

The Abbey School News

December 2023

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A message from Principal Mr. Sadleir

Students, Staff and Parents,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our Christmas Newsletter 2023, at a time where we can reflect on the first term in this school year.

Our students have engaged wonderfully and been kept very busy during the term. An incredible array of activities has been organised during that time creating opportunities for enjoyment, building relations, and developing new skills. Our TY students departed for a wonderful excursion to Northern Italy, spending time at Lake Garda, Venice, Verona, and Milan. Our first-year boys spent much time with their Year Head and class tutors this year as they got used to life in secondary school. They were rewarded for their efforts with a day out where they enjoyed a trip to the cinema, swimming, and pizza.

Transition year is always a time to challenge oneself and our students have had a great range of opportunities this year so far, climbing the Galtee mountains, cycling the Waterford Greenway, gaining work experience, a GAA coaching initiative, attending comedy shows, enjoying a drama workshop with Bernard Casey, refereeing a rugby blitz in Clanwilliam, organising Flag days, learning to play tennis and much more.



TY & 5th Year Students refereeing in Clanwilliam RFC

In late August, our 6th Year Class of 2023 received their results, albeit only in my first few weeks as Principal, I felt the same sense of pride as that experienced by teachers and students alike. The results were truly outstanding and when our analysis was complete it was clear that the boys had eclipsed practically every national average for grades achieved across the curriculum. Of far greater significance, there was a 100% success rate for our students in moving onto further education a statistic which is not replicated commonly in schools throughout the country. Our Junior Cycle class of 2023 also received their results a few short weeks later, and again, received excellent grades laying down firm foundations for their future success. We enjoyed a nice morning with the boys here in The Abbey before they returned to work experience placements with renewed vigour.



Mr. David Sadleir (Principal) with Junior Cycle students Cormac McGrath, Anthony Murphy, Eamonn Kelly, Jack Garrett and Jack O'Keeffe

Our combined production of the musical "Footloose", with St Annes Secondary School, was open to all student to participate. In the Abbey we had boys from TY and 5th year involved. There were six shows in total, three matinee shows and three evening shows. We received countless emails and phone calls here to the school complimenting the show and are immensely proud of what was achieved on stage and a memorable show produced under the guidance of teachers from St Anne's and The Abbey.

Special thanks to our teachers Sinead O’Gorman and Anne Marie O’Connor for all they did to ensure that this year’s show was top-class.



Our past pupils Shane O’Connor and Liam Carew who were winners of the BT Young Scientist Competition in 2022 both earned full entrance scholarships to UCC. Our Senior students attended some excellent talks during the term ranging from mental health awareness to careers exhibitions. We hope our students will remember these talks and that it will help them going forward.

This term we opened our first Special Class (ASD) in The Abbey School; a reflection of our inclusive values and a desire to provide a quality educational experience for all boys who choose our school. All staff received additional training during the first term as we envisage a greater number of staff getting involved in this area over the coming years.

The addition of the new Astro Pitch to our campus has been transformational this term and has been enjoyed by all. In a school with such a strong sporting tradition this facility will help us greatly as we hope to achieve all we can across a wide range of sports. I would like to acknowledge the support of Arravale Rovers GAA our partners in the project.

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 at Senior A level with a preliminary quarter final appearance vs Tralee CBS. Well done to all who trained across all sports and have represented the school this year. You are keeping great traditions alive and follow in

the footsteps of great sports men who wore the Abbey colours.

Every year brings changes, and this year was no different. We wish Pat Donovan and Áine Leahy good health and happiness in their retirement. We were also disappointed to see Niamh McCarthy move on to pursue an opportunity in another school, Niamh was a fantastic teacher and is missed in her Science Department and in many other areas of school life. We wish her every success moving forward. Finally, we wish Jolene Carey from the Art department well with her career break at present. We would like to welcome to the Abbey School new staff members Anne Marie O’Connor (Art Teacher), Kelly Guiney (Science and Maths Teacher), Michelle Ryan (Science and Maths Teacher) and Vivienne Wills (Room 30 Special Needs Assistant).

On a personal note, my sincere gratitude to the entire Abbey Community for the welcome I have received. I am looking forward to the Christmas break but also the rest of the school year 2023/2024 and am enthused by the prospect of what we can achieve together this year.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to wish all our pupils, staff, and their families a happy and peaceful Christmas.

David Sadleir
Principal



Newly opened Astro Pitch

Student Captain Roles 2023-2024

Congratulations to Robbie McGrath (Captain) and Cillián Crowe (Vice Captain) who were elected to their respective roles earlier in the term. These are two students who have demonstrated huge leadership ability in academic, sporting and musical endeavours over the past few years. We wish both students very well in their respective roles throughout the year.



Robbie McGrath (Captain) and Cillián Crowe (Vice Captain)

Student Leadership Team

The main role of a student council set out in the Education Act is “to promote the interests of the school and the involvement of students in the affairs of the school, in co-operation with the board of management, parents and teachers”. The student leadership team is a representative structure for all the students in the school. It has 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. Students develop a range of leadership skills by being active members on the council, which are all transferable and will be of benefit to them during their time at school and as they navigate their way through life after school in third level, the world of work and beyond. Mr. Conor Hayes and Ms. Irene Ryan are the link teachers for the 2023-2024 Student Leadership Team.

The Student Leadership Team sets its own objectives,

and these vary from year to year. Some general objectives could be uniform related, policy review, improved communication between teachers/management and students. They meet at regular intervals to discuss matters arising in the school. They recently organised a Christmas fundraiser for two charities, The Meningitis Research Foundation and Pieta House which raised €800. They will work on a whole school project which seeks to improve student school experience in the new year. The Abbey is an Edmund Rice school, and we are very lucky to have the support and guidance from ERST when required in promoting the student leadership team.



Student Leadership Team 2023-2024

Christmas Fundraiser

Each year in the lead up to Christmas, our whole school community supports two charities through a fundraising endeavour led by the student leadership team. This year on Friday 15th December we ran a non-uniform form / Christmas jumper day for students and staff and a coffee morning for staff. Our collective efforts raised €800. €400 will be donated to Pieta House, which supports our whole school Well-being Programme and Amber Flag initiative. The other €400 will be donated to two past students from the class of 2020, Kelan O’ Connor and Conor Buckley on behalf of the Meningitis Research Foundation. Kelan and Conor are raising funds for the MRF and next summer will climb Mount Kilimanjaro, the largest freestanding mountain in the world for the MRF. We wish them both well in their fundraising and training efforts over the coming months. Thank you to the student leaders, especially 5th Year representatives and Ms. Irene Ryan and Mr. Conor Hayes for their efforts in the smooth operation of this fundraising campaign .



Vice Captain Cillián Crowe with 3rd and TY students presenting a cheque to Kelan O'Connor and Conor Buckley for the Meningitis Research Foundation.



Congratulations to our LCA students on receiving their Year1 results in October



Senior Cycle students celebrating Christmas Jumper Day in The Abbey



Third Year students during Christmas Jumper Day 2023

Fifth Year and LCA Greenway Cycle

On October 2nd, Fifth-Year and LCA students embarked on a memorable bonding day, cycling the scenic Waterford Greenway. The picturesque trail, meandering through lush landscapes and historic sites, provided a perfect backdrop for camaraderie and shared experiences. As wheels spun along the route, laughter echoed, fostering a sense of unity among classmates. The outing not only offered a welcome break from academic routines but also strengthened friendships and created lasting memories. Pedalling side by side, students forged connections beyond the classroom, reinforcing the importance of teamwork



Fifth Year students taking a break during their Greenway cycle

Retirement Function of Pat Donovan and Aine Leahy

On the evening of Friday, October 5th, a poignant gathering unfolded at Aherlow House, bringing together a diverse assembly of individuals connected by their shared ties to The Abbey School. The occasion was one of heartfelt significance as Abbey staff, both past and present, convened alongside friends and family to bid a fond farewell to two revered figures, Aine Leahy and Pat Donovan, who were embarking on a well-deserved retirement. The atmosphere within the walls of Aherlow House resonated with a mix of gratitude, camaraderie, and a sense of celebration as colleagues and loved ones joined in commemorating the collective contributions of these treasured staff members.



Aine Leahy & Pat Donovan

Aine Leahy, with her years of dedicated service, had become an integral part of the Abbey community, leaving an enduring impact on both colleagues and students. The gathering served as a moment to express gratitude for Aine's tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to education. Colleagues and

attendees shared anecdotes and stories that painted a vivid picture of the positive influence Aine had wielded throughout her tenure. The retirement celebration for Aine was a testament to the lasting impression she had made on the hearts and minds of those she had worked with and taught.



Aine Leahy with her husband Michael and their children Hannah, Aoife and Mairead

Equally deserving of accolades was Pat Donovan, whose quiet yet profound influence had left an indelible mark on The Abbey School. Colleagues and attendees alike spoke warmly of Pat's expertise, wisdom, and amiable nature. The evening became a canvas for shared memories and reflections on the impact Pat had on the educational journey of countless students. His retirement marked the end of an era, and the gathering provided an opportunity to express gratitude for the legacy he leaves behind.



Presentation to Pat Donovan and his wife Eileen Donovan by John Kiely(Deputy Principal) and Dominic Hayes (Chairperson Board of Management)



Presentation to John Kiely by Dominic Hayes(Chairperson Board of Management, The Abbey School)



Pat Donovan with his wife Eileen Donovan and children Aisling, Moya , Eve and Paddy



John Kiely (Deputy Principal), Pat Donovan and David Sadleir (Principal)

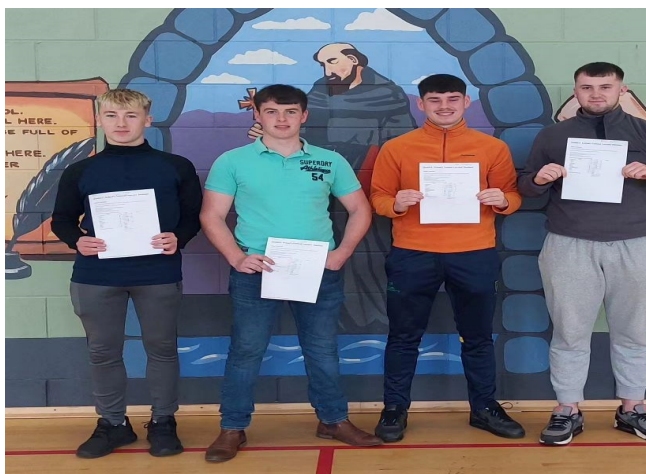
However, the evening was not just about farewells; it also served as a poignant tribute to John Kiely, acknowledging his decade-long tenure as the Principal of The Abbey School. As the gathering resonated with stories, laughter, and shared memories, it encapsulated the profound impact these individuals had on The Abbey School community and marked the beginning of a new chapter for both retirees and the school itself.



John Kiely, Michael Ryan , Pat Donovan and David Sadleir

Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate Result 2023

Congratulations to The Abbey School's Leaving Certificate Class of 2023 on receiving their results on the 25th of August! Your hard work and dedication have paved the way for success, marking the culmination of a significant academic journey. Well done on this remarkable achievement, and may your results be a testament to your perseverance and commitment. As you step into the next chapter of your lives, may you carry the knowledge gained at The Abbey School with confidence and continue to excel in your future endeavours. Best wishes for your bright and promising futures!



Leaving Certificate students 2023 Adam Lohan, James Kilmarlin, Max Reardon and Ben Ryan



Leaving Certificate students 2023 Sam Ryan, Tadhg Gubbins, Matthew Bourke and Joshua O'Dwyer

On October 18, 2023, the Junior Cert class of the Abbey School celebrated outstanding academic achievements, marking a historic moment in their educational journey. The air buzzed with excitement as students eagerly received their results, revealing a remarkable collective success. The dedicated efforts of both students and educators manifested in a wave of exceptional grades, showcasing the fruits of perseverance and commitment. Joyful cheers echoed through the halls of the Abbey School, as students, and teachers alike basked in the glow of success. The class of 2023 left an indelible mark, setting a high standard for future achievements.



Junior Cycle students 2023 Valeriu Turuta, LJ Roche, Niall Quinn, Adrian McMahon, Mr. David Sadleir (Principal), Conor O'Donoghue, Jack Ryan and Harry Hartigan.



Junior Cycle students 2023 Jacob Morrissey, Zach Lewis, Donagh Diggins, Jack Hourigan and Joshua O'Dwyer

Stand Up Awareness Week 2023

Stand Up Awareness Week, held from the 7th to the 10th of November at The Abbey School, marked a significant chapter in fostering a culture of acceptance and understanding within the school community. This dedicated week served as a platform to raise awareness against LGBTQI+ bullying, emphasising the school's commitment to creating an inclusive environment.

An array of impactful events unfolded throughout the week, leaving a lasting impression on students and staff alike. The junior classes participated in informative SPHE lessons. These lessons provided a crucial space for open dialogue, dispelling misconceptions and fostering a sense of empathy and awareness among the students.

A symbolic moment during Stand Up Awareness Week was when Principal David Sadleir, joined by senior cycle students, raised the LGBTQI+ flag. This gesture spoke volumes about the school's dedication to standing against discrimination and creating a safe space for LGBTQI+ individuals. It served as a visible symbol of support, resonating throughout the school and sending a message of inclusivity.

The culmination of the week was the vibrant Colours Day, where the entire school community participated enthusiastically. Students from all year groups donned specific colours to demonstrate solidarity with LGBTQI+ students, both within The Abbey School and the broader community.

Stand Up Awareness Week at The Abbey School succeeded in creating an atmosphere where everyone felt seen, heard, and respected. By combining informative lessons, symbolic gestures like flag-raising, and the unifying Colours Day, the school exemplified a commitment to combatting discrimination and fostering a culture of empathy and inclusion.



Stand up Awareness Noticeboard in Social Pastoral Area



LCA students supporting Stand Up Awareness Week



Senior students at our Pride Flag raising ceremony

School Musical "Footloose" with ST. Annes

This year The Abbey School and St. Anne's Secondary School again collaborated to stage the musical "Footloose" at the Excel Theatre in Tipperary Town on the 7th, 8th and 9th 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 we hoped we exceed all expectations.

"Footloose" is a musical following a fun-loving 17-year-old boy named Ren McCormack who lives with his mother Ethel in Chicago. Ren is a charismatic, likeable guy who loves dancing. However, after his dad leaves them, Ren and his mother are forced to move to a town named Bomont, where Ren quickly learns that he does not fit in and is unlikely for it. In Bomont night clubs, theatres, malls-anything fun as Ren says - are not allowed, because of a terrible accident that occurred five years earlier.

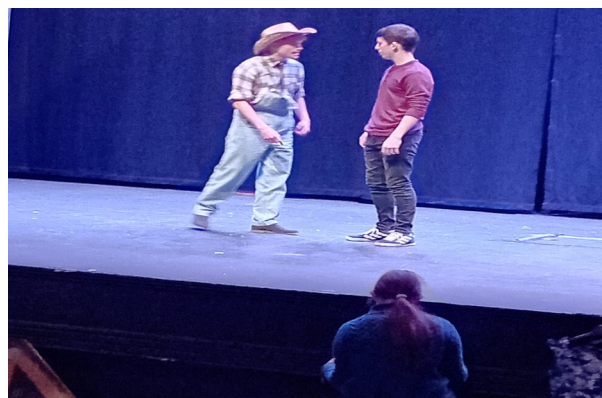
The musical follows Ren as he learns more about the town's history, meets new people and makes new friends, and finally faces off with Reverend Shaw Moore to change the law for the better and heal old wounds that never fully closed.

Whilst there were some complaints about taking part in the musical from several lads in the beginning it is now safe to say that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience which was new for some and another chance at it for others. The school musical is a wonderful tool for fostering relations between the two schools, The Abbey and St. Annes, as well as encouraging a love for the arts and musicals to help encourage other to join and improve with each year the musicals to come. It helps to break down walls between classes and year groups as well as the schools as it is hard not to have a good relationship with a group of people when you see them dancing and singing on a regular basis for three months.

As for taking part in the show itself, the hours and hours of hard work put into dancing, singing and

acting rehearsals truly did pay off, and really came to fruition during the last week in the run up to the show. As a result, over 110 secondary school students put on a terrific performance that we will remember for the rest of our lives. The week of the show is already being considered as one of the best weeks of the year for anyone involved, and many boys are already looking forward to next year.

Congratulations to all the students for their wonderful performances of all the dances like Footloose, Heaven Help me, Still Rocking, Mama Says and Footloose Finale.



The musical is open to all students in the Abbey, and Matthew Kinane from 5th year took a leading role as the very stern and authoritarian Reverend Shaw Moore. Other leading roles were filled by TY students; Conor O'Donoghue as the new kid in town *Ren McCormack*, Bart Wawszczyk as the friendly, loyal and foolhardy *Willard Hewitt* and Cormac McGrath as the womanising thug *Chuck Cranston*.



There were also some very memorable supporting roles such as Tom Bradshaw and Josh O'Dwyer as *Lyle and Travis*, Kenyer Corvos as Principal Clark, Zach Lewis as Coach Dunbar, Adrian McMahon as Uncle Wes Warnicker, Jack Ryan as *Cowboy Bob*, Jack O'Keeffe, LJ Roche and Luke Nestor as *Jeter, Bickle and Garvin* and Gabriel Facalet as Police Officer 'Jimmer's'.



These roles were accompanied by a great chorus line; Mark Flanagan, Cathal O'Mara, Joe Cotter, Patrick O'Connor, Evan Slattery, Eoghan Ryan, Sean Cleary, Darragh Bresnan, Anthony Murphy, Darragh Cleary, David Ryan, Eamon Kelly, Jack Hourigan, Rodrigo Eguiluz. The boys performed a variety of dance numbers but most notably 'Mama Says' which was commemorated after each performance for its energy and ambitious human pyramid which the boys never failed to execute.



What happened in the background was equally as important. A few students volunteered as a 'backstage crew' (Niall Quinn, Jack Hourigan, Luke Nestor, Donnagh Diggins, Harry Hartigan, Jack Garrett and Jacob Morrissey) and completed several tasks to help the show make it to the live stage.



The set was built by our own teachers here in the Abbey along with Matt Crowe from St Annes, and students worked tirelessly to complete the remarkable artwork on the sets, so that there was a variety of interchangeable scenes for the show. As well as this, students oversaw the moving of sets and props throughout the show. Niall Quinn took on the ambitious task managing the lighting of the stage for 3-night shows.

The show has been regarded as hugely successful and widely enjoyed by a variety of audiences after six performances. Well done to all that were involved and contributed to the overall success of the show.

Great credit to show is due to the amazing efforts and help of Peter Kennedy our producer and Mary Rose McNally our wonderful musical director. Many thanks also go to Sinead O' Gorman for helping to teach the boys the dances and songs with the assistance of Anne Marie O' Connor who also over saw art work for the sets and trucks as well as both acting as the Abbey Musical Co-Ordinators.

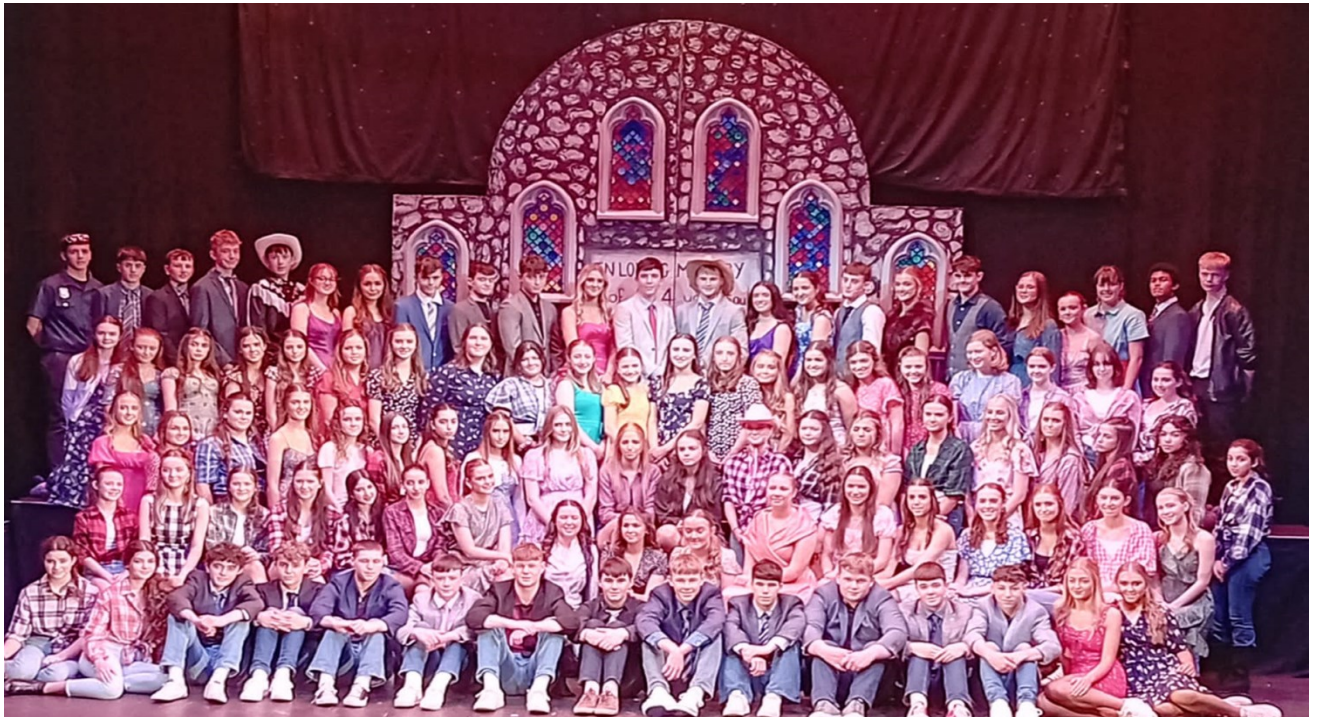
A massive thank you to the staff from both schools for their work behind the scenes, the light and sound operators, the backstage crew and the staff of Tipperary Excel.

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

Quote from an experienced musical goer:

'Well done to all on a fantastic show last night. really enjoyed it... one of the best St Annes/Abbey shows I have seen'





Galtees Trip

On September 12, our TY's took their annual trip up the Galtees. They had a lucky day for it with pleasant winds and clear skies. They travelled by bus to the base of the mountain and ascended from there. The guide for the day was Mike Moroney. On the way up Mike allowed a few short breaks at some waypoints for some storytelling and water, and he encouraged everyone to go at their own pace but to not leave anybody behind either. The main break was taken at the shore of Lough Curragh where they took time to relax and had genuine fun skipping rocks and exploring a cave on the other side of the shore. Unfortunately for the TY's they were unable to make it to the top. The boys travelled down the scenic route with lots of laughs and mud. The lads had a wonderful experience and say they would gladly do it again.

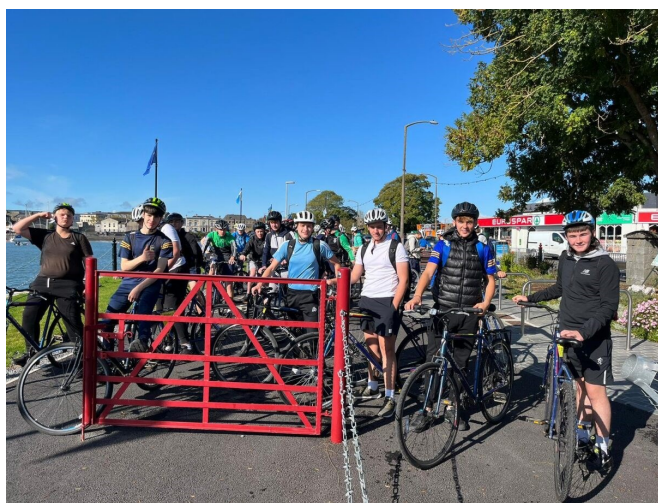


TY and LCA students enjoying their Galtees climb

Waterford Greenway Trip

On Thursday 21 September our TY classes took a trip down to Dungarvan to cycle the Waterford Greenway. They had a lovely day for it, blue skies and bright sunny weather. There were new experiences all around for some who had not cycled the Greenway before and those who had never cycled at all. One of our exchange students had the new experience of learning how to ride a bike with help from the friends he had made in TY. They cycled a total of 50km that day and

there was never a quieter bus back to the abbey after a trip.



TYs on the Waterford Greenway

Circus Skills with Konor Halpin 23rd November

The TY's all had a new experience with this workshop on circus skills with Konor Halpin. He introduced them to many new tricks such as juggling, hula hooping, skipping, devil sticks, plate spinning and the diablo. Luckily for Konor he brought plastic plates or else it would have quickly turned to a workshop on cleaning broken plates. They had only good things to say about the skills and the favourite trick seemed to be tossing the diablo. At the end Konor gave them a little show of circus skills.



Our International student Kenyar Corvos demonstrating his new skills

School Tour To Italy 11th to the 14th of October

The TY year group along with Ms. O' Connor, Mr. Hayes, Mr Riall and Ms. Quinn went on their TY trip to Lake Garda in northern Italy from the 11th of October until the 14th of October. They travelled from Dublin Airport to the Milan Bergamo Airport at 12 O'clock local time. The group travelled by bus from Milan to the quaint stone walled town of Sirmione on the shore of Lake Garda, where they were free to explore the town, see the sights and enjoy some gelato before engaging in a thrilling speed boat tour of the lake on Bertoldi Boats. The weather was perfect at a lovely 23 degrees and was a welcome escape from the rain! The previous plans of bowling were tossed for an impromptu swim in Lake Garda by all the students who were even joined in the water by Mr. Hayes to raucous applause. After the early start and hours of travelling, everyone was glad to relax in the water. The bus journey to Hotel Le Sergenti passed quickly due to the DJ-ing efforts of the students. After dinner at the hotel, everyone was exhausted after their exciting day and retired to their rooms for a good night's rest in preparation of the day to come.



Enjoying the sights of Sirmione from the water

On their second day in sunny, northern Italy, the group had breakfast before journeying on a boat trip to the sinking city of Venice. Everyone enjoyed a few hours exploring the historic City of Masks and had an awe-inspiring experience of seeing St. Mark's Square in person on a guided tour and learned about the construction and history of the square. After the sights of the square, they had to

stop and take a moment to fully appreciate the glamour and skill of Murano's Glass Factory where artisans work tirelessly to shape glass into works of art. After seeing all the sights of Venice, the group travelled back by boat to the hotel with the moon as their backdrop.



Venice

The third day started with breakfast in the Hotel Le Sergenti followed by a bus journey to Verona, the home of the famous love story known as, "Romeo and Juliet", which we had studied for our Junior Cycle English exam. The TY's had a lovely day exploring the winding streets of the City of Love and getting to see all the local shops and sites. After their exploration of the town, they visited Juliet's balcony, where Juliet recited her famous soliloquy *"What's in a name? that which we call a rose / By any other name would smell as sweet;"*, as well as the beautiful view of the town.



Juliet's balcony

Leaving the walled city of Verona behind them the TY's travelled to Garda Land where they had five hours to experience some of Europe's biggest and best roller coasters and other rides, from the Oblivion to the Labyrinth. Tired, the group eventually had to return to their hotel for their penultimate night in Italy.



TYs at Garda Land

Day four marked the end of the TY's trip to Italy. For their last day the group headed to the famous San Siro Stadium in Milan for a tour of the famous historical site. After this they headed to the Bergamo Airport for their return home to Ireland. All around the TY's had a wonderful time and were sad to see it pass so quickly.



TY students departing Italy after a jam packed four days

Bernard Casey Comedy Workshop

The TY and 5th year boys had an enjoyable time doing a comedy workshop with comedian Bernard Casey. Bernard showed the boys some of his tricks for comedy as well as how he got into comedy. He took the boys through group exercises where they had to work together to make their own skits and acts as well as memory exercises where they had to organise themselves by date of birth or names and remember their positions. Overall, the boys had an enjoyable time and finished up with Bernard doing accents requested by the boys.



Bernard Casey with LCA students

Gael Linn

Our Irish debating team competed in the Gael Linn Comórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh. The Abbey boys gave a great display on the night and were unlucky to come up against very tough competition from neighbours Sr. Anne's, Tipperary Town and Presentation Secondary School, Listowel



Irish Debating Team members TY students Conor O'Donoghue, Niall Quinn and Jack O'Keeffe with their teacher Mr. Michael Hanley

YSI Project 2023

Our TY YSI project this year is a campaign to highlight the abuse referees face during games. The name of the campaign is called Give Respect Get Respect. Our TYs handed out surveys to different years to find out how referees face the abuse and why it happens. Our campaign aims to highlight the abuse referees receive during games and hopefully make a positive impact through spreading this information.



YSI noticeboard for Referee campaign

Christmas Carol's Service

Big thanks you to all the 1st, 2nd, TY's, 5th and 6th years for their great work in the Christmas Carol Service as well as to the choir for their wonderful singing. Great job for all the students who spoke on the warmth and joy of the Christmas season.



The Abbey School Music Group

Open Night 2023

The Abbey Open Night on October 26th proved to be a resounding success, drawing in numerous 5th and 6th class students from neighboring schools eager to explore the offerings of The Abbey School. The Music Department showcased its talents with performances by 2nd years, TYs, and 5th years, captivating the audience with musical prowess. The Science Department left a lasting impression by conducting captivating experiments, while the Technology and Woodwork Department offered a glimpse into the exciting prospects awaiting potential students. The Art Department displayed breathtaking images and practical works, showcasing the creativity fostered at The Abbey. Meanwhile, the PE Department provided a dynamic experience, offering a taste of the diverse sports available within the school. The open night served as a dynamic introduction, allowing prospective students to witness the rich tapestry of academic and extracurricular opportunities awaiting them at The Abbey School.



Second Year Music Group



Music rehearsal for Open Night

First Year Art

The first year art class have been hard at work this past term exploring the history of Art as well as taking their first steps on the path to being renowned artists. Recently, the first years partook in a art competition where they all had to make pinch pots from clay. These pots could be moulded into the shape of a monster by the students and these pots could be either ornamental, functional or a combination of both. Well done to all the students who participated and a particular congratulations to our 6 category winners: David Gherbezan 'Best Craftsmanship', Daití Byrne 'Best Design', Aaron O'Shea and Shane Delaney joined winners 'Most functional pot' Eoin Heffernan 'Most Innovative' and Daniel Harding 'Best Character'. *Not pictured is winner Ruairi Ivory 'Best Ornamental pot'.



First Year Art Class



First Year Pinch Pot creations

Second Year Art

In second year for Christmas, our art class's have been hard at work creating festive, Christmas themed centre pieces. They are up-cycling some discarded pieces of packaging materials such as styrofoam and using real foliage such as holly and the keaves of evergreen trees to decorate their centre pieces. Well done for all their hard work.



Second Year Art Students with their Christmas centre pieces

Second Years also displayed their own exhibition of their own art works. The students had been studying the work of the artist Albrecht Dürer and they took inspiration from his works to help create their own various pieces based on the idea of exotic animals and nature's ability to form beautiful patterns and prints found in nature.



Second Year Art Exhibition



First Year students Rocco Julian and Jamie Bowler winners of the Maths mind-maps competition.

Geography

In September, Mr. Sweeney and Ms. King seized the opportunity of fine weather by taking their second-year class outside for a hands-on learning experience at the nearby River Ara. Engaging in a river study, the students measured the river's velocity, analysed river materials, and conducted cross-sectional measurements. This practical exploration allowed them to assess the rate of riverbank erosion and understand the current stage of the river's evolution. By immersing themselves in the outdoor environment, the students gained valuable insights into the dynamic processes shaping rivers, turning a theoretical concept into a tangible and memorable educational experience.



Second Year River Ara Study



Second Years conducting cross-sectional measurements



On October 2nd, Mr. Sweeney and Ms. King led their sixth-year Geography classes to Kilfarassey Beach in Waterford for a comprehensive Leaving Cert Geography field study. The coastal excursion provided students with hands-on experience, allowing them to apply theoretical knowledge to the real-world environment. Kilfarassey Beach, with its diverse coastal features, became an outdoor classroom for the day, enhancing the students' understanding of geographical concepts.



Leaving Certificate Geography Field Study



6th Year Leaving Certificate Geography students

The Abbey Sports News

First Year Hurling and Football

The 1st Year hurlers and footballers have had a busy and promising start to their GAA careers in the Abbey colours. The year started with a focus on hurling where the boys trained for an hour during long lunches every week, developing their skills and working together with their new teammates. The boys participated in in-house games and matches with 2nd years which will see both sets of players joining forces after Christmas to compete in the Rice Cup. Training went well and set the team up nicely for their first 1st Year Hurling Competition coordinated by Tipperary Coaching & Games hosted in Dr. Morris Park. The boys had wins over Borrisokane and Cashel. This saw them through to the B-final Blitz where the lads had a great win over Nenagh before meeting a strong, physical Carrick-on-Suir side who featured players that had won the club county championship. There was some great hurling on display in tough conditions. The Abbey boys just barely came up short and will learn a lot after playing in their first final in the school. Big thanks to Mr J. Ryan, Mr M. O'Dwyer and Mr G. McCarthy for their work with the team in the first term of school. We wish them the best in the Rice Cup competition later in the year.



First Year Hurlers 2023

After the hurling competition was played, attention was drawn to football. Tipperary Coaching & Games hosted competitions in an impressive Fethard Town Park. The competition took place on Monday 4th of December. The team trained vigorously in the weeks leading up to the competition and competed well in a closely contested competition which saw teams in the group only winning or losing by the minimum point in all games. The Abbey progressed from the group after battling with Clonmel CTI and Colaiste Dun Iascaigh (Cahir). The boys were drawn against Clonmel High School where the wind played a big factor and both teams struggled to score against the stiff breeze. A late goal by the High School proved the difference with them winning the game by a single point. The footballers were trained by Mr G. McCarthy and Mr J. Ryan.



First Year Footballers 2023

First years are in the middle of Christmas tournaments where 1st and 2nd years are battling it out on the hurling field. The group are split up into 4 teams (Limerick, Tipperary, Cork, Kilkenny). The competition will conclude on the final's day. (22nd December prior to the Christmas break) Best of luck to all teams and players participating and a big thanks to the sports department for keeping the boys involved in GAA activities.

U15 Hurling County Championship.

Training started for the u15 Hurling County Championship back in September. The format of the competition was one day blitzes. The first blitz saw the Abbey play Rockwell College and Colaiste Dun Iascaigh, with the winner of the group qualifying for the County Final blitz day. In the first match the Abbey had a hard fought win against Dun Iascaigh and ended up winning on a score line of 0-6 to 1-2. Our second match was a much more comfortable win against Rockwell College finishing on a scoreline of 2-7 to 0-3. As a result of our two wins, we qualified for the finals day with the same format again this time against Cashel and St. Josephs Borrisoleigh.

The final was held in Annacarty on Thursday 14th December. Cashel beat Borrisoleigh in the first game of the day. The Abbey played Borrisoleigh in the second game and after a tough game the Abbey came out on top on a scoreline of 4-06 to 2-07. Scorers for the Abbey Shane Hartigan 3-0, Mark Ryan 1-0, Eoin O Connell 0-3. Rocco Julian 0-2, Cillian O Dea 0-1. The final game of the day was against Cashel which resulted in a winner take all. The scoreline finished in favour of Cashel 1-04 to 0-09. Real disappointment was felt by all involved but encouragement can be taking for the Munster Championship which starts in early 2024. Abbey scorers v Cashel, Rocco Julian 1-0, Morgan O Connor 0-2, Oisin Pearl and Eoin O Connell 0-1.

First Year Soccer

In their inaugural appearance at the Collins Cup, our 1st year soccer team exhibited commendable skill, resilience, and sportsmanship. Facing formidable opponents, the team displayed commendable skill and teamwork throughout the competition.

The journey began with a closely contested match against Rockwell, where despite a valiant effort, our team narrowly lost 1-0. Undeterred, the players continued to demonstrate their resilience, facing St. Joseph's Borrisoleigh with determination. Although the match concluded with a 3-1 scoreline favouring the opponents, our team's spirit remained unwavering.

The highlight of the campaign came in a thrilling encounter against Cashel Community School, where our

team emerged triumphant with a thrilling 5-4 win.

Special commendation goes to standout performers Eoin Heffernan, Daithí Byrne, and Rocco Julian whose exceptional contributions played a pivotal role in the team's success. The team's skill, dedication, and sportsmanship set a high standard for future soccer endeavours at our school.

Abbey Golf

2023 has been a year of many successes for golf in The Abbey. Our Junior golfers had success when the team of Sean Kinnane, Thomas Crosse and Sean Cleary claimed success in the Munster Qualifiers. The boys claimed the title with Sean Kinnane also claiming the individual prize on the day. They have now qualified for the All-Ireland series that will take place in the springtime.

Also, on the golf scene 5th year student Donnacha Cleary continued to lead the way for the school. Over the summer he claimed a second-place finish in the Munster under-18 boy's championship and Ulster under-18 Boys championship, and followed this up with a victory in the Leinster under-18 boy's championship in New Forest. Previous winners of this competition include Pdraig Harrington (1988) and Shane Lowry (2005).

On the international front, he was selected on the Irish Boys team, he helped them to victory in the Boys Home Nations title for the first time since 2013. His victory over England's Jack Lee in the final match proved crucial in claiming the crown. The following week he played in the R&A Boys Amateur championship, where he reached the last 16th.

This high level of performance was noted by the Great Britain and Ireland (GB & I) selectors, who picked Donnacha to play for the Great Britain & Ireland under-18's against continental Europe on the weekend of August 25/26 in Golf du Chantilly, France.

Everybody in the Abbey wish to congratulate Donnacha on his achievements thus far and look forward to what has yet to come for the Tipperary Golf Club member.



Donnacha Cleary Great Britain & Ireland U18s team member

U16 Basketball

The U16 basketball season has drawn to a close, leaving us with many triumphs, challenges, and unforgettable moments. Our teams navigated through a competitive landscape, displaying resilience and determination that defined this season as truly exceptional.

Led by stellar performances from athletes like Daragh Bresnan, David Simiatis, and Jack Garrett, our U16 basketball teams secured 1st place in the group. Victories against formidable opponents, including a resounding 60-11 win in the quarter final against Colaiste Aindriu Carlow, showcased the team's offensive prowess and defensive tenacity.

The quarter-final win was a statement of our team's dominance, a testament to their skill and strategic execution on the court. The momentum carried into the semi-final, where our players faced a tough challenge against FCJ Bunclody Wexford. With a 39-34 triumph, they demonstrated not only their physical prowess but also their mental fortitude in pressure situations.

The pinnacle of the season was the final, a dramatic encounter against Colaiste Mhuire Thurles that unfolded in double overtime. Despite a valiant effort, our team fell short with a final score of 74-71. The intense battle highlighted the character and competitive spirit of our players, leaving an indelible mark on the memories of all who witnessed it.



we bring this chapter to a close, we express our sincere gratitude to the parents, and sponsors whose unwavering encouragement contributed to the positive atmosphere surrounding the games. The U16 basketball season may have ended, but the experiences gained, and lessons learned will undoubtedly serve as a foundation for the continued success of our student-athletes.



U16 Basketball Team 2023

U19 Basketball

As the U19 basketball season concludes, we reflect on a journey marked by triumphs, challenges, and notable performances. Our teams faced formidable opponents, securing victories against Scoil Ruain and Rockwell while competing against Colaiste Mhuire Thurles and St. Ailbes.

The U19 basketball teams exhibited teamwork, with players such as Nedas Petcu, Razvan Cojocaru, and Daniel Facalet standing out with exceptional individual performances. Despite finishing in 3rd place in the group, the teams scored 148 points and conceded 113 points.

Congratulations to our U19 basketball teams and standout players. We eagerly anticipate witnessing their continued achievements in the next school year.

U16 Rugby

Our U16 rugby team commenced their King Cup campaign with a thrilling 24-19 victory over Nenagh College, showcasing exceptional teamwork. Tries from Joe Cotter, Alex Ryan, Jaye Cilvinas, and Patrick O'Connor highlighted the team's offensive prowess. Following a bye from Newport College, The Abbey faced St. Caimin's Community School, Shannon and dominated with an impressive seven tries, demonstrating their strength and skill. The resounding success secures a well-deserved spot in the semi-finals scheduled for January, where the team will undoubtedly bring their determination and talent to pursue further triumphs in the King Cup tournament.



U16 Rugby Team 2023-2024

U15 Rugby

Our U15s played in the East Munster emerging school blitz in Fethard Town Park in October and had a successful outing winning three of their four matches. The U15s will commence their Cleary Cup campaign in early January.



U15 Rugby Team 2023-2024

U17 Hurling

Abbey CBS 1-18 Cashel Community School 1-18 AET (Abbey win 6-5 on penalties)

Our U17 hurlers got their Munster campaign of the TUS Corn Shéamuis Ó Donnchú underway on Tuesday 3rd October against Cashel Community School in Seán Tracey Park. This was a real local derby affair and a ding dong battle between two equally matched sides. Trailing 1-7 to 1-3 at half time The Abbey had an uphill battle in the second half but clawed their way back into the game to battle back and finish level at full time 1-13 to 1-13. The game then entered extra time which was very much a tale of two halves with The Abbey behind 1-17 to 1-14 at half time in extra time. A huge second half of battling and sheer grit saw The Abbey come from behind to once again finish level at full time of extra time 1-18 to 1-18. The Abbey emerged victorious in a penalty shootout 6-5 with some excellently taken penalties and crucial save from goalkeeper Patrick O'Connor.

Abbey CBS 2-19 Coachford College 2-12

On Friday 20th October our u17 hurlers faced Coachford College in the quarter-final of the Munster B hurling championship in Banteer. The Abbey produced a powerful first half display with some well taken scores and well worked passages of play to lead at half time on a scoreline of 1-12 to 0-5. However, this was very much a game of two halves as Coachford College powered back into the second half and produced a much greater threat. The Abbey managed to withstand the onslaught and finished strongly to earn a well-deserved victory on a scoreline of 2-19 to 2-12.

Abbey CBS 2-7 Blackwater Community School, Lis- more 2-16

On Friday 24th November The Abbey faced a stern test in the semi-final of the Corn Uí Donnchú U17 B hurling championship against a strong Blackwater Community School side in Fethard. In a very competitive and keenly contested first half The Abbey went in two

points down at halftime 1-7 to 1-5. The Abbey started the brighter of the two in the second half and were ahead 2-6 to 1-7 within the first ten minutes. However, as the second half wore on Blackwater showed their physical presence and hurling ability. With five minutes remaining The Abbey trailed by two points 1-12 to 2-7. A Blackwater goal with four minutes remaining saw them establish a strong lead along with some well taken points in additional time. On what was a very disappointing end to an excellent Munster campaign, The Abbey can take some consolation from the fact that they lost out to the eventual winners of the competition. Our attention now turns to the U17 B county championship after Christmas where we face Coláiste Dún Iascaigh, Cahir.



Swimming

Well done to our junior swimmers who competed in the Munster Senior schools Swimming Gala in UL on Sunday 12th November.



The Abbey School swim team

Senior Hurling

The Abbey competed in the Munster Senior B hurling competition this year. Drawn in a group of five teams with Clonmel, Mitchelstown, Scarriff and Rochestown. In a very competitive group with only three teams qualifying for the knockout stages every game and every score was going to be important.

The Abbey played Clonmel High School in their first game in Fethard. In difficult breezy conditions the Abbey failed to capitalise on the strong breeze they had in the first half. They left too much to do against the breeze and the high score punished the Abbey on the score board. Clonmel went on to win the game.

The Abbeyes' next opponents were Mitchelstown CBS. Again this game was played in Fethard. The Abbey trailed for long periods of this game. Eventually, getting their noses in front late in the second half. The Abbey went on to win by two points which brought them right back into the group.

Round three saw the Abbey face Scarriff CC in UL 4g north campus. Scarriff had some very good Clare minor hurlers from last year. The Abbey faced up to the challenge with the best performance of the campaign. They went on to win by five points which put them in a good position to qualify.

The last round of games had the Abbey face Rochestown and Clonmel playing Scarriff. There were a number of scenarios that could have played out depending on the results. On the day the Abbey were second best against a very strong and well coached Rochestown side. Results in the other game did not go their way and saw the Abbey fail to qualify for the knockout stages of the championship on scoring difference.



Senior Soccer

In an exhilarating showcase of skill and determination, our senior soccer team left an indelible mark in the Munster Senior A Competition. The journey unfolded with a heart-stopping encounter against John the Baptist Hospital, where our players clinched a 5-3 victory on penalties after an intense 1-1 draw in normal time.

Undeterred by the challenges, the team demonstrated unwavering resolve in their next match against St. Mary's of Newport. After a thrilling 4-4 draw in regular time, our players secured a 5-2 penalty shootout triumph, showcasing exceptional composure and teamwork.

Special accolades are extended to standout performers Antonio Rea, Dylan McGrath, Robbie McGrath, and Stevie Carey, whose stellar contributions played a pivotal role in these victories. Their skill, leadership, and sportsmanship exemplify the spirit of our senior soccer team.



Senior Soccer 2023-2024

Senior Football Corn Ui Mhuri Munster Senior 'A' Championship

Our senior team this year began their preparations for the Munster championship in the 1st week of September for what was to be their return to Munster Colleges Football blue ribbon competition, the Corn Ui Mhuirí. The Abbey trained hard for the first round, and they also played challenge matches against St Flannan's of Ennis and DLS Macroom. These performances gave the Abbey great confidence looking forward to their first-round clash with St. Patricks, Castleisland of Kerry.

This game was played in Maguires Fields in UL and the Abbey claimed an historic victory on a scoreline of 1-10 to 1-08. The Abbey boys staged a strong comeback and 1-4 on the trot to take the win. It was a return to the top table for the school after a decade-long absence. Munster B winners in the last two seasons, they'd fallen just short in the All-Ireland B final last spring, but this win gave great confidence going into their second-round game against perennial contenders, Clonakilty Community College.

Unfortunately, in this game we fell to an agonising one-point defeat on a scoreline of 1-09 to 0-11. The Abbey looked well on their way to full points, after a dominant display in the first half at Bishopstown's 4G pitch but were caught at the death by a last-minute point

The Abbey were frustrated not to have topped the group, especially after holding a 0-5 to nothing lead after a quarter of an hour. However, despite Clonakilty's comeback the Abbey still progressed to the preliminary quarter final. In this tie they would meet another Cork Kingpin in the shape of Hamilton High School, Bandon.

This would prove a historic day for football in the school as the Abbey made the most of the wind

amidst the rain as they held out against Hamilton HS Bandon in Banteer, securing a spot in the Corn Uí Mhuirí quarter finals on a scoreline of 0-14 to 0-12. A first half blitz saw the Abbey hit seven without reply, which had them 0-10 to 0-5 in front at half time and unlike their previous encounter with Clonakilty CC they closed out the victory.

This saw the Abbey qualify for the Quarter final for the first time since 1999 in a game that will see them play Kerry powerhouses, Tralee C.B.S. This game will be a challenge, but this group has shown huge ambition thus far and will not leave any stone unturned in their quest to make this run last a little longer.



Senior Football Panel 2023-2024

**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 paegant 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 unkown 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 togehter while making good.**

**Though we live in a world that dreams of
ending**

**that aways seems about to give in
something that will not aknowledge
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***