with two of the competition's organisers coming in to speak. There was a large amount of interest, which is great, especially having only started the club last year.

We compete in teams of 6. Several teams have been formed, with students from First to Fourth year in them. Each team will construct and code a robot. These will be designed to complete missions on a themed map. Eventually, the teams will take their robots to compete as well as present the ideas that form their project.

It is one of the most interesting clubs in the school. Like sports, you can compete at a high level or just have some fun. However, this is with Lego and robotics instead of hockey sticks and rugby balls! It explores a completely different skillset to most other extracurricular activities and is a welcome addition to the school.



Boyang Lu

# Chess Club

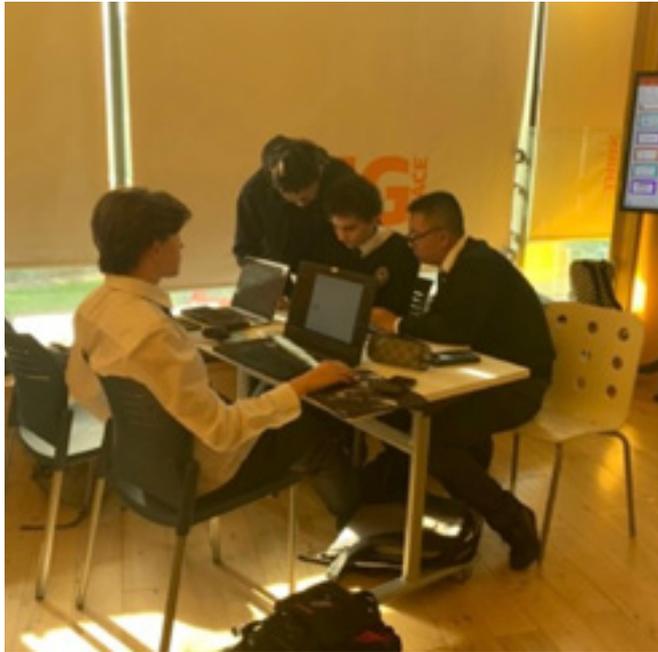
Ben Holman

**St Andrew's College is home to many diverse and interesting clubs. One of the longest-running, most popular clubs that we have to offer is the St Andrew's College Chess Club.**

Whilst the Chess Club has always been popular with many students, it is a place where anyone, regardless of skill level, can come and enjoy a game of chess. This year, there have been repeated, monumental turnouts with copious amounts of students coming to the Chess Club meetings during lunchtime on Monday. There is always a sense of community for the shared appreciation of the strategic, limitless possibilities of chess. The Chess Club continues, having Thursday online meetings where we get together to participate in an online chess tournament.

The new year holds many potential plans for the Chess Club, including the introduction of structured coaching for anyone who is interested in becoming a more proficient chess player, various chess competitions for those who would like to try chess in a much more competitive environment and elections for the new upcoming chess captains.

For many, the St Andrew's College Chess Club is an important part of student life. As a student who has been enrolled in St Andrew's College for over five years, I can confidently say that there is nothing else in the school that matches the casual, playful atmosphere of the Chess Club. When we leave the school, its legacy will carry on, staying relevant year after year with new students who will come set up a board and be lost in the simple beauty of chess.



## Hackathon 22

Yitian Chen

**On Monday 10th October 2022, Robert Boles, Weichen Huang, Stanislav Stamenov, and Yitian Chen took part in the Hackathon 2022 held in AWS thinkbigspace to mark EU Code Week.**

The EU Code Week is a movement to encourage people to code to solve real-life problems. In this spirit, we were required to devise a solution by coding to help people with disability; we decided to develop an application user interface (UI) to help those with hearing impairment by transcribing speech into text. We designed a mobile and web application UI called 'HearMe'.

The project cannot be achieved without efficient collaboration among team members. It was a competition between different schools, so we all worked together according to each's strengths. After five hours of hard work, each team must present their work and design in front of other teams and the judge.

Ultimately, we scored a remarkable 3rd place out of many other schools, and it was indeed a wonderful day! We also learnt various ways accessible technology can improve the quality of life of people with disabilities from other teams.

## Competitive Coding Club

Weichen Huang

Have you ever wondered how Google Maps finds the best routes between two points? Or how data is transmitted through the web? From mobile phones to cloud infrastructure, our technology relies on algorithms to function.

In the competitive coding club, we aim to design fast and efficient algorithms to solve problems in a contest-based setting. In doing so, we will also begin to understand many fascinating areas in the field of computer science and mathematics that are typically reserved for university.

### WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN?

Not only will you learn to code, but you will also greatly improve your problem-solving skills. Through some dedication and practice, you may also compete in national Olympiads in computer science. Lastly and most importantly, it's fun.

### DETAILS

Weekly meetings will be held every Thursdays (except during exams) at lunchtime in room 8.05. There will also be a Teams page where information is provided, and where events are organized.

Hope to see you there!



Remembrance Ceremony



Chiara Subatini

# Invasion

Mykyta Akimenko

**I lived an ordinary life. I went to school, I studied, and I did sports activities. I had my own ideas about who I wanted to become in the future. What will this world remember about me?**

I have always been a person who is terrified of disappointing my family. I do not understand the meaning of spending my time on empty, superficial matters that will bring precious little benefit to my adulthood. I have always striven and will continue to strive for the best in the hope of surpassing the earlier version of myself.

However, the war that suddenly broke out on the territory of Ukraine, an invasion of my beloved country where I was born, shattered all my dreams, engulfed all my deep efforts of self-realisation in huge flames. Still, I do not think that the country that invaded in my homeland is malicious. I do not consider its inhabitants guilty. How could I?

Could this issue not have been resolved differently? How will Russia answer and hold themselves accountable for the countless deaths, destruction of buildings and historical landmarks? The government's most grandiose mistake in the history of its existence has broken lives of many. Now my people have no choice but to wander the ground with an empty pocket and no concept of what will happen next. Nothing but uncertainty, displacement and fear. This is the worst thing that can happen in a person's life. I have never seen anything worse than war.

The aggressor must stop the attacks or at least try to make amends. Just stop doing what you are doing and help us up from our knees. Countries whose neighbours were once considered brothers, helped each other for the centuries, suddenly began to fight.

My request is brief and clear: please, stop what is happening now! Do not kill people! Do not make them suffer at your hands. I beg of you. What is the point of it?

Let us go home.



2022 Debs

# Mrs Dalloway | Virginia Woolf

Grace Higgins

During the summer, I visited my local bookstore. I had one goal in mind, to buy my first classic. I thought of getting a well-known classic such as *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, or *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë. Instead, I walked out of the bookstore with *Mrs Dalloway*, a classic by Virginia Woolf that the shopkeeper had recommended to me. At first, I worried it would be dull and slow - considering that it is about a middle-aged woman planning her party later that afternoon - but gladly, I was mistaken.

The events of *Mrs Dalloway* take place during one day in June 1923 in London, shortly after the ending of WW1. We are first introduced to Clarissa Dalloway, who is preparing for her party that afternoon. Mrs Dalloway is a wealthy woman who lives with her husband, Richard Dalloway. The reader is brought through the details of Mrs Dalloway's day - from her buying flowers to her running into an old friend and finally, to her party itself. Throughout the

day, Mrs Dalloway recounts memories from her past, including a forbidden love and a possible marriage.

Mrs Dalloway also follows Septimus Smith, a young veteran who is dealing with shellshock. As Septimus goes through his day, we learn more about the terrors he faced during WW1 and how they affected him. His new jaded view of the world has made his wife Lucrezia worried and unhappy. None of the many doctors she brings Septimus to are able to help. She worries the only way to lift his burden is to follow one doctor's advice and place Septimus in a psychiatric hospital.

I had a great time reading this book. Virginia Woolf's 'stream of consciousness' narrative makes this novel very interesting, bringing us through each character's thoughts and feelings. It was easy to read, and relatively short at only 192 pages. It is a great read for both inexperienced and experienced classic readers. This book was the perfect introduction to classic literature for me, and I look forward to reading more of Woolf's novels in the future.

# RRSIMUN



## Would multiverse theory change the state of humanity on the philosophical level if (somehow) we came to know the theory was true?

Jiaer Chen

**William James coined the concept of the multiverse in the late 19th century. With the advancement of physics, especially the study of cosmology and quantum mechanics, an increasing number of multiverse explanations have emerged since the middle of the 20th century. Even though multiverse theory is a hypothesis, people are still fascinated by it, and you can see the fascination in the amount of multiverse theory-based artworks.**

Due to human nature, people love to imagine the concept that we are not alone, such as the extraterrestrial life theory. However, have you ever imagined what would happen to humanity's overall philosophical and psychological states if we came to know the theory was true?

If for some reason, in the future, people learn that the multiverse is real, there are two main possibilities. It depends on how much the actual multiverse state overlaps with some religious cosmology. If the overlap between the two is high, then humanity will enter an era in which science and religion share a standard cosmology, as in the nineteenth century. Nevertheless, the religion that will shake hands with the multiverse theory will not be Christianity because both "many-worlds interpretation" and "modal realism", the basis of the "mathematical universe hypothesis", refer to a world that a rational, good God would never tolerate. Even though these theories are different, they all predict that a world of horror and suffering is real.

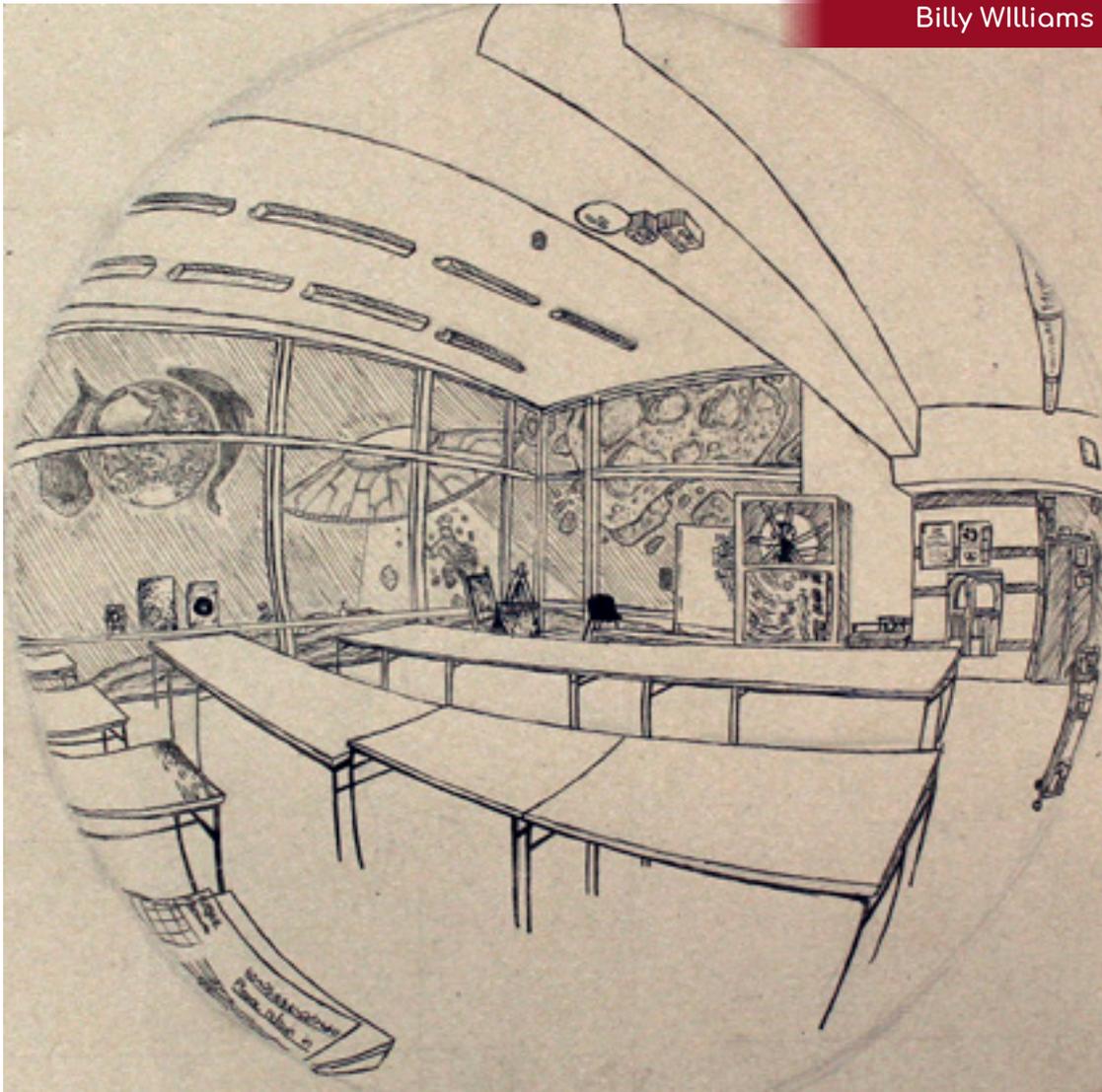
Moreover, this religion of reconciliation with science is most likely a religion that extends from the traditional philosophical schools of the East. For example, Buddhism has the theory of the "Great Chilocosm", which describes many small, independent worlds of the same form that make up a complete universe. There is also the fact that in most Eastern philosophical thought, a world full of horror and suffering is real. God is not a supreme being nor an all-powerful external force of nature. Gods are all-encompassing, perfect incarnations, and most were human beings in the beginning. At that time, such an image of God would be more popular because Eastern ideologies offer a philosophy that applies in a multiverse.

Nevertheless, suppose there is little overlap between an actual multiverse state and some religious cosmology in that future. In that case, humanity will experience unprecedented loneliness, a sense of absurdity, disorientation, and emptiness in life.

First, there is loneliness, and history has shown that globalization and urbanization brought about by migration can only make people more and more lonely. Because the world we explore is growing, we are getting smaller and shrinking.



Cara Holohon



Then there is the sense of absurdity. The reason why we feel that life is absurd seems to be inextricably linked to the scale of time and space: we are tiny particles in a vast universe, and even on the geological scale of time, our lives are just a matter of moments, let alone on the scale of the universe, where we can all die at any moment. As Thomas Nagel says, "And if our lives are absurd given our present size, why would they be any less absurd if we filled the universe (either because we were larger or because the universe was smaller)? Reflection on our minuteness and brevity appears to be intimately connected with the sense that life is meaningless, but it is not clear what the connection is."

Then comes disorientation as our place in the universe becomes increasingly marginal. Nicolaus Copernicus and Charles Darwin left humanity with no place to stay, as the former's

heliocentrism burst the dream that humans lived in the centre of the universe. The latter's evolution theory shatters the illusion that all living creatures surround humans. If the multiverse were true, humanity would be even more lost; our universe would not be unique. Humanity, as the "only intelligent being in the known universe" is denied. Humanity, as the "only human being", is rejected. Even our uniqueness as the "I" of the humanists is prohibited, and people become perplexed.

Finally, there is nothingness, and nihilism will prevail. For if the physical constants in other universes are not the same as ours, then our left turn can be a right turn or some other action in different universes, and what is the special meaning of a left turn when it is equivalent to a right turn, a straight walk, a jump up and down, or a stop in other universes?

# Junior Debate Competition

Finn Ó Dónaill

**Over the past two months, the St Andrew's Junior Debate Club has been competing in a debate competition held by Law Soc and L&H in UCD. So far, there have been two rounds.**

The St Andrew's representatives included Alisha Manoj and Zahra Nassiri from Third Year who competed in the motions; "This house would colonise space " and "This house believes gender quotas have a place in modern society". They argued in the places of proposition and opposition, respectively. The team, unfortunately, did not win their first motion but claimed victory after their debate on Thursday the 17th.

Representing the Second Years were Hannah Berhanu and myself. We took part in the motions; "This house regrets the spread of multinational global enterprises" and "This house believes gender quotas have a place in modern society. We argued in the places of opposition and proposition, respectively. We managed to win our last debate on Thursday evening in UCD. We had prepared a lot for this debate and even held a mock debate during lunchtime of the week running up the debate.

The organisers of the St Andrew's Debate Team; Mr Doyle and Ms Kinsella were supportive of both teams and gave lots of advice in the run up to the debate.

Overall, everyone included enjoyed the experience and we hope we will get invited back to UCD for the next round.

Senior Debate Team





# Leinster Debates

Patrick Fanning

**I took part in the Leinster Debates this year, which was a great opportunity, and my team of two qualified to the next round in January which was fantastic. This year was my first year in the debate club, so it was a great way to get stuck in immediately.**

I was on a team with my friend Aidan Leahy, another 4th year. It was both of our first times debating, so we were a little nervous about the format of the competition. We had both done MUN before so we had experience in public speaking already, and we got tips on the debate format from the more experienced students doing it. The first week we watched the two Andrew's teams debating that week - Ruby Newall and Alanna Kohut, and Ondine Travers and Ava Donohue, on the motion of banning jail sentences for non violent crimes. Unfortunately, the Andrew's teams didn't get through, but they've been called back for the wildcard round so fingers crossed they get through to the octo-finals (the round before the quarterfinals) then. It was great to see how it worked in real life and see the high standard of debate.

Our motion was that all space travel should be banned, and we were against the motion. At first, I thought it would be easier to argue against billionaires joyriding into space and

wasting resources. But as I researched the topic, I realised that I was on the right side of the debate - in my opinion, at least. I learnt so much about how space exploration benefits us, particularly how technology developed for space is used now in technology ranging from Invisalign to artificial limbs, and solar panels to LED lights and water filtration systems.

I was the first speaker on our team, and I spoke about how space technology has benefited us all greatly, and how you can't stop human desire to explore. Aidan spoke after me, and he talked about how it doesn't make sense to stop all space exploration just because a few billionaires are using space irresponsibly. There were good arguments made for the motion, like the fact that money billionaires spend on space exploration could be better used to fight problems down on earth, and the environmental impact of rocket launches, but in the end, in my (admittedly biased) opinion, the opposition made a stronger argument. We were all nervous about the announcement of which teams got through, and I was delighted when I heard we had made it to the octo-finals, particularly as it was our first time debating. To top it off, another Andrew's - Rory Rusnak and Carter Horner - team got through. Unfortunately, the other team of Yitian Chen and Clodagh Sheridan didn't make it.

It was an enjoyable and beneficial learning experience. I learnt so much about my topic of space, and I really enjoyed debating against other students. I'm excited to start preparing for the next round and hoping to go as far as we can in the competition.

# Concern Debate

Michelle Crofton

The Concern Debate is a competition organised for the past 30 years by Concern, an international charity which supports those experiencing poverty by addressing the problems that lie at the root of it. Concern implements their programmes in 24 countries around the globe. They are focused on education, gender equality, health and nutrition, emergencies, livelihood and climate and environment.

The league stage of this debate takes place online, and there are four speakers on each team. This year, my team and I have had a chance to debate two relevant and very intriguing topics. The first motion took place on Tuesday the 25th of October, and was focused on the subject of GMOs being necessary in the fight to end world hunger. Our team was opposing this statement and our captain, Amelia Flanagan, delivered an inspirational speech introducing the topic and our stance. The first and the second speakers, Sadhbh Sheehy and Amelia Hoggett, discussed how big corporations' misuse of GMO technology can impact agrobiodiversity and the environment. Finally, our third speaker, Isabel Connolly, discussed how small farmers and breeders were affected by GMO industry. The team was very well prepared, and their rebuttals were articulately formed. We celebrated our first win in the League.

The second debate took place on the 16th of November and this time we were proposing the motion. "Climate activists must give up eating meat" was the topic and a great deal of



Moya Bourke

research went into our speeches. The captain for this debate was Zara Griffin. Her knowledge of the subject was extensive, and her speech covered each area of the motion. I was the first speaker and I focused on pointing out how giving up meat and subsequently reducing its production would lower methane and ammonia emissions into the atmosphere. The second speaker, Robert Boles Alvarado, and third speaker, Sadhbh Sheehy focused on the ethics and the need for climate activists to lead by good example. Zara closed the debate with a series of accurate rebuttals against the opposing team. Isabel Connolly chaired this event, and she handled it with remarkable professionalism.

We will have another debate in the group stage in December. I am grateful I had the opportunity to participate in the Concern debate competition. Not only has it given me a chance to improve my communication skills, but also, I was able to meet many students who I share a kindred interest in debating with. The competition takes place annually, and I will take part again next year!

Alice Papon

# My Participation in a Debating Event

## The Philspeaks Pro-Amateur Event

**On Tuesday 11th of October, I took part in the Philspeaks Professional-Amateur event. It was an event organised by Philspeaks, the oldest student organisation in the world, and I had the chance to participate in it thanks to our school's debate club.**

Early in the morning, my teammate, Erin, and I arrived on Trinity College's campus, more precisely in the Graduates Memorial Building. The Philspeaks students made a couple of presentations, including one discussing how to debate, another talking about student equity, and another talking about how you should not personally attack someone based on their religion, gender, or sexuality.

At 10:00, we were paired with university students, and we received our positions for the upcoming debate. I was a member of the Opening Government. We were presented the motion, "This house would ban all politicians from social media.". We had 15 minutes to prepare our speech (we weren't allowed to use the Internet for research) and to decide the order of speakers. I opened the debate, arguing in favour of banning every politician on social media, and the first speaker of Opening Opposition followed, and so on until Closing Opposition spoke last.

Some people, myself included, were re-assigned a university student after that, as some had to get to class, and subsequently we were introduced to our positions for the following debate. I was a member of Opening Opposition and the first speaker again. The motion was "This house believes that the Olympics should be held in a designated zone". Afterwards, Philspeaks provided us with food, and we got to meet new people, which was very enjoyable!

In the afternoon, we were assigned our positions for our last debate, and I got Closing Government. This time, the motion was slightly different. Before we got to know what it was, they showed us an info slide on the concept of a "likeometer" which refers to a scale between 1-10 which indicates the extent to which you like someone. Constantly adjusting, everyone can see their own rating on someone else's "likeometer," but cannot see anyone else's rating. It is impossible for an individual to lie or hide their likeometer." The motion was then shortly revealed "This house supports the likeometer." The preparation time was very stressful as this was a difficult motion.

At 4pm, the judges finally told us who got into the silver and gold finals, and I was glad to know that I was selected for the gold finals. We got our positions, and for this, I was a member of the Closing Opposition, and this time I had to close the debate. They revealed the motion, which was the same for both finals, and it was "This house would rather be an astronaut than a cowboy". We had 15 minutes to prepare, and this debate was held in the chamber, making it even more impressive. Everyone made their speeches, and it was incredibly intense, with people asking a lot of questions until finally, I closed the debate.

This time, the judges had results for which house won. For the silver finals, they also decided on a top speaker, but it wasn't the case for the gold finals. The Opening Opposition won the gold finals. By 6pm, we were all finally able to go home. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in this fine experience, and I would love to do it again.

# European Youth Parliament

Amelia Hoggett

**I first heard about the European Youth Parliament from my mum, who attended as a teenager and found it very enjoyable. So, when Mr Doyle mentioned that he had secured spaces for the 2022 Dublin Regional Session, I was eager to sign up.**

The session was three days long, beginning on Oct 21st with a series of icebreakers and teambuilding activities. We, the delegates, were then separated into Committee rooms, where each group started to form a resolution on the topic. There were 10 Committees in total, debating issues ranging from fast fashion to tackling period poverty. There were five delegates from St Andrew's: Sadhbh Sheehy, Fiafhlaith Ní Mhurchú, Elsa Moran, Erin Egan and me, Amelia Hoggett.

I was a member of the committee on culture, CULT, along with Sadhbh. We were tasked to create a solution, in two days, to the question "Who is the EU?" Our main goal in this was to form a shared European identity while simultaneously respecting each nation's existing traditions and cultures. This topic sparked many philosophical questions, a

recurring theme being whether citizens of the EU identify as European. Debating this with my peers gave me an insight into how connected different people can feel to Europe as a whole and on a personal level.

For the last day of the session, all delegates attended a General Assembly, debating the 10 resolutions produced over the last two days by the committees. Fiafhlaith was a member of the Committee on Security and Defense, SEDE, and eloquently defended against points made in opposition to SEDE's resolution. Erin delivered a passionate speech, drawing our attention to the atrocious issue of the sexual assault victims resulting from the war in Ukraine.

The day finished with a closing ceremony, which ended up in us all linking arms in a circle and singing a questionable rendition of John Lennon's Imagine. Overall, EYP was an incredibly beneficial experience to me. Working in my committee room helped me in developing teamwork and communication skills, and debating current issues gave me more of an insight into present events and politics. I formed many friendships and met many amazing people, and I hope to attend another EYP session in the near future.



Prizegiving Ceremony



Rory Rusnak

## The Best Albums of 2022 (So Far)

### “CHLOE AND THE NEXT TWENTIETH CENTURY” - FATHER JOHN MISTY

“Chloe and the Next Twentieth Century,” the fifth studio album by Father John Misty, is a sumptuous record, equipped with Disney-esque orchestration and swooning melodies that conjure up images of old Hollywood via your dad’s old Glen Campbell albums. It’s not devotional, though; it’s strung together with a sardonic sense of humour that helps cut through its more saccharine moments.

### “MIDNIGHTS” - TAYLOR SWIFT

“Draw the cat eye / sharp enough to kill a man,” goes the opening of Vigilante Sh\*t, one of the more accessible listens on Taylor Swift’s latest album, “Midnights.” To the untrained ear, it might sound like some SNL-parody of her work, but – for those familiar with the bombastic “1989” or revenge-driven “Reputation” – it’s a return to pop Taylor, studded with references to romance, betrayal and every shade of red humanly imaginable. Described by Swift as “the stories of 13 sleepless nights scattered throughout [her] life,” Midnights solidifies her place as one of modern music’s great storytellers. Insomnia has never sounded better.

# The DNA of the Soul

Lorenzo Pollastri

**You're right. I agree with you.  
They're completely wrong.**

"Class consciousness" and "sub-class consciousness" refer to the compromising consensus that can be reached by a collective of individuals on the same social level, a common, moderate amalgam of opinion would form, each extreme tempered by discussion of shared experience. Impossible to avoid, opinions on politics, etc. would be tested in the jungle of ideas, to die or thrive. But the modern age has more than altered things... Some may believe that ours is a pathetic and self-obsessed generation, I believe both more and less than this. I believe that everyone alive in the last two and a half decades has been victimized by the internet, and its effect on reality.

In *The Selfish Gene*, Richard Dawkins expands on the principal theory of evolution by introducing a more gene-centric view to disambiguate the shaky organism-centric view (even today, many still believe in interspecies altruism, and linearity in genetic evolution). In it, he expresses the truth of how all sentient beings are merely puppets to their genes, genes that in the practical expression of their theoretical sentience wish only to preserve themselves and maintain 'copying fidelity' evolution and genetic diversity are impediments to their immortality. All life exists to replicate because it replicates, because that which replicates survive to replicate.

But possibly the most influential aspect of this book, already voted the most influential scientific text ever written, (July 2017, Royal Society, 30th anniversary) is the 11th chapter. Which introduces the word "meme" a self-replicating unit of culture, in the same way a gene is a self-replicating unit of physiology.

Internet memes, of course, operate on an entirely different level of functionality, and prove the importance of copying fidelity within genes, relying entirely on adaptation to the point of birthing post and



Isabel Light

meta irony in the wake of their tremendous upheaval of communicative ritual. Look to ancient, successful memes: Christianity, Mandarin Chinese, even obscure things such as the Japanese tea ceremony. Christianity, like every other religion, survived because part of its DNA said: "all who I inhabit, spread me to other minds, and retain me in yours, that is the imperative". Or the tea ceremony and other random traditions: "preserve me, I command." Like the rabbits who make themselves of earthen grass, fecundity, immortal as relentless sheets of rain. Like the trees, devoid of age or generation, their genes near monogamous.

This is where the internet destroys culture. Much like how we play god, preserving big cats who require huge swaths of territory and dozens of herbivores a month, the internet refuses to let anything die. As "Rose" and "Colonel" predicted in Hideo Kojima's 2001 Masterpiece, *Sons of Liberty*, culture is no longer subject to selection, not even the unnatural. "Trivial information is accumulating every second, never fading, always accessible... Rumors about petty issues, misinterpretations, slander." An enormous consequence of this is the disruption of social progress.

"Untested truths spun by different interests churn and accumulate in the sandbox of political correctness and value systems." An opinion no longer needs to prove its worth in the wild, the internet retains all rhetoric indiscriminately. Everyone withdraws into their own small, gated communities, afraid of a larger forum. The different cardinal truths neither clash nor mesh, no one is invalidated, but no one is right.

In this essay's introduction I buffeted you with shallow reassurance on your opinion. Despite its obvious inability to be meaningfully tailored to you, the reader, it must have been comforting on at least the most basic level. But now listen to something else: "your entire conception of the world is utterly incorrect, every second of your life before now is worthless". The thing is, your reaction to this sentence will almost certainly not be the opposite of your reaction

to the previous sentence, to any level. Rather than discomfort, unease, or resonance even, your response was presumably akin to dismissal and rejection of the mere idea, in a completely automatic fashion. Because that's not how our minds work. We wouldn't just swallow a revelation that tears us from our normalcy, bear the beating fingers of a rufous sky than shade the skin of an azure lagoon.

Surely you see what I'm alluding to. Not only can we develop an alienated mental reality, but those realities also refuse to die, for how deep they burrowed into your mind's lowest structure, eaten your tongue and replaced it. Your reflection can't hurt if you're the one to draw it.

Memes, the DNA of the soul, sear in the frozen lake of our hell on earth. This is how culture dies, not through starvation, but gluttony.



Isaac Curriuan



## Flossie and the Beach Cleaners Visit Indonesia

Florence Donnelly

On the 21st of October, four of our TY students went on a trip to Indonesia with the charity Flossie and The Beach Cleaners to learn about plastic pollution, front-line climate change and the Citarum river.

On the first day we visited the Lantar Begang Pekasi waste management movement, just outside of Jakarta. The waste management movement have been growing grass on top of the mountain of rubbish and now it's becoming an ecosystem again. We got to visit Bening Saguling in Bandung, which is an eco-school where the students must pay in plastic bottles to attend! We went out on the river to do a litter pick-up, and in 10 minutes we collected 6 kg of rubbish. This was one of our favourite parts of the trip.

We visited Gili Trawangan which is a small island, choked in plastic. Here we had the opportunity to work with Gili Eco Trust, which is a conservation trust that rebuilds coral. In their recycling centre we saw how they make glass bricks, which are more sustainable and are stronger against earthquakes. Almost all the coral on the island has been killed as a result of the earthquake that occurred several years ago but Gili Eco Trust have been regrowing it by tying tiny pieces of living coral to a metal rod and attaching an electric pump to it. In a matter of months, they now have a region of coral with shoals of fish and bales of turtles swimming in it. These bio rocks help protect the coral against bleaching. It was mind-blowing to see so many fish and turtles.

Before our time on the island came to an end, we took part in a workshop on coral propagation. We took the living rocks and

coral that had broken off and watched as the coral was cut, separated into small pieces, then attached to a living rock. After about 40 minutes the baby coral had been fully attached to the living rock, and it was time to bring them back to the sea. We finished our trip by helping Gili Eco trust clean the land next to the dump. Rainy season was about to begin in Indonesia so was going to be their last chance to clean the land before the rain. It was surreal to see so many plastic bags and so little land. In less than an hour we had made a difference. Instead of a sea of plastic bags, now we could also see grass. Together with a group of locals and other tourists, we managed to collect 65 kilos of plastic bags! Between the four of us, we collected about 1118 plastic bags.

We have visited some unbelievable places where people are suffering in ways we couldn't possibly imagine and yet in every place we have visited, no matter how horrific the problems people were facing, they're all doing whatever they can to fix the problems.



We extremely enjoyed our trip to Indonesia; it was a life changing and eye-opening. Everyone enjoyed different aspects of the trip, from working with children to visiting the source of the Citarum river. We were sad to come home because we loved being in Indonesia and learnt so much about first-hand climate change, but we're all happy to see our families again.



# Perspectives on the Situation in Iran

## WHAT IS GOING ON?

**Articles detailing widespread protests in Iran have flooded news outlets, describing beatings, arrests, and deaths as anti-government show no signs of slowing down. So, what exactly is going on?**

The current protests are against Iran's "morality police", who patrol streets to punish any violations of the severe dress code. Protests sparked due to the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died in the custody of the 'morality police' in Tehran on the 16th of September. She was detained for violating the conservative dress code by wearing a loose hijab and skinny jeans. Her family said Amini was beaten and struck on the head repeatedly, where she later died in a coma in hospital. The authorities state she died of a heart attack – with the only footage available being a video of Amini being carried out of police custody in an unconscious state.

This ignited in Iran widespread protests, with countless people taking to the streets across the country.

Across Iran, an estimated 217 people have been killed, according to UN reports. However, access to correct death and injury tolls is becoming increasingly difficult; Internet access was restricted with the government blocking service providers, and platforms like WhatsApp and Instagram.

Viral videos show beatings and arrests, but they also show the power of the Iranian people. Videos of women cutting their hair in protest, burning hijabs, of thousands shouting the same phrase: "down with the dictator". The past demonstrations in 2009 and 2019 were carried out by people of different economic

backgrounds. However, current protesting has seen people, of any financial situation, take to the streets to protest against the mandate on hijabs and loose clothing for women, against the economic devastation that has been rife for years, and against the political class who bestow the 'morality police' with such power.

As many as 14,000 people have been arrested since the 21st of September, when protests began. Thousands of men, women and children – human rights defenders, students, lawyers, journalists...the list goes on. A terrifying new development saw the Revolutionary Guards, Iran's powerful security force, call on the judiciary to execute protesters in detainment, to "get a message across".

What cements this horrifying idea is a statement made by Javid Rehman, special UN rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. At a recent Security Council session, he spoke on Iran's decision to hold public trials for 1,000 people arrested in connection to the ongoing protests. Some of the charges include "enmity against God" and "corruption on Earth". These charges carry the death penalty.

**Who knows what will come next?**

**Write, speak up, do your own research, and listen to Iranian voices.**

**Tell others what exactly is going on.**

Amelia Flanagan



Jenna Blair

Senan Travers



## WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

**Unfortunately, the attempts at silencing these protests have been brutal and many. Protests have been met with violence. The government has implemented regional internet shutdowns and blackouts to prevent online discourse and Iranian celebrities who have been speaking out have all been detained. Most concerning, on Tuesday 19th of November, an overwhelming majority of the Iranian parliament voted to execute convicted protestors, of whom there are over 1,400, with arrests at protests climbing well over a thousand and the youngest sentenced only 17 years old.**

Despite this, these are looking to be the biggest and most significant protests faced by the Iranian regime in over a decade. If we are to take one lesson from this, let it be to never underestimate the bravery of these protestors. They have continued to defy a volatile, oppressive regime and instigate the longest lasting series of protests in Iran since the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Many of these protestors have been teenagers themselves, with videos emerging of schoolgirls forcing

a morality officer from their school and university students breaking down doors to eat with the other gender. They do so at great personal risk. Just take the case of Nikita Shahkarami, a 16-year-old who was seen burning a headscarf at a protest. She was last seen being detained with a group of protestors before her body was returned to her mother.

Their actions have not been in vain. Western countries such as the US, UK and the EU have imposed sanctions on Iran and the US has called for Iran to be removed from the UN Women's Rights Panel. Yet it is vital that we do not let this movement die. The best that we can do for the people of Iran is to not look away and to engage. With Iranians putting themselves and their family at risk by sharing information with the outside world, we need to use it. The Iranian regime has been known to reverse execution sentences due to international attention, so use hashtags to let them know the world is watching and engage with any news or posts you come across. Be their voice.

Ruby Newall

# U16s St Andrew's Basketball Team

Sebastiano Joyce

**The St Andrew's U16s basketball team have had a terrific season this year with our current record being 6-1. We've beaten Blackrock College, Coláiste Eoin, Presentation Bray, Oatlands College, St Eunan's Letterkenny and Belvedere College. Our only loss was to St Joe's The Bish. Although this was a big blow for us as a team, the season is not over, as the league is still ongoing.**

## CUP GAMES

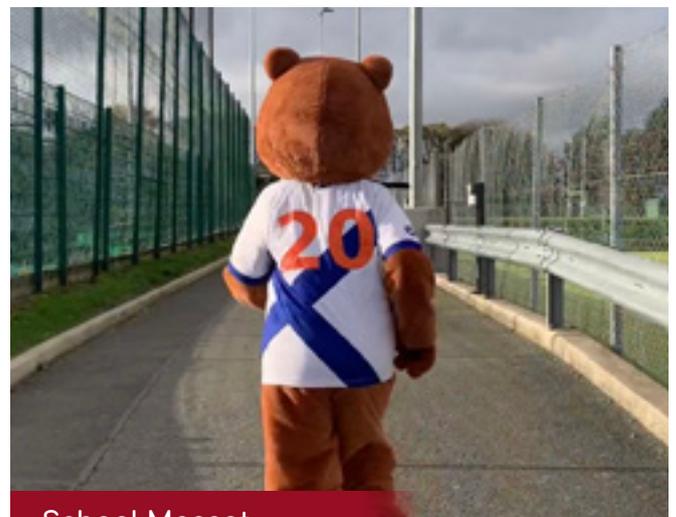
First, we faced off against Belvedere College. Their team was strong and had a few talented and easily recognisable club players. The game was low scoring for both teams, with both Andrew's and Belvedere ending the first quarter with less than ten points. Things started to heat up in the second quarter. We could not stop their best player who was scoring at will, bringing the game to within three points. At the very end we hit one last shot to secure the game and we scraped away the victory by just five points - the score was 36-41.

In our next game we faced off against St Eunan's Letterkenny. St Eunan's started the quarter stronger and more physical than us, outhustling and outrebounding us by a wide margin, making the game tight. Fortunately, their efforts were unsuccessful, and we won the game by 12 points. The final score was 46-34.

Finally, the St Andrew's U16s basketball team faced off against one of the best basketball schools in the country: St Joe's The Bish in Galway, for the quarterfinal of the U16A Boys All Ireland Cup. We went to Galway the night

before the game and stayed at the Maldron Hotel. This gave us a chance to bond as a team, use the hotel facilities and get a good night's rest before the game.

The energy levels were high as we warmed up. We were red-hot to start the game and we ended the quarter with a buzzer beater layup, things were looking good. In the second quarter, we dropped off a little bit and they took the lead, but it was a close fight. In the third quarter, their best player (also an Irish international player) started scoring. The fourth quarter started and although it was not looking too good, the game was not out of reach. We made a late push and lifted our heads up a bit after a rough two quarters, but unfortunately, we would not be victorious, despite our greatest efforts. We lost the game by 13 points, the final score being 51-64. However, making it to the quarterfinals in an U16A All Ireland Cup is a great accomplishment.



School Mascot



# Ms Helyn Gilna

Mr Micallef

**In June of this year, we marked the well-deserved retirement of Ms Helyn Gilna after a career spanning over four decades, the last of which she spent here in St. Andrew's.**

Helyn joined the College in 2012, having previously been in Alexaxndra College, and she swiftly established herself to be a caring and dedicated teacher with a palpable zest for life.

Helyn primarily taught Home Economics in St. Andrew's, drawing on her extensive knowledge and experience as a practical examiner to guide and support her students. Helyn excels in the area of textiles and design. She offered the textile option to sixth years outside of regular tuition time, showing her commitment to her students, and inspired countless future fashion designers while overseeing Junk Kouture, an activity in which Helyn led many students to create fascinating innovations in sustainable fashion design and great success in competitions.

Not only was Helyn an excellent teacher of Home Economics, her compassion for the students defined her contribution to the

school. A graduate with a Masters in Guidance and Counselling, Helyn was an exceptional form teacher who drew on her experience to mentor her form class. She always knew her form class and their needs very well. This same spirit saw Helyn join the anti-bullying committee in which she became an integral member. In that role, Helyn helped organise the very successful Wheeling for Wellbeing days, and even went further, cycling in those mornings and cooking breakfast for the staff who were involved. In everything Helyn did, she was always motivated by a sincere desire to help the students of the College.

As a colleague, Helyn was always affable, calm and considerate. Without question she pitched in to help colleagues who needed classes covered, provided an enthusiastic ear and thoughtful advice, and she was fond of walking with friends. Her caring, generous and thoughtful nature has been a rich addition to St. Andrews's College and has touched the lives of many colleagues and students. We are very fortunate that she chose to close out her remarkable career with us and the school is a better and more creative place for her presence.

## Fara Wagemakers







Grapevine is a St. Andrew's College Student Publication  
St. Andrew's College, Booterstown Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin  
Ph (01) 2882785 | Fax (01) 2831627 | [www.sac.ie](http://www.sac.ie)