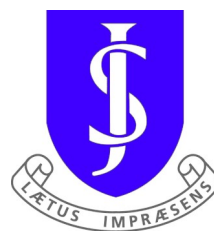


The Pause



John Scottus Secondary School
Student magazine

Don't miss:

- A meeting with Michael D Higgins Pg 3
- All sports news Pg 6-7
- Goodbye Mrs Telford! Pg 8
- An Exclusive Audience with the Head Boy and Head Girl pg 4

Mindfulness Conference

By Damien Collins

The Mindfulness Practice in Schools, organized by John Scottus Secondary School, took place on March 18th in the Avila Retreat Centre. It was completely booked out with a long waiting list. The conference intent was to support schools in Mindfulness practice.

Sister Stan and Tony Bates gave inspiring key note speeches. The workshops on the benefits of mindfulness in daily life, mindful-

ness and philosophy, meditation and awareness training gave insight into how Mindfulness can support student and teacher well-being.

It was a great success and a milestone in the development of Mindfulness practice in Schools. The success of the event illustrates how the benefits of Mindfulness in education are now widely accepted.



Some of the *The Merchant of Venice* (Coming this May!) cast. Find out more on page 11

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Fifth year history students at Checkpoint Charlie this March on their history trip to Berlin.

Launch of the New Senior Cycle Academy

By Damien Collins

The launch of the New Academy programme for Senior Cycle students took place on Thursday March 26th. The mission of the new Academy Programme is to empower our Senior students to excel by providing exceptional personalised support for them at this time in their academic career. It is the belief that by focusing on the particular strengths and needs of each student, it will be possible to

maximise his or her academic performance.

As part of the programme each student will receive personalised mentoring and coaching. This will include extensive coaching sessions, a regular review process, personalized feedback, regular personalized mock exams, effective study timetables, extra tuition and mindfulness support.

2014 Annual Speech Competition By Damien Collins

"...her inspiring speech on three things needed for success: honesty, belief and passion."

One of this year's contestants



Every year the annual Speech Competition is held as part of Literacy Week. Last November, every single student from first to sixth year was encouraged to write a speech on a topic of their choosing. When corrected and edited, they all then had the chance to read their speech in front of their class. Representatives of each year were chosen for the Junior (first through third year) and Senior

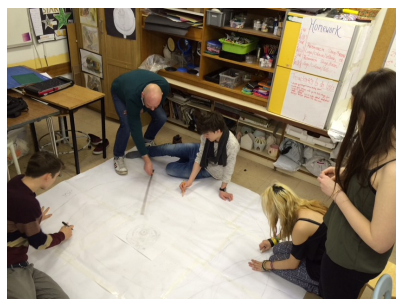
(fourth through sixth) competitions. On the 4th December last year, the competitions took place.

The junior competition was won by Emma Lohan with her speech on fear. In second and third place were two first years. Willow spoke about vegetarianism. Omaid brought up the topic of the importance of education. Mr. Flynn and Mr. Telford both provided great entertainment while the adjudicators decided the winner privately.

In the Senior competition, Bobbie Hickey of fourth year won with her inspiring speech on three things needed for success: honesty, belief and passion. Jack Condon of fifth year came second with his hilarious speech on everyday awkward

moments. This is not the first time Jack has ranked in the speech competition; in fact, Jack actually won the competition in 2013 with his speech on why he hated public speaking. In third place was Ben Murphy, another fifth year, with a moving speech on autism.

Overall this year's competition was a resounding success. The competition offers everyone the chance to speak in front of the year groups above and below them as well as their fellow classmates. This is initially nerve wrecking and scary, however at the end of the day this serves to reward each speaker, regardless of whether they have won or not, and gives them a confidence boost.



Fifth years working on the mosaic with Mr Conor O'Brien.

Mosaic Art Project by Hannah Monaghan

Ms Sweeney, the school art teacher, has received a Creative Engagement Art Grant funded by the Department of Arts and Department of Education and Skills to create a Mosaic with the help of artist Conor O'Brien, an experienced mosaic creator. The aim of the project is to heighten the awareness of community spirit within our school and represent what it means to the students of John Scottus through ab-

stract means of art.

The initial planning of the project began during Philosophy week. During this week each class had one period of art where students discussed what words, emotions and imagery they associate with our school. Each individual then had a chance to come up with a design for the mosaic. The fifth year art students who took on the role of "main designers", along with Ms Sweeney and Mr O'Brien, began to discuss ideas to create a structured design. When the tiles were painted and glazed, and the design team finished the final design, work on the mosaic began. Each year group is involved in the creation of the mosaic. Each year has designated classes to work on the mosaic in which they work on tile cut-

ting.

One of the main ideas within the design is the school community. To represent this, each member of the school will cut out their own tile in circle form to be included in the mosaic. Each tile will represent a member of our school community. Members of fifth and sixth year who do not take art as a subject have the opportunity to be included.

I can say, as a member of the design team, that the discussion and preparation are just as important as the mosaic itself. A great deal of thought has been put into the design and overall piece. The mosaic is to be finished on the 15th of May, and will feature somewhere within the school.



Mosaic in progress

The View of a Sixth Year By Kate Ryan

The following interview took place in January of this year. It touches on the feelings and thoughts of Izzy McGeough halfway through her final year. I feel it was a enjoyable experience for both myself, the interviewer and Izzy, the interviewee. I felt like a 'proper' journalist. Also, just as the interview was finished and the voice recorder was switched off, Izzy said " I feel like a celebrity".

How does it feel to be a Sixth Year? At the top of the school, being the year with the most authority?

It's pretty good, we get a lot of privileges. It is nice being able to go to the shop. The relationships with teachers are different because we're adults, they don't treat us like little kids anymore.

Do you have any advice for the younger years? Study-wise, or just in general?

Study-wise I would start in fifth year because I didn't and now I am feeling the pressure. Keep up with homework, do it really well .When it comes to exams, study for them because if you do that sixth year will be a lot easier for you because you don't have to relearn everything.

Have you enjoyed your final year? Is it fun or is it just about the Leaving Cert from day one?

I really enjoyed it but that is because I haven't been killing myself over study. The year itself is the best fun because you are the oldest, there is so much more freedom and you can kind of do what you want around the school building. It is all up to you, the whole year is just your responsibility.

If you could change one thing about sixth year, what would it be?

I probably would have done more study; I wish I had started at the beginning of the year.

What have been your top two favourite years of secondary school?

Fourth year, definitely. Also, sixth year. I think sixth year because you know you are so close to the end, you're like 'Wooh!' You're excited!

Do you think John Scottus has changed much over the years that you have been in the school?

I think the only real change that happened was Dr. Kelly becoming principal and bringing in the new rules, otherwise it has stayed the same. I think we have always just been a tight little family, no matter what

happens. I have been with the same people for such a big portion of my life that I feel like it's the same, that not much has changed.

Do the sixth years have any important responsibilities or tasks?

To set an example for the other years, is the main one. There are certain things, such as if there is anything going on in the school like open days we would be showing parents around or if there are any parent/teacher meetings going on we would also be showing parents around. We sometimes have meetings with Dr. Kelly and he asks us if there is anything that should be improved in the school or anything we could learn for next year. Also, we have to be responsible for our House Teams.

Are you feeling ready for the outside world?

Yeah, I'm ready. You definitely feel that. In the first few months of sixth year you just go with it, but even Ms. McGoldrick said it to us that she can see that we are all getting frustrated with the silly things you are told to do everyday. When you're eighteen you're like 'come on just leave me alone.' Yeah, I'm definitely ready.

"The year itself is the best fun because you are the oldest, there is so much more freedom..."

The Playground

By Maria Colfer

I walk out into the park
On a bright sunny day
I can see all the kids
They're coming out to play

The swing sets always occupied
The slides are always full
And I'm on top of the monkey bars
The playground's never dull

The parents sitting on the bench
The sun is nearly down
They say it's time to go home
And all the children frown

How I wish I was ten again
Having lots of fun
Running around with all of my friends
But my days in the playground are not yet done.

An Exclusive Interview with the Head Boy and Head Girl By Max Ivory



What did you aspire to be when you were younger and what do you want to do now?

Eduardo: When I was a kid I wanted to be a fireman. I would go to the supermarket with my mum, just to pass by to see the fire station and the red trucks inside. Now I want to be a helicopter pilot. This is something I discovered when I was in third year and it's my vision and goal.

Hannah: I have always wanted to be a performer. When I was six, I was sure I'd be a dancer. Now it's acting that makes me happy.

What does head boy or head girl mean to you?

E: Being head boy means for me setting an example, not just telling and ordering people what to do but also help doing it so everyone can see that you are involved and sympathetic.

H: It is truly an honor to be head girl. To me, Head girl

means responsibility, not in a huge way, but in so many little ways. Being head girl has increased my confidence and taught me to see the need for something to be done and respond to the best of my ability.

What makes you happy?

E: Being with my friends and the people I care about is what makes me happy, especially if we're all happy and having fun.

H: Being around the people I love and the people that love me is when I am the happiest.

What is your pet hate?

E: My pet hate is probably people who do not appreciate what they have. Those that normally say 'I hate my life' or 'my parents are the worst'. That annoys me a lot. There is probably more pet hates but right now I can't think of any.

H: My pet hate is couples on social media.

From your 18 years' experience what life tips would you give to the years below you now?

E: My 18 years of experience have taught me that you don't have to take yourself too seriously. Laughing at yourself is a great exercise.

H: My advice to younger people would be, no matter how much you may hate the school system, it's about what you make of it, and how you work to get what you want out of it. Also, optimism. That will get you far.

Who are you're heroes or inspirational figures?

E: My inspirational figure is Iker Casillas. He is honest, simple, and well-mannered and of

course he is the best goal-keeper in the world. He has been my hero since I was a little kid. But in general I admire anyone who is successful in doing what he or she likes.

H: I have many heroes, such as Bruce Springsteen, who tells the truest stories in the most beautiful ways in his music. Then there is Robert Downey Jr who is inspirational to me because his young life was centered on alcohol and drugs. Now he is sober and one of the highest earning and of course, one of the most respected actors in Hollywood.

What are your views on religion and the role it plays in today's society?

E: I've never been a religious person. I try not to interfere with anyone's beliefs. It is clear that religion is a big part of Irish society and to be honest I don't mind that at all as long as it doesn't become a limit or barrier between people.

H: My knowledge in world religions is limited, so I will just say that I think that sometimes people's beliefs makes them do crazy and unprecedented things.

If you could change one thing in the world today what would it be?

E: I wish I could change one thing; the burning and use of fossil fuels at an uncontrolled rate and the fact that we haven't stopped doing it yet.

H: I would try to eliminate the insecurities of all the people in today's world.

"Being head girl has increased my confidence and taught me to see the need for something to be done..."
- Hannah

"My 18 years of experience have taught me that you don't have to take yourself too seriously." - Eduardo

This Year's Transition Year's Trip to India

by Julia Twamley

For my class, the great Transition Year Trip to India was the most anticipated event of the entire John Scottus experience. Every year leading to now, the fourth Years returned from their three-week expedition recounting eye-popping tales of a world we could only imagine. So when our turn came at Dublin Airport on the morning of January 22nd, all we could hope for was that we too would come home with stories to deliver. In the weeks that crept up to the departure date we were advised what to bring, warned

of the poverty and prepped how to teach. Yet, and I say this to all budding Transition Years, it is impossible to expect what you will find. Driving through the terrifying traffic of Kolkata, suddenly India was more than a photograph. Our first days were enjoyed soaking in sunshine and marvelling at the scenic beauty. India is a country of colour; on trains we flew past miles of vibrant green fields and then a giant pink building would jump out of nowhere. After four days we already had tales to tell; like

the monkey that took a nut from Lydia's hand and gave her the shell back, Roghan and Stephen's haggling skills, the taxi crash that temporarily injured Jamie, the Rainbow Children that we fell in love with. Despite the fun, the poverty in all corners reminded us of our reason for being there.

Jharkhali is home to the world's most loving children. They treated us like the greatest creatures on earth; bringing us flowers, inviting us home, battling to hold our hands. Realising their foggy futures was upsetting but that pushed us to work harder for them. Jharkhali brought a tidal wave of new stories like the bird-sized moth Rosie rescued, the secret chillies in the food, Katherine's phenomenal teaching talent, and the kids coming to say goodbye at 5:00am when we had to leave. There is so much I miss about India; the colours, the food and the children. But to be perfectly honest with you, I miss waking up with my classmates



Irish Maths Olympiad By Tess Tangney

Late last year, the 5th years were told about the Math Olympiad into which Ireland always enters a team. Those who were interested in competing did a test of which the top 20% were given the opportunity to attend 'maths enrichment' classes in UCD on Saturday mornings to train for the exam.

Giving up your Saturday mornings to study maths may not be

everyone's idea of a good time but for me the chance of seeing what it is like to study maths in college first hand could not be passed up. Luckily I wasn't the only one who thought so either or I might never have made it to the right building. I spent a considerable amount of the first morning playing Marco-Polo with Drew and Alex from opposite sides of campus refusing to ask passers-by for directions.

It was definitely a bit daunting to be among so many smart people during the lectures and I would be lying if I didn't say some of it went over my head, but I stuck it out and sat the exam at the end which was going to be my 9th exam in 4 days as it was right after our midterm tests: talk about bad timing. While I wasn't too surprised when I didn't pass the exam I learnt a lot from it and

"...the chance of seeing what it is like to study maths in college..."

Goodbye Mrs Telford! By Aisling Spratt



Mrs Mary Telford

"I hope the new principal will have the time and space to concentrate on the teaching and learning of the school, and on what it is doing for the public." - Mrs Telford

Many were surprised to hear that Mrs Telford will be stepping down from her position as headmistress of John Scottus Primary School at the end of this academic year. Dr Telford, her husband, retired as principal of John Scottus Secondary school last year but still teaches Philosophy and Biology. Together, Dr. and Mrs. Telford founded the school nearly thirty years ago.

School without Dr Telford was quite unthinkable and now it is almost unthinkable to imagine Northumberland Road without Mrs Telford. When you were a student there, she was everywhere; always in charge, always full of wise words and you always felt you knew where you stood. Many pupils remember that if they were particularly bold they got 'sent to Mrs Telford.' They went trembling with fear and trepidation to her office but once, there found her reasonable and interested and really not the least bit scary.

'Mrs Telford is certainly a force to be reckoned with' said one teacher 'but in the best possible way. She really knows how to get things done. She is a real leader.'

'What I love about Mrs Telford,' said a parent 'is that she loves the children. That always comes across in the parent meetings - she always tells amusing or sweet stories and always about how she really tries to understand the children, each and every one of them. She really cares about education.' You might think that you wouldn't like to get on the wrong side of Mrs T and you'd probably be right! But on the other hand, one thing that stands out about Mrs Telford, said a teacher, is her ability to reflect on herself and how she does things - she's always open to hearing new ideas and taking into consideration other viewpoints. - 'Though once she really sets her mind on something there's simply no stopping her!' said the same

teacher.

When asked about what she thought of the prospect of not having so much responsibility she said that she was "really looking forward to it!".

"I think that what I will miss the most are the children, teachers and parents. I hope the new principal will have the time and space to concentrate on the teaching and learning of the school, and on what it is doing for the public."

Mrs Telford is greatly respected and admired by all the parents, teachers, students and past pupils for her qualities in leadership, open-mindedness, understanding and friendliness. Mrs Telford will always have JSS in her heart but she is hoping to do many new things in September and is very confident that this school will go on and continue to thrive.

Interview with a Fourth Class Pupil

By Maria Colfer

Moving to the fifth class can be a daunting prospect for many. Maria asked her brother Daniel on his opinions of his forthcoming move.

How do you feel about going to JSS fifth class?

I feel it's going to be different because I've been in the primary school for so long.

What will you miss about being in the fourth class?

I'm going to miss helping the younger ones, and the teach-

ers, Mrs Monaghan, Ms Murphy, Ms Diffley and Mr Gibney.

What are you looking forward to in fifth class?

I'm looking forward to the independence.

Primary School Universal Choir

By Damien Collins

The Universal choir is made up of 77 children from 2nd to 4th class. Its name comes from the belief that singing is for all and all children from these classes are welcome to join (without any auditions!). The Universal

choir meet every Friday morning from 8.20 until 8.45 and sing away to their hearts' content. The children sing a variety of songs and are often invited to make suggestions for new pieces to learn. They perform

annually at Córthéile na Scoileanna and have done well at inter-school music festivals. The success of the Universal Choir is due to the enthusiasm of the children and a hugely supportive staff.

Interview with Fifth and Sixth Class Pupils

By Tove Murphy and Hannah Monaghan

Making the move to John Scotus Primary School on Morehampton Road in 5th class, to finish your remaining two years of primary school, can be quite an exciting experience! New teachers, new classmates, new rules and particularly the new building can come as shock to the system. The fifth and sixth class program is a great way to ease students into a secondary school environment. As secondary school students, more often than not we can forget that there are seventy primary school students just on the other side of the building. We decided to venture over to the fifth and sixth class classrooms, and ask them a few quick questions on how they are finding their experience so far. We interviewed Julia O'Callahan and Garvin Twomey (5th class students), and Emily Mason and Matthew O'Farrell (6th class students).

How do you find being in Morehampton road building?

Julia: I prefer being in the Morehampton school building because you get the "jist" of what Secondary School will be like.

Emily: I like the "Secondary School experience."

Mathew: I really enjoy being in the Secondary School building.

Garvin: It is a really nice environment.

How do you feel about meditation or quiet time?

Julia: I think it is a good idea to start teaching it to kids at our age. I don't do "meditation" but I enjoy the quiet time.

Emily: Meditation is not really useful to me yet, I don't have much stress in school right now and I think that is when I would

use it.

Mathew: I really think meditation and quiet time break down the day and gives it a bit more structure.

Garvin: Meditation is good when I do it properly but sometimes I can be a bit restless!

School life has changed a lot for you since moving to Morehampton Road, what is your favorite part about school?

Julia: I really like being in the secondary school building. I really like the food and the teachers! I like having more responsibility too.

Emily: I like being in a small class, you really get to know each other well. We do a lot of group activities as a 5th/6th class group, which means you get to know the class above and below you really well.

Mathew: I really like having more independence and more responsibility. I like the new teachers, they are more interactive and their approach to teaching is really good. We get to do a lot more projects and I really enjoy that. I like the fob system too, I think that's really cool.

Garvin: I really enjoy all the sport we get to do.

Do you feel that you have been given more responsibilities since moving to the secondary school?

Julia: Yes. We have a lot more responsibilities, especially in the classroom where we all have different jobs. We have to remember to get our books out of our lockers and make sure we always have our sports gear and fob. I really enjoy all these new responsibilities. You definitely feel a lot more mature as

well, because your teacher isn't doing everything for you.

Emily: Yes. I feel as though the teachers are giving us examples of what it will be like for us next year by giving us a chance to take care of ourselves more.

Matthew: Yes definitely. In class we not only learn the subject but the general way the class is taught, so if we ever had a substitute teacher we could explain to them what we needed to do. That's only one example, the lockers are a big responsibility also because you have to make sure you have the right books with you for class.

Garvin: I think the new responsibilities make you a lot more mature, because you have a lot of things to remember by yourself instead of depending on your teachers.

"I like being in a small class, you really get to know each other well."



Emily Mason, Garvin Twomey, Matthew O'Farrell and Julia O'Callahan.

This Year's Sports Activities

By Kate Ryan

"A nice stroll to the park, then laps and sprints were the order of the day. That was just the beginning..."

This year has been filled with lots of exhausted teenagers. The sports department have run the students from first to sixth year through hell and back, testing their fitness, determination and ability to play as a team player, but all the students are still going strong. In September, we started with

fitness lessons in Herbert Park and while the weather was still warm, the heat was just another obstacle. A nice stroll to the park, then laps and sprints were the order of the day. That was just the beginning...

There have been bleep tests every six weeks to measure the students' aerobic endurance,

along with water polo and life saving for the first years. The second and third years have been taking part in dance and rugby, and finally the fifth and sixth years have been put to the test at Energy Fitness Gym, spinning and strength training.

Herbert Mile Challenge

By Kate Ryan

"...all the participants were exhilarated by the cold and ready to set off on the mile..."

It was a cold January morning, with frost still on the grass and the most insane students and teachers were at the start line. After instructions from Mr Craig, all the participants were exhilarated by the cold and ready to set off on the mile, shivering on the start line, every hair standing up, listening intently for the whistle. And then they were gone like a herd of wild ostriches; I have heard it was quite the sight. It was a scary place to be, the crowd pushed you along, you had to

break away from the swarm to get to your pace. There were several students and teachers scattered along the sidelines to encourage the runners to keep on going.

It happened so fast, one minute you were focusing on your breathing, focusing on having the right mindset, your heart rate was flying, your body was telling you to stop but your mind was saying 'keep running'. It took all of your willpower to keep going. You were running, you were on the last

stretch sprinting to get your best time and then... you had done it. You had passed the finish line. A very attractive picture of you had been taken by Mr Van de Belt or Dr Kelly as you passed the finish line and some gibberish had been shouted in your ear that happened to be your 'oh so important' race time. You had no idea what it was but you did not care, you had done it. You were exhausted, your muscles ached, your cheeks were red, but you felt great.



Entire school setting off on Herbert mile



"...you had to break away from the swarm to get to your pace."

Extra Curricular Sports

by Kate Ryan

Ultimate Frisbee

Ultimate Frisbee is a reasonably new sport in John Scottus. It was introduced just two years ago by frisbee guru, Dominic Smyth from Ultimate Frisbee Ireland. The first year it was introduced, the Senior Ultimate Team landed a place in the

secondary school Ultimate finals and came home with a sparkling new trophy. John Scottus has also produced many impressive frisbee players, including Holly Walsh, who is now playing for the Irish national team.

Just this month the Girls Ultimate Team played several intense games in the Ultimate League. The Mixed Frisbee Team also has had great success and enjoyed three wins out of four games against Malahide and Portmarnock.

“John Scottus has also produced many impressive frisbee players...”

Hockey And Football

At John Scottus there is a Junior Girls Hockey Team and a Junior and Senior Boys Football Team. The training sessions take place every week on Wednesdays after school. So far this year John Scottus' sports teams have been quite successful. We are very proud of our first year girls because they have won three out of four

of their hockey matches (one being against St Louis Rathmines where they won 7-0, breaking the school record) placing them in the quarterfinals. Despite their best efforts, however, they did not proceed to the semifinals. John Scottus is proud to have many stupendous hockey players through the years: Conor

and Eire McDermott, Peter Collins, Eleanor Alexander, Leen Tangney, Leah Telford, and many more. We look forward to many more students making their mark on the hockey field.

“So far this year John Scottus' sports teams have been quite successful.”



Boys' Frisbee team at Harmonstown Community School



Girls' Frisbee team at Muckross College

The Merchant of Venice- Transition Year Play

By Julia Twamley



The ethos of Transition Year has always been for the students to build their confidence, to grow as people and to bond together by working as a group. What better way is there to grow in confidence and work together than through drama?

In the words of Mr. Alexander it is the 'ultimate group learning experience.' Performing one of Shakespeare's grand plays during the tail-end of the school year has been a John Scottus tradition since 1997. It has been said that the play is really the climax of the entire

Transition year, and this year is no different. For the past several months the Transition Years have been rehearsing laboriously to perfect their chosen script: The Merchant of Venice. This is also the first time Liz Byrne has directed The Merchant of Venice in her successful directorial career at our school.

The Merchant of Venice is a tale full of tension, prejudice, love, friendship and revenge. It is the story of Antonio: a wealthy yet sad merchant who only wishes to make his best friend happy, Bassanio: the hopeless romantic whose greatest desire is to wed the fairest maiden in the land, Shylock: vengeful and bitter from the abuse he has received from being a Jew, his daughter Jes-

sica; longing to escape her father and elope with her Christian lover, and of course Portia: who is even more smart and cunning than she is beautiful.

These are only a selection amongst a host of colourful characters. Speaking as a student, you do not want to miss this performance. To ensure that you won't, there will be a total of six shows every evening from Wednesday 20th May 7:30pm - Saturday 23rd with matinee shows at 2:30pm Friday and Saturday. Tickets may be purchased from the Transition Years in the school or paid for at the door in Players Theatre, Trinity College. We look forward to seeing you there!

This Year's Musical: Oliver!

By Aisling Gannon

Every year for the past six years, John Scottus has put on a musical production. The tradition came about when past pupil Andrew Linnie came to the school looking to direct and produce a school musical. It was an immediate hit and since then a large number of

the pupils have participated annually, including the entirety of the 5th and 6th classes from the Junior School. Mr. Linnie continued for two years before going to study abroad. Since then, the director's chair has been occupied by Valerie McGeough. This year we took on Lionel Bart's 'Oliver!', which was previously performed by the school in 2010. It was a huge success (all of the shows sold out the Mill Theatre in Dundrum) and the feedback was wonderful! Not only did we put on a fantastic performance but it was a great bonding experience for all involved. The hours spent choreographing deaths, dances and learning

lines resulted in a lot of very tired and cranky people, but also a jubilantly rewarding experience! Each year we are pleasantly surprised at the copious amounts of talent that arise from the school student body, from reoccurring stars such as that of Nancy, played by Kiah Ronaldson (6th year), to the fresh faces of Oliver and the Artful Dodger, played by 6th classers Jason Hynes and Paidi Kinlay, respectively. We are never short of people to cast! This year's musical is over unfortunately, but we have next years to look forward to. Keep an ear out, you certainly don't want to miss it!



Meeting the President of Ireland

By Isabel O'Farrell

On the 4th of March 2015, I met the President of Ireland at a house in Wicklow called *Russborough*, where he gave a speech on the importance of preserving old houses in Ireland.

To prepare for the president of Ireland's arrival, there were some rules set out. First of all, no red carpet was needed. Secondly, he was to be addressed as President or President Higgins not Mr. President which is an American term. Lastly, he had a schedule of things he needed to do when he arrived.

It was my Grandmother who invited the President to Russ-

borough when she met him a few weeks ago at an event in the National Gallery. She is a board member of the Alfred Beit foundation, and invited him because she thought it would be interesting for him to visit. The President of Ireland gets around fifty invites a week so the house were very honoured that he accepted the invite. The weather on the day was beautiful and the views looked incredible. But as the minutes began to tick by, people pondered leaving and a few actually did. At last we were ushered into another room and you could see a few people who had descended the steps, return. There was more waiting, but at half

three the doors opened and we clapped as the President entered the room.

As I said, he spoke on the importance of preserving old houses in Ireland because they are as much a part of Irish history as the paintings and artefacts in the houses. One could tell he put effort into his speech and wasn't just handed it. When the President was finished speaking, he took the time to greet the guests and I shook his hand. There was a lot of waiting around but it was worth it and it's a day I'll never forget!



Isabelle meeting Michael D

"One could tell he put effort into his speech and wasn't just handed it."

Recent school events gallery



Third Year history Outing to Pals: *The Irish at Gallipoli* with Mrs. Waters and Lar Joye Curator of Irish Military History at NMI.



Saechtain na Gaeilge, finished with the JSS traditional ceili.



Third year Classical studies students day trip to London, 16 January 2015.

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Fifth year history students' trip to Berlin in march, pictured with Mr.O'Connor at The Brandenburg gates.



Second and Third year students on French exchange to Pamiers, in the Department of Ariège.

A visit from six Columbian Students

BY Cian Dahdouh

On the 1st of March 2015, six students from Bogotá in Colombia arrived in John Scottus School to learn English for three weeks, I had a chat with some of them to see how they were getting on.

How do you like Ireland so far?

Ireland is a safe country. The people are very nice, there is good technology and transport and the culture is also very good.

Is school here in Ireland different than in Colombia?

Yes, the school is smaller. We have a different classroom for every subject in Colombia, and also the food is very different. This school is very good because there are lots of good languages to learn.

How do you find the weather?

The weather is very cold which we are not

used to in Colombia. Sometimes it is very wet, but on most days the weather is beautiful.

Are the Irish people here nice to you?

Yes, the people here are very friendly. We like them a lot.

How do you find the lessons here?

Some are simple because we have learnt them before, but subjects like Latin and Irish are very good because we haven't studied them in Colombia.

Are you all learning English well, and are you learning any other languages?

We have learnt lots of new words and phrases here and we also are learning French well.

After your time here ends, would you like to come back here one day and why?

We would like to stay longer if we could and some of us wish to go to University here because we like the Irish way of life.

