



December 2022

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- * Abbey Farewell Function
- * College Awareness Week
- * The Abbey School & St Annes present "Grease"
- * Science Lab Renovations
- * TY Germany Trip
- * Abbey Sports News



Principal's Foreword – Christmas 2022

Students, Staff and Parents,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our Christmas Newsletter 2022. It gives us an opportunity to stop and reflect on a busy term since we returned to school in August.

Our students have been extremely busy during that time. An incredible array of activities have been organised during that time. The first term has seen the return of school tours to Carlingford Lough, The Rhineland in Germany, Dublin for Ireland versus Armenia in the Aviva Stadium and Manchester for a Premier League game. Terrific experiences for both student and staff.

We have also seen our Transition year activities ramp up with our annual Galtee Mountain climb, work experience, careers fair, Law Course, guest speakers, surfing in Lahinch, comedy show in Thurles, LGBTQ+ awareness workshop, TY enterprise, tennis and much more.

On the academic front the Leaving Certificate results for 2022 were received by the sixth-year class of 2022. The delight on their faces at reading their results and realising that they were assured of an opportunity to move on to the next phase in their education after two very difficult years was wonderful to see. Well done to their teachers in preparing them so well for the exams.

Our school musical "Grease" this year was opened up for participation to all students across the school. Without having had a musical for the last two years uptake was slow initially however once the leads auditioned and showed the leadership required others soon followed their lead and volunteered to get involved. We were treated to a wonderful show full of energy, talent, fun and enjoyment. A huge well done to all the cast and to Ms. O'Gorman for coordinating for the Abbey. Well done all you can be very proud of what you have achieved.

The driving track has been relayed and tared and chipped. It looks absolutely fabulous and driving lessons will commence on it for our Transition year students after Christmas.

The Science laboratory refurbishment has been completed and students and staff are enjoying working in

their bright, clean and purposeful environment. Well done to the Science Department on this initiative.

Our Woodwork department also saw the arrival of the school's first laser cutter and 3-D Printer at a cost of €24,000. These will be a super asset to students as they prepare for projects at Senior Cycle and complete their CBA's in Applied Wood Technology, Applied Technology and Construction Studies.

A great deal has been achieved since August and we have much to look forward to in 2023. Our Astroturf pitch has gone to tender, and we have begun the refurbishment of our Computer Rooms. The River Arra Walk is nearing completion and will open for the Christmas. The school can be very proud of its contribution to this project, and it will enhance the environment of the school for many years to come.

On the sporting front dozens of games have been played across all sports and the new year will see our Senior Footballers continue their journey. Well done to all who trained at all hours of the day, played and trained and most importantly of all, wore and continue to wear the Abbey colours with pride.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our pupils, staff and their families a happy and peaceful Christmas. Enjoy the holiday season and we look forward to the new year and all it will bring in 2023.

John Kiely

Principal



Newly relayed driving track

School Staff

This year we welcome back Ms. Áine O'Mahoney and Ms. Irene Ryan. We welcome to The Abbey new staff members Mr. Mike Heffernan and Ms. Abbey Storan. We are also delighted to be joined by past pupil Adam Dunne who is on teaching practice with us for the year.

Student Council

The student council and leadership team is a representative structure for all the students in the school. It is a very important role in augmenting the voice of the whole student body through the respective class leaders. Each class group has at least one student representative elected. Mr. Conor Hayes and Ms. Niamh McCarthy are the link teachers for 2022-2023.

Congratulations to the following students who were elected to our student council at the start of the term:

First Year: James Gleeson, Jamie Cotter, Colm O'Shea, Jack Hogan, Seán O'Gorman and Oisín Pearl .

Transition Year: David Kingston, Sean O'Mahoney and Shane O'Brien



First Year Student Leaders

School Captain and Vice Captain 2022-2023

Congratulations to Colm Power and Eoin Doocey who have been elected to the positions of Captain and Vice-Captain for 2022-2023. A selection process which involved nominations from students, staff and an interview took place to determine suitability. Colm and Eoin are both very committed to promoting all aspects of school life. We wish them well in their new roles.



Eoin Doocey (Vice-Captain) and Colm Power (Captain)

Board of Management

Chairperson: Dominic Hayes

Secretary: John Kiely (Principal)

Trustee Representatives: Mairead Richardson, Siobhan Cleary and Brian Devlin

Parent Representatives: Liza Gleeson and Paddy Delaney

Teacher Representatives: Ms. Irene Ryan and Mr. Conor Hayes

Parents Council

Chairperson: Carolann O'Neill

Secretary: Geraldine English

Treasurer: Christine Marnane

Abbey Farewell Function

On Friday 18th November a retirement and farewell function was held in Aherlow House Hotel to acknowledge the contributions made by a number of staff members who had recently retired or moved to pastures new.

Those who retired included Mr. John O'Dwyer, a Science and Chemistry Teacher in the Abbey since 1990 and Mrs. Bernie O'Dwyer, a school secretary in the Abbey since 1997. The Abbey also bid farewell to Ms. Marian Keating, a Science and Biology teacher since 2014 who has taken up a new position in Knockbeg College and finally Mr. Michael Martin who had given twenty years' service to the school as part of its Parents Council and Board of Management.

Michael Martin – Chairperson of Board of Management

School Principal, John Kiely paid tribute to Michael Martin and his commitment to the school since his sons joined in 2001. Mike joined the school's Parents Council in 2001.

He was appointed Parent's Representative on the Board of Management in 2002 and subsequently a Trustee Nominee in 2010. In 2012 he took on the role of chairperson a position he held until 2021. He was a very skilled chairperson who always had the school's interests first and foremost in his thoughts.

Mike has also been the main sponsor of the school's teams for the last 9 years. We are extremely grateful for Mike's commitment and time and wish him the very best for the years ahead.



Mr. John Kiely, Mr. Michael Martin & Mr. Dominic Hayes

Marian Keating – Science and Biology Teacher

Marilyn O'Connell a colleague of Marian's in the Science Department and who had worked with Marian since 2014 paid tribute to Marian's work since joining the department.

From the very beginning of her time in the Abbey, she immersed herself in her work and in every other aspect of school life. She successfully headed the Science department for seven years, taking great pride in managing the department and leading it through the implementation of the new Junior Cycle programme.

Undoubtedly, one of her most notable and proudest achievements was seeing two of her pupils win first prize in the BT Young Scientist Social Sciences category in the national competition in 2017.

Ms. O'Connell commented that Marion was an amazing and valued colleague over the seven years in the Abbey. They worked so well together, sharing resources, swapping ideas and enjoying many days out on Ecology trips to Fota.

We wish Marian and her family the very best for the future and in particular many years of happiness teaching in Knockbeg College where she has taken off from where she left off in the Abbey.



Ms. Marilyn O'Connell, Ms. Irene Ryan, Ms. Marian Keating and Mr. John Kiely.

Bernie O'Dwyer-School Secretary

Current school secretary Anne Marie Ruby followed up with a tribute to Bernie O'Dwyer who had served as school secretary since 1997. Tribute was paid to Bernie's dedication, commitment and sterling contribution during her time in the office.

Over the years, Bernie took on many responsibilities and was well able to adapt to the everchanging administration of a school. She always handled herself with the utmost professionalism with a smile on her face. Bernie's area of expertise was managing the school tuck shop which she ran with precision making a tidy profit annually. Bernie was always a very welcoming person for anyone new to the Abbey whether that was a student, parent or even a new staff member who may have waited in the office with Bernie before their interview.

Bernie forged wonderful relationships with the students in the Abbey through her interactions at the shop and in the office. She also built excellent relationships with the parents of the boys which is such an important part of being a school secretary.

Bernie made some amazing friendships throughout her time in the Abbey and the highlight of the day was sitting down to a hot cup of coffee to discuss the news of the day with her colleagues. Her warm, easy-going personality meant she was someone all the staff naturally gravitated towards. Bernie's friendships will continue to be a very important part of her life as she continues with the next phase of her life.

We wish Bernie, her husband Michael and son Michael the very best for the future.



Anne Marie Ruby, Bernie O'Dwyer, Kathleen O'Dwyer and John Kiely

John O'Dwyer - Science and Chemistry Teacher

John Joined the Staff on 1st September 1990 having spent a number of years on the oil rigs of the North Sea out of Aberdeen. John joined the Science Department at Junior Cycle and took on the teaching of Chemistry to Leaving Certificate.

John quickly established a reputation for excellent results with his classes with many achieving top grades along the way. He loved his lab work and had a great way at simplifying complex problems and topics. His calm easy disposition lent to an easy relationship with his students that allowed both to excel in the classroom.

John also had a passion for computers and was responsible for buying the first computers to come into the Abbey and quickly after connecting them to the internet around 1996 with the dial up connection. He was instrumental in so many areas that were vital to successful roll out of IT in the classroom, computer rooms, offices and Staffroom.

John was involved with many U15 Football County and Munster, U16.5. Many a Munster final was won, and many fine footballers were put through their paces by John. He had a great eye for a player and appreciated the skills of the game. The same could be said for soccer. John looked after a number of soccer teams during his time in the school right up through the ages. First year soccer in particular and senior soccer with some success along the way including contesting a Munster first year soccer final in recent years and the inaugural John Walsh Tournament.

We wish John a very happy and enjoyable retirement.



Pat Donovan, John O'Dwyer, Noel Kilcoyle and John Kiely

6th Year Trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre

On August 31st our 6th Year students set off on a team building adventure trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre for two days. They also visited Tayto Park in Co. Meath enroute to carry out an Ecology field study. This particular group of students participated in TY during the 2020-2021 school year and never left the county until their final day in May 2021 when they cycled the Waterford Greenway. The trip to Carlingford somewhat compensated for missed opportunities during TY. It also gave the boys an opportunity very early in the current school year to work together outside of the school setting. They returned focused and working hard towards achieving their goals at the end of the year.



Getting ready for ziplining at Carlingford Adventure



6th Year students at Carlingford Adventure Centre



Cú Chulainn time at Tayto Park



Kayaking at Carlingford Adventure Centre



6th Year Ecology Trip at Tayto Park

Leaving Cert Results 2022

On September 2nd, the eagerly awaited Leaving Certificate results were released. We would like to congratulate all of the class of 2022 who had a difficult two final years in school through the pandemic. As always, we have a wide geographic spread to where our students are studying. UL, LIT, Mary Immaculate College, UCC and CIT proved to be the feeder education institutions of choice for the class of 2022. We wish them every success in the next chapter of their lives.



Mr. John Kiely, Principal and Mr. Dan Riall, Year Head with Leaving Certificate students: Jack O'Neill, Diarmuid Kinane, Shane Maher, Paddy Kennedy, Darren Kennedy & Dave Russell



Mr. Pat Donovan, Deputy Principal and Mr. John Kiely Principal with Leaving Certificate students: Oisín Carey, Pauric Wills Duddy, John Hogan, Jack Moylan, Jack Kelly, Cian Lewis, Mark Cuss and Colby Dewick

Junior Certificate Results 2022

Five months after sitting their exams, Junior Certificate students of 2022 finally received their results on 23rd November. These were the first Junior Cycle results since 2019 because of the pandemic and it was the first year in which all the examinations were delivered under the reformed Junior Cycle curriculum. Huge congratulations to all the boys on their results.



Junior Certificate Class 2022

Kyle Cussen, Sean Farrell, Scott Ryan, Darragh O'Hora, Colm Ryan, Faolan Doyle, Adam Ryan & Alan Delaney



Junior Certificate Class 2022

Callum Ryan, Eoin O'Brien, Donnacha Cleary, David Kingston, Luke Waugh & Michael Ryan



Daniel O'Dwyer, Max Crowe & Regan McCarthy

First Year 2022-2023

The Abbey School



The Abbey School



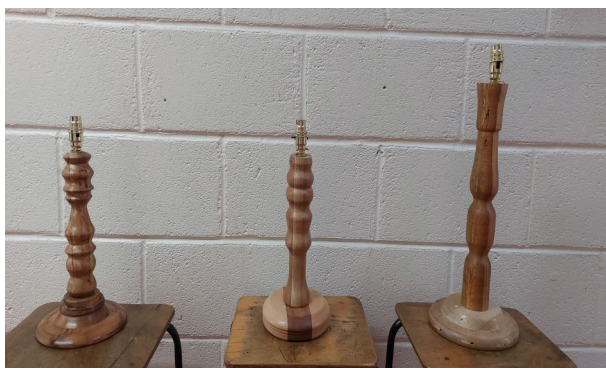
Brother Thomas Horgan Scholarship

Congratulations to Sean Gubbins 6th Year (2021-2022) recipient of The Abbey School Brother Thomas Horgan Scholarship. Sean is now studying Chemical Engineering at the University of Limerick. We wish Sean the very best of luck with his studies and college life. Our scholarship is open to all sixth year students and provides the winning recipient with both financial and mentoring support for all of his third level education. It is awarded following an application and interview process by the scholarship trustees Ms. Áine O'Mahoney, Mr. Conor Hayes and Mr. Michael O'Dwyer. The application process for our current sixth year students was launched on Thursday 1st December during our Careers Fair by previous recipients Daniel O'Dwyer (2021), Darragh Collins (2020) and Denis Moloney (2019). Application forms are available from the scholarship trustees.

Sean Gubbins
Br. Thomas Horgan
Scholarship recipient
2022



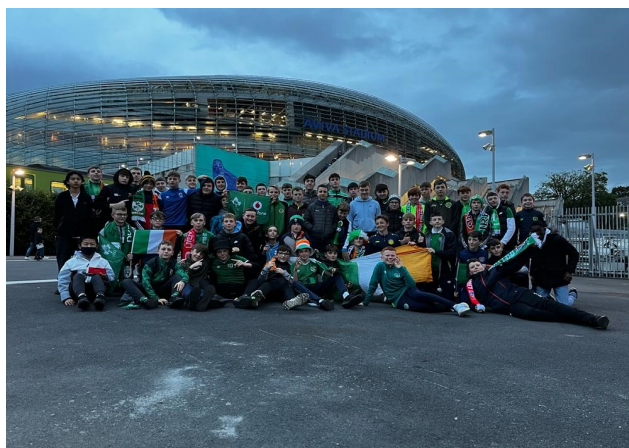
LCA Graphics and Constructions Studies



Projects our Leaving Certificate Applied students are working on in Graphics and Construction Studies

First Year Trip to Aviva Stadium.

First year students went to the Aviva Stadium on Tuesday 27th September to watch the Republic of Ireland play Armenia in their final UEFA Nations League fixture. An injury time goal from Robbie Brady snatched the win for Ireland and the Abbey boys left Dublin with smiles on their faces after experiencing their first of many outings together.



First Years outside The Aviva Stadium

CPR Training

Our Second and Third Years were provided with CPR training as part of the Irish Heart Foundations, "CPR4Schools" initiative. The boys were trained in the basics of compression only CPR, the use of a defibrillator and basic first aid in the event of an emergency. These boys will also now act as facilitators as they will help roll out the programme to our first year students.



"CPR4Schools" with 2nd and 3rd Year Students

Transition Year September 2022-December 2022

TY Surfing Lahinch

On Wednesday September 28th, TY students headed to the west coast in Lahinch, Co.Clare, where they had a day of surfing. A very enjoyable day was had by all.



LawEd Workshop

On Thursday October 6th and Friday October 7th our TY students participated in a Law Education workshop with Kate Fleming of LawED. Impressive debates and opinions were given by both groups during workshops and mock trials. Some topics covered included: Understanding their rights and responsibilities as a young person, understanding the consequences around sending and sharing explicit images and the age of criminal responsibility.



Tys at Law Education Workshop

Galtee Mountain Climb

The guide for the day was Mike Moroney. On the way up Mike allowed a few short breaks at some waypoints for some story telling and water and he encouraged everyone to go at their own pace. The main break was at Lough Curragh. Unfortunately fog and poor weather conditions halted their ascent further up the mountain. However the boys were given the opportunity to take the scenic route down the mountain. The boys enjoyed their first experience of mountaineering and will return up the mountain again in Spring.



TY students with guide Mike Moroney

"Connect Up Top" Workshop

"Connect Up Top" workshop was a four week long workshop that took place for TY students looking into mental health and emotions. Over the course of the workshop, transition years students learned about peer pressure, the brain, anxiety and breathing exercises. Hugh Bourke, facilitator was able to clearly explain the concepts he was teaching and showed how self awareness is.

Cliona's Foundation

On the 7th October, we were delighted to welcome Charlotte Kavanagh to speak with Transition year students about the new School Engagement Programme she is organising with Cliona's Foundation. Cliona's Foundation is an Irish Charity that provides financial assistance to families with critically and terminally ill children. We look forward to with Charlotte and her team in the coming future.

Young Social Innovators – ‘For Goodness Sake, Don’t Vape!’

Transition Year Pupils have chosen the theme for their Young Social Innovators Project this year which will focus on raising awareness about the negative impact of Vaping on our health through creating an education program which can be rolled out to schools.

The group started by researching and learning as much as possible about the negative health effects of Vaping and its impact on the Environment. We learned how to dissect a lung with Ms. McCarthy and discussed the potential effect of vaping on the lung tissue as well as the effects of these chemicals on the developing brain. In class with Mr. Sweeney we have been reflecting on the environmental damage disposable vapes create with single use plastic and disposable lithium batteries.



TY YSI students Thomas O'Donnell, David Kingston and Luke Waugh dissecting lungs in Ms. McCarty's

We learned from our visiting speaker Mr. John Leahy (HSE Drug Education Officer) about the short & long-term effects of vaping on our bodies and discussed the challenges of peer pressure. Students also decided to create a giant model vape in art class that they can use as part of their campaign, and when on stage presenting the project at the annual Speak-out Event in March.



TY YSI students with Mr. John Leahy (HSE Drug Education Officer)

We were also lucky enough to receive a visit from third year TUS Animation Students Aran & Oliwia, who kindly hosted an Introduction to Animation Workshop. They spoke to students about the History of Animation and the Production Process. Pupils generated their own mood-boards and characters to show the Animators. Students are currently writing the scripts (which will be recorded in a professional studio by students) to accompany their very own Awareness Campaign Animation which will be rolled out to schools in the new year. We want to thank Anne Bradshaw (HSE Disability Services) for facilitating this opportunity for our students.



3rd Year TUS Animation Students Oliwia and Aran with our TY YSI team

Transition Year Trip to the historical Rhineland and Cologne region of Germany

The TY trip to Germany was an amazing and unique experience, beginning with an early bus ride to Dublin. We checked in immediately and took off just after 7:00. We arrived in Frankfurt at 10:00am local time and were greeted by our bus driver. We had an exceptionally scenic bus drive to Cochem where the hairpin bends reminded us of Aherlow and then visited Cochem Castle for a guided tour.



Rhineland

Cochem Castle or Reichsburg, which means imperial castle, is located at River Moselle. The medieval castle towers over the Moselle River valley and is one of the most picture perfect of all the castles in Germany. We spent two nights at our hotel in Boppard.



TY students at Cochem Castle

We did a cruise on the river Rhine, where the guide regaled us with tales of unrequited love among the German gentry. One of our favourite activities was Cochem Wave Pool where we went on waterslides and enjoyed the artificial waves for two hours.



Day 3 was our visit to Phantiasland, Europe's largest rollercoaster park. The rides were intense and exciting and as a group, we had great fun all day. We then departed for Cologne where we spent our final night in a city centre hostel.



Phantiasland

We woke up excited for our final day. Shortly after our breakfast, we walked along the banks of the Rhine to the Lindt Chocolate Museum for a tour. In the afternoon we visited the famous Cologne Cathedral and did some shopping. We departed Frankfurt airport for a late flight back to Ireland.



Lindt Germany Chocolate Museum



Cologne Cathedral

The trip was an unforgettable fun experience, and I know we have all made memories that will last a lifetime. We enjoyed the opportunity to bond as a year group and won't forget this trip for a long time. It was also a great chance for the students that studied German to use their German skills to communicate with the locals.



Agricultural Science Trip

On Thursday October 6th, fifth and sixth year Agricultural Science students visited Solohead Research Farm which is just outside Tipperary Town. The students had a very insightful morning with Teagasc researchers working on the farm.



5th & 6th students at Solohead Research Farm

Christmas Jumper Day

Our annual Christmas Jumper Day was held on Friday 16th December. All students and staff were asked to wear their Christmas jumper or something festive and donate €3. A staff coffee morning also took place during morning break. Well done to everyone who contributed to our fundraiser. Over €600 was raised for our two chosen charities, Cliona's Foundation and SupportingSerena.



The Abbey School and St. Anne's Secondary School Present Grease

This year The Abbey School and St. Anne's Secondary School again collaborated to stage the musical "Grease" at the Excel Theatre in Tipperary Town on the 15th, 16th and 17th of December. These joint productions between the students at both schools have become one of the highlights of the entertainment year in Tipperary, and this year were glad to be back.

A musical about teens in love set in the late 1950's. Its California in 1958 and Greaser Danny Zuko and Australian Sandy are in love. They spend time at the beach, and when they go back to school, what neither of them know is that they both now attend Rydell High School. Danny's the leader of the T-Birds, a group of black leather-jacket wearing greasers, while Sandy hangs out with the Pink Ladies, a group of pink wearing girls led by Rizzo. When they clash at Rydell's first Pep Rally, Danny isn't the same Danny from the beach. They try to be like each other so that they can be together.

Congratulations to all the students for their wonderful performances of all the well-known songs including "Summer Loving", "Greased Lighting" and "Shaking at The High School Hop" and "You're the One that I Want". Also in this show are the songs "Look At Me, I'm Sandra Dee" normal version and reprise, "We Go Together", "Beauty School Drop Out" and "Born To Hand Jive".

Great credit is due to the amazing efforts and help of Paul Norton our producer, Nicole Kennedy our wonderful musical director and Julianne McNamara our amazing choreographer. Many thanks also go to the staff from both schools for their work behind the scenes, the light and sound operators, the back-stage crew and the staff of Tipperary Excel.

Huge congratulations to the students at both schools for their outstanding success.





Maths Week— Mind Maps

First Year students participated in a mind map competition in Maths. They worked on study skills as a visual aid to remember key point from the topic, Sets.



Maths Week Mind map Winners



Science Week 2022

We had a very busy week at The Abbey hosting Science Week 2022. The boys were busy conducting experiments in the lab, competing in quizzes and attending the STEM Career Expo in our own PE Hall with MIC & County Tipperary Chamber.



Regan McCarthy and Max Crowe attending STEM Career Expo



LGBTI+ Awareness 2022

Stand up Awareness week is a time for our school to take a stand against homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. It's an opportunity to take steps to make spaces safe and supportive for LGBTQ+ young people. The week commenced with our pride flag raising ceremony lead by student leaders and Mr. Kiely. Our Transition Years attended a workshop on LGBTQ+ awareness ran by the Tipperary Youth Service. We conclude the week with our annual colour day. Each year group with assigned a colour to wear, to help raise awareness against LGBTQ+ bullying.



Pride Flag Ceremony



Colours Day at The Abbey School

ART NEWS

First Year Art students have been busy making Ceramic Christmas Gnomes this term. This Ceramics Project involves learning about the stages of drying with clay, learning to wedge, compress, slab-roll, create slip, the slip & score technique and understand the firing and glazing processes. This was part of our Trial Blocks for First Year Pupils who were also able to try out a range of different lessons for example drawing, ceramics, paper-machee and graphic design. Well done to all involved!



Arts & Crafts Club

Every Wednesday in The Art Room pupils are invited to participate in a free Lunch-time Art Club, with Ms. King & Ms. Carey. Students have been enjoying creating acrylic paintings on canvas, drawing and carving. For Christmas, students designed Christmas tree decorations with the packaging also designed and handmade by them. They sold their decorations and raised €210 for the Tipperary Community Food Bank. Well done to all students involved and teachers Ms. King and Ms Carey.



Christmas Decorations created by Arts & Craft Club

Manchester Trip

On Wednesday October 19th, 3rd Year students and some students from 5th Year headed off on an adventure packed trip to Manchester. They visited Old Trafford, The National Football Museum and Alton Towers. The highlight of the trip was getting to watch United beat Spurs at Old Trafford



Abbey boys at Old Trafford



Third Year students at National Football Museum

Garda Youth Awards

Congratulations to Micheál O Dwyer and Evan Hawkins, both from our LCA class of 2022 for their fantastic achievement of receiving a Garda Youth Award recently. This is in recognition of their efforts in organising two very successful Tractors Runs for local children in need in Christmas 2020 and Christmas 2021. These boys are role models for all of the other students in our school and community. Micheál is now studying Agriculture at Kildalton Agricultural College and Evan is training to be a Special Needs Assistant at Limerick College of Further Education. We wish them both the very best for the future.



Evan Hawkins and Micheál O' Dwyer receiving their national Garda Youth Award from Chief Superintendent, Derek Smart

Leaving Certificate Applied Fundraiser

Our LCA class recently raised €150 for the Irish Wheelchair Association. They organised a soccer tournament for 1st Year students. This activity was anchored through their General Education Task with Mr. Ryan. Thanks to Mr. Ryan and all of the students for their efforts.



LCA students Conor Ryan, Kevin Stanley and Sean O'Shea presenting representatives of the Irish Wheelchair Association with a cheque for €150

Transition Year Fundraiser

Some of our TY class held a doughnut day at break-time to raise money to help with the running cost of the Christmas lights in Tipperary Town. The boys raised €130 for the campaign "Lighting up Tipp Town"



College Awareness Activities

College Awareness Week ran nationally from November 20th – 27th last. At The Abbey we coordinated a number of activities over a two-year period. It is great to have returned to an era where students can attend in person events and seek out relevant information in a meaningful way after the past two years of disruption.

Firstly, on November 16th and in tandem with Science Week, we hosted the Tipperary Festival of Science STEM Careers Fair in the school PE Hall. This was coordinated with the Tipperary Chamber of Commerce and Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. Students from schools all over the Tipperary area attended. On Monday November 21st many of our senior students attended the recently opened Apprenticeship Centre in Tipperary Town which is managed by Tipperary Education and Training Board. At the centre students got a flavour of all craft type apprenticeships and even got to test out their skills in plastering and dry lining. A plethora of college and university talks from Kildalton Agricultural College, MTU, SETU, UL, UCC and TUS took place throughout the week for senior students. Junior students immersed themselves in college related activities within their class groups.

Our final event took place on Thursday December 01st. Our annual College and Careers Fair was held on site in the PE Hall for the first time since January 2020. It was attended by almost forty companies and colleges with all career sectors represented. Many past students returned to offer their advice to our current students on their respective college courses and career paths to date. We were delighted to welcome students from our neighbouring schools, St. Anne's and St. Ailbe's to the event also. Thanks to all who were involved in the activities that made this campaign the success that it was.



Careers Fair Companies

Laser Cutter and 3D Printer

The Practical Department in The Abbey School have been successful with an application for funding to upgrade the equipment in the workshops. €25000 has been granted for the purchase and installation of a CO2 Laser Cutter and Engraving Machine and a 3D Printer. These new technological advancements will enhance the Teaching and Learning of the students in The Abbey and will allow students to design more creatively as well as see their ideas becoming reality.

Well done to the teachers involved in this application; Ms. Nora Quinn, Mr. Jim Ryan and Mr. Eoin Halligan who also have applied for even more funding to further improve the facilities in the Practical Department of The Abbey School.



Newly installed laser cutter and engraving machine

Science Lab Renovation

Our school laboratory has been under major renovation during the first school term. The room has been sanded, painted and fully equipped and furnished to a high standard. The room was declared open for business for our 2022 Open Night on October 16th. The Science Department are thrilled to be able to deliver more meaningful practical lessons to the boys and develop laboratory skills that many will use in third level education. A sincere thank you to all involved, especially the Parents Council for their very successful fundraiser last Christmas



5th Year Biology Students, Evan Carrie and Cillian Crowe in the refurbished Science Lab during Open Night

Abbey Sports News

Honorary Doctorate

On Tuesday 15th November 2022, our school Principal, Mr. John Kiely was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Limerick. The Chancellor of U.L. Ms. Mary Harney conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters upon him.

Mr. Kiely received this award for his outstanding sporting achievements and for being one of the greatest sporting leaders of our time, multiple All-Ireland winning Limerick hurling manager.

John began his illustrious management career with Limerick in 2009. Following a resounding defeat at the hands of Tipperary in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling semi-final that year, he made an offer to the Limerick County Board to help out at any level and quickly progressed to managing the Limerick intermediate team. In 2010, he became an U21 selector and was part of the management team that guided Limerick to a Munster Championship. After becoming manager of the U21 team in 2014, he led the team to victory in both the Munster and All-Ireland finals in 2015.

It is undoubtedly his achievements in the role of manager of the Limerick Senior Hurling Team that have made John Kiely a household name and Limerick the envy of many counties. John became manager of the Senior Team in September 2016 and by the end of his second season in charge, the team won the 2018 All-Ireland Championship after a wait of 45 years. In March 2019 under John's stewardship, Limerick became National League Champions for the first time since 2005. Following victory in the Munster Championship later that year, the team lost out to Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final by the narrowest of margins. Many commentators saw this as a seminal moment for the team and for John's managements skills. Were they going to rest on past glories or press for more? With All-Ireland wins in 2020, 2021 and 2022, it is fair to say the answer to that question was a resounding "no". On July 17th, 2022, captain Declan Hannon climbed the hallowed steps of the Hogan Stand in Croke Park to accept the Liam McCarthy cup for Limerick for the third time in a row and for the fourth time in five years.

The incredible achievements of Limerick hurling under John Kiely's management are celebrated and acclaimed by even Limerick's greatest rivals. While it is difficult to accredit Limerick's success to a finite num-

ber of factors, one that must take precedence is John's management style. In the words of JP McManus, the county's main sponsor "John is the ultimate team leader. Key to his success is that he includes and values everyone, thus you have a united and cohesive unit. He is respected by all because he respects all. He is a special man who leads by example from the front." One of John's key strengths is his ability to build a strong community within the management structure; he recruits highly competent people and acknowledges everyone's contribution – from the players and coaches to strength and conditioning, medical, nutrition, psychology, performance analysis and logistics personnel. As manager, John is responsible for ensuring that all members of the community play their part, and he does so by creating an environment where everyone can flourish within their respective roles. He has an uncanny ability to create a positive mood in the huddle before training begins. For players and coaches to actually enjoy sessions in rain, hail, sleet, and occasional sub-zero temperatures out in Rathkeale in the depths of winter, the manager must be doing something right.

All at The Abbey school congratulate John on his success and wish him all the best for the year ahead.



Abbey School Arravale Rovers GAA & Ladies Gaelic Football Club Golf Classic

Tipperary Golf Club played host on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th of September to fifty teams who participated in the second such golf classic to be held in the last two years as part of the groups fundraising drive towards the building of a Flood Lit AstroTurf pitch on the Abbey grounds on Station Road.

The weather was perfect for golf on both days with the immaculately manicured course looking spectacular in the Autumn sunshine. The teams were buoyed by the weather and the challenge of the course to put on a scoring frenzy over the two days.

The winners, Mr. Jerry Morrissey and his team came in with a fantastic score of 118 points to claim the top prize of an overnight stay for four including a round of golf at the world-renowned Ashford Castle who's Managing Director Mr. Niall Rochford is a past pupil of the Abbey School. Their sponsorship of the event's first prize is very much appreciated.

In second place, Mr. Denis Ryan and his team put in a valiant effort with a score of 116 points to claim the

Palace Hotel, Prime 74 Restaurant Tipperary, Ballinacourty Restaurant Glen of Aherlow, Bennetts Super-Valu Tipperary, Crosse's Pharmacy Tipperary & Annemarie Doocey.

The event was a tremendous success and a huge thank you must go out to all the committee members for their trojan work in the weeks preceding the event. A particular note of thanks to Andy Lacey who ran the time sheet for the event and without whom the event would not have been the success it was. Well done all.



second prize of an overnight stay for four in the beautiful Pembroke Hotel, Kilkenny, owned by Mr. John Ryan and a round of golf in a nearby course.

Kevin O'Hara's team came in third place on a count back winning four tickets for next year's All Ireland Hurling final sponsored by Limerick and Tipperary county boards. Finally, Tom Finnan's team came in fourth place winning a set of O'Neills Sportswear Jackets.

Other winners on the day included Declan Keaty, Men's Longest Drive, Mary Devlin, Ladies Longest Drive and Joe McGrath, nearest the pin who all won vouchers for the Pro Shop on in Tipperary Golf Club sponsored by John Keaty.

A hugely successful raffle was held on the day and our thanks goes to the many sponsors including, Cashel

THE ABBEY SCHOOL & ARRAVALE ROVERS GAA

GOLF CLASSIC

IN AID OF ASTROTURF DEVELOPMENT FUND

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Tipperary Minor Hurling and Football Achievements 2022

On Thursday October 27th, we were honoured to hold a reception to celebrate the historic achievements of the Tipperary Minor Hurling and Football Teams of 2022 and in particular our students Conor Martin (Hurling), Conall Grogan (Football) and Robbie McGrath (Football), on winning the Munster and All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship as well as the Daryl D'Arcy Cup (Munster Minor Football).

Mr. Hanley, acting as M.C. for the event, also welcomed back past pupils Conor O'Brien and Donal O'Dwyer who were part of the Tipperary Minor Hurling management team as guests on the day. Conall, Robbie and Conor all spoke on the day where they acknowledged how the support of the school, teachers and classmates had on helping them to their success and encouraged the younger students to grasp opportunities that present themselves with both hands.

Conor O'Brien acknowledged the outstanding sporting achievements of the students and praised their teamwork and dedication as well as wishing luck to all the sports teams for the coming year. Finally our Principal Mr. Kiely addressed the packed hall to congratulate the boys on their dedication, determination and commitment and encouraged student in the hall to try emulate the boys wonderful achievement.



Minor Hurling and Football Achievements Celebration

First Year Hurling

Training for our 1st year hurlers began the first week back. Under the expert tutelage of Mr. Riall, Mr.

O'Dwyer and Mr. Heffernan this enthusiastic and energetic group of players have gone from strength to strength over the course of the term. The team's first outing was a visit to Cashel in preparation for the 1st Year County hurling blitz in Dr. Morris Park Thurles, where the Abbey had an impressive victory. Next up was the Blitz, exchanges were fierce and the Abbey boys gave their all in a very difficult group. Then before the mid-term break we played competitive challenge game against Patrician Academy Mallow. On the second day of the blitz we showed great courage and were unlucky not to record a win over a fancied Templemore side, instead the Abbey lads had to settle for a draw. No doubt the future is bright for hurling in the Abbey with this excellent group of young hurlers.



First Year Hurling Panel 2022-2023

First Year Football

Well done to our First Year footballers who competed in an All county football blitz. The blitz took place in Dr Morris Park in Thurles. The Abbey faced Clonmel High School and were narrowly beaten. Both sides showing some great skill. The Abbey beat Cashel Community School in the final of this competition to become county champions.



First Year Football Panel 2022-2023

1st Year Soccer

The Abbey played their first league game of the year against Charleville CBS in a game played at the Abbey school. The Tipperary boys started the game brightly, with Galbally United's Callum Compton scoring his first goal of the season with a nice finish to give the Abbey a 1-0 lead at halftime. The second half began with a chance for the away side but excellent defending from Tomas Ryan O'Connor and Rory Maguire kept the Abbey in the game. This talented Charleville side did however make the breakthrough and levelled the sides at 1-1. The game was end to end and played with great intensity but ultimately they could not be separated on the day. This result meant that the Abbey had to win their next game against St. Fanahans College, Mitchelstown in order to progress to the Knock Out stages of the competition.

In what was a vital game for the Abbey in order to progress to the knockout stages, the Abbey produced a fantastic display to whitewash their Cork opponents. Callum Compton was the star of the day with 5 goals but there was eye catching performances all over the field. Charlie Brazil was immense in defence while Oisin Pearl marshalled the centre of the pitch really well and drove the Abbey forward. Luke Webster worked tirelessly in defence and attack and other Abbey goal scorers included Christian Flanagan, Cillian O'Dea and Alex Crowe. Final score , The Abbey School 8, St Fanahans College, Mitchelstown 0. This win means that the Abbey have now progressed to the knockout stages of this competition after Christmas where we wish them the very best of luck



First Year Soccer 2022-2023

County U15 A Hurling Quarter Final

Our Lady's Templemore 5-14 The Abbey School 3-10

On Thursday 10th November the Abbey began their U15 County campaign against Our Ladys Templemore in Seán Tracey Park. The Abbey started the stronger and were competitive at the start of the game with midfield getting on top. However halfway through the first half Templemore got two quick fire goals. This killed the momentum that Abbey had been building. The Abbey continued to battle and fight up to half time but a goal from Templemore just before half time left the Abbey 9 points down at half-time.

Abbey started the second half strong and put in a much better performance in the second half, but overall Templemore were the stronger team. Notable performers on the day were Evan Slattery, Morgan O Connor, Cathal Martin, Cathal O'Mara, Jaye Cilvinas and Oisin Pearl when introduced in the second half. The Abbey can take a lot of positives out of their spirited performance going into the Munster championship against Cashel on Wednesday 18th January.

Team, 1. Seán Kinane 2. Pádraic O'Brien 3. Eoghan Ryan 4. Darragh Bresnan 5. Jack Ryan 6. Sean Cleary 7. Evan Slattery 8. Ciarán Downey, 9. Morgan O Connor 10. Eoin O Connell 11. Donnacha Quigley 12. Cathal Martin 13. Conor Mc Carthy, 14. Cathal O'Mara, 15. Jaye Cilvinas.

Subs, 16. James O Dwyer, 17. Pat O Connor, 18. Darragh Hayes, 19. Johnathan Ryan, 20. Conor Murnane, 21. Sean Fitzgerald, 22. Mark Ryan, 23. Oisin Pearl, 24. Declan Cotter, 25. Aaron Brazil, 26. Anthony Murphy, 27. Joe Cotter, 28. Donnacha O'Shea, 29. Stephen Gleeson, 30. Jamie Renehan.

U15 Rugby

Our U15 rugby team have had two enjoyable days of rugby playing in the East Muster blitz. These blitz days will continue in the New Year, with a final day scheduled for Thomond Park. The boys will also kick off their Cleary Cup campaign with their first match away to Villers in early February.



U15 Rugby Panel 2022-2023

U15 Football

The Abbey began their campaign with excellent challenge game victories against Castletroy College and Mitchelstown CBS. This prepared the team for the opening round of the Munster Championship against Boherbue CS.

Munster Championship 1st Round

Abbey CBS 1.07, Boherbue CS 1.1.

The Abbey CBS were unlucky to be defeated by a talented Boherbue CS side in a game played in Boherbue in the 1st round of the Munster U15 championship. It was a game that was tit for tat right up to the last quarter when a late Abbey surge almost saw the west Tipperary side take the spoils. Boherbue were first out of the blocks and raced into a 1.05 to 0.01 lead. This may indeed have been greater only for a fine performance from Cathal Martin at centre back. The Abbey roared back into contention after the break with Eoin O'Connell, Cathal O'Mara and Charlie Crowe excelling. The Abbey were spirited until the death, but sufficient Boherbue damage had already been inflicted. On the day we were best served by Cathal Martin, Cathal O'Meara and Dylan Guerin.

While our Munster campaign ended we do have a County Quarter Final to look forward to after Christmas.

U16.5 Hurling

The Abbey were drawn against Rochestown in the first round of the u16.5 hurling. The Abbey prepared well under the guidance of Mr. Ryan and Mr. Hickey. With numerous training sessions and games against Castletroy, Cashel and our senior team they were well prepared. Rochestown was a tough draw away on their home field in Cork. The Abbey started well and were in the game at halftime. Rochestown started the second half well and built up a lead. The Abbey then threw everything at Rochestown. They came right back into the game and hit the post twice for goal chances. The Abbey came up short in the end. Tipperary minors had a selector at the game and a number of Abbey lads have since been called in which is great for the boys themselves, their clubs and the school moving forward.

Senior Rugby

The Abbey were drawn against Nenagh in the first round of the O'Brien Cup. They received a walkover and went on to face Ennis CS in the next round. They had to travel to Ennis to face a very young energetic side. The Abbey proved far too strong on the day. Winning well. They now face St Annes Kilaloe after Christmas at home in the next round. After winning the O'Gorman cup last year we hope they can go on and win the O'Brien Cup.

Senior Hurling

The Abbey were drawn in a group with Charleville CBS and Carrick CBS in the Tom Collum Cup Munster PPS Senior B hurling competition. After numerous training sessions with Mr. Hanley, Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Hickey and a number of challenge games against Castletroy College, Kilfinane, and Castlecomer the Abbey were ready for Championship. The first game saw the Abbey face Charleville in Galbally. Charleville had been in the final of the same competition last year and were always going to be a tough opposition. The Abbey started well and took the lead. Charleville showed their class and lead at halftime. The Abbey worked hard in the second half but were not strong enough on the day and Charleville ran out eventual winners. The Abbey went to Golden the second day knowing a win and they qualify, a loss and they were out. Carrick had a strong side with many county players involved in their panel. Carrick proved too strong for the Abbey on the day and the Abbey bowed out of senior hurling for 2022. Some good did come out of the games with the Tipperary U20s and minor selectors attending our games and a number of our players getting called in to county panels. This is a good omen for future senior teams in the school.

Senior Soccer

Senior Soccer has grown from strength to strength in recent years. With the introduction of the TSDL Schools Cup we have developed soccer in the senior side of the school to a point that we entered a side in Munster Competition for the first time.

1st Round The Abbey School 6 Thurles CBS 2

The Abbey claimed a fantastic win in the opening round of the Munster Senior Schools Cup against local rivals Thurles CBS. In a game played in almost perfect conditions the experienced Abbey side dominated proceeding and bossed the tempo of the game through-

-out the first half. They claimed an early lead through Daniel O'Dwyer and by the time half time had come had extended this to 4-0 with goals from Cian O'Dwyer and Conal Grogan. Thurles came back into the game after with 2 goals of their own but this only served to wake the Abbey up as they score two more goals to claim a comprehensive victory and move on to the second round of the competition

2nd Round The Abbey School 4 Rockwell College 2

The Abbey successfully advanced to the open draw section of the Munster Senior Cup after a great victory over Rockwell College. While the score line may suggest a comfortable victory it was far from it for the Abbey who had to dig deep to claim the win. In similar fashion to their opening day win over Thurles the boys in green dominated the early exchanges and claimed an early lead through Conall Grogan and went in at the break to the good 2 the good after Daniel O'Dwyer doubled their advantage. Worryingly the Abbey went out of the game on the resumption and an early Rockwell goal had them right back in the tie. The Abbey finished the stronger and the game was put to bed when Conall Grogan and Shane O'Grady scored to re-establish the Abbey men's two goal lead. The win now means the Abbey have qualified for the last 16 of the Munster Senior Schools Cup and they will be hoping for a favourable draw after Christmas



Senior Soccer Panel 2022-2023

U16 & U19 Basketball

The Abbey's U16 Basketball team has built upon their strong performance from last year. In the group stages, they played against Doon and St Ailbes, beating St. Ailbes in a score line of 53-32. With both wins in the group's stages, they topped their group and progressed

on to the Semi-Finals, where they faced and narrowly beat Scoil Pol 22-18. This win qualified them for the Finals against Askeaton after the Christmas break. U16 players such as David Ryan, David Simaitas, Bartosz Wawarczyk, Jaye Cilvinas, Mark Flanagan, Darragh Bresnan and Jack Garrett had particularly excellent performances in these matches. Their strong teamwork and individual skills were key factors in the team's success. The school and the wider community are looking forward to seeing how the team performs in the upcoming Final against Askeaton.

In addition to the U16 team's success, The Abbey's U19 team also performed well in their recent group stage matches. They beat Doon in their first match, but unfortunately lost against St Ailbes in their final group stage match. However, they were still able to qualify for the Quarter-Finals, where they faced and beat Scoil Pol. In the Semi-Finals, they went up against a well-matched team in Askeaton and ultimately lost by a small margin. Razvan Cojocar, Daniel Faclea, Evan Carrie, Denis Saveljevs, Oisin Hogan and Nedas Petkus had standout performances in these matches for the U19's. Despite the loss in the semi-finals, the team demonstrated their skill and determination throughout the tournament.



U16 Basketball Panel 2022-2023



U19 Basketball Panels 2022-2023

Senior Football

Abbey Senior Football 2022/23

Munster Senior Colleges Football Denis Noonan Cup.

Our Senior team this year began their preparations for the Munster championship in the second week of September. The Abbey trained hard for the first round and they also played challenge matches against St Flannan's of Ennis and St Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish Point. Excellent performances in these games coupled with our run to the All-Ireland Semi-final in last year's campaign gave the Abbey great confidence looking forward to their first round clash with Mount St Michael, Rosscarbery who would be looking for revenge on the Abbey after the Tipperary Town side inflicted defeat upon them in last year's provincial decider.

Munster Senior Colleges Football, 1stRound, Pairc Ui Chaoimh.

Abbey 1.18 Mount St Michael, Rosscarbery, 1.08

The Abbey faced Mount St. Michael, Rosscarbery in the Quarter Final of the Denis Noonan cup played in Pairc Ui Chaoimh Astroturf. The Abbey played against a strong breeze in the first half and also had to deal with the mass blanket defence that the west Cork side deployed. The Abbey were calm on the ball and played intelligent football and early points from Orrin Jones and Stephen Dee set the Abbey on their way. The Cork men looked to get back into the game but the Abbey were dominating the middle third. However despite this MSM's blanket defence and the strength of the breeze in their favour allowed them to pick off points from distance and at the half time interval they were within touching distance of the Tipp side. In the third quarter the Abbey continued to dictate the place of play without displaying it on the score board. The defence ably led by Darragh O'Brien and Colin O'Grady had the better of their opponent while Galtee Rovers Emmet Bonner put in a particularly eye catching display. In the final quarter the Abbey took complete control. Sean Cannon, Liam Carew and Cian O'Dwyer drove the Abbey forward while Conall Grogan and Joe O'Dwyer were effective in the inside line. The Tipperary side lead by 10points entering the games conclusion and gave the Abbey a lead they would not relinquish. It was an excellent win for the team who showed skill passion and bravery to claim a great win. The win meant that the school progressed to the Munster Quarter Final against Former Corn Ui Mhuri champions DLS

Macroom

Abbey CBS 4-07 OL Templemore 0.07

In a game where the Abbey showed great patience, the Abbeyes ability to score goals saw the Abbey claim a place in this year's McGabhann Cup Semi Final. In the opening half the Abbey squandered numerous scoring chances that would have given the Abbey an excellent foothold in the game. Despite this they dominated the ball with a Joe O'Dwyer goal the highlight of the Tipperary side's first half efforts. In the second half Abbey continued to fight to the very end and got their reward when Galtee Rovers' Conall Grogan raised the green flag that saw the Abbey claim victory and a place in the County Semi Final. The performances of Evan Kennedy, Eoin Doocey and Darragh O'Brien were particularly eye catching and were pivotal in seeing the Abbey to victory.

Munster Senior Colleges Football, Quarter Final, Banteer 4G

Abbey 1.07 DLS Macroom 0.09

In what was a great advertisement for college's Gaelic football the Abbey CBS and DLS Macroom played out a rip roaring game in this Muster quarter final tie played in perfect conditions in the fabulous facilities provided by Banteer GAA. In the opening half the west Tipp men made a great start and played the game at pace and intensity. The opening score from Kirkham's, Orrin Jones, was a thing of beauty following good build up play by Eoin Doocey. The Abbey continued to play the game and only for way ward shooting may have extended their lead even further. On the twenty minute mark the abbey held a 2 point lead, 4pts to 2pts but the Muskerry side trained by Kerry Senior Footballer Shane Ryan claimed the final two scores of the half to level proceedings at the interval

Despite losing the lead the Abbey would have be delighted by the nature of their performance in the opening half. What they would not have been happy with was the pressure they faced in the opening 10 minutes of the second half. Macroom came quickly out of the blocks to claim a 6pts to 5pts lead. The Abbey defence was immense in this period they

worked well as a unit with Sean Lewis and Paddy Downey particularly impressive. A Conall Grogan free on the $\frac{3}{4}$ time mark had the sides' level and it was at this point that the game went into overdrive. The game was going to be wonder on a key moment and that key moment would go to the side in green and white. A move that worked the ball from one wing to the other ended up with Orrin Jones who riffled an unstoppable shot past the DLS keeper. This was quickly followed by a beautiful score from Oola's Paddy Downey to extent the Abbey lead.

In the closing minutes it was all hands on deck to hold out. The Abbey squad was tested and players like Gavin Cussen, Gavin O'Meara and David Ryan made telling contributions when introduced. The final whistle was met by rapturous applause by the Abbey player and the substantial Abbey support who travelled to the game. It was a fantastic win for the Abbey, Robbie McGrath was self-assured in the goal, the full back line defended well and Colin O'Grady put in a man of the match display from centre back. Stephen Dee dominated proceeding in the middle of the field and was ably assisted by Liam Carew. Cian O'Dwyer worked tirelessly for the side while Conall Grogan and Orrin Jones provided a real scoring threat for the Abbey.

They can now look forward to a Munster Semi Final after Christmas they try to become the third Abbey side to win back to back Munster titles at this grade



Senior Football Panel 2022-2023

Past Pupil Success

The School wishes former pupil Paddy Kennedy the very best as he is currently on an indefinite trial with English football league side Tranmere Rovers. Paddy was a multi-talented sportsman in his time in the Abbey, represented the school in a wide array of sports ranging from rugby, golf, GAA and soccer. His talent was recognised last May when he was named as the school's sports star of the year for 2022. We wish Paddy and his family all the best in his future sporting endeavours



Past pupil Paddy Kennedy with Mr. Kieran Hickey accepting his Sports Star of the Year award 2022

Laochra Gael Awards

Everyone in the Abbey School would like to congratulate our former Deputy Principal Tom O' Donoghue on being awarded a Laochra Gael Award from Tipperary GAA. The awards are presented to honour people who have given significant service to the GAA in whatever capacity. His contribution to GAA in our school has been a corner stone to many of our successes. Congratulations to Tom, his family and his club Aravale Rovers on this great award.



The Cyclical nature of Christmas is Reassuring.

Who are we now when we are not using new words that are pandemic steeped and pickled.

It has been every waking minute a pandemic zone and we are sick of it.

Antibody talk and cures that are not cures at all.

Walk three times sideways under your shadow, for this to work align yourself and your shadow.

Do this for two hours and two hours only.

The cyclical nature of Christmas is reassuring.

Life is a wheel of beginnings and endings.

We return to the same old beginning every January.

Christmas vanishes like smoke from a candle, or like snow from a rope.

But the skies make January a refuge, as light stretches ever so delicately towards the shoots of a crocus, the grass beneath the beeches.

I sit by the window as the afternoon fills up with sleeping cats

I sense in the renewal of sunlight that I am forgiven once more and free to begin again.

I realise that soon the sun will rise higher and the spring will arrive without my efforts or anxieties.

I have nothing to worry about.

Begin again to the summoning birds to the sight of the light at the window,
begin to the roar of morning traffic all along Pembroke Road.

Every beginning is a promise born in light and dying in dark
determination and exaltation of springtime flowering the way to work.

Begin to the pageant of queuing girls, the arrogant loneliness of swans in the canal
bridges linking the past and future, old friends passing though with us still.

Begin to the loneliness that cannot end since it perhaps is what makes us begin,
begin to wonder at unknown faces, at crying birds in the sudden rain
at branches stark in the willing sunlight, at seagulls foraging for bread
at couples sharing a sunny secret, alone together while making good.

Though we live in a world that dreams of ending, that always seems about to give in
something that will not acknowledge conclusion
insists that we forever begin.

***We wish all the Parents, Students, Teachers and
Staff of The Abbey a very Happy and Peaceful
Christmas and a Prosperous New Year***