

# Bish E-Zine Halloween

## WELCOME TO OUR E-ZINE

How all of our lives have changed over the last 12 months. We have learned so much about COVID 19, symptomatic / asymptomatic, PODS, social distancing etc. We have also learned that we need each other in schools, nothing can replace human connection and relationships are key. It has been wonderful to have our 760 Bish students back in the school building.

We are conscious that schools are places of learning and we talk about life long learning for our pupils. We, as teachers and educators, have been forced to practice what we preach, by adapting to very different instructional models since March 12th last. We too are learning! We have been confronted with two issues since our return: Firstly, we need to provide the best possible education for every student. Secondly, we need to ensure that all of our colleagues and students feel safe. Most students learn best when they are in school, so we need to have them in school, only when it is safe to do so. We have put in a huge amount of work since last May, under the direction of our Board of Management and Mr. S Cahalan in making the Bish as safe a place as possible for all.

We have all learned that we need patience, flexibility and some good humour, if possible, to keep the school going since our return on August 26th. So much has happened; at one stage we had classes in 4 different buildings, there were builders, painters, electricians onsite finishing our 4 new rooms. They have turned out really well and we wonder why we didn't convert some of them years ago. Our 1st years are using 2 of them and our 5th years are using the converted bus and bike sheds.

We are indebted to The Nuns' Island Arts Theatre and the Presentation Sisters for the use of their buildings. Since our return our students have been magnificent. They have worked with us in very different and difficult circumstances. They have been cooperative and flexible, they have looked out for each other and their teachers. We are very proud of them. Our teachers too have shown that they care. Students and teachers are resilient, both groups have challenges and they both need support and encouragement. While classes have been progressing as normal, one of the big losses in the school is our extra-curricular activities. It has not been possible for them to resume and we miss the buzz of the activity. We will appreciate it all the more on its return. For now, enjoy some of the highlights of the past few weeks of school. Stay safe and take care of one another.



John Madden - Principal.

# CHANGES TO OUR SCHOOL

The school has undergone massive changes to facilitate the Covid 19 guidelines. Mr. Seamus Cahalan in particular worked tirelessly throughout the summer ensuring that all safety measures were met. Below are some photos of the work done. Many thanks also to our Covid Lead Workers Mr. John Loughlin and Mr. Tomás O' Neachtain.





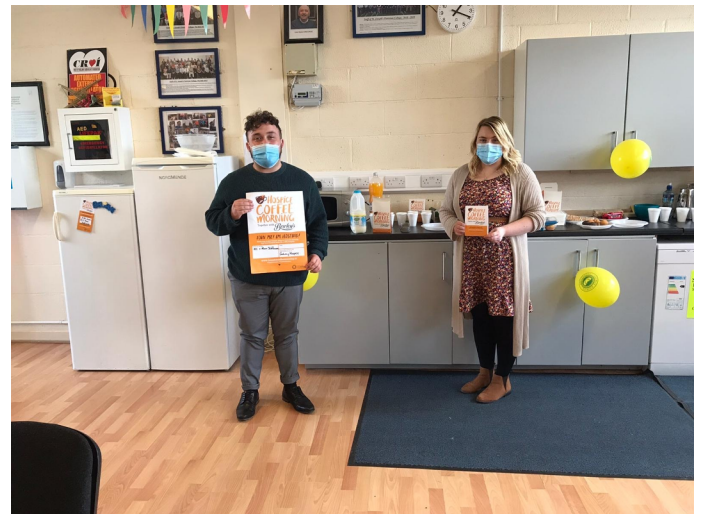
## 6th Year Prefect Team



Congratulations to Daithí Killilea who is now the 2020-2021 6th Year Head Prefect. Conor Joyce and Jack O' Rourke were elected as Deputy Head prefects. Together, they will work with the rest of the 6th Year prefects, management and staff in representing the student voice in our school.

## Hospice Coffee Morning

Well done to PME2 student teachers Joshua Cassidy and Bridget Gallagher who organised a coffee morning for staff to raise funds for the Galway Hospice.



## Basketball Ireland Player of the Year 2020



Congratulations to Tony Ezeonu who received the Basketball Ireland U16 Player of the Year Award at a virtual ceremony recently. Tony captained the All Ireland U16 team earlier this year and was made MVP in the final. Also pictured here is Adrian O' Neill who presented the award on behalf of Basketball Ireland.

# BRAINS OF THE BISH

## 1ST YEAR QUIZ



This year, the 1st Year students are battling it out to become champions of the very first 'Brains of the Bish' table quiz. Students will compete against their classmates in the first round of the quiz. The 6 students with the best results from this round will go on to represent their class group in the 'Brains of the Bish' finale. The quizzes will test student's knowledge in various topics such as general knowledge, sports, school subjects and many more... We developed this quiz to create a fun level of competition amongst the first years and build a sense of community that is usually developed through sports and extra-curricular activities. The Bish prides itself on its out of class activities and sports that unfortunately cannot go ahead this year due to Covid-19. We wanted to do something that the students could have fun with and build their sense of community spirit at the same time.



# LEAVING CERTIFICATE HIGH ACHIEVERS 2020



We were thrilled in September to welcome some of the Class of 2020 and congratulate them in person for their outstanding results in the Leaving Certificate. While Calculated Grades did not make things easy, we are delighted to hear how well our students got on. Pictured here is Liam Egan (590 points), Aenghus McDonnell (613 points), Maciej Stec (565 points), Ciaran Austin (578 points), Sahil Gupta (566 points) and Dmytro Lyubka (567 points) with our management team P.J. Folan, Seamus Cahalan and John Madden.

We extend our best wishes and congratulations to all our graduates and wish them well for the future.



# BRONZE GAISCE AWARD RECIPIENTS



Massive congratulations to our Bronze Gaisce recipients who were awarded their medals and certificates last month. In total we had 13 students who completed their Bronze Gaisce Award (not all pictured) who participated in personal, physical and community based activities. We were particularly impressed this year by the dedication of the students to complete their award even from home during Lockdown.

Special mention goes to Conor Joyce who completed activities for his Silver Gaisce Award. The Silver Award takes 52 weeks to complete in total. Conor had already completed his Bronze Award when he was in Transition Year.



# MUSIC AND ART



A lot of talent and interest emerging in Art and Music over the past few weeks since the introduction of our new subjects to the school. With GIAF taking place, students were able to immerse themselves in exhibitions around Galway city.



# TRANSITION YEAR



This year we have 60 students in TY across 3 rooms. Despite Covid 19, we have been able to bring our TYs on a number of activities including surfing in Lahinch, Wildlands in Moycullen, windsurfing in Rusheen and some hiked Diamond Hill.

We have had to spread each group across two buses with two separate drivers each time to maintain social distancing but we feel that the students benefit greatly from this effort. They have really enjoyed the trips.

All have engaged in work experience to this point but unfortunately due to Level 3, some have lost their placements. We have sourced a number of really good online courses leading to certification ensuring that they can use their time effectively and still learn a lot.

In school, they have been sampling a number of the senior cycle subjects already and are also undertaking modules in Chinese, Spanish, Life Skills, Gaisce and the GAA Future Leaders Programme.





## Friendship Bingo

As part of the Friends Youth programme, 1st year students have been encouraged to learn more about each other in a Friendship Bingo quiz. After 8 weeks together in school and settling into their new environment, it's important that the students bond and forge new friendships.



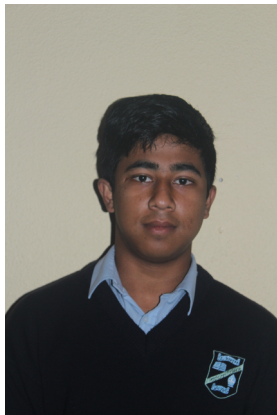
## Pres Life

The 6th Years have made their own entertainment since leaving The Bish. It might not be Court Soccer but Pres Hurling is a regular sight in the yard. Nice to see the lads embracing their new surroundings. Many thanks again to the Presentation Sisters for their hospitality.



## Student Council Reps

We are delighted to introduce our Student Council representatives who were nominated by the student body. These students will be an integral part of the student voice over the next year and will work closely with staff and management. Well done to Mohammad Quereshi, Conor Jordan, Caylem Casey, Pavel Kostin, Mark Regan and Rahanur Rahman. They have already had their first virtual student council meeting and filed a report to management.





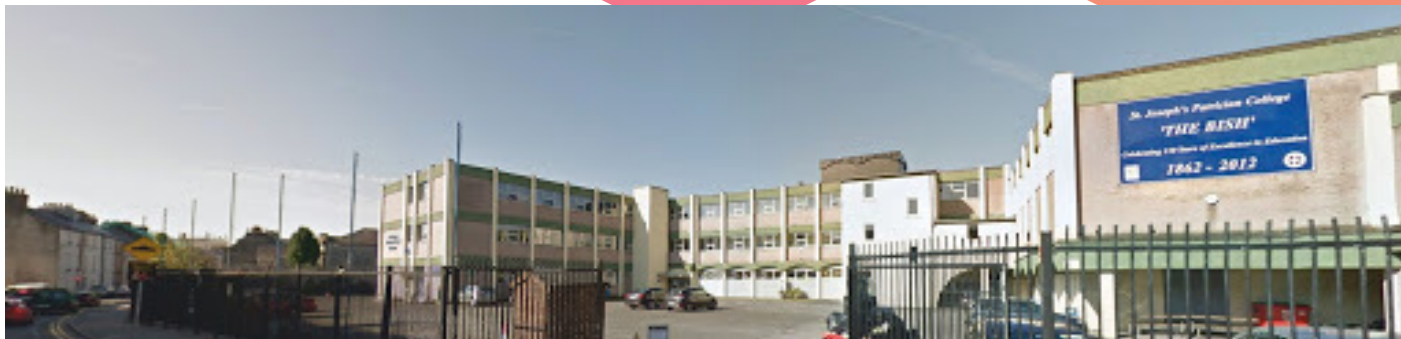
# 5TH YEAR PREFECTS



Congratulations to our 5th Year Prefects who were nominated and elected to represent the school. Donagh Broderick, Evan Forde, Caylem Casey, Daragh Clery, Pavel Kostin, Adam Byrne, Rossa McCabe, Conor Salmon, Oscar Forken, Andrew Byrne, Conor Moran and James Murphy are pictured with Deputy Principal Seamus Cahalan and Year Head Isbéal Ní Aoidh.



# DANGAN PROJECT



We had some very exciting news at the start of October:

Le Chéile Trust has appointed a Design Team to oversee the design, plan and build of the new 1,000 pupil campus on a greenfield site at Dangan for St. Joseph's Patrician College also known as The Bish. The project will see the well-known school move from its current location in Nuns' Island to a greenfield site at NUI Galway in Dangan.

We are delighted to be at a stage where we can move into design and planning our new school. This is a very exciting time for our school, and we want to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of the Board of Management. We look forward to availing of the huge experience, professionalism and expertise in our Design Team as we look to move this project forward to the next stage.

This project will see the provision of state-of-the-art facilities as we continue to strive to provide our students a top-class educational experience in an up to date, modern and progressive learning environment. We are looking forward to working with the design team, as their expertise, design concepts and understanding of our needs is essential to delivering the best learning environment we want for our pupils. The Bish has been delivering excellence in secondary education to generations of boys in Galway city having been founded in 1862 by the Patrician Brothers. The provision of a new school with state-of-the-art facilities will ensure that future generations will continue that tradition. We are indebted to the generosity and vision of the Patrician Brothers, whose contribution to education in Galway city is second to none.



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