



The Gravel

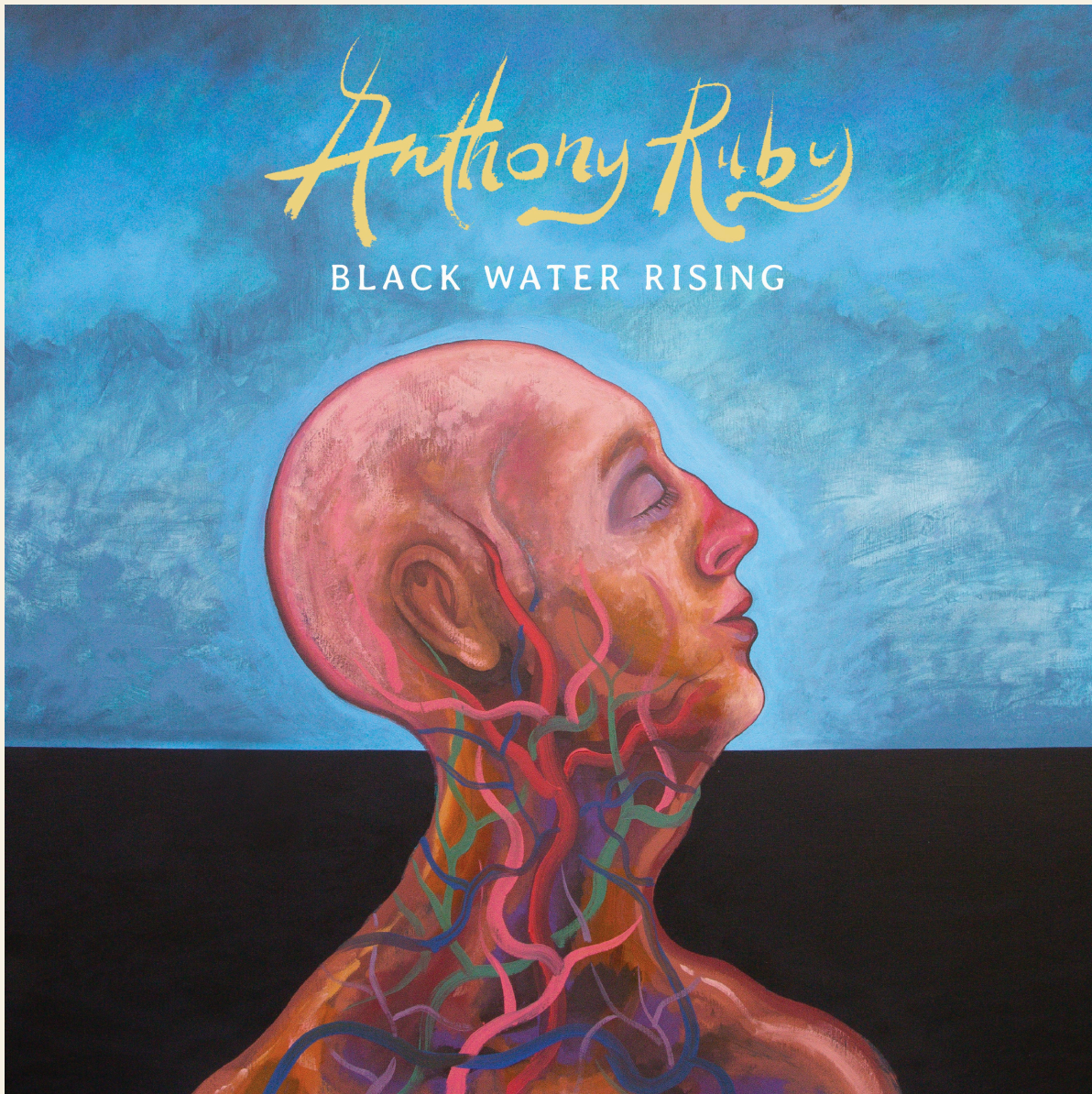
2025 Issue

Written and created by TY

Edited by Ms.Healy

An Artistic Journey: Interview with Mr. Ruby

by Kristian Naya Gallardo and Nuno Maior De Sousa



An Artistic Journey: Interview with Mr. Ruby

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Q1: Mr. Ruby, when did you first get involved in art?

I started art as a child. I never really made a conscious decision to pursue it; I've always been involved in it.

Q2: What is your favourite piece that you've created?

My favourite piece is a winter-themed flat complex in England, beautifully covered in snow.

Q3: Who is your favourite artist, and what draws you to their work?

It's hard to choose just one favourite artist since there are so many talented individuals out there. However, I really admire Pablo Picasso and Yayoi Kusama. I appreciate Kusama for her incredible work in installation and sculpture.

Q4: Where do you find inspiration for your art?

Inspiration is everywhere! It can come from something as simple as a newspaper or a bustling street. I believe that observation and imagination can lead to countless creative ideas.

Q5: How many pieces have you created throughout your artistic career?

I've created countless artworks, including drawings, sketches, and paintings. I would say I definitely have thousands of pieces accumulated over the years.



Q6: How long have you been practicing art?

I've been involved in art since I was a young child, often drawing around the house.

Q7: Are there any of your artworks displayed around Cork City?

Yes, I have many pieces displayed throughout Cork. I've got displays in Pana Shuffle and have also created a couple of murals around the city.

Q8: What kind of music do you play?

I play traditional Irish music and folk music. I perform using a traditional Irish instrument called the uilleann pipes.

Q9: Who inspires you musically?

I find inspiration in many musicians and genres, especially rock and soul music.

Q10: What's your favourite song and why?

That's a tricky question! However, a song that stands out to me is "A Change Is Gonna Come." It resonates deeply with me.

Q11: Do you prefer teaching art or being a full-time artist?

I enjoy both roles! Teaching allows me to help students with their art, which I love, but I also cherish the time I spend creating my own artwork.



'Grillin' and 'Chillin': Dean and Peter Bite into MKT Burger

by Peter Dineen and Dean Carroll

Hi, we're Dean and Peter and we are North Mon's very own food reviewers.

We decided to test a burger restaurant in the Marina market in town called MKT Burger. On a fine sunny Wednesday after school we took the long walk down to the marina market. When we got there the tantalising aromas from all the stalls hit us, but we were on a particular mission. To get an MKT burger. After ordering our food we waited as patiently as we could, once we got our order the appealing scent of the food wafted into our faces. Apart from the delicious smell the burger itself was presented very well in a custom, colourful box which folded down to create an open surface to eat off. To our pleasant surprise when we opened the box, the portion sizes were bigger than expected and the food looked like top-notch quality.



Now for the most important bit, the taste! The burger was cooked to perfection and had melted cheese in the middle. The chips were fresh and perfectly crisp. To top it off they used natural salt crystals rather than table salt to add the perfect saltiness to the chips.

The staff were incredibly welcoming when we went to order. They waited patiently while we decided what to eat from the vast menu. They gave us receipts with our order numbers, so we knew when our food was ready. The speed of service was moderate, and the food was done in about ten minutes as it wasn't very busy. When we got the food, the staff were kind and told us to enjoy!



The atmosphere in the Marina Market was amazing, and it has a beautiful seating area with many seats to choose from, creating a comfortable area to eat with plenty of space.

The value for money was overall pretty good coming in at thirteen euro for a burger, chips and drink but there was an additional price of one euro for cheese which we thought was a bit dear. Based off our experience we would recommend this place for you as the food was great, and the atmosphere was amazing with reasonable prices. We would give it about four out of five stars because of the lack of free cheese and the extra charge for sauce.

If we were to change anything it would be more sauce for the burgers and to make the cheese free with two extra slices. Otherwise, it was great and was certainly worth the money.

Stay tuned – there’s plenty more delicious bites coming your way from us, Dean and Peter!



The Great Pumpkin Grower: Mr. Antonio's Garden Giant!

by Tanaka Chirimuuta and Bohdan Pasheniuk

Where did you grow this pumpkin?

The pumpkin was grown in Limerick in my front garden where the sun shines the most, especially during the summer months which pumpkins thrive on. The location was also more sheltered from wind as the plants snap easily.

How much care did it need to grow to this size?

There is a lot of care when it comes to growing a giant pumpkin! The first month the small plant takes time to grow and growth is slow, but once it reaches 6-8 weeks of age, the plant begins to grow rapidly, especially on hot sunny days. During peak growth, vines must be trained to make sure they don't grow over each other, and the vines also must be buried so they can root and absorb even more nutrients to the pumpkin. The plant itself will grow between 20-30 vines, and each must be trained and buried each day. On some days each vine can grow 1 meter within 24 hours. Eventually the plant will reach 10-15 meters in all.

Was the pumpkin measured officially, what was the weight?

The pumpkin was measured though I never actually mentioned the weight and size. The pumpkin eventually weighed 137kg. The pumpkin was 85cm in length and the width was 67 cm.

What is the main secret to grow a pumpkin this size?

The main secret from my experience is, train the vines so they bend all in one direction and bury them so they will root (many growers don't do this). The plant needs to have as many vines before you allow it to grow a pumpkin, as the vines is what will fuel the pumpkin to get large. The more vines you have, the more vines there are to bring nutrients to the pumpkin. I used organic fertilizers such as nettle water (nitrogen), wood ash (potassium), and crushed eggshells (calcium) to keep the plant healthy and strong.



Where did the idea to grow such a pumpkin come from?

The idea from growing the pumpkin happened by accident. I grow vegetables every year and one year I decided to grow a normal pumpkin. As the months went by, one pumpkin got a bit bigger than a usual pumpkin. Even though it did not grow huge, it was still a decent size. I then looked up online how big pumpkins could get and saw the absolute size of them and decided that I wanted to try and grow a big one day. Every year since I tried, the more I learned and the bigger the pumpkin gets. Each year I learn something new which allows me to grow a giant each year

Were there any mistake or difficulty in the process of its growth?

There are always mistakes and we all learn from them. Some mistakes were watering the pumpkin too much during rainy days as it does cause rot on the plant. Another mistake was accidentally snapping vines that were essential for the pumpkin's overall growth. Another mistake was leaving the plant grow out of control when I was away for a week every so often as this caused the vines to grow out of control and it got hard to manage. One last mistake I made was that I should've let the plant grow the baby pumpkin sooner as the plant was a good size and the pumpkin would've been a lot bigger. But like I said, we make mistakes, and we learn from them.

. Would you attempt to grow another one this year?

I will grow another giant again! However, this summer I will be away for an extended period, so I won't be growing one this year. Growing giants takes constant time and effort and even being away for over a week can cause major issues. Therefore, my next giant will more than likely be grown in the summer of 2027.



The Final Bell : Mr. Cronin's Final Chapter in North Mon

by Tanaka Chirimuuta and Jay Puntay



After more than thirty years of service North Mon bids a heartfelt farewell to Mr. Cronin, a teacher whose connections to this school began long before his career. His journey began as a student walking the corridors. Over the years he became a constant in both students' and staffs' lives from teaching an array of subjects like history, religion and SPHE to name just a few, to being the home school liaison officer as well as being the reliable story teller both in and out of the classroom.

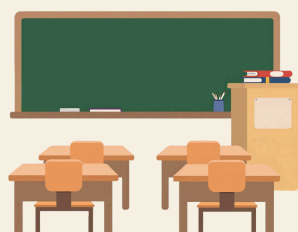
Mr. Cronin kindly sat down with us to talk about his time in school here both a student and a teacher and discussed what he has planned for his retirement.

Mr. Cronin, tell us about your time at school as a student.

Well I started school in the North Mon Primary and then came here. I did my leaving cert 1984 and left when I was eighteen years old. As a student there were some great times, but there were some very tough times too, you know. Corporal punishment was allowed, which meant that every so often you'd get hiding if we stepped out of line. But we had great times as well, like playing sports and going on trips. We went on a good few foreign trips. We got to see France, and Italy. You know, we went on trips all over Ireland we went to New Grange and Lough Derg. I have some great memories and some not-so-great memories as well alright.

What is your favourite memory as a teacher here?

As a teacher my favourite memories are from going on our trips. Every time I take a group to Gougane Barra, these are always fun times you know, and sort of happy memories. I often meet past pupils now that still tell me that it was the best time that they had in school was on that particular trip to Gougane Barra. That's always a nice feeling to have.



What is the school like now compared to when you were a student here? What are the main differences?

Well, the major difference is now we're co-ed, we have girls now and we had no girls back then. When I was a student myself here was only one female teacher and she was temporary not even a permanent member of staff. Whereas now I suppose the majority of our staff today would be ladies. So that would be the main changes I suppose, you know from when I was a student.

Can you tell us what your favourite thing about the school is?

My favourite thing about the school would be the history and the traditions of the school. You know, I mean, going back, we were probably the most and probably still to some extent, the most famous school in Cork, you know, from a sporting perspective, not just hurling, football, basketball and athletics as well. So I suppose the history of the school is something I'm very proud of.



Did you prefer your time here as a teacher or as a student and why?

Oh, as a teacher! It's much easier as a teacher! There's no corporal punishment for teachers. But there's no detention either. I had a great craic as a student as well and it's nice being young. It's not so much fun getting old! But being a teacher in a school is much easier than being student most of the time.

Okay, so what will you miss the most about this school?

I won't know that until I retire, I haven't had time to miss the place yet!

Speaking of your retirement, what are your plans?

Oh, God, I don't know, take it easy anyway. I suppose try to lose a bit of weight! I'd like to see the parts of Ireland that I haven't seen yet, like up in the Northeast of Donegal, Fermanagh, places like that. I'd like to get a camper van and maybe tour around all of Ireland before I go abroad somewhere for the sun.

What message would you give to all the students currently in the Mon?

Reach for the stars! There's nothing that you can't do once you put your mind to it. Never listen to anybody who says you can't do this, or you can't do that or you couldn't possibly be that. You can be whatever you want to be and you can go wherever you want to go. The world is yours!



Mr. Cronin we wish you all the best in your retirement! We hope you make plenty of new memories to be told and remember us all here at the North Mon fondly!

Ar Aghaidh Leat!

Say It Without Words: Our Journey Learning Irish Sign Language

by Anthony Sisk and Callum Maguire

We began learning sign language with Ms. Kelleher after Christmas. Admittedly we were unsure of what to expect and initially thought this subject was going to be very difficult as the majority of the class had no experience with sign language. Both of us really enjoyed our ISL classes with Ms. Kelleher and thought it was incredibly important to write an article about our experience and what we learned. After an introduction and learning about sign language we started off with the basics. We quickly learned how to say “good morning”, “hello” and “sorry for being late” which was probably the most important one to learn.

Here are just a few interesting facts we learned about ISL this year;

1. **Gender-Specific Signs:** Historically, men and women in Ireland used different signs for the same words because they were educated in separated, segregated schools.
2. **French connections:** ISL is heavily influenced by French Sign Language.
3. **Not related to English or BSL:** ISL is not based on spoken English or British Sign Language, it is a unique, independent language.
4. **Used in other Countries:** Due to Irish missionary work, ISL has influenced sign Language in parts of Australia and South Africa.
5. **40,000 users:** While it is the first/Preferred languages of roughly 5,000 Deaf people, approximately 40,000 people in Ireland use it, including family and friends.
6. **National Day:** December 14th is celebrated as National ISL Day in Ireland.



We sat down with our ISL teacher Ms. Kelleher to pick her brain on how she learned Irish Sign Language and why.

Ms. Kelleher told us that she learned ISL as her uncle was born “profoundly deaf” but that his hearing developed as he grew up as he underwent many surgeries that helped his hearing. While his hearing improved he later went on to work with The Cork Deaf Association. Later, herself and her family went and undertook a course to learn sign language together. Ms. Kelleher luckily found it quite easy to learn as she describes it as “very logical” and something “different that not many people will know”. It was shocking to learn that most people won’t have encountered ISL unless they or a loved one is directly affected by hearing loss. Ms. Kelleher gave us her perspective on this and explained it’s often not ignorance but rather people not having enough information around deafness and not being immersed in ISL. She told us that she thinks it is a subject that should be taught in all schools in Ireland as often times it’s a deaf person’s “only way of communicating”. If more people, especially young people are taught ISL it will lead to further inclusivity in all communities.

Ms. Kelleher’s advice to learning ISL is to start with the basics, the alphabet is the easiest place to start! She tells us her favourite word to sign is “Ireland” because it’s “like a little salute action”.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our ISL classes this year and apart from learning sign language we have also learned very important etiquette around deafness and hearing loss such as maintaining eye contact with the person, how to get someone’s attention appropriately by gently tapping their shoulder or when entering a room flicking the lights on and off and always facing the person so they can lip read clearly.

We believe this is a key skill to learn and hope all schools eventually start to teach it. We are incredibly lucky to have Ms. Kelleher teach us about this important topic here in North Mon!



Work Experience 101: A TY Student's Guide to Getting It Right

by Adam Bishop

We completed two weeks of work experience this year in TY and I learned a few important things along the way. Here are my tips for a successful work experience in TY!

1) Do your research!

Investigate where you are actually going for your work experience and what your job may include for the week so you are well prepared.

2) Prepare!

Make sure you plan a way to get to work and know how long it will take to avoid being late. Wear the appropriate attire for the job and if you're unsure make sure to ask.

3) Make goals for yourself

Ask yourself what you would like to learn from this experience and what do you want to achieve by the end of it

4) Always be respectful

Be positive and polite. Always treat people with respect. If you do a great job, they might give me a part time job.

5) Pick work experience relevant to you.

Pick something that you could see yourself doing as a potential career to see if you would like it

6) Listen, pay attention and try your best!



Surviving My First Day of Work Experience

by Ryan Gillman



Work experience is something many students look forward to, but nothing really prepares you for how different it is from a normal school day. My first day on work experience was a real eye-opener—from the early start to the hard work and the well-earned rest at the end. The day began much earlier than any school morning. My alarm went off at half six, and I had to be at work in the hotel by seven. It was a struggle to get up, but I knew I had to get used to it. When I arrived, I was given a uniform top and told to wear black pants, which immediately made it feel very serious.

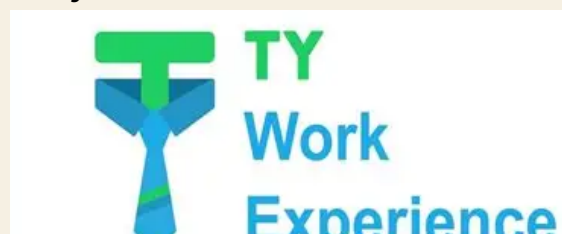
After clocking in, I got straight to work. My first task was bringing in clean sheets and towels. It was a good way to start the day because it got me moving and helped me wake up properly. However, things quickly became more challenging. By eight o'clock, I was collecting dirty sheets and towels from around 26 rooms and dusting them as well. This part was tiring and a bit boring, especially because there were so many rooms to get through.

Later in the morning, I was given a completely different task—putting up a Christmas tree. At first, I thought it would be easy, but it turned out to be more difficult than expected. The parts were mixed up with another tree, and I accidentally used the wrong top. After fixing that, I had to add lights. I wasn't confident at first, but after taking a short break, I got stuck in and managed to finish it faster than I thought. Just when I felt proud of finishing, I was told I had to set up another tree! Luckily, the second one was smaller and much easier to handle.

By around eleven, I finally got a break and had breakfast—pancakes with chocolate. It was definitely one of the highlights of the day. After that, I finished the second tree and started to feel the tiredness from all the work I had done. A quick five-minute break helped, and I was relieved to hear that I was nearly finished for the day.

At two o'clock, I thought I'd be heading home, but first I was given lunch—a chicken roll, which I really enjoyed after such a busy day. Soon after, I was told I could finally go home. When I got back, I went straight to bed and slept for three hours—it was the best sleep I've ever had.

Overall, my first day of work experience was challenging but rewarding. It showed me how different working life is compared to school, and even though it was tiring, it was a great experience that I won't forget anytime soon.



Which Path Will You Take? Exploring Life After School

by Reece Sheehan



As students approach the end of their time in school, one big question comes up: what's next?

There are many different paths people can take after school, and each one offers its own opportunities and challenges.

One popular option is an apprenticeship. This is a structured, hands-on training programme where you earn money while learning a skill or trade, such as carpentry, plumbing, or electrical work. Apprenticeships are a great choice for people who prefer practical learning and want to start working straight away.

Another common path is college. College allows students to continue their education, gain specialised knowledge, and work towards a degree. Courses usually last between two and four years and can lead to a wide range of careers.

Some students choose to travel after school. They may work part-time jobs along the way or use savings to explore different countries and cultures. Travelling can be a valuable life experience that builds independence and confidence.

Others decide to go straight into a part-time or full-time job, working in places like shops, restaurants, or offices. This option allows people to start earning money immediately and gain real-world experience.



To find out more about these paths, I spoke to some teachers and SNAs in the school about their own journeys after finishing school. Their stories show that there is no single “right” path.

Ms. Collins left school at 16 but later returned to complete her Leaving Certificate. She worked in a factory before eventually becoming a teacher, showing that it’s never too late to go back and continue your education.



Mr. Healy went to college after school to study marine engineering and worked in that field for several years. He then returned to college to complete an Arts degree before becoming a teacher.



Ms O’Sullivan took a very different route. She began with a hairdressing apprenticeship and went on to own her own salon. While raising a family, she continued her education, completing further courses including a Disability Arts course. She later trained as an SNA and has now worked in that role for over 20 years.



Ms. Acin went straight to college after school but wasn’t sure what career she wanted at first. She moved to Ireland to improve her English and worked in an insurance company for five years. She then studied at Trinity College to complete her PME and become a teacher.



These stories highlight that career paths are not always straightforward. People change direction, return to education, and discover new interests along the way. Whether it’s an apprenticeship, college, travelling, or going straight into work, every path can lead to success in different ways.

The most important thing is to choose a path that suits your interests and to remember that it’s okay to change your mind along the way.



Heart, Hustle and Hope; Inside the North Mon's U17 Team

by Kaleb Mbowoua



The North Mon under 17 squad has seen some disappointing seasons in the past few years despite some very promising and dedicated players showing up for the team. It's clear that the team's wish is to compete to the very best of their ability. The under 17 manager Mr. Kenny says, "He'd like the team to improve step by step and finish stronger than they started".

The North Mon under 17 squad had their first game against Macrooom at home. The beginning of the match was somewhat even but the Mon had more of possession. Callum Towler gave many crosses in the box, but The Mon were unlucky to score from them. Eventually Macrooom scored the opening goal from a corner. A few minutes later James Buttimer gave a good ball through to me and I scored neatly.

In the second half The Mon controlled the game completely. Having more possession of the ball and getting out of high presses with quick and sharp passes and lightning-fast counter attacks. Macrooom scored again due to bad defending on our side. Later, I dribbled past a defender and gave a good pass to James Buttimer who scored. After two goals from myself the following goals came from Callum Towler, Kelvin Cotter, Alberto Fernandes, Evan Swan Kent and Scott Trindles. Having home advantage saw The North Mon taking the first win of the season and it put a fire in the bellies of the players, we wanted more!

Next The Mon faced Crosshaven in an away game. The match started and in the first minute of the match Crosshaven scored. The first half ended and Crosshaven took complete control of the game scoring to many goals, leaving us in a vulnerable position. In the second half the Mon showed a little more heart and were rewarded with two goals form myself and a goal from Gabor. With that the game ended in an unfortunate defeat.





Following on from the previous loss the Mon faced Ballincollig. The first half was nothing short of chaotic as the Mon's poor defending could have cost them a lot of goals. If it wasn't for Antoni getting multiple goal line clearances and blocks the Mon would have conceded five goals. The Mon kept pushing to get a goal and were close many times but couldn't find the net. In the second half the Mon's defence strengthened a bit, and they created more chances. In the dying moments of the game Evan Swan-Kent hit one from distance and miraculously scored. However, unfortunately it wasn't enough to take the win. With a few minutes left Ballincollig scored due to bad defending and won the game. While the team was disheartened, we knew where they had gone wrong.

Overall, the matches played by the 17s team were better than the year previous and there were some very impressive performances from players all over the pitch. There was a massive improvement from the whole team. Even though there are still things that need to improve there is a huge change from previous years and a step in the right direction. With the support from the coaches the team will go from strength to strength.



Three Years On The Girls Who Made History

by Josh Sexton



In 2023, a major milestone was reached in our school community—the arrival of the first ever group of girls. Now, three years later, these same students are preparing to sit their Junior Cycle exams. To mark this important moment, I spoke to two of these students about their experiences for our annual school magazine.

Guste and Siobhán have both played an active role in school life. As two of the first girls elected as officers on the student council, they have helped shape a more inclusive environment. They kindly took the time to share their thoughts and experiences.

When asked about their first days in the school, both students admitted that it was challenging. They felt outnumbered by the boys and, at times, less visible within the school community. Starting in a new environment is never easy, and being among the first girls made it even more daunting.

However, over the past three years, both Guste and Siobhán have noticed positive changes. They feel that more effort has been made to accommodate girls and make the school a more welcoming place. Guste explained how getting involved helped her settle in: “I’ve made more friends and I’ve made myself feel a bit more at home by joining new clubs, doing the musical, and just putting myself out there.”

When asked what further improvements could be made, Siobhán suggested giving girls the option of wearing a skirt as part of the uniform. She felt that this would help girls feel more included and recognised within the school.

Their experiences show both the challenges and the progress that come with change. As the first group of girls prepares to complete their Junior Cycle, they leave behind a strong example for future students.

We would like to thank Guste and Siobhán for sharing their experiences, and we wish all the girls the very best of luck in their exams this June.



A Timeless Tale on Stage: 'Fiddler on the Roof'

by Daniel Otabor



'Fiddler on the Roof' is a musical drama set in a small Jewish village called Anatevka in Russia. The play is mainly about Tevye, a poor milkman, and his family. It focuses on how he tries to keep his tradition while his daughters want more freedom and choice in their lives.

The story shows Tevye struggling with change, especially when his daughters start making choices on who they want to marry.

I found the storyline interesting because it shows how hard it is to accept change, especially when family and religion are involved. There were also some funny moments which made the play more enjoyable. The acting in the play was excellent, especially the actor who played Tevye. He made the character feel real and emotional and his talks with God were one of my favourite parts. The actress who played his daughters also did a good job of showing different opinions and personalities

Because it is a musical, the songs were very interesting. Songs like 'Tradition' helped explain the way of life in the village and made the story easier to understand. I liked how the music added emotion to the play.

One main theme in the play is tradition versus change. The play shows that change can be difficult but sometimes necessary. It also explores themes like family, love and acceptance. The costumes and set designs were very effective and helped show the period in history clearly. Everything looked realistic and suited the story well.

Overall, I enjoyed 'Fiddler On The Roof'. Even though some parts were a bit slow paced, I think it is a meaningful play with a strong message. I would recommend it to every student of various year groups especially those who enjoy musicals or plays with deep themes.

Overall I would give this play 4 out 5 stars!



Season Setbacks and Strong Comebacks: The North Mon's Basketball

Journey

by Sarim Farhan and Reese Marshall



The Mon's basketball team has had a challenging start to their season. While results haven't always gone their way, there has been clear improvement in both skill level and overall performance. With many games still ahead, there was strong belief within the team that success was within reach.

Coaches Mr O'Connor and Ms Healy remained positive and optimistic throughout, encouraging the team to keep pushing forward and the team showed real progress. Their matches were becoming more competitive, and their defence in particular had improved significantly.

Training sessions played a big role in this development. The team focused heavily on 3-on-3 games, which helped improve passing, communication, and teamwork. Their goal this season was to go one step further than last year and reach the final, after narrowly missing out at the semi-final stage.

Several players stood out as key contributors. Peter Dineen made a big impact with his improved defensive skills, and his height gave him an advantage when going for rebounds and scoring under the basket. Other standout players like Ysmael, Eoin, and Tyler consistently performed well, helping to drive the team forward. Eoin Garilao, the team's top scorer, made a huge effort in every game and played a vital role in keeping the team competitive.

Unfortunately, on the 26th of November, the team's season came to an unexpected end. Due to a clash with exams, many key players were unavailable, and the team was forced to forfeit their remaining matches.

Although the season ended in disappointment, the team's improvement, effort, and determination did not go unnoticed. With the progress they've made this year, there is plenty of hope for an even stronger comeback next season.



Looking Back and Moving Forward: A 6th Year Reflection

by Gabor Vazsonyi and Dylan Sweeney



As the school year comes to an end, 6th year students begin to reflect on their time in school and look ahead to the future. We decided to sit down with one of the current 6th years and thought there would be no one better to talk to than Scott Crowley. We spoke with Scott about his experiences, memories, and plans after graduation.

When asked what advice he would give to incoming 1st years, Scott kept it simple: make friends with as many people as you can. Building friendships, he believes, is one of the most important parts of school life. Scott exemplifies his own advice daily and without fail has a friendly smile for everyone.

Looking back, Scott says he doesn't have many regrets—though he jokingly mentioned not getting into enough trouble during his time here.

When it comes to his favourite memory, one stands out above the rest: the 6th year Geography field trip to Kerry. As part of the Leaving Certificate course, the trip was both educational and enjoyable, leaving a lasting impression.

What will he miss most? For Scott, it's the everyday moments—having a laugh with his friends and enjoying the social side of school life.

Looking ahead, Scott is excited about starting a new chapter. He plans to begin a plumbing apprenticeship straight after school, which will last four years. Beyond that, he hopes to save money and travel, with Denmark and Australia at the top of his list.

As Scott prepares to move on, his story reflects both the memories made and the opportunities ahead.

We wish him and all of the 6th years the very best of luck in the future!



Exploring Iberian Culture: Portugal and Spain

by Kristian Naya Gallardo and Nuno Maior De Sousa



The Iberian Peninsula is home to two countries: Portugal and Spain. These neighbouring nations share many similarities, from aspects of their language to parts of their culture. Both also played major roles during the Age of Exploration, with Spain famously involved in the discovery of the Americas. In this article, we explore the food, traditions, and regions that make these countries unique, with a special focus on the Basque region of Spain.

One of the most exciting parts of Iberian culture is its food. Portuguese cuisine is known for its fresh seafood, well-seasoned meats, comforting soups, and delicious desserts. A popular dish is bacalhau à Brás, made with cod, potatoes, onions, and eggs—perfect for seafood lovers. Portugal is also famous for its desserts, especially the pastel de nata, a flaky pastry filled with rich custard and often flavoured with cinnamon or lemon zest. It's widely considered one of the best pastries in the world. Spanish cuisine is equally impressive. In the Basque region, dishes like txuleta a la parrilla—a grilled steak cooked over charcoal—are a favourite. Another well-known feature of Spanish food culture is pintxos, small savoury snacks usually served on bread and held together with a toothpick. These are commonly enjoyed in bars alongside a drink and are a big part of social life.

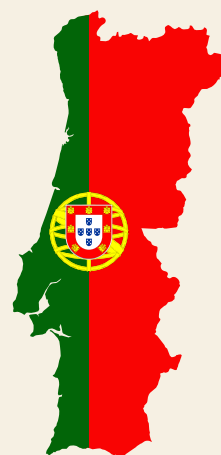


Here's a fun fact about Portugal: it is considered the oldest nation in Europe, with borders established in 1139 that have remained largely unchanged. Meanwhile, the Basque people in Spain are believed to be one of the oldest ethnic groups in Europe, with a unique culture and language that still exists today. Festivals are another huge part of life in both countries. In Portugal, celebrations range from music festivals to religious and cultural events. Popular examples include the Festa de São João in Porto and the Festas de Santo António in Lisbon. A local festival called Avinho, which celebrates wine, takes place around April and is especially popular in certain regions. Spain is also known for its vibrant festivals. Events like the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona and La Batalla del Vino in Haro attract visitors from all over the world. In the Basque region, La Tamborrada is a unique festival where people gather to play drums in celebration, usually held around the 20th of January.



On a more personal level, we want to share what life is like in our hometowns. Aveiras de Cima in Portugal is a quiet and friendly town where everyone knows each other. It feels peaceful and has a strong sense of community, which makes it a really nice place to live. On the other hand, San Sebastián (Donostia) in Spain is much bigger and more lively. Where we stay, there are busy streets, local shops, cafés, and beaches nearby. Even though it's always full of people, it still feels welcoming, and the atmosphere is friendly and enjoyable.

Overall, both Portugal and Spain have rich cultures filled with incredible food, lively festivals, and strong community spirit. While they share many similarities, each country also has its own unique traditions that make it special.



A Life of Travel : Ms.O'Connor's Adventures Abroad

by Darragh O'Connor and Dylan O'Keefe



In this interview, we explore personal travel experiences, favourite destinations, and memorable encounters with Ms. O'Connor.

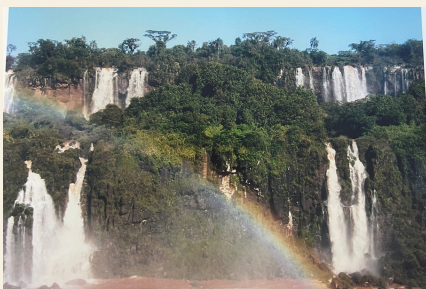
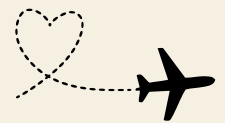
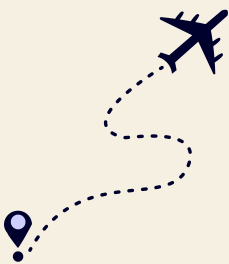
The first time she travelled abroad was when she was around 12 or 13 years old. She visited Mallorca, which marked the beginning of her experiences exploring other countries.

When asked about the longest time she has spent in another country, she shared that she lived in Australia for a full year. This gave her the chance to fully experience the culture and lifestyle there.

Looking ahead, Canada is at the top of her travel list. It's a country she has never visited but would love to explore in the future.

One of her most memorable experiences was meeting Katie Taylor, who she described as the nicest celebrity she has ever met.

Finally, if she had to choose a country she has already visited to live in, she would pick Australia. Her time there clearly left a lasting impression



Learning Orienteering: From Beginners to Event Organisers

by Callum O'Sullivan

Orienteering is an exciting outdoor sport that combines physical fitness with navigation skills. At its core, it involves using a detailed map to locate a series of checkpoints, known as controls, which are placed across a course. Each control is clearly numbered, and participants must find them in the correct sequence.

At every control point, there is a punch device used to mark a competitor's card, proving they have successfully reached that location. Once all controls have been visited, participants return to the finish and submit their card for review. The winner is the person who completes the entire course in the fastest time while correctly marking all controls.

As part of our learning experience, we developed the skills needed to take part in an orienteering event. This includes understanding how to read maps, plan routes, and move efficiently between controls. These are essential skills that require both practice and teamwork.

To apply what we learned, we planned to organise our own orienteering event for first-year students in our school. The goal was to introduce them to the sport and see how well they can participate with little or no prior experience. This not only challenge them but also give us the opportunity to take on leadership roles in designing and running the event.

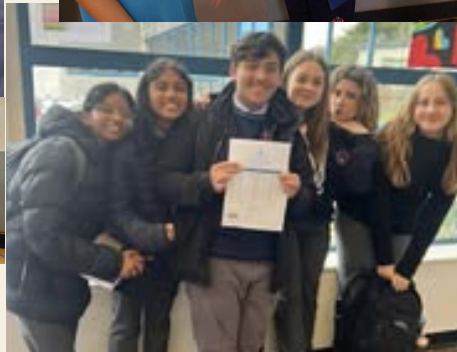
By the end of this experience, we have gained valuable knowledge in map reading, navigation, and event organisation. More importantly, we have successfully taken part in orienteering ourselves while helping others discover and enjoy the sport.



Our TY Highlights



Triathlon Ireland School Programme



Y Junior Cycle Results Day! our paragraph text



Our trip to Dublin - 'Fiddler On The Roof'



Our Christmas Market



Cocinando con Senora Acin t



Event with Orienteering Ireland m t



Getting our E-Scooter Licenses



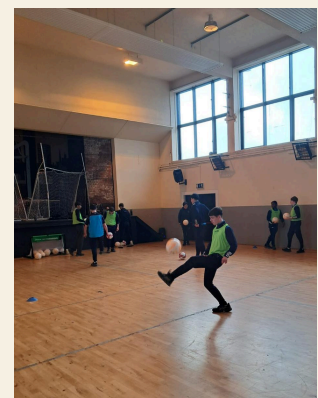
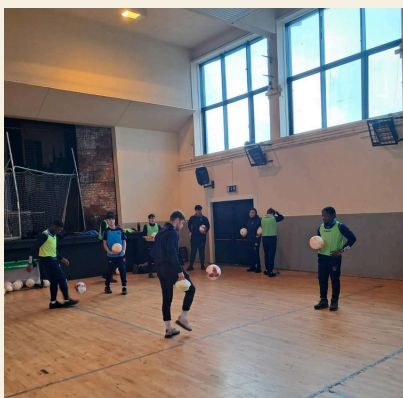
MUNSTER DRIVING CAMPUS
 ad f L No Traffic, No Pressure, No Problem

Top 20 Reaction Times

Name:	Time:
1. Josh	.48
2. Daniel	.45
3. Nmo	.49
4. Mr. Kany	.42
5. Mr. O'Connor	0.40
6. Jay	0.42
7. Naimul	0.41
8. Raech	0.48
9. VAVU	0.41
10.	



Still way off getting our driver's license



Master Performance Academy in P.E



Our Chocolate Making Workshop



The Garda Quiz



The Rubbish Film Festival Awards Ceremony



Our Trip To Collins Barracks



The TY Class of 2025 / 2026

**A special thank you to Ms. Harold for
giving us a fantastic transition year
experience!**

