



The Caimin's Connection

Keeping you up to date with the latest news in our school community

TYA (Kelly, Evan, Kate, Jack)

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Issue 1

Thrills, Adventures and Memories – by Kelly Barker

Transition Year students went on an exciting trip to the Killary Adventure and Activity Centre on the 2nd and 3rd of October. Nestled amidst ancient woodlands, Killary Adventure Centre provided the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable adventure. We had an action-packed experience that left us with cherished memories for life.

Our journey began when we left Shannon bright and early, with excitement buzzing in the air. A quick stop at the Briarhill shopping centre in Galway allowed us to stretch our legs and indulge in a bit of retail therapy before reaching our final destination - the picturesque Killary.

When we arrived, we were organized into groups for some outdoor activities, then we were assigned to different dormitories, where we left our luggage and settled in. Each room accommodated six students and featured modern ensuite facilities, which made for a very comfortable stay. In the evening, we gathered for dinner, followed by some more team-building activities. To cap off the evening, we enjoyed tea and biscuits, before lights out at 11pm. The following morning, we had an early rise at 8:30am and enjoyed a hearty breakfast. The food served was not only delicious but of a good quality.



The breakfast spread had lots of options, including cereals, fruits, and toast. For lunch, we had soup and sandwiches, and for dinner we had spaghetti bolognese with garlic bread. To satisfy our sweet tooth, brownies and cream were on the menu for dessert. We were really spoiled for choice.

After breakfast, we did more exciting activities. Among the highlights were the High Ropes Course, the Turf Challenge, and the Gaisce Hike Challenge. Luckily, the weather was on our side, and the rain held off for the majority of our outdoor activities. Laughter and joy filled the air, as we bonded and conquered challenges together.

The trip to Killary Adventure Centre was met with great approval from all students in TY. Many students expressed their eagerness to return again, thanks to the thrilling experiences and lasting memories we created during our stay.

In the end, our trip to Killary was not just about fun and adventure but also an opportunity for personal growth, teamwork, and appreciation of the stunning natural beauty that surrounds us. As we return to school, we carry with us, not only the memories of this trip, but also the lessons learned, and friendships forged during our time at Killary.

Latest News in St. Caimin's

Audition Fever Strikes – by Kate Kennedy

Lights, cameras, 80's! The stage at St. Caimin's has been set ablaze as the auditions for this year's school musical, *'Back to the 80's'* took place recently. If you weren't there, we've got the inside scoop.

After a seven year hiatus, musicals are back at St. Caimin's. From the moment the audition announcements hit the intercom, singers, dancers, and musical lovers from across the school community couldn't resist the call to journey back in time to the era of big hair, boomboxes and iconic 80's pop hits. The anticipation was huge and the turnout for auditions was amazing.

The auditions attracted a diverse group of talented students, each hoping to showcase their acting, singing, and dancing skills, with the hope of snatching a role in the musical that promises to transport audiences straight to the heart of the 80's.

Transition Year student, Callum Sutton auditioned for a role in the production and shared his experience with us. Speaking to *The Caimin's Connection*, he explained *"We were given two songs to choose from for the audition and I chose 'Footloose' because it's the song I liked the best. I was given the material in advance to rehearse and practice ahead of the real audition"*. When asked how he felt about the audition, he said, *"I felt fairly nervous, but I gave it my best"*.

Callum, who has no background in musical theatre, decided to get involved *"for the craic"*. Little did he know, he would be cast as one of the leading roles. Callum learned he would be playing the role of Corey Junior from his friends. *"I was getting texts from my friends saying congratulations and I had no idea why. Then I found out I got the part."* He said, *"I was very surprised, I didn't think I'd actually get it. I'm hoping to gain confidence from performing in front of an audience."*

Callum, along with other cast members, has been busy rehearsing the opening scenes and is looking forward to the shows that will take place in December. His final comment was, *"Make sure ye come and see the show, I'm going to knock all your socks off."*



Cillian Foley was also lucky enough to be cast in the musical. He will be playing the part of a popular, athletic teenager, named Billy Arnold. Cillian is looking forward to channelling his inner Rick Astley in his performance of *'Never Gonna Give You Up'*, which is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

The role of Miss Sheena Brannigane, a friendly school teacher will be played by TY student Freyja Evans. Speaking about her experience, Freyja remarked, *"I was happy when I was cast as Miss Brannigane because she has good songs, and her story is funny."*

When asked what she is looking forward to the most, Freyja responded, *"I get to sing 'Total Eclipse of the Heart' and 'Man in the Mirror'. I'm really happy to get to sing these songs because they suit my voice, and they are crowd favourites. Also, Callum (playing the role of Corey Junior) gets to sing my backing vocals for one of the songs which will be fun."*

Stay tuned for more updates on the cast list and show dates and mark your calendars because *'Back to the 80's'* is going to be the musical event of the year. You won't want to miss it!



Latest News in St. Caimin's

New Beginnings – by Jack McNamara

As the new school year unfolds, the hallways are bustling with students and teachers. Among the crowds, is a group of new first year students, who have begun their journey at St. Caimin's. I sat down first year student Grace, to talk about her experience of secondary school so far.

I began the interview by asking Grace how she felt about starting secondary school and what she was nervous about. She said, "I was probably most nervous about moving around to different classes without getting lost." When I asked her to describe her experience of secondary school so far, she said, "The first few days were great because I got to meet new people, make new friends, and try out subjects I had never done before. It was a good chance to try new things and find out what I like and don't like." Her favourite subject is metalwork, which she says she likes because "it is something different and it's very interesting."

This first year student has enjoyed getting involved in new clubs and teams since she started school. She said, "I've joined the first year soccer and camogie teams, it's great fun and a good way to make new friends. I really recommend getting involved".

First years have a lot to adapt to, with more subjects and more teachers to remember. When asked what she missed the most about primary school, Grace said, "I miss the shorter school days and the shorter homework, but I really like Caimin's so far."



Shannon Schools Hurling League – by Evan Crimmins

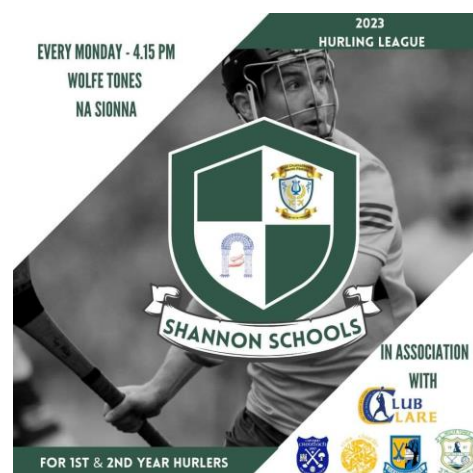
September marked the start of a new Secondary School Hurling League for 1st and 2nd year students in St. Caimin's and St. Patricks in Shannon. The league is being supported by Sixmilebridge GAA, Cratloe GAA, Newmarket GAA, and Wolfe Tones GAA and organized in conjunction with Clare GAA Bord Na nÓg. The competition will run for several weeks, every Monday from 4pm in Wolfe Tones. The aim is to blend the local clubs together and develop hurling in both of our schools.

Transition Year students from St. Caimin's and St. Patrick's have played a huge role in setting up and managing the event, from setting up the pitches, managing the teams involved and posting pictures and summaries of the event on social media.

We are hoping that the league will strengthen the quality of hurling in both of our schools and most importantly, create new friendships and teammates who will hopefully go on to play at a high level in the future.

So far, there has been a great display of hurling from all the students involved. Aswell as that, there has been great support from parents, students, and teachers from both schools.

Six teams consisting of players of all capabilities will battle against each other every Monday after school, so get down and support the players!



Opening of the School Liturgy – by Kelly Barker

On Thursday, the 5th of October, our school gathered in the spirit of community and reflection to kick off the new school year with the annual opening of the school liturgy.

Co-ordinated by Ms. Guinnane, the theme chosen for this year's liturgy was "Being the best version of me," a powerful message that reminds us to be our best selves and to support each other in our academic and personal journeys. The liturgy was led by Fr. Michael Geraghty, whose words inspired students and staff to embrace diversity, spread kindness and continue to have strong sense of community in our school.

Our music students and choir played an important role in making the ceremony meaningful, while prayers from the six major religions were included to represent the diversity of our school community. This reminded us of the importance of understanding and respecting each other's beliefs and cultures.

In the words of Fr. Geraghty during the liturgy, *"We are all on a journey to become the best version of ourselves. Let us remember that this journey is not taken alone but in the company of friends, teachers, and mentors."*

The reason why we have a school liturgy is to gather the whole community together to reflect and pray for a good school year. It is a nice time to reflect on our hopes, dreams and wishes for our futures.

We prayed for students who have left us last year after they did their Leaving Cert, and we hope that their futures are bright. The opening liturgy is also an opportunity to welcome new students to the school and make them feel at home and comfortable in our school.

We also think about those who are struggling mentally and physically and remember family and friends who have passed away and think about them in our prayers. Thanks to all the students and staff involved in the liturgy.



TY's learn to Drive - By Kate Kennedy

Over the course of three days in September, Transition Year students completed a Driver Education course, which involved five core components; learning how to drive, learning about car maintenance, beer goggle activities, the driver theory test, and an e scooter course.

During the driving lesson, we learned all about how the inside of a car works, and about the gears, which will be useful to us when we start driving. I found the car maintenance aspect of the course really good because we learned about the outside of the car and how the engine works. The best thing we learned in my opinion, was how to change a tyre, which is a great skill to have in the future.

The beer goggles activity was a fun but challenging activity. The aim of this exercise was to give students the opportunity to experience what it is like to drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol. To test the goggles, we were challenged to carry out simple tasks, like kicking a soccer ball, or walking straight on a line. This proved to be very challenging for everyone who took part, which taught us a valuable lesson about the dangers of driving under the influence.

The next element of the course was the driver theory test. We each went online and took the test to see how well we would get on. However, since many of us hadn't studied this before, we found this challenging, which was to be expected. This was a very good learning experience for all of us, as we got to see the wrong answers when we finished the test.

The e scooter course was my favourite part of the course. We learned how to ride on an e-scooter safely and learnt how to stop the scooter in an emergency to minimise injuries. It was great fun but also very interesting. Here's what one student had to say about the course.

"The e-scooters were a great experience, as they seem to be getting more and more popular by the day. I had



used e-scooters before this course, but I had never actually been taught how to handle them properly and safely, or how to store them away, so I'm glad they gave us the chance to learn. It also highlighted the dangers of them too, not just the benefits. Since a lot of people are starting to use them as of late, knowing the dangers can help a lot of people stay out of harm's way."

Overall, the course was very well run and packed with useful information. I would recommend the course to all students as a useful introduction to driving.

The Great Wall of Wisdom - by Gia Mirium Gibson

There once was a wall of wisdom in my
backyard,
But we had to trim it because its wisdom grew
mightier and mightier,
So big...it made us small,
All the garden birds of Ireland nested in it
It had great big vines of clematis
White, blue, purple and pink,
But the great wall of wisdom grew wild
And we tried to tame it down
It's mighty fall shall be heard far and wide.

Latest News in St. Caimin's

Kyla's Case – Introducing VOCALOID: A Symphony of Digital Voices

Hey everyone! My name is Kyla and I'm back with my latest blog entry on the topic of VOCALOID. You could say, this is sort of a little guide on how to use VOCALOID. To start off, you might be asking yourself, "What is VOCALOID?" Well, to put it short, it is a software, it's a community, and they are also characters!

VOCALOID is a voice synthesising software. Think of it as a synthesiser, but with voices. A 'voicebank' is the name we give to these voices. These voicebanks use samples of the voices of real-life people! The software allows you to use that voicebank and make whatever you like with it. The most common use of VOCALOID and pretty much the main use of them is to sing songs. VOCALOID's can also reach impossibly high and low notes that a human can't. Neat right?

Now, this is where the VOCALOID characters come in. Most voicebanks have a cute anime mascot assigned to them. I'm sure you've heard of the most popular one, 'Hatsune Miku'. Hatsune Miku has been around for 16 years and has been the face of VOCALOID. Some other very popular VOCALOID's are the Kagamine twins, Megurine Luka, MEIKO, and KAITO. These listed are labelled as 'Cryptonoids'. They are called this because they were made by Crypton. This would include Gumi, Vflower, Raci Yuki, and many many more.

Naturally, because of all these characters and voicebanks that people have access to, the VOCALOID community is expanding at a rapid rate.

From this community, some of the most famous VOCALOID music artists have emerged. These artists are known as VOCALOID producers, or just producers. Some of them are, Wowaka, PowaPowaP, Deco*27, Samfree and again, many many more! Some of my personal favourite producers are Kairiki Bear, Inabakumori and Jin. Some of my favourite songs are 'Venom'. 'Kagerou Daze', 'Salamander' and 'Night Song.'

Surprisingly, that's just the tip of the iceberg! There are thousands more songs and producers that have sparked the VOCALOID industry. There are also some VOCALOID games, like 'Project SEKAI', and 'Project DIVA' that have been released recently, making the community expand even more! The VOCALOID concept and community always leaves me in awe.

So yeah, that's my quick little guide to VOCALOID. I love being part of the VOCALOID community and I hope this helped you all to understand it a bit more. I would write more, but I'll save that for my next blog. Thanks for reading, until next time! Kyla.

Student Awards

Over the past few weeks, we've had our annual awards for the separate year groups. These are held in September and October to celebrate all the achievements from the previous school year. The awards cover a variety of areas both in relation to academic achievement as well as extra-curricular activities. We also announce the "Student of the Year" for each year group. This is always an exciting and happy occasion while also aiming to inspire students to work to the best of their ability and adopt a growth mindset in relation to their exams. Congratulations to everyone who received an award and a special mention to our 5th years and TYs who were given their Junior Cycle results on Wednesday 18th. We are very proud of the extraordinary results by all students.

