

TRANSITION year

NEWSLETTER • NUACHT IDIRBHLIANA CBC



Transition Year is a vital year in the development of our students. The benefits of our programme will be felt in the future as our students practise many of the skills learned this year. The theme of our Transition Year in CBC this year was based on the four student dimensions from the new Transition Year Programme Statement - **Being a Learner, Personal Growth, Civic and Community Engagement and Career Exploration.**

Being a learner is all about maturing socially and emotionally during the year, and developing in areas that include health and wellbeing, autonomy, identity and leadership. These skills were offered to students during various workshops given this year.

Personal Growth entails building on their previous experiences. Students begin to develop as senior cycle students, embracing opportunities and strategies for learning that work best for the student now and into the future. Friendships created or cemented this year will last a lifetime.

Civic and Community Engagement was offered to our students this year through our new Volunteering Week in February. Our students became more aware of themselves and their community and this awareness is all about maturity. Students make a positive difference in their schools, communities and society. They learned to act on their responsibilities and exercise their rights as local, national and global citizens. The feedback from Volunteering organisations in the Cork area was overwhelmingly positive and bodes well for their future engagements in their own locality.

Career Exploration is when students explore diverse future pathways in a guided and coordinated manner, gaining first-hand workplace experience, and developing career-related competencies. Our students availed of the fantastic opportunities afforded to them this year and this will stand to them in the long term.

This year's play, *Chariots of Fire*, afforded our TY students the opportunity to forge new friendships and to cement old ones. These will prove to be lifelong friendships for all involved. The TY Play was an outstanding success. Many thanks to all staff involved in this year's production including Mr. T. Hussey, Ms. E. Tarrant, Ms. E. O'Callaghan, Ms. I. Calvert, Mr. P. Martin, Mr. D. Dowling, Mr. A. Denby, and Mr. S. Kelliher. Other activities harnessed the concept of teamwork and leadership.

The class of 2024/2025 can be proud of their work and involvement in Transition Year and the TY Open Night showcased all that was great about this year's group.

Mr. S. Hogan,
TY Co-ordinator

Award-winning CBC TY Newspaper, 2025 Young Journalist Ireland Competition



Above: The front page of *The Christians' Chronicle*, a newspaper designed, written, edited and produced by CBC's TY students. The Editorial Team will receive its award from Matt Cooper (Today FM host, author, columnist Business Post) at a luncheon at the Aviva Stadium on 13 May.

WORKSHOPS COMPLETED BY TY GROUP 2024/25

- Marie Keating
- Rugby/GAA/Rowing Coaching
- Poetry Slam
- Brain Training
- MC2 Accounting
- Price Waterhouse
- Law Days
- Barista Course
- Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine
- Consent Workshop
- Bystander Programme
- Law in Media
- Chinese
- Driving Theory Course
- Global Development
- Cookery
- First Aid
- Podcasting
- Careers
- Art
- RCSI online workshops
- UCC Prep for Med
- Tom Ford's Canyon and Problem Solving
- TY Retreat
- TY Play
- Work Experience
- Driving School

The Apple Trip: *Taking a bite of Hollyhill*

TY students travelled to Hollyhill, Cork, where Apple's campus is located.

by **LORCAN NOLAN**

Students were taught about *Apple's* core values which include privacy, inclusion and diversity, accessibility, education, racial equality, a justice initiative and supplier responsibility as well as *Apple's* environmental responsibilities.

Through a 'Career Panel' session, *Apple* employees gave students personal stories on their journey to date with the US multinational. Students also learned about the wide range of potential employment opportunities that exist within the company.

Opportunities for students include graduate programmes and internships for college students.

Other benefits in working for *Apple* were shown including access to a spa, canteen and a gym, and affiliations to a variety of clubs for employees.

Students also took part in fun activities and taught how to use *Apple* devices and technology in an interactive way. This was through editing photographs or making movies. Other activities included the *Apple* Music Workshop where students brainstormed some songs that could go on to a playlist for a road trip. This helped students how to use *Apple* music to its full potential and provided a fun activity as students sang along to the music.

The day ended with lunch provided by the company in their canteen.

Overall it was a great day out and students learned important skills and, also, career opportunities that exist at *Apple*.

Right L-R: Teddy Campion, Muhammad Raed Naseer, Meghant Srivastava at Apple Visit.

Photo: Charlie Liang.



Above, L-R: Darraagh Twomey, Rory Cullinane and Larry Butler.

Photo: Charlie Liang.



FAR EASTERN PROMISE

Although not unfamiliar to intercontinental travel, RONAN HAYES writes about his expectations for a unique trip to one of the largest cities in the world.

The plethora of workshops can help teach us important skills we might need, and work experience can help us to decide what career we wish to pursue. I came into this academic year thinking I would make the most of it and sign up for every opportunity I was given, but the last thing I expected to be doing this year was to be preparing to go to China.

With all of the recent international discourse on China, mostly originating from the US, I was interested to see for myself what it was actually like there. Over the past few years the attitude towards China has deteriorated, one of the main pieces of evidence for this was the temporary suspension of 'TikTok' in America.



Photo: Charlie Liang.

Although it only lasted for a couple of hours, it proved how distrustful the US government is of China as the States seem to have a fear that China is gathering data on its people. It may just be another lie created by Donald Trump (one of the first to propose the ban) or a genuine fear, but US federal agencies have made China out to be a danger or a pariah to the rest of the world.

This year I have been chosen to go to Shanghai on a cultural trip with eighteen other Transition Year students from various schools in Ireland, two of whom attend CBC. For two weeks we will experience the culture, learn the language and meet the people. The trip is organised by UCC through the Confucius Institute. The C.I. has strong connections to schools in China and runs many events that promote Chinese heritage in Ireland. They also work with primary and secondary schools to help teach the Chinese language.

For someone who lives in Ireland, China seems like a whole different world. I've been to many countries in Europe as well as America but none of them seem to

compare with this giant economy in the Far East. Even with the internet that connects the whole world, it is rare to see any news, social media posts or movies originating from China. They are so disconnected from us which is what makes this trip so exciting; it provides an opportunity to experience things in a culture so different to ours.

The food, history and art are all so different from anything in the West, and on top of it we will be in Shanghai, the largest city in the world. With a population of over twenty four million

people, the city alone makes Ireland look tiny. Shanghai is a melting pot of both eastern and western cultures while also being a major hub for cutting-edge technology. It's unlike any other city on the planet. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to go to Shanghai and will try to make the most of my time while I am there, learning and experiencing as much as I can.

I am sure the lifelong memories I make there will leave a lasting impact on me.



Photo: Charlie Liang.

Commissioner in times of flux and fear

European Union Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection, Michael McGrath, has been given a challenging brief by EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. In times of flux and volatility in world politics, Commissioner McGrath was put under the spotlight by his son, Ronan.

Interview by RONAN McGRATH



Above, L-R: EU Commissioner, Michael McGrath, with his son, Ronan. Ronan's interview offers readers an insight into European politics, and a look inside his father's journey from local politics to the world stage.

Q1. Who inspired you to get into politics, at what age did you start to consider Politics a suitable career for you?

When I was in school, history was my favourite subject, in part because I had a wonderful teacher. I enjoyed learning about Ireland's history, and this helped to inspire me to take an interest in current affairs. My parents were not involved in politics at all, but they did encourage myself and my siblings to take an interest in the world around us.

Q2. In what ways can we encourage young people to embrace a life and career in politics?

I think the focus should on encouraging young people to take an interest in issues first of all, and the interest in politics will follow because politics is how you bring about change. Many young people think politics is boring, but politicians make decisions that impact young people all the time including in areas such as education, transport, sports facilities, job creation, the regulation of social media, the age you can drive a car and vote and so much more.

Q3. Will you miss local and national politics due to your involvement in the European Commission?

I have been a public representative in Cork – at a local or national level – for 25 years and I have enjoyed it immensely. I will now continue to serve the public but in a different way and on a different stage. Cork will continue to be home, and I will remain as involved in my community and in public life generally in Ireland as much as possible.

Q4. How does your work differ in the European Commission compared to your work in the Dáil?

I was honoured to serve as a TD since 2007 and spent four years as a senior Minister in the government here. One of the main differences in my work is the scale of its impact. The EU has a population of 450 million compared to Ireland's 5 million. As an EU Commissioner, I will have an opportunity to bring forward and implement policies that impact 27 different countries in the EU. This is an extraordinary opportunity to have. I will be working very closely with the European Parliament and with the member states.

Q5. What are your views and opinions on global conflict such as the war in Gaza, the ongoing invasion in Ukraine and Trump's recent election as the President in the US?

The world has become much more volatile and fragmented which means the role of the EU as an advocate for peace, democracy and multilateralism is more important than ever before. For the sake of the world, the EU and the US need to work together, and I hope this good relationship will continue under the Trump Presidency. The EU will continue to support Ukraine for as long as it takes because we cannot allow Russia to win, and the EU will do all that it can to bring about peace in the Middle East.

Q6. Describe your new role in the EU and what are your responsibilities?

My title is very long! I am the EU Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection. It is a very broad portfolio which will keep me busy. I am responsible for the justice system across the EU, upholding democracy and ensuring member states respect the rule of law. I am in charge of consumer protection for all citizens in the EU, and also data protection. I will have to ensure the media freedom is protected and that all member states have free and fair elections. I will be dealing with the big tech companies on a lot of issues, and I have asked to help ensure the single economic market can be fully accessed by all businesses.

Q7. What would a typical day in the life for you on a normal working day in Brussels?

I am writing this at the end of my first full day in office! To become an EU Commissioner, I had to do a huge amount of preparation and I had to pass a confirmation hearing in the European Parliament where I was questioned for three and a half hours by MEPs. I went to my office in the Commission Headquarters in the Berlaymont at 8am this morning and met my staff. I had to participate in two meetings in the European Parliament on plans to strengthen the rights of victims of crime and on improving criminal justice cooperation. I then met some officials from an Irish government department to discuss consumer protection and company law, and worked in my office until 9pm reading and preparing for a busy day of meetings tomorrow.

Q8. What are your opinions on the increase in support for right wing parties over the last number of years?

This has been a trend in Europe in recent years and we do have to carefully consider why it is happening. Why is it that people are attracted to the far right? In some countries, it seems to have a lot to do with attitudes to immigration and a view that the State has become too involved in many parts of life. While I respect the democratic mandate of everyone who has been elected, it is important that we stand up for all the founding values of the European Union.



Golden Lessons: *TYs Learn the Value of Consistency and Planning*

by CATHAL WALSH

Racing to mine precious gold, overcoming adverse weather conditions and strategizing for survival, our TYs recently attended The Gold of Desert Kings where they learned the importance of pre-planning in an interactive way.

"Consistency is key" is an age-old saying that couldn't be more true but seems to have lost some of its power, it has become a bit cliché. However, after spending the day navigating the challenges of the desert with Gerard, the person running the workshop, our fourth years have a new appreciation for this timeless truth.

The Gold of Desert Kings workshop is a team-orientated game where you must work your way across the map, mine for gold, work as a team and return safely to Apache Junction, all on a tight budget of both money and time. Many other aspects must be taken into account such as Arctic Blasts, finding caves, flooding canyons and turbochargers. The group with the most gold at the end of the game wins.

While the game was undeniably fun, it offered much more than entertainment. When you dig beneath the surface, participants uncover a much deeper meaning behind the game. They learnt the importance of leadership, consistency, decision making and the consequences of those decisions. Gold of Deserts Kings favours he who pre-plans, the teams that used their fifteen planning minutes most effectively performed far better than those who rushed in without a strategy.

So what did we learn?

Gerard's message was clear: consistency and foresight are essential. Although you might be tired of hearing it, consistency is everything. To illustrate I will use a compelling example. If you invested just €100 every month to something that grew by 10% every year (like the S&P 500), in one year's time you would have €1,367.03, in ten years' time that grows to €21,000 and in fifty years' time, when you retire, you would have an incredible €1,746,976.07, that's €1.75 million, all from just from €100 per month.

The lesson? Consistency pays off. But how can you apply this to your own life? Well, firstly, think about starting investing, but secondly, apply this concept to your academics. If you study for just five minutes every day, just five minutes, in a year's time you would have studied more than thirty hours' worth of material! That's easily enough time to revise your entire course twice or three times!



On behalf of CBC, a huge thank you to Gerard for leading such an engaging and inspiring workshop. It was an unforgettable experience, and we highly recommend The Gold of Desert Kings to anyone looking to learn valuable life lessons while having a great time!



WHAT TY STUDENTS THOUGHT:

"Best workshop of the year"

"Eye opening and inspiring"

"Learning made fun"

"Really, really, really good"

DONALD. J. TRUMP

“The Shepherd of Modern Civilisation”

Truth be told... for once

Many people mistakenly believe that President Trump's 'Project 2025' marks the end of the American "democracy" and "freedom" in America, as if they had any to begin with. I wholeheartedly believe Trump will launch America into a new golden age, as evidenced from the incredibly important issues he's already tackling such as the economic annexation of nearly all countries allied with the USA, the renaming of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America (like the judicious man said, 'It's got a nice ring to it') and the opportunity of a military annexation of Greenland and the Panama canal.

Much like the world-conquering Ancient Romans, a Modern US Empire expanding eastwards could just be the thing this world needs at the moment. Why stop at Greenland - continuing to progress to Iceland and then even the British and Irish Isles! Arguably we will all be better off in Trump's world, especially our brethren along the west coast. An 'Atlantic Way Riviera' would surely be the signal to "back off" for the evil dictators of today that need to be stopped. And there's plenty of space for more stars on that flag anyway for a more united global alliance.

Unfortunately, as stated before, many individuals feel concerned with where Trump's focus lies, such as him virtually ignoring the recent Los Angeles wildfires, where he chose to blame the 'left' and the 'climate activists' instead of actually doing anything, seems to me those impoverished Californians are simply too afraid to take any action themselves, letting their supposed "City of Angels" burn to the ground.

Individuals such as Justin Trudeau of Canada have outwardly and harshly spoken against the gracious suggestion of Canada's incorporation into the United States as the 51st state, stating, "There isn't a snowball's chance in hell that Canada would become part of the United States". The fact that in today's 'civilised' society, politicians respond so demandingly to a small suggestion of forced occupation truly says buckets about the state of the modern world.

Going on from this, since his inauguration, Trump has withdrawn America from the World Health Organisation. A rational, thorough decision made by all. After all, why would America - a country already notable for its high cost of healthcare access such as Medicaid and Medicare - pay a significant amount towards WHO when other countries pay significantly less?

by ULTAN McCARTHY

UCC Maths Week Challenges and Enthralls

by EOIN BRENNAN



The week-long maths work experience at UCC was an exciting preview of life as a college student. The difficult mathematical challenges we faced in groups were thrilling. The programme took place in January, but the week was cut short due to a countrywide red weather warning. This was disappointing, but the experience remained very enjoyable.

A total of 80 students from various schools attended the lectures. During lunchtime, we were free to explore the campus on our own. This gave us the opportunity to take in UCC's outstanding surroundings and mingle with fellow students.

Throughout the week, we attended real college lectures. The one that stood out to me most was a lecture on solving linear differential equations in one dimension. It was mind-blowing, especially because it involved maths with almost no numbers.

We were also given a range of topics to choose from for a group project, which we presented at the end of the week.

Overall, it was a fantastic and memorable experience.

Discover Cork History Competition Success

Huge congratulations to Charlie O'Brien, Eoin O'Beirne and Edward Linehan who placed second, third and fourth in this year's Cork Schools Heritage Project, respectively. This year's competition, organised by Kieran McCarthy and the Old Cork Waterworks, marks the 25th anniversary of this esteemed event. Charlie showcased his project on the history of Donoughmore, his local area, while Eoin explored the rich history of Cork City Football Club, and Edward focused on the significant Battle of Clonmult. Their hard work and dedication were recognised during an awards ceremony held in early March, where they were presented with well-deserved accolades.

The event was made even more special by the presence of their history teacher, Mr. Boyle. The TY students are pictured with Mr. Boyle and principal Mr D. Lordon who were proud to support the students. The competition not only highlighted the students' impressive research skills but also fostered a deeper appreciation for the rich heritage of Cork. This experience has undoubtedly inspired all participants to continue exploring and celebrating their local history in the future.



Left to right: Mr M.Boyle (TY History), Edward Linehan, Eoin Ó Beirne, Charlie O'Brien, Mr D.Lordon (principal).

A JOURNEY THROUGH OUR PAST

by **BEN CAHILL**

In October 2024, I travelled to Dublin with my TY history class and the Fifth Year history class, to visit Glasnevin Cemetery. It is the largest and most famous cemetery in Ireland. Our class teacher, Mr Boyle, accompanied both groups.

Firstly, we visited Daniel O'Connell's final resting place. A giant 55-metre tall roundtower loomed over us at O'Connell's grave. It had been built over a tomb that had been crafted for his coffin and others. We looked inside the tomb and it was illustrated magnificently with Celtic designs. We were able to touch his tombstone, too. It really gave me a greater understanding of the information I had received through my studies of history in CBC.

We then moved on to Oliver Plunkett's grave. It was situated on a small enough area of grass. You wouldn't know if there was anything on it if it wasn't for the small metal cross planted into the middle of the grass. The Glasnevin tour guide explained to us that beneath Plunkett's coffin many bodies had been buried. It was the site of a mass grave for those who died as a result of an outbreak of cholera in Dublin. The guide also informed us that after the mass grave had been created, it had rained, causing disease to percolate through the ground to eventually being washed into the river, thus contributing to another outbreak. The bodies were then cemented over to prevent this from happening again. The simplicity of the grave for such an important figure in Irish history surprised me, and also the simplicity of the grave in relation to the deadly disease which wiped out so many surprised me. Maybe Plunkett wanted a simple grave or maybe he wanted to be buried with others. Who knows.

We then visited the graves of other prominent figures of Irish history. For example, we visited the humble yet neatly-appointed resting place of former Taoiseach and President of Ireland, Eamonn De Valera. Our final stop took us to Michael Collins's grave. It was clear that Collins had made a great impact and left an indelible imprint on the Irish psyche when he was alive. He had the biggest grave by far in the cemetery and we were told thousands of flowers are sent to his grave yearly, along with many visits from women all over. It was good to see someone from Cork being the main attraction.

We were then let off to have a look around the cemetery. I was able to find my great grandfather's grave. I discovered it not too far from the main plot-area, and I felt a sense of pride swell inside me that someone from my family was buried in the most famous cemetery in Ireland.

Chariots of Fire **MADE MY YEAR**

The best experience of my Transition Year was the Transition Year play. In late September, auditions began. I, and many others, completed our auditions and hoped we would get a role in the play.

by **JAYE COUGHLAN**

The best experience of my Transition Year was the Transition Year play. In late September, auditions began. I, and many others, completed our auditions and hoped we would get a role in the play.

After what seemed like an eternity, the roles were announced, and the hard work could begin. I was given the role of the Master of Caius. In-school rehearsals took place every Monday and Tuesday for all cast members, while after-school rehearsals took place every day for specific members of the cast to attend.

Chariots of Fire is a story about two Olympic runners who partook in the 1924 Olympics. Harold Abrahams (played by Fionn Conway and Rory Cullinane over two separate evenings) was a Jewish runner who faced obstacles on the way to glory. Eric Liddell (played by Cathal Walsh) was a devout Christian who refused to race on a Sunday.

As the weeks passed by, the play slowly began to take shape. Mr Hussey, a seasoned director, managed to get the best out of the actors and he ensured that they performed to the best of their ability.

It all began to get real when the tickets were announced and the posters began to be seen throughout the school. People began to realise that soon enough, the brilliant experience

would be over for the dedicated members of the cast. This dedication was evidently clear in the week building up to the play. Cast members were in school on Saturday and Sunday for over eight hours each day testing microphones, lights, props and the set.

A satisfying conclusion to this six-month journey was the incredible success of both the Tuesday show and the Thursday show, both sell-outs. Although the play being successful was amazing, it was also sad that the amazing experience had come to an end.



Photo: Mr Steven Lynch

MR. TREVOR HUSSEY:

A Commitment to the Arts and Youth

An interview by **CATHAL LYONS** with the Director of CBC production for the 2025 TY play, *Chariots of Fire*.

CBC's Drama Department chose *Chariots of Fire* as this year's school production. This is an iconic and compelling story of two Olympic runners, Eric Liddel and Harold Abrahams, two athletes whose relentless determination overcame the odds in the build-up to the 1924 Paris Olympic Games. With themes of self discovery, sacrifice, and legacy threading a powerful script, *Chariots of Fire* is certainly a play that reflects well on young adults' lives when they can transform into the best version of themselves.

Director's Vision

For the Director, Mr Trevor Hussey, the decision to pursue Theatre and the Arts in conjunction with his teaching career in CBC is nothing short of inspirational. His commitment to directing shows in TY, donating hours of his time - this year alongside co-director Ms. Eileen Tarrant - isn't just about his love for the stage but rather his passion for the power of storytelling to shape young peoples' minds.

He essentially "grew up in the opera" watching a plethora of shows in a variety of venues, both at home and abroad. Today his passion for theatre burns as brightly since his first visit to a theatre.

Over the years Mr. Hussey has learned the concept and meaning of "staging" and "learned an awful lot" in terms of commitment, collaboration and selflessness to help further inspire others. In order to accomplish this vision he says "you must surround yourself with people who trust in what you're doing" and "try to envision young adults' minds to believe and see it no matter the difficulty, and that there is a need to believe as one as a cast".

Furthermore, his talented time-management skills are nothing short of impressive. He puts it succinctly himself: "When you want something done, ask a busy person!"

Tackling curricular pedagogy, theatrical coordination as well as his own daily life outside of the school building is quite extraordinary, but Mr. Hussey is a tenacious, pleasant and fascinating person who will push you beyond your limit in order to reach your full potential.

Why *Chariots of Fire*?

It's just been over 100 years since the first Paris Olympics, and Mr. Hussey believes the time was ripe to stage this inspirational story. In fact CBC's production is the first official staging of the theatrical version (stage script by Colin Welland and Mike Bartlett) in Ireland.

"There is no better time to capture the atmosphere that drove those athletes who, in the 1924 Olympics, gave so much for the good of themselves and their country," adds Mr. Hussey.

The 1924 Olympics represented a moment of profound cultural change with themes of sacrifice, self discovery and pride. Furthermore this era was pivotal in shaping modern athletics, and its legacy in inspiring future generations of athletes and dreamers may have been a core factor in the decision to bring this inspiring story to the stage in our school; to inspire young adults to believe and pursue their aspirations, leaving a lasting positive

outlook on their self-confidence and self-development when they recall this experience "for the rest of their lives".

The Journey

Since early September, we've worked tirelessly together as a year group of young lads, and opening night was special: "To put it in words would devalue its impact," adds Mr. Hussey, but in this journey, we've leaned on each other's strengths, pushing past challenges and doubts. Only when we believe and collaborate do we know we're creating something special. After months of working alongside the director, co-director, producers, cast, P.R team, set design and construction team, we've faced hurdles that have made the process both fulfilling and worthwhile.

Adds Mr. Hussey: "There's no doubt about it: We hoped this would become the best show ever to perform in CBC history because of the huge talent that we have in the school who have not even acted before."

This confidence we have absorbed in the talent we've cultivated together reminds us of just how far we've come, even when we started with no experience.

The passion, dedication, and energy of everyone involved will hopefully make this show worth remembering.



The poster features a dark background with a central image of a runner in a white singlet and shorts, holding a torch. To the left is a crest with a cross and the letters 'CB'. To the right is the Olympic rings logo. The text is in various fonts and colors, including white, red, and gold.

The **TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS** of **CHRISTIAN BROTHERS COLLEGE** present

This is the story of two men
who run... not to run...
but to prove something to the world.

They will sacrifice anything
to achieve their goals...
Except their honour.

CHARIOTS of FIRE

TUESDAY 4 march & THURSDAY 6 march 2025 at 7:30 pm

TICKETS: €10 available on Eventbrite using the following QR Code: 



CHARIOTS of FIRE

Behind the Curtain: **STORIES FROM THE STAGE**

“IT WAS BRILLIANT TO SEE ALL OUR WORK FINALLY PAY OFF”

by **FIONN CONWAY** as
Harold Abrahams

When I first signed up for Chariots of Fire back in September I really didn't know what I was getting myself in for. Once I heard the news that I got the role of the lead, I was surprised to say the least. As the rehearsal schedule came out for the first time it struck me how big of a commitment this was going to be.

As we began rehearsing for the first time I was nervous as this was really pushing me outside of my comfort zone. I had no prior acting skills making it even more difficult. During this time I also realised how much this project was going to consume me for the next few months with rehearsals taking place almost every day after school. These rehearsals taught me a lot about commitment and dedication and

working as part of a team towards a common goal. Over the course of the next few months, we worked tirelessly every evening putting everything we had into it trying to make it the best possible play it could be. It took a lot out of all of us.

Once I got home the work didn't stop as lines had to be learned - and a lot of them. Many evenings were spent reading and re-reading lines. These lines have stuck with me ever since.

As we began to get closer to the play more and more rehearsals were being added to the schedule. It's around this time where I had to make sacrifices in the evenings to accommodate for the play. During this period it hit me that the show was really happening, as before it hadn't properly sank in. This show was massive, but we could finally see all are

hard work finally paying off. This show was going to be one to remember.

As the days ticked down to the opening of the show. The weekend was spent in school rehearsing as much as possible trying to make it the best it could possibly be. These rehearsals started at 10 in the morning and ended at 8 in the evening. We were all tired by the end of it to say the least.

On the first night of the show there was a mixture of excitement and nerves among the cast, many of us not knowing what was to come. As I was sharing the role with someone else, I was not acting on opening night and I was able to relax and

enjoy the show. The first night of the show was a great success with students receiving a rapturous round of applause to acknowledge all the work we had put in over the last few months.

As we moved onto the final night of the show it was now my turn as lead. The few hours leading up to it went like a whirl. I was excited to get going but also nervous about the thought of the whole thing. The next two hours went like a blur, racing around frantically backstage trying to be in the right places at the right time. By the end of it I was relieved that I managed to get through it. It will be a night I will never forget, it was brilliant to see all our work finally pay off.

“Great life lessons learnt from this theatre production”

by **HARRY WALSH**
as **Lord Birkenhead**

When I walked into my audition for the CBC TY play 2025, Chariots of Fire, and played stage production theme-tune on piano, I never could have imagined the journey that lay in front of me. From scouring charity shops for extravagant costumes to the more profound takeaways gained from producing such a show, I - along with the rest of the production team - will never forget the journey that saw us bring this famous script from print to stage.

I was cast as “Lord Birkenhead”, partially to my disappointment, and I had hoped to be playing live music for the show (that was to come too), but in hindsight, I thoroughly enjoyed my role. After a little research into the movie, I came to the realisation that I was to be the poshest of the posh: I would need to completely change myself for the role. When I began practising in rehearsals, it was like I could flick a switch: one minute a boy sitting in school and the next a Lord on his way to the Olympic Games. Who I switched to was always changing, from the posh British Midlands accent to the way I had to condescend towards others, it simply wonderful to throw myself fully into the role.

None of this came quickly though, and it wasn't until January when I began to feel confident in my character. A similar feeling was reciprocated throughout the cast, in themselves and in the show as a whole. In the weeks leading up to the opening night on March 4 however, inklings of doubt were still very much there. Practising in the School Oratory doesn't lend itself particularly well to imagining how a show would play out in a theatre. But with only five days to go until opening night, it all began to come together, seeing extravagant lighting rigs going up and the set being brought into the hall, the fabricated world of this drama began to become a reality.

We began preparing for the show on September 3, 2024, and we didn't finish until twenty minutes before the show. Throughout the process we faced many challenges: people missing rehearsals, the difficulties of managing such a large cast and the constant adaptation of the script. But none of this will be what we remember in the future. We will remember the emotions, the friendships and the moments that led up to the final performance. I have become far greater friends with many people who at the start of the year I hardly knew. Now they are some of my closest friends. Through making mistakes and forcing ourselves to be vulnerable in front of our peers, we learnt

many important lessons that we will carry with us into the future. Public speaking, expressing yourself and learning to disregard the deeply ingrained humility that teenagers so often have.

The final night of the show was magical. Emotional words were spoken in the dressing room beforehand and the performance went by as a blur. It felt as though someone clicked their fingers... and, poof, it was over. When the final bows were taken and the audience had filed out of the doors, it was difficult to comprehend that it was over. So much of our lives had been taken up by rehearsals, especially in the two weeks prior to the show and now it was all over.

Bittersweet, yet I can wholeheartedly say that not one member of the cast regrets taking part in this incredible experience. We did not do it for the applause or the bows, the final performance or the numerous congratulations received afterwards. We did it for ourselves and our classmates but most importantly, we all did it for the experience, for as John Godfrey said, “Those who are rich in experiences are rich in life”, and this experience was truly once in a lifetime.

SOILSE, CEAMARA, AICSEAN!

Dráma na hIdirbhliana, ‘Chariots of Fire’

le ARCHIE MACSEOIN mar *Florence (cailín Eric)*

Bhí mé ag súil go mór le Dráma na hIdirbhliana sa cheathrú bliain mar go mbeadh deis agam ról aisteoireachta á ghlacadh agam sa dráma clúiteach, Chariots of Fire.

Bhain mé an-taitneamh as an dráma mar, tar éis sé mhí anois, caithfidh mé a rá gur duine níos fearr mé anois, agus tá níos mó cairde déanta agam le linn an turais seo.

Bhain mé ard-taitneamh as mo chuid ról sa dráma, i ndáiríre, agus mé ag glacadh páirte den charachtar, Florence, cailín Eric. Bhí an tUasal Hussey ina stiúrthóir ionspioráideach - thug sé comhairle, cáineadh agus moladh dúinn a chabhraigh go mór linn.

Bhí Mr. Hussey, Ms. Tarrant, Mr. P. Martin, Ms. Calvert, Mr. Denby agus Ms. O'Callaghan ag obair ó mhaidin go hoíche, ó Mheán Fómhair go Márta lenár dtriúr léiritheoirí chun an léiriúchán suimiúil tarraingteach seo a chur le chéile.

D'éirigh thar barr leis an dráma thar dhá oíche a bhí díolta amach. Ba é seo an chéad uair riamh a léiríodh an dráma ar stáitse in Éirinn, freisin, agus níl aon dabht faoi ach gur thaitin an dá hoíche ar stáitse go mór linn.

“IT WAS A BIG CHALLENGE, BUT I TRULY GOT TO REAP THE REWARDS”

Jack Long as Jackson Scholz

It was a huge challenge to be the first to perform Chariots of Fire in Ireland, but it ended being a masterpiece. The production has come to an end and now I can confidently say it was an incredible experience. The two nights were truly brilliant, and I think everyone put the best versions of themselves forward, with the entire cast giving breathtaking performances. All the hard work everyone put in was evident and I believe it was all worth it.

Throughout the course of the academic year, I have gotten the chance to experience first-hand what effect the play has had on those involved. Since the beginning of the school year, I have seen members of the cast mature beyond what I thought was possible in such a short period of time, as well as an extraordinary increase in confidence for those involved, and some have really come out of their shell.

Cathal Walsh, who played the lead role, Eric Liddell, puts it well: “Playing Eric Liddell in the TY play has provided me with so many opportunities to develop

in a variety of ways. The numerous evening rehearsals and performances in front of teachers and fellow students have developed my confidence and public speaking ability.

“Through the highs and lows of this year’s play, I have matured and learnt important leadership abilities and I have also made and deepened so many friendships through the play; from morning rehearsals to late-night line learning, I have developed so much from the TY play, and I couldn’t be prouder to be part of it.”

It was a stressful few weeks when the preparations were coming to a close; the tensions were well and truly palpable. The pressure was on as the rush was in full swing to make sure everything was perfect for the show.

Even though the play is complete now and looked brilliant, it had not been a smooth journey, which makes sense as nothing great ever comes easily. At times throughout the year, the pressure of it all did get to the cast, clearly disrupting the progress made and almost leading to the cancellation of the show, but everyone was determined and resilient in these situations and persevered, letting the show get to be what it is today. This is a real sign of how much people have developed over the course of the year.

I think playing the role of Jackson Scholz, an American runner, had a huge impact on me. It was a big challenge, but I truly got to reap the rewards. Being a part of this production affected me on a personal level, to an extent I never could have imagined. At the start of the year, I never could have predicted how much this play would benefit me as a person. I believe I have matured so much, and my confidence has risen massively. I have also learned how crucial the skill of time management is. On top of all this, I have created so many strong friendships with other people involved in this project, which I think, and hope, will last for a very long time.

As somebody that had never acted or been a part of theatre previously, being a part of this show was an exhilarating opportunity, and everyone involved poured many hours into making it the best it can be, especially Mr. Hussey and Ms. Tarrant.

Ultimately, I believe the 4th and 6th of March highlighted how special the whole group of people involved in this huge production are and showcased the talent they have. I am sure some people even surprised themselves with their own ability.



Eric Liddell (left, played by **Cathal Walsh**) talking to Jackson Scholtz (right, played by **Jack Long**) before the race.

CBC TY PHOTO GALLERY



Early morning in Biberwier - Photo: Ultan McCarthy



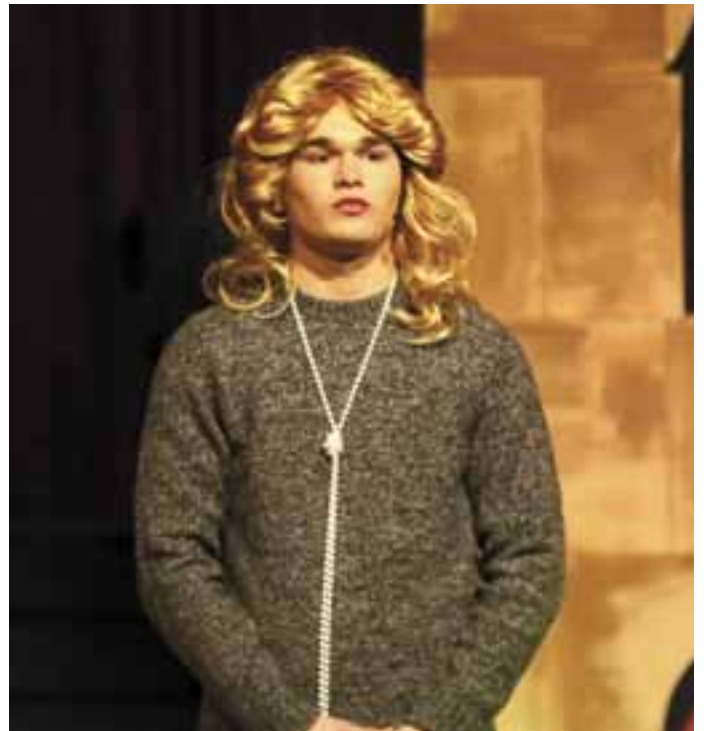
Skiing in Style in Ehrwald - Photo: Teddy Campion



Mary, Jesus and Joseph in the stable - Photo: Charlie Liang



Mrs Costello conducting the school orchestra - Photo: Charlie Liang



Leon O'Connell as Jennie Liddell - Photo: Mr Steven Lynch



Above the clouds - Photo: Ultan McCarthy

ARTS/CULTURE - TY STUDENTS PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS



'You're a wizard Harry'
Photo: Cathal Walsh



Patrick's Hill
Photo: Cathal Lyons



City Solitude
Photo: Cathal Walsh

MUNSTER DRIVING CAMPUS



"I ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT THE VALUE OF A MOMENT ONLY REVEALS ITSELF UNTIL IT BECOMES THE PAST"

Charlie Llang looks back on how the Misneach team helped shape his persona

People often say that education isn't only about the formulae and definitions in textbooks, but more importantly teaching the next generation on how to become a better person. Among the countless opportunities I was offered during my Transition Year at CBC, the Misneach Team taught me the life lessons I would be benefiting from for the rest of my life.

To me and many others, Misneach was a mysterious group who acted like porters in the school: carrying chairs, building cribs, but the Misneach experience opened new doors for me in Transition Year, the year of my rebirth.

During the Misneach interview process, Mr. Trevor Hussey, the Team Head said that Misneach is "an opportunity to look into oneself and use what's inside to contribute to the school". I took on board Mr. Hussey's pearls of wisdom, did my interview and thankfully was awarded with a place on Misneach.

At the end of September, our "boat" of 16 crew members left the port not knowing what would be in the water ahead of us. As a young crew, we faced choppy waters; the challenges of helping to host Open Night, the Lord Mayor's Visit and Awards Night.

I remember how it feels to have the weight of responsibility on my shoulders, but instead of pushing me into the ground, they became forces pushing me forward. Sixteen of us soon became a team forming a unique bond. As time passed, the phrase 'team work' became more defined.

As we approached the Christmas season, 'The Crib' gradually became a common topic of conversation. After a meeting with Mr. Hussey the planning, preparation and construction of the crib became our focus. With a team of 16 members, arguments were inevitable. Different members had different ideas on the Crib, and with every idea we had to consider the feasibility, cost, time requirement and many more aspects of the process.

Numerous obstacles emerged on the path towards the Carol Service night, but I believe the other members had the same faith as I did in completing our unique crib for the school. And the finished product only proved us right.

From this Misneach experience, I can already see a different person from the one who emerged from the Junior Certificate exam halls. Before I began my secondary education I even considered not doing Transition Year, but, looking back at what I have learned and gained through these previous months - internal and external coordination, confidence, and unforgettable friendships - I realise this is what education is really about, something more precious, more remarkable and more meaningful than the words I read from textbooks. I wish to say thank you to the boy hesitating at the start of September for taking this opportunity.

I always believed that value of a moment only reveals itself until it becomes the past. Therefore, the benefit of being on Misneach is unimaginable for me right now until I reach the future, but I am 100% confident that I will not regret it.



Misneach Team 2024/2025 with Mr Trevor Hussey.

Back L-R: Richard Cronin, Robert O'Callaghan, James Harrington, Jack Cantillon, Charlie Coakley, Hugh Johnson, Harry Walsh, Conor Murray, Charlie Liang.
Front L-R: Ronan McGrath, Patrick Spelman, Ben Cahill, Corrado Mottareale, Mr. T. Hussey, Raed Naseer, Conor O'Loughlin, Cathal Lyons.

WORKING 9 TO 5 **ARCHIE JONES recounts his week's work experience.**

Monday brought the start of the next step in my life as soon as I walked through the doors of Musgraves Retailer. I was eager to learn and see how everything operates in a professional working environment. The team was welcoming as they brought me and ten other Transition Year students through the warehouses to show us how the normal working day was like for the many workers. These workers were in charge of managing stock and loading trucks that would be sent off to most stores across Ireland.

Tuesday was very similar as we were given another tour of the warehouses from the IT side of it as we learnt who told the workers what to do and how they received their instructions. It was very technical how things operated but the workers managed to make it look like they did things with ease. After the tour we were given a presentation on Musgraves' website that provided staff with information required for their jobs. I also got to learn more about fellow Transition Year students who were very friendly and were great to talk to.

I was very impressed with Wednesday as we were given a brief course on how to record analytic data from store sales and waste before we presented it clearly on different charts.

The day ended with us taking a case study and our task was to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities

and threats in a scenario. We were then invited to share our thoughts on what we would do as teenagers in a given situation.

I would say the best was saved till last because on the Friday of my work experience in Musgraves we learnt about how they promote advertisements for Supervalu and Centra and how much they cost to make and whether they were successful. We finished the day with store design which was very interesting as we learnt about the store layouts across Ireland. This included a quick tour of the Centra located beside Musgraves. Before we left, we were presented with a Certificate of Completion and a One4All gift card for the work we put in during the week.

I really had a good time and am looking forward to my next week of work experience in April.

Retirement of TY Year Head, Mrs. Rosemary Healy

After 39 years of faithful service to Christians, beloved Year Head bids her students farewell.

Since our Year Head, Mrs. Healy, retired, it's hard to imagine the next two academic years without her. Over the years, Mrs. Healy became far more than a figure of authority; she became a mentor, a leader, and a friend to countless students and staff. As we close this remarkable chapter of her career, it's time to reflect on the incredible impact she's had on the students with whom she has worked.

As a Year Head, Mrs. Healy always made sure to check in with her students. She would review their exam results, discuss how they balanced their work and personal lives, and offer support whenever needed. Whether it was for a quick chat, a favour, or some guidance, she was always ready to help. Outside of teaching Business Studies, Mrs. Healy also taught Junior Cycle SPHE. Rather than sticking strictly to the book, she chose to dive deeper into topics, often spending several lessons exploring them in detail. She had a unique ability to emphasise the importance of student well-being, particularly in areas like balancing study and personal life, leaving a

lasting impression on those she taught.

Mrs Healy's remarkable qualities have left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of working with her. Her kindness and empathy were evident in every interaction she had with colleagues and students. As a natural leader, she inspired everyone around her with her motivating presence and witty attitude that always brought laughter into the classroom.

Her warmth and humour made her a beloved teacher and inspired us to take on challenges ahead of us rather than to avoid them. Her dedication to causes she cared about, especially through the Charitable

Committee, made a real difference in the school community. She made a remarkable impact on young students' minds and left with a long-lasting legacy of compassion, benevolence, and unwavering dedication to making the world a better place.

Overall, the values of kindness, dedication and empathy were evident in Mrs Healy, from her role as a year head and her commitment to extracurricular work. The thirty-nine years of her time in CBC are a credit to her hard work and she will be missed by many in the College. We hope she enjoys her retirement and she will always be remembered by the people she worked with and taught.

by CATHAL LYONS and MUHAMMAD RAED NASEER



Above: Mrs Healy with her Third Year Business class of 2024.



Above: Mrs Healy with the 2024/25 Fourth Year Group.

CHRISTIAN BOYS BECOME KINGS OF COFFEE

A day as Baristas offers many opportunities, writes LOUIS KIELY

In their teenage years, many people want to get a job for so many reasons, primarily to help them gain their independence. My school knew about this and set up a very exciting and memorable course to help many people, myself included, to try to get a job.

This wonderful experience that I'm talking about is the barista course. In this course we were taught by a coffee specialist named Sam who owns quite a few coffee shops around Cork. Sam brought us to a room where he taught us the different kinds of coffee beans in existence, what impact different beans have on the taste of the coffee and how long it should take to brew a shot of espresso.

We then went out to a coffee trailer that Sam had set up,

where we each took turns to brew our own espresso shots and practise the different steps. We then had a little break to taste our own and others' coffee.

Sam then brought us back into the room to show us how to foam milk in order to make coffees such as cappuccino and lattes - it was much harder than I ever imagined. We went back to the trailer where we practised the different motions of foaming milk. When doing this you have to be very careful or you'll burn your finger, just like I did!

We then had a coffee-brewing contest to see who the best barista was. The winner of the contest would be crowned the top barista in the year, a coveted title. I was up against 30 of my peers - this wouldn't be easy.

Somehow, I got through to the quarter-final, but this is where it all came crashing down. When I was bringing the espresso over the machine I made the massive mistake of not looking where I was going, hitting my foot on the cabinet in front of me. I spilled my coffee and got disqualified. I was out as fast as I got in. My opponent then went on to win the competition, so I'm not too sure I was going to win at all but still it would've been nice to go out with a fight.

By the end of the course I had a great time with all my friends. This course was a very fun and informative experience. It was a great thing to have in TY as, at this age, you start to become more independent - it definitely helps you broaden your interests and horizons.

A LANGUAGE IS WHAT GIVES A PLACE ITS IDENTITY

MUHAMMAD RAED NASEER'S essay was a finalist in this year's University of Limerick Secondary School Writing Competition, open to both Fourth and Fifth Year students.

Is Ireland without Irish still Ireland?

Many would think, no - Ireland without Irish is not Ireland.

However, the easy answer is yes: Ireland without Irish is still Ireland. Almost anyone reading this sentence for the first time would become critical of the statement. They may be abhorring what seems to be my opinion of preferring a spiral of monotony in a rapidly-globalising world, while standing firmly with Pádraig Pearse's "Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam" and bringing up arguments of "What about the culture?". By choosing this side, I do not intend to be seen as a villain who wants to get rid of Irish from the Island, being too traumatised to study it further for the Leaving Certificate. Instead, I want to express concern for a dying language from a different perspective.

First and foremost, a language is what gives a place its identity. Whether it be places across Northern Europe, home of the Sámi people, or the countries in Africa, each region has a uniqueness, mainly given by its language. Türkiye and Syria are neighbouring countries, with a surprisingly common historical background. In the Ottoman Empire, people in Syria remained in their native land speaking Arabic, with bilingualism¹ prevalent as well. Arabic was not overridden by the introduction of the Turkish language. Had the Turkish language been forced upon every single resident in the Empire, the region would be homogenised into a single cultural block. This is obviously not the case, even long after the fall of the Empire.

The case with Ireland is different. Ireland was also part of an empire at one stage, yet the English language found its way onto the Island through coercion, law, and, the most devastating of all, The Famine of 1845-1851.

After the British infiltration through the Ulster Plantations, leading to their power hold in the Pale (a region including and outside Dublin) and the overall governing of Ireland, many natives - who naturally spoke Irish - were forced to leave their homes and flee to the

west. Here, British control was much less influential, but where economic development was slow. All of this was the result of the introduction of the English Common Law, contradicting the traditional Brehon Law, and the Penal laws (introduced by the Protestant Ascendancy, the ruling elite Protestant class in Ireland), to discriminate against Catholics - the majority of the Irish population.² Already, the use of the language was constrained.

When The Famine struck Ireland during the late 1840s, the British made ridiculously little effort to aid the struggling country. While people in Ireland were dying, person by person, region by region, town by town, the compassion of Sir Robert Peel and his Indian maize exports to the country had been revoked by Prime Minister, John Russell. Again, the west of Ireland was the area most harshly afflicted. This was also the area where a population of Irish speakers was concentrated.² Putting these two statements together, this was how the Irish language had been wounded with a severe blow.

Over the following years, the influence of Irish gradually decreased, fuelled by the onset of globalisation. It has come to the point where I have never had to speak Irish outside the classroom to find my way, to buy a coffee, or even simply talk to a friend. My cousin was quite surprised at this - living in Pakistan, the native Urdu language is an essential part of people's lives. Apart from the Irish studied from text and the Irish studied from Gaeltacht areas, it can be asserted that it is too weak in concentration to exist as a commonly-spoken language.

Ireland itself, contrary to the hypothetical example of the single Syria-Türkiye region mentioned above, still exists. The Emerald Isle still exists. The heritage dotted across villages and cities, the excellence in science, from Sir Robert Boyle to Ireland's acceptance of its CERN associate membership in principle last week 3, 4, and the economic and political strength Ireland possesses in the world, still exists. Ireland is still a powerful country in the world, a country of rich heritage, and a country of resilience.

The problem lies in the linguistic side of Ireland. Current efforts to revive or even just promote the language is not enough. While official notices and signs do have the Irish translation beside the English text, the main missing piece of the puzzle is the spoken language. Words on a page mean almost nothing if they cannot be understood. Learning text from a language guide means almost nothing if one proceeds to confuse natives while conversing with them. The real and practical way of communication is speech, and, whether proficient or with torn grammar - it should be easy for the speaker and comprehensible for the listener.⁵

To give my own example, I cannot read or write Urdu fluently but can speak it well enough to have a conversation. When I try to read, I can relate the text to words I already know, making it somewhat easier for me to learn this skill. In contrast, I can read and write Irish to a decent standard. When it comes to talking to my teacher, I start a sentence, pause to think which word should follow, resume speaking, pause again, and so on. This contrast in language proficiency, not just in me, but in hundreds of thousands of people across Ireland⁶, should make the Island stop and ponder on its language that is slipping out of its hands.

More people speaking Irish will mean that more people will find the need to use it. This would imply that more people will naturally get accustomed to speaking it. Therefore, that the language that was once sucked out of Ireland's identity, which had caused the nation to come to the brink of being a "standardised" country, has come back, reviving what it means for Ireland to really be Ireland.

Overall, Ireland is Ireland, whether the language is alive in the air or bound in books. Pádraig Pearse's quote is not wrong. It is incomplete - in a good sense. It is not right for a community to be satisfied with their thriving country if it does not hold onto its language. However, it is also not right for a community to fall into despair, that their country has lost its soul, and hamper the advances that the country is slowly but surely making.

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by **BRÍAN MURPHY**

Donal Lenihan

THE VOICE OF IRISH RUGBY

If you were to think of a voice when it comes to rugby commentary you would almost certainly think of Donal Lenihan.

Donal, of course, was a student in CBC and is one of our most successful and decorated of alumni to have passed through the halls of Christians College.

A past-pupil of St. Patrick's primary school, Donal's parents enrolled their son in first year in 1971. One of his earliest rugby memories came in this first academic year when he watched the 1972 Senior Cup final between St. Munchin's and CBC in Limerick.

This moment inspired Donal to pursue rugby in an effort to eventually become one of those players paraded around the school, "a dream," he recalls, "that many young lads in Christians can relate to".

Donal would go on to achieve this dream as an inspiring secondrow forward on the 1976 and 1977 Munster Schools' Senior Cup-winning teams. Donal remembers the team's scrum-half Alex O'Regan scoring a drop-goal in injury time to win the 1976 Senior Cup over arch-rivals PBC by one point before going on to captain his beloved school to a thrilling two-point win over Pres again in the 1977 decider

An achievement that swells Donal with pride is that he never lost a competitive game in the Christians' jersey during five happy years on Wellington Road.

Donal would go on to enjoy a stellar career with UCC and with Cork Constitution, Munster, Ireland and the British and Irish Lions. The amiable Cork man earned his first Irish cap against Australia in 1981 and would go on to win three Five Nations titles in the Irish shirt, winning his 52nd and final cap against Wales in 1992. Donal also

represented the Lions on three tours (1983, '86 and '89) captaining the combined Home Nations representative team against Australia in 1989.

After his rugby playing career, Donal was installed as manager of the Ireland team and worked with successful international rugby coach, Warren Gatland. In 2000 Donal

"I never lost a game of rugby during my time at Christians"

- Donal Lenihan

was appointed Lions manager for the 2001 tour to Australia (then World Cup holders) and worked alongside then head coach Sir Graham Henry (Henry would go on to transform New Zealand rugby, leading the Kiwis to Rugby World Cup glory in 2011).

Donal's media career has been another resounding success, and today he continues to do both radio and TV commentary for RTE as well as writing a very popular and authoritative Irish Examiner column.

Often when we, as TY students, watch big games in the United Rugby Championship (URC) or the Champions Cup or one that involves an Irish team, it will be Donal in the co-commentator's booth. The same goes for the Six Nations, Autumn Nations series and World Cup games when Ireland are involved. Donal uses his vast experience as a former international player and manager to provide insightful and easily-accessible commentary for the people of Ireland.

Donal's writing for the Irish Examiner is nothing short of superb; his analysis of every match is very in depth. Donal is honest in how he writes about the team performance but also individual performances. This honest approach might not always be what the reader wants, but he is usually correct in his statements. The language Donal uses is of a high standard (take a bow Christians' English teachers!) and younger readers enjoy his columns too.

I myself thoroughly enjoy reading his pieces as I often agree with what he says.

In short, Donal Lenihan is one of CBC's greatest alumni. Instrumental in Munster and Ireland success as a player, he is changing Irish people's perspectives of the game with insightful writing and thrilling broadcast commentary.

It is no wonder why I believe Donal Lenihan to be the "Voice of Irish Rugby".



Above: Donal Lenihan seen holding the ball.

DR HARTY CUP:

Hurling with Christians - A Personal Diary

The Dr Harty Cup. A prestigious competition with a decorated history. From Christians' first final appearance in the inaugural post-primary Harty Cup competition in 1918 to our most recent campaign in 2025, our school has a proud history in the Harty Cup. As a minority sport in a strong Rugby school, we have punched above our weight when it comes to the Dr Harty Cup. Reaching two out of the last six finals in the competition shows the level of work and dedication being put in by figures such as Donal O'Mahony, Tony Wall, Traolach Martin and to those in the past who helped put in the strong foundations that has led to today's ongoing success.

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Teachers – past and present – have put in enormous work behind the scenes to develop winning teams but also to nurture players into becoming hard-working, respectful and honest people both on and off the pitch. As I walked under the coveted arch and up the steps into the College for the first time as 13-year-old boy in 2021, I only had one thing in mind: To play Harty Cup hurling with Christians. As the 26th US president Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Nothing worth having is ever achieved without effort". When it comes to schools hurling, nothing is going to be easy. Whether it is

training in below freezing temperatures, howling wind and rain or playing on pitches that you think wouldn't even be suitable for livestock, school's hurling really is one of a kind.

Thankfully, my dream came earlier than expected when I lined out at wing back in my first Harty Cup game against John the Baptist Community School earlier this year. As one of three Transition Year pupils on the team, it was a surreal experience lining up with guys one was once looking up to in second and third year. A win in that game capped off a brilliant experience and certainly one I will never forget.

Further wins over St John The Baptist and Rice College set up for a quarter final meeting with De La Salle after Christmas. My dream of playing in a Harty Cup quarter final came crashing down when I broke my finger in an O'Callaghan Cup quarter-final against Midleton CBS. Of course, the initial emotion was one of heartbreak and disappointment but as someone who has come through major setbacks before such as an ACL injury in 2023 which kept me out for 12 months, I started to view this as just a minor setback. Another win in that game set us up well for the quarter final against a formidable De La Salle team containing a plethora of talent. After a slow start, we trailed by seven points at half time. With some motivating words from Mr Wall at half time, we came out firing in the second half, scoring two quick goals to bring the margin down to just one point. Unfortunately, the power of De La Salle shone through and brought the curtain down on our Harty Cup campaign.

I thoroughly enjoyed campaign and I cannot wait to get going again in September 2025.

by **CIAN LAWTON**

THRILLS AND SKILLS

A deep dive into Christians' attempts to win a third O'Callaghan Cup

Keith Flood reviews CBC's path to the 2025 O'Callaghan Cup final, and Ballygarvan's talented netminder also looks forward to more days representing the College on the hurling fields of Cork, Munster and Ireland.

Intentions: We met early in the year and set out our plans for both the O'Callaghan and Harty Cup campaigns. Our ambition in the O'Callaghan Cup competition was to rectify the previous year's final defeat and join only two other Christians' teams on the roll of honour of this prestigious competition.

Game One: We opened our campaign on September 20 against St. Colman's, Fermoy, a school steeped in hurling tradition. Played in Castlelyons, we defeated the famed the north Cork College 0-27 to 0-16. This was my senior hurling debut and it was a huge step-up from Dean Ryan hurling in terms of intensity and physicality. However, it was also a game that helped immeasurably with my Harty Cup preparation.

Game Two: The second game of our campaign was a semi-final against Midleton CBS, another school which boasts immense tradition. This game fell at an awkward time given that it was played on December 13 and coincided with our Harty campaign. We ended up securing a hard-fought victory after extra time (4-18 to 0-33). Played at an immense pace, aided by the smoothness of the Páirc Uí Chaoimh "4G" surface, we learned a lot about ourselves from this game and it helped in our preparations for the Harty Cup quarter-final after Christmas.

Game Three: The third and final game of our O'Callaghan campaign was the final against the North Mon AG in Páirc Uí Rinn on March 5. This was a tricky fixture with regards to preparation as it was played nearly two months on from our Harty Cup defeat. However, we were determined to make up for the heartbreak of our Harty Cup exit. Regrettably this didn't quite materialise on the day. After a tight opening ten minutes, the AG pulled away and earned a

FROM CLASSROOM TO COACHES

*Teaching the Prep
School tradition - Rugby*

JACK LONG was one several TY students who partook in a IRFU-sanctioned coaching course. Jack brought these skills to helping the CBC Preparatory School rugby players.

Rugby is a huge part of life in Christians, and so students get a chance in fourth year to experience coaching younger age groups. At the end of September a coaching course was held in Lansdowne. Coaches from Munster Rugby were present, and we were taught how to coach younger groups, such as what drills to do, how to behave around them, and how to communicate well with them. The course took one full day.

The day began with learning the different laws that apply to mini rugby and other specifics for younger age groups. We then moved onto the rugby field, where we practised creating drills and warm-ups and then to finish the day there were instructions on how to present ourselves while coaching and how to properly interact with the younger players. When the course finished, everyone who attended became a qualified mini-rugby coach.

Since completing the course, we have had many opportunities to coach the CBC Preparatory School teams. The most recent was when we visited Munster's Virgin Media Park with the Prep School teams when they were playing CBC Monkstown. Some of the TY students were refereeing and others were coaching. As the game progressed, we made substitutions and helped out the players.

Since completing the course, we have taken part in many other activities with the Preparatory School, the best of which was a chance to watch the Ireland Men's rugby team play in the Aviva Stadium. A group of the students who completed the rugby course went on the bus with the Preparatory School, and it was a great day out.

Overall, the rugby coaching course was a wonderful experience; it's a great opportunity to learn how to interact with younger people, and I would highly recommend it for anyone who is interested in rugby or sport.

significant lead and, unfortunately and despite a gallant second half performance, we never managed to regain the lead we had given away.

Final thoughts: Although the final was immensely disappointing given our failure to give an accurate account of our ability and hard work all year - particularly for the sixth years as it was their last game in a Christians' jersey - it was also a learning curve from the viewpoint of fourth and fifth year students as it shows the standards we need to set ourselves from the start to the very end of the year in order to compete in competitions as competitive as both the O'Callaghan and Harty Cups.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to Mr Martin, Mr Wall and Mr O'Halloran for their unwavering commitment throughout the year. Thanks to their expertise and guidance every member of the team has improved immeasurably since September.

HOPP SCHWIIZ

SÉADNA FORREST recounts his rugby journey from Lansdowne to Magglingen that brought the CBC student representative honours with Switzerland's U18 National Team.



Above: Switzerland and Poland line up for their respective national anthems.

My parents are from Ballygarvan and Zürich, a bit of a mix. I never played rugby growing up but I always joked with my family about being eligible to play for Switzerland, even though we were always talking about football. When I entered Christians in first year I was introduced to organised rugby and I was soon engrossed by the college's sporting culture. Those late evenings in Lansdowne, atop Cork City had me addicted. Other sports gradually fell away, and with them, those half-serious dreams of Swiss football glory. Not that they were ever realistic.

While searching for some Rugby matches to watch on YouTube one day in Transition Year I thought that Switzerland may have a National Team. After unbelievably finding some senior games, I came across a few U18 matches. This intrigued me, as I was playing U17 and even some U19 Second XV matches for CBC. After some research, I learned these matches were from the U18 Rugby Europe Championship - the second tier of European rugby, boasting teams like Georgia and Romania, who have even beaten top-tier nations like Ireland. 2023 was Switzerland's first year qualifying for the 10-day tournament. I watched all their matches, where they faced Georgia, Belgium, and hosts Czechia in the group stage. Unfortunately, they lost all of these, including the ranking games, finishing 8th overall.

Comparing the level to Ireland, I was confident that I was capable of playing at this level. Now all I had to do was find out how to apply. The Swiss Rugby website listed senior players with their clubs and Instagram accounts. I messaged players playing in England explaining that I played in Ireland, was eligible through my mother, and asked if they knew who to contact for national team trials. Most didn't reply, and those who did couldn't help - until one response changed everything. A fellow second-row whose brother captained the Senior Team asked around and found the Technical Director of all the National Team's email. I sent an email giving my whole spiel as well as a short video of some game clips and as luck would have it I was just in time as the next day I was invited to a training camp in Magglingen, the Swiss National Centre of Excellence, ahead of the Rugby Europe Championship qualifiers.

Now I had to break the news to my parents. They were speechless at first as I had never mentioned anything to them up to that point. They were concerned it wouldn't be possible—the camp was at short notice and clashed with my TY Ski Tour. Luckily, my aunt stepped in, offering to host me Friday night and drive the four-hour round trip to Magglingen twice over the weekend, then drop me in Austria a day late to join my ski tour.

Two weeks later, I was on a snow-covered pitch in Magglingen, straining to understand my French-speaking coaches as training began. Some teammates translated, though I still missed bits. We trained twice daily that first weekend with two-hour sessions mornings and evenings. There were two main demographics in the squad. Swiss-born players living in the French part of Switzerland, the majority of whom play for Servette, the premier club in



Above: Séadna standing proudly beside teammates Matthew Long (left) and Damiano Scilipot.

Switzerland who are so good they play in the French rugby pyramid. The other half are mostly English-born expats living in Switzerland where their parents work. There were some French academy players as well as some former English academy players, too.

Three weeks later, I returned for a final training session. By now, I'd grown comfortable, picking up bits of French and understanding the game plan clearly. The next day, I was named to the matchday squad for our March 16th game against Poland in Geneva. When the team sheet came out later that week, I saw I'd be starting No. 4 (as a lock forward).

We assembled at the airport Saturday afternoon before being shuttled to our hotel. After a team run on a nearby pitch, we watched France's final Six Nations match. Dinner was salmon and risotto - not my ideal carb-loading meal, but I can't complain.

In the dressing room, we completed our final preparations before match time. Running onto the pitch, I was stunned by the atmosphere - easily a thousand spectators, far more than I'd expected for Swiss rugby. During the national anthems, I looked around in awe. The actual match became a blur after kickoff, though sadly I remember Poland's physical dominance, especially at scrum time. Our 10-20 loss stung, and it ended our qualifying hopes.

Despite the loss, I'm optimistic about Swiss rugby's future. I remain eligible for U18 selection next year, though balancing schoolwork and commitments to Christians will factor into my decision. The day before our match, the senior team made history by winning their first ever Rugby Europe Championship game against Germany. Kinsale man Thomas McCarthy starred in their comeback, scoring a 71st-minute try before a dramatic last-minute drop goal sealed victory. With the sport growing steadily in Switzerland, I can only see this progress continuing.

Allez les Rouges!



Above: Séadna tackling the Polish winger in the heat of international battle.

MUNSTER KINGS

CATHAL LYONS and HARRY WALSH recount a battle-royal against an old foe on a memorable March afternoon in Musgrave Park when CBC collected its 32nd Senior Cup title.

Christian Brothers' College..... 17
Presentation Brothers' College... 10

CBC ended PBC's quest for a third successive Munster Senior Cup title in a dramatic battle that will be remembered long in the memories of all who had the pleasure of watching this epic final.

A captivating second-half comeback saw Leo O'Leary (CBC) run in an intercept try under the posts with just six minutes left on the clock to push CBC ahead by just four points (14-10). A tense few minutes ensued for the thousands of Christians' fans who had come out in force on a warm, sunny March afternoon. Charlie O'Shea kicked a penalty kick while the clock was in the red, and CBC claimed their 32nd Munster Senior Cup title.

The road to the final was not without its challenges. The quarter final saw the senior squad, led by David Lee as head coach, face off against Castletroy College. A strong performance saw CBC win comfortably, earning themselves a 50-7 victory against the Limerick school before a dominant performance in the semi-final saw CBC conquer Crescent College Comprehensive 29-17, with an excellent showing from out half pairing of Christopher Barrett and Charlie O'Shea. Mr. Lee remained humble, however, critiquing the team's inability to convert their chances: "We just need to become a bit more clinical in attack," reflected the CBC head coach to journalists after the match.

Pres had won the 2023 final; however, they needed to dig much deeper in order to defend their previous victory in 2024 when the match ran down to the wire with the game ending 33-31 in Pres' favour. Christians had rallied that day from being 34-13 in arrears to come up just short at the death. Memories of this gave this year's squad even more motivation as well as the fact that PBC's 2024 win had pushed them one ahead of Christians in the roll of honour.

Emotions ran high at the final whistle as it had been a long six years since CBC claimed their last Senior Cup title (due to Covid the 2020 final was shared between CBC and PBC) and to win in such dramatic fashion gave the nearly 1,000 students present plenty of reason to celebrate. CBC were perhaps over eager, running onto the pitch as Charlie O'Shea prepared to take the last kick of the game. However, when the final whistle blew, the CBC supporters wasted no time rushing onto the pitch to celebrate with the team. It was a tough pill to swallow for Pres, but Christians had earned their moment in the sun and the celebrations were well deserved.

Captain Charlie O'Shea expressed his hope that support would be present in similar numbers for the Junior Cup squad (led by TY student Louis Carroll) in the final against Bandon Grammar School. Charlie also told the media that he had high hopes that younger members of the Senior squad can go all the way in the Senior Cup next year as well but it that it would be hard work to achieve this in 2026.



CBC TRIUMPH IN CORK CUP FINAL

Christian Brothers' College..... 4
Glanmire Community College... 0

The final of the U17 Cork Cup, against last year's winners Glanmire Community College, took place in a sun-drenched Ballea Park, Carrigaline on Thursday 1st May 2025.

Both teams progressed to the final on merit and everyone was looking forward to a keenly-contested fixture. Those in attendance, while lapping up the glorious sunshine, were not disappointed as both teams played their part in an epic encounter.

Glanmire CC started the better of the two sides and Cian Daly, their Cork City player, was causing problems for us down the left wing. Two or three good deliveries by Daly just evaded their forwards as they tried to gain the upper hand and give Glanmire the lead. We almost contributed to our own downfall when a mix-up from a clearance had their striker through on goal, but Harry Walsh reacted brilliantly to keep the game scoreless with a great save.

Down the other end we started to grow into the game and, after a shot was blocked away, Darragh Morley's great corner was met by Aidan O'Shea, whose header hit the crossbar and went over. Donal O'Connor saw an effort flash just wide of the post for us as we started to impose ourselves on the game.

The first of the water breaks showed both sides had been even enough with both having opportunities to the lead in the early exchanges.

Continued on facing page...

Immediately after the restart and a chat we took the lead. Good interplay between Shane Kavanagh and Ben Phillips set Ben free, he played it to Donal O'Connor whose cross was dummied by Rossa Kinirons and was finished well by a sumptuous Aidan O'Shea flick to put us ahead.

Soon after, we were almost two up as a Darragh Morley drive and shot forced a brilliant save from the keeper in the Glanmire goal to keep them in it. At the other end Liam Lynch and Larry Butler made vital interceptions before Ryan Manley fed Tom McGrath after a vital block. Tom's surging run led to another Aidan O'Shea chance, Aidan duly obliged doubling his tally and our lead. That was the final chance in an enthralling half. Half time: CBC 2 Glanmire CC 0.

Glanmire, to their credit, came out in the second half to put our backline under pressure but we held firm, with Larry Butler and Liam Lynch being ably assisted by goalkeeper Harry Walsh who was composed and a safe pair of hands.

Glanmire threw everything at us to get back into the game but Harry Walsh was equal to the threat. Tom McGrath and Donal O'Connor were beginning to seize control in midfield and a good combination between the pair set Donal up for a shot. His initial effort was blocked but Aidan O'Shea recovered possession on the edge of the box and his pass to Donal was smashed into the top corner from the edge of the box, giving their keeper absolutely no chance. Just before the end good work by Eoin Brennan out wide set



Above: Squad vs Glanmire CC Cork Cup Final 1st May 2025 in Carrigaline United.

Donagh Holland up to add gloss to the scoreline and giving an unfair reflection on the match overall.

Cathal Walsh and Malachy O'Leary also played well when they came on and, just before full time, Dave O'Connell and Fionn Conway got on the field.

A great season again this year for this group. They have reached at least one final every year since they entered the College in 2021. A great achievement for them.

Many thanks to past-pupil Tim Mawe, who held this trophy aloft as a CBC student in 2008 and still gives freely of his time to make sure the next generation enjoy their time in the Academy as much as he did in his formative

years. This shows the character of Tim and, in essence, the character of all CBC alumni.

Squad for 2024/25 Season: Harry Walsh, Jack Mills, Ben Phillips, Cathal Walsh, Larry Butler, Shane Kavanagh, Seán Ó Sé, Sam Barry, Fionn Conway, Malachy O'Leary, Darragh Morley, Tom McGrath, Donal O'Connor (Captain), Aidan O'Shea, Liam Lynch, Mike Scott, Eoin Brennan, Bobby Harrington, Donagh Holland, Max Murphy, Rossa Kinirons, Ciarán Kelly, Darren O'Connell, Dave O'Connell, Darragh Twomey, Ryan Manley, Elliot Quinn.

Well done to all involved.

A Season of Triumph and Heartbreak

by **LOUIS CARROLL**

This year's Junior Cup campaign has been unpredictable, at times rocky but hugely enjoyable. We began with the goal to win the tournament; however, the season began disappointingly as we suffered group-stage campaign defeats to both Rockwell College and St. Munchin's. Although the margins were tight it was not a good look for the team. After these defeats we knew something had to change.

I was lucky enough to have the privilege of being named as captain of the team, and the jersey presentation came soon after being installed as skipper for the knock-out campaign. It was a great honour to be up on the stage representing the squad, and the support in the hall on the morning of the jersey presentation was outstanding.

Attitudinal change began in the knock-out Cup campaign run when we defeated newcomers to the competition, Clonakilty Community College, on a 33-0 scoreline. We were no longer written off after such an amazing performance. This then brought us to Thomond Park to take on Castletroy College. Again, after a strong performance, we were victorious (18-5).

A coin toss (we lost!) determined that we were returning to the spiritual home of Munster rugby at Thomond Park to take on Cup favourites, St. Munchin's. The nerves were high before this game in the knowledge that we were beaten by our Limerick opponents earlier in the season. We believed we had a chance; we were just 60 minutes away from a place in the final.

There was a tense feeling on the journey up as this match had much higher stakes than anything we had played before. After a strong first-half performance we retired in front at the short whistle, 5-3. We knew the job was far from done but with our full back, Hugh

Downey, going under the posts a few minutes into the second half it was looking good. The Munchin's players' heads began to drop and we capitalised on this, and to seal the win I scored my second of the game after a line break and we closed out the game 17-3.

We came very close to completing a Junior and Senior Cup Double against Bandon Grammar in the final at the famed Musgrave Park on March 26th. In a closely-fought decider, we came up just short, but, as captain, I was hugely proud of the squad effort on the day. We look forward to regrouping for future Bowen Shield and Senior Cup campaigns in the years ahead.

The journey continues.....



Above: Louis Carroll (Center, ball in hand). Photo: Dean Williams

BEHIND THE LENS

by **RONAN McGRATH**

We were extremely fortunate and grateful to have attended the 2024 PPAI (Press Photographers Association of Ireland) Exhibition at Temperance Hall, Kinsale, before the Christmas break.



The event, curated by PPAI president, David Branigan, and Newsbrand Ireland's Lisa Buckley proved one of the highlights of our Transition Year programme. David delivered an insightful and engaging talk into the world of professional photography, and spoke eloquently on what it takes to be successful in the world of journalism.

Mr Branigan involved students from CBC and Coláiste na Toirbhirte, Droichead na Bandan in an open discussion of the photo-exhibition which David transcribed as "a record of our island's history but also as a testament of the incredible skill of our press photographers".

The students gained knowledge into the power of images, and how pictures correlate into writing a well-expressed article.

We then attended a talk with Irish Examiner Managing News Editor, John O'Mahony, who spoke brilliantly and incisively on how a modern-day newsroom works, the challenges facing editors in a world of disinformation and fake news, and how the Examiner manages the demands of delivering both a print and digital/online daily newspaper to its audience.

This picture featured in the Weekend edition of the Irish Examiner (19 Oct 2024). CBC and Coláiste na Toirbhirte, Droichead na Bandan students smiled alongside Channi Anderson when Channi was formally welcomed as a member of the PPAI by its president, David Branigan.



CBC TY students pictured with Irish Examiner staff photographers, Dan Linehan and Channi Anderson, outside Kinsale's stunning new library after attending a photo-exhibition of Cork and its environs.

Mr. O'Mahony also spoke to us about the evolution of a newspaper newsroom and how news from the Examiner offices is being distributed to a wider audience. The Examiner, because of its eye-catching online platforms, enjoys having a daily global audience, and reaches the far-corners of the world delivering local, national and international news, business news and sport.

A most informative morning was completed by a photographic history of Cork and wider Ireland at Kinsale Library, curated by Irish Examiner Chief Photographer, Mr. Dan Linehan. Mr. Linehan's selection captured - amongst many others - Patrick Street and its environs in the 1940s, the old Cork Opera House, Michael Jackson's visit to Cork in 1988 to more recent concerts and events. The slideshow also included an eye-

catching shot of 'Christians' supporters attending Cup finals in Musgrave Park!

All proved an engaging and a worthwhile experience for the CBC group and all those who participated in such events.

We would like to convey a sincere thanks to David Branigan and PPAI, Lisa Buckley, John O'Mahony and Dan Linehan for their accommodation and time in curating this worthwhile event. We'd also like to thank the staff at the incredible and newly-established Kinsale Library for hosting us and giving us a visual trip down memory lane dating back decades.

We as School newspaper editors, photographers and writers have learned a great deal about how a newspaper in the modern day is coordinated.

