

GRAPEVINE

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MUN

U-LIVE

**Junior
Rugby**

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EDITORIAL

-Shane Hynes-

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Shane Hynes and I am the new editor of Grapevine magazine. I am just finishing Transition Year and what a year it has been. I have learnt so much, experienced an incredible amount and found out how amazing life can be. I will leave Fourth Year with amazing memories, and I am ready for anything the Senior Cycle has to throw at me. Some information about me: I am 16 years old, I have a huge interest in many areas, but most of all I love literature, music and art. My favourite subjects in school would have to be English and Classics, both explore topics I am interested in. I am a member of a few clubs in the school: Writers' Club and Green Schools. I also play some hockey in school and in Pembroke Hockey Club.

As editor, I have a unique voice in the school populace. I can share my views and discuss my ideas through the medium of journalism. I plan to change the overall magazine, hopefully change how the magazine is viewed by the students and to make it a more interesting and creative publication. I am not at all denegrating my predecessors, but the magazine has incredible potential and I hope to actualise it. The decision has been made to make the magazine more student-run, teachers are stepping back and giving students more power and influence. I have a great team of co-ordinators, eager journalists and Grapevine staff helping to make the magazine a publication with interesting articles, great photos and a beautiful aesthetic.

I take this chance to recommend anyone reading this to become involved in the magazine. We are constantly searching for new members with an interest in creating something, representing the school and sharing their knowledge. We want you to come join us on our journey to create an amazing publication, no matter what talent you have, we would love to have you.

I am full of hope for the future of the magazine, and I am glad to have such support from students and teachers alike. If you have any advice or suggestions on the magazine please tell us, we are trying to give it an entire new face. We need as many students involved, and it is up to you reading this to be the change you want to happen in Grapevine. As Gandhi once said 'be the change you want to see in the world', and that mindset is what inspired me to go for this role and encapsulates everything that our life and careers should involve.

If you have any interest in the English language and bettering your future (which I think we all do) stop me in the corridors and chat to me. I'm usually sporting offensively colourful socks, so don't hesitate to stop and ask me anything. I want to take this opportunity to thank Ms Mockler for entrusting me with this role and for all of the behind the scenes work she does, thank you so much. Also to my amazing team, Yasmin my sub-editor, Thomas the head of design and layout, the rest of the staff, but most of all you. Without you reading this the magazine would not exist and I would not be writing this long-winded editorial; thank you for having an interest in Grapevine!

I hope to see you soon and, in the next edition, there will be a few exciting tweaks, and some surprises thrown in. Have a good summer, and hopefully you will come back next year with a new-found interest in journalism, and a sudden urge to join the Grapevine. Have a great break everyone!

Stay classy St Andrew's,

Shane

All the Latest...

Cycle Against Suicide

St Andrew's College students and staff organised their own Cycle Against Suicide event at the College on Tuesday 9 May to help spread the message that 'It's ok not to feel ok and it's certainly ok to ask for help.'

We had all the years involved, from first to sixth and even teachers. A special word of thanks should go to the organisers, to FLYEfit who so kindly loaned the static bikes that were used from early morning till after school in the lovely sunshine and to everyone who donated to support the cause. It was a very enjoyable and successful day, awareness was raised in both the student and parent body. This year it was the Sixth Year participants who clocked up the most kilometres winning themselves a pizza lunch on Monday! Ms Sloan won first place among the teachers. Thanks to Ms Devally and all the teachers who organised the event.

Shane Hynes



FOCUS IRELAND TRANSITION YEAR SLEEPOUT

This year was the first year of the 'Walk in my Shoes' event, or as it was more commonly known the 'Focus Ireland Sleepover'. It was the brain-child of a few of the Transition Year students, who were inspired by a guest speaker who came in from Focus. Almost all elements of the event were created and organised by the 4th Year populace, with a significant amount of help from Ms King.

It occurred on Thursday 4 May, we left the school at 4, with strict instructions not to go home or to eat a huge meal. This was to try to simulate what homeless people experience. Some people went to the park, others to Blackrock Village. We returned to the college around 7:30 and were given our dinner: simple soup and simple sandwiches. These were generously donated by Sodexo.

After our humble meal we went to the hall for activities, including card games and Pictionary. Our sleeping areas were assigned to us, we had the option to sleep in or outside. The predominant number of the year decided to sleep outside, in dusty doorways and tucked behind windproof walls. After a painful night of sleeping on ice cold concrete, with the wind whipping our faces, we arose as if from the grave in the morning. With drooping faces and aching spines, none of us were ready for a day of school. Many of us got breakfast in Clarks, which thus ran out of all hot food, to the dismay of the 4th year students.

Even though it was a tough and chilling experience, all of us were glad we did it and we were more aware of the difficult life faced by those less fortunate!

Shane Hynes

Classical Studies Trip



Images taken by Students

On the 15 March, thirty-two lucky Classical Studies students, ranging from second to third year, departed to Italy. I was fortunate enough to be one of the students that went. The objective of the trip was to experience what we had been studying in class. We had studied the town of Pompeii to quite an extent and were extremely excited to take a close look at the ancient town trapped in time.

You may or may not know that the town of Pompeii was buried in ashes after Mt. Vesuvius erupted on the 24 August 79AD and so our first stop in Italy was none other than Mt. Vesuvius itself, located in Campania, near to Naples. Accompanied by Ms Devally, Mr Flanagan, Ms Mockler and Mr Fairbairn, we travelled to the mountain. A few hours later we had successfully made our way to the top. The trek was not terribly exhausting and was definitely worth our while. The massive crater that sinks quite deep into the volcano is overwhelming and the breathtaking view from the summit is beautiful.

After seeing the destroyer of the ancient town up close, we were excited to visit Pompeii and actually experience history. So, the next day, we all set out to the highly anticipated destination, but first, we visited Herculaneum. Herculaneum was a town much smaller than Pompeii and closer to Vesuvius. It was amazingly preserved and still held life within it. I was shaken whilst walking through the remains of what once was the home to people that were a part of one of the biggest civilizations the world has ever seen. Many mosaics and frescoes on the floors were almost entirely preserved. Following the visit to Herculaneum, we departed to the highlight of the trip: Pompeii.

Upon arriving at Pompeii, we planned out the next couple of hours, hoping to see everything we wanted. With a map of the town, we set out to experience the history in Pompeii for ourselves. It may not have felt as alive as Herculaneum and was not as well preserved, but Pompeii had many more sights to offer. The most amazing of all had to be the amphitheater, which happens to be the oldest we know of. It was a unique experience to stand in the amphitheater, where many had shed blood. The forum area in Pompeii was much bigger than I expected and had beautiful structures within it. The forum was the social center of the town. We could still see the remains of the what once was the Macellum, the marketplace.

One thing we hadn't seen in Pompeii were the extremely detailed sculptures the Romans were known for. So on our last day in Italy, we visited the Naples National Archaeological Museum. The museum had a vast collection of sculptures, mosaics, frescoes and paintings. Certain pieces such as the large fresco representing the Nucerian Riot of 59 AD, stood out significantly as magnificent works of art.

The museum was a wonderful way to end a great trip and I'm sure that my fellow students and teachers alike, enjoyed the trip to a great extent. Many thanks to Ms Devally, Mr Flanagan, Ms Mockler and Mr Fairbairn for organising the trip.

A Form Football Dream by Andrew Blair-White

I ask one simple question: is there a bigger part of the summer term for a St Andrew's male student than form football? I think not. A game that unites forms, a game that divides forms, a game that inspires forms. Could anything be better than 14 poor footballers scrummaging around on half a hockey pitch for 20 minutes at a time? I think not. Nothing in Andrew's beats the competition. So, it was extremely saddening to be paired with a form who had only managed three wins in thirty games until the start of sixth year; but then the dream began.

Vs Cs

It was a bright yet cold Friday afternoon that greeted us for our opening game of the 2017 season. Morale was quite low; another year in the doldrums expected. We ran onto the pitch in our customary un-athletic style. Today was the day we were giving a debut to TY Killian Puplett; Charlie Bracken was away on prior commitments. In a surprisingly tight affair, we held our own for the majority of the match and then Jay Sorenson decided to repay our faith in starting him upfront with his first ever form football goal. With a 1-0 lead we held back, no unnecessary runs forward, casual screams at Toker to hoof it clear and of course nagging at ref Fairbairn for fouls. 1-0 win in bag, clean sheet in bag but some bad news came after the game, opposition striker Demi was missing. Luckily, I found him lodged deep in Luke Dillon's back pocket.

Vs K

Having sent the whole college into shock having beaten McA 20 minutes previously, we took the field to face K, the one team we actually thought we could beat. In a match that could only be described as extremely poor, we bagged two goals from counters from HN top scorer, Adam McCoy Smith. It was safe to say it wasn't a goal-keeping clinic from opposition net minder Daniel O'Connell. As Harry Sutton got increasingly ticked off, we lapped up a 2-0 win, 9 points, 3 clean sheets, semis seemingly inbound.

Vs McA

With 3 points already secured, I was already satisfied with our yearly performance. We faced up to 6McA the following Tuesday and 0 points was expected; they have decent footballers, Eoin Puplett not being one of them. So, you could hardly believe your eyes when we collected a penalty, missed it and then still score later in the game to lead. This day was when Henry Sheehy O'Shea lifted himself into the form football hall of fame. What a goal it was. McA pressed, Nathan got angry, Eoin missed a few open goals and my own pre-game mind games against James Meier had taken their toll on him. Three more points notched up.

Vs McG

In what is deemed a grudge match for reasons I still don't understand, we arrived after the Easter break with a derby to play. In a typically low quality affair, chances were sparse. However, I had to tip David Molloy's goal-bound effort onto the post and Adam missed a chance (only he knows how). 'Deco' Molloy subsequently had to be substituted for injury, even when he wasn't involved in any tackles and Charlie and John had a little cardio match against each other. It finished 0-0, another vital point added.



Vs S

In a match which we've had to forfeit in the past to keep our own dignity intact, we played the best team in the year after the tight McG contest. I think it would be generous to say we had 15% of the ball, but we were defending very admirably. I would even go to say we were temporarily making the usually very cocky and self-assured S a little uneasy. 17 of the 20 minutes had ticked by until I had probably the biggest mistake of my form football career. Having left my front post open, Jack slipped it underneath me and into the goal. Heartbreak for my teammates, I had let them down big time. Also, in attempt to salvage an equaliser, I went up front for a corner and they scored on an open goal. 2-0 defeat, bubble not burst but deflated, goal-keeping practice needed for myself.

Vs T

In a game which was actually a dead rubber affair, we tested out against our likely semi-final opposition 6T in our last group game. T are not a bad team, but nobody really likes them. After all, they do have a specialist form football kit. Their team is led by club goalkeeper Gavin McDaid, who resembles more of a man-mountain than anything else in the small goals. He is supported by a big, but agricultural defence and some decent players upfront. Again though, the HN wall as I like to call it stood firm, Luke Dillon putting in yet another immense performance, assisted superbly by a sensational Charlie Bracken and the ginger monster himself, Rob Tuke. Unfortunately, this was the day Tuke would make his inevitable mistake. Having again resisted for 17 minutes, Tuke dawdled, Bradley pounced and I fetched it from the back of my net. However, that wasn't the final story as my man McCoy Smith channelled his inner Lionel Messi to skip by 4 defenders and slot away past McDaid, 1-1. 11 group points gained and a first ever form football semi-final to go and savour, no wonder I put up around 4 form football grams.

Vs T (Semi Final)

The massive day dawned and, to say it was a nervy build up, would be an understatement. With me having almost concussed myself by playing cricket the previous day and Tuke suffering from a never healing bruised rib, we were not in peak physical condition. The match itself followed the exact same route as the group game with T controlling the majority of play, however we snuck a penalty due to the 2 over the fence rule and had a golden opportunity. All you need to know is that the ball from the penalty is still travelling in the air, summing up just how high it went. Despite the possession, T didn't mount anything substantial till the last kick of the game, when Andrew Cotter managed to miss the easiest open goal man will ever see. 0-0 it was, penalties it was, the dream was alive but on the edge, our penalty taking was always weak. This showed.



HN win toss and shoot first:

Blair White to McDaid – Hit hard and flat but too close to the keeper, good save

Davies-Biletta to Blair White – Hit well into corner, good peno

McCoy Smith to McDaid – Good hit, great save, penos not really Adam's thing

Cotter to Blair White – High, wide and into the sky

Sheehy O'Shea to McDaid – Good low hit, another top save, HN scoring not looking likely

Ryan to Blair White – 300 yard run up, tired by time he hit the ball, bad attempt, yards wide

Bracken to McDaid – TOP BINS FROM CHARLIE!!

Bradley to Blair White – Into corner and snuck in, should have been saved

Sorenson to McDaid – Decent attempt, another good save, dream over

Aftermath

With HN exiting 2-1 on penalties and the two obvious best teams in the final, the competition had lost its spark; the final proved this. In a game which anybody who wasn't playing couldn't care less about, S won 2-0 and didn't celebrate because they're too good for that. It's fair to say that if we'd won, I would have contemplated streaking through the school to show my excitement, yet, it wasn't to be. The only good thing about the final was the presentation afterwards, with Adam McCoy Smith getting his deserved hands on the 'player of the year' award. It was a necessary and timely appreciation for the 'Leicester' like dream from the HN machine, I was proud to be a part of it and surely we'll be seen in a 7-a-side league near you. I thank you HN.

What Students Think of The New Leaving Certificate Marking System.

Whether it is the ongoing controversy surrounding the new Junior Cycle or the debate on whether Leaving Cert honours Maths should have bonus points, the Department of Education is always making headlines. One of their more recent installations has been the switch from the original Leaving Cert system to the new H1 system. Many believe that this is an improvement, as candidates scoring from 30-39 per cent will receive points, however many disagree and say that the grades cover a range of points that are too broad. To understand exactly what people thought of one of the biggest change in education this decade, I decided to ask Fifth Year students, many of who are still only getting used to the new system.

One student described it as unfair, as it is difficult for students sitting Ordinary Level exams to perform well in them. An A1 in Ordinary level was 60 points originally, but under the new system it has been reduced to 56 points, which is a H5 by comparison. They also said that it is unfair on people who are less academic and have to sit an ordinary level exam out of necessity.

Another believes that it is easier for struggling students to get by but very hard for the top achievers to do well, especially in Maths given the difficult marking scheme. Before the new system came in, a high achieving student could attain 90 points from an A2 but now loses two points for the exact same grade.

However, many students said that the new points system was a good move by the Department of Education, with one saying that it encourages students to study harder. It is also important to recognise that this new marking scheme may open doors for student who may struggle academically, with the awarding of points to students scoring 30 or higher.

One teacher said that the new points system has not ended the rat race for points and is still more focused on gaining as many points as possible and has little emphasis on the non-academic side of education. With many students struggling to find the time to do hobbies or becoming less fit due to the constant flow of work, this is certainly true.

Personally, the points system has both benefitted me and set me back. In October I lost 10 points in the new system compared to the old one, which would have prevented me from entering one of the courses I am considering applying for. However in Christmas and February I gained points. In general, I believe that the subject bands are too broad, since there is a very big difference from the lower end of the grade to the higher end. As well as this, candidates scoring at the higher end of the grade will lose points that they would have received under the old system. This is especially relevant for prospective students who sat their Leaving Cert before 2017 will be judged under the new system instead of the one they prepared for. This could potentially be an issue for a student who may have lost points under the new system.

Overall, there was a mixed consensus on whether the new points system will benefit students or not, however we as the class of 2018 are highly unlikely to revert back to the old system, so whether we like it or not is irrelevant. Whether the new system is a good thing or a bad thing is yet to be determined, so we will have to wait and see until this summer when the results come out to see.

Elvi Wilson

Is Gaming A Sport?

Gaming, or eSports is one of the most rapidly expanding pastimes. From the 1990s nerd niche, to selling out the largest stadiums across the world, eSports is here to stay.

Before we answer the question, we must understand what eSports are. Also known as competitive or pro-gaming, eSports (electronic sports) are a form of competition between professional gamers. The gaming industry itself is currently worth a total of 100 billion USD, and the world spent a combined 156 billion hours playing video games in 2016, with the average European gamer spending 338 hours each. In particular, eSports revenue increased by 100% in the last year alone, a growth rate which is expected to rise. Recently recognised by the U.S. government as athletes, professional eSports players have sponsors, coaches, teams and practice schedules. Training in just one game for 14+ hours a day, they compete in international championships viewed by millions of people. The 2013 League of Legends Season 3 World Championship final was viewed by 32 million people, and the Dota 2 International Championships have prize pools of 18-20 million USD. South Korea even have a governmental eSports Association dedicated to “making eSports an official sporting event, and to solidify the commercial position of eSports in all sectors”. Professional gaming is taking the world by storm and shows no signs of stopping.

But the question is: should it be labelled as a sport? The answer to that depends on how we define sport. The colloquial definition is “an activity involving skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment”. There is no contention that competing against highly trained professionals performing thousands of precisely timed actions for long periods of time with millions of dollars at stake is no easy task. In fact, eSports require more apm (actions per minute) than any other sport in the world. For many games, players are expected to perform 200-300 apm to succeed in championships. The fastest player in StarCraft II is Losira, who achieved an average of 900 apm in one of his 40 minute games, equating to 15 actions per second. Additionally, while the average reaction time is 0.26 seconds, and elite Olympic sprinters at 0.15 seconds, top ranking Counter-Strike: Global Offensive players can react faster than 0.13 seconds. Competing in eSports requires no small amount of skill, and thus eSports fit the definition.

However, what we mean by certain words will always depend on the context. When someone talks about sports in terms of participation in school, they are clearly referencing physical activity, so gaming is not a sport in this sense. But in the broader context of mainstream competitive pastimes, gaming is just as much a sport as any other.

With the Olympic Committee adding new sports like skateboarding to the Tokyo 2020 games, CEO of Raptr and eSports hall of famer Dennis ‘Thresh’ Fong believes that eSports will inevitably follow suit.

“It’s going to happen,” Fong said. “The question is just when, and how long is it going to take? Curling is an Olympic sport. Why in the world should a virtual sport that fills stadiums, and has tens of millions of viewers watching the finals, not be in the Olympics? The Olympics is also about money and prestige, not just about sport. When you look at the young global fan base eSports has today, they’re going to find a way to make it happen at some point.”

eSports are often disregarded as being ‘fake sports’ by people who are unfamiliar with them, due the lack of representation in mainstream media. Alternative media outlets such as YouTube, Twitch, Reddit, Twitter and select small newspapers are the main platforms on which eSports are currently popularised, due to the majority of viewers having a pre-existing interest in the already very well developed world of gaming. But as eSports continue to grow, they are spreading to a wider audience and are becoming more accepted. We are drawing ever closer to the time when eSports will finally get the recognition they deserve.



The Yemen Civil War.

The present Yemeni Civil War has been ongoing since September 2014, when the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels took over control of the Yemeni capital, Sanaa. There has been conflict between the Houthi and the Yemeni Government since 2004, the majority of that conflict taking place in the Houthi-based Sadaa province. This recent spark of conflict has torn Yemen apart.

The conflict has created many casualties, with estimates of over 8,000 overall as of January 2016. Nearly 3,000 of these deaths are civilian related. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights estimates that Saudi-led air strikes have contributed to two-thirds of the civilian deaths reported. The Yemeni government is being supported by the U.S and U.K. Saudi Arabia has been accused of around 260 war crimes in Yemen.

Roughly 19 million people in Yemen require humanitarian assistance. Aid has come from various organisations, such as the World Food Programme, UNICEF and Oxfam. One of the large contributions to the famine is the price of food which has greatly increased as a result of the ongoing conflict. This includes bombings by both sides. The rate of child malnutrition has risen to some of the highest in the world. The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) has estimated that over 2.5 million Yemeni people have been displaced internally. This is an astonishingly large figure as the humanitarian crisis in Yemen grows larger by the day.

Pamela Fitzsimons



On Friday January 20 2017, Donald J Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States of America. So, what's this event's history, how does the event work and how does it mark a president?

The first inauguration day took place on April 30, 1789 and it was George Washington's first inauguration. All inaugurations from 1793 until 1933 were held on March 4, because it is the anniversary of the Federal Government beginning their operations, after the US Constitution in 1789. However, following the ratification of the twentieth amendment to the constitution, inauguration day moved to January 20 and this remains true today. Since 1801, inaugurations have been held at the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. Three other inaugurations: that of Franklin D. Roosevelt's fourth (1945), Harry S. Truman's first (1945), and Gerald Ford's (1974) were held at the White House. The ceremony includes the President, his family and friends, members of Congress and the Senate, Supreme Court justices, high-ranking military officials, former living presidents, living Medal of Honour recipients and other diplomats.

The inauguration includes the Oath of Office, in which they (President Elect) raise their right hand and place the left on a Bible or other book held up by the first lady, they recite the oath, thus becoming president. For Obama's second inauguration, he used Lincoln's Bible and a Bible owned by Dr Martin Luther King, a testament to history being made. The Inaugural address is made right after the oath. It reiterates promises for the presidency. Inaugural addresses have given us some of the greatest quotes in history, including in 1961 when John F Kennedy declared, "And so my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country". After the inaugural speech you have the Inaugural Parade. Since 1977, presidents set out on foot for a bit of the route to the White House. Since 1809, inauguration balls have also been held for the President.

The event of Donald Trump's inauguration has caused controversy. Some of his tweets about the event include "January 20th 2017, will be remembered as the day the people became the rulers of this nation again.", "A fantastic day and evening in Washington D.C. Thank you to @Fox News and so many other news outlets for the GREAT reviews of the speech!" and finally, "Wow, television ratings just out: 31 million people watched the Inauguration, 11 million more than the very good ratings from 4 years ago!". In relation to crowd numbers, in a speech at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Headquarters in Langley, Virginia, Trump said that "a million or a million and a half" people had attended his inauguration. There is no crowd count for the event, but photographs from the same point at about the same time of day clearly show that attendance was significantly less than at Barack Obama's inauguration in 2009, when city officials said that 1.8 million people gathered on the National Mall. This controversy has been debated back and forth by Republicans and Democrats across the states.

Whether the crowds were less than previous years, this feud is contributing to Donald Trump's approval ratings. Recent Gallup polling shows that just 48 per cent of Americans approve of the way Trump is handling his transition, the lowest figure in its polling history. However, this only goes back to Bill Clinton's first inauguration in 1992. Whether you are a fan of Trump or not, this event has interesting history and is a very important insight into the next four years of a president.

Eoin Brennan

U-LIVE 2017



I'm Ruben, I'm a second year and I performed at U-Live with my band 'Feedback' and I'm going to tell you about my experience of it.

This was my second time playing at U-Live. The first time I did two pieces, one with the two first year music classes joint together. We did a great job playing a song by Avicii called some nights. I also did a song with my band but at that stage we weren't called Feedback, we were known as MUBLTN which was a last minute name given to us by Mr. Hickmott, I think MUBLTZ stood for 'Man U Beat Liverpool Two Zero' which now that I think about it is funnier now than it was then. My band and I played a song called pumped up kicks by foster the people.

Anyway, this year was a little different instead of performing with my music class I did the opening song with a group of other very talented students from various years called Shozaloza from the movie Invictus which was great fun. But that was only the first performance out of over 30 Feedback were act 16 so I had a lot of waiting to do. So we sat back with a couple of friends and watched incredible acts go by one after another and when I say incredible I really mean it the quality of performance was through the roof.

And soon enough it was time for Feedback to go on. There was a little confusion as we thought we were after the interval but they had made a last minute change and gotten rid of it. Which added a nice bit of pre-show confusion.

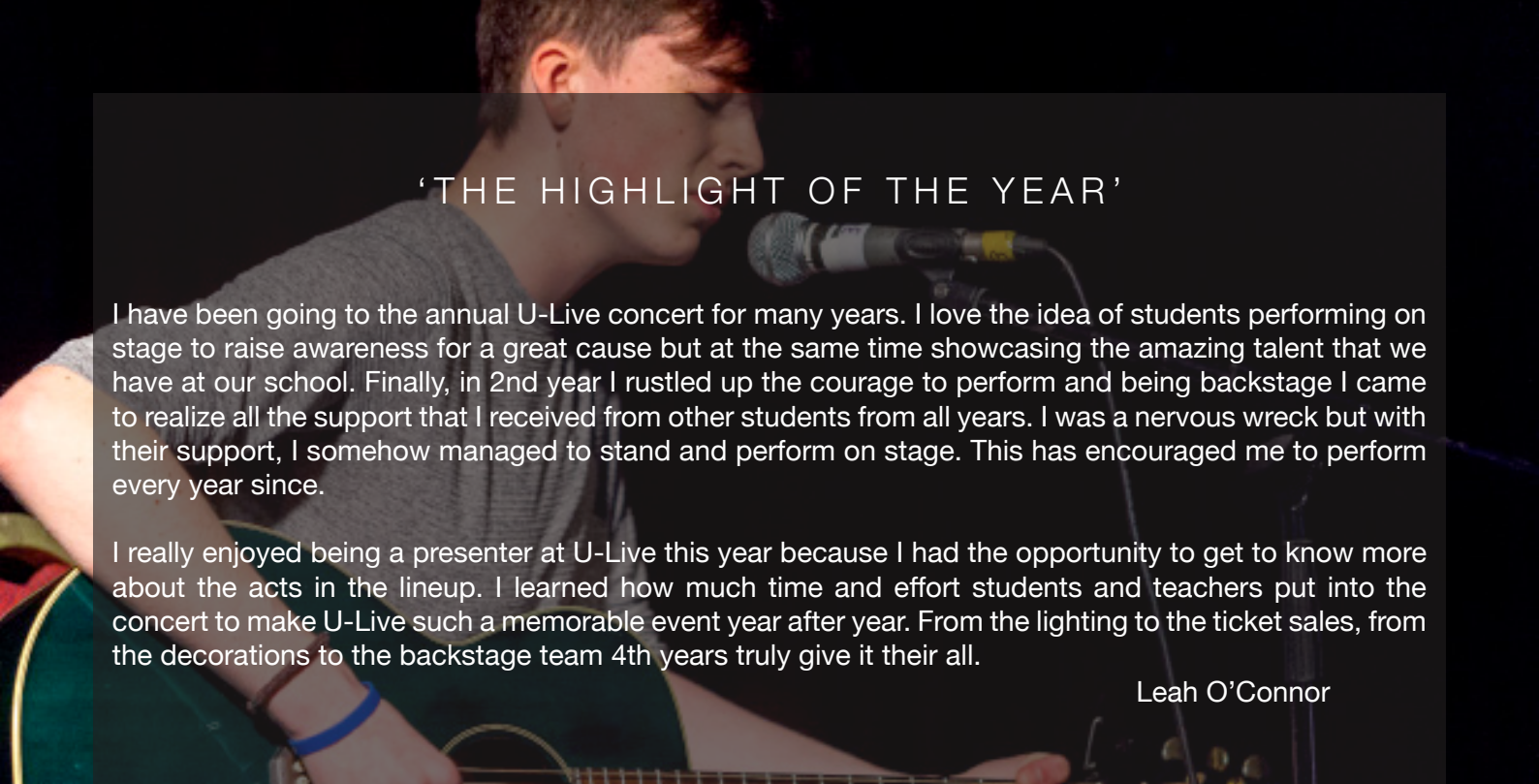
The act before us were about half way through their song when we realized that we didn't have a name. We tried to think of one as fast as possible. They started out cool and making sense like fusion, then we came up with funny ones like paracetamol and A.D.H.A, but soon enough we just started naming things we saw like Fire extinguisher, Mic stand and Flash card. We were running out of time when our drummer Matthew suggested Feedback. Which we all liked and thus Feedback was born.

There was a mad rush to get the keyboard on stage and the mics set up as the four of us went through our parts in our heads. You see we had only decided on the song 3 days before the show and we had to cram our parts it to our heads. We had decided to play Yellow by Coldplay.

So we're on stage and we've just started our song but we hadn't realized that the keyboard was on full volume. So when it came in it nearly made my left ear go def. Even now I still think my left ear isn't as good as it used to be.

As we perform we all relax a bit and get it to the song more. But just like all great things it came to an end to soon. I had really enjoyed performing and immediately wish we could play another one. We stepped down off the stage, I could still hear people cheering. We had done an incredible job. We split up and sat down in the audience and watched the rest of the show. For the first time in weeks I had nothing to do or prepare for I could finally relax.

Ruben O'Mahony



'THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR'

I have been going to the annual U-Live concert for many years. I love the idea of students performing on stage to raise awareness for a great cause but at the same time showcasing the amazing talent that we have at our school. Finally, in 2nd year I rustled up the courage to perform and being backstage I came to realize all the support that I received from other students from all years. I was a nervous wreck but with their support, I somehow managed to stand and perform on stage. This has encouraged me to perform every year since.

I really enjoyed being a presenter at U-Live this year because I had the opportunity to get to know more about the acts in the lineup. I learned how much time and effort students and teachers put into the concert to make U-Live such a memorable event year after year. From the lighting to the ticket sales, from the decorations to the backstage team 4th years truly give it their all.

Leah O'Connor





Making History

For the first time in eight years, this year's Junior Rugby team achieved qualification for the Junior Cup. Despite people's doubts, we exceeded expectations. Our hard work and consistency, whether in the fitness sessions with Mr Jones or the intense training programme, showed great dedication.

Despite the team's best efforts, we were knocked out by the Wesley College team. The score being 22-7. On behalf of the team, I would like to thank our coaches Kieran, Paul and Mr Flattery, Mr Doel and Mr Jones for all their work throughout the season!





A Movie Review of 'Lion' (2016) by Aleena Manoj

Oscar nominated film *Lion* is the kind that throws your heart against a wall, repeatedly, for two hours. This true-story of a very young boy, lost in the streets of Kolkata, India, sundered from his hard-working mother and beloved older brother, is a definite tear-jerker. Five-year old, Saroo finds himself hopelessly lost, miles away from his cramped house located in an urban slum, which to him, is home. He faces traumatizing obstacles and spends countless days on his own. In time, Saroo is adopted by a lovely Australian couple: a tender, affectionate, mother and a good-hearted, loving father. Saroo is raised well and is content with his life. He forgets his previous hardship as he grows older, until one day it all comes rushing back to him. Twenty-five years after he is adopted, Saroo puts all his time and effort into locating his old home town. Unfortunately, Saroo's determination is accompanied by haunting memories of his brother and mother, seemingly putting him in a state of depression. This causes his loved ones to become worried, but his new-found anxious and irritated demeanor forces them to leave him to his own devices. We follow Saroo on one unforgettable journey, where he faces profound regret, sorrow and most of all, remorseful guilt.

There is no need to question whether this film deserves the handful of varied awards that it has won, such as 'BAFTA Award for Best Adapted Screenplay'. The film is an adaptation of the book *A Long Way Home*, written by the very man whose story has become a sensational hit, Saroo Brierley. The book is the story of his days wandering alone, being adopted and then finding his way home.

'BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role' was awarded to Dev Patel, who played a mature Saroo. Dev Patel put on a relatively good performance if one considers that much of the action and suspense in the film was taken up by the first half, which followed the traumatic journey of young Saroo. Thus, he was at a small disadvantage; one might say that he didn't have much to work with. Yet, when comparing his performance with that of Rooney Mara (who played his love interest Lucy) and Nicole Kidman (who played his adoptive mother Sue), Patel's rendition was rather mediocre. Both Mara and Kidman executed their respective roles expertly. Putting aside the performance of the mature members of the cast, one cannot dismiss the exceptional rendition by eight year-old Sunny Pawar. Little Sunny portrayed the role of five year-old Saroo remarkably. His consistent acting skills are rare and his cuteness is overwhelming.

However, it is more than just good acting that separates a good film from a bad one. Looking at the variety of different aspects that a film consists of, one that stood out to me was the music. Many of the songs are soft and sweet, but they convey intense emotions in a truly magical way. Each song syncs undeniably well with its respective scene. The soundtrack consists of nineteen songs, of which eighteen were arranged by the film's incredibly talented music composers, Dustin O'Halloran and Hauschka. The film features the original song "Never Give Up" by successful singer-songwriter, Sia.

Aside from its phenomenal soundtrack, *Lion* has very realistically captured the atmosphere of the densely populated, bustling streets of Kolkata. The genuine representation of noise pollution and the chatter of the passers-by is something that I found very admirable, for there was nothing restraining the sounds in the background, thus allowing a natural atmosphere to be achieved. Every scene is vividly portrayed with images that burn into your brain. They represent the streets of Kolkata in a dull, frightening light. They focus on the dark side of the city or one might prefer to say, the dark aspects of it. I gather that we see it through the eyes of little Saroo. He is terrified, upset and confused. Everything we see is from his perspective.

Fortunately, all of his worries soon disappear and we see that he is very content with his new life in Australia, completely oblivious to his previous life. Yet it seems as though all of Saroo's old memories come back to him very suddenly, along with a storm of forgotten emotions. This particular scene of realization is portrayed extremely beautifully and it is my favourite scene, without a doubt. The vague music in the background suits the moment perfectly. This scene is definitely one scene that Patel has really worked magic on. We see him taking in the smell of the familiar looking Indian dessert, recalling his love for it as a child and how he'd always hoped to have a lot of it. This is a moment of sheer remembrance; we see glimpses of his life with his mother and brother. From here onwards, Saroo becomes obsessed with finding his old family. It is really incredible how all he ever needed was a small trigger to flip a switch that has been off for twenty five years.

I sincerely enjoyed this film. It is an outstanding story and is an exhilarating experience. It is a film of high standards and is a definite must-watch. Although there are no inappropriate scenes in this film, the intense play with emotions and frightening themes can be too much for young children to handle, thus parental guidance is advised. The film consists of overwhelmingly emotional moments that will have you in tears, so be sure to have some tissues handy. This amazing heart-warming film is sure to leave a mark on you, perhaps you will drown in tears of sympathetic sorrow, or immense happiness. Either way, this beautiful film will move you like no other.



89th Academy Awards

Another year of film has passed and on February 26 some of the most renowned artists were awarded for their performances in films. This year's Academy Awards can be described in many different words: diverse, eventful, political.

The Oscars this year was one of the most diverse Oscars to date, with Mahershala Ali becoming the first ever Muslim actor to win an Oscar. Viola Davis won an Oscar for her role in *Fences*. *The Salesman*, directed by the Iranian director Asghar Farhadi, won Best Foreign Language film. He did not attend the night, but as is mentioned in his speech that was read out: "My absence is out of respect for the people of my country and the other six nations whom have been disrespected by the inhumane law that bans entry of immigrants to the US." His heartfelt speech sent a strong message to the 32.9m US viewers. Best picture was won by *Moonlight*, a film about a young black homosexual man growing up in a rough neighbourhood. The storyline is unprecedented. Other movies, such as *Loving* and *Hidden Figures*, about black people gaining rights in America, were nominated for many awards at the Oscars.

No one can argue that this year's Oscars wasn't eventful, with *La La Land* winning best picture by accident, only for the Oscar to be handed over to *Moonlight*. So, how did it happen Faye Dunaway and Warren Beatty were given the wrong card and they announced *La La Land* as the best picture, only for it to be announced about ten minutes later that *Moonlight* had actually won? Viola Davis made an excellent speech after winning Best Actress in a Supporting Role. She remarked "we are the only profession that celebrates what it means to live a life".

There was a political aspect to this year's Oscars. As it is the second most watched broadcasting event in the US, some of the artists decided to share their views on some world issues. As I mentioned before, Mr Farhadi was against the law banning immigrants from seven Muslim countries. There were also a couple of comments made by the host Jimmy Kimmel regarding Donald Trump in his opening monologue.

This year's Oscars celebrated some of the best films of 2016 of every genre. Casey Affleck won best actor for his magnificent performance in *Manchester by the Sea*. Emma Stone won best actress for her role in *La La Land*. Best picture was awarded to *Moonlight*. Damien Chazelle won best director for *La La Land*. *Moonlight* also won best adapted screenplay. *La La Land* won the most awards, getting a total of six awards.

In my opinion, 2016 has started a whole new era of film. This year so many new young directors have started their careers in film: Barry Jenkins, Damien Chazelle, Denis Villeneuve and the films these directors make will shape how films are made in the future. These directors produce films about controversial topics and in every film they make, the audience are emotionally attached to the film. I am thoroughly looking forward to the next Academy Awards and another year of film. There are numerous films set to be released this year and some of the big names are *Alien Covenant*, *Star Wars: The last Jedi* and *T2 Trainspotting*.



One Act Drama Festival 2017

As Noel Coward once said 'acting is not a state of being...but a state of appearing to be'. Acting is portraying a life of a character or a situation and telling a story with movement and expressions. Becoming someone else can help us to understand the world around us and ourselves. It enables people to explore feelings and emotions in themselves and offers new thrilling experiences. The One-Act Drama Festival does exactly this. Not only is this a challenging competition, but it also brings schools and students together and forms friendships between the wolder and younger years.

This year the festival was over three nights with ten schools competing: The Jesus and Mary College, Newpark, Temple Carraig, Blackrock College, St Gerard's, CBS Kilkenny, The High School, Errigal College Letterkenny, Merlin College Galway and, of course, St Andrew's College. The festival was adjudicated by Anna Walker who presented the various prizes on the last night of the performances and gave a detailed commentary on each one.

Blackrock College were this year's well deserved winners, receiving the adjudicator's main award. They performed *Tear Up The Ground* written by two past students of Blackrock College. This play, set in rural Ireland, is a play about the Bergin family and the reunion of three brothers at the wake of their father. Blackrock College swept up a number of other awards, including Best Actor in a Male Role and Best Production.

St. Andrew's performed *Totally Over You* by Mark Ravenhill, a comedy about four friends Kitty, Rochelle, Hannah and Sinita. They decide to dump their boyfriend because of a horoscope telling them they are destined to fall in love with celebrities. The boys want revenge, so they set up a fake band on the brink of fame to make them jealous. The girls find out the truth about the boy band and try to get them back. But is it too little too late?

This play certainly kept the audience entertained and the boy band scene brought the house down with laughter. The play came third overall. Julie Gallagher (6th Year) won Best Actor in a Female Role and Sophie McCormick (5th Year) won Best Scene for the staging of the band song. Anna Reid (5th Year) was nominated for Best Supporting Actor in a Female Role. Scott Allen (5th year) was nominated for Best Actor in a Male Role, along with Sophie McCormick for Best Director. The whole play went smoothly with few mistakes and the cast left the stage buzzing afterwards.

As a second year, it was a great opportunity for me to participate in the One-Act Festival with all the other years in St Andrew's. I absolutely loved being part of the festival. When all the time and work spent on the play comes together it makes it truly worthwhile. I would like to thank Mr William Mansfield in particular, who works tirelessly behind the scenes to help St Andrew's students produce this play. Year on year, he creates a warm and encouraging environment for all students who take part and most of all makes the One-Act Drama Festival so much fun to be part of.

I think the One-Act Drama Festival is a wonderful way of getting to know new people and to build up confidence and I would encourage more students from all years to get involved next year.

Elena Gallagher

Cults: Friend or Foe

-Opinion Piece by Jason Hynes-

A cult can be defined as a group that has a certain set of beliefs. These beliefs vary between religious, spiritual, philosophical beliefs. The word 'cult' comes from the Latin word cultus meaning "devotion to a person or thing". There are six ways to recognise a cult:

Authority of the leader. This means that the leader of the cult has the power to determine, adjudicate or settle issues or disputes. He also has the power to change and adjust the rules and beliefs of the cult.

Total Control of Members. This means that the cult leader exerts significant control over the member's beliefs, thoughts and mentality. This leads to the prevention of critical thinking, which I will go into later.

Exclusionism. This means that the members will end up with a mentality that the only way to be happy or safe is within the cult. This means that cult members will find it harder to leave.

Critical Thinking is prevented. This means that members are not allowed to question beliefs or teachings of the cult.

Missionary Zeal. This is the promise to actively spread the cult's teachings or beliefs. This means that even if a cult ends you must continue exhorting and teaching the beliefs of the cult.

Surrendering Possessions. This means that when you join the cult you must surrender your personal possessions such as money, jewellery or clothes etc.

There are many cults in the modern world. In this section, I will go through some of these cults, giving a brief explanation of each of them. Scientology is a religious order that is based on the teachings of L. Ron Hubbard. Hubbard wrote a self-help manual published in 1952 called 'Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health'. It was then re-characterised as a religion, but did not change its beliefs. They believe that a human is an immortal, spiritual being that lived many past lives, including previous lives on other planets. All humans are innately good. They use equipment such as E-meters to test levels of Electrodermal activity. The order remains today and has many churches worldwide.

Heaven's Gate was a cult that ended in a mass suicide. The followers of this cult believed that enlightenment or salvation can only be achieved by leaving earth before "the great recycling". After taking members in, they made them disconnect from their families. Many years later, as the cult moved between many locations, they committed a mass suicide.

Order of the Solar Temple was a secret society begun by Joseph Di Mambro and Luc Jouret in Geneva in 1984. It is based on continuing the existence of the Knights Templar, a Catholic Military organization. After many mass suicides and murders throughout Switzerland the Police began to get involved forcing them into hiding. Some believe the cult still exists today except on a much smaller scale.

An anti-cult movement goes against New Religious Movement (NRM). According to sociologist Eileen Barker there are four types of Anti-Cult Organizations: Cult-Awareness Groups (CAGs) that focus on the harm done by cults, Counter-Cult Groups (CCGs) that focus on the teachings of smaller cults, Research-Oriented Groups (ROGs) that focus on beliefs, practices and comparisons of mainstream cults, and Human-Rights Groups (HRGs) that focus on the human rights in cults.

In conclusion, in my opinion cults can be deceptive of what their outlining goal is. They may use you for money or even sacrifice in extreme cases, or may in some cases be trying to help. When coming into any sort of contact with any type of cult, tread carefully as they may appeal to weaknesses or trauma that you may have experienced in the past to use or deceive you.

Did you know.. The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster or Pastafarianism is a social movement. It tries to promote a fun and light-hearted view on modern religion and cults and around 2005 it became an Internet Phenomenon Pastafarian representatives have been authorized to celebrate marriages where the priest would throw spaghetti at the couple.





THE HAGUE MUN

-Official Report by William Hehir-



St. Andrew's College have been attending THIMUN every year since 1984. We have a reputation as one of the leading MUN schools internationally and this was reflected again in us being assigned China as well as Haiti for this year's conference. The trip is open to 5th and 6th year students and the application process begins when we return from the Royal Russell Conference in London. There were over 60 applicants for the initial 30 delegates and one International Court of Justice place.

MUN is a student run event where the students (delegates) have to come up with solutions (resolutions) to problems which are set by the conference management. Rather than representing their own opinions the delegates are assigned a country or UN body and they must represent the views of that country (in our case China, Haiti and ECA). Instead of all students being in one room, they are divided into the different rooms (committees) which are assigned four topics of their own.

During the day, the teachers are assigned different roles such as approval panel or working on the daily newspaper. I am deputy chair of the THIMUN Advisory Board which is made up of experienced MUN teachers, particularly those who run their own conference. We hold regular meetings during the week to advise the main THIMUN organisers on running the conference. When we are not working on these assignments we spend our time going around the 19 committee rooms, hopefully trying to time our visits with when our students are speaking.

Technology has made this easier, as through a group messaging app we can find out when our delegates are about to speak, so we can try to make it there with a camera. The conference centre is vast. It is spread over four very large floors so this is not always possible. The other advantage of group messaging is that students can let us know if there is any problem and one of the best advantages is that the students can give each other positive affirmation when they have done well in committee and also encourage each other when they are not being recognised to speak in committee. The 6th year students provide excellent leadership here.

Preparation for the trip took place after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays and on Saturday afternoons. The staff on the trip were Mr Hehir (group leader), Mr Bohan, Ms Moran and Ms Carter, who swapped over with Ms Leggett.

The conference itself took place from Sunday 29 January – Friday 3 February. There are about 3,500 students from all over the world participating in the conference. Traditionally, we combine the MUN trip with a cultural trip to Amsterdam, so the group departed on an early Aer Lingus flight on Friday 27 January.



Group Photos in the World Forum

We stay in The Max Browne hotel in the museum square district of Amsterdam, we have done so for the last 20 years. The hotel is less than five minutes from the Rijksmuseum, van Gogh and Stedelijk museums and beside the popular Leidseplein area. After an orientation of the area, the students go off in groups to visit the museums, take a canal cruise, hire bicycles in Vondelpark and do other sightseeing activities.

Following breakfast, we all set off for a 30 minute walk to the Anne Frank House. This is one of the highlights of the trip for me as even though the students are aware of the story of Anne Frank, the tour of her house and the subsequent story of her capture and her death is eye-opening for them.

Sunday morning our coach to The Hague meets us at the hotel. Two years ago we withdrew from the host family programme. This was done as we have no information about the families we are staying with, which is contrary to good child protection guidelines. Having the students in a hotel also gives us more control as we set the curfew, see our students before bed and can enforce our rules.

Wednesday is a half day and after lunch we take all the students into the Mauritshuis, where they get to see more art, including paintings such as The Girl With The Pearl Earring and The Goldfinch (of the book by Donna Tartt). There was a demonstration against recent changes in international immigration taking place in The Hague. Some of the students asked to go to this so I accompanied them to this family friendly protest. It was gratifying to see that they take a real interest in current affairs.

Thursday evening we all went into town for our last dinner together. Even though we gave them an extended curfew of 10.45, they were all in McDonalds at 10.30 ready to go home.

THIMUN do not give awards so there are no official winners, but as I told the 5th year assembly the following Monday morning, the students achieved all the group and individual goals I had set for them. Of the 37 delegates 28 of them had their resolutions debated with 15 students being first speaker on these resolutions and 11 speakers second speaker. Most schools are happy to have one or two first speakers.

THIMUN is the largest and one of the most serious MUNs in the world. Without THIMUN our students would not get to see a conference of this level of seriousness. Our conference is accredited by THIMUN and, as such, is on their list of top conferences to attend. We have no doubt that our THIMUN affiliation is one of the reasons we get so many international schools at our conference. St Andrew's International MUN (SAIMUN) has an excellent international reputation and is already full for this year. The Hague trip is full of many wonderful cultural and educational experiences and a wonderful experience for our students.



Valedictory Night 2017







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