

DE LA SALLE COLLEGE

PAST PUPIL NEWSLETTER

Summer EDITION
2026



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www.delasallecollege.com



Summer 2026

Message from The Principal

A Message from the Principal – Ms. Siobhán Foster



Welcome to our Summer 2026 Past Pupils' Newsletter. As you browse through the pages of this edition, you will see once again how the vibrant spirit of De La Salle College, Churchtown, continues to thrive through our incredible network of alumni. Our past pupils are making extraordinary waves out in the world while remaining deeply rooted in the life of the College. This academic year has been one of the most successful in recent memory, defined by a shared partnership across our entire community where our students continue to represent the "Wine and Gold" with tremendous pride, determination, and success.

It is a source of immense pride for our students and staff to celebrate the remarkable diversity of achievements within our community, starting with huge congratulations to Mohammad Belakhdar and Chaker Tifouri (Class of 2025) on receiving the UCD Entrance Scholar Award, and to John Cleary on his Trinity College Entrance Exhibition Award.

Our current mathematics students also achieved historic national dominance this year. In the prestigious Maggie Gough Mathematics Competition, four De La Salle students ranked amongst the top 0.5% of maths students in the country, securing perfect scores out of 24,000 participants nationwide. Furthermore, our Third Year Maths Team placed in the top 10 schools in Ireland at the IMTA National Pi Quiz Finals.



Message from The Principal

Every September, we host a Maths Olympiad competition in the school to identify students who are highly capable in maths. These students then have the opportunity to attend Maths Enrichment classes in UCD on Saturday mornings and compete to represent Ireland in the International Maths Olympiad.

This year we have had an amazing success story - Andrii Khaian in 2nd Year was one of six students in the country to be selected to represent Ireland on the official Maths Olympiad team and will be competing in the Junior Balkan Maths Olympiad. We are immensely proud of Andrii's prestigious achievement and wish him every success in the competition. Our commitment to excellence in STEM and communication continues to flourish as well, with three student projects qualifying for the national finals of the Stripe Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition at the RDS, and our Debating Club members competing with distinction in competitions hosted by both UCD and Trinity College Dublin.

In sports, we celebrate Paul O'Donnell (Class of 2016), who ran a blistering 2:09:19 at the Seville Marathon to claim second place on the Irish all-time marathon list. We also congratulate 16-year-old midfielder star Josh O'Dwyer, who was called up to train with the Republic of Ireland Men's National Senior Squad ahead of their friendly in Montreal, right before his exciting move to Red Bull Salzburg. Alongside our flourishing basketball, soccer, rugby, badminton, table tennis, and athletics programs, this year marked the historic introduction of GAA football as a sporting option for our students. Meanwhile, our girls' rugby programme continues to go from strength to strength, competing in the Girls' Junior Cup for the very first time.

In leadership roles, we extend our very best wishes to past pupil Niall Fitzgerald, who has been named President of De La Salle Palmerston FC for the 2026/27 season. He succeeds another past pupil Owen O'Leary. We wish Niall every success in the year ahead in this prestigious role!

Reconnecting with our history is what keeps our community strong. On April 17th, we held a truly special evening where ten past pupils from our legendary 1983 and 1985 Leinster Senior Cup rugby squads finally received their long-overdue winner's medals.

Message from The Principal

We were also delighted to welcome back the Class of 1972 for a nostalgic school tour in May. Looking ahead, mark your diaries for Friday, September 4th, 2026, as both the Class of 1996 (30-Year Reunion) and the Class of 1991 (35-Year Reunion) gather at The Glenside Pub to reminisce and reconnect.

Our Annual Golf Classic at Castle Golf Club on May 8th was an outstanding success. I want to express my deepest gratitude to our organising committee, Paul Sutton, Colm Gleeson, Frank Taite, Michael Kirwan and Tom Leigh, our main sponsor, Niall O'Connor and Beat the Bank, our numerous tee sponsors, and everyone who played or bought raffle tickets. Special congratulations to our top raffle winner, Niamh Byrne. Following last year's successful purchase of the school minibus—which was made possible by the €50,000 raised by past pupils and has already completed over 60 student journeys for sports, debating, and math competitions since September—this year's Golf Classic funds will go directly toward upgrading and improving the IT infrastructure across the College. I would also like to sincerely thank Ronan Purcell (Class of 1997) and Purcell Properties for generously sponsoring new shorts for our school rugby teams.

We also acknowledge the phenomenal efforts of our Parents' Association Quiz Night, the Christmas Fair, and School Lotto. Combined, these funds have allowed us this year, to install three new automatic doors to enhance campus accessibility. Looking ahead, we are also absolutely thrilled to announce that the College has secured over €1 million in funding for the complete refurbishment of our Biology, Chemistry, and Physics laboratories. In addition, approval has been granted for the resurfacing of the school yard and major repairs to the school's drainage systems, marking a transformative investment in the future of De La Salle. On Tuesday, May 19th, we hosted a beautiful graduation ceremony to officially welcome the Class of 2026 into the Past Pupils Union. In a truly historic milestone for De La Salle Churchtown, six girls have graduated into our alumni community, marking an exciting new chapter for our network. We congratulate our major award winners: Bernardo de Castro Hoggmann (Student of the Year), Ryan O'Connell (Spirit of De La Salle), and Luke Crimmins (The John Corbett Award). The entire alumni community wishes the Class of 2026 the very best of luck as they conclude their state examinations.

Message from The Principal

Amidst our celebrations, the school community has also felt a deep sense of loss this term. We were deeply saddened by the passing of retired staff member Kevin Murtagh, who dedicated 40 years to teaching English and History at the College and championed our school library. We also remember past pupils Gerry Doyle (Class of 1963), Denis Hobson (Class of 1964), Brian Riordan (Class of 1965), Michael O'Donovan (Class of 1965) and Ronan Griffey (First Year 1978).

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

Your stories continue to inspire the next generation of De La Salle students. Please continue to share your news with us at office@delasallecollege.com and support our ongoing school development via our school lotto. I wish you all a safe, restful, and wonderful summer ahead.

**Warm Lasallian summer wishes,
Siobhán Foster - Principal**



The Class of 2026



Following a beautiful graduation ceremony on Tuesday May, 19th, we are absolutely delighted to officially welcome our newest cohort of alumni to the Past Pupils Union.

In a historic and wonderful milestone for the school, a further six girls now join the Past Pupil Community, marking an exciting new chapter for our alumni network.

The evening was a fantastic celebration of the graduates' journey so far, complete with a moving prayer service led by Fr. John, subject and merit awards, and plenty of shared memories.

A special shout-out goes to this year's major award winners: **Bernardo de Castro Hoggmann** (Student of the Year), **Ryan O'Connell** (Spirit of De La Salle), and **Luke Crimmins** (The John Corbett Award).

As you enter this final stretch, the entire alumni community is sending you the very best of luck in your upcoming Leaving Certificate exams and all your future endeavours.

Welcome to the ranks, Class of 2026!

Past Pupil News

Academic Excellence: Our Leaving Cert Stars Honoured

A huge congratulations to our recent graduates who were recognised with prestigious university awards this past week! Past Pupils Mohammad Belakhdar and Chaker Tifouri (both from the Class of 2025) received the UCD Entrance Scholar Award, while John Cleary was awarded the Trinity College Entrance Exhibition Award.

These highly competitive accolades recognise the exceptional caliber of incoming university students, specifically honoring those who achieved 560 points or more in their Leaving Certificate.

The entire school community is incredibly proud of your hard work, focus, and dedication. Best of luck with your university studies, gentlemen, we know you have bright futures ahead!



Past Pupil News

Decades in the Making

A truly special evening of nostalgia and pride took place at the College on Friday, April 17th, 2026. More than 40 years after our legendary Leinster Senior Cup triumphs in 1983 and 1985, a long-standing wrong was finally righted. Back then, substitutes and squad players did not receive medals, despite being the absolute backbone of those historic winning teams.

Thanks to the incredible generosity and tireless efforts of 1985 team member Aidan Fitzgerald, ten past pupils finally received their long-overdue and very well-deserved Leinster Senior Cup medals.

We are thrilled to officially recognize the **1983 SCT recipients**: Richard Collins, Conor Shaw, Nigel Dunne, Conor Brady, and Sean Stenson; as well as the **1985 SCT recipients**: Paul Coffey, Dermot O'Neill, David Boyle, Paddy Davis, and Louis Kelly.

It was a fantastic night celebrating the recognition these players earned decades ago. Congratulations to all the recipients.



Golf Classic 2026

Golf Classic Success at Castle Golf Club

The Annual De La Salle College Golf Classic returned to the beautiful greens of Castle Golf Club, Rathfarnham, on Friday, May 8th.

The event was once again a massive success, enjoying incredible attendance and support with 24 teams taking to the course and a full house gathering for a fantastic dinner afterward.

A huge thank you to the many past pupils who turned out on the day, as well as everyone who supported the event through sponsorship or by purchasing raffle tickets, your generosity is greatly appreciated. Following the recent successful purchase of the school minibus, this year's funds will be channeled directly into upgrading and improving the IT infrastructure across the College.

We would like to extend a special note of gratitude to Niall O'Connor and Beat The Bank for their ongoing support as the main sponsor of the event.

Finally, a massive thank you to the organising committee of Paul Sutton, Colm Gleeson, Frank Taite, Tom Leigh, and Michael Kirwan, who did a fantastic job pulling it all together. We are already looking forward to next year!

Beat The Bank



FINANCIAL PLANNING
MATTERS

Golf Classic 2026

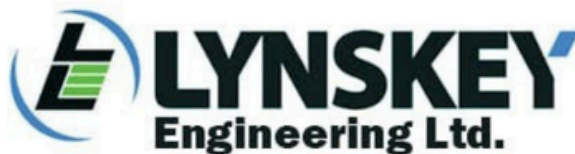


Beat The Bank





THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS



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Brian O' Sullivan Building Services
The Hardwood Floor Company
Gary McNamara/Class 6 97
Mary O'Brien
David Owens

Past Pupil News



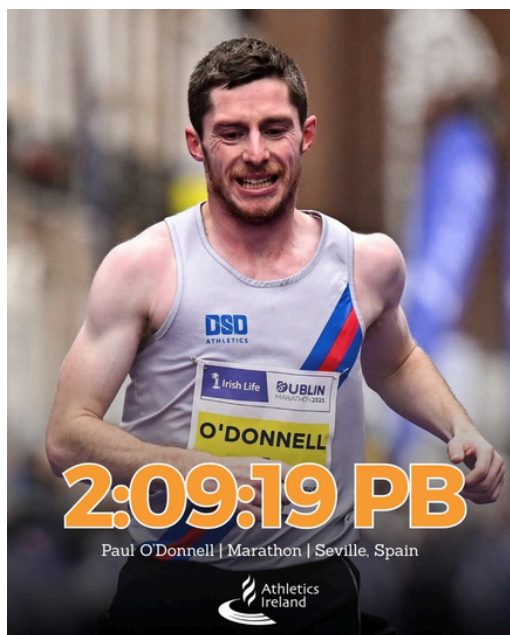
What a pleasure it was to welcome members of the Class of 1972 back to the College on Friday, May 29th. The group enjoyed a wonderful tour of the school before adjourning to the Glenside pub . We hope you gentlemen enjoyed your evening catching up and reminiscing!

The 1986 Senior Cup Team marked a milestone this past March, gathering together to celebrate the 40th anniversary. It was a fantastic evening filled with nostalgia, laughter, and catching up, with a brilliant turnout of teammates in attendance. Four decades later, the bond and team spirit of the '86 squad remain as strong!



Members of the 1985 Senior Cup Team gathered recently for a very special presentation. Taking advantage of a flying visit from Maurice Moloney, who was home from Australia for a few days, the teammates met up to finally present Maurice with his well-deserved medal. Pictured in the photos alongside Maurice are Glenn Farrell and Brian Glennon, marking a memorable reunion for the class of '85.

Past Pupil News



Huge congrats to Paul O'Donnell from the Class of 2016!

Paul is officially shaking up the history books. Representing Dundrum South Dublin AC, he delivered a massive performance at the Seville Marathon recently.

Time: 2:09:19

Ranking: Now 2nd on the Irish all-time marathon list!

Finish: 18th place in a world-class field.

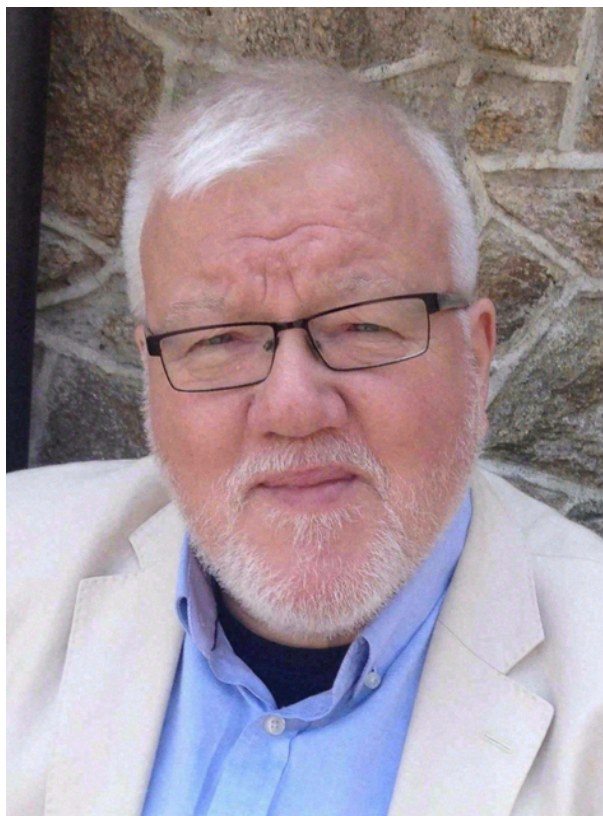
It's incredible to see a 2016 alum reaching these heights. We can't wait to see what's next on the road for you, Paul!

DLSP President 2026-27

A huge congratulations to past pupil Niall Fitzgerald, who has been officially introduced as the President of De La Salle Palmerston FC for the upcoming 2026-27 season. Niall takes over the reins from fellow past pupil Owen O'Leary following Owen's incredibly successful year in the role. The entire past pupils community wishes Niall the absolute best of luck as he leads the club into the new season ahead!



Past Pupil News



We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of retired staff member Kevin Murtagh. Kevin taught English and History at the College for 40 years, from the mid-60s to the early 2000s.

A true lover of literature, Kevin instilled a passion for reading in his students and was the driving force behind the development of our school library.

He was a gifted teacher, a cherished colleague, and a true friend to our community.

Our deepest sympathies go out to his family at this difficult time.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam

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Our deepest sympathies go out to his family at this difficult time.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam



Past Pupil News



Ronan Griffey RIP

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of the late Ronan Griffey (1st year 1978) who passed away on April 25th 2026.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Denis Hobson RIP

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Denis Hobson, Class of 1964.

The De La Salle Churchtown community sends our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Brian Riordan RIP

The De La Salle College community expresses its deepest sympathies on the passing of Brian Riordan, a cherished member of the Class of 1965.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Brian's family, friends, and former classmates during this difficult time.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Past Pupil News

Gerry Doyle RIP

It is with regret that the De La Salle College community notes the passing of past pupil Gerry Doyle (Class of 1963) on January 25th.

Gerry represented the College on the rugby pitch during his school years before becoming a founding member of De La Salle RFC.

We extend our sincere condolences to Gerry's family and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Michael O'Donovan RIP

It is with deep sadness that we share news of the passing of Michael O'Donovan, a member of the Class of 1965.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Michael's family, friends, and all those from the Class of 1965 who share in this loss

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Past Pupil News

Thank You Ronan Purcell- Class of 1997

A massive thank you to Past Pupil Ronan Purcell who has very generously sponsored shorts for our Rugby Teams. Ronan recently visited the College to present shorts to students.

Purcell Properties specialise in acting as agents for Irish people who wish to purchase properties in Spain. Ronan can be contacted at Ronan@purcellproperties.es



James Brannigan (Class of 1994) & The Katie Trust

We are incredibly proud to highlight the outstanding work of our alumnus, retired Detective Sergeant James Brannigan (Class of 1994). Following a distinguished career as a senior investigator with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), James has channeled his vast experience into a vital new mission: founding The Katie Trust.

James is internationally recognized for his pioneering investigative work, which includes leading the first-ever "nobody" murder conviction on the island of Ireland. His unwavering determination and investigative acumen were instrumental in uncovering the truth behind the tragic murder of Katie Simpson. The profound lessons from that investigation directly shaped the mission and core values of The Katie Trust, which now works tirelessly to advocate for justice and support vulnerable individuals.

For those interested in learning more about the landmark case that inspired the Trust, the compelling documentary Death of a Showjumper is currently available to stream on Netflix.

Please join us in celebrating James's dedication to justice, truth, and community service. We wish him and the Trust continued success in their vital work.



Past Pupil News



Josh O'Dwyer called up to Senior Squad

A massive congratulations to past pupil Josh O'Dwyer, who has been named to travel with the Republic of Ireland Men's National Senior Squad to Canada!

At just 16 years old, the highly-rated midfielder, who is set to join Austrian giants Red Bull Salzburg from Shamrock Rovers this summer, has been brought into the senior international setup as a training player for the friendly in Montreal. It is an incredible milestone and invaluable experience for Josh, and the entire past pupils community is immensely proud of his soaring career. Best of luck, Josh!



← ballinteerbeard



Liam Muldowney

21
posts

3,667
followers

28
following



A little bit of local history and a big helping of quirky. Around Ballinteer, Dundrum, Churchtown and Rathfarnham. Please send me any corrections. 👍

Local History with Liam Muldowney (Class of 1988)

Looking for a fascinating trip down memory lane? Give past pupil Liam Muldowney (Class of 1988) a follow on Instagram! Through his page, [@Ballinteerbeard](#), Liam shares incredible local history insights, archival photos, and stories that bring our community's heritage to life. Whether you want to reminisce about the old days or discover a piece of history you never knew existed, his page is a must-visit

Class of 1996 Reunion



Whether you have stayed in close contact with your school friends or have lost touch over the decades, we invite you to join us for a night of catching up and nostalgia. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share stories, and celebrate our shared history.

Date: Friday, September 4th, 2026

Location: The Glenside Pub

Time: 7pm

RSVP & Contact

To help us finalize the arrangements and manage numbers, please reach out to us at your earliest convenience. You can contact the committee for further details or to confirm your interest via the following email addresses:

demo2005@gmail.com

cadoganconor@gmail.com

We also encourage you to spread the word to any fellow classmates you are still in touch with to ensure no one misses out on the night.

We look forward to seeing a great turnout at The Glenside this September.

The Class of 1996 Reunion Committee



Class of 1991 Reunion



SAVE THE DATE

De La Salle College,
Churchtown

Class of '1991
4th September 2026

→ Upstairs in The Glenside Pub - 8PM ←

35th SCHOOL REUNION
→ 4th September 2026 ←

A game of Golf earlier in the day may be an option
subject to tee time availability, further details to follow.

The **Glenside Pub** - Churchtown, Dublin 14

35th SCHOOL REUNION

De La Salle Class of '91 Reunion!

Dust off the old school yearbooks because the Class of 1991 is celebrating its 35th School Reunion on Friday, 4th September 2026! It's hard to believe it has been 35 years, and we can't wait to catch up, reminisce, and raise a glass together.

The Details

The main event kicks off at 8:00 PM upstairs in The Glenside Pub, Churchtown. For those interested, there is also the exciting possibility of a game of golf earlier in the day, with tee times still to be confirmed.

RSVP Today!

To help us get numbers sorted and finalize the bookings, please reach out to one of the lads as soon as possible to confirm your attendance:

- **Ronan: +353 (87) 990 0222**
- **Christian: +353 (87) 064 9481**

Please spread the word, share this with fellow past pupils, and get in touch with anyone you're still in contact with from the Class of '91. Let's make it a night to remember!

1991

Class of 1986 Reunion



It is hard to believe, but 2026 marks 40 years since we graduated from De La Salle. To mark this milestone, plans are officially underway to organize a reunion for the Class of 1986.

The event will be a great opportunity to catch up, see some familiar faces, and look back on our school days.

The Details

- Date & Venue: Currently being finalized and will be confirmed soon.
- Expression of Interest: We are in the early stages of organizing and need an idea of numbers to secure the right venue.

How to Get in Touch

If you are interested in attending or would like to receive updates once the date and location are set, please reach out to:

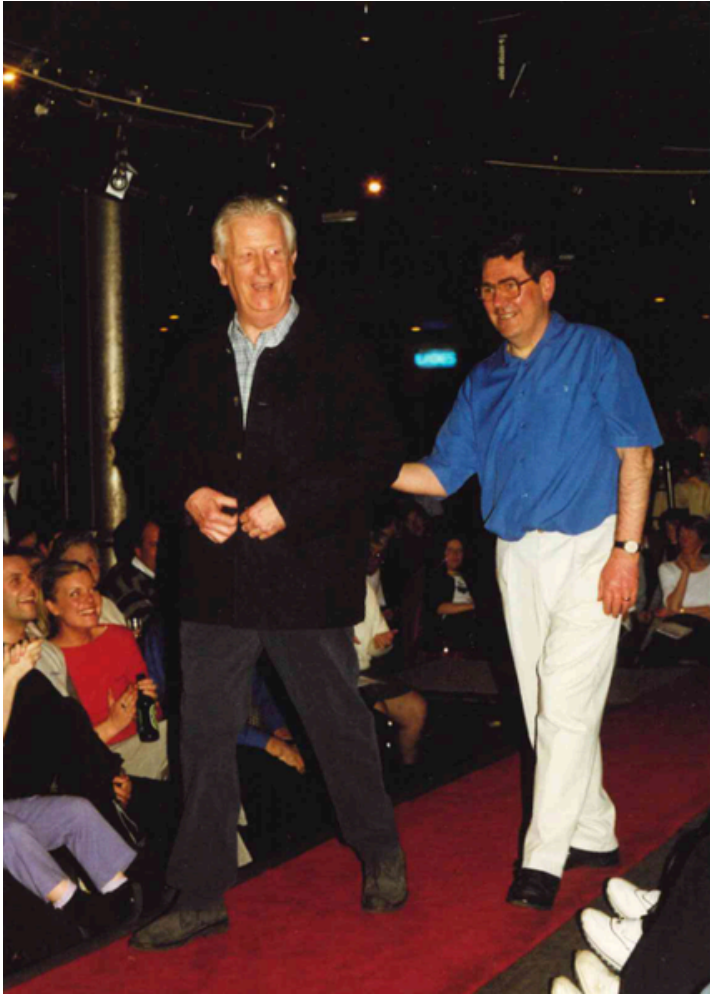
✉ **Email: djpmcauliffe@gmail.com**

Please pass this message along to any fellow past pupils from the Class of '86 you are still in contact with so we can reach as many of the year group as possible. We hope to see you there.

Memory Lane Photos



Memory Lane Photos



Memory Lane Photos





De La Salle College Churchtown

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DLSC RAFFLE WINNERS



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IT DEVELOPMENT FUND**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

1ST PRIZE – 2 PREMIUM TICKETS TO A LIVERPOOL FC GAME, INCLUDES PRE MATCH MEAL, COMPLIMENTARY DRINKS AND A VISIT FROM A LIVERPOOL FC PLAYER. – MIAMH BYRNE

2ND PRIZE – 4 BALL IN DOONBEG GOLF COURSE –ROSS CREGAN

3RD PRIZE – IRELAND V ARGENTINA NOVEMBER INTERNATIONAL (2 TICKETS CATEGORY 3 TICKETS) – JOAN MURPHY

4TH PRIZE – €250 SUPERVALU VOUCHER – MAX FINLAY

5TH PRIZE – €200 CHINA-SICHUAN VOUCHER – JAMES GILSEMAN

6TH PRIZE – CHAUFFEUR TO DUBLIN AIRPORT FOR TWO (RETURN) – DARREN BRENNAN

7TH PRIZE – €200 GLENSIDE VOUCHER –BRENDAN MURPHY

8TH PRIZE – AMAZING GRAZE VOUCHER – CHRIS REILLY

9TH PRIZE – TRITON ELECTRIC SHOWER – DARREN BRENNAN

10TH PRIZE – BUTLERS CHOCOLATE HAMPER – GERALDINE O'SHEA



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