



# Bish E-Zine Halloween

## WELCOME TO OUR E-ZINE

Dear Friends of the Bish,

On the occasion of our first ezine of this academic year I would like to welcome all our new families that have joined the Bish community in September 2021. It has been a busy half term with some of the activities that we normally associated with school life in a pre Covid world returning. It is wonderful to see sports teams back training and playing games. It adds so much to students and staff experiences in the Bish.

I would like to thank all students, staff and parents for their cooperation in ensuring the Bish school has remained as safe an environment as possible for all.

In late August we welcomed our latest Bish Students, 150 in total, into the school on Nuns' Island. They seem to have settled in relatively well, and are now getting a chance to try out for school teams, lunch time games clubs, rowing etc. These activities link with the academic and pastoral care to ensure a well-balanced education for our students.

We also said goodbye, remotely, to the Leaving Certificate Class for 2021. They were a wonderful group of mature young men that we are proud to call Graduates of the Bish. We wish them well on their journey in life. We will



John Madden - Principal.

follow their progress with pride.

Over the next 3/ 4 weeks there will be significant changes to the landscape of the main yard in Nuns' Island. We are eagerly awaiting delivery of two state of the art rooms, one for technology and one for Home Economics. There are photos of the rooms being constructed below. Both rooms will add to the work completed over the summer on Art, Music and Graphics rooms. These will enhance current students and staff experience in the school. We are very grateful to the Board of Management for their continued commitment to, and investment in the school.

At the Board of Management meeting on Monday October 18th a letter was received from Mr. PJ Folan (Deputy Principal) stating that it is his intention to retire on Friday 4th March 2022. This will end a long and distinguished association with the Bish for PJ, firstly as a student from 1974-1979 and then as a teacher from 1984. We have been blessed to have PJ as a teacher, Deputy Principal, colleague and a friend during his time in the school. He has added to the quality of the lives of everyone who has entered the Bish. We have no doubt that this will continue beyond his, well-deserved, retirement date.

I would like to thank PJ for his extraordinary service to the Bish, firstly as a teacher and then in his role as Deputy Principal. I wish PJ a long, happy, healthy, and active retirement.

Please enjoy the ezine, it gives a small flavour of life in the Bish in 2021.

John



Home Economics Room



Technology Room



# LEAVING CERT RESULTS



We are incredibly proud of our entire Leaving Cert class of 2021. Due to Covid restrictions it was not possible to have all students on site to receive their results but we were lucky enough to welcome a small cohort. It was a particularly difficult year for our Leaving Certificates and we want to wish them well in their future.

Standing Left to Right: Seamus Cahalan (Deputy Principal), Marcus Lowry (613), Jack O' Rourke (625), Dara Colleran (625), Yan Leydon (601) , Rory O' Brien (625), John Madden (Principal) and PJ Folan (Deputy Principal).

Sitting Left to Right: Denis Ruchko (613), Iannis Praxmarer (625), Liam Melody (613), Caoimhin Heffernan (625) and Mark Regan (601).

Absent from photograph was Brian Lennon (613).

All students received their offers studying in NUIG, UCD and Trinity.

# GAISCE AWARDS



Huge congratulations to all our students who received their Bronze Gaisce awards.

The lads undertook personal, physical and community based activities to earn the award. These included learning musical instruments, baking, art, running, cycling, skills coaching, writing letters to nursing homes and community clean ups around their homes during lockdown.









# FIRST YEAR



This year we welcomed 150 new students from a wide range of schools. The 1st Years are settling in well. Pictures here are of their first day in The Bish. We hope the next 5 to 6 years are happy ones for you all.





## 6TH YEAR HEAD AND DEPUTY HEAD PREFECTS



**Evan Forde - Head Prefect**



Elections were held and our Head and Deputy Head Prefects were announced. Congratulations to Evan Forde who is Head Prefect for 2021-2022. Congratulations also to our Deputy Head Prefects James Murphy, Conor Salmon and Daragh Clery. Together with the other prefects they will help represent the student voice within our school.



**James Murphy**



**Conor Salmon**



**Daragh Clery**

# 5TH YEAR PREFECTS



## **Newly elected 5th Year Prefects:**

Top Row Left to Right - Daniel Philpott, Adam MacDonnchadha, Robert MacSweeney and Finn Keady.

Middle Row Left to Right - Seán O' Connor, Jason Curry, Bobby Connellan and Eoin Killeen.

Bottom Row Left to Right - Harry Wall, Martin Siltanen, Fabio Mooney Garcia and Felix Johnson.



# WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY



Students took part in Cycle Against Suicide's Bike4Life Bike to Work Day to mark World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10th. Huge thanks to our Transition Year students for helping collect donations and well done and thank you to everyone who cycled to school.

## GARDA YOUTH AWARDS

Congratulations to Danny Keane, 6th Year, who recently received a Garda Youth Award for services to his community. Danny completed his Bronze Gaisce award with his local Foróige group during Lockdown and performed great services to his community by entertaining them with music. He was then further nominated by Foróige for a Youth Award which he subsequently won for the Connacht region.



## BISH HYMN - ST. JOSEPH - MAN FOR ALL MEN



A new hymn has been written for our school and to mark the end of the Year of St. Joseph (2020-2021)! The words were originally written as a poem named, *St. Joseph – Man for all Men*, by English teacher, Diarmaid O’Conghaile, to mark the year of St. Joseph. However, putting music to this poem, music teacher Kathleen Devine along with deputy principal Seamus Cahalan took a handful of students to the recording studio in Headford this term and made the song into a hymn for the school and to mark the end of the Year of St. Joseph (2020-2021).

6th Year students Keith Hanley and Daniel Keane and 5th Year student Dillon Kitt sang on the recording which was recorded in Headford with award winning producer and musician from The Conquerors, Tony Maher. TY student, Stepan Potapov, has also masterfully put a video to the new hymn using footage going back decades from St. Joseph’s Patrician College and from this momentous day in the recording studio.

The final edit uses a brass arrangement created by John Fleming of *The Black Magic Big Band* in Galway and hopefully will be in The Bish musical repertoire for many years to come!



# WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH



September and October were busy months here in The Bish for the promotion of Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing. Our School received an award for being part of Jigsaw's One Good School Initiative and we also received our 6th Ambassador School Award from Cycle Against Suicide. We had Rory O' Connor from Rory's Stories speak to our TY groups on his journey with mental health and had a number of art competitions and displays around the school promoting the concept of reaching out for help and how to improve our mental wellbeing.



# TRANSITION YEAR



Fantastic to see a new cohort of Transition Year students enjoying themselves. So far this year they have gone surfing, paintballing, karting, had a Newby Chinese module, Drumming Workshop, a talk from 'Rory's Stories', a Computer Science day, a team building day at Wildlands, ongoing work experience and a retreat with An Tobar Nua. All the while, they are also sampling Leaving Certificate subjects and other TY based modules.



# TRICK OR TREAT FOR TEMPLESTREET

Great fun was had on the last day of term as we dressed up and raised funds for Templestreet Children's Hospital. Well done to our 6th Year Prefects who were the driving forces behind this initiative. Huge thanks to all staff and students who participated.





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# AN TOBAR NUA RETREATS -1ST YEAR



As part of their transition into secondary school, all 1st Year students had a retreat day with An Tobar Nua entitled 'Unlocking your Potential'.

It was a great opportunity for them to reflect on the self and help bond them with other students in their class.



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