

The Abbey School News

May 2023

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- * Principal's Foreword
- * Merit Awards 2023
- * Jarlath Daly
- * Thank you Mr. Donovan
- * BT Young Scientist Winners



Principal's Foreword – Summer 2023

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the Abbey School's Summer 2023 Newsletter. As we come to the end of the 2022-2023 school year it gives us an opportunity to reflect on the year that has been and to acknowledge the many activities and achievements of our students and their teachers.

This school year will be forever remembered for the many tremendous successes enjoyed by our students across many spheres of school life.

Without doubt Liam Carew and Shane O'Connor's success in winning this year's BT Young Scientist competition put The Abbey, Tipperary town as well as the two boys on the national stage for all the right reasons. The support from their peers as they were paraded through the streets of Tipperary on their way back to the school on the Monday morning was a joy to behold. Their win brought the entire school community together in celebration of their great success. We marvelled as they appeared on the Six One news, the 9 o'clock news, The Late Late Show, Morning Ireland and nearly every radio station and newspaper in the country. It was a marvellous achievement for them and their teachers, Ms. Eavan Ryan and Ms. Niamh McCarthy and Mr. Conor Hayes who supported them on their journey. You will read a more comprehensive piece on this later.

Of course, there was much more happening right across the school for all class groups. We welcomed our new first years to the Abbey in September, and they settled in fantastically well during the year. New friendships have begun, and new interests found. They went to the Aviva Stadium to support the Irish Soccer Team and witnessed a great win. They represented the school in many sports and wrapped up their year with a trip to Ballyhass Mallow.

Our Transition year students enjoyed an amazing year of activities and studies. They have learned many new skills in computing, first aid, driving lessons, GAA Youth leadership, Gaisce Awards, Young Social innovators, enterprise, and much more. They learned to waltz, jive and set dance. They learned to sing and

dance at the one time in our musical "Grease" which was a great success after a three-year break. They travelled to Germany on their school tour and spent a week in Carlingford to wrap up the year. The year was capped off with a wonderful TY Graduation in our hall where we were all reminded of the value and content of Transition Year. What a year they had and what a group they were.

Our Sixth years are studying hard in the run up to their Leaving Certificate examinations next week. They began their year with a team building exercise in Carlingford which clearly was a great success and achieved a togetherness in the group that only flourished throughout the year. They have been a tremendous group of young men. They have led by example all year up to and including a very special Graduation evening filled with music, song, poetry, fun and very clearly a great sense of unity and pride for their time in the Abbey. We wish them the very best in their examinations and their future lives.

The last week has seen many tributes to our Deputy Principal Mr. Pat Donovan marking his retirement from the Abbey after thirty-seven years. Mr. Donovan was a member of the English Department over the years and has headed up our Special Education Department for over two decades now. He has been a great support to all of our students over the years helping them to access supports around their examinations and also support for their learning in the classroom. He has been a constant support to our staff and to me as principal throughout this time. We have terrific memories of his time here in the school and will miss him fondly. We wish him a long and healthy retirement with his family and congratulate him on a job really well done.



Of course, sport is a major part of school life for our students. This year has seen our students represent the school with distinction across all codes and at all levels. Many successes were achieved in basketball, rugby, soccer, hurling and Gaelic football to name a few. In particular we congratulate our Senior Footballers who won yet another Munster Senior Football title and narrowly lost out in this year's All Ireland final. A great journey was enjoyed by all the school. Our fabulous supporters created a wonderful atmosphere at the games and great memories were created on the many bus journeys along the way. We will never forget the All-Ireland semi-final penalty shootout. What a way to win a game. Well done to every player who put on the Abbey jersey this year. We are very proud of your achievements. My thanks to the many teachers who train these teams and nurture their talent in doing so. Seeing so many boys go on to represent the county is a mark of the talent in the school.

Nothing would happen in the school without the involvement, leadership and trojan work of our teaching staff, SNA's and support staff. Every day I marvel at the commitment, dedication, creativity, tenacity, passion and collegiality of those who work in the school and who care for our students on a daily basis. I want to wish them all a very enjoyable and restful summer break when it arrives. Well done on a great year's work yet again.

The landscape of the school has seen many changes in the last twelve months. The completion of the river Arra Walkway in recent weeks has been wonderful. To see so many members of the public and students using this facility is a testament to the need for public amenities in the town. The Abbey school community can be very proud of the part it paid in providing the land for the walkway.

Alongside that we have had the development of our Astroturf pitch for the last three years. We are delighted that we are now on the home straight with this project. Recent weeks have seen huge progress

on the pitch. It is hoped that it will be completed by the end of July and ready for use in September on our return to school. Our thanks to Arravale Rovers GAA Club, Arravale Rovers Ladies Gaelic Football club for their support for the project. Huge thanks to past pupil Frank Cussen for his assistance on the project. We would have been lost without him.

Finally, as you know I am stepping down as principal after ten years in the job. It has been a great pleasure and honour to lead the Abbey School community during that time. Together we faced many challenges and achieved many successes. The last ten years has seen much change across the education system and in our school. We have done extremely well to keep pace with that change and to forge ahead with improvements across the school in all areas. No doubt the next ten years will bring many more challenges and I am sure that the school will respond to those challenges with great enthusiasm, energy and determination. I want to thank the Board of Management, staff, parents and especially the students for their support throughout my time as principal. It has been my pleasure.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable, fun filled and restful summer ahead. Stay safe and enjoy this year's Newsletter.

Best wishes,

John Kiely



Leaving Certificate Graduation Night

The Abbey School community gathered together on Tuesday 23rd May to celebrate the 6th Year class of 2022/2023 and wish them all the best for their upcoming Leaving Certificate exams.

It was a night of celebration, with speeches from our student captain Colm Power and vice captain Eoin Doocey, each paying tribute to the hard work and dedication of the staff in the Abbey. Music and song from various groups and individuals also provided a lovely atmosphere to the occasion.



Leaving Certificate Class 2022/2023

Brother Thomas Horgan Academic Scholarship

We are pleased to congratulate Oran Kelly on being awarded the Brother Thomas Horgan Academic Scholarship for 2023. This prestigious scholarship honours a deserving student each year by providing not only financial assistance, but also guidance and mentoring to help them succeed in their academic goals.

This year's selection for the scholarship was competitive. We are grateful to our trustees Mr. Conor Hayes, Ms. Aine O'Mahoney, and Mr. Michael O'Dwyer for their work in evaluating the applications and selecting a worthy recipient.



Ms. Aine O'Mahoney, Mr. Conor Hayes, Oran Kelly and Mr. Michael O'Dwyer

Second Year Woodwork Projects

Second Year laminating and bowl turning projects. Our new laser cutter was used to engrave the club crests to a high standard.



Merit Award Winners 2023

The annual Merit Awards is one of the most special and prestigious occasions of the year, a time to acknowledge not only academic excellence, but also the achievements of those who are entrepreneurs, performers, leaders and all-rounders. We would like to thank staff and students for participating in the selection and voting process. Congratulations and well done to all of this year's worthy winners

Extra -Curricular Achievements

Liam Carew

Courage and Resilience in Adversity

Eoghan Byrnes, Luke O'Keffee and Aaron Hawkins

Academic Excellence in Junior Certificate, Class of 2022

Joseph Howard

Academic Excellence in Leaving Certificate, Class of 2022

James Daniels

The Edmund Rice Awards

First Year	Christian Flanagan
Second Year	Dylan Greene
Third Year	Mark Flanagan
Transition Year	Daniel O'Dwyer
Fifth Year	Robbie McGrath
LCA 1	Conor Ryan
Sixth Year	Conor Martin & Oran Kelly

2023 Academic Excellence Awards

First Year	Seán O'Gorman
Second Year	Jonathan Ryan
Third Year	Conor O'Donoghue
5th Year	Cillían Crowe
L.C.A 1	Sebastian Zaczekiewicz
Sixth Year	Shane O'Connor

Transition Year Students of the Year

TY1	David Kingston
TY2	Joseph Howard
TY3	Shane O'Brien



Merit Award Winners 2023



Edmund Rice Award Winners 2023 with our EREBB Delegates



Mr. Pat Donovan (Deputy Principal) with Ms. Carolann O'Neill (Parents Council Chairperson) at our recent Merit Awards ceremony. Carolann made a presentation to Mr. Donovan on behalf of the Parents Council for his upcoming retirement.

Jarlath Daly

On Monday 20th February 2023, we were delighted to welcome past pupil and Bronze Sculptor Jarlath Daly who gave a talk about his work to Art students from The Abbey School and St. Anne's School. Pupils were treated to a talk and a slideshow of his work as Jarlath explained the source of inspiration for much of his pieces. His sculptures he says, 'reflect public attitudes, local themes and legends, sport and of course history at both the local and the epic.' He is also greatly inspired by nature & his childhood memories growing up in Tipperary. Jarlath's work ranges in scale from 10 inches to 30 feet and includes both small scale pieces and larger public commissions.

He made a generous presentation of a bespoke Bronze Sculpture entitled 'Sean Treacy' to the school. Sean Treacy was one of the leaders of the Third Tipperary Brigade of The Irish Republican Army during the War of Independence. With Dan Breen and others, he initiated the conflict with an ambush at Soloheadbeg, Co Tipperary. Treacy was shot in Talbot St. Dublin on the 14th of October 1920, aged 25 years old. Jarlath is inspired by history and war and tries to capture feelings of liberation in his work. We were honoured to receive this piece and it will take pride of place in our school. We want to thank Jarlath for so generously offering his time to speak with our Art students and inspire future generations of artists.



Bronze Sculpture 'Sean Treacy'



Ms. Jolene Carry(Art Teacher, The Abbey School), John Kiely (Principal) , Jarlath Daly , Ms. Mairead Hayes (Art Teacher, St. Annes School) and Dominic Hayes(Chairperson of Board of Management, The Abbey School)



Jarlath Daly with Art students from The Abbey & St . Annes along with Art teachers , Ms. Jolene Carey (The Abbey School) & Ms. Mairead Hayes (St. Annes)



John Kiely, Jarlath Daly and Dominic Hayes

Agricultural Science Award 2023

Congratulations to Eoin Marnane (6th Year 2021-2022) recipient of this year's Agricultural Science Award sponsored by Tipperary CO-OP for achieving the highest mark in the Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science exam. We wish Eoin the very best with his college life. Thanks to John Daly, CEO Tipperary Co-op and Willie Ryan, Chairperson of Tipperary Co-op for making the presentation and for their continued support.



Michael O'Dwyer (Agriculture Science Teacher), John Daly (CEO, Tipperary Co-op), Pat Donovan (Deputy Principal), Eoin Marnane, Willie Ryan (Chairperson Tipperary Co-op), Christine Marnane, Conor Marnane and Michael Marnane

175th Anniversary Tricolour Celebration

On March 6th, all Third Years attended the 175th Anniversary Tricolour Celebration in Waterford. This commemoration marked the life and legacy of Thomas Francis Meagher, an Irish American Patriot who played a pivotal role in Ireland's struggle for independence.



Third Year students at 175th Anniversary Celebrations in Waterford



Patrick O'Connor (Third Year) collecting the Tricolour on behalf of the Abbey School

Maths Pi Competition

To celebrate International Pi Day on Tuesday 14th March, two third year teams participated in the IMTA Pi Quiz competition hosted by Scoil Pól Kilfinane. Well done to both teams on a great effort shown.



Eoin Ryan, Donna Diggins, Mark Flanagan and Sean Cleary
Team 1 representing The Abbey School



Conor O'Donoghue, Jack O'Keeffe, LJ Roche and Eamon Kelly
Team 2 representing The Abbey School

Thank You Mr. Donovan

At the end of this school year, we will bid farewell to Mr. Pat Donovan, English teacher and Deputy Principal of the Abbey School. It is hard to believe that after 37 years of dedication and commitment to our school community, Mr. Donovan is retiring. But as we all know, retirement is not an end, but rather a new beginning, a new opportunity to pursue new interests and adventures. His impact on our school community goes far beyond his role as a teacher and Deputy Principal. He has been a friend, mentor, and role model to so many, including staff. His warmth, compassion and humour have brought great joy to our halls and his kindness will never be forgotten. Mr. Donovan, as you embark on this new chapter in your life, we have no doubt that you will embrace this new beginning with the same passion and dedication that you brought to the Abbey. On behalf of the entire school community, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your long service and commitment to our students, and your work to make the Abbey a better place. May retirement bring you the same joy, happiness, and fulfilment that you have brought to our lives. We will all miss you.



At our recent Merit award ceremony, Mr. Donovan was presented with a one-of-a-kind piece which was commissioned by the staff and created carefully and secretly over two months by Transition year students and members of the Art club along with Ms. Carey and Ms. Siobhán Levingstone, our artist-in-residence. They chose a circular piece as throughout history and across many cultures, the circle has symbolized continuity and limitless opportunity. The ocean is depicted in the greens and blues of the piece- green being symbolic of springtime, new beginnings and growth and blue representing wisdom, open spaces and freedom. The gold dotted throughout symbolises compassion and generosity, which Mr. Donovan has shown to many of us. Six white ceramic swallows can be seen flying across the ocean, each representing a year group in our school. Swallows are dependable, determined, just like Mr. Donovan but also represent new beginnings and a new season of life. The quote they chose is representative of his new beginnings, as he takes on new adventures in his life. It reads as follows: BEGIN AGAIN TO THE SUMMONING BIRDS, TO THE SIGHT OF THE LIGHT AT THE WINDOW, by Brendan Kenneally. This piece not only embodies Mr. Donovan's appreciation of the creative arts, but it also reflects what he means to us. Thank you, Mr. Donovan, and may you enjoy all the new beginnings and new opportunities that retirement brings.



Mr. Pat Donovan, Ms. Jolene Carey and
Ms. Siobhán Levingstone



Harry Hartigan (Art student), Mr. Pat. Donovan,
Ms. Siobhán Levingston and Ms. Julie King

BT Young Scientist Winners 2023



The Abbey School community could not be more proud of Shane O'Connor and Liam Carew's amazing and historical success at the 2023 BT Young Scientist & Technologists competition where they were the over-all First Prize winners. This prestigious award recognises the exceptional achievements of young scientists and celebrates the innovative and ground-breaking research that Shane and Liam have conducted over the last three years. Their project was titled "Assessing the Impact of Second level education on Key Aspects of Adolescents' Life and Development". Students, staff, past and present all over the world, and the wider Tipperary community were overjoyed to see Liam and Shane presented with their winners trophy in the RDS by Minister for Education Norma Foley TD and managing director of BT Ireland, Shay Walsh.

Monday 16th of January will forever be remembered for the incredible homecoming that was given to Liam and Shane as the school community and wider Tipperary community welcomed home their history making champions. Shane and Liam rode through the streets of Tipperary into the school grounds surrounded by their classmates and friends who were thrilled at the boys' success. Representatives from the boys' primary schools St. Michael's Boys School, The Monastery N.S. and Mount Bruis N.S. along with extended family, neighbours and friends joined in the celebrations in the PE Hall in the Abbey School. Students of The Abbey have achieved many successes throughout the years but this must surely go down as one of their greatest.



BT Winners Homecoming



6th Year students celebrating with Liam and Shane

Shane and Liam's project, conducted over a period of three years, aimed to evaluate the impact of secondary education on the mental, physical, and social well-being of students. The study was based on the premise that secondary education plays a critical role in shaping the lives of young people and helps to lay the foundation for their future. It aimed to shed light on the various aspects of secondary education that have the most profound impact on students and help to identify areas where improvements can be made.

The study was carried out by conducting a survey of students from The Abbey School Tipperary, an all-boys school and numerous other schools of single sex, co-ed, DEIS and the voluntary sector in Ireland. The survey collected data on a range of factors, including students' academic performance, mental health, physical health, and social relationships. The results were then analysed to determine the impact of secondary education on these various aspects of students' lives.

The findings of the study were both insightful and concerning. It was found that secondary school education had a significant impact on students' mental and physical health, as well as their social well-being. One of the key findings coming out of the research was that, whilst inequality is prevalent in DEIS schools, exponential improvements in areas of pastoral care and physical health are quickly closing this gap. To quote directly from the students' research 'Secondary school is a vital social outlet for students, and this can be seen across our interviews, focus groups and in particular our survey.'



The winning project on display during the homecoming

Shane and Liam's success at the 2023 BT Young Scientist Technologists Competition is a testament to their dedication and hard work over the last three years. It is also a reflection of the support provided by the school to the boys by their teachers Ms. Niamh McCarthy, Ms. Eavan Ryan and Mr. Conor Hayes.



Pat Donovan (Deputy Principal), Ms Niamh McCarthy, Liam Carew , Shane O'Connor, Ms. Eavan Ryan & John Kiely

The boys have had a very busy schedule since their win in January. They have addressed a wide variety of institutions and organisations: UCC, Jigsaw, Trinity College, The Dáil, The Education Research Centre, The Department of Education and Tipperary County Council.



Shane and Liam were joined by Tipperary TD Jackie Cahill during their Oireachtas visit.

The next chapter for Shane and Liam is to represent Ireland at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists, which takes place in Brussels in September, and they will also attend the 64th Annual London International Youth Science Forum this summer. We wish the boys the very best as they represent their school, county, and country with their amazing research.

Wellbeing Week 2023

Wellbeing Week took place from Monday 27th February to Friday March 3rd. The school put together a wonderful array of initiatives and projects each day culminating in the unveiling of The Resin Art Sculpture on Friday 3rd March. The week focused on the themes of "Minding My Wellbeing Through Creativity" and "Building Resilience Post-Pandemic".

On Monday, all students and staff participated in a 5km run/walk which included the new River Arra Walkway which runs adjacent to the school. Almost €700 was raised for two chosen charities, Unicef and Cycle Against Suicide through this initiative. Tuesday heralded the visit of John Lonergan (Former Governor of Mountjoy Prison) to the school. John worked with both students and parents in two separate workshops. His presentations were engaging, entertaining and very relevant. Personal safety, resilience, the importance of sleep and drug awareness were some of the topics covered with students, while communication with your children on a range of issues was central to the presentation with parents.



John Lonergan with our TY and Fifth Year students

A plethora of activities took place for various groups throughout the week, 1st Years took part in a quiz which coincided with World Book Day. They were also treated to a French and German breakfast organised by the Modern Languages Department. Second Years engaged with a Yoga retreat while Third Years tested their baking skills and made chocolate biscuit cake. The school Music department held a Trad Music session on Wednesday. All of these activities contributed to the positive wellbeing of the whole school community.



Third Years baking with Ms. Irene Ryan



First Year Quiz Winners: Ciarán Hennessey, Seán O' Gorman, Ayann Ishaq, James Delaney and Oisín Pearl

In keeping with the theme of the week, emphasis was placed on creative careers and apprenticeships. Site visits to Atlantic Aviation Centre in Shannon, Kildalton Agricultural College, Templetuohy Farm Machinery, Buttimer Engineering and the Explore Engineering careers fair took place throughout the week with various groups of senior students attending.



Senior students at Atlantic Aviation Centre

The week then concluded with the unveiling of the The Resin Art Sculpture by Shane O Connor and Liam Carew (BT Young Scientist Winners 2023) with some beautiful speeches from TY Pupils Jamie Byrnes and Daniel O Dwyer and Wellbeing Week coordinator Mr Conor Hayes. The School's Artist In Residence this week was Siobhan Levingstone of Galtee Resin Art. She worked with Transition Year pupils, sharing her knowledge and skills throughout Wellbeing week in the form of a series of practical workshops. The project is kindly funded by the NAPD - Creative Engagement Program, with special thanks to Dermot Carney. The students collaborated to create a large scale Resin Tree Sculpture, with each piece representing a pupil in the school community.



Unveiling of the Resin Art Sculpture by Shane and Liam
(BT Young Scientist Winners 2023)

This beautiful Tree Sculpture complimented the School "Wellbeing Week Theme - Minding My Wellbeing Through The Creative Arts". Students began by learning how to mix and combine the raw materials by carefully measuring quantities and mixing the resin so as to cause a chemical reaction. Next, powders and pigments were mixed and poured onto pre-cut wooden segments. The students were shown how to apply heat using the heat gun and blow torch in order to create cells and unique patterns. Once set, each piece had to be sanded by hand as well as sanding using an electric sander. Finally, each work was oiled and polished, ready for installation. Students and teachers collaborated to help with the installation process in our school Reading Area. Art teacher, Ms Jolene Carey, paid tribute to everyone who took

part in this project, in particular Siobhan Levingstone for all her guidance and support.



Transition Year students working on their Resin Tree
Sculpture

The week was hugely uplifting and positive for the whole school community. Mr Conor Hayes (Wellbeing Coordinator) mentioned in his speech how this year the school looked at the expertise and skills of the whole school community and tapped into these instead of outsourcing external resources for all activities. He stated that "It's amazing when you take stock of what you have and look at the individual skills sets of both staff, students and parents, what can begin to emerge". He paid tribute to Mr. John Kiely, Mr. Pat Donovan, the Wellbeing Team in the school in addition to other students, staff and parents for gave such commitment and time to make



Members of our student leadership team with
Mr. Pat Donovan(Deputy Principal), Siobhan Levingstone,
Ms. Jolene Carey and Mr. Conor Hayes

Biology Trip

On Tuesday May 23rd, our 5th Year Biology students travelled to Fota Wildlife Park for their Biology trip with their teacher Ms. O'Connell and Ms. Josephine O'Heney. Fota Wildlife Park provided the boys with a range of habitats to view and learn about. A great day was had by all.



5th Years in Fota Wildlife Park

Business Studies Awards 2023

Congratulations to TY students Cillian Barlow, Tadhg O'Brien and Adam Ryan who obtained a Distinction in the 2022 Junior Cycle Business exam. Their achievements were recognised at the KBS BSTAI Junior Cycle Business Studies awards at UCH Limerick on Wednesday 8th March.



Cillian Barlow and Tadhg O'Brien collecting their award at UCH Limerick, Missing on the night Adam Ryan

Dermot Bolger Visit

Third year students had the pleasure of a unique visit from acclaimed Irish writer, Dermot Bolger on Thursday May 11th. Widely known as a playwright, novelist and poet, Dermot Bolger has published fourteen novels, seven collections of poetry and seven plays. His work is noted for its honesty and vivid portrayals of Irish life. Dermot spoke with the students in a warm, inviting manner and was generous with his time as many had a lot of questions for Dermot. The students, quite rightly, left with a new appreciation for Dermot's work.



Third Year students with Dermot Bolger

Money Smarts Quiz

On Wednesday April 19th our Business students attended the Money Smarts Quiz, held in the RDS. The quiz aimed at educating students on topics such as financial literacy, budgeting, money management, responsible borrowing and investments.



Money Smarts Quiz

Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders Congress

Our 5th Year student leaders attended the Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders Global Congress at Dublin City University on Wednesday May 17th. An uplifting and engaging day of activities working with students from Edmund Rice schools all over Ireland. It was also great to meet our recent visitors to The Abbey from Australia, South Africa and Zimbabwe again at the Congress.



5th Year student leaders: Cillián Crowe, Peter Comerford, Joe O'Callaghan, Rory McCall and Bill Quirke and Mr. Conor Hayes (Career Guidance Teacher) at the EREBB Congress 2023



Our 5th Year student leaders with the EREBB Delegates



EREBB Delegates

Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders(EREBB) is an international network of Catholic schools educating young people from many different faiths and cultures. In over 20 countries, they endeavour to promote global solidarity and offer a transformational education for justice and liberation. EREBB was inaugurated in May 2014 when leaders representing Edmund Rice Education gathered in Nairobi, Kenya to establish an inclusive international network of Edmund Rice educational communities.

This year, The Abbey School, was lucky enough to be selected to host eight delegates from Zimbabwe, South Africa and Australia. The delegates were treated to a student-led tour of the school by our TY students, a slice of a Jamie Byrnes homemade cake in the staffroom and they were the main guests of honour at our annual Merit Awards. The next day the delegation then took in some of the local tourist attractions, visiting The Rock of Cashel, Holycross Abbey and Coolmore Stud before travelling back to Dublin for a week-long conference. It was a fabulous opportunity to collaborate with principals and executives from other schools around the world. Our thanks to the whole delegation: Peter Ross, Chris Mayes, Craig Neave, Kzito Muhomba, Michael Ronchetti, Valeria Ronchetti, Samuel Mafoko and Steven O'Connor for leaving such a lasting impression on us all.



A cake to welcome the EREBB delegates baked by Jamie Byrnes (Transition Year)

First Year School Tour

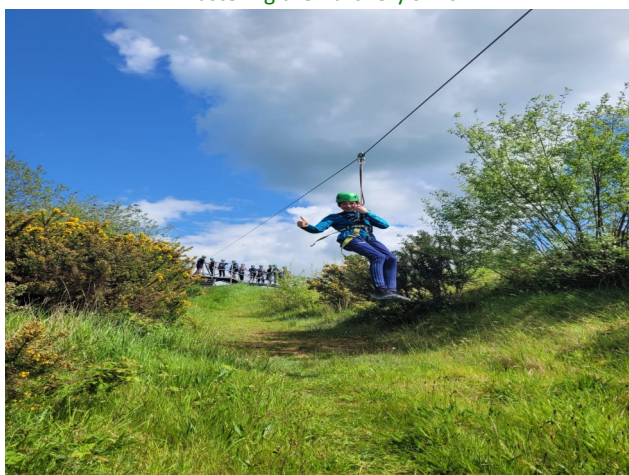
On the 12th of May, our first year students were excited to set off on their school tour to Ballyhass Mallow. There, they spent the day taking part in a range of outdoor activities, such as abseiling, rock-climbing, water sports and archery. Not only was this a chance for the students to have fun, but the activities also enabled them to grow in confidence and develop stronger bonds with their classmates.



1st Years ready for action in Ballyhass, Mallow



Mastering their archery skills



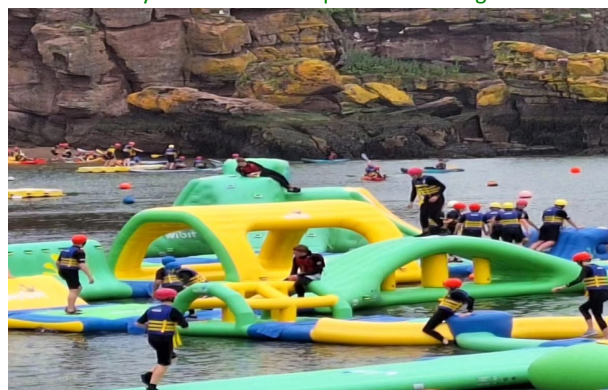
It's a thumbs up for the school tour from Sean O'Gorman

Second Year School Tour

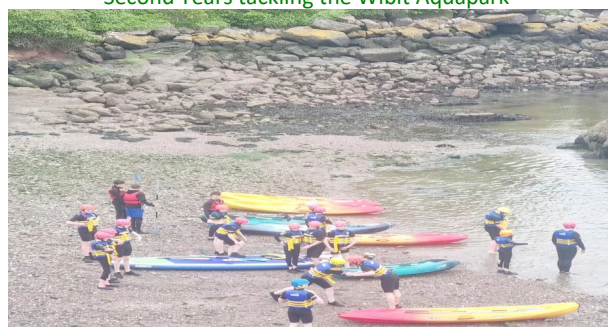
Our second years were in for a treat on May 10th when they arrived at Dunmore East Adventure Centre for a day of jam-packed activities. The centre provides activities for all levels of physical ability within a controlled environment. The students were split into smaller groups to embark on various activities that could include canyoning, kayaking, coasteering, high ropes courses and many more. The students were provided with extensive safety briefings and were accompanied by experienced instructors for all activities. At the end of the day the students had a sense of accomplishment and a newfound connection with their peers through working together during the activities.



Alex Ryan races to the top of the climbing wall



Second Years tackling the Wibit Aquapark



Transition Year January 2023-May 2023

Lions Club Student of the Year Award

Congratulations to Shane O'Brien who was The Abbey School recipient of the Tipperary Town Lions Club Student of the Year Award for 2023, along with his peers Sarah and Ella from St. Anne's Secondary School and St. Ailbe's Secondary School.

Shane is very deserving of this prestigious award. He is a strong leader in every aspect of school life and participates in many extra and co-curricular activities. He is a member of our student leadership team. He has worked on many awareness and fundraising campaigns we lead in the Abbey and models our Edmund Rice school ethos and values in everything he does.

Outside of school he is very involved in his local community of Lattin-Cullen through sporting and social organisations and is always willing to step up and lend a hand when needed.

Shane was joined on the evening by his parents Anne and Denis and teachers, Conor Hayes and Nora Quinn. A special word of thanks to Conor and Nora who both work hard supporting the Lions Club in our school. Thank you to Eddie Fitzgerald (President) of Tipperary Town Lions Club and his team for the warm welcome on the night, and most importantly recognising the contribution our young people make to their schools and local communities in Tipperary



Kevin Harty (District Governor of Lions Club, Ireland),
Shane O'Brien (Transition Year) and Eddie Fitzgerald (Tipperary Town Lions Club Chairperson)



Mr. Conor Hayes (Career Guidance, The Abbey School),
Shane O'Brien (Transition Year) and Ms. Nora Quinn (Year Head)

Work Experience by Max Crowe

I really enjoyed work experience in TY. For my first week, I went to Pierse Motors, Limerick Road, Tipperary Town, where they showed me how to service cars and repair any damage done to the car. I really enjoyed it there and learned a lot about that trade. For my second week I went with Tipperary Windows and Home Improvements. Here I learned how to install new windows and doors. It was a very good experience working with new people and learning new skills. In my third and final week I went to the ESB. I learned to install new metres in houses and on sites.

I really enjoyed all three weeks of my work experiences and I feel it was my favourite part of TY as it allowed me to gain experience in different career paths. Thanks you to the three businesses who allowed me to work with them and supported me for the three weeks. Thanks to Ms. Quinn (Year Head) for all her hard work in organising a great TY year.

“An Choill Bheag” Project

The River Arra Walkway, An Choill Bheag project would see students from the Abbey link up with the organisation LEAF Ireland.

An Choill Bheag is a long-term educational programme, an initiative of LEAF Ireland. Choill Bheags are outdoor living classrooms, with space created on or near school grounds for classes to spend time learning outside. As Choill Bheag matures, nature trails can be developed and students can learn the necessary skills to maintain, monitor and study this essential and beautiful ecosystem in their school grounds.



TYS learning from their instructor Niamh

TYS worked in collaboration with LEAF Ireland to make this project a success. They were partnered with Niamh, the instructor for the duration of the project and were able to complete the process across four visits.

On the first visit the students surveyed the land and tested the soil and also got to learn about the surrounding trees and insects living in the area. The second visit involved planting over 200 with the hope that an expected 180 will survive. Thank you to Tipperary Tidy for their donation of the trees. During the third visit the boys were introduced to mulching, where they got bark mulch and waste cardboard to stop grass and weeds coming up and to protect the roots. The final day was identifying the trees and putting up placards so passing locals can identify the trees as well.

Transition Years really enjoyed this project because they learned practical skills in gardening and horti-

culture that can be used going forward. As a transition year class it is also nice to leave these trees behind as a mark of their time in the Abbey.



“An Choill Bheag” completed by TYs Young Social Innovators

Transition Year Young Social Innovators participated in The YSI Speak-out Event in Kilkenny on Tuesday 14th march. Their YSI Project is entitled 'For Goodness Sake, Dont Vape!' and focuses on raising awareness about the Negative Health Impacts of Vaping and its Effect on The Environment. Students performed on stage in front of judges.



Daniel O'Dwyer & Jamie Byrnes YSI Team

PE Xpo 2023

The 9th annual edition of PE Xpo in association with the Physical Education Association of Ireland (PEAI) and Dublin City University (DCU) took place on Wednesday March 29th. There were numerous projects entered and presented from a variety of schools across the country. The main aim of PE Xpo is to promote PE as a subject in Ireland and to encourage students to research PE related topics.

The competition which is entered as part of the TY LCPE programme has been good to the Abbey in the past with Shane O'Connor and Liam Carew's project claiming the Senior Wellbeing category and the overall Senior National Award in 2021. This success continued this year as the Abbey team made up of Tomas O'Shea, Padraig Bourke, Joe Howard and Cillian Barlow claimed the national title for their category, Senior Games Development and Teaching Games for Understanding'. Their project was titled 'GARUSO Ball' and involved the creation of a game that is a combination of Gaelic football, rugby and soccer and then applying it to a teaching model that could be used in PE class. The school are very proud of the boys' great achievement.

There were 24 winning projects across the nine different categories at junior and senior level and for the Abbey School to claim one of the senior categories is a great achievement.



PE Xpo 2023

Carlingford Adventure Trip

Our TY trip to the Carlingford Adventure Centre was a breath of fresh air! On route they stopped for a tour of Croke Park stadium and were also treated to spectacular views of Dublin City from 44m high during their Skyline tour. The first night's activity was spent around a crackling campfire, singing songs and toasting marshmallows.

The next day, we set out to tackle a range of activities. We manoeuvred our way around in canoes, splashing and laughing in the warm sun. We then took on the challenge of laser tag, darting through the dense forest. Our last activity of the day was a 5km hike around the beautiful and serene town of Carlingford.

We spent the last day of our adventure trip at Sky-park in Carlingford. We couldn't wait to get started and dive into the activities.

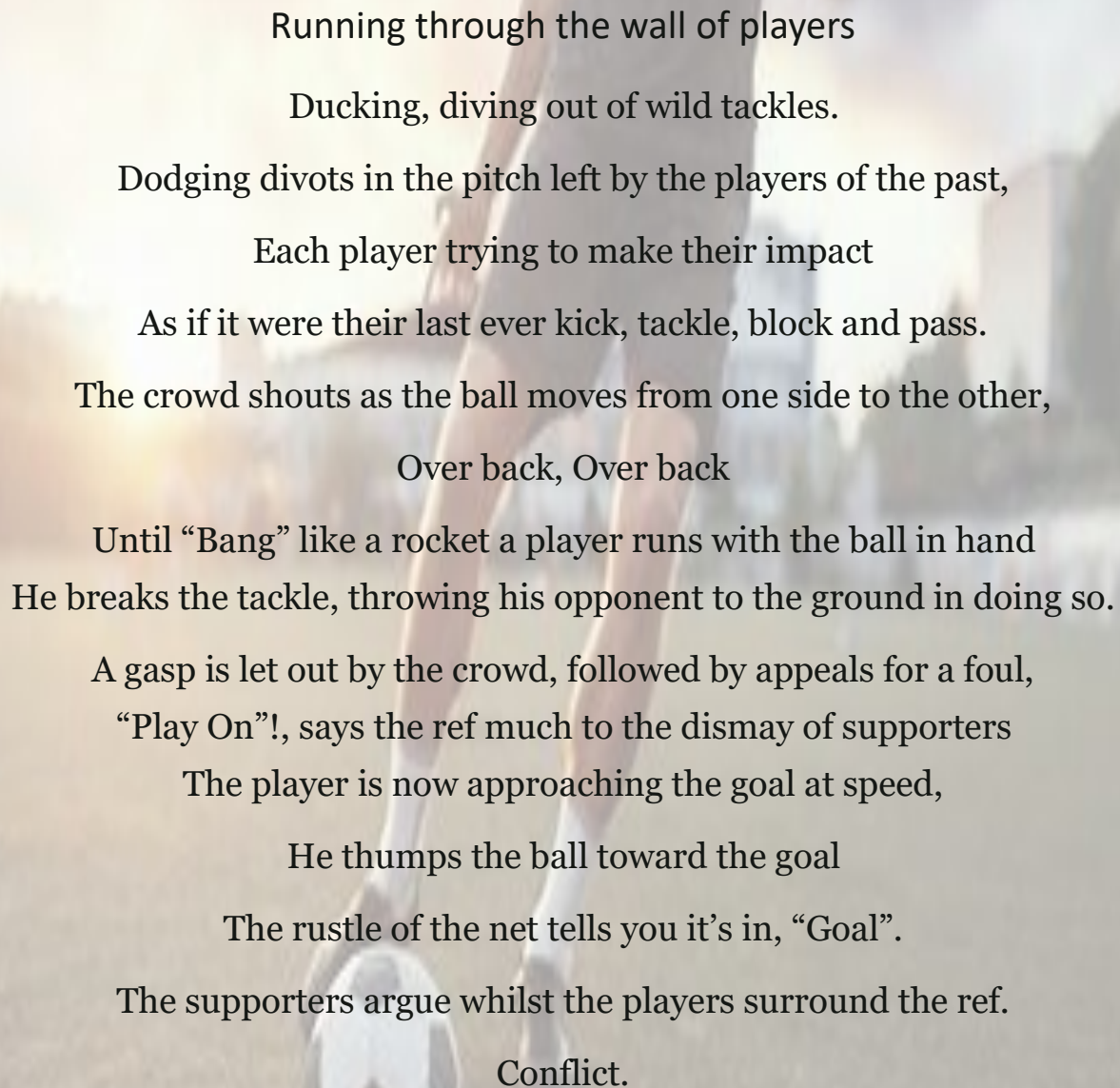
This TY trip gave us a chance to explore the great outdoors, bond with each other, and get some much-needed fresh air. The sheer beauty of the Carlingford Adventure Centre will stay with us forever.



Carlingford Adventure Trip 2023



Conflict



Running through the wall of players
Ducking, diving out of wild tackles.
Dodging divots in the pitch left by the players of the past,
Each player trying to make their impact
As if it were their last ever kick, tackle, block and pass.
The crowd shouts as the ball moves from one side to the other,
Over back, Over back
Until “Bang” like a rocket a player runs with the ball in hand
He breaks the tackle, throwing his opponent to the ground in doing so.
A gasp is let out by the crowd, followed by appeals for a foul,
“Play On”!, says the ref much to the dismay of supporters
The player is now approaching the goal at speed,
He thumps the ball toward the goal
The rustle of the net tells you it’s in, “Goal”.
The supporters argue whilst the players surround the ref.
Conflict.

By Emmet Bonner
TY 3

Getting to know each other....

This year we welcomed 5th year student Paul Gunnar Saufulin to the Abbey School.

The first-year German class took some time out one day to interview Paul. It was a great opportunity for them to practice their German and to learn about life in German schools.

Wie heißt du? Ich heiße Paul

Woher kommst du? Ich komme aus Deutschland.

Wo wohnst du? Ich wohne in Berlin, in der Stadtmitte.

Wie alt bist du? Ich bin 16 Jahre alt.

Wann hast du Geburtstag? Ich habe Geburtstag in einer Woche, am 13. Mai.

Hast du Geschwister? Ich habe einen Bruder aber keine Schwester.

Hast du ein Haustier? Ja, ich habe einen Hund, sie heißt Molly.

Was ist deine Lieblingsfarbe? Meine Lieblingsfarbe ist rot.

Can you tell us about school in Germany?

German schools are very strict. You guys are very lucky here! In Germany we get a lot of homework, we don't wear a school uniform, but I like wearing this one. Uniforms make life easier in the mornings. After 4 years in the primary sector in Germany we chose from 3 different types of schools, lower, ordinary, and higher. If you fail your exam at the end of the school year, you must repeat the full year! Our schools are all co-ed schools also, I like the single sex school here.

What do you enjoy the most about life in Ireland?

I really like the Irish food; I like that the teachers are so friendly here but I really love Hurling and the GAA now. I knew nothing of it before I came here, and I love it!

What will you do when you return to Berlin? I have 3 more years of school to do, and I hope to study Law.

Thanks, Paul, for chatting to us, we are glad you enjoyed your time in The Abbey!

Conor O'Doherty, Victor Jaszczerski & Kevinas Semaitis (on behalf of 1st German)

Homework – a thorny issue....

President Michael D. Higgins recently commented that he believes Irish school children should not be given homework, instead primary school children should use the time to pursue other creative interests. While he was not referencing secondary school pupils, some 2nd year students took part in a debate in class about the merits of homework. The motion for the debate was: Is homework beneficial or should homework be banned.

Over a couple of weeks, the boys researched the topic. They surveyed all students in 2nd year and were surprised by some of the comments, (not everyone hates homework!) They researched how other countries treat homework, two Spanish boys in their own class gave excellent first-hand accounts in English about their experience of homework in Spain. Several expert reports were quoted during their arguments. On Friday 19th of May before an invited, distinguished audience of Mr. Kiely, Mr. Donovan, Mr. Mullins, Ms. Power & Josephine O'Henry, the boys presented their arguments for and against the idea of banning homework. Team Captains Gavin Lohan and Jayden Ryan ably led their teams through each of their arguments and comments, culminating in a final comment by both captains. The judges were swayed in both directions and each one said how it is not a straightforward issue. There were many convincing arguments on both sides and while the issues were well thrashed out, the students of the Abbey School will continue to get homework....

Team A: Gavin Lohan, Cathal Martin, Darragh Hayes, Jamie Renehan & Pelayo Moya Melgarejo.

Team B: Jayden Ryan, Stephen Gleeson, Lali Krausz, James Dalton & Joaquin Moya Melgarejo.

Ms. K O'Dwyer

Abbey Sports News

Basketball

Celebrating the Successful Year of Our Basketball Teams!

We are thrilled to look back on the incredible achievements and notable successes of our basketball teams throughout this year

The 2nd Year and U19 Teams: A Display of Great Effort

Our 2nd Year and U19 basketball teams have shown great commitment throughout the year. They put in a tremendous amount of effort, despite facing tough competition, both teams exhibited exceptional sportsmanship and determination with both reaching the Regional Semi Finals.

1st Year Team: Triumph in the Regional Finals

Our 1st Year basketball team soared to great heights this season, triumphing in the Regional Finals against a formidable opponent, Askeaton. Their hard work and teamwork culminated in a well-deserved victory. We look forward to witnessing their continued growth in the years to come.



First Year Basketball Team 2022-2023

U16 Team: A Display of Skill and Determination

The U16 basketball team demonstrated remarkable skill and determination throughout their journey this year. Their hard-fought matches highlighted their talent, teamwork, and spirit. In the regional final competition, our U16 team displayed an exceptional performance, defeating St. Ailbes 40 - 8. Although they

were narrowly defeated by St. Annes Killaloe in the Munster Semi Final, their achievements throughout the season deserve recognition.



Rockwell Blitz U16 Regional Final Winners

On Wednesday 17/05/23 the Abbey took part in the annual Rockwell Blitz. This is a U 14 county football schools' competition. We had 2 teams entered. Our B team played 3 games winning one against Cashel. In our two other games the lads tried hard and played some good football but were beaten by Fethard and Clonmel CTI.

Our A team played against Clonmel and Thurles in their first two games, having played well in each game and winning both resulted in us qualifying for the A final. In the final we again had to play Clonmel High school. This was again a very competitive game, where we showed some outstanding skill, ability, and execution of all the skills resulted us in winning by 3.04 to 1.04. The cup was presented to Morgan O Connor and vice-captain Jack Hogan. It's the first time since 2014 that the Abbey had won the Rockwell blitz. The future looks bright for this team as they progress through the years and the competitions in the Abbey.



Rockwell Blitz Panel 2023

Rugby

First Year/U14 Rugby

Our First Year / U14 Rugby team had an incredibly enjoyable year playing in three Munster Rugby development blitzes with the highlight of our year, playing in Thomond Park. Competing in these blitzes allowed our players to experience and develop their understanding of the sport while also fostering a sense of camaraderie and team spirit amongst the players. We're looking forward to our U15 campaigns in February 2024.



1st Year/U14 Rugby Team in Thomond Park

U15 Rugby—Cleary Cup Winners 2023

Our groups stages saw us up against St. Annes, Killaloe and Villers, Limerick. We played our first game against Killaloe in Fethard Town Park. This became a familiar venue for us as we also played in three Munster Rugby developing blitzes here. We kicked off our season with a 31-7 win.

Our next game was away to Villers, where we picked up another victory winning 38-15 and we now had a home semi-final against Waterpark. After a comprehensive win, a final against The Highschool Clonmel awaited us.

On the 28th March, we travelled the familiar road to Fethard once more. We emerged victorious, winning 31-10 and brought the Cleary Cup back to the Abbey for another year.



Cleary Cup Winners 2023

Senior Rugby

Our Senior Rugby team had a busy year. After winning the O Gorman Cup last year sights were firmly set on the O'Brien Cup. They started their O'Brien Cup campaign away to Ennis CC in Lees Road Ennis. The Abbey came away that day easy winners proving too strong for the Clare side. Next up was St Annes Killaloe in a quarter final played in Fethard town park on the Astroturf. The Abbey played some good rugby and won well. Corne Duibhne of Dingle was the opposition in the semi final away in Castleisland. The Abbey trailed early to a well coached side. Before half time the Abbey team came back into it with two tries under the posts from sustained pressure. They went on to win in a very tight game and qualified for the final. Kinsale CC were the opposition in the final. They had won all their games comprehensively on the way to the final. Their club team were winning Munster titles at the weekend. The game was played in UI north campus on the astroturf pitch. Kinsale proved too slick and strong for the Abbey on the day. Well done to our senior team on two good campaigns over the last two years just coming up short in their last game.



Senior Rugby Team 2023

U15 FOOTBALL

U15 County Championship Semi Final Cusack Cup

Thurles

Abbey CBS 4-10

Thurles CBS 2-18

The Abbey were unlucky to be on the wrong side of a high scoring game played in perfect conditions at the grounds of Durlas Og. At half time the Abbey trailed by two points despite the efforts of Darragh Bresnan, Aaron Brazil and Sean Cleary.

In the third quarter the Abbey fell asleep to fall 7 points behind, but they roared back into contention in the final quarter with Jaye Cilivinas, Anthony Murphy, and Cathal O'Mara in particular to the fore.

In the closing stage the game was tied heading for injury time but two late scores by the mid Tipp side gave the men in blue and gold the spoils. Thurles CBS have continued in this fashion going on to win this competition comfortably and while defeat was a bitter pill to swallow for the Abbey boys, they will try regroup for future campaigns.

U16.5 FOOTBALL

Preliminary Round

Abbey 1-17 Skibbreen CS 1-02

The Abbey faced Skibbreen CB in the Preliminary Round of the Munster Championship in a game played at Pairc Ui Chaoimh Astro Turf.

The Abbey played against what little breeze existed in the first half and dominated proceedings Abbey were calm on the ball and played intelligent football and early points from numerous scorers from play set the Abbey on their way. The Cork men looked to get back into the game but the Abbey were dominating the middle third and simply did not let the Carbery side into contention

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 1st round against Coachford College

1st round

Abbey 2-11 Coachford College 2-09

The Abbey faced Coachford College, Cork in the first round of the TUS Corn Liam Ui hUiginn (16.5 B F) played in near perfect conditions in Mallow. In an excellent game of football the west Tipperary side prevailed

It was an excellent win for the team who showed skill passion and bravery to claim a great win against an excellent Coachford side. The win meant that the school progressed to The Munster

Munster Quarter Final

P.S. Rathmore 7-10 Abbey CBS 5:15

In what was a heart-breaking defeat, the Abbey were unfortunate to come up short against a

talented P.S Rathmore side in the Munster Quarter Final played in the familiar surrounds of the

Mallow GAA Complex. In what was truly a free-flowing game of football in every sense of the word, it would be the concession of goals that would ultimately cost the men in green and white. With every setback they responded with a score of their own and while defeat was their lot on the day thus group will have the consolation of a campaign in Munster's premier football competition, the Corn Ui Mhuiri to look forward to as Seniors.



Cian O'Dwyer (Senior Footballer) and Paddy Downey (Senior Football Captain) presenting Michael Martin (Former Chairperson Board of Management and Senior Football sponsor) with a signed and framed Abbey Senior Football jersey for all his support of the Senior Footballers.

SENIOR FOOTBALL

As the new year dawned on 2023 the Abbey set about retaining their Munster crown after successfully navigating tough championship games at county and provincial level prior to the Christmas break.

A Munster Semi final was their first port of call with a tie against old rivals Patrician Mallow. Both sides had met in the Final and Quarter Final in the previous two campaigns with each side claiming a victory each. In a game that had everything the Abbey prevailed to reach yet another provincial football decider.

In the final they would meet another side from the Avondhu Division, Mitchelstown CBS. The Cork side were having a magnificent year as the week prior to the football final they claim the provincial hurling crown at Senior level. A great game lay in wait and all roads lead to Fitzgerald Park, Kilmallock.

The Abbey School march on as they retain their Munster title

Abbey CBS 2-08

Mitchelstown CBS 0-11

A final quarter scoring spree where the Abbey School scored 1-4 saw the defending champions take home the TUS Corn Dhonnacha Ui Nuanain Cup at the expense of Mitchelstown CBS who they themselves were looking for a colleges double having won the Munster 'C' Colleges title a week previous, in an absorbing tie played at Fitzgerald Park, Kilmallock.

In what was an evenly matched tie throughout it was the Tipperary Town outfits strong finish and impact from the bench that paved the way for an impressive victory where their captain, Oola's Paddy Downey accepted the cup and they claimed the title at this grade for a record ninth time.

The opening quarter was even in possession and in chances. The Avondhu side were first to open the scoring when Darragh O'Brien popped over the first score of the afternoon in the fourth minute but the abbey responded in kind with a score from Knockavil-

la Kickhams clubman Orrin Jones. The teams continued to swap points as the quarter drew on with Conal Grogan and an impressive Evan Kennedy effort raising white flags with the ever impressive O'Brien responding for the Cork men. In the 2nd quarter the Abbey dominated proceedings launching numerous attacks but on more than one occasion they failed to convert guilt edge chances. One time they did though involved a beautiful flowing move involving Liam Carew and Orrin Jones to release Galtee Rovers clubman, Grogan to raise the Tipp sides first green flag of the afternoon. Mitchelstown though did not lie down and claimed the final 2 score of the half through two Darragh O'Brien frees.

On the resumption of proceedings Mitchelstown CBS made the running and thundered back into the tie. They had excellent performers in the middle third where Charlie English, Luke Keating and substitute Cathal Walsh played a big role in proceedings. In particular they had star performance from fullback Jamie Fogarty who excelled throughout thwarting many Abbey attacks. In this quarter they hit five points without reply to claim a two point lead heading into the final quarter.

In this final quarter however the defending champions showed their mettle. The revival began when Orrin Jones and Shane O'Grady combined well to work the ball up field at pace resulting in a penalty to the west Tipperary side after Daniel O'Dwyer was fouled. Jones coolly slotted the penalty to give his side a one point lead with six minutes on the clock. Mitchelstown again responded with O'Brien again pointing a free after excellent work from Kildorrery man Luke Keating. The Abbey were now in the ascendancy and Galtee Rovers club men Bill Quirke and Daniel O'Dwyer combined well to push the Abbey in front once more. The Abbey were now looking to drive home their advantage and Emmet Bonner and Liam Carew set up Orrin Jones to kick a fine long range effort. Both side then exchanged scores from Cathal Walsh and Conal Grogan with Grogan finishing the days scoring with an excellent free to see his side home to a three point victory.

The game itself was energetic and at times frantic but played with real endeavour and honesty. From a footballing perspective within the county Tipperary's underage future should be bright with numerous Tipperary players on show for both sides. The Abbey will be delighted to retain their crown. Their defence was excellent throughout with Darragh O'Brien and Emmet Bonner tenacious in the tackle while brothers Colin and Shane O'Grady carried numerous balls forward with intent. Soloheads Stephen Dee was immense in the middle of the field for the men in green and white and was the engine behind the abbey victory. Up front Orrin Jones and Conal Grogan shared 2-06 between them and in the half forward line Eoin Doocey and Cian O'Dwyer were industrious as always. A key element of the Tipp sides victory was their bench with David Ryan and Gavin Cussen excelling in defence. Bill Quirk's introduction in the middle of the field gave them a platform to win possession in the middle third while Daniel O'Dwyer was involved in 1-01 during his time on the field.

Mitchelstown were heroic in defeat. They too had excellent performers all over the field. As already stated Jamie Fogarty was excellent in the full back line. Charlie English was commanding at centre back and their midfield partnership of Cathal English and Shane Looney were effective at midfield. Without doubt their star performer was Darragh O'Brien who ended the game with 8pts to his name. They lost nothing in defeat and do have the consolation of an All Ireland Hurling Semi Final in early March. For the Abbey they march on to the All Ireland Semi Final on February 25th against St. Attracta's Tubbercurry of Sligo as they look to go one better than the class of 2022 and reach the All Ireland final for the first time since 2015

Abbey CBS: Robbie McGrath (Galtee Rovers), Sean Lewis (Arravale Rovers), Darragh O'Brien (Aherlow), Emmett Bonner (Galtee Rovers), Evan Kennedy (Galtee Rovers 0-01), Colin O'Grady (Oola), Paddy Downey (Oola), Stephen Dee (Solohead), Liam Carew (Aherlow), Shane O'Grady (Oola), Eoin Doocey (Arravale Rovers), Orrin Jones (Kickhams 1-02), Cian

O'Dwyer (Galtee Rovers), Conal Grogan (Galtee Rovers 1-04), Joe O'Dwyer (Kickhams): Subs David Ryan (Arravale Rovers) for Lewis, Bill Quirke (Galtee Rovers) for Doocey, Daniel O'Dwyer (Galtee Rovers 0-01) for O'Dwyer, Gavin Cussen (Arravale Rovers) for Kennedy, Gavin O'Meara (Arravale Rovers) for O'Dwyer

Mitchelstown CBS: Callum Burke, Cian O'Brien, Jamie Fogarty, Declan Moriarty, Diarmuid O'Brien, Charlie English, Jak McNamara, Shane Looney, Cathal English, Colin McNamara, Darragh O'Brien, Paddy English, Ben Carey, Luke Keating, Kevin Cotter. Subs Used: Cathal Walsh, Matthew Fitzgibbon



Munster Final Champions 2023

All roads led to Tuam Stadium for the semi-final. The Abbey men took on St Attractas, Tubbercurry. If they thought their campaign had been eventful up to this point it was about to go into overdrive in a game that will be remembered for many years to come.

Abbey CBS reach All-Ireland final after thrilling victory

Penalty shootout needed after extra-time failed to separate the teams.

Abbey CBS Tipperary 3-10 St Attracta's Tubbercurry 0-19

Abbey CBS win 3-0 on penalties, after extra time.

Regardless of what the future holds, and how The Abbey fare in their All-Ireland final against St Joseph's of Donaghmore, Tyrone, it's unlikely that any game in

in the school's history will be remembered as fondly as their remarkable, incredible, epic All-Ireland Post Primary Schools Senior Football B Championship semi-final against St Attracta's of Tubbercurry, Sligo in Tuam last Saturday.

Finals are about winning, and silverware, but this was sport on a deeper, more visceral level. Human endeavour, resolve, faith and mental resilience were all demanded in boundless qualities to come through this contest, and ultimately the Tipperary Town students dug deep, and then deeper still, to find their way through against a Sligo school that deserved so much more than agonising heartbreak for the performance they produced.

To appreciate the scale of their achievement in this penultimate step in their attempt to lift the Paddy Drummond Cup, one must start by relating the depth of the hole in which the Abbey found themselves.

When St Attracta's centre forward Michael Clifford pointed a free in the 28th minute of the first half, the score was 0-9 to no score in favour of the south Sligo school. And in every facet of play, the Connacht champions were rampant.

These are heady times for Sligo football, with their first Connacht minor title in over half a century won in 2021 and an Under 20 title added last year, and the level of expectation and self-belief coursing through teams from the county has exploded as a result.

They played like it, exerting immense pressure on The Abbey in defence, controlling set plays and restarts to ensure a steady flow of possession, and unlocking the Munster champions' defence time and again with sharp, clever attacking football.

A Robbie McGrath free finally got the Abbey off the mark a minute before half-time, and when Joe O'Dwyer followed up with another score there was a hint of a revival, particularly when frees from Orrin Jones and Cian O'Dwyer were added after the break.

Yet St Attracta's came again with the next three points, and even when Liam Carew won the possession that was ultimately converted into Joe O'Dwyer's goal at the start of the fourth quarter, it still felt like the misfiring Abbey attack would struggle to muster

up the scores that were needed to retrieve the deficit.

Thankfully, the players didn't let those feelings weigh them down. Bill Quirke added the next point and suddenly the gap was just three points, though St Attracta's continued to pose a threat.

Robbie McGrath got a vital touch on a lateral pass that would have left Josh Flynn with a tap-in goal, Darragh O'Brien did brilliantly to clear a soccer-style effort from Flynn off the line, and with every bullet that the Abbey dodged they grew in stature, while their Sligo opponents only became more nervous.

The stage was set for a moment of magic, and The Abbey duly delivered.

Orrin Jones was the man who fired in the crucial goal from the penalty spot, but perhaps his biggest role was the silky manner in which he won possession and set the attack in motion by getting a great pass away to Eoin Doocey, even while being fouled.

Doocey in turn displayed great footwork to turn a two-on-two attack into a situation where Daniel O'Dwyer was in behind the defence with just the 'keeper to beat, which forced a wild and rash challenge and a subsequent easy penalty decision from referee Aaron Clogher.

The Roscommon referee was to take the spotlight too, after it looked like Gavin Cussen would be the unlikely hero for the Abbey.

Orrin Jones' long shot rebounded off the upright and back into play, and the Arravale Rovers man was on the scene with a first-time shot that drew a stunning save from Conor McDonagh, then deflected over the bar.

Five minutes of stoppage time had been signalled, and five disjointed, interrupted minutes had been played when the white flag flew to acknowledge Cussen's point – so there was no surprise that Clogher extended the game further.

However tension levels skyrocketed as St Attracta's piled on the pressure, and the clock ticked through seven minutes, eight, and more, and still no whistle.

Finally, in the tenth minute of overtime, Clifford

nailed a 40 metre free off the ground that was as impressive a pressure kick as has ever been nailed in the famous old stadium in north Galway.

So to extra-time, with The Abbey having to process the remarkable circumstances in which they had victory snatched from them, while the Sligo students needed to put the fact that they coughed up a nine-point lead into the annals of history, and treat the “new game” of extra time exactly like that, a completely new chapter in their story.

St Attracta’s handled their challenge much better, and for the first 14 minutes of the extra 20, they produced some sublime football, adding five more points.

Aiden Marren relocated from midfield to full forward and the rangy Tourlestrane player thrived in his new environment, helping his school into an 0-18 to 2-9 lead.

This game was never going to end like that, though.

Liam Carew earned and won a free, and it fell to substitute Daniel O’Dwyer to play the role of hero again, intercepting a kickout and showing incredible composure to slot in the goal that left them a point up. That could have been all, but there was much more to come.

With the Abbey packing their goalmouth, Clifford threaded an eye of the needle pass into Marren, who with his back to goal, dummied left, turned right, and traversed the black spot in one majestic, fluid movement.

And so, one of the greatest schools’ games that will be played all year, was given the ultimate crown of thorns; a penalty shootout.

Step forward Robbie McGrath, who produced two fantastic saves, while Orrin Jones, Liam Carew and Darragh O’Brien all made the twine dance, ushering in incredible scenes of elation, devastation, celebration and pain.

Meanwhile, the few fortunate neutrals who hap-

pened to be in attendance finally drew breath, and mentally offered up a quiet thought of appreciation for having been privileged enough to be there.

Abbey CBS: Robbie McGrath (Galtee Rovers; 0-1f); Emmet Bonner (Galtee Rovers), Darragh O’Brien (Aherlow), Gavin Cussen (Arravale Rovers; 0-1); Evan Kennedy (Galtee Rovers), Colin O’Grady (Oola), Paddy Downey (Oola); Bill Quirke (Galtee Rovers; 0-1), Liam Carew (Aherlow; 0-2, 1f); Eoin Doocey (Arravale Rovers), Orrin Jones (Kickhams; 1-1, 1-0 pen, 0-1f), Shane O’Grady (Oola); Joe O’Dwyer (Kickhams; 1-2, 0-1 mark), Conall Grogan (Galtee Rovers), Cian O’Dwyer (Galtee Rovers; 0-1f).

Subs: David Ryan (Arravale Rovers) for Kennedy (28 mins), Daniel O’Dwyer (Galtee Rovers; 1-1) for Liam Carew (39 mins), Seán Lewis for O’Dwyer (54 mins), Gavin O’Meara (Arravale Rovers) for Carew (60 mins), Carew for Grogan (68 mins), Shane Quigley (Arravale Rovers) for Cussen (74 mins).

St Attracta’s: Conor McDonagh; Aaron O’Hara, Dylan McLoughlin, Eoghan Scanlon; Kyle McDonagh (0-1), Conor Johnston, Stephen Donoghue; Tommy Ross, Aiden Marren (0-8, 5f); Cian Gallagher, Michael Clifford (0-6, 5f), Josh Flynn (0-1); Conor McArdle, Ciarán Gorman (0-1), Tom Bailey (0-1). Subs: Daithí Murphy (0-1) for McArdle (43 mins), Diarmuid Henry for Gorman (56 mins), Adrian Walsh for Donoghue (60+5 mins), Oisín Frizzell for Ross (78 mins), Tadhg Horkan for Bailey (80 mins).

After the miracle that was the semi final ironically our All-Ireland Final would be played in Began Co. Mayo in the Connaght GAA Centre of Excellence, not far from Knock Shrine. The final would pit the Abbey boys against Tyrone opposition, McLarnon Cup Champions, St. Josephs Grammar School, Donaghmore.

Valiant Abbey CBS Tipperary crushed by quick goals for St. Josephs in the All-Ireland final

St Joseph's (Tyrone) 2-12 Abbey CBS (Tipperary) 0-9

Two second half goals gave St Joseph's of Donaghmore the breathing space they needed to see off a gallant Abbey CBS side in the keenly contested Senior B Schools Football final at a rain swept Began in county Mayo. Driving wind and rain outside the airdome meant that the ground was sticky, and with clean handling vitally important in a tight encounter, the slick passing from defence to attack in the second half gave the northerners an edge. The Ulster champions started sharpish firing over two early points from Cormac Drayne and Noah Grimes who coolly slotted over the second before Orrin Jones found his range from the forty for the Abbey on 11 minutes.

St. Joseph's kept the pressure on in the early stages and Abbey keeper Robbie McGrath in goals had to bring off a fantastic save on 14 minutes from the aforementioned Grimes who was to prove troublesome throughout. The pressure increased for the Abbey when they lost their sweeper and captain on 17 minutes, the influential Paddy Downey. Five wides to one in favour of the Tyrone side at this stage tells you all you need to know about the pressure Abbey were under, but to their credit the Tipperary Town side didn't wilt but instead rallied despite the loss of their captain.

Shane O Grady levelled it up for Abbey CBS at 0-2 a piece, as they grew in determination and then began to dominate the game as the half wore on. Bill Quirke took a nice pass from Orrin Quirke 20 minutes in to slot over the bar then two minutes later Conal Grogan added another before young David Ryan of the Aravale Rovers club made it 0-5 to 0-2 in the Tipp sides favour. It took serious effort for St. Joseph's to steady the flow of the game by then, and it was the excellent Noah Grimes who popped up with two quick points on 27 and 29 minutes.

The first was a free, the second he shook off two Abbey defenders, found some room to turn and calmly slotted over the bar. That left it 0-5 to 0-4 with Abbey

CBS leading at the break but for all their dominance in the last fifteen minutes of the half, they could have been further up but for a number of efforts just dropping short into the goalkeepers hands. The Tipp side were first out of the dressing room for the second half but were left waiting for a few minutes as the Tyrone side regrouped and reorganised in the dressing room.

Once the half eventually started Abbey continued to attack, first a free from the influential centre forward Orrin Jones and then through full forward Conal Grogan who struck a nice point from play to leave it 0-7 to 0-4 three minutes into the half. Again the Tyrone side looked to Noah Grimes who pointed just before the key move of the match. A fickle twist of fate if you will, as Darragh Doherty gathered possession from a Grimes play and attempted a strike at the posts but the ball skimmed off his boot and across the goals backfooting defenders and attackers alike until Mattie McNally arrived at the edge of the square to side foot to the Abbey CBS net on 39 minutes.

A roar went up from the crowd and from there St. Josephs took control as they smelled blood. Two quick points from Ronan Molloy and then Grimes again before another mishit ball arrived nicely to Mattie McNally on 45 minutes, and once again he rattled the net to leave it 2-7 to 0-7. Abbey CBS players felt the goal scorer had been by the square but their pleas for a square ball and a free out were ignored by the referee and from there St. Josephs controlled the game with Abbey forced to go long in search of a goal against the confident northerners.

Abbey fought valiantly with the cause led by Orrin Jones until the end, but the class of Noah Grimes and company was enough to see St. Joseph's crowned All-Ireland champions.

Overall the goals made the difference, Abbey were to the fore until the first goal snuck in, but from there a different match developed and the Paddy Drummond cup went northwards.

Afterwards Abbey CBS manager Sean Mullins agreed his side gave it everything they had: "We had to go chase the game in the second half and that left us open to be picked off but in relation to the way we played and the character we showed, we're nothing but proud of the boys," he said after a tense encounter.

Scorers for St Joseph's GS: N Grimes (0-7, 4 frees); M McNally (2-0), D Doherty (0-2, 2 frees); C Drayne, Shane Scullion (0-1 each), Ronan Molloy (0-1, 1 free)

Scorers for Abbey CBS: O Jones (0-4, 3 frees); C Grogan (0-2, 1 free); S Dee, B Quirke, C O'Grady (0-1 each).

So as the Abbey football year drew to close the class of 2023 fell agonisingly short of emulating the class of 1998 and bringing the Paddy Drummond Cup back to Tipperary Town. Despite defeat the team lost nothing. They became only the third Abbey side to retain the Munster Senior Title and have ensured that the school will participate in the prestigious Corn Ui Mhuri Munster Colleges 'A' Competition for the coming season. The future looks bright, and we look forward to following the progress of the class of 23 in the years to come.



Sports Star of the Year 2023 Orrin Jones

Mr. Sean Mullins, Orrin Jones, Mr. Pat. Donovan (Deputy Principal), Mr. Kieran Hickey and Mr. Michael Hanley

TSDL School Cup continues to go from strength to strength

The annual TSDL Senior Schools football competition took place last week at the Abbey School in Tipperary town with the hosts retaining the title after some brilliant football in perfect conditions for football. This competition has gone from strength to strength in recent year with eight teams taking part this year, with Scoil Pol, Kilfinane a welcome new entry.

After the group stages, The Abbey School and Cashel Community School emerged as winners with Rockwell College and Scoil Pol emerging from the groups as runners up. In the semi finals the Abbey overcame Scoil Pol and in what was somewhat of a shock Rockwell College overcame a fancied Cashel Community School team.

The final turned a free flowing affair with plenty of attacking play and goals. The Abbey took the title home on a scoreline of 4-2 with their captain, Bansha Celtic's Daniel O'Dwyer accepting the cup on behalf of the Tipperary Town side.

The competition would not be able to take place with the help of the TSDL league who provide the perpetual cup and winners medals for the victors. There was a great sense of sportsmanship on the day as well as some quality football. Complimentary food and refreshments were provided afterward for all teams and management. Thanks, were also given to the two League referees John O'Dwyer and John Lyons who oversaw the event officiating, and to the TSDL Committee for their continued support.



TSDL Cup Winners 2023– The Abbey School

Abbey Sports Awards 2023

The Abbey School community came together in the last week of term for the annual sports award's ceremony. The ceremony honoured the students' sporting achievements from the academic year 2022/23 with several presentations being made relating to the wide variety of sports catered for in the school.

This year's event was eagerly anticipated as this year there was great cause for celebration as the school won no less than 7 titles across a number of disciplines including Gaelic Football, Soccer, Rugby and Basketball as well as reaching the All-Ireland Colleges Football Final. Many students were also honoured with individual player of the year awards as well as the presentation of the prestigious Abbey Sports star of the year award.

These students were acknowledged for how they embraced the ethos of school and awards were handed out in recognition of how they displayed athletic excellence and skill in their sporting disciplines during the year.

Medals were presented to all winning teams which included the U19 Munster Senior Football Corn Dhooncha Ui Nuainain Champions, U19 TSDL Schools Cup Champions, U16 Basketball South West Regional Champions, U15 Munster Rugby Cleary Cup Champions, U14 County Football 'A' Cup Champions, 1st year Basketball South West Regional Champions, and the 1st Year County Football Cup Champions for 2022.

A particular mention must go to the respective captains who spoke on the day on behalf of their squads. Also, on the evening Sports Star of the year winner Orrin Jones of Knockavilla Kickhams was honoured. Orrin claimed titles with the school in Gaelic Football and Soccer as well as representing the school in Hurling.

Individual awards were presented across a wide variety of sports and categories included: Abbey Sports Star of the Year 2023- Orrin Jones, Senior Footballer of the Year – Robbie McGrath, Senior Hurler of the Year - Stephen Dee, Senior Rugby Player of the Year – Evan Kennedy, Senior Soccer Player of the Year – Cian O'Dwyer, Senior Basketball Player of the Year - Nedas Petkus, Junior Hurler of the Year – Adam Ryan, Junior Footballer of the Year – David Ryan, Junior Rugby Player of the Year – Patrick O'Connor, Junior Basketball Player of the Year - Bartosz Wawarczyk, U15 Hurler of the Year – Jaye Cilvinas, U15 Footballer of the Year – Darragh Bresnan, U15 Rugby player of the Year- Conal Healy, Second Year Basketball Player of the Year – David Simaitis, U14 Hurler of the Year – Morgan O'Connor, U14 Footballer of the Year – Christian Flanagan, First Year soccer Player of the Year – Calum Compton, First Year Rugby Player of the Year – Jack Hogan, First Year Basketball Player of the Year – Conor O'Doherty

The evening concluded with a closing address from school principal John Kiely where he paid credit to teachers who train students throughout the school year in the wide array of extra and co-curricular activities offered by the school and also took time to thank parents and the wider school community for their support of fundraisers towards our astroturf project which will no doubt benefit the wider Tipperary Town community in the years to come.



Abbey Sports Day 2023



Embracing the Blissful Season of Summer

The month of May, with its gentle arrival, signifies the transition from the dainty embrace of spring to the radiant warmth of summer. It holds within its grasp the essence of rebirth, growth, and an infectious zest for life. As the days lengthen, and the world awakens from its wintry slumber, May emerges as a captivating tapestry of nature's wonders, cultural celebrations, and a harbinger of endless possibilities.

Nature unfurls its breathtaking beauty during May, painting the landscape with a vibrant palette of colours. Blossoms burst forth, adorning trees and gardens with delicate petals that dance on the breeze. The air carries a symphony of fragrances, as sweet-scented blooms like roses, lilies, and lavender fill our senses with their intoxicating perfume. Each step through a blooming meadow or along a tree-lined path becomes a sensory delight, inviting us to immerse ourselves in the sheer magnificence of the natural world.

May is a time of renewal and growth, as flora and fauna alike awaken from their winter slumber. Leaves sprout and reach towards the sun, transforming barren branches into lush canopies that provide respite from the warming rays. Birds serenade the daybreak with their melodious songs, celebrating the return of abundance and the promise of new beginnings. Nature's rhythm beats strong, reminding us of the cyclical nature of life and the perpetual dance of creation and transformation.

In the enchanting essence of June, we find an opportunity for personal growth and reflection. The longer days and warm sunrays remind us to pause, breathe, and appreciate the simple joys that surround us. It is a time to recharge our spirits, to revel in the beauty of the present moment, and to cultivate gratitude for the abundance that life offers.

As June graces us with its presence, let us immerse ourselves in its enchanting embrace. Let us celebrate the blossoming of nature, the diversity of our cultures, and the boundless possibilities that lie ahead. June becomes a reminder that life, like the seasons, is a wondrous journey of growth, discovery, and embracing the vibrant tapestry of existence.

“Forget the worm's opinion too
Of hooves and pointed harrow-pins,
For you are driving your horses
through
The mist where Genesis begins”

Patrick Kavanagh