



# Pres Gazette

Summer 2021

The Newsletter of Presentation Brothers College, Cork



Shane Daly joins an exclusive list of proud Pres boys to play for Ireland

## Report by Principal David Barry



Welcome to the Pres Gazette for the 2020/21 edition. So much has happened in the time since the last Pres Gazette was published in the Spring of 2020.

For the Leaving Certificate Class of 2020 I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts over the last few months of the 2019 / 2020 academic year which ended with Calculated Grades for the first time in the history of the Leaving Certificate. I'm pleased to say that the vast majority of pupils were successful in achieving their course of choice. The school would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students on their results and especially those who achieved scholarships to the different universities. Credit must also go to their teachers who worked especially hard over the years and then had to complete the calculated grade process in difficult circumstances. PBC's success continues to be built on over the years on the excellent relationships developed between pupils, teachers and parents to allow the pupils to reach their full potential.

The 2020 / 2021 school year has seen so many unforeseen challenges that have had a lasting impact on the school community. These challenges have been met with the greatest dignity and respect and as a school we rightly acknowledge the performance of the entire school community in working through them. We especially remember 1st Year pupil Jimmy Horgan, our friend, class mate and fellow student who tragically passed away last November. The thoughts and prayers of the Pres community are with the Horgan family at this very difficult time.

The Board of Management would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all their efforts over the different lockdowns to keep teaching and learning going. They also wish to commend their professionalism and adaptability of the teaching staff to move seamlessly to online learning and back again. The students have really benefitted from the commitment shown by their teachers to maintain the highest of educational standards.

The school would also like to thank the pupils and their parents for their efforts in making the online teaching such a success, whilst all the while acknowledging that a return to normal class life was the ultimate goal. Thanks must also go to all the teachers and coaches for their work outside of the classroom in what has been a very difficult year for extra-curricular activities. I know as a school we have made the most of the current situation. The huge numbers at training albeit without the matches, shows the massive commitment of the boys and their coaches. Very well done to everyone involved.

Finally, I would like to thank Don Buckley, the Pres Gazette editor and his team for all the work in putting this valued publication together.

At the end of the school year, I'd like to wish you all a happy and relaxing summer break and I look forward to seeing everyone's safe return in late August when, hopefully, the pandemic will be a fading memory.

Kindest regards,

*David Barry*

David Barry  
Principal

*Cover photo shows Shane Daly making his debut for Ireland versus Georgia in a 23-10 win in the Autumn Nations Cup last November. Photo reproduced courtesy of ©INPHO / Ryan Byrne.*



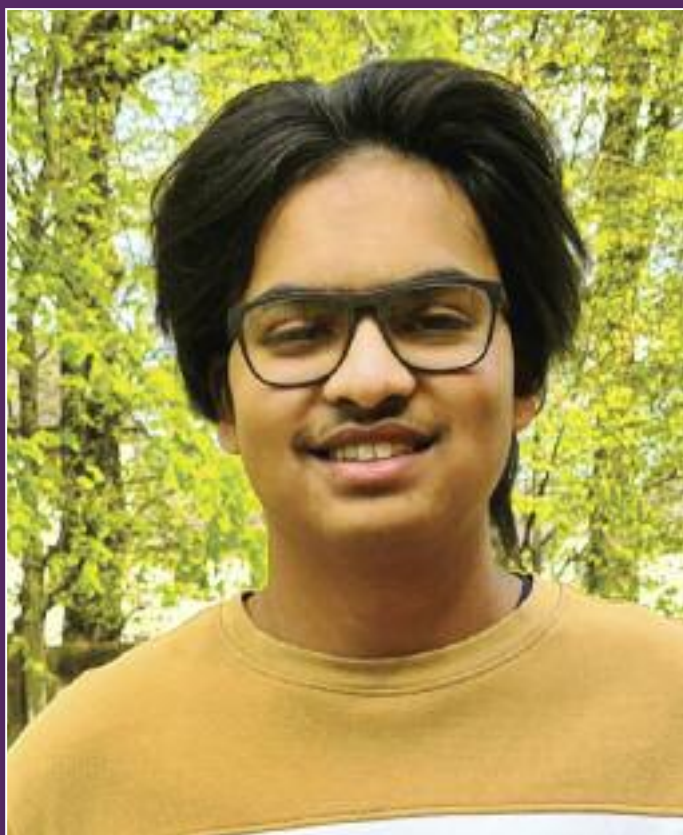
## UCC Scholarships for Leaving Certificate 2020 students



Micheál Giltinan achieved a remarkable total of 625pts in the 2020 Leaving Certificate. He received an Entrance Scholarship to UCC where he is studying Finance.



Aaron Wall also had the distinction of achieving 625pts in his Leaving Certificate. He too was awarded a UCC Entrance Scholarship where he is studying Finance.



Masroor Salam was another student who achieved an outstanding 625pts in the 2020 Leaving Certificate. He recently received news of his acceptance into Imperial College, London, where he will study Medicine.



Alex Kendellen was recently awarded a UCC Quercus Scholarship for Sport. He is shown above with former PBC senior captain and fellow Quercus scholar, Jack O'Sullivan, on the occasion of Alex's full Munster Senior Rugby debut versus Scarlets in Thomond Park.

## SHARE celebrates its 50th anniversary



Back row (l-r) Casey Ford, Marc Byrne, Conor Kelleher, Stephen Sexton, Eoin O'Connell, Seán Barrett, William Hartley, Luke Henson, Diarmuid O'Connor, Dylan Costello-Ryall, David Traynor, Andrew O'Brien, Joachim O'Driscoll and James Hyland  
Front row (l-r) Gavin Keane, Christian Daly, Oscar Lee, Alex McAllen, Seán Ó Coileáin (Vice Chairman), James Cuddigan (Chairman), Conor Madden, Ethan Giltinan, Ciarán Sexton, Rocco McLoughlin Barry, Sam Noonan and Mikey O'Leary

Christmas 1970, twelve Pres students under the guidance of Br Jerome Kelly, founded a small, school-based charity. Back then who would have thought that this charity would become the organisation that it is today, consisting of students from all around the city, caring for over two hundred elderly residents and not only recognised but highly respected by the people of Cork City.

The organisation has evolved and grown over the decades and is now responsible for a wide range of services for older people in the Cork community, providing supported independent living for over one hundred and forty in comfortable and secure housing units across seven different locations which are overseen on an ongoing basis by SHARE personnel.

Even though SHARE offers its services year-round, the only major fundraiser, and the highlight for many students I might add, is the Christmas Fast and Collection. It runs for the ten days leading up to Christmas, concluding on Christmas Eve and is the culmination of a large amount of preparation and planning which sees the students of the SHARE Executive out on the streets of Cork City easily identifiable by their famous yellow jackets, collecting in all sorts of weather conditions.

This year was a year like no other in terms of the Executive and the collection. The first obstacle that we struck concerned the composition of the Executive. Traditionally, there would be fifty-six students on the executive, consisting of two students from eighteen to nineteen schools accompanied by approximately twenty students from Pres. This year, due to Covid-19, we only had ten schools taking part however we managed to make up for the loss of numbers by having more than just two students from each school. This worked out brilliantly and in my opinion allowed for a much closer and stronger Executive. We also had the introduction of the Tap Boxes (using debit cards) which were a huge hit among those donating, as many people did not carry cash due to the pandemic. Even in the year that it was, the unwavering generosity shown by the people of Cork to the collection has ensured yet again the welfare, comfort and well-being of the residents.

As important as the collection is, we must not overlook the significance of the weekly visits, or in this year's case, the weekly shopping runs which the members of the SHARE Executive carry out. It allows us not only to get to know the residents and build relationships with them but also allows students to truly understand the ethos of SHARE and the good which SHARE does for the elderly of Cork.





(l-r) Ben O'Connell (Class 2D)  
and James Cuddigan Chairman Share Executive



Share Executive member Christian Daly

I am truly fortunate to have been given the opportunity to be this year's Chairman and a member of the 2020 /'21 Executive. I have many memories that will stay with me for the rest of my life and friends with who no doubt I will stay close to. I feel as though I and the others in the Executive have matured more than we could have imagined thanks to SHARE and will most definitely never take anything in life for granted.

On behalf of the Executive, I would also like to give our sincerest thanks to Deputy Principal Aiden Twomey, Liam Lynch and the Trustees and of course to all who work closely with the SHARE residents in the complexes.

**James Cuddigan**  
Chairman, SHARE Executive



Photo reproduced courtesy of Michael English

(l-r) Luke Dennehy (Dennehy Health and Fitness), Noel Long, PRO Avondale United FC, Lady Mayoress, Mrs Stephanie Kavanagh, Lord Mayor Of Cork Cllr Joe Kavanagh, Chairman SHARE Executive James Cuddigan, Abigail Carey (Regina Mundi), Orna Mahony (St Angela's College) and Vice Chairman SHARE Executive Seán Ó Coileáin at the SHARE 50th Anniversary launch at the Br Jerome Day Care Centre in Sheares Street

## PresLink 2020 - 2021

This was a strange year for all of us and the organisations we are part of. PresLink is an integral part of school life in Pres and like everything else, it too was hit hard by Covid. Our normal events such as our Bag-Pack, Carol Concert, School Quiz, 1st Year Sleepover etc could not happen. Other events replaced them such as Fantasy Football and The Big Christmas Raffle. We are very grateful for your support of same. Without this support, which grows year on year, our Presentation Family in Africa would lose out. PresLink is our link with the work of our founders the Presentation Brothers, in their missionary work in Ghana and Nigeria. The link is vital, as the Brothers who founded our school are now establishing schools elsewhere and it is incumbent on us to support their endeavours, as we continue to benefit from their work in our school. PBC is part of a global family and we hope that the letter below lets you see that, in a very tangible way, we are supporting each other. Br Godfrey has sent us an update, including photos, on how the PresLink money is spent. Our students involved in PresLink learn an appreciation of giving back and thinking beyond themselves, and this can only be beneficial and character-building. Pres is a school in the Catholic tradition, which in essence, is a school which encourages us all to work in the service of others. PresLink helps the students do this and we are very grateful for your continued support. Well done to the committee for adapting to the changed circumstances this year.

Presentation Brothers,  
Development Office,  
West Africa Province,  
Catholic Mission,  
PO Box TL 2044,  
Tamale,  
N/R.

telephone (037) 2026522 / 0204849470  
email kuubagr@yahoo.com

18th April 2021

Dear PresLink Students and Staff,

Greetings from Ghana,

I write on behalf of the Presentation Brothers West Africa Province Development Committee to express our heartfelt gratitude for your financial support over the years. I thank you for your recent very generous donation in financing a three-classroom block for the new Presentation Primary School in Bolgatanga, Sokabisi. You have always been a great support to us. What we have been able to achieve here, has been due, in no small measure, to your generosity, friendship and support.

The dream of the new school at Sokabisi, Bolgatanga, would never have come about without your financial help for the foundation works. Your assistance is for us a warm and bright ray of light representing your loving care.

The Presentation Brothers and our Associates aim to provide quality education to the less privileged girls and boys in Sokabisi. This will help them towards success and a better life in the future. This is truly the work of Edmund Rice! We have enrolled 107 pupils: 56 boys and 51 girls. At the moment, there are four staff. This new Presentation School has been greatly helped by you to get off to a good start.

We appreciate your efforts even more, especially given the difficulties of the Covid 19 pandemic. We know Ireland has been badly affected by this pandemic and we are thinking of you and your families at this time. Hopefully, as more people are vaccinated, the situation will improve significantly.

You are in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you abundantly.

With thanks and best wishes,

**Br Godfrey Kuubagr**  
Development Officer





## PresLink Committee



Back row (l-r): Jack Kingston, Cameron Lee, Miguel Barbosa-Fleming, Niall Collins, Eamonn Barry and Luke Whelan  
Front row (l-r) Ronan Murphy, Stuart Daly, William Hetherington (Chairman), Ronan McAuliffe, Tom McCarthy and Dylan Costelloe

## Many thanks to the sponsors of PresLink's Christmas Raffle

● Aunty Nellie's Sweet Shop ● Buckley Sports ● Café Velo ● Citrus & Sage, Cobh ● Cocoa, Winthrop Arcade ● DJF Engineering ● Diana O'Mahony Jewellers ● Gallo & Galetti ● Gearóid & Martha Fitzgerald ● Glanmire Dental Practice ● Griffin's Garden Centre ● Here's Health ● Joyce's Pharmacy, Mallow ● Keane's Jewellers ● Matt O'Mahony & Associates ● JJ O'Driscoll's Superstore, Ballinlough ● The Pavillion, Ballygarvan ● The Peterson Family ● Proximo ● Somex Automation ● SuperValu ● Tung Sing, Blarney. Thanks so much to the parents, staff and friends who donated the prizes for the raffle.



Students from the Presentation Primary School in Sokabisi, Ghana, clearly enjoying being in their new classroom, a development that was financed by PresLink.



## Senior Debating



Back row (l-r) James Hyland, Ms Mary O'Driscoll, Brian Sweeney, Mr Craig O'Driscoll and Mark O'Connell  
Front row (l-r) Rowan Murphy, Eamonn Barry, Ronan McAuliffe and Matthew Kingston

## Pres win Applied Maths Regional Quiz



Neddie Irwin with the winners' trophy

Pres had an excellent performance in last year's Regional Team Quiz on 5th March 2020. This table quiz is based on the Leaving Cert Higher Level Applied Maths course and was organised by the Irish Applied Maths Teachers' Association. Each team comprised of two 6th Year students and one 5th Year student. 23 teams took part in the competition and our team comprising of Liam Rooke, Farzaan Zulquernain and Neddie Irwin finished in first place. Unfortunately due to Covid 19 restrictions, the National Final was cancelled.



## 2nd Year SPHE Lockdown experience



Third prize for Ian Crowley,  
Class 2D



Second prize for Michael Dan Lucey,  
Class 2E

After Christmas, we were all put into an online learning environment. For many of the classes, we would have to sit at our desks and tables and listen to the classes. However, for the SPHE class, our teacher Ms Eleanor Walsh wanted us to use our SPHE class time constructively and to provide a little variety in our day by spending our class time completing various challenges, such as reading, taking a walk, doing something to be helpful at home etc. Then, a couple of weeks in, a plan to create a photo competition for classes began. If people used their SPHE time to go on a walk, they could take a photo of anything interesting they saw, whether it be a building, artwork, or even just the nature around them. The following week we would spend the beginning of the class talking about what challenges we completed and chatted about the photos we sent in on Teams from the previous week. There is a first, second and third place prize for those who did capture a very nice, interesting image while walking about, with the competition being judged by art teacher, Ms Nora Walsh.

### Report by Class 2D



First prize for Leo Porion, Class 2D



Third prize for Ruarc Porter  
Class 2E



First prize for Harry Murphy  
Class 2E



Second prize for Eric Leach  
Class 2D



## The School Library is open for business!



The library is open during break hours, and students can drop by to check out a selection of books and graphic novels, with everything from classic science fiction to the newest comic book titles. Whether you're an experienced reader looking for a classic novel, or if you just want to browse the shelves, the library has something for you.

Sadly, students will not be able to sit and enjoy their books in the library, due to Covid-19 restrictions, and will not be able to access the library's collection of magazines. However, if you are looking for a specific book, we will be happy to give you a hand, and students are still able to take out up to four books at a time for one week before returning or renewing them. If you have any requests for new titles, please let us know. For students who want to learn about new titles or who are just interested in books in general, there's also the Library Teams for both Senior and Junior students, which is updated every Friday.

**Sophie McKenzie**  
Librarian





## Christmas Day swim in memory of Danny Crowley goes virtual due to Covid-19



Picture shows members of the Pres 2021 Senior Rugby squad who took part in the Annual Danny Crowley Swim held in Myrtleville on Christmas Day

Last December people were asked to take a dip in the sea in memory of a much loved Pres and Cork boy and raise funds for The Mercy University Hospital. Every Christmas Day, hundreds of swimmers take the plunge into the icy waters on Myrtleville Beach for the Annual Danny Crowley Memorial Swim in aid of the Mercy Hospital Kids & Teens Appeal, which is now in its eight year. The annual Daniel Crowley swim has gone from strength to strength each year. In 2013, it started with approx forty swimmers and it has grown into hundreds of brave souls today.

When he passed away after a long battle with leukaemia in 2013, aged just 12, his friends and family set up the Danny Crowley Christmas Swim as a way to remember him, and at the same time raise vital funds for the Mercy University Hospital. To date they have raised a phenomenal €100,000 to support the youngest patients at the Cork hospital.

Due to the pandemic, things were different last Christmas. The Crowley family knew the event would attract the hundreds of enthusiasts that it has done over the past few years. They found the support of the team at the Mercy Hospital Children's Leukaemia Unit incredible. The unit at the Mercy provided a very important service.

All funds raised by the Memorial Swim go towards the Mercy Kids & Teens Appeal, which supports the youngest patients at the Mercy University Hospital by providing the services such as POONS. The service allows children with cancer to receive their treatment in the important comfort of their own home. The service is even more vital during the Covid-19 pandemic and is helping to keep young patients safe. To show your much appreciated support and get involved please visit [www.justgiving.com/campaign/DanielCrowleyXmas Swim](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/DanielCrowleyXmasSwim).

For more information on the Mercy Kids & Teens Appeal visit the website [www.mercyfundraising.ie](http://www.mercyfundraising.ie).

## Radio Pres



Back row (l-r) Éanna Ó Loingsigh, Ross Daly, Tom McCarthy, Olan O'Donovan, Seán Lang, George Hook, Mark O'Connell, Dylan Costello-Ryall, Michael O'Sullivan, Cameron Lee and Daniel Maume.  
Front row (l-r) Rowan Murphy, Charlie Collins, Ronan Murphy, Leon Sahn, Shane O'Brien, Ronan McAuliffe and Daniel Healy.

Napoleon's horse, middle-aged men in lycra and New York City's subway; civil rights, conversion therapy and cooking sesame chicken; drama and poetry, interviews with Ronan O'Gara, John Spillane and Verona Murphy; George Hook on classic cinema, the Sports Hub and book reviews; Pakastani culture, disability and tech talk – just some of the diverse topics covered by the inaugural PBC Podcast these past months!

This past year was one of the toughest yet. However, not even a nationwide lockdown on top of a global pandemic could stop this year's journalism module. This year, Mr Ó Loingsigh's group poured their efforts into a series of podcast episodes with subjects as diverse as, well, you've read the intro!

With a work ethic to match the determination from our class, each episode was better than the last as everyone gained experience and learned how to connect to listeners in the best and most effective way possible. Voice modulation, intros, outros, links and scripting were all later honed and perfected in the studio.

Despite the struggles throughout the year, the creativity in our class was always flowing, with ideas bouncing off one another as we all learned to work in tandem and play to each other's strengths. Pres alumnus George Hook joined us live on Teams every Wednesday morning to listen to our ideas and offer advice and encouragement. Our aim was to be the first group ever to produce a PBC student podcast and to create as strong a legacy as we could. 'It was great to have a goal to strive for, especially during this year' said Charlie Collins, who cut his teeth as an actor on Episode 1 and reported on remote learning on Episode 3.

We teamed up with some TY girls from Scoil Mhuire along the way who shared and voiced their own opinions on our podcast and we finally got to record our first episode in a fully equipped professional studio in The Republic of Work on the South Mall in December.

Every student on the course had a platform to voice their opinion on anything they wanted to. It was that personal and editorial freedom that made everything we did just that bit more special, as everyone who participated has left their mark for years to come, their own little legacy if you will and we had great fun to boot in doing so.



From the Evening Echo





Broadcaster and Pres alumnus George Hook giving the Pres students the benefit of his vast experience behind the microphone

Of course, recognition and appreciation has to go to George Hook, Elaine Smith, freelance sound engineer and, of course, Éanna Ó Loingsigh who helped us shape and produce each episode - without them, none of this would have been possible, so a huge thank you to them! However, as the school year draws to a close, we must remember that while we are pioneers and the first Pres class to create a podcast, we hope we will not be the last; we are proud to say we have laid the foundations for next year's group and hope to be downloading, streaming and tuning into next year's PBC podcast productions.

The podcast, (episodes 1-4) is available to listen to for free on three platforms: Apple, Spotify and Acast. To listen on a smart phone or i-pad/tablet, just open the podcast app, type PBC podcast and follow or subscribe to listen.

### *Ross Daly*



TY students rehearsing lines from Ronan Murphy's play, 'Repetition', with Kieran Ahern



## 5th Year Peer Mentors



Back row (l-r): Ethan Giltinan, Panos Karousos, Oscar Lee, Casey Forde, Adam Twomey, Jacob Sheahan, Mark O'Connor, James Lynch, Zach Dinan and Tom Costigan

Front row (l-r): Paul O'Halloran, Seán Barrett, Christian Daly, Ms Claire Lynch, Daniel Philpott Vendrells, Ivor Dennehy and Conor Madden

## 6th Year Peer Mentors



Back row (l-r): Sam Doughty, Daniel Squires, James McCarthy, Ethan Twomey, Jacob O'Brien, Jimmy Coughlan, Caomhán Budhlaeir, Devan Forde, John St Ledger and Jack Cashman

Front row (l-r): Cian Healy, Adam O'Brien, Patrick Campbell, Ms Claire Lynch, Illann Wall, Conor Duggan and Darragh Murphy



## Gold Medal Essay 2021



(l-r) Caleb Sheehan, Don Buckley, Shane Twomey, Robert O'Brien (Second Place), John St Leger (Gold Medal Winner), Ronan Murphy (Third Place), Sophie McKenzie (College Librarian), Eanna Ó Loingsigh, David O'Riordan and Kieran Ahern

## Gold Medal Essay 2020



Senior Gold Medal Essay 2020 winner Ben Olden seen with his English Teacher Mr Don Buckley



## 2nd Year students sponsor Fota Wildlife Park animals



Photo shows (l-r) Darragh McCollum, Ronan Dunwell, Charlie Duane, Stuart Gilbert, Sebastian Wiseman and Devin Giltinain

All 2nd Year students came together to sponsor three animals in Fota Wildlife Park as a Science Week initiative last November. We are all looking forward to returning to Fota in the near future as part of the Junior Certificate Science Course.

## Gaisce Awards for Pres students



Three 5th Year PBC students were recently awarded Gaisce medals. The photo shows (l-r) Ronan Barry, Seán Barrett and Seán Ó Coileáin



## TY Enterprise winners



(l-r) Killian Twomey, Luke Sweetnam, Conor Hurley and Jack Kingston were the team behind Cork Resin Design who won the recent PBC Enterprise Competition, in conjunction with Enterprise Ireland

At the beginning of the year, the three enterprise classes were tasked with creating their very own company. From idea generation and pricing to market research and everything in between, our groups hit the ground running with plenty of ideas and creativity. However, this soon had to come to a halt.

Covid-19 affected many businesses and our enterprise students felt the full force of it too. Online classes meant our groups had to work through new issues and a new type of competition. Just like a real business.

The Enterprise Competition adapted to become a Dragons' Den style event where each group would use their existing idea and research in conjunction with creating a sales and advertising plan. This was then pitched in their respective classes and a winner was chosen from each class.

These winners went straight through to the final and the runners-up from each class went into a wildcard draw to determine the fourth group into the final. These finalists then pitched their business ideas to a representative of Enterprise Ireland over a Zoom Call to determine the overall winning group.

In a highly contested final, the group of Cork Resin Design, made up of Jack Kingston, Luke Sweetnam, Killian Twomey and Conor Hurley came out on top. They were very closely followed by PBC Gym Gear, composed of Peter Wall, Andrew Cuddigan, Kade Cunningham and Oliver Cregan.

**Shane McCarthy**  
*Business teacher*



## Physics - TY Rocket Launch



On Friday April 30th, TY Physics students took to Wilton to take part in the 9th annual Water Rocket Competition. Over the last number of weeks, TY Physics students had been engaging in Scientific, Technological, Engineering and Mathematical (STEM) concepts through a range of design, experimentation and testing procedures with the aim of creating a water rocket. Each student was tasked with creating their own rocket so they could compete against their peers to see who could build a rocket that would fly the highest and longest.

Students used two litre plastic bottles as their rocket fuselage and the rockets themselves were propelled by pressurised water. Students took a number different design approaches and there were a lot of very successful launches. Honourable mentions go to Patrick Brophy, Aodhán Cooke, Max Healy, Tom McCarthy, Thomas McCarthy and Rory O'Shaughnessy whose rockets all achieved flight time of approximately ten seconds. Very well done lads!

The two winners of the annual water rocket launch competition (l-r) Patrick Brophy and Rory O'Shaughnessy

## Computer Science students take on IBM's Quantum Computing



Transition Year students who recently completed the IBM Quantum Computing Course under the guidance of Mr Martin Garvey (l-r) Tom Colbert, Alex Cunningham, Ian Van Sinderen, Reuben Skuse, Ross Daly and Isaac Lee

A number of TY and 5th Year Computer Science students got the opportunity this year to attend an eight month intensive IBM Quantum Computing Course. Students took a full-year course called 'Qubit by Qubit's Introduction to Quantum Computing' from October 2020 to May 2021, which consisted of live lectures, labs and problem sets. Only 5,000 students worldwide got the opportunity to take part in this course so it was fantastic that a number of Mr Garvey's Computer Science students were accepted.



## Forensic Science Workshop



Photo shows (l-r) Darragh Lynch and Aaron Sheehan

As part of the activities during Science Week, Transition Year students were treated to an interactive display on the workings of Forensic Science, which involved an analysis of the assassination of US President John F Kennedy and research into the inner workings of the team that investigated the original crime.



Photo shows (l-r) Max Mazur, David Burke, David O'Dwyer and Zach Dunne



Photo shows (l-r) Ronan Dwyer, Rory O'Shaughnessy and Harry Murphy



## Wishing our colleague and friend Annette Barry the happiest of retirements!



SEN Co-ordinator Annette Barry on the occasion of her retirement from PBC

The conclusion of the 2020 / 2021 academic year marks the occasion of the retirement of Ms Annette Barry, a stalwart of the PBC staff and community for nineteen years. Since coming to Pres in 2002, Annette, with her expertise in the area of Special Educational Needs, has tirelessly devoted her time, energy and professionalism to the Learning Support Unit, both as co-ordinator and as teacher. She, along with the entire LSU team, has enabled hundreds of students over the years to reach their full potential, equipping them with vital skills for learning and life. Much of this work happens behind the scenes and often goes unnoticed. For this, the school owes Annette an enormous debt of gratitude.

Annette's contributions to Pres have not just been confined to the classroom. From 2013 to 2020, she and I assumed the mantle of the PBC Debating Society. This involved countless late Friday afternoons after school spent mentoring, supervising, shepherding, coaxing, organising, administrating, cajoling and encouraging our young debaters in their after-school practice and in competitions. Over the years, Pres has hosted several of these competitions, Munster Schools debates, Model United Nations, European Youth Parliament to name a few, with Annette frequently giving up Wednesday afternoons and entire Saturdays keeping the show on the road and doing deals with Dominos for 30-odd pizzas to be delivered to the school to keep hungry debaters fed! Her enthusiasm and commitment means that the Debating Society continues to go from strength to strength.

Annette's well-earned retirement does not mark the end of the road by any means; rather it marks the beginning of a new chapter in life, as Annette herself puts it. No doubt, this new chapter will prove to be very much an active one as she and her husband Noel (himself a Pres past pupil) get to spend more quality time with family and friends, especially with their three daughters and granddaughter, in more leisurely pursuits. Annette's jovial, affable and approachable personality in the staffroom and around the school will be greatly missed - a colleague you could rely on for help, advice, support and friendship. The entire PBC family wish her every happiness and best wishes for the future.

Go maire tú an céad, a chara, agus bail ó Dhia ort.

**Ronan O'Mahony**



## UCC alumnus Dr Ali Khan (PBC Class of 2009) appointed to the Gaisce Council



Dr Ali Khan

The Minister for Children, Roderic O’Gorman has appointed Dr Ali Khan to a prestigious role on the Gaisce (The President’s Award) Council. The Gaisce Council is comprised of fifteen members, appointed for a three year term and includes President’s Award Leaders, Gaisce Awardees, skilled professionals and business leaders.

Dr Khan graduated in Dentistry from UCC in 2016. As well as serving as Chair of the UCC Student Council, he received numerous university and national honours and awards, including the prestigious Gaisce: President’s Gold Award from President Michael D Higgins and the UCC Student Leadership Award.

Welcoming the new appointment to the Gaisce Council, which also features Presidential appointee, Dublin GAA star Philly McMahon, Yvonne McKenna CEO of Gaisce said: ‘We are incredibly lucky with calibre of Council members supporting the work of Gaisce, and we’re delighted to have Ali on board.

While everything is about what you ‘can’t do’ right now, the Gaisce Awards are firmly about what you can do. Every Award is individual to the participant and the skills of resilience, self-development and commitment across self-set challenges in physical recreation, personal skill and community involvement stand to young people into their adult lives.

We have young people responding to Covid-19 with courage and ingenuity to continue their Gaisce challenges – and that flexibility is an asset for life.’

On being appointed to the Gaisce Council, Dr Khan said: ‘Too often global leadership has cashed cheques on future generations to pay for the mistakes of the past; we are seeing the effects of this play out in the form of the Covid-19 pandemic, two recessions in thirteen years and the impending threat of climate change. However, I am optimistic that if we empower young people to stand up and become the masters of their own destinies, together we can bring about a better future.

As a Gold Gaisce Award winner myself, I know that with encouragement and goal setting there is no limit to what one can achieve. Winning the Gaisce Gold Award built a foundation for my future, a foundation from which I benefit every day. I recognise the importance of this and believe Gaisce is the right place for me to pay forward the ethos of empowerment through excellence. It is only through empowering others, do we empower ourselves.

Gaisce’s core ethos, espoused by its patron, President Michael D Higgins is to elevate young people into positions of ethical and sustainable leadership. Gaisce through its work seeks to widen the stakeholder base in society, thereby fostering an environment of social inclusion and collaboration. I wish to build on this work and continue to expand Gaisce’s reach into new communities, such as those in Direct Provision, minority communities and the Travelling community.’

*(Article reproduced courtesy of [www.alumni.ucc.ie](http://www.alumni.ucc.ie))*



## Pres students donate €600 to Dogs For The Disabled



Back row (l-r) Seán Keville, Charlie Collins, Patrick Brophy, Patrick Kelly, Joe MacNamara, Emmet Fitzgerald, Eamonn Barry, Caleb Sheehan (teacher), Margaret Guckian and Eleanor Dineen (both from Dogs For The Disabled).  
Front row (l-r) Olan O'Donovan, Isaac Lee and Jack O'Connor.

TY student, Emmet Fitzgerald, presenting a cheque for €600 collected by PBC TY students to Margaret Guckian from the Dogs For The Disabled organisation.

## A fond farewell to Patrick Kelly and his stability dog Henry - ye'll be missed!



6th Year student Patrick Kelly and his stability dog Henry with Patsy Deasy who was his SNA for the last six years in Pres



PBC's most recent graduate Patrick's stability dog Henry sporting his graduate tie, six years done in Pres!



## PBC Green Schools Committee



In Pres we recognise the fact that we need to improve how we tackle environmental problems, such as carbon emissions and general waste. Four years ago we set up a Green Schools Committee to accomplish this goal. Since then we have gained a Green Flag, set up a recycling programme, enrolled in a water ambassadorship and are well on our way to gaining another Green Flag for water conservation. We have also faced many challenges stemming from COVID-19 restrictions. We were unable to meet as regularly, and it became more difficult to coordinate outings. However we continue to work to improve the school, and though we have a long way to go, I have a lot of hope for what we will accomplish in the new year.

*Ben Wrixon*  
Class 3A

Back row (l-r) Alex McKenna Carroll, Conor Kelleher and Tadhg O'Flynn.  
Middle row (l-r) Ms Alison Crowley, Theo Scully, Eshan O'Sullivan and Ross Daly.  
Front row (l-r) Ben Wrixon, Jabir Rahman, Darragh Buckley and James Barry.

## TY students complete International Computer Driving Licence Course



This academic year, TY students completed the International Computer Driving Licence course under the guidance of their computer teacher, Mr Willie O'Keeffe. Two students, Robert Mullins and Edward Barrett, completed an exceptional 11 modules of the course and were conspicuous in providing much needed mentoring and advice to their fellow students during the year. We congratulate them both!

# 1st Year Art - It's All In The Eyes



Roan Otto Morrissey



Adam Swihart



Liam Cummins



Oisín Tobin



Tiago Fleming



Robert Charteris



Mark O'Riordan



Tadhg Curtin



Ryan O'Donoghue



Michael Scott



Michael Haly



Dylan Lynch





Ewan Daly



Shane O'Shaughnessy



Jack Hill



Ju Young Lee



Marcel Mosiej



Diarmuid Sheehy



Conor Nagle



Conor Costelloe



Jack Daly

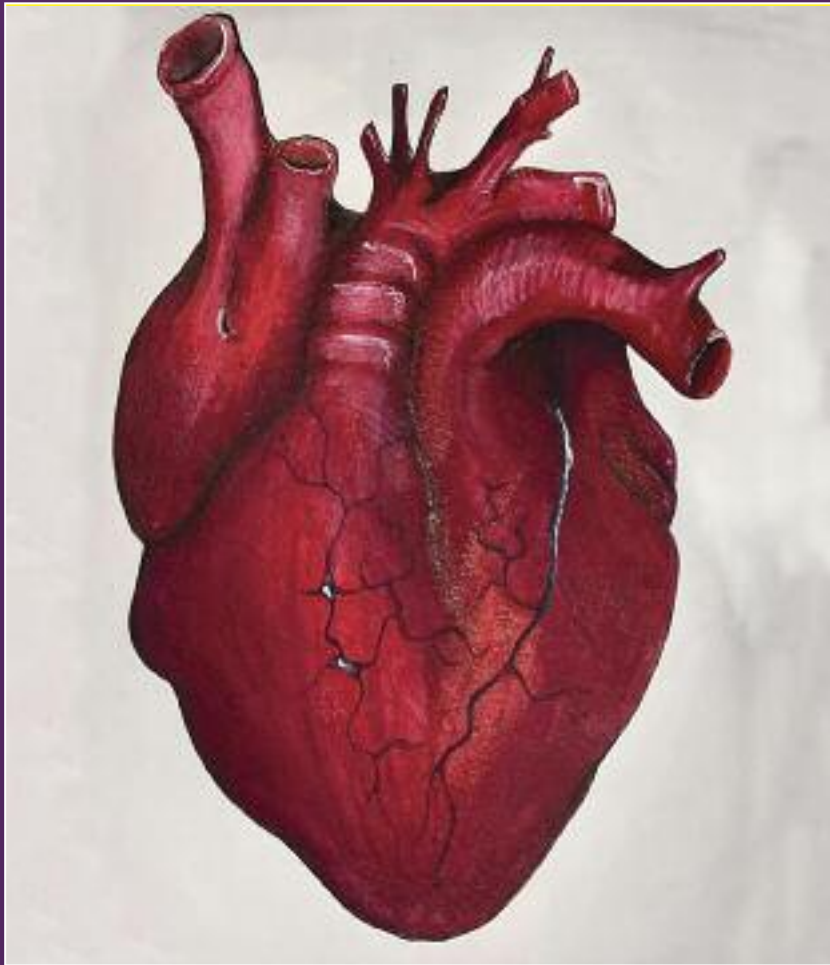


Bobby O'Callaghan



Adam Daly

6th Year Art



David Henry



Brian Corkery



Peter Hyland



Brian Corkery



Brian Corkery



David Henry

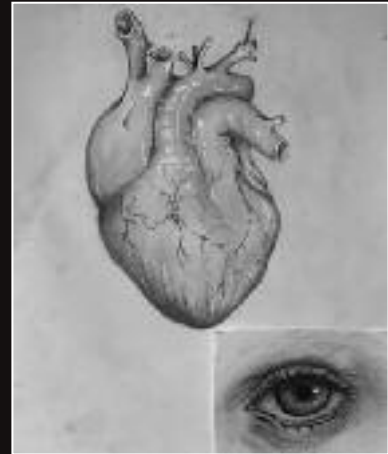




David Henry



Billy Cronin



David Henry



Peter Hyland

# Junior Art



Ivan Walsh



Leiden O'Donoghue



Billy Cronin



Jacob Norris



James Barry



Darragh Buckley



Daniel Mellerick



Samuel Allen



Hussain Jameel



# Presentation College, Cork

## UNIVERSITY SUCCESSES, 1930

### SCHOLARSHIPS, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, CORK.

- 2 Homan Scholarships, value £65 each, tenable for three years.
- 2 Entrance Scholarships, value £40 each.
- 1 College Exhibition, value £20.

### KITCHENER SCHOLARSHIPS

- 1 Scholarship, value £67. Tenable for a number of years.

### INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATIONS, 1930

- 36 Students were successful, 24 passing with Honours. 4 Scholarships, value £240.

### MATRICULATION, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, SUMMER, 1930

- 34 Students were successful.

### PRE-REGISTRATION EXAMINATION

- 3 Successes were secured.

### BANK EXAMINATION

- 6 Bank Appointments were secured.

## COLLEGE SUCCESSES, 1929

### INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATIONS

- 8 Scholarships. — 5 Scholarships, value £80 each, 3 Scholarships, value £40 each. First Burke Memorial Prize, value £10.

### INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

- 35 Students were successful, 24 passing with Honours. 1 University Scholarship, value £40. 1 State Scholarship, value £50. Tenable for four years.

### MATRICULATION EXAMINATIONS

- 31 Successes.

### CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

- Junior Executive — 6th and 20th Places. Excise and Customs — 7th Place. At these examinations, candidates won:
  - 1st Place in Irish.
  - 1st Place in Modern History.
  - 2nd Place in Greek.
  - 3rd Place in Latin.

### BANK EXAMINATIONS

- 14 Appointments were secured.

*For Prospectus, details of Public Examinations, etc., apply to the SUPERIOR.*

## Students give presentation in French at event organised by the French Embassy

Pres was represented at a national event organised by the French Embassy in Dublin last March.

Seven students from Ms Valérie David-McGonnell's 5th Year French class participated in a national event organised by the Embassy of France in Ireland.

This event was part of the Night of Ideas, a global initiative created by Institut Français which focused this year on the environment and the world of tomorrow.

Five schools created a project in French on the environment for this online event on Zoom which was introduced by HEM Vincent Guérend, Ambassador of France to Ireland, and moderated by Benjamin Girodeau, Language Cooperation Attaché at the French Embassy, and Esther Loiseleur, Chairperson of the organization Jeunes Ambassadeurs pour le Climat.

Cian Ahern, Ethan Giltinan, Paul Higgins, Panos Karousos, Scott Murray, Mattie O'Flynn and Jacob Sheahan represented Pres. They gave a presentation in French about different forms of pollution and examples of actions which should be taken at individual and school level in order to protect the environment. They did a fantastic job. Very well done boys!

**School Project**

**NIGHT OF IDEAS CLOSER IRELAND 2021**

**Comment protéger l'environnement ?**

**Sommaire**

- 01. Our hopes and dreams
- 02. Causes de pollution de l'air
- 03. Les actions à prendre
- 04. Les gestes importants à faire
- 05. Les perspectives de l'écologie



## Graduate News



### Ray Lally (Class of 2003)

I entered Pres in 3rd Year. I was nervous going to a new school but was made very welcome and I made friends with a lot of people. I really enjoyed my time in Pres.

In Pres, I represented Ireland in U15 soccer making my debut against the Czech Republic. I was also going on trial to several English clubs. The school community was hugely supportive of me in my pursuit of my soccer dream.

My favourite subjects were PE and Art. I've always loved Art and was going to apply for Art College but decided to go for a career in soccer instead. Looking back, I wish I was more patient with Science and History, two subjects I enjoy now. I'd never have said that when I was in Pres!

I went to a Soccer Academy (studying health and fitness and training) after school, played for Cork City and worked in a gym. My older brother was a huge influence and got me into physical training and my passion for it started to grow even more. I continued to play for Cork City representing Ireland at different levels, before going to CIT to study Business and Leisure Management.

In my mid-twenties, I moved to Australia, travelled and worked there for five years. I was a sponsored footballer. I later moved to Manchester and worked in full time personal training, helping everyone from beginners to Premier League footballers and TV stars. It was hugely enjoyable but I always wanted to come home to Ireland and set up my own personal training business. I now operate a full time personal training and online business. In the media I'm the fitness expert on the 'Today Show' on RTÉ and have my own TV fitness show on RTE called 'Ray & O Se Fitness 15'. My social media name is the Happy Fitness Guy. I loved my time in Pres. I still have many friends from school. There are many things I enjoy now that I studied in school, but back then, I was far too distracted. The message I'd promote is that you've plenty of time to find what suits you.



### Peter Barrett (Class of 2005)

Peter entered Pres in 1999, and still remembers his six years in with great fondness. He developed a keen interest in languages and was awarded a range of scholarships for French and German from the Alliance Française, German Academic Exchange Service, Irish-Austrian Society and Department of Education & Skills. Outside the classroom, he was very involved with SHARE as Chair of the Executive. He was introduced to the broader work of the Presentation Brothers and as a college student he went on to spend a summer teaching in the Presentation Brothers Secondary School in Logre, Ghana. One of his highlights was teaching the Ghanaian students the words to the 'Pres Tango' as a surprise welcome for the PresLink delegation arriving from Cork a few months later!

Peter represented his year group as Head Prefect and he is very proud of the strong bonds which have remained between his classmates to this day. He believes this is due to the inclusive atmosphere and culture of respect that is promoted in PBC.

After his Leaving Certificate, Peter was awarded the Thomas MacDonagh 1916 Scholarship and an Entrance Scholarship to UCC where he studied Medicine, graduating in 2010. He worked in acute medicine and paediatrics in Cork and Dublin, before embarking on a career in Public Health Medicine. He lived and worked in Sweden and the UK, completing Masters degrees in Global Health and Public Health. Returning to Ireland, he's combined postgraduate training as a public health doctor with medical research. He recently completed a PhD in epidemiology using data in the School of Public Health and INFANT Research Centre in UCC.

He now works as a Consultant in Public Health Medicine in the Department of Public Health in Cork and as a Clinical Senior Lecturer in the School of Public Health, UCC. He lives in Cork with his wife and two young daughters. He continues to benefit from the very strong friendships he made in Pres.



### **John Poland (Class of 2015)**

John started in Pres in 2009, in the footsteps of his grandfather and father Mark. He played rugby on the wing in 1st Year, moving to 12 in 2nd Year before moving to 9 for the Junior Cup, where he still plays! He played three years of Senior Cup captaining the side in 6th Year, sadly never winning it. In school, he played for Munster U18 Schools for two years and for Munster and Ireland U19 sides in 6th Year. John also played GAA whilst in PBC, representing Cork from U14 to U17, winning two Munster championships.

After leaving Pres John, along with classmates Shane Daly and Paul Kiernan, were part of the Munster U20 team, that won the 2015 U20 Inter Pros. All three played in the U20 Six Nations, whilst juggling college work, college life, club rugby and International rugby! In the 2016 U20 Six Nations against Wales John was awarded Man-of-the-Match. He studied Finance in UCC. He was part of the Munster Rugby Academy, while playing for Cork Constitution, winning two Munster Senior Cups, two All-Ireland Bateman Cups and one All-Ireland League title. He was a key part of the Munster 'A' team who won the British & Irish Cup in 2016. Cian Bohane, another proud Pres boy captained the side. He joined UCC RFC and received a Sports Scholarship and had a very successful season when the club was promoted to Division 1A for the first time ever. He joined the Munster Senior squad and made his Pro14 debut against Zebre.

Currently John plays for the New England Freejacks in the US. Unfortunately the season was cancelled due to Covid-19 and he has returned to Boston for the coming 2021 season. John reflects upon his time in Pres with great fondness, accrediting Pres with a variety of traits and characteristics he maintains today, along with a great core group of friends who haven't parted ways since their 2015 graduation. He selects peer mentoring as one of his highlights in 6th Year, and he still keeps a look out for his old 1st Years!



### **Conor O'Flynn (Class of 2016)**

I entered Pres in 2010 joining my brothers Cormac (Class of 2008) and Caolan (Class of 2015) and my mum, Guidance Counsellor Deirdre O'Keeffe. I played a variety of sports thoroughly enjoying each. I won a Junior Cup in 2014 and captained a winning Bowen Shield squad that year. Touring Spain and Italy were particular highlights. However, in the Senior Cup we came up short in the semi-final against the old enemy CBC. I was a member of the SHARE Executive in 4th Year and a prefect in 6th Year.

I reflect upon my time in Pres with great fondness. I've the entire school to thank for my development in sport, academics and as a person. Friends are made for life in Pres. The school's ethos of involvement spreads across a wide range of disciplines and it is something of which I am very proud to have played a small part.

In school, I was part of the age grade rugby squads (17s, 18s, 19s and 20s) in Munster and captained the Munster U19s in the Inter-Pros. A credit to Pres, there were many players in my year and the year below on those teams. We've all our coaches from 1st Year to thank for that representation.

In 2016, I won a sports scholarship to UCD, where I studied Economics. I was part of an U20s side that won the McCorry Cup and Dudley Cups in 1st Year. The sporting facilities are superb there and their sporting programme allows athletes maximise their potential. I had four fantastic years in Dublin, and attended the annual PBC PPU Dublin branch dinners each year hosted by Pres alumni George Hook.

In my final year of college, I sat the Gamsat exam to get into Graduate Entry Medicine. I was delighted to fulfil a lifelong dream of mine to study Medicine. None of which would have been possible without the work ethic that was instilled in me from my days in Pres. I am now in first year Medicine at UL and playing rugby with Shannon RFC 1st XV and greatly looking forward to the return of the AIL next season.

Many thanks again to everyone in Pres.



## Head Boy and Deputy Head Boy, 2021



Photo shows (l-r) David McCarthy (Deputy Head Boy) with Adam O'Brien (Head Boy 2021)

## Prefects 2021



Back row (l-r) James McCarthy, Coileáin De Burca, Jacob O'Brien, Neddie Irwin, Daniel Squires, Bevan Forde, Tadhg Jones and Niall Mahony  
Front row (l-r) Liam Bugler, Caomhán Budhlaeir, David McCarthy (Deputy Head Boy), Mr Enda O'Regan (6th Year Head), Adam O'Brien (Head Boy), Illan Wall and Conor Duggan



## Class 6A of 2021



Back row (l-r): Louis Kendellen, Shane Cotter, Jamie Falsey, Colin O'Mahony and Matthew Allen  
Middle row (l-r): Ben Commiskey, Darragh Murphy, Conor Dwyer, Gavin Marshall and Patrick Campbell  
Front row (l-r): Cian Smyth, Patrick Carey, Aiden Woulfe, Ronan Wilson, Jimmy Byrne and Andrew Sreenan

## Class 6B of 2021



Back row (l-r): Gavin Kelleher, Harry O'Connell and Darragh French  
Middle row (l-r): Brian Anthony, Tiarán de Burca, Ethan Twomey, Luke O'Connor and Robert O'Brien  
Front row (l-r): Colin O'Brien, Jesse Burke, Eoghan Dolan and Neil O'Connor



## A very fond farewell to our 6th Years of 2021!

We would like to wish all Leaving Certificate students the very best of luck in their exams and every success throughout their future careers. We're really proud of them all!









## The Class of 2021 as 1st Years back in 2015









## Class 6C of 2021



Back row (l-r): James Dillon, Neddie Irwin, Conall Harrington, Matthew Tarbatt, Adam O'Donovan and James McCarthy  
Middle row (l-r): John St Leger, Fintan Ryan, Adam O'Brien, Ewan Kelly and Conor O'Keeffe  
Front row (l-r): Sean McColgan, Ross McAuliffe, John Curtin, Christian Connolly, Paddy Deane and Niall Smith

## Class 6D of 2021



Back row (l-r): Billy Neville, Peter Hyland, Andrew Sheehan, JJ O'Connor, Seán McLoughlin, Cian Desmond and Mark Deane  
Middle row (l-r): Coileáin de Burca, David McCarthy, Darragh Hennigan, Conor Duggan Micheál Lucey, Aiden Kilgrew and Gearoid Horgan  
Front row (l-r): Charlie Walsh, Darragh Egan, Rioghan O'Sullivan, James Price, Luke D O'Connor, Emmet Downey, James McCoy and Thomas Lynch



## Class 6E of 2021



Back row (l-r): Darragh McSweeney, Sam Doughty, Sam O'Sullivan, Daniel Squires and Mel Deasy  
Middle row (l-r): Liam Ormond, Bevan Forde, Niall Mahony, Ben Hyland, Billy Kiernan and Cian Dunne  
Front row (l-r): Ciarán O'Connor, Conor Casey, Daniel Murphy, Matt Moroney, Rian Hickey and Tadhg Jones

## Class 6F of 2021



Back row (l-r): David Henry, Jimmy Coughlan, Jack Murphy, Luke O'Keeffe, Brian Corkery, Ronan O'Callaghan and Michael Durcan  
Middle row (l-r): Illann Wall, Ruari Keane Kelleher, Caomhán Budhlaeir, Casey Buckley, Liam Bugler, Cian Healy, Daniel Hurley and Jacob O'Brien  
Front row (l-r): Louis McKenna Carroll, Johnny Buckley, Patrick Kelly (and Henry) Kieran Tang, Ashik Rahman and Jack Cashman



## 1st Year students of 2021

We warmly welcome all our new 1st Years to the Pres family and hope they enjoy their years here.









## Class 1A of 2021



Back row (l-r): Ben Tarbatt, Daniel Mellerick, Sam O'Leary, Cathal Bruhn, Michael O'Keeffe, Joseph Carney, Tom Murray and Shane Kingston

Middle row (l-r): Stephen Delaney, Jack Murphy, Conor Keane, Luke Neenan, Alex O'Donnell, Tom Murphy, Mark Buckley and Ms Evette Murphy

Front row (l-r): Jacob Dorris, Cathal Cross, Ben Coughlan, Ronan Twomey, Sam McKenna Carroll, Donnacha O'Driscoll, Ronan Bradley and Ben O'Connor

## Class 1B of 2021



Back row (l-r): Oscar McCarthy, Ben Twomey, Charlie Desmond, Seán Herrick, Hugo McGuire, Aodhán O'Sullivan, James Power and Caleb Sheehan

Middle row (l-r): Sammi Flannery, Cormac Bohan, Mark O'Riordan, Oscar O'Hehir, Harry Galvin Carty, Shaun Leneghan, Eddie Dooley, Tadhg Curtin and Ms Cathy Hennessy

Front row (l-r): David Turnbull, Cian O'Donovan, Mossie Kelleher, Charlie Nestor, Max Grainger, Kieran Carey, Ted Connolly and David Lynch



## Class 1C of 2021



Back row (l-r): Marcus Creedon, Roan Otto Morrissey, Odran Murphy, Daniel Ryan, Oisín Tóibín, Alex Roche, Robert Charteris and Matthew Flynn

Middle row (l-r): Joseph Healy, Benjamin Linehan, Emmet Brady, Jack Tompkins, Tiago Barbosa Fleming, Barry O'Driscoll, Liam Cummins and Sumanth Gangadhara Swamy

Front row (l-r): Johnny McCarthy, Lughaidh Gannon, Sam Geary, Matthew O'Donovan, Harry Walsh, Daniel Burke, George McSweeney and Adam Swihart

## Class 1D of 2021



Back row (l-r): Fionn Mowlds, Andrew Mulhall, Alex Chircu, Matthew O'Riordan, Daniel O'Leary, Conor McLoughlin, Dylan Buckley and Ashmand Amin

Middle row (l-r): Mr Ronan O'Mahony, Jimmy Horgan, Daniel Murphy, Barry O'Connor, David Moore, Conn O'Donoghue, Odrán Healy, Frankie Óg Sheahan and James O'Riordan

Front row (l-r): Dan O'Leary, Zak O'Sullivan, Hussain Jameel, Olan Healy, Fionn Leahy, Marcus O'Regan, Denis Kelly and Devyn Delee



## Class 1E of 2021



Back row (l-r): Diarmuid Sheehy, Charlie Hill, Sé Clarke, Fionn O'Sullivan, Michael Scott, Adam Daly, Umar Asis and Marcel Mosiej  
Middle row (l-r): Ms Niamh Buggy, Shane Minogue, Jack Daly, Jonathon McLoughlin, Rory Power, Shane O'Shaughnessy, Ryan O'Donoghue and Ju Young Lee  
Front row (l-r): Michael Haly, Conor Costelloe, Bobby O'Callaghan, Evan Keating, Dylan Lynch, Ewan Daly, Conor Nangle and Rían MacFarlane O'Shea,

## A Blast From The Past - PBC 1st Year Group 1C2 1985 - 1986



Back row (l-r) John Neville, Finian Casey, Gordon Mullins, Brian Kirkby, Stephen Coffey and Gavin Gleeson  
Third row (l-r) Fergus O'Reilly, Olan Haskett, Emanuel Murray, Donal Reddington, Brian Manning, Gavin Deasy, Pdraig Reddington, John Nolan and Gary O'Reilly  
Second row (l-r) Ken Healy, Brian Murphy, Frank O'Mahony, Dan Curtin, Robert Wallace, Billy Finn and Kevin Goggin  
Front row (l-r) Olan Wixted, Neil Barry, Eoin O'Mahony, Richard Barry, Rory Goggin, Pat Moloney and Ronan Cremin

*Photo reproduced courtesy of Olan Wixted*



## Biology Field Trip to Killarney National Park



5th Year Biology students (l-r) Michael Cullinane, Paul Higgins, Conor Walsh, Jacob Sheahan, Doug Healy, Salvador Patricio, Ivor Dennehy and Ben Dalton



The lads taking time out for lunch at Muckross House



5th Year students relaxing before getting back to work



(l-r) Andrew O'Brien and Joachim O'Driscoll collecting samples



(l-r) Conor Clarke, Conor Madden and Jack Cotter having lunch by the upper lake in Killarney



## 6th Year student Andrew Sheehan wins a European U18 Rowing Silver Medal!



(l-r) Andrew Sheehan (Lee RC), Adam Murphy (Shandon BC), Ciro Prisco (coach), Tom Kelly (Kenmare BC) and Brian Colsh (Sligo RC)

Last September, Leaving Cert student, Andrew Sheehan, representing Lee Rowing Club, won a European U18 Rowing silver medal, as part of the Ireland Quad Sculls boat. Andrew came first in the final Irish trial for the U18 European team and made the Quad Sculls boat with three other top scullers Brian Colsh (Sligo Rowing Club), Tom Kelly (Kenmare Boat Club) and Adam Murphy (Shandon Boat Club). The Quad had an eight week training camp to prepare for the competition before travelling to Belgrade, Serbia for the Junior European Rowing Championships, which were held in September 2020.

The Irish team came third in their heat, meaning that they had to race a repechage to get into the semi final. They won that race convincingly, and came second in their semi final to the Czech Republic, but qualified for the final. In the final itself, Andrew and his teammates rowed through the Czechs in the last 200m to finish second behind the gold medallists, Russia. Very well done Andrew on a magnificent achievement!



The Irish Quad moving effortlessly through the gears



## Happy memories of Pres' first Munster Senior Schools' soccer trophy are recalled!

Fifty years is a long time ago and it's hard to believe that our 'Class of '71' still talk and reminisce about our All-Ireland Schools soccer semi-final disappointment when losing 4-2 to St Joseph's of Galway. We have had regular get-togethers over the years but when school principal, Aiden Twomey suggested I write a piece for the Pres Gazette to make our 50th anniversary it only dawned on me that it was half century ago when we won the Munster Schools Cup Final at Turner's Cross only to bow out unceremoniously on the national stage.

We raced through the early stages of the competition scoring 26 goals and none against after we beat Limerick's Mungret College six-nil out the 'Cross to claim the provincial title and given our form we were installed as favourites to go on and win the All-Ireland series. But instead of 'Pres' playing Dublin's O'Connell Schools in the national decider in the summer of 1971 it was 'the Bish' from Galway who qualified after their beat us 4-2 - scoring three of their goals in the last 25 minutes! One of the newspaper reports stated that Pres began to 'flag' mid-way through the second half and the Tribesmen took control of the tie and that has been a bone of contention for us for decades. In hindsight, we probably lost the semi-final after a strenuous work-out on the beach at Salthill.

We were chauffeur-driven to Galway but after the three hour drive up to the west of Ireland, it was decided to stretch our legs with a kick-about on the sand and that effectively sapped our energy and was the reason for our 'flagging' or 'slackening' in the second half. It was just one of those things. At the time, we all thought it was a good idea to loosen up before heading to Terryland but it proved to be a fatal mistake. Soccer in PBC dates back over one hundred years and 'Pres' had a team in the old Munster Senior League as far back as 1913 which pre-dated the setting up of today's MSL in 1920.

Traditionally Pres will always be a rugby-playing college but let's not forget that 'Pres' won a number of Dr Harty Cup finals in hurling in the distant past and those old photographs from the 1920s adorn the corridors along with the famous rugby teams that brought honour and glory to the school. After a hiatus of some decades, soccer was back on the agenda in 1970, albeit in a somewhat secretive fashion, when pupils like Ned Kavanagh and Joe Healy entered a team in the Munster Schools Cup unknown to the principal and somewhat against the schools' wishes. They emerged from the Cork section but subsequently lost out to Crescent College of Limerick.

The following year the big breakthrough arrived when soccer was finally, if somewhat reluctantly, recognised and accepted and pupils like Larry O'Neill, Connie O'Sullivan, Gerry Kelly, Billy O'Connor, Gerry Keoghan, Eddie Lyons, Dominic Kenny and yours truly won that Munster Cup Final. We were lucky to have the support of our then Maths teacher, Alfie 'Fox' Madden who himself played League of Ireland soccer with Limerick. The game died for a time but then in 1990 soccer was resurrected and opened up again in 'Pres' by Aiden Twomey and more silverware soon followed.

More recently, in 2014/2015 Pres won the provincial decider and went on to contest a first ever All-Ireland Soccer Final with players like David Grant O'Sullivan, Eoin Davis and Dave Barry but they lost out to Donegal's Carndonagh CS 2-1 after extra-time in Dublin.

Over the years Pres have produced some outstanding soccer players in Dominic Kenny (Cork Hibernians), Pat Aherne (Cork Celtic), Barry McGann (Shelbourne), Eddie Doyle (Glasheen), Larry O'Neill (Wilton and Highfield RFC), Tommy Moroney (Cork Athletic) and, more recently, Richie Noonan, Brian Mulcahy, Alan Bennett, Brian Lenihan (ex-Hull City) and Liverpool goalkeeper Caoimhín Kelleher.

As part of the soccer revival in Pres, the school won the Munster Schools Shield in 1993 under the captaincy of Brendan Riordan, and in 2000, Cork City's Alan Bennett was capped by the Irish Schools XI, as were Brian Burke and Brian Lenihan in other years.

They won the Munster Youths Cup in 2006 and in 2014/2015 Pres won the Cork Cup at Senior and Junior grades, while for the last six years, Pres have been crowned U17 Cork Cup champions.

The 'beautiful game' is alive and well at Presentation Brothers College and long it may it continue to thrive and flourish at the famous Mardyke academy.

**Noel Spillane**  
*Class of 1971*



## Munster Soccer Champions 1971 - 50th Anniversary



Back row (l-r) John Twomey, Eddie Lyons, Maurice Murphy, Noel Spillane, Gerry Kelly and JP Harrington (team manager)  
Front row (l-r) Pat Ahern, Dominic Kenny, Eddie Doyle, Connie O'Sullivan (captain), Larry O'Neill, Billy O'Connor and Gerry Keoghan

### Pres 6 Mungret College 0

Presentation Brothers' College, Cork outclassed the holders Mungret College, Limerick in the finals of the Munster Schools' Soccer championship at Turners cross on Saturday to win the Michael Twomey Cup. PBC thus qualified for the semi-final of the All-Ireland championship in which they will play St Joseph's College, Galway this week.

PBC were 2-0 ahead at the interval and were always in control of the game. They had scoring power and players of considerable ball-playing skills right across their forward line with left winger Billy O'Connor and centre-forward Dom Kenny, a member of Cork Hibs' reserves side, particularly prominent. Right winger Jerry Kelly contributed two well-taken scores and completed a line that thrived on a good service.

Goalkeeper Bob Hanrahan showed lots of promise with a confident display for Mungret, and in face of a rampant forward line he did well to keep the score down to size. As well as Kelly, other Pres goals came from Dom Kenny (2), Billy O'Connor and Larry O'Neill. (As reported in *The Cork Examiner*)







(l-r) Gerry Twomey, Mick Hennessy, Alfie Madden, Connie O'Sullivan, Pascal Duggan and Aiden Twomey at another reunion in 2011 in The Kiln, Heineken Brewery



(l-r) Alfie Madden and team captain Connie O'Sullivan



Distinguished guests of Beamish & Crawford



The old stories get better and better with every telling!

*Photos reproduced courtesy of Eddie O'Hare (Irish Examiner)*



## 'As calm as they come' - Caoimhin Kelleher's journey through the LFC ranks



Caoimhin and Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp enjoying the moment after Liverpool qualified for the last 16 of the Champions' League

'He's so laid back in training, so the staff were all intrigued to see how he would handle the game. But he handled it exactly the same way as he would a training session, which is some mentality to have as a young goalkeeper.'

Neil Edwards could just as easily be talking about Caoimhin Kelleher's impeccable Champions League debut against AFC Ajax last week, when the 22-year-old Irishman kept a clean sheet against a team that have averaged 3.9 goals per game in the Eredivisie so far this season, helping to secure Liverpool's place in the tournament's last sixteen in the process.

In fact, the game he's describing took place more than five years ago, away to Derby County, when Kelleher, a 16-year-old triallist who'd been in the country fewer than 48 hours, was pitched in at the deep end to show U18 goalkeeping coach Edwards and the rest of Liverpool's goalkeeping staff what he could do. Then, as now, the Cork native produced a performance of such casual excellence as to leave those watching wondering what they were worried about in the first place. Rarely can a contract have been drawn up more quickly.

He came in on the Friday, I took him out in the afternoon and did 30 to 40 minutes just to settle him down, then he played the game. We wanted to sign him straight away' Edwards recalls. 'The rest is history, as they say.'

Nobody has been closer to Kelleher's subsequent career journey – from appearing as a striker for youth club Ringmahon Rangers to facing down the likes of Dusan Tadic and Klaas-Jan Huntelaar under the lights at Anfield – than Edwards and U23 goalkeeping coach Mark Morris. The pair were watching on just as anxiously as the Kelleher family back in Cork last Tuesday, on a night when the only person not afflicted by nerves seems to have been the stopper himself.

'First of all, we were surprised at the Academy – not ability wise, but because we weren't aware of Ali (Alisson Becker) being injured', Morris tells Liverpoolfc.com. 'So it was a shock to us and the texts were flying around straight away when we knew he was in. As much as you want him to do well, you're a bag of nerves yourself watching it! I spoke to his Mum that night and she said she was nervous too – certainly compared to Caoimhin, who's as calm as they come. I think that filters through and gives the whole team confidence. As a goalkeeping department and an Academy we couldn't be prouder.'

Edwards' reaction, meanwhile, illuminates the immersive role Academy staff play in their young charges' lives on and off the pitch. 'Watching that was fantastic, but my thoughts went to his Mum and his family, all those years ago when he first came over and all the meetings we had – it's fantastic for everybody,' the former Stockport County and Rochdale 'keeper continues. 'When the camera pans onto him, you see his face, and – apart from the scruffy beard and the floppy hair – the boy's the same, and you remember those days. His character and personality on the pitch haven't changed over the years. For me it was a little bit emotional, because that's the kind of stuff you dream of when you're working with these goalkeepers. This is only the start of his journey at this level. He knows what's in front of him and he's not daft, but he's just got to take every stage as it comes now. He's performed really well so far, and one thing I know for sure is that he won't stop. He'll understand the situation and continue to work hard every day. When I've spoken to first-team goalkeeping coaches John Achterberg and Jack Robinson that's exactly what they've said, that his work ethic and development have been very good.'

**Scott Fleming** (Reproduced courtesy of the Liverpoolfc.com website)





Caoimhín talks to the press after the Ajax game



Safe as houses - Caoimhín pushes one over the bar!

One remarkable aspect of Kelleher's performance against Ajax is the fact he had been part of the Liverpool U23s team that conceded seven goals to Manchester City just 72 hours beforehand. Morris, however, stresses the benefits of the game time the Republic of Ireland youth international has accrued in Premier League 2 and the EFL Trophy with the U23s this season. 'We're about development at the Academy, so results at our level are immaterial most of the time' he explains. 'I texted Caoimhín on that Saturday night just to see if he was alright, because everyone was shell shocked; it was a strange kind of game where everything seemed to align against us. It happens in football and it's testament to Caoimhín that he's picked himself up and put in a performance like that in the Champions League a few days later.

'For goalkeepers it's massively important that they get games, because it's hard to come in and pick up the pace of a game if you've gone three or four weeks without playing. John and I spoke years ago about making training match specific and played at match pace, but no matter what you do you can't fully replicate a game. Playing regularly has certainly helped Caoimhín, without a shadow of a doubt.'

If rule number one of Goalkeeper Club is you've got to have a nickname – 'Taff' for Edwards, 'Moz' for Morris and simply 'Kevin', the English translation of Caoimhín, for Kelleher – rule number two would appear to be don't overpraise young 'keepers for the bread and butter of their trade: making saves. Nonetheless, Edwards and Morris couldn't help but be impressed by Kelleher in specific moments of his three appearances over the past ten days.

'I'm one of those, I don't like talking about goalkeepers in terms of shot-stopping ability, because you have to have that anyway' says the former. 'But there are levels of course. It's the simplicity with which you make the save, the feet, the movements etc. The one on the weekend, the tip around the post (from Wolves attacker Daniel Podence), you look at the feet and the movements and that's what goalkeepers work on day in, day out, hundreds of those a day for just one of those moments. There's a simplicity to the way Caoimhín does things, he doesn't overcomplicate things.'

Morris adds 'A lot of people have talked about the Huntelaar save in the Ajax game. I thought the low save to his right (from Noussair Mazraoui) was a better one because it was a tricky one in terms of where to parry the ball to and he got it safe. The close-range header was an instinctive save. You work on reactions most days, but the one low to his right, there's a bit of thought gone into that. Then in the Wolves game I heard one of the commentators say Caoimhín's left-footed, like Ray Clemence, but he's actually not! I was giggling to myself thinking, 'He's that good with his left you really can't tell which is the stronger foot.'

At the Academy and the new AXA Training Centre, the chances of a young Liverpool player being allowed to prematurely assume that they've 'made it' are already small. In Kelleher's case, his natural demeanour renders them infinitesimal, as this last anecdote from Edwards suggests.

'When Caoimhín comes back (to the Academy), he's the same kid, nothing's changed; he's humble, he's respectful, he appreciates the journey from the start until now and he will totally appreciate the next stages he's got to go through too' concludes the Welshman. 'It just sums him up. I think it was Sunday evening after the Wolves game, I texted him something like, 'Not been a bad week, has it?' And he came back with, 'Yeah, you could say it's been OK!'



## Rowing during the lockdown



Photo shows stroke Hugh McCarthy, 3 Daniel Prestwich, 2 Tadhg O'Flynn, bow Colm Kelliher and cox Adam Hartley

The last year and last few months in particular have been very challenging for all, however training has continued across all age grades in Pres Rowing during the 'Lockdown' period since Christmas. Rowers have run, cycled, and of course clocked up the miles on the rowing machine as the weeks passed by in order to maintain their fitness. Many of our athletes began to set personal bests on the ergometer with Zoom sessions and online fitness testing becoming the norm. Huge credit must go to each individual for continuing their training in the face of such difficult circumstances. This hard work will stand to all the rowers when hopefully regattas resume in some shape or form over the coming months.

### Getting Back on the Water

Training resumed in a more familiar fashion on April 26th and we saw boats take to the water again on Wednesdays and at the weekends. Our Junior 16s and 18s train at 7.00am on Saturday and Sunday mornings and the J14s and 15s at 12.45pm both days. Rowers will now put their weeks of land based conditioning to good use in order to get back up to speed on the water. Training will continue into the summer months and hopefully we will be able to enjoy some good weather and perhaps even some racing!

Training has also resumed on midweek after school with many of our athletes training up to seven days a week. A very big 'Thank You' must go to all the coaches involved for their continued support and dedication, especially during this past, difficult year. The club simply could not function without the hard work of the coaches across all levels. Another 'Thank You' must go to the parents of all the athletes for their patience throughout the year. Restrictions on the numbers of rowers permitted at each session made organising sessions and rotating crews a big challenge so your understanding here has been appreciated.

### 1st Year Rowing

Our 1st Years finally got a chance to experience rowing in the school in April and May, and there is keen interest amongst this year group. The focus is to learn the basic technique and have some fun along the way! Training takes place on Mondays and Fridays after school on the rowing machines. Students will get to experience their first taste of being in a boat in June when training will take place at the rowing club located in Shandon Boat Club on the Marina. As always, all students are encouraged to come and try out the sport and we greatly look forward to welcoming new members to the club!

**Eoin Hennessy**

*Head Rowing Coach*





An early morning outing in the 8



Returning from a spin down to Lough Mahon



A determined Jack Cotter training hard during lockdown



1st Years on the rowing machines



2nd Years out in the Oct



## Neddie Irwin continues the long tradition of competitive swimming in Pres



Photo shows the PBC 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay team who won the gold medal at the 2017 Irish Senior Schools' Swimming Championships held in the National Aquatic Centre in Dublin (l-r) David Carroll, John Curtin, Paul Higgins and Neddie Irwin

6th Year student Neddie Irwin learned to swim as a toddler in Silver Springs Health and Leisure pool where he was taught by coach Ellis Burns. He started competitive swimming in Dolphin Swimming Club at the age of seven. He has been part of the Munster Inter-Provincial squad since 2015 and has won multiple titles at both provincial and national levels. His favourite event is the 200m Back Stroke, at which he has won numerous National Age Group titles. He trained with the high performance squad in Limerick every weekend during 5th Year and was invited to join the Irish Squad at an International Open competition in Scotland when Ireland went into lockdown on 12th March 2020. Since then, pool training has been very limited and Neddie showed his determination and commitment by resorting to river and the sea for training.

He enjoyed success in the open water and he is the current holder of the famous Lee Swim trophy as well as the Sandycove Island Challenge and the Rebel Plunge. Very well done Neddie!

Over the last few years Pres has enjoyed great success at the National School's Gala in both individual and relay events. The relay team of Neddie Irwin, Paul Higgins, John Curtin and David Carroll won both Free Style and Medley relays at every age group. Neddie hopes to swim in university and has ambitions to compete internationally in the near future and is delighted that swimming training has finally resumed in Dolphin under coach Mick McCormack. Neddie has also been the Pres swimming captain for the past three years and has been a fantastic ambassador and role mole for all our younger swimmers in the school

All at Pres would like to thank Neddie, his parents Nora and Eddie, and coaches for their serious dedication to swimming in the school. We wish Neddie and all the other lads the very best of luck in their futures both in and out of the swimming pool.

**Brian Casey**  
PBC Swimming Manager



No substitute for hard work. Neddie in action in the pool.



## Cork Minor Hurlers 2020



(l-r) Mark Howell, Ben Cunningham and Ben O'Connor

## Pres lads form backbone of St Finbarr's Minor Hurling Championship win



(l-r) Ben Cunningham, JJ O'Connor, Ethan Twomey (Captain), Ben O'Connor and Charlie Gowan who played vital roles for St Finbarr's minor hurlers in their 2-21 to 3-11 win against Sarsfields in the County Premier 'A' Minor Hurling Championship played last September



## Pres boys star for Cork U20 GAA



Ethan Twomey (Class 6D) had a very successful hurling season with the Cork U20 hurlers that played in the Munster Championship and he also captained St Finbarr's Minor Hurlers to their first County hurling title after a twenty three year drought. Congratulations Ethan!



St Finbarr's clubman Brian Hayes (Class of 2020) played both hurling and football for Cork in the U20 Munster Championships in 2020.

## Ronan Scott Memorial Golf winners 2020



Photo shows (l-r) Philip Neville, Mel Deasy and Gary O'Donovan who won the Annual Ronan Scott Memorial Golf Day played at Lee Valley Golf Club last July



## Another hugely successful Ronan Scott Memorial Golf Day



Photo shows (l-r) Peter Scott, Don Buckley and Brian Scott pictured after a very enjoyable day's golf in Lee Valley Golf Club



Photo shows Pres teachers who played in the Ronan Scott Memorial Golf Day (l-r) Ian Lehane, John Mullarkey and Paul Downes



## Senior Rugby Season Review 2019 / 2020



The Pres Senior Cup Squad 2020 - 2021

It goes without saying, that the past two years have been beyond anything anyone could have ever imagined. Rugby was no different. Two seasons unfortunately that will be synonymous with COVID19 rather than tales of Cup finals and epic battles. The 2019/20 season saw a change in the Senior Coaching staff, Ger Burke took over the reins as head coach after several years involved. Likewise, Ian Lehane stayed on as Manager and Enda O'Regan as S&C coach. Cian Bohane joined the ranks as a backs coach, bringing a wealth of experience from his days as a Pres boy right through to his days as a pro, and finally the return of Don Buckley to Pres Senior rugby after a nine year hiatus.

The squad had a huge number of players from the previous year's Cup final defeat to CBC. A tough loss to take and by the narrowest of margins, 5 – 3, but many lessons were learned and we made sure to carry them with us throughout that season. There was a huge excitement building in the squad, and even after a short few weeks of training, it was evident to see the voracious appetite for work, the individual talent in the squad and the ambition to play an exciting brand of rugby.

The early part of the season, was as per usual hectic and unrelenting in its nature. The introduction of a pre-Christmas group stage to the Senior Cup, as well as our regular fixtures with all the top Dublin schools, meant that the fixture list was at times gruelling. Thankfully, it allowed us the opportunity to see in excess of 50 players play Senior rugby for Pres. Another important part of our journey that season took us to Banna Strand in November. A team bonding weekend that really did gel the squad together. From some questionable charades skills on the Friday night, to some even more questionable singing performances, that legendary header from Don Buckley in the volleyball final on the beach, it truly was a special weekend had by all!

The announcement of captain and vice-captain came as no surprise. The two outstanding leaders of the squad, Alex Kendellen and Jack Kelleher, rightfully took up their roles as Captain and Vice-Captain respectively. Both Alex and Jack, were immense in their leadership both on and off the field. In tandem with their fellow backrow, John Forde, they at times took their on-field performances to levels that were hard to comprehend. 'The Pres Backrow' was the talk of the province after two impressive victories against Crescent Comprehensive in the first round and St Munchins in the semi-final.

Fellow 6th Years, Billy Kingston, David O'Holloran, Alex Walsh and James (goose step) Keohane were equally emphatic in their dedication and performances in our two cup matches. The rest of the team comprised of an incredibly talented group of 5th years, with forwards Ben Comiskey, Darragh McSweeney (Dweeney) and Sam O'Sullivan driving standards in the pack. It was as exciting a backline as Pres has produced for many years, with Adam O'Brien and Billy Kiernan having stellar performances at outhalf, Daniel Squires and Darragh French bringing quality in the midfield and the lightning pace of Daniel Hurley and Patrick (Pa) Campbell joining 'Keohy' in the back 3. As with any successful team or squad, the aptitude and dedication of those on the extended panel was pivotal to all our success.



## Senior Rugby Season Review 2019 / 2020



Vice captain Jack Kelleher and PBC SCT captain Alex Kendellen hold the 2020 Munster Senior Schools Cup

We topped our group before Christmas, with a notable performance in Musgrave Park on a cold Wednesday night in November against the Munster U19 Club side. A wonderful try from Zach Dinan, a 4th Year at the time, set up by Pa was to be the highlight. Topping our group meant that we played Crescent in the 1st Round of the Cup in late January. As with any cup year, ours wasn't to be without its drama. As we prepared for that match we fell foul of a litany of injuries. Our preparation was minimalist in nature, but thankfully we beat Crescent, were without doubt the better side, but also with significant learnings taken from the game.

Jack Kelleher, played his first game in several months, with a hefty strapping on his thumb, put in a monumental performance. Mark Deane, also carrying a knock into the game, put in a worthy shift before being replaced by Jacob O'Brien who stepped up to the mark when we needed him. A lovely piece of play involving Darragh McSweeney, Pa Campbell and Daniel Hurley, with beautiful interplay between Pa and Dan at the end, set up our first score. As always, Alex Kendellen was immense in his work rate and leadership.

We awaited the winners of a quarter final between St Munchins and Castletroy meaning we would go three long weeks in between Cup games. This was evident to see in the first 15 minutes of our semi-final against a tough and robust St. Munchins side. Uncharacteristic ill-discipline and unforced errors meant that we were 10-0 down after 15 minutes. However, from minute 16 until the final whistle there was little doubt as to who were the better side and who would emerge victorious. Led by Alex, Pres showed incredible resolve and grit to make sure we headed for the dressing room at half time in the lead, the highlight of the half being a wonderful score from Sam O'Sullivan, linking with Darragh French in a superb piece of attacking rugby. The second half, saw a spirited St. Munchins side unable to live with the unrelenting physicality and work rate of the Pres defensive effort. The game was topped off with two wonderful scores from both Daniel Hurley and James Keohane, leaving a final scoreline of 33-10.

Another epic Senior Cup final against Christians awaited us. We were training superbly well and our preparations were very much on track for the final. We were boosted by the news that Alex Kendellen, Jack Kelleher and John Forde had been selected for the Irish U19 squad. Darragh McSweeney, Sam O'Sullivan and Darragh French had been selected for the Irish U18 Schools & Clubs squad, while Patrick Campbell and Daniel Hurley were selected the Irish U18 Schools squad. All squads were set to tour over the Easter holidays after our Senior Cup Final.

COVID19 was rearing its head closer and closer to our borders however. As it became apparent that the final was in serious jeopardy, we decided to act and make any and all changes needed to ensure that the match was played. However, our efforts were in vain. Despite the huge efforts and concerns of several parties involved, the unwillingness of some to reach a meaningful compromise meant that the date of the final would not be moved.





Superb action shot of PBC SCT Vice Captain, Jack Kelleher, going high to win a lineout versus St Munchins in the 2020 Senior Cup semi final in Musgrave Park. Jack is very ably assisted by his colleagues John Forde (l) and Darragh McSweeney (r).

To the heartbreak of our players, coaches and their families, the Munster Schools Senior Cup final of 2020 was cancelled and the Cup was eventually shared. A bitter pill to swallow and a gut wrenching end to a superb year of rugby. Nonetheless, we will look back on the squad of 2020 as wonderfully talented players, incredible young men, and ultimately as winners.

## Season Review 2020-21

All rugby in Pres was severely curtailed by Covid restrictions during 2020 and 2021. The PBC Senior squad did however complete a very comprehensive pre-season preparation from mid July to late August, based in Leevale HPC and Wilton, and under the supervision of S+C coach, Ciarán O'Regan and rugby coaches, Ger Burke, Don Buckley, Cian Bohane and Ian Lehane.

Sadly, the resumption of the season in September saw the playing of only two competitive full contact games before restrictions came back in October. That said, the lads trained diligently three times a week until Christmas in the hope of realising their Senior Cup dream.

The imposition of the lockdown after Christmas led ultimately to the cancellation of the season and any possibility of completing the Cup. This was a massively disappointing experience for the boys but one which they bore with great patience and resilience.

There were a number of representative selections and awards over the past year for members of the Senior squad. 2020 SCT Captain, Alex Kendellen, was awarded a UCC Quercus Sports Scholarship and made his debut for the Munster Senior team versus Scarlets in a Pro 14 match in Thomond Park. Alex, together with his Pres teammates, John Forde and Jack Kelleher is also part of the Ireland U20 squad, preparing for the delayed U20 Six Nations Championship to be played this summer.

Four Pres Senior players, Daniel Hurley, Darragh French, Patrick Campbell and Darragh McSweeney are also part of the current Ireland U19 National Training Squad.

Despite the doom and gloom around Covid-19, the future burns very brightly for Pres Rugby!

**Ger Burke**  
Head Coach  
PBC Rugby SCT



## Bryan O'Connor makes his professional debut for Gloucester



Bryan is embraced by Gloucester captain, Lewis Ludlow, at the final whistle versus Northampton in a 31-7 victory at Franklin's Gardens

Bryan O'Connor (Class of 2017) made his professional debut for Gloucester away to Northampton in the English Premiership on May 8th last. A product of Crosshaven RFC, Bryan won Junior Cup and Bowen Shield medals with Pres, before going on to be part of the 2017 Senior Cup winning side. After Pres, Bryan joined UCC RFC and represented Ireland at the 2018 Junior World Championship. He was recently rewarded with a full time two year deal with Gloucester, a very proud day for Bryan and his entire family. All at Pres wish him every success going forward both on and off the field!



Gloucester's Bryan O'Connor



Bryan celebrating with fellow prop, Jamal Ford-Robinson, after the game.



## The 1981 Senior Cup Winners - 40th Anniversary!



All smiles before kick-off at the 1981 the Munster Senior Schools Final in Musgrave Park

A few of weeks before our first cup match of the 1980 / 1981 season, we played St Munchins in Limerick in what turned out to be quite a bruising encounter. We lost two nailed on starters on our team - Robert Kennedy in the second row and Brendan Lucey on the wing were injured for the remainder of the season. That shook us considerably as both were experienced players having played the Senior Cup Final the season before, and indeed both had played in all that season's Munster Schoolboys matches. We took stock and rallied with Alan St Leger coming into the second row and Noel Humphreys onto the wing. We received a bye into the semi-final in Cork against Crescent College. It turned out to be a very tense affair and we were relieved to scrape over the line, 6-0. Christians navigated their semi-final and so the scene was set for yet another PBC v CBC Munster Senior Cup Final on Paddy's Day in Musgrave Park.

Unfortunately we had lost both the 1979 and 1980 finals to our old enemy Christians. The previous year was a particularly bitter pill to swallow having lost by a single point, 7-6. In 1981, it was four points for a try and this year we weren't going to be denied. We scored two unconverted tries through Billy Pope and Michael Bradley, which together with a Dave Barrett penalty had us 11 - 0 ahead at half time. Christians scored shortly after the break to make it 11 - 4 and they plugged away at our line for what seemed like an absolute eternity in search of a further score. We held them out and subsequently scored the clinching try through our No 8, Gary O'Sullivan to leave the final score at 15 - 4!

That team was superbly coached by Flor O'Sullivan and two of the team, Michael Bradley and Paul McCarthy went on to win full senior Ireland caps, touring New Zealand together in 1992 - a tour which Michael Bradley proudly captained.

### *Ray Clarke*

*Captain, 1981 Senior Cup Team*



Don Fitzgerald, Dave Buckley, James O'Brien and Michael Bradley in the white heat of battle



How The Cork Examiner reported the good news the following day



## The 1991 Cup Campaign - 30th Anniversary!



The 1991 Munster Senior Schools' winning squad with captain Johnny Kenefick and coaches Declan Kidney and Paddy Attridge

The '91 winners started their campaign with a nervous 4-3 win over St Munchin's in Thomond Park. While Pres struggled to get into the match, the late Anthony Foley was the stand-out player on the defeated Munchin's team.

The semi final against Christians proved to be a more positive game, with Pres winning 12-3. The highlight of the game was a dummy move from Barry Broderick that resulted in a fantastic line break by Deccie Fitzgerald. The ball then moving through the hands of Neil Barry and Roger Dineen to Denis McCarthy hitting the line from full back to put James Kiernan away in the corner, for as good a try that will be ever seen at any level! Kiernan then for good measure converted his own try magnificently from the touchline.

The final is a day that is remembered for the awful weather as much as the result. Pres beat Rockwell 4-0 to win their 21st Senior Cup. The match was played in demanding conditions with persistent rain and a strong wind. Pres played with the wind but were only 4-0 up at half time with a try from captain Johnny Kenefick. But the game was won by the pack in the second half, with a front row of John O'Driscoll, Johnny Barrett and Nick Lyons supported by Conor McCarthy and Roger O'Connor. They provided a platform time after time that allowed the back row of Greg Touhy, Gary O'Reilly and Tim O'Connell to provide a performance of skill and maturity beyond their years to retain the ball for almost all of the entire second half of the game.

This was Declan Kidney and Paddy Attridge's first Senior Cup, and Pres would happily go on to dominate it, winning the prestigious trophy in five of the next six years. Great days!

### **Johnny Kenefick**

*Captain, 1991 Senior Cup Team*



A muddled but unbowed Greg Touhy takes the fight to Rockwell



Barry Broderick starting another Pres attack



# The surprising conversion of Father Marney

**A**T 22, Corkman Marney Cunningham had the world at his feet.

A civil engineer earning the princely sum of £1,000 a year in the mid-1960s, he was also a dabbling regular on the Irish rugby team.

Marney had just scored the match-winning try against Wales — denying them a Grand Slam — in 1966 when he had a conversation with me at our workplace that I will never forget. We were both employed by O'Connell and Harleys, Consulting Engineers on the South Mall in Cork city at the time.

Compared to Marney, I was a very quiet young man. I had been brainwashed from the day I was born, like a lot of others at the time. He understood this and tried to take the religious reins out of my mouth — which made our conversation all the more surprising.

Shortly after his heave against Wales, Marney sought me out and told me: "Mick, I am making a change and I want you to pick what option I am going to take. I am going to play professional rugby, I am going to marry a blonde air hostess, I am going to take a big job in Glasgow as an engineer, or I am going to be a priest."

I replied that he could cross the last one out for sure. He laughed and said: "You are wrong. I am going to be a priest."

I was stunned. Here was one of the most remarkable people I had ever met, turning his back on his career and his sporting life, at just 22.

Born in 1933, the year after me, Marney Cunningham had been reared in the Wilton area and educated by the Presentation Brothers in Cork, which has rugby in its DNA.

A banker and wing forward, he played for the school and then for UCC and Irish Universities.

Marney was capped for Munster, emulating his father, Jack, a life-long Cork Constitution stalwart who became club President.

But in January, 1964, Marney suffered his biggest career setback when he had to cry off the Munster team to play the All Blacks at the Mardyke, with ligament damage suffered during a UCC tour of Dublin and Belfast. The province nearly pulled off a sensational victory that day in front of 7,000 fans, before narrowly losing 6-3.

The following year, 1965, Marney won a Munster Senior Cup medal with UCC in a fine side that included Tim McGrath, Dave Kiely and Jim Kieran. Also in 1965, Marney made his Ireland debut against France, aged 31.

Marney, who also played for the Barbarians, was unlucky not to be selected for the British and Irish Lions tour of South Africa in 1965.

Rugby's loss was Christianity's gain when promising Cork sportsman Marney Cunningham quit his burgeoning international career to become a priest. **MICHAEL KIELY** recalls the moment Marney told him his life-changing decision — and reveals how the priest went on to take a stand against apartheid.

He won seven caps for his country, and the highlight of his international career was scoring the only try in an 11-5 win against Wales, to deny them the Triple Crown and ultimately the grand slam, on March 10, 1966. It was Ireland's first win over Wales in seven years.

An Irish player later recalled of the try — a kick and dash to the line. "Our forwards were rampant, and the most outstanding of the lot, Cork's Marney Cunningham, broke through two tackles for the try, which put the issue beyond doubt."

A humorous account at the time stated of his score: "Marney ran five yards and stretched another ten!"

But it was his last ever game at national level, as he then chose to enter the priesthood.

In his biography, Jack Kyle said of Marney: "He never played rugby for Ireland again. This was all the more unusual because we, his team-mates, had no idea that he had been about to make this life-changing decision."

However, rugby remained a passion for Marney and he played it for another decade. Also, whilst training at the clerical Upholland College in Lancashire, England, he captained the college soccer team — he had been a renowned centre forward with Croydon Celtic junior soccer side in the late 1940s.

Marney was ordained a priest in June, 1962, in Salford in England, and flew straight home to officiate at the wedding of his younger brother, Joe, three days later.

Joe also played for Munster, and his son Paul became the third generation to play for the province and also won a cap for Ireland A.

In 1960, Marney also officiated at the high society wedding of his former Ireland rugby colleague Tony O'Reilly — who made his debut at the same time as him in 1965 — to mid-bodine's daughter Susan Cameron. Marney's sister Marie also entered religious service, becoming a nun in the Dominican Order.

Upon his ordination in 1962, the Examiner reported that Marney had given up a £1,650 a year job and he told the paper: "There is more satisfaction and happiness in serving the Church than in playing rugby or working as a civil engineer."

"I don't think I will play rugby again. I have not played for six years because of my studies for the priesthood."

However, a few months later the Examiner reported that he had been selected for the Lancashire team to

play a county championship match. As late as 1965, Marney was being picked for London Irish.

I attended his first mass, at St Joseph's Parish Church, Densby's Cross, Wilton, and when Marney came down to the altar rails to serve Holy Communion there was a young man with a mental disability who grew up with him. When Marney approached him, he broke down crying — and so did I.

A glimpse of the morals and principles that drove him into the priesthood was on display 60 years ago, when Munster played South Africa at Lansdowne Road.

That day, January 14, 1970, Marney led an anti-apartheid protest outside the ground, a powerful statement given his rugby record and the fact he was a man of the cloth.

Hundreds protested and the South African bus was pelted with eggs, with one campaigner kneeling in front of the vehicle.

You can see RTE footage of the protest at <https://www.rte.ie/archives/2015/01/09/971503-anti-apartheid-protests/>

Marney also became a chaplain in the RAF and played a rugby match against the Army. He served for a time in the Far East before returning to England, to become parish priest of St Charles Church in Swinton. He died on May 31, 2009, aged 66.

He was a very humble, very compassionate man, much loved by all who got to know him.

I wish now I could have five minutes with Marney and ask him why he chose to be a priest, when he had the whole world at his feet.

I imagine he would reply: "Fame does not last very long and I want something more meaningful."



PASTURES NEW: Marney Cunningham with his boots at the clerical Upholland College in Lancashire, England

## Munster by the grace of God...

In every Ireland game Marney Cunningham played, his team-mates included Lacie-born Robin Roe, a serving Church of Ireland clergyman who also played for the Lions.

Roe was following in the footsteps of Charles Bourne, a Church of Ireland clergyman who was on the Irish Triple Crown winning team of 1893, and is credited with introducing modern flank forward play.

Other rugby players who have turned out for their country before becoming Roman Catholic priests include Terry Curley of Australia, who joined the Marist Order in the 1950s, and Paul Kane, who played for the All Blacks a century ago before being ordained.

However, Monsignor Tom Gavin, of London Irish and Ireland, has the distinction of being the only serving Catholic priest ever to have been capped at international level, logging out for matches against France and England at Lansdowne Road in the Triple Crown team of 1949.



TAKING A STAND: Fr Marney Cunningham at an anti-apartheid protest at Lansdowne Road in 1970



Marney (circled) in Croydon Celtic FC U16 league and cup winning team in 1949, with, back, Declan O'Connor, Mick Cogan, Pat O'Connor, Finbar Golden, Anthony Stanton, Tim Rehan, manager. Front, Cyril O'Connell, Connie O'Brien, Neil O'Connell, Finbar Backley, and Jack Murphy





Marney Cunningham (third from the right on the back row) shown prior to Ireland's game against France in Lansdowne Road on 22nd January 1955. Ireland won the game 5 - 3.



Marney protesting against the visit of South African rugby team to Dublin in 1970



Have boots will travel! Marney in his clerical robes with his boots never too far away!



## Trying To Understand



Taken from us far too soon. Jimmy Horgan RIP

'I'll lend you, for a little while, a child of mine,' he said,  
'For you to love while he lives, and mourn when he is dead.

It may be six or seven years, or twenty-two, or three.  
But will you, 'til I call him back, take care of him for me?'

He'll bring his charms to gladden you, and shall his stay be brief,  
you'll have his lovely memories as solace for your grief.

I cannot promise he will stay, as all from earth return,  
But there are lessons taught down there I want this child to learn.

I've looked the wide world over in my search for teachers true,  
And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes, I have selected you.  
Now will you give him all your love - nor think the labours vain,  
Nor hate me when I come to call to take him back again.'

*'Dear Lord, thy will be done.*

*For all the joy this child shall bring, the risk of grief we'll run.  
We'll shower him with tenderness and love him while we may,  
And from the happiness we've known, forever grateful stay.  
And should the angels call for him much sooner than we planned,  
We'll brave the bitter grief that comes and try to understand.'*

*Written by an unknown poet*

## Peter Scott Snr (Class of 1961) RIP



Peter Scott Snr (Class of 1961) passed away in January 2021 after a long battle with illness. He is pictured above with his sons Peter Jnr, (Class of 1989), Philip (Class of 1987) and his grandson Brian (Class of 2013). Two other grandsons of Peter's, Cian and Dave Scott graduated from Pres in 2016 and 2018 respectively, while another grandson, Michael, is presently in 1st Year.



# *Down Memory Lane*



**Sacrament of Confirmation Class**  
1965 - 1966

*(Photo reproduced courtesy of Brian Clifford)*





# Reflection

## For Grief

When you lose someone you love,  
Your life becomes strange,  
The grounds beneath you become fragile,  
Your thoughts make your eyes unsure;  
And some dead echo drags your voice down.  
Where words have no confidence.

Your heart grows heavy with loss,  
And though this loss has wounded others too,  
No one knows what has been taken from you  
When the silence of absence deepens.

Flickers of guilt kindle regret  
For all that was left unsaid or undone.

There are days when you wake up happy;  
Again inside the fullness of life,  
Until the moment breaks  
And you are thrown back  
Onto the black side of loss.

Days when you have your heart back,  
You are able to function well  
Until in the middle of work or encounter  
Suddenly with no warning,  
You are ambushed with grief.

It becomes hard to trust yourself.  
All you can depend on now is that  
Sorrow will remain faithful to itself.

More than you, it knows its way  
And will find the right time  
To pull and pull the rope of grief  
Until that coiled hill of tears  
Has reduced to its last drop.

Gradually, you will learn acquaintance  
With the invisible form of your departed;  
And when the work of grief is done,  
The wound of loss will heal.  
And you will have learned to wean your eyes  
From that gap in the air  
And be able to enter the hearth  
In your soul where your loved one  
Has awaited your return  
All the time.

*John O'Donoghue  
Benedictus*

