



# NORTH MONASTERY SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2020  
ISSUE NO. 1

## An Mhainistir Thuaidh



# Looking Towards The Future

Artwork by TY 2019-2020

### CONTENTS

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GREEN FLAG UPDATE  
PAGE 12

TY NEWS  
PAGE 13

IN THE COMMUNITY  
PAGE 15

ART IN THE MON  
PAGE 18

We hope that this newsletter finds you and your family in good health. This newsletter gives us an opportunity to reflect upon the current academic year, which was sadly cut short.

As we begin our summer holidays in what has been as extraordinarily difficult few months for all, we would like to thank you for your continued engagement with remote learning.

All our lives have changed utterly in the last few months. It has been a huge learning curve for students, teachers and parents to come to terms with remote teaching, a term many of us were unfamiliar with before March.

We would like to acknowledge how difficult it has been for students to work without the company of their classmates and to complement them for their engagement and perseverance. We would like to thank parents/guardians for ensuring that our students stayed the course and their patience and understanding with us as we got to grips with remote learning.

We hope that everyone has a well-deserved break over the summer. We will be in touch regarding your scheduled return and your booklist will be available online shortly. We look forward to welcoming all our students back in the autumn.

Wishing you all good health and peace of mind during this time.

# Sport



## ATHLETICS

Our school continued to have success in athletics during the 2020-2021 academic year. Our intermediate team took part in the South Munster Schools Cross Country Championship in December at Tramore Valley Park, well done to all who participated.

Congratulations to TY student Fou Fou Fares for coming 3rd out of 100 runners at the Cross Country Schools Competition.



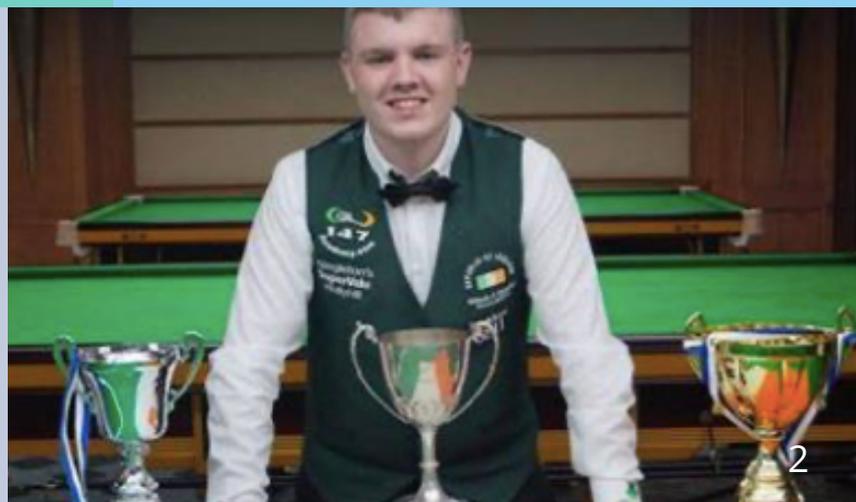
The North Mon Basketball team who won the National Cup 25 years ago and were honoured at the men's Cup final.



The North Mon/Gaelcholaiste AG joint Hurling team continued to have success.

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR HILL

Former North Mon student Aaron Hill continued to have a very successful year in Snooker both at home and elsewhere in Europe. In February, he beat the number 8 snooker player in the world and continued on to have further successes.



# Basketball



Following our win at the 2018-2019 Under-19s Boys Cork Basketball Schools, the next generation of basketball players (from 1st year) are ready to represent the North Mon. The U16s and the U19s team all played Cork Schools C League games. The U19s got to a playoff game. Well done to all you participated.

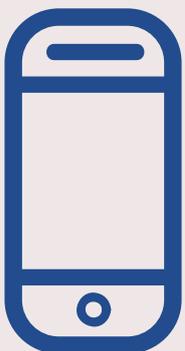
Receive the latest sports updates at [northmonastery.ie/student-life/sport](http://northmonastery.ie/student-life/sport)



2018-2019 Winning Team



Members of the U16s Team



## NORTH MON APP

A brand new app will be launching soon, allowing you to get information about our school through your mobile.

# LCA News



Congratulations to 6LCA students Elliot Okpe and Gerald Tshilenge Ngole who successfully completed a Music Appreciation course for their Practical Achievement Task at the Cork Academy of Music.



5LCA students discovered the role of gender and healthy eating in their social education classes.



Members of 6LCA paid a visit to Two wheel Training in Curraheen where they learned about basic motorcycle training, skills and bike safety.



LCA's took part in Operation Mon-Formation in an effort to get our school community active and healthy.



## GETTING CREATIVE...

5LCA Craft and Design class were busy during the year creating some very cool hand printed T-shirts as part of their Tasks. They will be selling these to raise money for Cork Simon Community in an effort to relieve the plight of Cork's homeless community. All the designs are the student's own and will be sold for €5 in the Atrium on Thursday 19th March between 2.30 and 3.30! Your support is greatly appreciated!



## NORTH MON PPU STUDENT AWARDS 2019

Each year the North Mon PPU awards students from across the school campus with specific awards for their contribution and hard work in the school community.

In late 2019, Lee Qulligan (6th Year) was awarded Student of the Year at the North Mon PPU Awards.



## BRIDGE TO EMPLOYMENT

6th Years attended a fantastic Careers Event as part of our involvement with Janssen Bridge to Employment Programme. Students were also involved in the College Awareness Week in November.



## GEOGRAPHY DAY TRIP

6th Year Geography students visited Killarney to study a river system as part of their Leaving Certificate.



## SCIENCE

6th Year Biology students enjoyed a day out in CIT's labs. Our students were carrying out a revision of their Leaving Certificate practicals with the help of CIT Biology students.



## INSPIRING STUDENTS

Congratulations to Alex Gordikovs 6th Year who received this fabulous hoodie from **UCC Plus** in recognition of his positive contribution to the Easter School Reunion workshop.

## TO THE RESILIENT LEAVING CERT CLASS OF 2020

When you walked into the Mon last Autumn - FINALLY a 6TH year- you had no idea of the challenges and disappointments that would come your way. We cannot bring back your final few weeks or give you more time to have in class with your friends and teachers. We know that you may have worked so hard or waited so long to finish school but like all journeys there's often unexpected bumps along the way and now your time with us has finished in such an unusual way. But as your journey through secondary school ends another begins, but you now start your next adventure as a Mon Boy and a proud member of the North Mon Alumni that are spread throughout the globe. Do not underestimate this!

I have had the privilege of being your year head for the past year and a half. I say it was a privilege because it really was. You really are a very special group of young men. You have enriched our school community with your many talents and gifts and I am confident that you will bring the spirit of the Mon with you as you move on in the next chapter of your lives.

Over the next few years, I hope that you remember fondly your teachers and the experiences they have provided for you in the school. They too will miss the classroom interactions and the relationships that have developed with you but will take enormous pleasure to have seen you mature over the years.

I would like to thank your parents and guardians for all their support, kindness and interest. You are lucky lads to have such loving, supportive people behind you and looking out for you no matter what.

This global pandemic makes us all appreciate things we took for granted and missing out on your graduation night is no different. However, when the dust settles, we will hopefully be celebrating this night with you up in the school. We look forward to seeing you all in the future and finding out how you are getting on. Please stay in contact with us and remember the school and staff will always be here for you should you need us. Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined. Good luck to you all,

The Class of 2020 is a class to be remembered.  
An Mhainistir Thuaidh Abú,

Kieran Ruby (Year Head)  
May 2020

May 2020

Dear 6LCA,

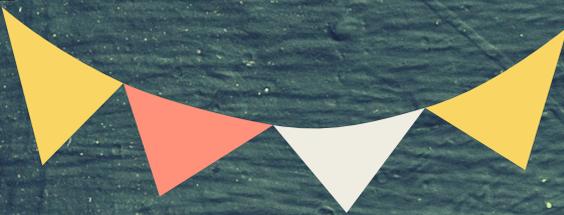
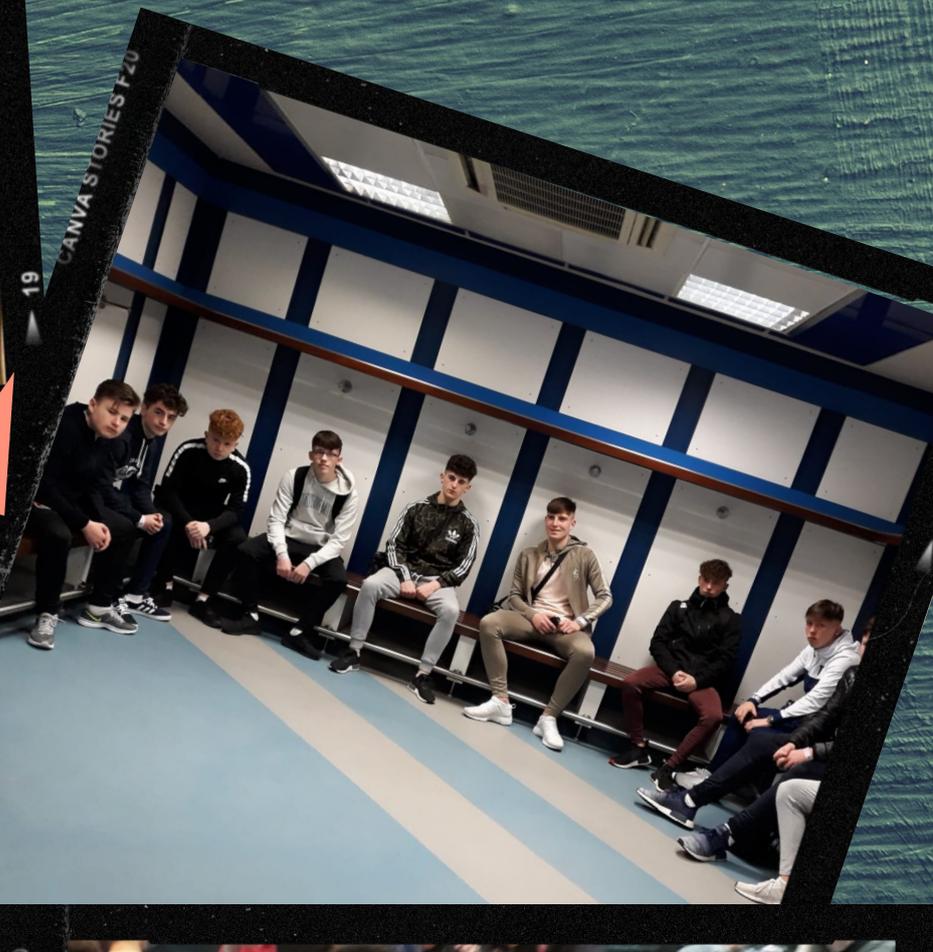
I am writing to you to say goodbye and good luck to each of you. I am so sorry that we can't do this in person and I know all the rest of your teachers feel the same. These have been strange and difficult weeks but we have all seen what can happen when people work together and support one another. It literally can make miracles happen, save peoples' lives and bring us together. That is one thing that always struck me about your class. You were always chatty, good-humored and supportive of each other and I hope that you will remain like that in the future. You have learned a lot of skills during your time in LCA and have developed into articulate, resourceful and hardworking young men .Be kind and good to the people you meet Lads. Think big thoughts and be optimistic in whatever you are doing. I'm thinking back to some of the highlights of your 2 years in LCA: Tearing around the track, test driving the cars outside Mallow! Speed dating with the ladies from North Pres! Ice skating at Christmas! Mental music in the double decker bus! Producing shelves, calendars, cards, attending fitness and music classes, arranging guest speakers for our tasks. Work experience! Projects! Key Assignments! Motor Cycle Training! Tea & Biscuits on Thursdays! We've packed in a lot in 2 years!

I would like to thank your parents and guardians for all their support, kindness and interest. You are lucky lads to have such loving, supportive people behind you and looking out for you no matter what. We look forward to seeing you all in the future and finding out how you are getting on. Please stay in contact with us and remember the school and staff will always be here for you should you need us. Good Luck Elliot, Gerry, Gerard, Kelvin, Luke and Maicej !

Ms. Dunlea

# debate

Memories









Best  
Wishes





# GREEN FLAG UPDATE



The **Green Flag Committee** held meetings every Monday at lunch time throughout the school year. At these meetings students discussed different initiatives to help maintain both the litter and energy flags. Students worked very hard under the direction of Ms Coleman and other members of our teaching staff who are part of the committee.

A beach clean-up took place in September 2019 to raise awareness about the importance of water waste and climate change. Some students attended the Strike4Climate global protest in Cork led by Greta Thunberg on September 22nd, 2019. The Green Flag Committee elected **Lee Quilligan** and **Adam O'Mahony** as their chairperson and secretary to the Green flag committee. We also welcomed new members to the committee from both 1st year. We are very sad to say goodbye to the original committee members who are now in 6th year and leave at the end of this academic year. We are truly grateful for all your hard work over the years. It all paid off, as in May 2020, we were successful in gaining our third green flag, for water awareness. CONGRATULATIONS!



Follow our activities by going to <https://northmonastery.ie/student-life/green-flag/>

2nd Year students Piotr and Cian (both Water Ambassadors) at along the River Lee as part of our Greens Schools Initiatives Clean Up.



# TY News

TY students learning some major life skills at Munster Driving Campus

TY 2019-2020 began with a trip to Oysterhaven where students got involved in kayaking, wind surfing and team building. Students took part in a number of initiatives to raise awareness about mental health by attending regular workshops with Mind Your Head and students also attended the annual Cork Mental Health Seminar at Silversprings Hotel. To encourage better understanding of wellbeing students took part in regular meditation and yoga classes. Some students got involved in Gasice which involved taking part in many community initiatives and learning new skills. Students learned Irish Sign Language (ISL) and were involved in litter picking in the local area. Students visited Cork on Ice in December. Sean Casey of (RTÉ's The Young Offenders) visited our students to complete a drama workshop and Graffiti provided a workshop on diversity and inclusion. Students learned many life skills such as the rules of the road, driving skills, food preparation and public speaking.



Pictured (above) are our TY Art students involved in the exhibition which looked at the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Students worked with Cork based artist Kevin and Mr Ruby (North Mon Art Department) who completed a number of displays for an exhibition held in the Glucksman in UCC. The artwork will late be displayed within the school. Thank you to all at the Glucksman for allowing us to be part of this initiative.

Pictured (below) TY's at Blackrock Castle.





## SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2020

Bhí comórtas ealaíne ag rang Caoimhín le haghaidh Seachtain na Gaeilge. Comhghairdeas leis na mbuaiteoirí! Saothar ealaíne le: Darren O'Callaghan, Fionn Kingston and Aran Kelleher.

TY Students also visited Blackrock Castle as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge which involves exploring Science through the Irish Language. A Seachtain na Gaeilge Table Quiz also took place in the school hall involving junior cycle, TY and 5th year students. 6th Year students were involved in practising for their oral examinations.



## JCSP

Our 3rd year students attended the annual 'Make a Book' exhibition in Vienna Woods in March. The boys conducted a survey on social media use and prepared a leaflet containing tips about staying safe online. **Drop Everthing and Read** also took place during the year, where both students and teachers read a book or other suitable material to mark the occasion. Students also entered a the JCSP writing competition in May 2020. Fingers crossed we will have some winners. Good luck to all involved.



## ST. PARTICKS DAY RAP

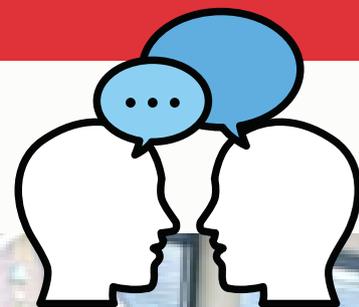
Ms. Collins with some of our 2nd year music students practicing lyrics of a rap they put together for St. Patrick's day



## IWD 2020

On March 8 we celebrated International Women's Day - members of our teaching staff got together to mark the occasion.

# NORTH MON IN THE COMMUNITY



## COMMUNITY WORK

North Mon has a strong tradition of charity work and helping out in the community, each year we are involved in Wear for SHARE, we also help to raise funds for Cork Autism among other local charities. Every year we take part in the annual Intergenerational Quiz in Cork City Hall and we conduct litter clean-ups in the local community throughout the school year.

## CHRISTMAS MARKET

North Mon Christmas Market brings our school community together and students from the North Mon Primary. We are also delighted to see parents join us for the occasion. This year proved to be very successful, we look forward to this years event in December.



## SHANE CASEY VISITS THE MON

Shane Casey's successful workshop focusing on mental health and acting skills, visited our school once again which has become almost an annual event. It continues to remain very popular with our students.



## GSA TRAINING AND LAUNCH

Members of TY and 5th Year attended training in CIT for the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA). This helped to launch our GSA service which provides students with information about LGBTI+ community and support networks in Cork and nationally.



## SCIENCE IN THE MON

Three UCC PhD students - Aideen, Patrick and Aoife came to our school to work with our 5th Year Chemistry class in January giving students an insight into how scientific research is done. Former North Mon student Trevor Carey was also involved in this programme.

The science department were also busy when the Animal Roadshow visited Junior Cycle classes. Students were also busy working on other science projects throughout the year.



## GEOGRAPHY CLUB

The North Mon Geography Club was launched in the 2019/2020 Academic year by students in TY. These hard working students will lead the club well into the future. Students were involved in a number of local projects and initiatives with UCC and Met Éireann. We will be recruiting new members in September.





Students from both TY and LCA attended Cork On Ice at the Marina in December 2019.



### 1ST YEARS

We were very happy to welcome some new faces to the school in August - we now have four 1st year classes. To celebrate their arrival students attended Cork on Ice.



### A SPECIAL VISITOR TO THE MON

Martin Daly Irish Defence Forces, Her Excellency, Ambassador Olive Hemenstall, Embassy of Ireland to Croatia, at the Global Ireland Schools presentation in North Mon Secondary School.

During her 15 year career in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, she helped establish Ireland's Embassy in Tallinn, served as the Deputy Head of Mission in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania and, most recently, was a Departmental advisor to two Committees in Ireland's parliament, the Houses of the Oireachtas. She joined the diplomatic service of Ireland in 2000. Ambassador Hemenstall has a Master of Laws from the University of Edinburgh and a Law Degree from University College Cork. She currently lives in Zagreb with her young family.



## ART IN THE MON

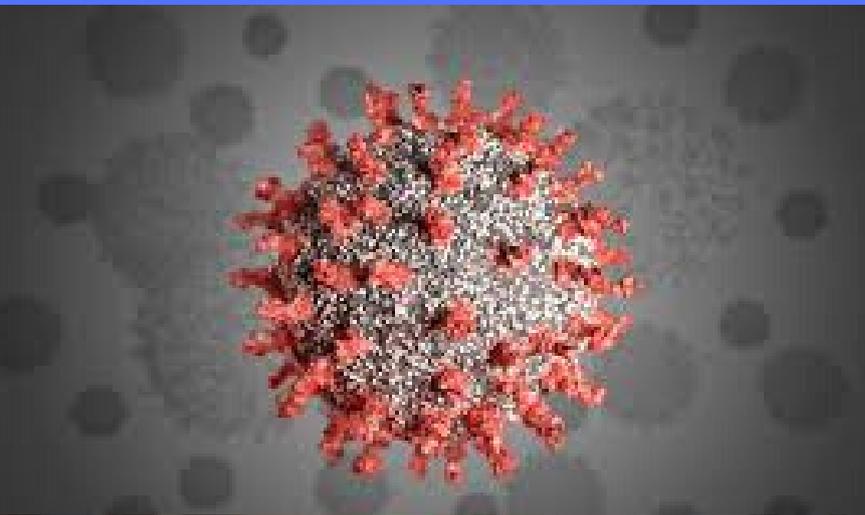
Throughout the 2019-2020 academic year our Transition Year art group took part in an extensive art project in conjunction with the Glucksman Art Gallery. Tadhg Crowley gave our students a tour of their recent exhibition on the UN Convention Rights of the Child - their art project focus on the concept of self-expression and other social issues affecting the world's youth. Thank you to the staff at The Glucksman and artist Kevin O'Brien. The artworks were to be displayed in the Art Gallery near UCC on March 19 but was deferred due to COVID-19.



Past pupil David Coughlan visited Transition Years today to talk about working in the IT industry. David works for Dell Intel and was very informative about his journey after school in the Mon to his excellent role within a dynamic and ever growing industry! Thanks for your time, David!



Members of the North Monastery Student Council presenting their ideas on Edmund Rice: Working and Living as Equals today in Croke Park. 220 young people from Edmund Rice schools all over Ireland attended this positive and thought provoking conference. Many thanks to Eddie Bourke, ERST and the organising Committee.



### **NORTH MON RESPONDS TO COVID-19**

North Mon Secondary School supplied hand gel and PPE (aprons, gloves etc) to frontline staff in Cork at the height of COVID-19. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all frontline staff for putting their lives on the line in an effort to help those most in need at this time.



### **WOODWORK**

Well done to Mr. Bohane's 1st Year Woodwork class who made these lovely birdhouses as part of their project earlier in the school year.



### **VIST TO IRISH GUIDE DOGS**

Students from 2nd year who are completing the Junior Cycle Short Course - Caring For Animals visited the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind in Ballingcollig. Well done to Paddy, Suras and Matthew for taking part. A huge thank you to Ms de Barra (North Mon) and staff at Irish Guide Dogs.



**Visit our new website at**  
[www.northmonastery.ie](http://www.northmonastery.ie)



## MUSIC AND DRAMA

Music and drama students were kept busy throughout the year. Students and teachers attended weekly choir practice in the music room during lunch time every Tuesday.

First year students learned how to play the ukulele. Drama, Art and History students from TY worked on a special project to mark the 'Decade of Centenaries' which will be revealed later this year.

North Mon Singing Group entertained the shoppers in Blackpool Shopping Centre and collected money for **Focus Ireland** in December.

The music department was busy performing at a number of key events including our Christmas Carol service in the school.

Finally, we are delighted with the success of former student Jake O'Driscoll and the continued success of the his band 'God Alone'. Their music is making headlines in both Ireland and the U.K.





### UCC Achievement Awards 2020

Another successful year for our North Mon students at the UCC Achievement Awards. We are very proud of our fantastic 2nd Years who received a UCC Student Achievement Award on the evening of March 4. Your hard work, good manners and great attitudes never goes unnoticed! Huge congrats to Conor Sexton, Cian Boland, Presley Osagie-Alli, Alex Browne, Ceeta Quilligan and David Murphy.



### CORK FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

A group of Leaving Cert French students, accompanied by their teacher Ms. O'Connor (French Department) and Ms. Coleman (HCSL) went to a special school screening of the French Film Festival at the Gate Cinema. Magnifique!



### JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

The Careers Department continued to be very busy this year with Junior Achievement. One of the initiatives this year included a visit to Wisetek by TY students. Where students listened to speakers from HR & IT departments, sales & accounts. They found out how the company started in Cork in 2007, all about its rapid expansion & what it does. They also learned how to fill out a CV & picked up some tips for their future workplace!



### FROM HOLLYHILL TO HOLLYWOOD

We have stars in the making in North Mon 1st year students Jamie Forde and Michael Flannery featured in their very own music video Ya Boy! as part of The Kabin Crew. Former North Mon student Daniel Power made his acting debut in The Young Offenders and Christy The Movie. Well done lads!

# HISTORY CLUB NEWS

## THE HISTORY CLUB CONTINUES TO GROW WITH AWARDS AND MUCH MORE...

**Cork Heritage Awards 2020:** The North Mon History Club, was very successful yet again at the Cork Heritage Awards. We are extremely proud of the hard work and dedication. put in by members of the club. At the awards night in Cork City Hall the following students picked up awards: Adam Conway on his project on Niall Tóibín, Conor, Adam & Jack collecting their award for their project on Dr. Vincent Barry & the cure for leprosy and Corey Murphy received an award for his project on past pupil Anthony Connolly.



Members of the North Mon History Club with Ard-Mhéara John Sheehan and Mr Ryan (North Mon History Department)



Local historian Gerry White visited students earlier in the school year to discuss all things histoical. (Photo: Gerry White and 2nd year student David McCarthy)

### HOT OFF THE PRESS

The North Mon History Club featured in local media including the Echo and The Irish Examiner throughout the year. In one month alone they featured in the Evening Echo 3 times! The History Club were interviewed and photographed by the Echo. The newspaper was very interested in finding out about the club, its success and it's very detailed plans for the schools' 1920 centenary celebrations! Well done, lads!



# MacCurtain, MacSwiney, O'Callaghan Sculpture On The Way...

OUR SCHOOL HAS PRODUCED MORE LORDS MAYOR OF CORK THAN ANY OTHER. WE ARE SET TO HONOUR THREE ICONIC PAST-PUPILS - TWO OF WHOM DIED IN THE STRUGGLE FOR IRISH INDEPENDENCE AND THE BRAVE MAN WHO SUCCEEDED THEM LATER IN THE YEAR.

As part of the 'Decade of Centenaries' and to commemorate three of our distinguished past pupils, North Monastery launched a campaign to raise money to fund a sculpture of the three men who took part in the War of Independence in Cork City. Tomás MacCurtain, Terrence MacSwiney and Donal Óg O'Callaghan were not only past pupils of the Mon but were also Lords Mayor of Cork City in 1920 during the War of Independence. It is quite extraordinary that three past pupils would not only hold the office of Ard-Mhéara, but hold the office all in the one year.

The GoFundMe campaign was launched in an effort to help raise some €16,000 for a bespoke sculpture, designed by Transition Year Student Eric Sheehan, honouring Tomás MacCurtain, Terrence MacSwiney and Donal Óg O'Callaghan together.

The GoFundMe was developed by Ms Collins and with assistance from Mr Ruby (North Mon Art Department) and Ms A. Collins (North Mon Music Department) who have developed a special event to mark the unveiling of the new sculpture later in the school year. It was anticipated to hold the unveiling event in March 2020, however due to COVID-19 this had to be deferred.

The GoFundMe campaign proved very successful with support from people across Cork, Ireland and the wider world. We are very grateful for your contributions. We hope to unveil the sculpture this autumn.



Ms Collins (North Mon History Department) picking up a cheque from North Cathedral Credit Union in support of this special history project. Thank you for your contribution and on-going support.



(Top) North Mon TY Student - Eric Sheehan with his winning design alongside Cork based sculptor Seán MacCarthy (Below) Winning design





#### MESSAGE FROM An Uachtarán na hÉireann

President of Ireland **Michael D. Higgins** issued a special video message for students in secondary schools in late May. Schools across Ireland have been closed since the evening of Thursday 12 March, disrupting the lives of thousands of students all around the country. In his message to students in post-primary level education President Higgins acknowledges the disruption to the important events in young people's lives. The President thanked students for playing their part in efforts to curtail the spread of the virus and concludes by saying "Stay safe and continue to keep others safe. The crisis will pass, and out of this dark time will emerge a brighter period ahead for all of us to enjoy."

#### REMOTE LEARNING

When schools closed on March 12 due to COVID-19, Remote Learning became a reality for all of us. We are very grateful to all our students, parents and guardians who engaged with online teaching and learning. We acknowledge the challenge that was set by not being in a physical classroom and being away from your friends, but you all rose to to the challenge and succeeded. Students from 1st Year to 2nd Year were awarded with Hidden Hero Merits and Certificates to acknowledge all thier hard work. .



#### SPANISH

Our Spanish junior and senior cycle students were very busy this year when they attended the Spanish film 'Todos lo Saben' at the Cork Film Festival. TY students also had the opportunity to try out some Spanish food as they visited a Tapas restaurant in the city where many enjoyed Spanish hot chocolate and the very popular Spanish sweet Churros.



## Comhairle na nÓg

The North Monastery was very well represented at Cork City for Comhairle na nÓg today. TY students attended and participated in workshops facilitated by some of our civic minded 4th year students.

## Student Council

Members attended an ISSU Regional meeting in Cork City Hall in October. Students looked at social issues such as the environment, public speaking, and ways to get people more involved in their school community.



We were very honoured when Cork City Lord Mayor John Sheehan visited our school back in October . We are very proud of our strong links to the office of Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor Sheehan spoke to our school community about following your dreams regardless of challenges that may arise, anything is possible once you put your mind to it. We were also delighted to receive a commemorative plaque to mark 100 years of school visits.

(Photo: Cork City Lord Mayor John Sheehan and Lady Mayoress Aedamar, with members of our student council, Principal Ms O'Suillvan and Deputy Principal Dr. Boyle)



### E-LEARNING SUPPORTS

We would like to thank Sean Sheehan CEO and staff at Wisetek for their continued support to our school and supporting our students with e-learning equipment.



### SUPPORT FROM GURRANABRAHER CREDIT UNION

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Michael O'Connell (Chairperson of Gurrabraher Credit Union) who is supporting our new elearning initiative to integrate iPads into our everyday teaching and learning

### PPU GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual PPU Golf Tournament raise further funds for the school campus. Thank you to all who participated and for the ongoing support. Money has been donated to Coiste, which helps to support the up keep of the campus.



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