



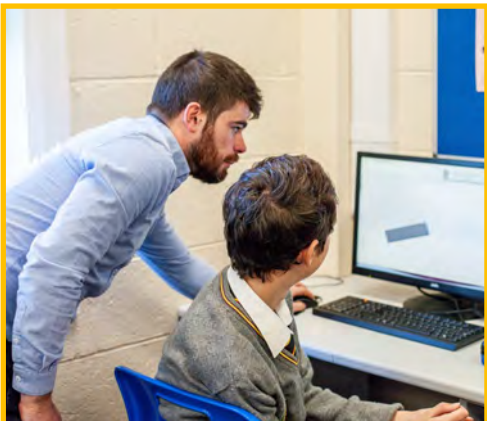
# Sallemanac

*Recta Sapere "Knowing what is right and having the courage to do it"*

## Another Incredible Year in the De La Salle Calendar.

We did so much, we walked, we talked, we helped those in need, we laughed, we cried, we worked, we built new things, we read, we listened close, we screamed, we sang, we jumped, we ran, we took stock, we even wore the occasional frock, we cracked a smile, we thought for miles, we learnt from afar, we got on the bus, we got off the bus, we drew, we cooked, we stacked and packed, we sliced and diced, we went round the bend and up the road, we wrote, we bowed our heads, we held our hands, we beat the drum, we kicked the can, we drove miles and felt like Ferdinand, we smelt the flowers, we planted the seed, we fist pumped the stranger and his mad looking fiend, we went home and opened the door, we said 'nice one my friend', and loved the encore. We did this and so much more. It was an incredible year.

Thank you to everyone in the De La Salle family who did these things. We hope you enjoy the final edition of Salmanac for this year. Inside you'll find lots, recent news, events, articles, opinions, games and a large section called 'Covid 19: The DLSC Experience', which details the schools' journey and different perspectives on the pandemic. We did much and will do it again. Have a great summer everyone! We Are Salle!



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# Covid 19: The DLSC Experience

## The Student Experience: Oscar Fitzgerald

When we first heard the news in early March that the school was closing because of the Coronavirus; we thought it was only going to be for 2 weeks. How wrong we were!

Now it's the end of May and I'm about to start my Summer holidays. I had no idea I would be finishing 1<sup>st</sup> Year at home.

I've been getting on very well with digital school. Communication from Google Classroom is great and I don't mind the live online classes, because I can turn my camera off and listen to the teachers.

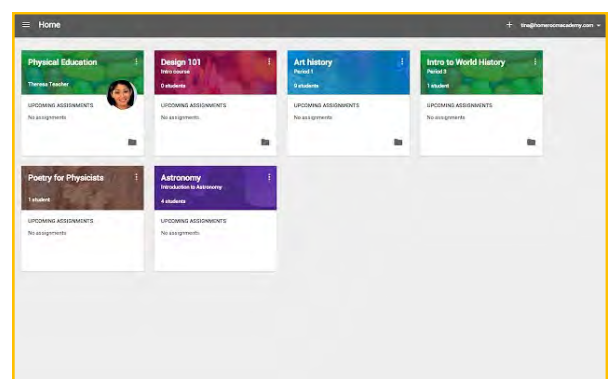
I really like it because I get to schedule my own work around the school timetable and find the work quite easy in this new digital habitat.

As I'm writing this I have 2 more assessments and I think I've been doing well with them.

I feel with this lockdown, I've been getting an equal balance of online learning, exercise and fun.

Although It's been a bit more relaxing doing school at home, I hope I'll be back in De La Salle for 2<sup>nd</sup> Year. Stay safe!

Oscar.



## The Teacher Experience: Conail Boyd

I love a good plan but this certainly was not part of the plan. It had no reference point. After the initial shock of the pandemic and its effect I was concerned about my core responsibility of providing teaching and learning to the boys. Trying to provide quality teaching and learning to my classes remotely was an unknown. It offered more questions than answers. The difference between standing in a room and simply being there with someone cannot compare to communicating through email and google classroom messages. The process has been an education in itself. The online classes, the recorded screencasts and classes, the projects and even the emails and messages which you receive in the middle of the night. Atop this, teaching via google live the intricacies of speech writing or diary entries while my 2 year old son and his 5 year old brother consider jumping out of the front room window. From this perspective it has been challenging but from this cloud comes a silver lining.

The boys have been great. They really do amaze me. I'm so proud of them. Well done to everyone! The boys, the parents and all my colleagues. I think we've done an amazing job. In truth by removing the teacher physically from the room it has gotten to one of the core goals of our school.



# Covid 19: The DLSC Experience

For them to become independent learners. To take something and learn it, to play with it, to change it and maybe even make it yours. That's what true learning is. John Dewey the grandfather of teaching and learning said, 'We only think when confronted with a problem', and we certainly have been given that, a problem. Suddenly there's nobody in the room to always answer the boys' question or provide that much needed answer. The hard truth is we won't always be there for them. We can't. By removing us from the room we just might be looking at the next generation of young people to do things that couldn't be imagined. We truly hope that from this 'problem' we create ourselves and things anew. Hopefully see you all soon!

Conail Boyd

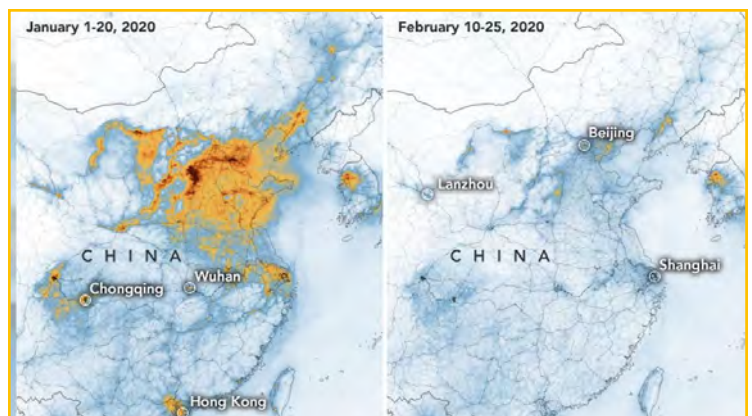


## The Parents' Experience: Niamh Carberry

I imagine that many of you will agree that the Covid-19 pandemic would qualify as a difficult time. If I am honest, as a parent, I had to figure it out as it unfolded. During the Covid lockdown all our family were at home attempting to juggle multiple roles throughout each day which made for a busy house. I found that in addition to being Mam, I had to grapple with acting as teacher and peacemaker and also balance work and home life responsibilities in new ways. I have made mistakes and lost my cool at times!

That said, while we were in lockdown, I think many positive things emerged.

Community spirit grew. I found that in general people wanted to help and actively went out to assist others which is fantastic. As I make this observation it also must be said we must commend our teenagers. This has been, and may continue to be, a difficult stage for them. They have simply been fantastic at adapting



to the changes that were thrown at them...on-line classes, isolation, cancellation of sports training, cancellation of summer festivals, social distancing and not being able to see their friends and some family. We need to remember to tell them how proud we are of them. We need to remember to thank them for their efforts and resilience.

# Covid 19: The DLSC Experience

Burning of fossil fuels has dropped and our air quality has improved significantly. Planet Earth has never looked better and I am lucky to get the opportunity to take a leisurely walk every day and have the time to appreciate its true beauty. I enjoy having time and space to think.

The quarantine has brought about innovations in how we do everyday things and stay connected remotely to our work or our loved ones. Seeing friends and family means 'seeing' them on a screen on Zoom, Facetime or Google Meets. Technology has allowed new ways of communicating and built resilience because our world and our relationships can't just cease and we have all sought to maintain and nourish connections that are important to us. This is an insight into my observations during the pandemic.

It must be said though that I am aware that many of us are having very different experiences. Our perceptions and needs at this time are all very different. For some of us lockdown is a time for reflection, reconnecting with family and the world. For others it is a lonely time. For some it is stressful. Some have lost loved ones. With most of our media coverage now concentrating on the corona virus pandemic, I find at times it can be difficult to stay positive. One thing I can do is take things one day, or one hour, at a time. I hope all of you who read this can do the same.

Niamh Carberry



## A Students Perspective

### Stoicism By Gabriel Alayon

We are all currently experiencing this unfortunate pandemic that is having a massive impact on our world today. We all may be feeling very saddened due to the fact that we all have to quit our social lives and isolate ourselves in order to prevent the spread of the virus. We are not able to see our friends for a while. There is a concept called, Stoicism, that can help us deal with these modern problems.

Now, what is Stoicism? An ancient Greek philosopher, Zeno of Citium, developed this concept that we use every day. Stoicism recognizes that virtue is the only good. Stoicism acknowledges that everything such as money for example, is not exactly good or bad themselves, but can be used for good and bad things. It is the endurance of pain and hardship without the display of feelings without complaint.



# Covid 19: The DLSC Experience

As you can see, this concept goes on in everyday lives and it possibly does not pass your mind when it occurs. In simple terms, stoicism is like having good morals, knowing the difference between good and bad. It is stated that this way of living can grant true happiness and help us cope during difficult times in our lives.

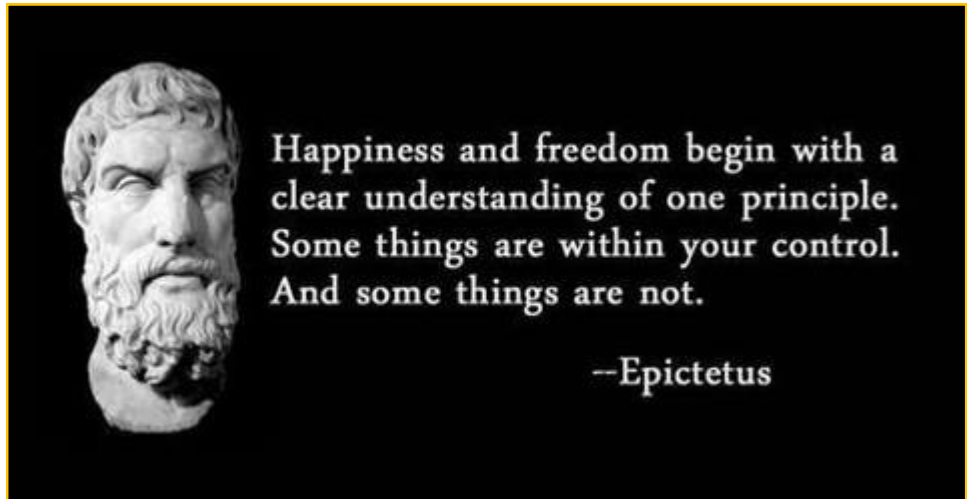
You may be wondering how this concept can grant "True Happiness" and how this will help us cope. Well, Stoicism allows us to develop our skills of self-control and fortitude as a means of overcoming destructive emotions. Destructive emotions being, sadness, anger, envy, and so on.

Anyone can achieve this but people who have an open mind and a positive mindset have an advantage. Let me explain how stoicism can achieve happiness using

a scenario related to this quarantine: Everyone may be feeling sadness or anger due to their plans being canceled this year. Instead of feeling these negative emotions, be joyful that the government is responding well to this pandemic and be excited and happy for when these plans go ahead in the future. Replace those negative emotions with positive ones.

Stoicism helps us control and overpower our negative emotions by accepting what has happened. Anything is possible and everything is inevitable. Move on and adapt to the outcome. The most well known Stoic philosopher, Epictetus, stated that "Happiness and freedom begin with a clear understanding of one principle. Some things are within your control. And some things are not". In times like this that simple principle applied to your everyday life may prove useful and help focus your energies on what we can.

Gabriel Alayon



# News & Events

Raymond Kelly



On the first Sunday of December the annual De la Salle Christmas fair took place. Members from all over the community came to support our school by buying food, books, hampers, decorations and to partaking in one of the many games on display. We would like to thank the Taney, and Rosemount association for coming, we would also like to thank Tree care for lending their van to be used as mobile advertisement.

On the 10th of December a few of the transition years walked down to Dundrum Town Centre, to spend the middle three classes at ice skating at the Dundrum on Ice, ice rink.



On the 15th of December the Dublin Orchestral Players, in conjunction with the De la Salle choir, had the annual Christmas concert in the good shepherd church, with many teachers, students' families, and local member of the community turning up to listen to them play. The music was amazing and thanks to all those who sang and joined in the festivities.

On 18th of December the transition years, along with transition years from other schools, went into the Dublin city centre, braving the cold and wet weather to collect money for the ISPCC Childline. Well done to the boys since the ISPCC is heavily dependent on the public's generous support and essentially keeps the service available.



On the 23rd of January, the Transition years go to the Go Quest Adventure centre, where they competed as teams against each other to solve the most puzzle rooms.

On the 30th of January the Transition years went on two separate guided tours of the Pearse museum in St Enda's park, getting to see the different aspects of Patrick Pearse's life and how it affected Irish history. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the insightful look into one of Ireland's most historical figures and understood Pearse's incredible place in our national story.





On the 6th of February the transition years went on two separate guided tours of the Irish National Art museum in the city centre, learning the interesting and in-depth information about the different paintings.

For the midterm, many transition years, along with some 5th years, got to go to San Valentino in northern Italy to go skiing, and to visit the local area expiring the local Italian culture.



On the 25th of February, for pancake Tuesday the transition years baked pancakes, to sell to the rest of the school to raise money in aid of Mental Health Ireland. The pancakes were yummy and the boys did a great job.



February 27th, The u16 Basketball team made it to the All-Ireland final playing against Skibbereen Community School in the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght. The entire of Transition year, along with many students came to watch the game live with other students watching a live stream back in school. Sadly we lost 33 - 60 in a well fought game. We would like to thank Coach Carlitos for bringing our team to a silver medal. Well done to the team and we are very proud of your journey to the final.



On May 15th our much cherished De La Salle Day was still celebrated with an ice-cream from home and an online quiz with 100's of our students. It was great to see so many of our boys participate in the quiz and connect with a very important tradition in the De La Salle calendar. We look forward to next years event where we can come together again and for those who missed out on the ice cream we might able to give them two. Thanks to all those who organised and participated in the quiz. WE ARE SALLE!



# CES 2020

Eoin Stowe

CES (Consumer Electronics Show) is an annual event where big companies such as Samsung, Sony, LG etc go to announce new products and prototypes. The event lasted for 3 days this year, starting on the 7th of January and finishing on the 10th. Here are a few products that I found interesting

## Sony Vision S.

That's right, Sony announced a car. Why? Who knows, the point is Sony developed a prototype car named the "Vision S". It's more or less a direct competitor to the Tesla Model 3. The car is a 4 seater luxury electric sedan. The car has a 0-100 km/h in 4.8 seconds. No range has been mentioned as of yet. The car has all wheel drive and has a top speed of 240 km/h. The car is advertised to have 33 sensors outside the cabin to aid in driving safety including: 13 cameras, 17 Radar/ UltraSonic sensors and 3 Solid State Li-



DAR. Located inside the cabin is an array of sensors which detect the driver's and passenger's facial expressions. The sensors can detect if the person behind the wheel is tired, under the influence etc. Not only that, but the car will lower or raise temperature inside the cabin to create a more comfortable driving experience, tailored to the driver. Exciting times ahead in the electric car industry.

## 8K is the next evolution in televisions.

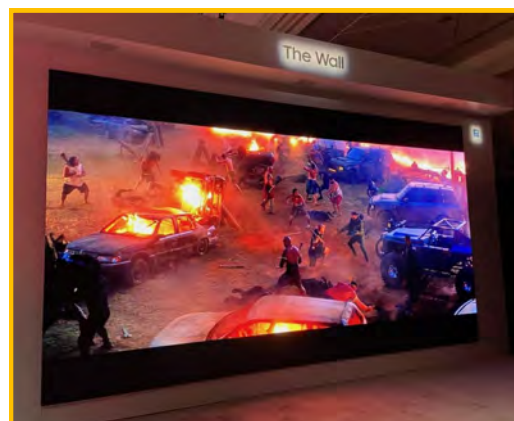
8. K. Have you ever heard a salesman say that 4K is "4 times the pixels of 1080! That means the picture is clearer!" only to proceed to try to sell you on a TV that costs upwards of €1000? Yeah well now the cycle has reset with 4K being obsolete and 8K being the new trendy thing. While yes, 8K would definitely look sharper than 4K, the problem is that there is basically no content suited to 8K yet. So the point of spending upwards of 10,000 euro on an 82" TV with nothing to watch on it seems a bit absurd. That doesn't stop Samsung, Sony and LG from creating behemoths of screens. Hopefully in the future there'll be



more content with an actual 8K resolution.

## The Wall.

No, not the one along the Texan border, I'm talking about the one Samsung made. The Wall as it now known is a 297" screen. What the purpose of this screen is? I have no idea. But Samsung made it so it must have a market. Either that or the executives at Samsung have gone clinically insane. Either or. Yes, it's 8k as well. CES had a lot of buzz about "Micro LED". What is "Micro LED"? Well whathifi.com says that Micro LED displays have a higher brightness than OLED, Micro LED lasts longer than OLED and also are more power efficient than OLED. So why then is OLED still so popular and why is Micro LED not as popular? Simple. Manufacturing costs are higher. W a a a a a y higher. Micro LED might be more popular in the future, not right now.





### NVIDIA WHY.

Are you a... g a m e r ? Well then you must know about high refresh rate monitors, right? No? Right, most people in this school probably play a console. But if you have a beefy PC and the ability to push frames this high then you might want to look into NVIDIA's G-Sync enabled 360hz refresh rate monitor. Why does this exist. Who can afford it. Who also has a PC capable of using it at its max potential? We may never know, But in the meantime, you can buy this.

### They See Me Rollin'.

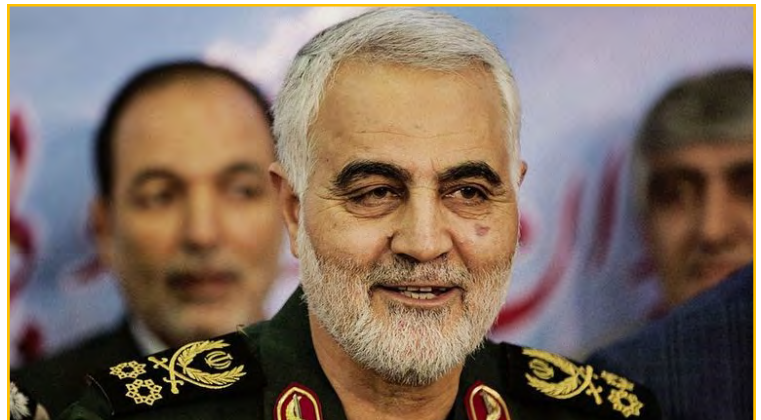
LG announced a TV that, get this, rolls. Are TV's so space consuming that we need to roll them up? If you agree with this then I have the solution for you! And that solution is... Buy a smaller TV. But if you have the \$60,000 to spare on a rolling television then go ahead.



## Iran and the USA

Ben Murray

On the 3rd of January 2020. The general of Iran, Qasem Soleimani was killed in a drone strike by the USA. This has caused a lot of controversy around the world as many thought it was unethical and a crime. But there are also people who thought that it was the right thing to do and praised Donald Trump for protecting their country. According to multiple sources like CNN the drone strike was made to head off an attack on the Americans. In the words of the American president, *"He was planning a very major attack and we got him."*



Iran claimed that it was an act of terrorism and an unlawful criminal act. When this information came out, people started talking about a potential world war 3. WW3 started trending on twitter because of the attack. On the 8th of January 2020 Iran launched multiple missiles at an American base

in Iraq in retaliation to the death of Qasem Soleimani. Many people are still waiting for the big retaliation as what Iran did was fairly small scaled to America's last minute decision. Right now the tension has calmed down but there it is definitely still there. It's obvious that people in Iran are not fond of Donald Trump as there have been multiple protests about him in Iran. General Soleimani's daughter also made a threat to US troops at his funeral in Tehran.



# Tesla Cybertruck

Lewis Wyse

The Tesla Cyber truck is an all-electric battery-powered Light commercial vehicle in development by Tesla. Three Models have been announced, with range estimates of 250-500 miles (400-800km) and an estimated 0-60 mph time of 2.9-6.5 seconds depending on the model. The stated goal of Tesla in developing the Cybertruck is to provide a sustainable energy substitute for the roughly 6,500 fossil fuel powered trucks sold per day in the United States. The base price of the rear-wheel drive of the model will be 39,900 USD, with all wheel drive models starting at 49,900 USD. As Of November



2019 Tesla were taking pre-orders for only 100 USD. Cybertruck production will begin in 2021 with more models being offered by 2022. The truck will use self-levelling suspension which compensates for variable loads and some models are an all-wheel drive. The exterior stainless steel sheet- metal is bullet resistant against 9mm calibre bullets. All vehicles will come with the Tesla Autopilot feature and will have the hardware capabilities for fully autonomous operation and will also feature a touchscreen that video games can be played on. That's most of the information we have for now and we will probably get more details soon.

# Sports in Ireland

Joaquin Novellon

There are two main national sports played in Ireland that are Hurling and Gaelic football. Also Irish people play rugby and soccer amongst many others.

Another very popular sport in Ireland is horse racing. Football is the most practiced sport in Ireland, the second one as Gaelic football, then hurling and the last one is Rugby. I'm going to explain the rules and talk about Hurling and Gaelic football because these are the two sports created in Ireland and Ireland a unique country that play these two sports.

**Hurling:** The game is considered by many to be one of the most skilful games in the world. Its almost like a combination of golf, rugby and football. The sport has grace, grit and incredible passion. Players have a stick called a hurl (see to the right) and they must try and put the small ball (sliotar) over the bar for one point or in the goal for three. 15 players on each team. With the ball in hand you can only take 4 steps and must pass to a team mate or balance the ball on the hurl.



Considering trying to play golf while at the same time someone could shoulder you off the ball. Exactly, it's near impossible. You then must pick the ball up with your hurl and try move it to space or have a shot at the goal. The sliotar is also considered to be the fastest team grass based team sport in the world. The sliotar has been recorded moving at speeds of over 150 km/h. If you ever have an opportunity either locally or luckily in Croke Park to watch a game, it would be time well spent.



Gaelic football: Imagine a game of football where everyone is a goalkeeper, that's what Gaelic football is like. With 15 players to a side you put the ball in the net for 3 points or over the bar for 1. Players can only take 4 steps until they solo the ball (while moving which is not very easy) or bounce the (while moving) which you cannot repeat twice. So if running with the ball you could go:

Solo, bounce, solo, solo.....but couldn't go: bounce, bounce.

These games are very much at the heart of Irish culture and tradition. They are unique since the game is an amateur game and players give so much of their time and lives to represent their respective county. This is an incredible feat. Imagine a sport where money is no factor, imagine asking Cristiano Ronaldo to play for his local team for free because he wants to and the love of the game. Ireland is lucky in that it has such sports exist here. Be sure to support your local club if given the chance.

## My top 5 movies of 2019/2020

Ben Murray

### 1917

1917 is a thrilling world war 1 movie directed to feel like its one continuous shot. The premise is simple, 2 soldiers need to call off an attack because they are walking into a trap, Sam Mendes does an amazing job of making you feel like you are part of this mission. One thing that I think could have made it better was if the main characters were fleshed out. Aside from that I have no complaints about the movie.

### Knives Out

Knives Out is a murder mystery from the director Rian Johnson. This movie brings a twist to the genre that you more than likely haven't seen before. One of the best things about this movie is it's strong cast of actors including Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, Jaimie Lee Curtis and more. This movie is best going in knowing nothing.

### Marriage Story

Marriage Story is a Netflix original movie. This movie is emotionally devastating. It centres around the divorce of a husband and a wife while trying to keep their son happy. The strongest part of this movie is Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson.

### Le mans 66

Le Mans 66 is a movie about the rivalry between Ford and Ferrari in the 1960's. My favourite thing about the movie is the fact that the 2 main characters are played by 2 of the best actors working today. Matt Damon and Christian Bale give some of their best performances in this movie.

### Joker

Joker is a character study about a man named Arthur Fleck, portrayed by Joaquin Pheonix, who begins a slow and painful decent into insanity. I think this movie is as close to perfect as movies get. The acting is fantastic, the cinematography is beautiful, the sound-



track is haunting and there is so much more the movie does right. The one gripe I have about this movie is how much it tries to fit the Wayne family into it and intertwine them with Arthurs story. Another fantastic element about the movie is how the main character is an unreliable narrator. 2 people could see this movie and get 2 different interpretations from it.

Some of the TYs decided to interview a few people that are related to the school (Teacher, past pupil etc..) to have a better idea of how the school works and how it has changed over time:

## Interview with Mr. Forde

Jaime Alvarez

**Hi Mr. Forde, how are you?**

I'm well thank you very much.

**What is your connection to the school?**

Religion & Music teacher in DLSC.

**What is your fondest memory of De La Salle?**

Talent show in April 2019 when the 6th years did a skit of the teachers.

**How do you think the school has changed over the past 10 years?**

It has been modernised with updated classrooms, more technology and young staff.

**Where do you see the school in 10 years?**

I see it being a school full of students with a long waiting list.

**What do you think is unique or special about De La Salle?**

It is warm and welcoming and there is a great teacher/student relationship.

**If you could be a teacher in De La Salle for a day who would you be and why?**

PE teacher as they have no tests to correct!

**Are there any successes from De La Salle people that you are aware of? Present or past.**

Nidge from Love Hate, Damien Duff from Irish football.

**If you could change something about the school what would you**

**change?**

Social area for students with comfy chairs and TV and PlayStations for senior students.

**Is De La Salle the greatest school the universe has ever known?**

100%.

**What did you study at the university? Do you have any other title?**

Bachelor of Religious Education  
Music in Mater Dei Institute of Education DCU.

**How long have you been working in this school/college?**

6 years.

**Would you like teaching younger pupils, older students or you prefer just teaching people of our ages?**

I like a mix of senior and junior classes.

**Do you think you will retire being a teacher?**

Probably not.

**What would be your job if you were not a teacher?**

A Judge, replacing Judge Judy.

**Are you the same person inside and outside the class?**

Yes, but you have to limit your personality in class.

**Have you ever hated a student?**

No, never. I do not hate anyone. Perhaps I dislike their behaviour.

**Did you have another job before being a teacher? What was it?**

I worked in a Grocery shop, babysitter, and worked in hospitality.

**Would you like to study another career or title not related with education?**

I would like to study Law.

Thank you Mr. Forde for your time and giving us all an insight into your background, other interests and time spent here in De La Salle.

## Interview with Ms. Egan

Eoin Stowe

Ms. Egan is a new teacher in De La Salle, only starting at the beginning of the current educational year (2019-20).

**Morning Ms. Egan, how are you?**

I'm well, thank you for asking.

**What is your role within the school?**

I am teacher and mostly teach maths.

**What is your fondest memory of De La Salle?**

Maths week, really enjoyed creating ways for our students to engage with mathematical topics and have fun in the process.

**Where do you see the school in 10 years?**

Since I have worked in another De La Salle school it is possible that the school could be mixed and have both boys and girls. I think also extra curricular sports will grow and as result we would have lots more people playing team sports, being active and representing the school proudly. I suppose we'll have to wait and see but I do think that most importantly the school will continue to evolve and meet the needs of its students. Hope that answers your question.

**What do you think is unique or special about De La Salle?**

Great Staff.

**If you could be a teacher in De La Salle for one day who would you be?**

Ms. O'Dwyer. She's brilliant.

**If you could change something about the school what would you change?**

One hour classes to fit more teaching material in.

**Are there any successes from De La Salle people that you are aware of?**

Tom Vaughen Lawlor.

**Is De La Salle the greatest school the world has ever known?**

Yes. (said with confidence)

## Interview with Past Pupil Niall Murray

Ben Murray

*This interview contains grammar mistakes on purpose. Find the mistakes and form the secret word to win an item from the school canine!*

**Hi Niall, how are you?**

Hi Ben, I'm good. Thanks for asking.

**What is your connection to the school?**

I went to De La Salle from the years 1981 to 1987 and played for the rugby team.

**What is your fondest memory of De La Salle?**

Honestly just playing for the rugby

team was always a great time.

**How do you think the school has changed over the past 10 years?**

There is a lot more to learn in school now and there is an entirely new building just outside the school. So lots has changed.

**Where do you see the school in 10 years?**

I see it hopefully back at the top of the rugby league

**What do you think is unique or special about De La Salle?**

I think the fact that retired teachers

always show up to school events.

**If you could be a teacher in De La Salle for a day who would you be and why?**

I would be John Corbet just because I loved him when I was in De La Salle.

**Are there any successes from De La Salle people that you are aware of? Present or past.**

My mate Patrick Hughes right now is the CEO of the Fremont in Vegas. So I guess that can be considered successful. It really boils down to what you think success is.

***If you could change something about the school what would you change?***

I honestly can't really think of anything that I'd change. It was all good when I was there. Maybe put

less pressure on students in general. But that can be applied to any school.

***Thanks for your time.***



## ***Interview with Noel*** *(Best Caretaker Ever)* Abduljalil Mohamed Omar

***Hi Noel, thanks for doing the interview, how are you doing?***

I'm good and no problem. Just happy to help out.

***What is your connection to the school?***

I'm the De La Salle caretaker so look after the grounds of the school and try keep it ticking over.

***What is your fondest memory of De La Salle?***

De la Salle day because it's a great day. Love the ice-cream.

***How do you think the school has changed over the past 10 years?***

I'm new to the school but I understand that it has improved in several areas such as education, sport and green culture. So lots of positive change.

***Where do you see the school in 10 years?***

All the students doing well in school and performing to their potential.

***What do you think is unique or special about De La Salle?***

Several different cultures working together.

***If you could be a teacher in De La Salle for a day who would you be and why?***

I would be Ms. O'Dwyer because she is an excellent teacher. Plus I'd love to be able to speak French fluently for a day.

***If you could change something about the school what would you change?***

Not the caretaker anyway. It's a great place that is constantly evolving.

***Is De La Salle the greatest school the universe has ever known?***

Not the best but heading that way.



# The Scam that hides in plain sight

Eoin Stowe

So I'm gonna guess the majority of people reading this play on Xbox or Playstation, and there's nothing wrong with that! The console wars are stupid and it should stop. If you just want to sit down and play some games either by yourself or with friends, then you do. There's nothing stopping you! Unless you choose to play online, if that's the case then you're stopped by a paywall.

That's right! For the low-low price of €59.99 a year, YOU (yes you) can have the privilege to play online with your friends! If you don't pay the subscription to Xbox Live Gold or Playstation Plus then, I mean, there's always singleplayer. Which is fine. I mean, there are plenty of great singleplayer games that can be enjoyed.

But most of these singleplayer games have an online mode, and you wouldn't want to miss out on an entire section of the game that you paid for, on a system you paid for, with a TV, electricity and internet you already pay for, would you? Exactly, so you better pony up for the subscription to the console of your choosing, or miss out on an entire section of your game.

I find it incredibly stupid that people are ok paying Sony or Microsoft a cent more than they need to. The Playstation 3 didn't have this paywall so why does the Playstation 4? Oh wait, I can answer this one! Sony saw how much money Microsoft was getting from forcing their consumers into paying for their subscription to Xbox Live Gold. Sony wanted a piece of that money pie. It's an effective money making strategy too, create a problem, sell a solution. The problem being not being allowed to use the system you just bought to its full potential, and the solution being, well, forced to pay for a service that isn't required, as demonstrated by Sony's previous console.

To put into perspective how much money this makes, let me do some crude maths. According to then-extweb.com, Sony has sold over 102 million PS4 units so far and it's estimated that Microsoft have sold over 46 million Xbox One units. Let's assume that only 40% of people pay for these subscription services. At €60 a year that nets Sony an annual profit of €2,448,000,000 and Microsoft a profit of €1,104,000,000. That's a whole lot of money, and that's only assuming that people are paying for the annual subscription, if I was to buy the three month subscriptions it would amount to even more money

given out of my pocket.

So why do you have to pay for these services, there has to be a reason, right? Unfortunately, there isn't. Microsoft and Sony are forcing you to pay for these services in the name of profit

Now it's time to put to sleep some myths.

Myth: We need to pay for the upkeep of the game servers!

Truth: The publisher of the game is in charge of that, Microsoft and Sony only pay for their servers (party chat, messaging, game store etc.)

Myth: The consoles are sold at a loss, so paying for Gold or PS Plus gives back lost revenue!

Truth: While this may be true for the Xbox one X (which is a small percentage of total Xboxes sold), Microsoft and Sony make the majority of their profit (aside from the console itself) by taking a cut from the sale of a game (30% of a game's revenue goes to Microsoft or Sony)

Myth: We GeT FrEe GaMEs!!!

Truth: They aren't free, you're paying for them.

To be honest, that's all that Xbox Live Gold or PS Plus are good for. Wait, Xbox Game Pass is a much better deal for games. I mean, yeah, there's discounts on some games, sometimes, which seems like a viable reason to pay for it if you weren't forced to in order to play online. I guess what I'm trying to get at is, there is no reason to pay for this Xbox Live Gold or Playstation Plus. You just have to because Microsoft or Sony said so. But if you want to play online then you better pay up because I can't see Sony or Microsoft changing.



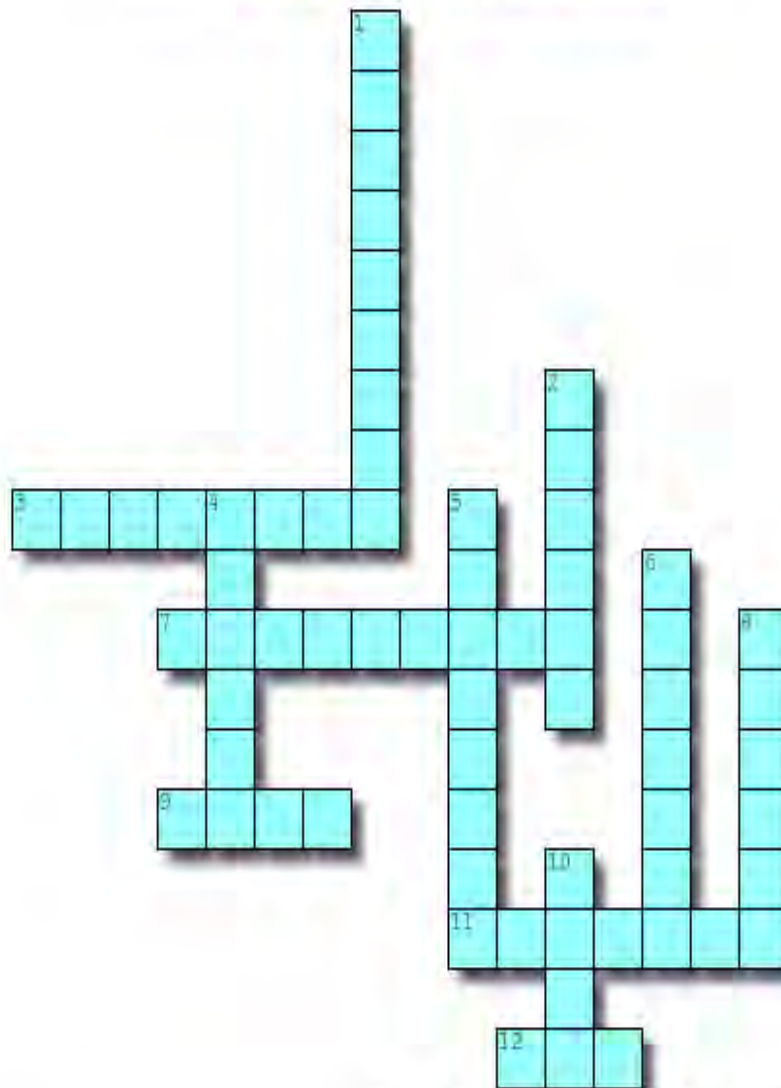
# Puzzles

Juan Del Campo

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## materials

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

### Across

- 3. you keep all your things here
- 7. it use to mark a word
- 9. It is used to paste things
- 11. it use to unify some papers
- 12. stick with ink to write

### Down

- 1. you take notes here
- 2. it use to delete the pen
- 4. stick with carbon to write
- 5. with this you can cut the paper
- 6. here, you take a note of your homework
- 8. you use to delete words
- 10. you keep all the materials here

I H K R M C F B O G B C V C J K Y R B R  
 R W Y A A J I O S N A J O J P R U U M E  
 I K T Y Z X G J C I P M C M Z F S I M L  
 S H H M A J Y K S K I L E B P I P S E I  
 H R M P I X E T H O T I I W N U I K R G  
 N U G J M F Q Y N O N E W E P L T H U I  
 O T R A I R R X T C H I S O A D G E K O  
 I X Z Q U O D H W S T S M N K A H S R N  
 T C U L T U R E I F U M R R Z K M T X J  
 C L D S C D N J L H R U S D K T I H A W  
 U O I D Z Q H W H P O E E J T N W H C O  
 R H W F A V Z G W J V U N T A L P J F D  
 T I H J C E T J E F R V O C T E K T M G  
 S O M F Q W J I G C J X R O H O I U E L  
 N Z D H S I L G N E N N J N X E N V W A  
 O D V L V Q V B D F W E B I O K E Y V I  
 C C F D F N A S Q Z V A I Y S B N G R R  
 G E O G R A P H Y B O E C C J H G C T Z  
 T I H C J S W M B J W P R U S V I Z Y O  
 V O A H Z I F H O H U P A F K Y O W S G

ART  
 CONSTRUCTION  
 ENGLISH  
 HISTORY  
 MATH

BUSINESS  
 COOKING  
 FRENCH  
 IRISH  
 RELIGION

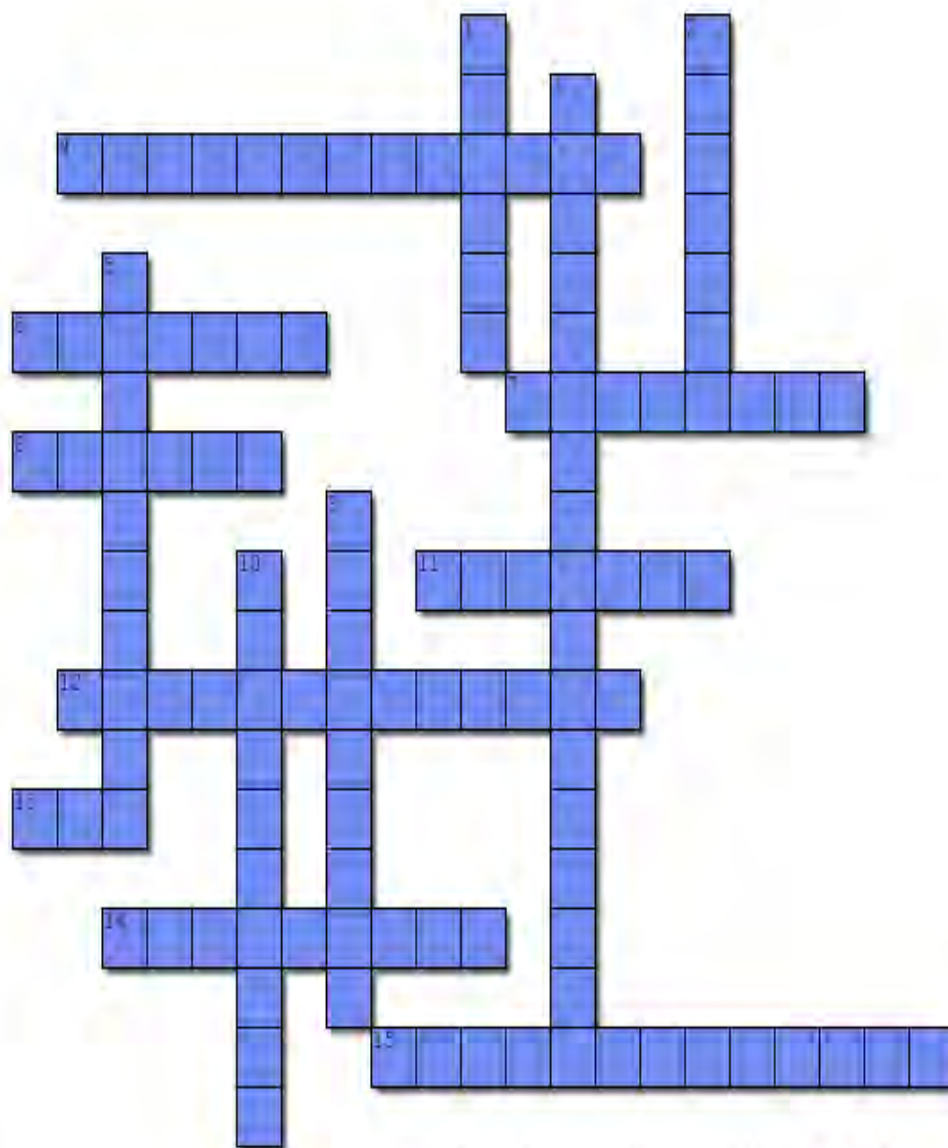
COMPUTER  
 CULTURE  
 GEOGRAPHY  
 JOURNALISM  
 SCIENCE

BOYD	BRENNAN	BRODERICK
CAREY	CHAMBERS	CRONIN
DWYER	FORDE	FRANKLIN
JORDAN	KINSELLA	LOWRY
MAZZUCATO	MCCARTHY	MCDERMOTT
MCDONAL	NORMILE	TULLY

R D N X K W G O O A Z A G M C T F Q B H K Q K J I  
 P W I N D R Z L F B D H C C Q Y K R J G G J E W L  
 X Y N E G N A I I Z A D Z H Q N O C H A M B E R S  
 E E O B X H L G H Z O B A Y I D G L H V V L Q G I  
 F R R R Z J L K A N Q K Q S E T O Q J A Z V B F S  
 D R C E D M E V A U C L L R E W T V X F N W N G A  
 W F A N I O S L G O I W I T R A N O H A I N C X G  
 G V H N I L N C X N A C Z Y S X T A M P T M F T V  
 U U Y A K Y I W G X K M H D E L B W D R T T K H I  
 L D T N L L K D U E Y T C A R E Y Z C R E Y T J Q  
 F H A L X O I J R S R O T A C U Z Z A M O D Y O B  
 D O U S F K L N Z A G C X H O T L L A T R J C D B  
 T T R O D K S Y C J V H U N M H I M A Q P S L M L  
 G W X D G L Y C E L I M R O N Z O H H U X E D X R  
 R J D O E O M I Q D Y E I P Y F P A H Q C M N O W

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Rooms



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

### Across

4. You go before and after play sport
6. Cook delicious food
7. You sometimes draw and paint
8. The director stay here
11. You go there if you want talk with God
12. Here you do power points or programming
13. In this place you sometime practice some sports
14. there you do pee
15. In the break you go there to eat

### Down

1. You help the plants to grow up
2. In this room all the copys are taken
3. Here you can build with wood
5. The teachers go there to drink a coffee
9. Is the first room in the school
10. Here, the talks are made

# Comparing Christmas in Ireland and Spain

Jaime Alvarez

Christmas: that period of the year when everybody has festive feelings. It can be great (as it is most of the time) for being with all your family, singing Christmas carols or just to having a big dinner together. But they can be bad too, because of you're missing somebody, remembering someone who died, or cannot stay with a concrete person.

In Ireland, Christmas starts on December the 8th, when everybody makes their Christmas tree, and decorates their houses. Did you know that the use of the evergreen Christmas tree is something relatively new in Ireland? Historically, Irish people used holly and ivy to make their houses look beautiful. If you are superstitious, consider that the more berries there are in your holly stick, the luckier you will become the next year. In the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland, December the 26th is a bank holiday. In the Republic of Ireland, this day is known as St. Stephen's day, but in Northern Ireland it is known as Boxing Day. Also, in the Republic of Ireland, you could see the Wren Boys, walking on the street with their costumes made of straw, especially in Dingle, Kerry. They sing and dance for getting money for beneficial causes. Known as Women's Christmas or Little Christmas, January the 6th is officially the last day of Christmas. Also, it is the day when all the women do not do the house cleaning and cook and the men have to be at home, retire all the Christmas' stuff and make all the dishes. Also there is a special Irish mass called Midnight Mass. It sounds rare, but it is not always at midnight. Its schedule is flexible, it is sometimes in the evening, and sometimes starts at 23.00 h and ends at 00.00 h. People go (sometimes very merry) there and enjoy the Mass for starting their new year as

better as possible. In Spain, it is so different...

Well, on Christmas Day we have a big lunch together with the family and enjoy the presents that "*Santa*" brought us. On New Year's Eve we eat the famous 12 grapes (1 for each bell ring and month of the year). It takes like 20 seconds counting the quarters and the bells and we finish eating the grapes on the New Year. On the 1st of January we just hang out with our family. Our Christmas Holidays end in January the 7th, after the day of the Three Wise Kings, the night of the 5th to the 6th of January, when the wise men come to our houses and leave presents for us (like Santa Claus but greater). On the 5th night we go to see the Wise Men ride all around Spain (there are lots of rides at the same time in all the Spanish villages) and we get sweets that people that people throw to us and enjoy eating (sometimes with chocolate) the fabulous Ring-Shape Cake. While different ultimately in Ireland and Spain we spend most of our Christmas together.



# Sport: It's Not About Results

Conail Boyd

Since our last edition of the newspaper we have gone from strength to strength on the court and on the pitch. Our U16 basketball team made it to the All Ireland final, our U19 badminton boys will compete in an All Ireland and our junior rugby team have shown us what true De La Salle grit looks like. All in all our boys are playing sport and achieving success unlike they have in a long time.

Understandably the title is somewhat of a contradiction but our success is not measured in trophies and wins. Last year we put a number of coaches, management, students and even past principals in a room and asked them:

- 1 - Why they play sport?
- 2 - What do you want to achieve?
- 3 - How do you get there?

The below cultural framework was the product of those questions. In short, they agreed it not about the results. It's about the students and how sport can help them become better people. It is a shift in mindset and looks closely at the behaviours and habits of our boys and how removing winning and

losing from their language can produce happier and healthier people. Instead of valuing winning they value friendship, having good times with their friends, working really hard, staying positive when things aren't going as planned, being open to learning and self improvement and importantly committing to their words. If De La Salle teams lose but achieve all of the above well then we are winning. Therefore, we are helping our boys become better people and prepare for life far beyond a classroom, win, lose or draw.



# *Sport: A Review of the Year*

## Sport in De La Salle in 2019/2020

What a year! More good times on the pitch, on the court, more games played and more people participating in sport than the school has EVER had. With the introduction of the 1st year and 2nd year sports program we are seeing after school sport brimming with activity. DLSC sports program aims to get all of our students playing sport and being active on a regular basis. Building these habits in our boys lives is essential for their well being and being regularly active will serve them well throughout the rest of their lives. So well done to all players and coaches on their great work throughout the year. So what happened?

### Basketball

The basketball court on Tuesday and Thursdays saw a brim of activity that culminated in our U16's making it to an All Ireland final, our 1st and 2nd year playing some great games and even our senior basketball side representing the school proudly over the course of the year. On Thursdays in particular we saw upwards of 40 1st & 2nd year boys training every week. Our U16 boys had an incredible run in what resulted in the school for the first time competing in an all Ireland final. The team were incredible throughout. They played with a smile and steely determination. We are so proud of what they did this year and hope our boys will continue to play and improve. So well done to all involved and a special thanks to Carlitos the coach who led all of our boys over the course of the year. We hope that it won't be long before we see our boys back on the court having fun and working hard. Well done everyone!

### Badminton

Again what a year was had! This year the badminton courts were overflowing with boys wanting to play the sport. With practise scheduled to happen on Monday, Wednesday & Friday we saw lines of boys willing to get involved with particular attention paid to 1st & 2nd year students. As a result of this increased participation we saw more U14 badminton teams formed than the school has ever seen. With more boys on the court we also saw some of our teams winning leinster and domestic competitions. This culminated in our U19 boys winning the Leinster championship. Huge congratulations must go to the team who worked so hard throughout the year and would have competed in the All Irelands if not for the pandemic. Well done to all of the players involved in the sport and a special thank you must be given to Lynn McGrave who was fantastic throughout. We hope it

won't be too long before the boys are back on the court playing games and having great times too.

### Rugby

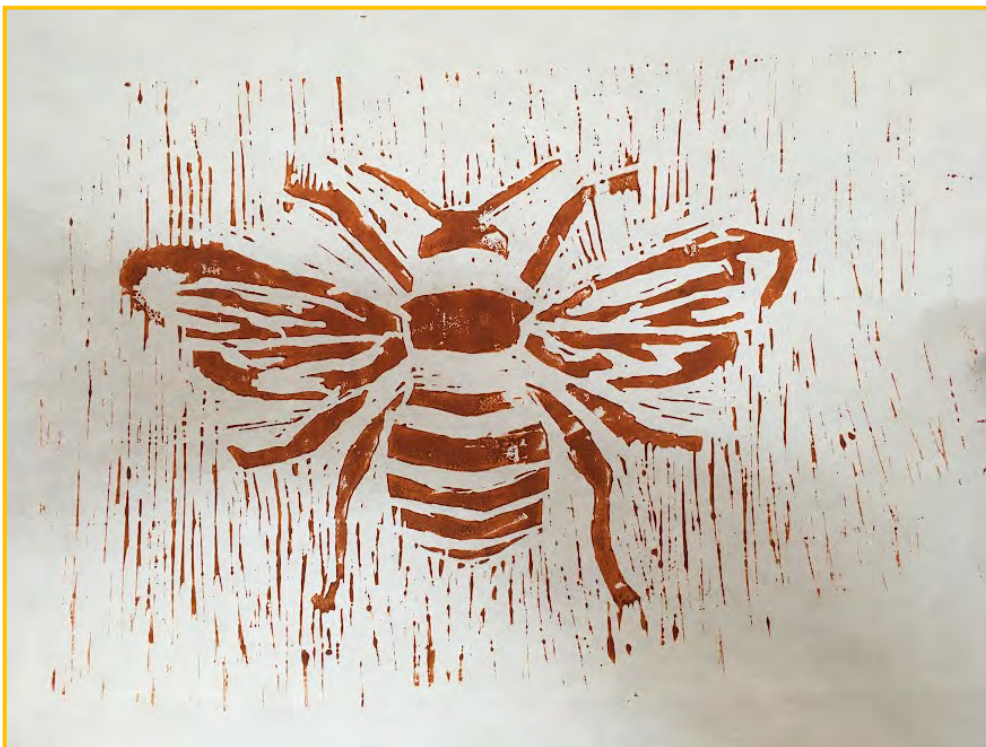
More tries, more passes, more tackles and more young boys are now playing rugby than we have ever seen. We saw the rugby pitches on Monday and Tuesday full of boys with a particular large number from 1st & 2nd year. Our Wednesday afternoons often saw both pitches busy with consecutive games being played. Our junior and 1st year teams had exceptional seasons. Our junior side went on a run of games that saw them advancing to the latter stages of multiple competitions. They showed commendable grit and determination throughout the year. Our 1st year side too showed commendable mettle and improved dramatically as the season progressed. With the majority of the team totally new to the sport the learning curve can be difficult but our boys stayed the course and represented themselves and their school proudly. We are so proud of the last year and all the hard work that has taken place. We also recognise the incredible work by all the coaches who supported the boys throughout. Thank you to Mr. Cronin, Ms. Tully and Mr. Broderick for their great work. Our junior side was lucky to have a fantastic coaching combination in Mr. Leigh and past pupil Ryan Fitzgerald who did an exceptional job. Our seniors were fortunate to be supported by Ms. Jordan and returning past pupil Morgan Merri-man.

### Table Tennis & Football

Well done to all the boys who played table tennis this year. The teams had great fun over the course of the year and also competed well in their various competitions. Eddie their coach was a great support and was a huge help to all the boys involved. The football season was about to commence when the effects of the pandemic began. We were looking forward to 1st year, junior and senior football games being played but with the sport now part of our program we know it won't be long before we continue to build the sport.

Well done again to all involved and while the future of sport is not clear, what is clear is that we have a school that places sport at the heart of its educational mission. We understand that sport can help our boys now and in the future in so many ways. With that we will continue to build on what's gone before and as a school look to improve. Well done again every one and don't forget: WE ARE SALLE

## A Selection of 3rd Year Art Projects







# 'One School, One Book' Writing Competition

This year's Writing Competition was, like most things this year, completed under strange and unusual circumstances. Despite the difficulties of remote/distance learning we were delighted that we had an abundance of entries from students in all year groups.

The large number of entries made the task of choosing a winner in each year group and an overall winner a very difficult task. It was a pleasure to read our students entries on the theme of 'New Beginnings', well done to you all. The winners are as follows:

**Over all Winner - John Loy (6th Year)**

## 1st Year Winner - Santiago McDonnell

## 2nd Year Winner - John Cleary

### 3rd Year Winner - Atticus McDonnell - Grundy

## TY Winner - Gabriel Alayon

## 5th Year Winner - Darragh White

## Overall Winner

John Loy

6th year

"If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong"

Abraham Lincoln, April 4, 1864.

### New Beginnings

#### Part One: Lantern Lit Woods

"Get a move on, boy, at this rate it'll take us all night to get back", said the man on my left.

"And you can be damn sure I aint taking the fall for your laziness", came the voice of the other on my right.

The shackles that bound my hands and feet echoed throughout the forest after every step, almost mocking me. The sky was jet black and starless, while the path ahead was highlighted by a soft orange glow emitted from the lanterns held by the twins flanked either side of me. The MacFarlane twins, Eli and Jonah, owned the plantation on the other side of the woods through which we were passing. I have known nothing but hardship and pain my entire life. Born into the trade, grown up on the plantation. As we ventured further into the woods, the leaves crunching beneath the soles of my bare, aching feet, a third lantern glow peered out from the winding trees ahead.

"Who goes there?", bellowed Eli into the blackness ahead.

"I want no trouble gentlemen", came the voice from behind the flickering flame ahead, "merely passing through".

The flame grew larger as the man approached on horseback, his features now illuminated in the darkness. He wore a bright purple suit with a dazzling pearly white bowler hat that seemed to glow in the darkness. He had a grey spruce moustache which dominated his facial features and a golden tooth which glimmered when he opened his mouth to once again address the twins.

"My good men, if you would so kindly allow me to pass I would be most gracious, as I am in a bit of a hurry".

The twins glared at each other. Eli motioned for me to keep my head down and not to say a word unless I wanted another fifty lashes for my trouble. Now being but an ear in the darkness, I had no choice but to listen.

"If you think you can waltz through our land whenever you please, well then I'm afraid you are highly mistaken", Eli turned to face his brother and they began to laugh, evidently knowing something the man did not.

I can tell you first hand that many people who happened to stumble across the MacFarlane twins, did not often come out on the other side looking better than when they had set out from home. Still glaring at the lantern lit floor, I listened intently for a retort from the man. Seconds which felt like hours passed slowly by as the four of us waited in silence, when finally there did come a sound. Two loud crashes shot out into the cold, night air, followed swiftly by two thuds, one to my left and one to my right. I glared up to find the man staring back at me, his lantern raised. He held a blanket in his right hand which he tossed to me before saying, "put this on, you must be freezing". The man dismounted his horse and walked over to the lifeless corpse of Jonah and began to rummage in his pockets. After a few seconds of searching, the man

stood back up holding a set of keys and again tossed them to me, saying, “get yourself out of those chains and mount one of those horses, I really am in a hurry”.

## Part Two: Moonlight Manor

Fumbling the rusty keys between my bony fingers, I managed to calm myself and free myself from my bonds. The man was waiting for me, his lantern held aloft, illuminating the path that lay ahead. I hastily followed his instructions, wrapped myself in the blanket and mounted the horse to my left, recently left abandoned by the twin who lay lifeless on the ground next to it.

“Excellent”, called the man when I had become accustomed to my newfound situation, “after me, my good man”.

The man crashed the reigns of his horse and with a sudden jolt he shot off down the winding path. Being a stranger to the act of horse riding, I hesitantly and nervously followed suit, hoping that the horse would just act off of its own accord and follow the man. Cracking the reigns as the man had demonstrated, the horse took the hint and shot off after the distant glow down the path. As we pelted down the path, the wind whipping my face, I couldn’t help but feel an overwhelming sense of happiness, something that had previously been a rarity in my life. I caught up to the man and being none the wiser as to where we were heading I asked him, “Sir, if you don’t mind my asking, where is it that we are heading? When the master has found out I’m gone and his sons are dead, I may as well lay down and join them in the dirt”.

The man kept his gaze fixated on the path ahead while calling back to me, “all in due course my friend, all in due course, and please call me Benjamin”.

The rest of our journey was passed in silence, not an awkward one but one of awe and disbelief on my part. As we rode through the thick wood, I was struck with the sheer beauty of nature that I have been deprived of my entire life. With the crescent moon guiding us forward, the wind in my hair, we eventually reached what I perceived to be our destination. As we drew closer, the mansion came into full view. It was pearly white, at least four stories high, with countless windows, illuminated by the candlelight from within. Our horses came to a halt at our command, when Benjamin spoke, “you can hitch your horse at the post by the front steps, dinner’s almost ready.”

Overcome with confusion, I hitched my horse and then calling after Benjamin I asked, “What do you mean dinner?” I followed him up the front steps and as he opened the front door he turned to face me as the fluorescent light from within lit up his face. He ushered me forward through the gates of the fortress and following closely behind, he wrapped his arm around my shoulder in a way that I had never experienced before, a non-threatening way. With his other hand he showcased to me the lobby of the house with all of its eccentric features. A spiral staircase that led up to the top floors and a dozen doors that led off in every direction into different rooms.

“After you”, said Benjamin as we walked together further into the house, just in time for dinner.

### Part Three: Letters from the Library

I awoke early the next morning in a daze. Slowly I opened my eyes to be greeted by my new and strange surroundings. I shot up immediately, scanning the room and soon realised that the endeavours of the evening prior were not a facade or a dream, but a vivid reality. Suddenly the wave of remembrance struck and everything became clear. Benjamin and his eccentricities, his beautiful manor, his amicable wife who welcomed me with open arms upon our first meeting. Turning to face the bedside table to my left, I checked the time. The big hand was positioned at VIII and the smaller hand at VI. I never learned how to properly tell the time while on the plantation but I had a rough idea of what the hands meant. Turning away to get out of bed, I noticed in my peripheral vision a small, paper note wedged under the clock. Lifting up the clock to retrieve the note, I picked it up, unfolded it and read aloud its contents. It read:

Please meet me in the library after breakfast,  
Benjamin.

I did have a basic knowledge of how to read courtesy of some of the older people on the plantation, but my abilities ended there. Not knowing where the library was or where to have breakfast, I placed the page back on the nightstand and rolled over to my right. There, on a silver platter, awaiting me was a feast fit for a king, never mind a slave. Fruits of all colours, shapes and flavours, along with bread and oats. Now that I had found breakfast, that was one less thing to worry about. Following a breakfast that I could have previously only dreamed of, I pulled back the silk duvet and hopped out of the comforts of the bed. The room in which I occupied was unlike anything I could ever have imagined. A Victorian armchair sat in the far corner of the room under what looked like a very expensive painting, a six foot mirror with gold encrusted outlines, and a window which had a clear view of the luxurious, lime green lawns at the front of the house. I made my way over to the armchair and found another note protruding out from underneath a neatly folded clean set of clothes. It read:

A man should always look his best,  
get yourself out of those rags and try this on.

Not wasting any time in disobeying the note's orders, I eagerly stripped myself of my rags and put on the clean clothes. Standing now in front of the mirror, I got a clear view of my new form. Bearing a burgundy dress shirt, a gold necktie, black trousers and black brogue shoes, I looked and felt like a new man with my days of captivity long behind me. With one last smile at myself in the mirror, I turned away, headed for the door and set out to find the library.

### Part Four: The Rescuer's reasoning

Not knowing where to begin in my search for the library, I set out investigating the floor I currently occupied. Turning left out of my room, I started to walk down the long, thin hallway. The walls were painted a bright blue with portraits and paintings hung from them. There were tables with vases which had patterns of flowers embroidered on them, giving them a sense of significant value. Straight ahead there were three doors. One, down the hall on the left, one on the right and one dead ahead, facing me from a distance. I continued pacing down the hallway and arrived at the doors on either side of me. I turned to face the one on the left and raising my hand I knocked, hoping for an answer. Nothing came so I turned around and knocked on the other. Again, nothing. Leaving the sound-

less doors behind me I walked further down the hall and headed for the door at the end. From a distance there was a slight glimmer of gold emanating from the centre of the door. As I drew closer to the door the shimmer morphed into a gold plaque, nailed into the door, placed just at head height. The plaque had one word emblazoned on it:

Library

Raising my right hand I knocked lightly on the door and after a few seconds of silence, a familiar voice called, "come in". I pushed open the door and accepted the voice's invitation. When I entered the library, I was greeted with a sight that again rendered me baffled and speechless. Towers of shelves housing books loomed over me and stretched right up to the ceiling, and there in the middle of the room was a desk and sitting behind it was Benjamin. Acknowledging my entrance, Benjamin lifted his head from his book and motioned for me to sit down at the vacant chair next to him. Walking towards the chair I was still turning and twisting in an attempt to soak in the beautiful sight of the endless waves of books. I sat down next to Benjamin and while removing his half-moon spectacles, he spoke, "I know this may all be a little strange to you but I asked you here this morning because I feel I owe you an explanation. Last night when we ran into each other on the path, it was no coincidence". Straightening up and clearing his throat Benjamin continued, "those twins hired an anonymous hitman and they were going to have you killed. Me."

Benjamin leaned in closer before continuing, "they found something belonging to you that you shouldn't have had, and they asked me to lynch you for it while offering a handsome sum in exchange."

Confused by the sudden news that Benjamin had saved my life, I couldn't help but wonder why he chose so.

"Now from what they told me in the letter", he continued, "that thing you shouldn't have had is something that I believe you should have had. In fact I think it's very important. Do you know what I'm talking about?"

Knowing full well exactly what he was talking about I answered. "I had a book that my mother gave me before she died, a book that helped me with my spelling and reading when I was a boy."

"Exactly", responded Benjamin. "Those twins were animals, tyrants and everything in between and I do not do anyone's dirty work for them, so I decided to help you. A man who thirsts for knowledge, like yourself should not spend his life picking cotton in a field but quenching his thirst for that knowledge".

Benjamin rose up from his chair and walked across the room towards the door. Before turning the doorknob he turned to with a smile and said, "unfortunately, I couldn't save your book before the twins burned it but I hope you can find something among this pile that will suffice. Turning the knob and closing the door behind him, Benjamin left me alone to digest the news and to explore the colourful shelves that surrounded me. I rose up from the chair, approached the

nearest shelf, picked the nearest book and retreated back to the desk and opened on page one, chapter one.

#### Part Five: Clean Slate

The next few weeks were spent within the confines of the library, reading and discovering. Benjamin was always on hand to help when he returned home from work. He worked as a tailor, hence the extravagant suits. No matter how many books I read, there was always one that resonated the most with me. The tale of a young boy who sets out in a new world all alone in search of his purpose. The young boy in the story, Joseph Smith, highly reminded me of myself. I yearned to be free from the house but Benjamin said it was impossible to get papers-

for my freedom so long as I'm classed as a rogue slave. Benjamin always said that as soon as this ends he would offer me a job and accommodation rent free.

One gloomy, grey and rainy day I occupied the library, accompanied by my usual stack of books when Benjamin burst in through the door, screaming and jumping with jubilation.

"We did it, we did it!", he called, "I am now looking at a free man. President Lincoln announced in a speech today that slavery is no more. Let's go get those papers."

Jumping up out of my chair, I ran after Benjamin out of the house, mounted our horses and headed for the town hall. As the rain drizzled down into my face, I didn't care. I was going to be free. Riding alongside Benjamin, I asked him how this came about.

He turned to me in response and said, "Lincoln and I have been working towards this for years. Today's the day.". Confused, I called back, "what do you mean, Lincoln and I?"

With a laugh, Benjamin turned and answered, "where do you think he gets his suits?", and with that we pulled up into the town, drenched from the rain, ready to start anew.

We dismounted our horses, pushed open the stark white doors to the town hall and joined a queue of what looked like a hundred black former slaves, ready to start their lives. When we reached the top of the line, a woman who didn't even look up to acknowledge me called out, "name?"

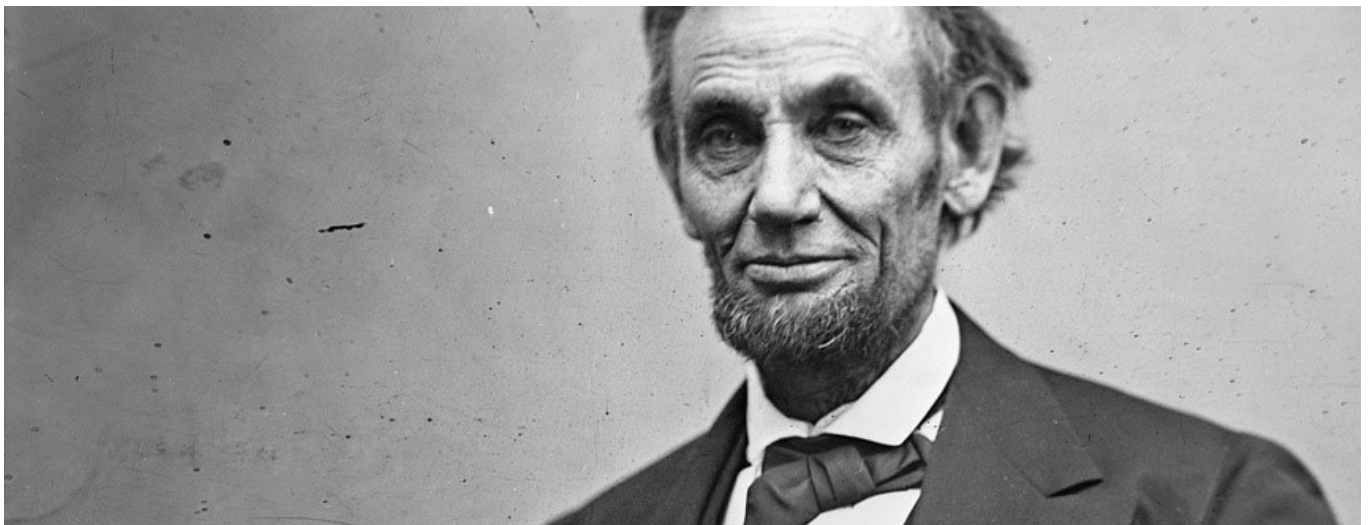
To this day it amazes me how such a simple question left me dumbfounded. I had never been given a name all my life, apart from the derogatory terms thrown at me on a daily basis on the plantation. Turning to Benjamin for an answer I knew he wouldn't have, the woman lifted her head now frustrated and again called for my name.

"Think of a name that means something to you", said Benjamin, "something that represents you."

With those words of advice it hit me. I turned around to face the pale faced woman and said, "Joseph Smith, my name is Joseph Smith."

"Well, Mr. Smith", responded the woman, "sign here please and now under the eyes of the American law you are a free man. Congratulations."

I picked up my licence to freedom and with Benjamin, walked out into the free world. The rain ceased and the clouds parted, allowing for the sunlight to shine down, ushering in with it a new day for me and for America.



*1st year winner, Santiago McDonnell*

Absent in Italy

The chill blue of the energy saving bulbs.

The fake wood doors.

The supermarket's old fruit with flies and grey shelves like old faces.

The Funerbe Pasquali under the apartment block with the half open window  
and cold, sleek, silver Jaguar hearses.

The Madonna carried through the narrow streets.

The people carrying candles.

Every day, the death pages pasted with a brush  
opposite Bar Degl' Amici.

One on top of the other.

Sometimes we eat popcorn  
looking at the old people  
looking through pretend curtains.

The fun fair, plastic bulbs of the frozen shades of blue and yellow.

The boy in the white cape with gold studs and high collar.

The piazzao of the fallen soldiers of La Seconda Guerra Mondiale.

The tiny cups of wine in the bar with the old lady - la bifana doll -  
having her dinner her hair in a ball.

The marble slabs everywhere.

The CODICE.

The bank officials in tight suits with sly grins.

*2nd year winner, John Cleary*

Arthur Wilson checked his watch as he exited the tram, 8:35 am, 5 minutes late.

He continued briskly down the street, Arthur was a tall, wide man. As a boy he had worked on his family's ranch in Colorado but had moved to New York with his mother when his Father had died of tuberculosis.

He stopped at the entrance of his office building, 8:38. He quickly made his way up the 18 flights of stairs to his office but was stopped when he heard someone call his name from behind him.

"Wilson!" he turned to see his boss walking towards him. Before Arthur had time to greet him he was interrupted. "Wilson would you be so good as to fill out these papers." Arthur looked at his boss, he was a tall man, though quite skinny, he always wore a pinstripe suit and a pair of spectacles that he would regularly adjust. He was an unpleasant character, not for a lack of energy but from the condescending nature with which he spoke.

"I need them finished by 12am Friday," his boss continued.

"Of course," Arthur answered, masking his displeasure with a smile as he was led to his boss' office.

"Here they are," said his boss after 20 seconds of rummaging through his filing cabinet, before handing it to him. "Friday?" Arthur said, looking at the 500 odd pages now in his hands. "But today's Wednesday."

"Yes, I know." his boss said, this time seeming a bit annoyed.

Arthur made his way to the door and just as he was about to close it "and Mr. Wilson" Arthur poked his head through the door, "don't be late next time." Arthur responded with a nod and left.

Arthur entered his office and after plopping the pile of papers on the desk he went to open the window. He looked out at the busy New York street below him, watching the people go about their lives. It was a mild morning and Arthur could feel the cool air blow past his face. He looked around, seeing the golden light of the morning sun reflect off the windows in front of him, then moved his gaze over to the new skyscraper they were building. He racked his brain trying to remember the name, "Chrysler" he remembered, "supposed to be the tallest building in the world, over 1000 feet tall," he thought to himself.

He marvelled at this modern innovation for a moment before being brought back to reality. Turning around he looked at the work that awaited him "by Friday" he mumbled to himself, sitting down and grabbing a pen.

He flicked over the first page, reading the heading "inquiry on the purchase of 5,000 pens".

Arthur was a sales assistant in a business that distributed stationary though he wasn't especially fond of his position.

He began to fill out the letter, dear sir, possibility, purchase, in stock, write back at earliest convenience.

He moved the letter to the other side of his desk and moved to the next document.

"Order of 7500 pencils," and once again began filling out the document. "It's only half the size of last month's order" he said to himself quietly, "but then again pencils aren't really in demand."

Arthur continued to fill out what seemed like endless pages for hours until he caught a glance at the clock in his office. "Half nine, must be going." he packed up all his things and looked at the pages that still were on his desk. He had gotten about a third of the way through them.

"Madness," he thought to himself. He put on his hat and coat and made his way down the stairs.

As he walked through the front doors of his office building he was immediately hit by the smell of the New York streets. It wasn't anything unusual but it seemed especially pungent today.

"Been a tough day, need a drink," he thought to himself and instead of taking the tram he made his way south. There was a speakeasy not too far from his office building, that he frequented. As he walked down the street he saw a line of people outside a soup kitchen. "Twice as long as last week," he thought. He tried not to look at any of them but caught a glance at a familiar face. It was one of his former co-workers, "Ralph was his name, yes Ralph. Poor bastard, when'd he get fired? Around a week ago? Yes must've been, he was an accountant wasn't he? Yes, pretty sure he was."

Arthur took another glance at him this time noticing his clothes. He was dressed in his work wear, though now it seemed very dirty with a couple of tears in around the elbow area. "Awfully cold tonight," Arthur thought to himself, "much too cold for him to be wearing that." Arthur took another glance at the line and noticed that Ralph's clothing was miles better in comparison to what some of the others were wearing.

After taking that last glance at the poor souls Arthur turned a corner and didn't think much more of it.

Arthur approached the block and made his way through an alleyway between two buildings.

There was a large steel door behind the alleyway. He gave three knocks and a panel slid away. A pair of eyes studied him for a second before the panel closed and the door opened. Arthur made his way down a small flight of stairs before entering the speakeasy.

Immediately he was hit by the odour of cigarette smoke and the sound of conversation.

He made his way towards the bar but noticed his friend Simon sitting on a bar stool at the end of it.

Simon was a round man of average height, the most immediate thing you would notice about his appearance would be his especially large moustache.

He was sitting at the bar with his coat hung on his chair, only wearing his waistcoat. Simon also frequented the speakeasy and in fact was the one who introduced Arthur to it, he was one of the few friends Arthur had in the city. Simon was loud and outspoken, quite a contrast to Arthur's introverted nature but despite this, they got along well.

As Arthur moved towards Simon he noticed the distressed look on his face.

"Simon!" Arthur exclaimed.

Simon turned around and smiled at the sight of his friend, "Arthur," he responded, pulling out a bar stool.

Arthur sat down and ordered a drink.

"Cigarette?" Simon said, holding out an opened pack.

"Thanks," replied Arthur, pulling one out. He took out a lighter and began to puff away.

The bartender returned and placed Arthur's drink on the counter.

"Been busy?" Simon asked, taking a sip out of his glass.

"The boss wants 500 pages filled out by Friday, he's had me working like a mule the past few weeks." Arthur replied.

"The economy's in shambles, everyone's being laid off. Say, ``Have you heard anything of Ralph Andrews lately?" Simon asked.

"Saw him just there queuing for a soup kitchen." Arthur replied. "I think he was laid off about a week ago."

"Shame he was a good accountant, jobs just aren't easy to come by anymore."

"It's slavery, you either work until you die of exhaustion or you lose your job and die on the streets." Arthur responded.

"Amen." Simon said.

Arthur looked around the bar through the haze of the cigarette smoke, looking at the various art pieces that adorned the art deco walls and at the people around him.

"I'll tell ya, these days I feel like running back to the countryside. This city life's starting to feel like a ball and chain around my leg." Arthur stated

"Good luck with that, we haven't any money nor family, how'd either of us survive down there." Simon said solemnly.

Arthur finished off the last of his drink before answering.

"You know I used to live on a ranch, in fact my cousin still lives out there." "Look Arthur, you've got a job which is more than most can say these days. If I were you I'd be more happy that I've got a roof over my head."

"I suppose you're right."

Arthur stayed and talked another while before his cigarette was all but a pile of ash.

"Well I'd best be going."

Arthur put out his cigarette, or at least what remained of it and stood up.

"You be careful, the area isn't as pretty as it used to be."

"Don't worry Simon, I'll be fine."

Arthur picked up his hat and made his way to the exit, he looked at his watch, ten to eleven.

He walked up the stairs and out the large steel door. Immediately he was hit by the freezing night air but he didn't think much of it as he continued to walk through the alley and made his way home.

Arthur entered the front door of his apartment block and proceeded to make his way up the stairs. He rummaged around his pockets looking for his keys.

"Trouser pocket... no not there, coat pocket, no not there- hold on." Arthur pulled out his keys and opened his door.

Entering his apartment Arthur looked around, it was very bare with few decorations.

Arthur had sold most of his expensive possessions to help pay rent but it didn't bother him much. Most of the items he sold afforded him some spending money to comfort him through buying comforts that were hard to come by these days.

He proceeded towards the kitchen and opened a cupboard. Arthur didn't have much choice for food, all that was there were a few slices of bread, jarred liver and some jarred kidney beans.

Arthur thought to himself "beans, bread, liver Jesus that's it, oh well it'll do for just about the next 3 or 4 days, it'll do now. I get paid on Friday, Friday's a good day. Work due on Friday, damned Schwarts. Calls himself a businessman, the slave worker."

Arthur prepared himself a small meal and sat down on an old chair.

"Could sell the armchair, get more food. Could get a pack of cigarettes as well. Bread

getting stale, probably won't last for another 3 days, probably should sell the armchair, I don't spend much time sitting at home anyway. Yes, good idea."

Arthur finished up the last of his meal and went to bed.

Arthur awoke the next morning and as he was buttoning up his waist coat when he heard a knock on the door. He finished and approached it. "Strange, don't get many visitors. Could it be the landlord? No, why would he be here, rent isn't due for another 2 weeks. Probably someone else."

Arthur opened the door and was worried by the sight of his landlord standing there.

"What could he want? Noise complaint? Couldn't be I hardly spend any time at home. He looks dismayed." Arthur thought to himself.

"Mr. Wilson, I'm afraid that due to the current circumstances your rent is to be raised."

Arthur looked at the man in front of him confused and a bit shocked.

"I'm terribly sorry about this Mr. Wilson but I don't have much choice in the matter."

"I'm afraid that from now on rent will have to be fifteen percent more."

Arthur stood in the doorway for a second, dumbfounded by this news whilst trying his best to find words and keep composed.

"Mr. Matthews, this is absurd! fifteen percent is ridiculous, there's no way I would be able."

The landlord interjected "I'm sorry Mr. Wilson but in times like this I must do what I can to stay afloat."

"If it can't be paid then I'm afraid that eviction is the only possible outcome. There are many people desperate for a home. You've been a good tenant and I'd hate to see you go."

"Mr. Matthews I can't pay fifteen percent more, I barely have enough money to feed myself as is."

"I'm not a charity Mr. Wilson, good day." The landlord responded calmly before making his way up the staircase.

Arthur went back into his apartment. "Fifteen percent, fifteen percent the vulture!" he shouted. He would've thrown something if there was anything to throw.

Arthur thought to himself, "fifteen percent. "This and next week's wages would just about cover it, but food, food. The armchair alone wouldn't cover it, soup kitchens? No, still employed."

He continued to get dressed, thinking all the while.

Arthur Wilson checked his watch as he looked at the tram, 8:40 am, 10 minutes late.

His forehead was covered in sweat from running to work, he no longer had the luxury of taking the tram and had to make his way to work on foot.

He continued down the road and made it to his office building, 8:43.

He entered the building and made his way up the stairs.

He reached his office and began to chip away at the documents in front of him.

Page after page after page. "Don't know why we're ordering these, the amounts are insubstantial, who's buying these? No money, who'd buy it? Businesses shutting down, who'd use it?"

For the rest of the day he'd flip over a page, filled it out and moved on to the next one. Continuing this repetitive cycle until he checked his watch.

"11:23, It's alright, I can finish off the rest tomorrow. Tomorrow's Friday yes? Thank God. Can get paid tomorrow."

Arthur put on his hat and coat and left.

"Freezing, wish I could take the tram. Never mind. Ahh yes shortcut near the speakeasy, best take that."

He continued to the neighbourhood near the speakeasy. Most shops were closed down and in an alleyway between what used to be a paint shop and what used to be a grocers Arthur saw a group of boys huddled around an old barrel that had been converted into a makeshift camp fire.

For the split second he saw them he noticed how tired they looked. All were very skinny and they were all warming their hands by the fire. Their eyes were sunken and though they only looked around twelve all innocence had been removed from their faces.

Arthur continued on and pretended not to notice.

He turned a corner and as he did saw something happening in one of the alleyways. He went over to inspect it and as he did he could just about make out a man knocked out on the ground and another man rummaging through his pockets.

Just then, the robber turned his head and looked over at Arthur. He couldn't make out much more than a silhouette. Arthur was carrying a briefcase which the robber most likely mistook for a baton and thinking that the police were after him, he took flight.

Arthur went over to the victim who was still lying there and tried to find some identification. Eventually he managed to find a wallet and checked for any ID.

"Aha, a driver's license now let's see. A Mr. Stuart Blake. Seems wealthy, wonder what he'd be doing here?"

Just as Arthur finished reading the man's license he heard a shout.

"Hey you! Stay right there!"

Arthur turned his head and realised he was looking at an actual policeman.

The policeman ran towards him as Arthur realised that he was a man standing over an unconscious body with the man's wallet in his hand.

In the moment Arthur could think of nothing else but to run as fast as he could.

He sprinted down the alleyway and made a sharp turn at the corner and continued down another alleyway.

Arthur knew the area well and was able to shake the police officer off after a few minutes of running.

When he couldn't hear anymore of the policeman he stopped and took a moment to catch his breath. He noticed that he still had the wallet in his hand.

"Did they see my face? Couldn't have, well now I have this man's wallet, wonder how much cash is here." Arthur looked in the wallet and to his surprise found fifteen dollars.

An ecstatic Arthur put the fifteen dollars back in the wallet before putting it in his pocket and going back to the apartment.

Arthur went to bed that night with a newfound optimism for he had, for the first time in months, something to look forward to.

Arthur entered work the next day and briskly made his way up the stairs, he opened his office door and got ready to finish the paperwork that remained.

He got to working when there was a knock on his door and his boss entered.

"Mr. Wilson, a word if you will."

Arthur got out of his chair and made his way out the office door.

"Mr. Wilson I'm most terribly sorry to inform you that due to the stress the economy has on the company your

wages are going to have to be decreased. I thought it only fit to inform you myself."

Arthur stood there but didn't respond. His boss, a bit confused by the lack of a reaction, continued.

"If you could follow me to my office I have some more papers that must be filled. We're selling off parts of the company and ask that you could have these papers filled by Sunday. I'm afraid that you will be paid on Sunday as well."

Arthur nodded and his boss went down the hall before realising that Arthur wasn't following him.

"I'll follow you down." Arthur called from down the hallway.

Mr. Schwartz gave a disgruntled look before nodding and heading down the hallway.

Arthur re-entered his office and gathered up all his belongings. He picked up his favourite fedora and put on his coat before exiting the office.

He stood in the hallway, for a moment unsure of what to do. He began to walk down the hallway towards his boss' office but turned left and instead walked down the stairs.

Arthur exited the building and briskly made his way to the tram stop, buying a ticket he got on the tram and made his way home.

Arthur Wilson checked his watch as he got off the tram, 12 noon, he was free.

He went into his apartment and found a page. "I am announcing my vacation from apartment 5a, feel free to take any objects or furniture within the apartment as this month's rent.

Arthur Wilson"

He enclosed the keys within and went to his landlord's apartment. He slipped the letter through the post box before returning to his apartment. He packed what few belongings he had and closed the door of his apartment for the last time.

Arthur left the Apartment building and made for the train station. Pulling out Mr. Blake's wallet he bought a one way train ticket. He sat waiting for the train, glad that he was finally able to escape what had become of city life, grateful that he managed to escape living on the streets, a fate that had befallen many as of recent. He remembered the faces of the children whom he had seen the night prior, appalled at how bad things had gotten. Then in the distance he saw his train arriving. As he was stepping on he paused for a second, unsure of his decision. He knew that after this there was no way to return to the life he had grown accustomed to, for better or worse.

To Simon Miller: 36 Woodrow County, Colorado

Simon, I hope this letter finds you well.

I'm sorry I wasn't able to bid you farewell in person but I couldn't stand to spend another second in that God awful place. I hope that you aren't facing the same financial troubles as I was.

As of now I am back on the family ranch. Work is hard and times are still tough but I'm finally free. I tell you the work is much more rewarding when it is of your own benefit. Though I'll miss the benefits of city life I don't regret my choice to leave, the air is clean here and the work is rewarding. If you have any news or events regarding the city, I would be glad to hear them.

I ask you however to not give anyone my address and ask that you respect my choice to disappear.

If you can then please write back.

Thanks,

Arthur Wilson

*3rd year winner, Atticus McDonell*

Lost and found

Once loved and cared for,  
Now blackened, torn and unwanted,  
Yurns for the love it once had,  
A sunken feeling on the cold stone floor,  
The burnt clothes piled on top the immersion tank,  
To never to be found once more.

Concealed under lock and key,  
When will this torture end,  
The darkness enveloping and thwarting my escape,  
Birds singing in an earshot,  
Life goes on without me,  
Awaiting for this nightmare to end.

To be tossed around with undecided looks,  
Thrown back with disappointment,  
Will I ever be wanted,  
And be treated with care and perfume,  
Perfumes with a sweet sea breeze,

And there it was,  
The new life desired,  
Warm soft hand with a delicate scent of lavender,  
Carefully placed in the back of a mini Fiat 500,  
With the convertible roof down,  
Off into the golden horizon,  
As the Sicilian orange sunset continued.

*TY winner, Gabriel Alayon*

New beginnings are often hard to grasp, whether it's about moving on or moving away. We've all had our own experiences with this concept regardless of it being good or bad. We have to go at our own pace. It's not easy of course, but we have to fight through it.

Every person has a defence mechanism to fight against these negative emotions. This is called inner strength and self-control. It's constantly working and you might not even notice it. Even at your lowest point, your inner strength will carry you back to the top. Every single person in the world is strong. Strong enough to the point where we all can stand up and fight through the evil emotions that devour us. We can move on to a new and better chapter in our lives.

Self-control is something that is very useful and can be powerful if practiced. Self-control gives you an advantage in life. Life is a learning process and having self-control will hugely benefit you. Here's a real life scenario for example; I am a transition year student who unfortunately cannot enjoy the final moments and trips of this year due to a major pandemic that has caused the governments worldwide to shut down their countries. Normally a person would feel anger and sadness due to these unfortunate events. Thanks to self-control, I have managed to turn these negative emotions into positive emotions. Instead of feeling anger and rage, I feel grateful that everyone is safe at home preventing the spread of the virus. I do not feel sadness because I am happy that I will be able to go on these trips myself when I am older and when everything is okay again. I feel excited to get back to school. This is all through self-control. You will be able to accept what has happened and move on to improvise, adapt, and overcome the situation.

A well-known philosopher named Epictetus stated that, "Happiness and freedom begin with a clear understanding of one principle. Some things are within your control, and some things are not". This quote can be viewed in many different ways. When it comes to new beginnings, this can inspire you to accept what has happened. Move on because you have a new and valuable opportunity for a fresh start.

This defence mechanism will not only assist you at the start of your new chapter, but it will also stick with you until the end of the book. A new beginning does not mean you have to forget what has happened. If it wasn't for the past, we wouldn't have learned from it and be who we are now. We have to respect the past and embrace the future. Learn from your mistakes, this is growth and this will help you with your new journey.

*5th year winner, Darragh White*

New Beginnings

Ah New Beginnings, Quite possibly the biggest pitfall in life. You enter the world with A Fresh Face and Fresh Nappy ready to take on the Universe one Baby step at a time. You Go into Infant School ready to make new friends and develop a new brain, whilst being taught to think the same as everyone else. You go into Primary school with a New Uniform equipped with the new found prestige of being able to waddle to the Urinal all by yourself, you're on top of the Kid Kingdom Ruling with A juice box in one hand and A Crayola set in the other. Nothing Can Go Wrong. NOTHING.....Then it happened.

You're Deported from the land of which you ruled to the cesspool of pubescence. The Fear corrupts you. You see these lumbering figures stomp through the gates of eternal wisdom with The garden of Babylon stitched to their chins. All you can do is sit on your booster seat as the presentation of Pro-Choice unravels. You walk the halls clasping onto that Paw Patrol lunch box you bargained with your Mother for a week prior. The Eyeballs of Extra Terrestrial

Entities are the only thing accompanying you on your quest to find foreign land named 'The Study Hall'. With your Short Stumps you begin the summit .Left Foot Up,Right foot Up, Left foot up, Right Foot up. You're a third of the way there but now is not the time for Complacency. You keep your rhythm going and make it to the top. Praise Buddha, God, Jesus and Jahovah. You know a medal of Valor will be awaiting you as you've made it through the

Gauntlet of Grief.

You enter the Study hall and see the replicas of you that have braved the conditions. You sit in your seat and await the arrival of The Foreseer's known as 'Teachers'. This room is built like the Sahara, There's nothing to treasure here. All hope is lost. You sit in your Seat Sulking about tall tales you've been told. People begin to huddle around each other and tell their War Stories. You realize that you're all cut from the same Cursed Cloth. The stories being told make Edgar Allen Poe look like An American Roald Dahl. You hear of Someone who has travelled From the depths of the Devil's Doll-house, it's colloquial name is Even more Teeth Chattering. Rumour Has it that if you say the name three times in the mirror a junkie appears and asks for the sweet relief of a

Hash Brown. Then the child says it, The word Echoes through the Never-Ending room.'Finglas', they said. The Gasps begin to Grow, It's as if they revealed a swastika sown onto their backpack. Before the tiki torches can be alight,They arrive. They had footsteps of thunder and words of lightning. You freeze. The only thing that could thaw you is your mother's warm embrace. The ceremony of Corruption has begun. You can feel your brain trying to worm it's way outside your skull, trying to use your holes of hearing as an emergency exit. It's too late. They have you now. You're in the Regime. You repeat the words these formally dressed Federal agents Spew. In unison with the crowd you chant the words

'Recta Sapere,Recta Sapere,Recta Sapere.'

You don't know if this is right but you do it anyway as it's what the group thinks. As the ceremony ends you feel cursed with the demon that Assassinated your Angelical innocence. You're In. Years have passed since that day. You walk with the Giants you once feared and yet, It still doesn't feel right. You're like a wallflower watching the world go by. The group you started with just isn't the same. You see Success being made by the Joads you started this Journey with. The stories being told now only end with the Words Trinity or UCD and don't hold the same joy that they use to. It's just not the same. Laughing doesn't feel the same. Joking Doesn't feel the same. Yet you do. You still feel like your wearing your father's Jumpsuit of a work uniform and walk around in shoes so big that only Clowns wear them. You see eyes once brimming with hope now overthrown with steely determination looking down at CAO forms. Work is being done whilst your done with work. The Conversation has evolved from Petty and Quazi-Offensive jokes to Relationships and College. Everyone is embarking on their journey equipped with all the tools to build their path to Adulthood, while you sit there

And wonder...

'Where's my juicebox?.'