



# REALTÍN



Coláiste Muire, Réalt na Mara, Crosshaven, Co. Cork

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Teacher : Mrs. Pamela O Connell

## Editorial

Ireland has long prided itself on greeting visitors with warmth, styling itself the land of “a hundred thousand welcomes”, but now there is a new slogan: #IrelandIsFull. Currently Ireland is housing 73,000 migrants, comprising 54,000 Ukrainians and 19,000 international protection applicants. A year ago, the total number was 7,500. An acute housing and homelessness crisis has collided with the state’s struggle to accommodate Ukrainians and asylum seekers, fuelling accusations that foreigners receive preferential treatment.

The issue of refugees is not an easy one to deal with and there is seldom consensus reached on the topic. Let us take a look and both sides on this issue. George Santayana said “Only the dead have seen the end of war” and as such we must acknowledge the reality that there will always be conflict and violence compounded by worsening climate change that will continue to displace millions of people, so why should Ireland not play its part on the International stage? It is hard to ignore the latest Red C poll looking at concerns around migration in Ireland. Almost two-thirds of Irish people said that Ireland should not continue to take unlimited numbers of Ukrainian refugees simply because we do not have the services to cater for the amount of people coming here. Four in ten respondents felt that their families had poorer access to services due to refugees and asylum seekers and that understandably causes anger as people in Ireland cannot afford to rent or buy homes leading to overcrowding and in some cases homelessness. There is a case to be made that the State should look after its own people first before helping others.

On the flip side of this debate it must be acknowledged that under the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees, Ireland has international commitments to take refugees. Refugees are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers with the same hopes and ambitions as us, except that catastrophic events have forced them to leave their homes. Surely accepting refugees is the right thing, both morally and legally to do. The refugee is not the enemy, rather, it is the one who made him a refugee in the first place. These people did not choose to be displaced. As human beings, we should do our part to ensure that they can have a better life because what is life if it is not lived for helping others?

## Coláiste Muire, Realt na Mara

We know that we do not all have the same talents, but, here in Coláiste Muire, Realt na Mara, all of us have an equal opportunity to develop our talents.

The words of George Bernard Shaw exemplify what our school offers to every student:

*“What we want is to see the child in pursuit of knowledge, and not knowledge in pursuit of the child”.*

## Coláiste Muire, Réalt na Mara, Crosshaven



Our school is located in the scenic village of Crosshaven, right at the mouth of Cork Harbour. The school was founded in 1947 by the Presentation Sisters. We are a co-educational school with an even split between boys and girls. Our school motto is *‘Respice Stellam, Voca Mariam’* which translates as look to the star, call upon Mary, a reflection of our strong maritime links. Here, our Faculty encourage us to be creative, inquisitive, responsible and kind. Lon Walters could well have been describing our school when he said :

*“A school is a building with four walls that has the future inside”*

## PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT FOUND IN CROSSHAVEN.

Cork County Council confirmed that a prehistoric settlement has been found by a construction crew working on a new housing development on Church Bay Road, Crosshaven. Archaeologist, Avril Purcell said that the discovery was quite a surprise as “there was no evidence of the settlement in the field beforehand”. The settlement has been dated to the Bronze Age and is nearly 3,000 years old. Archaeological features identified include an enclosure, foundations of round houses and a lot of post holes, pits and burnt areas. Finds from the site included Bronze Age pottery and a saddle quern for grinding corn.

The developer will now reduce the number of houses built on the site. Much of the area will be preserved ‘in situ’ meaning it will not be excavated but will instead be kept as a green area. The remainder of the site will be excavated, recorded and removed under licence from the National Monuments of Ireland.

We contacted local Councillor, Audrey Buckley about the discovery. She told us that “the discovery is exciting news for Crosshaven. It is showing us our history. We now have access to learn how Bronze Age settled farmers, lived and worked. We are excited to see what other finds the site will give up”. We will be able to visit the site to see the archaeologists at work. In the words of Carl Sagan “You have to know the past to understand the present”.



Pottery and a stone quern found on the site.

## IRELAND FROM A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE!



Coláiste Muire hosts a number of International students each year. This year there are students from France, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Belgium, Spain, Poland and Sweden. We thought it would be nice to hear what they think of Ireland !

**Yes, It's Very Green !** Long before you step out of the airport, you will hear about Ireland's expansive green landscape. Fields are broken up by stone walls and are every shade of green you could imagine. I think the grass and plants stay green all year round due to Ireland's mild, wet climate.

**Yes, It rains as much as everyone says it does !** Another dominant colour you will soon notice is grey. The sky is almost always filled with heavy, steely clouds, threatening to pour down on you at any second. The weather is a popular topic of conversation, especially when it isn't raining, it seems a visible sun is a national event!

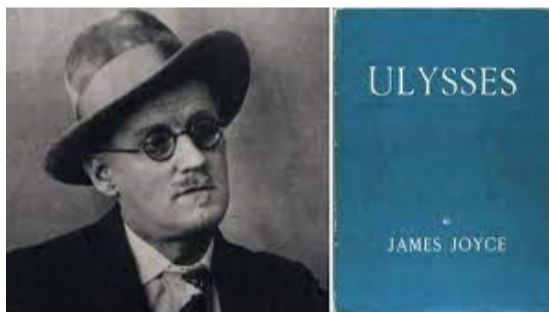
**Irish people really do love potatoes.** Before coming to Ireland we heard the stereotype about people in Ireland eating nothing but potatoes and cabbage. The Irish have found extensive ways to prepare them and they really are delicious.

**Craic is required, not optional.** Irish people are all about "craic". When I arrived I heard the saying "What's the craic"? on more than a few occasions. I discovered that it is a compliment to be called good craic by the locals.

**Sometimes I cannot understand a word they are saying!** The Irish accent is loved all over the world, but sometimes it is hard to tell exactly which accent you are listening to. The accents range from soft lilt to heavy brogues. I sometimes ask them to repeat themselves, but it does take a few tries.

In summary, the Irish are fond of potatoes, their skin does not take well to sunlight but Ireland is made magical by its people, you may even come to believe that leprechauns are real. As a foreigner, there are definitely things I find confusing about Ireland, but that only adds to the charm, I have found that Irish people would rather help you understand than make you feel isolated.

### CROSSHAVEN- THE JAMES JOYCE ULYSSES CONNECTION



Every year on June 16<sup>th</sup> fans flock to Dublin to recreate the journey of the character Leopold Bloom in Joyce's book 'Ulysses'. It is not all about Dublin you know, we here in Crosshaven, Co. Cork can claim a connection to the famous book and its author! Stephen Dedalus is in St. Mary's Abbey with his friend Ned Lambert when he mentions Crosshaven as a fake Fenian password. "Who's that? Ned Lambert asked. Is that Crotty? Crosshaven, a voice replied". Joyce paid many visits to Crosshaven as his aunt Mother Mary Teresa Tynan founded the Presentation Convent here in Crosshaven. It is clear that Cork Harbour meant a lot to Joyce, when Frank O Connor went to visit Joyce in Paris, there was a framed picture of Cork harbour hanging on the wall. There is no denying that Joyce had roots in Cork and we are proud to know that our little village is forever immortalized in 'Ulysses'.



### STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME

#### ALL IRELAND TITLE FOR ANDREW RYAN!

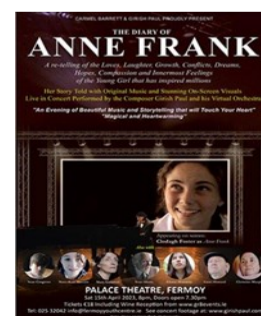
The student Enterprise Programme is overseen by a network of Local Enterprise Offices (LEOS). Students get to set up their own business and do everything a real life entrepreneur would do, from coming up with the business idea to marketing and writing a business plan.

Andrew Ryan took the All Ireland Title for his work on 'My Entrepreneurial Journey'.



Andrew Ryan receiving his All Ireland Title from Taoiseach Leo Varadkar.

#### 2nd Year student, Clodagh Foster lands lead role in production of 'Ann Frank'.



Clodagh will play the lead role in this production of 'Ann Frank' which opens in the Palace Theatre in Fermoy, Co. Cork in April.

## FILM REVIEW

### THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN



Written and directed by Martin McDonagh, starring Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Barry Keoghan.

114 Minutes Cert 15

The film is set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland and follows lifelong friends Pádraic and Colm, who find themselves at an impasse when Colm unexpectedly puts an end to their friendship. A stunned Pádraic, helped by his sister Siobhán and troubled islander Dominic, try to repair the relationship, refusing to take no for an answer. Colin delivers a desperate ultimatum, events swiftly escalate, with shocking consequences.

The Banshees of Inisherin could be described as dark, tragic but somehow humorous. There is no doubt that the film is beautifully acted, shot and directed....BUT I did not enjoy watching it. Nothing in the story makes you feel good about anything in life, and you certainly will not watch it again. When asked what you think of it, I guarantee you won't say "oh yeah its great" and leave it at that. What you will say is "oh it's well acted, but".... If you are looking for a film that makes you depressed about life then this is a good start.

What is the message of The Banshees of Inisherin?

Besides being funny and devastating, Banshees of Inisherin is also rife with symbolism about the Irish Civil War-indeed conflict in general, especially male conflict-and McDonagh's commentary is explored through the end of Colm and Pádraic's friendship.

There are many grotesque scenes in this movie, but it is also filmed in the breathtaking beauty of Ireland. It powerfully shows the human capacity for self-destruction. Grief, pain, disorientation, and vivid violence are woven together by superb acting from Farrell and Gleeson.

*The Banshees of Inisherin* is a tough, challenging film to watch. Is it a morality tale? A parable about men's inability to communicate? A twisted comedy? Probably all of those things but it is funny, powerful, grotesque and indescribably sad.



### CLOTHING APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

*"WAR TAKES SO MANY MORE CASUALTIES THAN JUST THE DEAD"*

Thank you to everyone for the very generous donations. Compassion and humanity are the first casualties of any war but it is truly heart-warming to know that here in Coláiste Muire we have an abundance of both compassion and humanity.



### ADVICE FOR OUR FIRST YEAR COHORT

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"- Nelson Mandela*

The transition to secondary school means big changes for our First Year student cohort. You have jumped from being a big fish to a small fish in the sea of secondary school. Everything changes for you, your friendships, peer groups, schoolwork and the school environment have all changed.

We take heart First Years. A few years ago we were First Year students and we understand how you feel. We know how scary it is to start secondary school, it is a big step up being responsible for your own learning, getting used to new teachers, new subjects and physically navigating your way around a bigger school building.

From our experience, we would like to remind you that you have chosen a really wonderful school. Take it all one day at a time and enjoy the journey!

### Our advice :

T.T.T.

Put up in a place

Where it's easy to see

The cryptic letters T.T.T.

When you feel how depressingly

Slowly you climb,

It is well to remember that

**Things Take Time**

### IRISH SCIENCE TEACHERS NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

Huge congratulations to 2nd Year student Aoife Kissane who won the Junior Category of this National competition. Pictured below is Aoife's winning photograph and Aoife receiving her prize with Ms. Fogarty and Mr. Kavanagh.



### ON PROBLEMS

Our choicest plans  
Have fallen through,  
Our airiest castles  
Tumbled over,  
Because of lines  
We neatly drew  
And later neatly  
Stumbled over.

## THE GIANTS STONE

Sandy to the touch, as if in homage to its arduous birth, pale in hue, smitten deep in an anaerobic world then exposed and coldly plucked from its home to adorn a distant beach, rounded by countless waves and the touch of a myriad children's muddy hands. Now it proudly stands upon a manmade plinth, a pedestal of hand-hewn granite, a testament to the wonders of geology and the fascinating bond between man and stone. On this, the third rock from the sun, this small nomadic boulder has a story to tell, a tale of wind, rain and sun, a saga of arid deserts, fast flowing rivers Giants stone with Crosshaven and deep blue seas.

An epic account of continents made and torn asunder, of compression, of fissures forged in the Variscan Orogeny and veins bedecked in dazzling quartzite. But, this is one version of the truth! What about Binne? and his role, what about that legend forged on the anvil of that Celtic worldview, perhaps in that wondrous realm is the true story of the Rock!

But not just yet!

What has geology to tell us about this stone? This grey green sandstone with its veins of quartzite stands about a metre tall and roughly the same in girth. It only ended its momentous journey a few short years ago and neither ice nor water had any part to play. Instead it was transported in the jaws of a J.C.B. from the foreshore where it had sat for up to 20000 years to its current home atop a base in the village square, rescued from an ignominious grave beneath the local car park. Composed of grains of sand and quartzite minerals this rock is perhaps 350 million years old. Formed on the edge of a great ocean (Iapetus) when Ireland lay 35 degrees south of the equator it was transported slowly northward for millions of years as the great continental plates drifted. Throughout the Mesozoic and Cenozoic it lay undisturbed for millennia but for rocks there's no rest, no permanency, it's always in transition, having been buried for thousands of years it emerged into the cold blue light of the Quaternary. Then transported in a vast ice sheet it was plucked from its resting place of old and was brought out of the west to find a new resting place at the edge of an outwash plane, buried beneath a carpet of boulder clay atop a thick bed of old red sandstone, but not for long! As the ice melted and sea levels rose the waters flooded through the Lee river gorge and up the Owenabue valley and there swirling, eddying, crashing and surging it exposed the stone to the touch of human hands and the wondrous human imagination.

Perhaps Mesolithic hunters sought the shelter of the cove and tied their dugout canoes to it as they gathered shellfish along the shore. They certainly saw it as they passed on their way to Currabinny to cook the sea's bounty in the lea of the hill. Kitchen Middens bear witness to these early wanderers. What did they think of that strangely coloured boulder with its fingerprints? And what about the men who built the great tomb atop Currabinny Hill, seventy in diameter and several metres high, what thoughts had they about that prominent landmark. We know what the later generation thought, they knew the secret of the stone, it was whispered to them as they huddled around campfires on dark winter's nights or told with a furtive passing glance as they paddled to shore. The story of Binne, the angry Giant who in an epic battle worthy of any Celtic saga used a giant sized boulder to deal with his enemies across the bay, that selfsame giant that lies buried beneath the cairn, The Giants Grave.

Science can be a cold bedfellow! I know when I passed on my way to and from school it is the straining biceps and the mighty roar of Binne that echoes round my mind. A victory of mystery and romance over rationality, I know! But there must be room for both!



## COMMUNITY SPIRIT!

Coláiste Muire, is proud to continue to work with many local community groups. Students work with Crosshaven Tidy Towns, Crosshaven Development Committee, Templebreedy Save our Steeple and Take 3 for the Sea.



## Ms. LEHANE CONQUERS THE IRONMAN CHALLENGE!

In September our very own Ms Lehane completed the Barcelona Ironman race.

This included a 3.9 km swim followed by a 180km cycle and then a 42km run. She completed this in an amazing 14 hours and 47 minutes.

In preparation for this competition, Ms. Lehane completed a 6 month training plan where she trained 6 days a week:

Monday was her rest day.

On Tuesday she completed a 1hr run and 2hr swim.

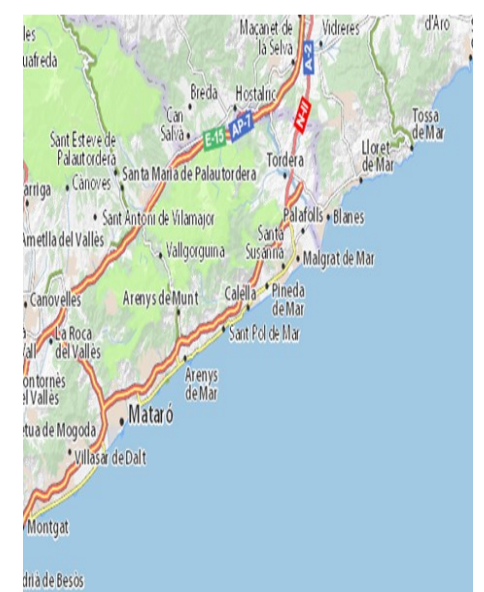
On Wednesday she would do a 'brick' which is a 1hr cycle straight into a 30min run.

On Thursday she completed a 1 and a half hour bike and 1hr swim.

On Friday she did a 1 and a half hour run with a 2 hour swim.

On Saturday she completed a long cycle of 6 hours.

Lastly on Sunday she would complete a 3hr run.



**Well done Ms. Lehane!**

## WATERSPORTS

Crosshaven sits right in the mouth of Cork harbour an ideal location to avail of a variety of watersports. In Coláiste Muire we run a very successful Watersports Programme consisting of kayaking, paddle-boarding, sailing and team racing. The activities are based in the Royal Cork Yacht Club, the oldest yacht club in the world, founded in 1720. All levels and abilities are catered for, we aim to ensure that all our students can experience the joys of being on the water.



## YOUNG ECONOMIST OF THE YEAR

### DOUBLE GOLD FOR COLAISTE MUIRE!

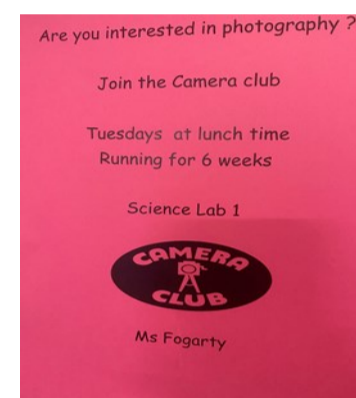
Congratulations to Christian O Leary, Transition Year and Ryan McCann, Leaving Cert who both won Gold medals at the Young Economist of the Year. Ryan also took the prize for the Best Leaving Certificate Project in Ireland. We are beyond proud of you both!

Ryan's project was: "How do we assess the economic impacts of increased renewable energy deployment"?

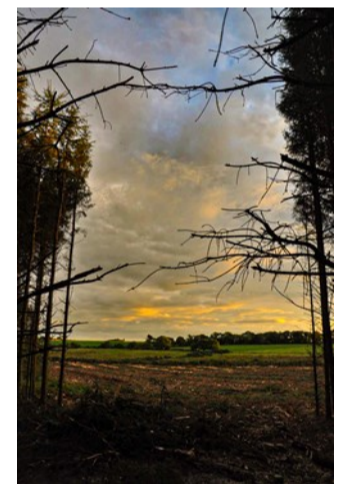
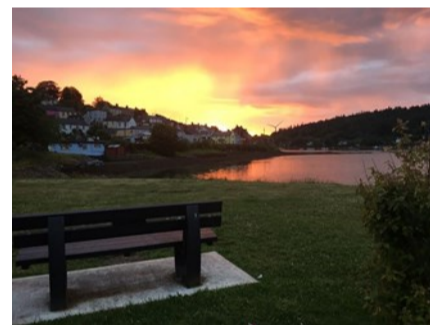
Christian's project was: "Which country, the Republic of Ireland or New Zealand, has dealt with Covid-19 in a more efficient, economically viable and sustainable way"?



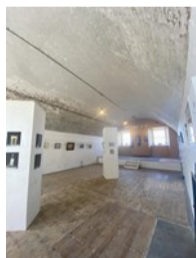
## PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



The Club gives those an interest in photography a chance to develop skills using phones and cameras. It is also a social opportunity to meet up with like-minded people in Junior Cycle.



## ART EXHIBITION AT CAMDEN FORT MEAGHAR



Huge congratulations to Transition Year student, Kieran Murphy who recently held an exhibition of his work at Camden Fort Meaghar, Crosshaven.

Kieran has completed commissions for Tánaiste Michéal Martin and for our forthcoming visit to Dáil Eireann to meet Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, we will be presenting him with a Kieran Murphy original painting of Crosshaven.

## RHY KELLY NOONAN SELECTED FOR IRELAND'S UNDER 18 SCHOOL'S SOCCER TEAM



Congratulations to 5<sup>th</sup> Year student Rhys Kelly Noonan who has been selected to play for Ireland's U18 Schools team to play Australia. Congratulations to you and your family on a wonderful achievement.



## Back To the 80s

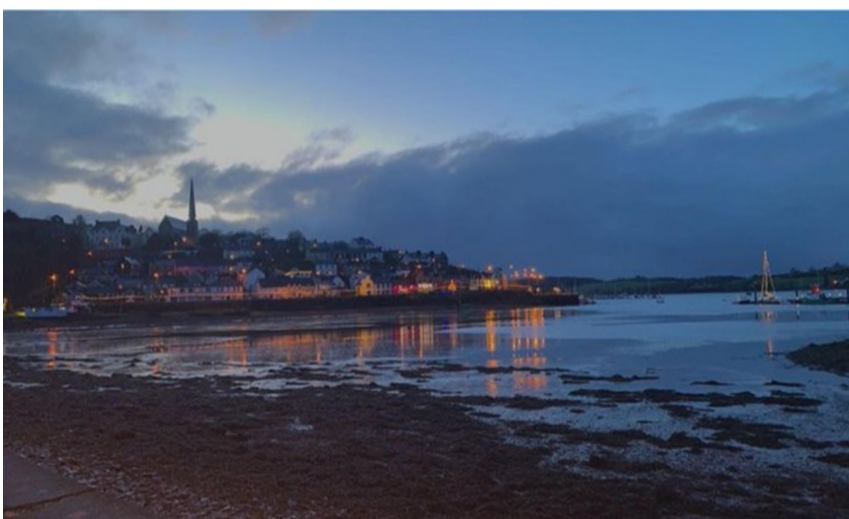
Our TY students have put incredible work into 2022's school play production, 'Back to the 80s'. Every student participated in some form and thoroughly enjoyed the process, whether they were involved in set design, enterprise, sound design or acting.

'Back to the 80s' tells the story of senior year in high school, the first loves and the heartbreaks, the friends and the enemies and everything in between. An older Corey Palmer looks back and tells us why it was one of the best experiences of his life.



### FRAME OF MIND PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Congratulations to 2nd Year student Laura Dullea who had her picture short-listed for the 'Frame of Mind' photography competition. Her photograph was exhibited at the Arts Space of Saint Patrick's University Hospital.



### BT YOUNG SCIENTIST. GO TEAM CROSSHAVEN!



This year, Coláiste Muire had a record 8 projects accepted into the competition. These included:

- "I got 99 problems but age ain't one".
- "The gender of the Joker".
- "A mathematical analysis of animal vocalisations".
- "Spraint Spies".
- "Bee for Real: Nosema disease in Co. Cork honeybee colonies".
- "Wide smiles deep graves: A chemical analysis of toothpaste".
- "Water we waiting for? Nutrient levels in local water".
- "Binge drinking a problem BUT could it all be in the pour?"

### JOSH FITZGERALD, NATIONAL POLE VAULT CHAMPION!



Congratulations to TY student Josh Fitzgerald who was crowned All Ireland Junior Pole Vault Champion at the National Indoor Athletics Championships. Josh cleared a Personal Best of 4.21 metres. Since the Championships Josh has again recorded beat a new personal best of 4.3metres!

### KNITTING CLUB



#### Blankets of Hope

This is an award winning initiative run by the Cork Cancer Centre.

Some days patients can be cold on the chemotherapy ward, the solution? A hand-made comfort blanket.

The Blankets of Hope are given to a person going through cancer treatment at the Oncology and Radiotherapy Departments at Cork University Hospital.

Nothing says someone cares and wants you to heal than a hand-made comfort blanket.

Our Knitting Club is proud to be part of this initiative.



### WELLBEING IN COLÁISTE MUIRE.

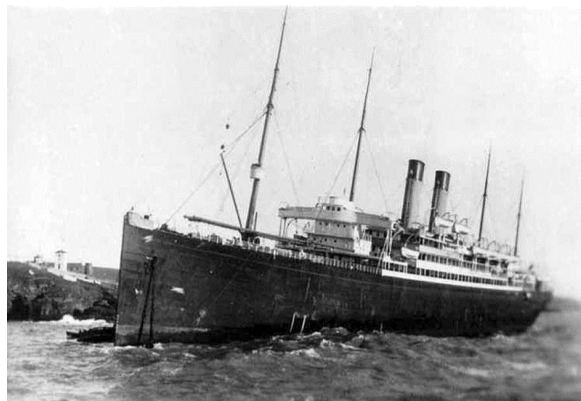
Our Wellbeing Team consists of Transition year students who promote mental and physical health awareness in the school. Our school is part of the Jigsaw "One Good School" Programme, a free, non-judgemental mental health support service. Our Wellbeing Team attended the Cork Mental Health Seminar. During Stand-Up awareness week, the team promoted LGBTQIA+ to show our support for those who are LGBTQ attending our school. We promote Jigsaw's message of CLANG, an acronym that translates to "Connect, Learn, Active, Notice and Give". Our advice: connect with others, learn new things, be active, take notice of others and yourself, be aware of your feelings and give your time, time to do the things you enjoy.



## Celtic Treasure



LUXURIOUS INTERIOR OF RMS CELTIC

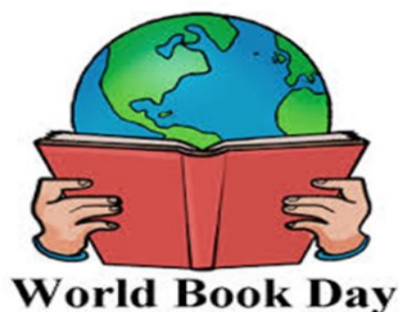


RMS CELTIC AGROUND OFF ROCHE'S POINT LIGHTHOUSE



Crosshaven is synonymous with the sea, an all-encompassing neighbour, whose mood depends on the vagaries of the weather. It has, in times past, been a very cruel companion while at other times it can be benign and generous. The Celtic was built by Harland and Wolff in Belfast and was completed in 1901. When built, she was the biggest in her class in the world at over 210 metres long and just shy of 30 metres wide and powered by twin screwed engines also manufactured in Belfast. The very famous Thomas Henry Ismay who founded the White Star Line commissioned her. She was an Ocean Liner of 20,900 tons, originally capable of carrying up to 3,000 passengers and had a somewhat colourful history, having collided with another vessel at sea and being torpedoed during World War One.

Post war, she reverted to being an Ocean Liner with reduced passenger capacity and scope for freight. It was in this role that she met her final fate on the night of the 10/12/1928 when she foundered on Roche's Point. The ship was on route from New York via Boston, Cobh / Queenstown to Liverpool. She was carrying over 500 passengers, crew, a cargo of Ford machinery, and a refrigerated cargo of fruit. As she approached Cork Harbour on the 9th/10th of December the weather had dis-improved, a strong south-westerly wind was blowing. The Captain waited for the pilot boat in Cork Harbour. The ship was observed drifting by a westerly wind onto the rocks, the time was 4.55 p.m. The Captain ordered full astern, but having successfully freed herself, she then drifted onto the Calf Rock where she became a total loss. A tender, the 'Moorsecock' was able to get alongside and take off all the passengers and crew. The insurers, Lloyds of London, wrote off the ship and the White Star Liner received compensation of 230,000 pounds for the ship and 160,000 pounds for the cargo. From 1928 to 1933 the ship was a very prominent landmark at the harbour mouth but, even though the wreck was eventually to disappear off the rocks, it still lives on in folk memory and in the many objects that were salvaged and made their way into businesses and private homes around the harbour and further afield. In Cork City, the Lee Valley Bar on Winthrop Street had some lovely doors from the ship. While here in Crosshaven at Weaver's Point, The Helm Hotel used salvage from the wreck for parquet flooring, as well as ship's portholes, ship's telegraph and wheel as well as the RMS Celtic's bell. For many around the harbour, the only bounty came in the form of jetsam when thousands of apples were released and floated ashore some were sold on.



World Book Day is a worldwide celebration of books and reading. *"World Book Day changes lives through a love of books and shared reading. Its mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering young people the opportunity to have a book of their own".*

Here are some interesting facts about books.

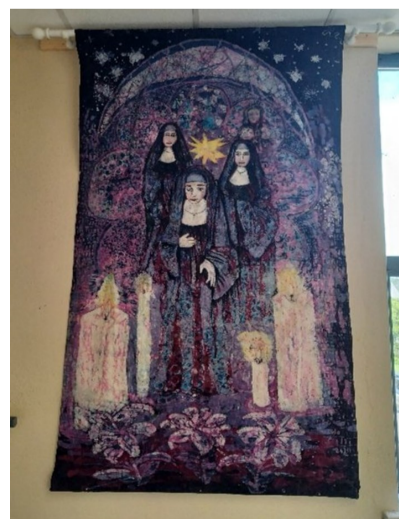
- \* There are **130 million** published books in the world.
- \* The most sold book is the Bible, **5 billion** copies have been printed.
- \* According to Guinness World Records, *'Remembrance of Things Past'* is the longest book in the world. It has **9,609,000** characters, including spaces. It was written by Marcel Proust in **1912**.
- \* The most expensive book in the world is *"The Codex Leicester"*. In **1994** the book sold for **30.8 million** dollars! Why?.....It was Leonardo da Vinci's science diary.



## CREATIVE ARTS IN COLÁISTE MUIRE CROSSHAVEN.

Creative Schools is a flagship initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme to enable the creative potential of every child. Creative Schools is led by the Arts Council in partnership with the Department of Education and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The Creative Schools initiative supports schools to put the arts and creativity at the heart of young people's lives.

In Coláiste Muire, Realt na Mara, we value our Presentation heritage. We value what the Presentations Sisters have done for our school and we wanted to preserve the founding of their school and convent in the form of a Batik, created by students in the Creative Arts Programme.



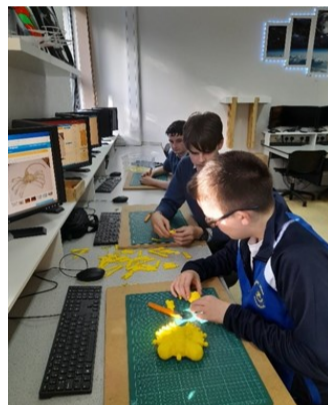
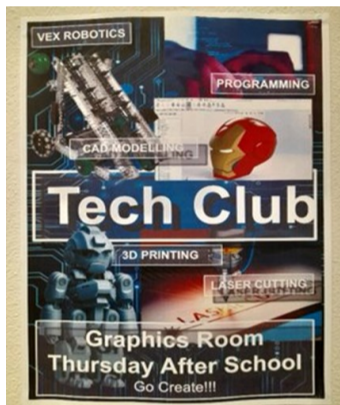
## Farewell to the class of 2023!

Everything that has a beginning must have an end, a few years ago, you started your journey at Coláiste Muire, and now that journey is nearly over. To accomplish great things you must not only plan but believe. Your life is your story, and the adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfil your full potential. Be bold enough to use your voice, brave enough to listen to your heart, and strong enough to live the life you have always imagined. We hope that the knowledge you have found in Coláiste Muire will take you where you wish to go. We offer you one last piece of advice:

### The Road to Wisdom

The road to wisdom? - Well, it's plain and simple to express

Err  
And err  
And err again  
But less  
And less  
And less.



Tech club is for students who are interested in investigating and experimenting in contemporary technology. It involves coding, 3D modelling, 3D printing and laser cutting. It gives students an opportunity to express their creativity and passion for making things through technology.

## CROSSHAVEN BY THE SEA

We hope that you have enjoyed our Newspaper and that you can get a sense of how closely our school, Coláiste Muire, Realt na Mara is linked to the sea and the local community.

Perhaps the final words should be left to Diarmuid Ó Murchadha in his poem *'Crosshaven by the Sea'*.

Please remember that there is always a warm welcome waiting in Coláiste Muire, Realt na Mara, Crosshaven.

*Crosshaven by the Sea*

Diarmuid Ó Murchadha

As night comes down on this great town, I close my eyes  
once more ;

I dream I am at home again, on Ireland's distant shore :

Though far away I am today, in thoughts I seem to be

In that dear old spot where I was born, Crosshaven by the  
sea.



## THE PROS AND CONS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

### OPINION PIECE

*"Social media is a double-edged sword, it has the power to do real good, but it also has the power to hurt".*

We would like to share our thoughts with you on this subject. For us, the benefits of a more connected world through social media far outweigh the downsides. As with all advances in the way we lead our lives, it is never a clear path. Do you remember when they said the Internet would close all libraries? Not so. Our school has one of the best-stocked and busiest libraries catering for all students and faculty members.

Allowing people to connect with others all over the world is surely a positive thing. Yes, the continued and increasing dominance of social media has changed the way we communicate. Now you can communicate with anyone you like just in a couple of clicks. Social media has shrunk physical distance and has made people closer than ever before. There are an estimated 3.6 Billion social media users worldwide.

Our discussion has raised the following positive points.

Social media makes education more accessible for all students. Connection with family and friends is simple, regardless of physical distance.

Social media allows us to get a more unbiased view of current affairs because we have multiple sources at our fingertips. We can keep up to date with news from a global melting pot of news agencies.

On the other hand, before the Digital Era and the rise of social media, life was more straightforward, with no pressures of constantly updating your life.

Bullying has moved to an online arena, which makes it more difficult to track and remedy.

Social media is 24/7 and sometimes young people lack the maturity to just switch off.

The perfect life/body images can lead to low self-esteem.

Social media is viewed differently by older and younger generations. We think it can be both beneficial and detrimental. As with most new innovations, used correctly, it can be great, used poorly, it leads to problems. With proper education about the dangers of social media, we feel that the downsides can be mitigated and people will use it to enhance their lives.

## SELF-PORTRAITS

*"Are we to paint what's on the face, what's inside the face or what's behind the face?"*

- Pablo Picasso

Congratulations to our 5<sup>th</sup> Year Art students who completed their self-portraits as part of our Arts Programme.

