

Welcome to our  
Special Edition  
Class of 2020  
Newsletter!

# 'Scoil Ghormáin Naofa' Newsletter

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## A message from Ms. Russell for our outgoing 6<sup>th</sup> Class

To our dear class of 2020

Well, we will never forget you, that's for sure!

Little did we know, as we ushered you home that day in March, that **it was goodbye** and the **last day** you would walk the corridors as **pupils of Scoil Ghormáin Naofa**. You had **so much left to enjoy**; bending the rules in June, your big school tour to Shielbeggin, final sunny day play times in the field.



There's no denying that you have been cheated. However, I hope as time goes on that your **happy memories** of your time at Scoil Ghormáin Naofa will outweigh the negatives of these last months. Our school staff have contributed their **wishes and memories** for you to enjoy and I have also collated **your own favourite memories** of school. I hope that this **special edition graduation newsletter** will be something that you will treasure and perhaps show your own children as an artefact of #Covid19. You are the Covid Allstars, the class that like the Leaving Certs, was most affected by lockdown. But you will come through as **mature, resilient and enriched** young people who can take on anything! My wishes for you would be that you **embrace every opportunity** that post primary school affords you. Join the clubs, play on teams, make new friends as well as relying on your old ones and **don't be afraid** to try new skills or experiences that will make you develop as **broad minded young adults**. Please **continue to read!**

**Have your say**, remember the effect Greta Thünberg had on the world at just 16. When you are old enough- **vote!** Be the change that you wish to see in the world. Above all, **be a kind person**, it is the single best attribute anyone can have.



I will miss you all and hope that in the near future, we can reunite for a **fitting farewell**. Until then, I hope you have a wonderful summer. It has been a pleasure knowing you. You have each made a positive impact on Scoil Ghormáin Naofa – thank you.

## Memories

### Here are my personal memories of each of you:

**Jennifer**, I will remember your personable and sweet nature as you brought Student Council matters to me.  
**Dylan**, I will remember you as the kind and sensitive young man who sympathised after my grandmother died.  
**Conor**, I will remember your considerable sporting talents and friendly, affable nature  
**Aaron**, I will remember you as the mannerly and polite young man who was always impeccably behaved and lovely  
**Shane**, I will remember you as a great friend to others and always a faithful altar server for school masses  
**Carla**, I will remember you as a sunny, happy girl who never passed without a hello  
**EJ**, I will always remember the lengthy, interesting chat we had when we walked Croghan together. I really enjoyed it!  
**Ciara**, I will remember your lovely smile and sunny personality heading off for a match!  
**Diarmuid**, I will remember your lovely personality and how I often found you looking out for younger students  
**Sam**, I will remember your quick thinking and articulation for debate rebuttals and wish we got to nail that final!  
**Tadgh**, I will remember you holding doors open for me and always greeting me with that big smile

Stay as lovely as you all are!

**Emer Russell**  
**Principal**



## A message from your 6<sup>th</sup> Class Teacher, Mr. Breen

It is amazing how quickly the past three years flew by, but I suppose time **flies when you are having fun!** I was very lucky to have the opportunity to teach this class over that period of time from when they started in 4<sup>th</sup> class. It was certainly a very **memorable time** in the Moneygarrow classroom and I hope they felt the same way about their last few years in primary school!

The great memories created always come down to the students in the class as they are the creators. What stands out for me with this **special group** was the way they were capable of creating a great mix of working hard while having a bit of fun along the way, which for me is **the key to a great school experience**.

The good times, memories and trips are endless and there is not a hope I would be able to mention them all here! For some it may be our trips to the library, Explorium, The Outdoor Adventure Centre in Wexford (where I proved to be the best on the climbing frame!!!), debates, Burger King, Maths week, Science week, sports blitzes, Rackard League, Mini 7's, sports day, Arklow Festival, table shootouts, swimming, The Big Sing, Sing Out Loud, pyjama day, Confirmation, Christmas plays and several outside visitors coming to the school such as Birds of Prey and authors. The list goes on. With these trips and events the class always **represented the school** excellently. It is amazing when we actually take a moment to reflect we realise that the memorable times will always outweigh the days we would like to forget. This is undoubtedly the case with the class of 2020.

Now don't get me wrong we had our ups and downs and it wasn't all perfect in the Moneygarrow room at times!! However, whatever may have occurred, the class got over it quickly and school life resumed as if nothing ever happened, which is a trait I always admired about this group. They may not have liked to admit it all the time but they did **look out for one another and got on extremely well** (always enjoyed a bit of a joke and a laugh!). They loved a challenge and were quite competitive! They also enjoyed trying to find a way to catch me out! (This was a very rare occurrence!!)

It was an honour for me to teach this class over the past three years. I hope they will look back at this time with happiness. They have all flourished in various areas with their very own distinct personalities shining through and have showed significant **holistic developments** in the process. I would like to thank them for their **kindness and work ethic**. I would also like to thank the parents and guardians and other family members who helped throughout the years and made my job much easier. It is all very much appreciated and doesn't go unnoticed.

I hope they will all remember us here in Scoil Ghormáin Naofa when they are rich and famous!! I wish you all the very best for the future and I have no doubt you will all thrive in secondary school next year.

I will end with this quote. ***"Be somebody that makes everybody feel like somebody"***.

Once again thank you to Diarmuid, Dylan, Shane, Conor, Sam, Tadgh, E. J, Aaron, Ciara, Carla and Jennifer for the great memories, the work, the laughs and the occasional headache!!!



## A message from your Junior Infant Teacher, Ms. Byrne

It is under very unusual and unprecedented circumstances that I am writing this piece about the class of 2020. Your 6<sup>th</sup> class journey has ended rather abruptly and this may make you feel deprived of memories and opportunities that other 6<sup>th</sup> class students have had in the past. I am sorry that this pandemic has done this to you. Having said this, I think we need to focus on all the **happy times** we have shared together, of which there have been many!

You began school in September of 2012 as a small junior infant group of only six; Diarmuid, Conor, Shane, Sam, Jennifer and Ciara. Our classroom was the library! I initially thought that maybe the girls would be overpowered by the boys, but no, I quickly learned that these girls were well able for them! I think Mr. Breen would attest to this, even now, at the end of your

primary school journey. The addition of Carla and Bridget made the girl power even stronger and a bond was established quickly. The boys gained four more companions along the way in the form of Aaron, Tadgh, Dylan and E.J.! To have grown from a group of six to a group of twelve is testament to you. You **welcomed everybody into your class** and made them feel at ease instantly; be it with a friendly face, a smile, the sharing of treats or making sure that everyone was involved in games on the yard. It was with a heavy heart that we said goodbye to Bridget earlier this year. For those of you who joined us along the way, what welcome additions you have all been. Carla, Aaron, Tadgh, Dylan and E.J., you have all made a very good class even better!

I am bidding farewell to a **group of ambitious, kind and generous young boys and girls** who I know **will all flourish** in their chosen secondary school. Do you remember the poem we did in first class about flying on a plane? (We won the Arklow Music Festival that year!) Now, you are going on another journey. You will face difficulties and problems along the way, but you will overcome these. **Stay true to yourselves, work hard and have plenty of fun**. Don't forget to **keep in touch** with us here in Castletown as we love to hear about your progress. We will miss you dearly class of 2020. Although your time with us here in Castletown has been cut short, you have left your mark and given us lots of happy memories that will last a lifetime.



## A message from your Deputy Principal, Ms. Gilmartin-Ryan

I took this insightful quote from the book "Little Women" which I was presented with, in primary school, when I was transitioning from one school to another and I have kept the book with me ever since. Even though this book was published in 1868, it is **so relevant to life now** in the twenty first century and in particular to your lives. So relevant, in fact, that a film version of the book has been recently released, starring our own, Saoirse Ronan.

You are now in the **midst of the storm** of Covid -19 and are required not alone to endure what it entails but also to **develop the resilience** to go beyond it and transition into the next stage of your lives. My wish for you is that you be ready to embrace the changes and have the skill set to navigate the unpredictable waters of the future.

I have **really enjoyed knowing you** during your time in Castletown and I have loved working with my own great students and indeed, with all of you, this year.

I wish you all to **be the best you can be** and in these unprecedented times to have the resilience necessary to **sail your ship masterfully through any storm you may encounter**.



## A message from Ms. Hearne

Each year as the school year draws to a close we always pay **special attention to our 6<sup>th</sup> class** pupils who have spent so many days in school, who have played so many matches, who have celebrated such special occasions in their lives and who have simply been part of the **extraordinary community** of Scoil Ghormáin Naofa.

While it is unfortunate that we cannot say goodbye in person, you should all know that we are all thinking about you and **wishing you all the best** as you begin this new phase in your lives.

I never had the opportunity to teach the class of 2020 but I was lucky enough to get to know all of you over the past 4 years in different ways – through sports days, Communion, Confirmations, Rackard League and much more.

Most recently, I got the chance to appreciate how **helpful and caring** you all were towards the Junior.

Infants in our school. This was lovely to see, as it is so important to **look after each other**. You all proved you were kind and considerate and always willing to help on those rainy days we had to stay inside or during those messy Art lessons when I needed the extra help!

Some of you will go on to secondary school together and will get the chance to **stay in touch**. Some of you will stay **connected through the GAA** or rugby or other sports or activities and some of you might only see each other in passing. Whatever way you stay in touch, always remember to be kind to each other.

I am still close to one of my primary school friends and we often talk about our days at school – the **games we played at break time**, the **school tours** or how we used to fall out over silly things! We look back at our years in primary school and remember how much fun we had and I hope you will all do the same when you are older.

I'm going to finish up by **wishing you all of the success and happiness that life can offer** and hope to see you all soon. Stay in touch!



## A message from Ms. D'Arcy

Dear class of 2020,

I know we can't be together to celebrate this day, but **we will always remember** the class of 2020. The circumstances we are in make this year's 6<sup>th</sup> class **ever more unforgettable**. You are living through a **major event in history** and your departure from primary school marked in this unusual way will never to be erased from our memories.

As well as this, I will remember, with pleasure teaching you maths. You are a **clever class** and very capable academically even if you didn't always READ the question correctly and rushed to get an answer! As well as this, I recall how you would try and start a chat about anything, usually a match at the weekend or Rackard league game, to avoid work. Sometimes it worked too! The **class of 2020 never gave any trouble** (well you didn't get a chance to this year anyway!) I will remember you as

**hard working, kind, polite and friendly students**. Finally, I recall the wonderful memories you have created over the years in primary school through your talents as debaters, quiz masters, great sporty, dramatic, artistic, and curious children... in other words a **Super Class**. We will miss you!

Here is my wish for you...

I wish for you a joy-filled, smooth transition from the shelter of primary school to the **wonder and extra freedom** of 2<sup>nd</sup> level.

I wish for you new, stimulating friendships, while you cherish old friends.

Congratulations, class of 2020!



## A message from Ms. McDevitt

To a lovely bunch of mature young boys and girls, I always find it **difficult to say goodbye** ☹️ I know these are strange times and not the way you planned to leave Castletown NS in your final year of primary school. You will all be missed very much; I have many fond memories of our maths classes in the library when I taught you in 5<sup>th</sup> class. I remember you all starting in junior infants and have watched you all **grow and flourish over the years**. You all have **your own special talents** and different personalities unique to you and remember to keep them; **they are what make you special**. I am wishing you all the best on the next big exciting adventure of your life and I know you will all do great things. Don't forget to come back and visit us and tell us all about your big adventures.  
Lots of love



## A message from Ms. Ní Shúilleabháin

You were in 5<sup>th</sup> Class when I began teaching at Scoil Ghormáin Naofa and I soon realised that you were an **enthusiastic crew!** You all sang your hearts out on stage in **Sing Out Loud** at The National Opera House, Wexford in November 2018!  
Your **Confirmation Day** is another happy memory I have of this class. What a beautiful ceremony. You made your families, teachers and community proud.  
Your **primary school friendships** are special ones- treasure them! You have all made an **immense contribution** to your school, be proud of that. The very best with all that you do in the future.



## A message from Ms. Carroll

I would like to congratulate you on graduating from primary school after eight years of learning and **making great memories**. The year has come and gone so quickly, I cannot believe the end is already here.

As you finish this chapter of your lives, and look towards the future, there are some things I hope you can achieve;

I hope you find a **passion or hobby** that you love.

I hope you make **good choices**.

I hope you **show kindness** to those around you, and to yourself.

I hope you take chances and **try new things**.

I hope you see the **silver linings** in difficult times.

I hope you **succeed** in the areas you work hard in,  
and I hope you are **proud of your efforts**.

Within you is more **talent and potential** than you realise and I know that each and every one of you will do great things. ***In the words of A.A.Milne; you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.***

Congratulations 6th class! I wish you all the best!



## A message from Ms. Morris

We never expected it to finish like this did we?!

I'm sure you were all looking forward to your **final term in primary school** and all the nice things that come with being the 6<sup>th</sup> class during that time. That wasn't to be however and while I'm sure some of you are disappointed, let me reassure you that that feeling of having missed out, maybe feelings of disappointment, uncertainty, confusion, anxiety or anything else that you are feeling about the sudden end to your time in primary school is completely normal and it will pass. The best thing that I can encourage you to do is to **focus on all the happy, funny, inspiring, comical,**

**and positive memories** that you have of your time in primary school. Memories of the times you and your friends **laughed so hard that your sides hurt**, of times when you were in the middle of class and something funny happened, of the times a teacher recognised **something wonderful** that you had done, of the times that you realised that you were **good at something** that you didn't know before, your memories of Junior Infants and meeting your friends for the first time, of going on a message to Siobhan's office and walking as slowly as you could so as to miss more class time and all of the other wonderful things that you did and experienced.

As you think back on all of these heart-warming memories, you should **feel excited** for all the new memories that you will make in your new school as you begin your new adventure. Once again you will meet new friends, laugh until your sides hurt, and realise that you are good at things that you never knew. Your world will open up to so many **new adventures and opportunities** and primary school will become a memory but always remember the most important lessons that we all learn are not the lessons from a book, but the lessons on how to be as people. **Be kind, be honest, be thoughtful**. Scoil Ghormain Naofa will always hold a place for you. You will always be part of our school community and we look forward to welcoming you back at some stage in the future.

Wishing you all the best in the future and have a wonderful summer!



## A message from Ms. Whittle

Congratulations on your Graduation! This is certainly a **graduation like no other** and I am sad to say a virtual goodbye to you all rather than the traditional send off. I hope we will be able to celebrate your graduation in person very soon. Regardless of this unusual send-off, **you will be missed by all** in Scoil Ghormáin Naofa. The teachers, SNAs and fellow students have enjoyed watching you **grow up and mature into kind, caring and conscientious young people**. This year in particular I have noticed these traits in all of you, with examples such as being helped with my bags, showing kindness to the younger students or working hard at your maths. It has been an

enjoyable year working with you all and seeing how you have matured.

I am sad to see your final few months of school taken from you as there would have been so many more fond memories to add to the many I hope you already hold dear-the school tours, sports days, active weeks, days down the field, guest speakers, Christmas plays, holy celebrations, trips to the beach, walks and so many more in between. I truly hope the memories you do have will stay in your memory far longer than these strange few months apart.

Although this time apart may have been difficult, **please never forget the life lessons** it has taught us;

- **be kind**-to yourself and others
- tough times will come but **we will overcome** them
- **family and friends are more important than big houses and fancy cars.**

If that's all you learn from this year and indeed all your years at Castletown then we have done a good job in preparing you for the world outside our school!

I hope you look back on your time in primary school with fondness and that you enjoy your new adventure. Best of luck in secondary school! **Go n-Éirí Libh**



## A message from Siobhan

To the boys and girls in 6th class, just a short message to say a **huge congratulations** on finishing sixth class. I remember my own journey back then and how **excited** I was to finally start secondary school. I hope you are all looking forward to the big journey ahead of you.



## A message from Finola

Hello to all of you in 6th class! I hope you all have a **fantastic time** in the next chapter of your life, make lots of new friends and have so **many new adventures**. I wish you **happiness and laughter** along the way. We will miss you and look forward to visits from you all in the future



## A message from Carmel

I remember your first days in junior infants and for those of you who joined the school throughout the years I marvelled at how well you all fitted in and became such an important and **integral part** of what will be an **unforgettable 6<sup>th</sup> Class of 2020**.

I have shared in some funny, memorable times in your years in Scoil Ghormáin Naofa and I treasure the happy memories I have especially of 3rd class maths with **Ms. Mc Gonnell**. I'm sure you all recall the fun we had with Mental Maths.

I treasure the memories and the privilege it was to share in your journey through your national school education, I loved being part of all the extra activities you took part in and enjoyed celebrating in your successes and being there on the days when winning eluded you, but you were **always winners in my eyes**.

I recall the many **Christmas Concerts** you performed in with such enthusiasm and talent and while the show nights were the highlights for many, for me, I really enjoyed all the fun we had at rehearsals and choosing costumes and props. We certainly had great fun and you weren't afraid to push the boundaries with the costumes you chose.

In more recent times I have been particularly impressed with some students' unique ability to dodge some of Mr. Breen's class time, (not an easy task). I encountered some of you on the very, **very long walk up the corridor** to the staff room to save with the Credit Union. Even though you were not Credit Union savers. You know who you are!

It has been my privilege to share your journey through these past years. I have **sprinkled magic dust on cuts and bruises** and wiped away tears when sometimes things just got a bit tough. I have listened to your worries and shared in your laughter and it all has been my pleasure. It has always intrigued me how wonderfully resilient young people are and I have been amazed when differences and difficulties emerge in a group how they can just as quickly be forgotten and **true and lasting friendships are born**.

To Jennifer, Carla, Ciara, Diarmuid, Conor, E.J., Shane, Dylan, Aaron, Sam, and Tadhg, I wish you all the best in the years ahead.

Do your best to be the best you can be and most importantly **be happy**.

I will miss you all



## A message from Annamarie

All the best to the 6<sup>th</sup> class students as you **embark on your new journey**. Do not look upon it as months lost in 6<sup>th</sup> class **but treasured years** spent at Castletown N.S, which has made you the students you all are!!!



## A message from Angie

What a strange time for you all! I wanted to let you all know I am thinking of all you that are **transitioning from Primary to Secondary school**. Onwards and upwards on your new page in the book of life! You will make loads of **new friends** and have loads of **new experiences**. Wishing you all the best. Take care. I look forward to meeting you and hearing all about the **good times that lie ahead** for you all.



## A message from Fiona

I would like to wish each one of you a **very fond farewell**. It has been fantastic getting to know you all over the past few years. The class is full of different personalities and you have all made me laugh and also made me very proud with **all you have achieved**. Unknown to you all you have often made my day a lot brighter by your funny comments, your offers of help with a task and by **observing your kind nature** on yard and around the school.

**Treasure all those memories** you have made over your time in Scoil Ghormáin Noafa. Be thankful for all the friendships you have made and the knowledge you have gained. They say "All good things must come to an end" but each day in secondary school will be a new adventure and **learning never ends**. Embrace the challenges and keep that positive attitude. Best of luck



## A message from Sharon

Firstly, I want to say THANK YOU for being **so kind and welcoming** to me when I joined our wonderful school! You guys made me feel at home straight away! I only wish we had more time together! The first thing I noticed about this year's 6<sup>th</sup> class was how talented you all are in so many different ways! I was blown away by the **athleticism**, the **creativity** and your **kindness** and **patience** towards the small kids in the school! You guys are credit to your parents/guardians, your teachers and the whole school! We are all **so very proud of you**. I hope you are very proud of yourselves and I'm confident you all have wonderful **bright futures** ahead! I want to wish you all lots of good luck and thank you again for making me love my job and our school! Take care guys! Sharon

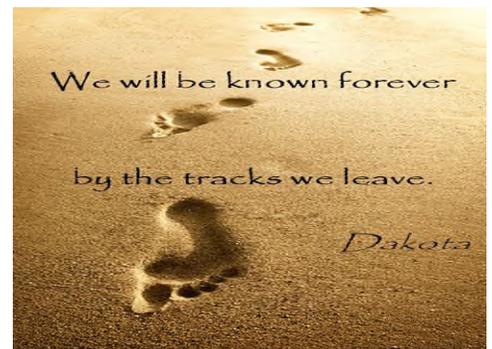
## A word from Fr. David



### To the Class of 2020 – a Turning Point

It seems as if our lives are a series of turning points, some big and others small. Regardless, with each turning point we see ourselves, others, and the world differently, we think differently, we focus on different concerns, and we move in different directions. Each turning point comes with the opportunity for and the promise of new beginnings.

Jesus will always help us to refashion our lives. He makes us more who we truly are to be. In him we begin to grow into our better selves. This does not happen in spite of our life's circumstances but in and through our life's circumstances. That's where and how it happened for Peter, Andrew, James, and John. Their turning point came in sailing the same boats, on the same lake, using the same nets, doing the same work they had always done, when Jesus invites them to make a new beginning, a turning point. Look at the circumstances of your life. What is the turning point you face today? What's happening? What do you see? Somewhere in your life today is a turning point. Maybe you know exactly what it is. Maybe you've not yet recognized it. Regardless, it is there and so is Jesus, beckoning, calling, longing, desiring. He stands there saying, "Follow me. I've picked you." You are never alone. Jesus walks with you. Be at peace.



## Class of 2020 Covid Allstars!

We hope you like your customised badges and certs. We will organise your leavers hoodies as soon as social distancing eases!

## 6<sup>th</sup> Class Memories in your own words

### Aaron Healy

Last year we went to Croghan mountain, it was my favourite memory from school. I had to get up a bit earlier than usual because I had to be at school by a quarter to nine. It was a bit cold and cloudy so I wore a jacket.



**All set to walk Croghan**

I met up with all my friends and we started the walk. We saw someone walking their dog on the way up. We also saw lots of wind turbines on our way up. Once we reached the top, everyone sat down and ate lunch. And that is why walking up Croghan was my favourite memory from school.

### Carla Mullen

My favourite memory from school as Sports Day 2019. It was so much fun and I really enjoyed it. The fruit was really nice and the burgers were delicious. All the races were so much fun. Getting to have fun with my friends was the best. My favourite race was the obstacle course where we went under a net and weaved through sticks, jumped over a fence and sprinted! Overall it was an amazing day!



**Teacher Sack Race at Sports Day**

### Ciara O'Connor

My favourite memory of school was the Croghan walk with all of my friends. Knowing us, we walked really slowly and uphill even slower. We were having so much fun and laughing that we had to sit down for a rest. Before we knew it all of the school apart from our class were out of sight! So we walked back slowly. Tadgh's Mam collected us and we squashed into his car! I have many memories but that was the best! I really hope to have a graduation and see all my friends again.



**Jennifer and Carla on top of Croghan**

## A word from the Parents' Association

*Best of Luck to our "Class of 2020" Graduates*

On behalf of the **Parents' Association**, I would like to wish all of our 6<sup>th</sup> Class students the best of luck as you enter the next phase of your **educational journey**. We really do understand how hard it is for you all at the moment in that you cannot all be together to say that **final goodbye**. However, we hope that you have a great summer break and that some of you can meet up in person (obviously observing all social distancing rules) and spend some **quality time** with each other before starting in Secondary school in September. We hope that you will look back fondly on the time you spent at Scoil Ghormáin Naofa and I know that **you will all be missed** by our teachers, SNAs and students.

Best of luck

Mags Tallon – Chair PA

## A word from the Board of Management

On my own behalf and behalf of the Board of Management I want to **congratulate you all** on graduating from Scoil Ghormain Naofa Castletown.

I want to thank you all for what you have **contributed to the school** during your time there, whether it be in sport, music, debating and in many others ways and your achievements brought **great joy** to all concerned.

I wish you all well as you start out on the **next phase of your education** and I hope you will have very happy memories of your time in our school.

I **thank the teachers** who looked after you while you were in their care and remember you all have a **great future** ahead of you.

**Watch out for each other and life will bring its rewards.**

Best Wishes

Joe O' Shaughnessy  
Chairman BOM

## 6<sup>th</sup> Class Memories in your own words contd.

### Conor Fanning



Mini-7s team

One of my best memories of being in Castletown School was playing Mini 7s !

When I was in 4th class we got through to the hurling semi - finals against Rathnure, it was a really tough game, one I will never forget. Unfortunately it was not our day and we ended up losing after 3 rounds of extra time. I was lucky enough to have 2 more years playing Mini 7s and we had success last year winning the Mini 7s football final . There were great celebrations in the school after our win and I felt very proud to be on the team and be awarded my medal.

### EJ O'Toole

My favourite memory of Castletown school is when my class was playing the football tournament at break time with Mr. Breen. It was very fitting and fun. The first game I played was on the yard. I remember the intensity of the football game that day.

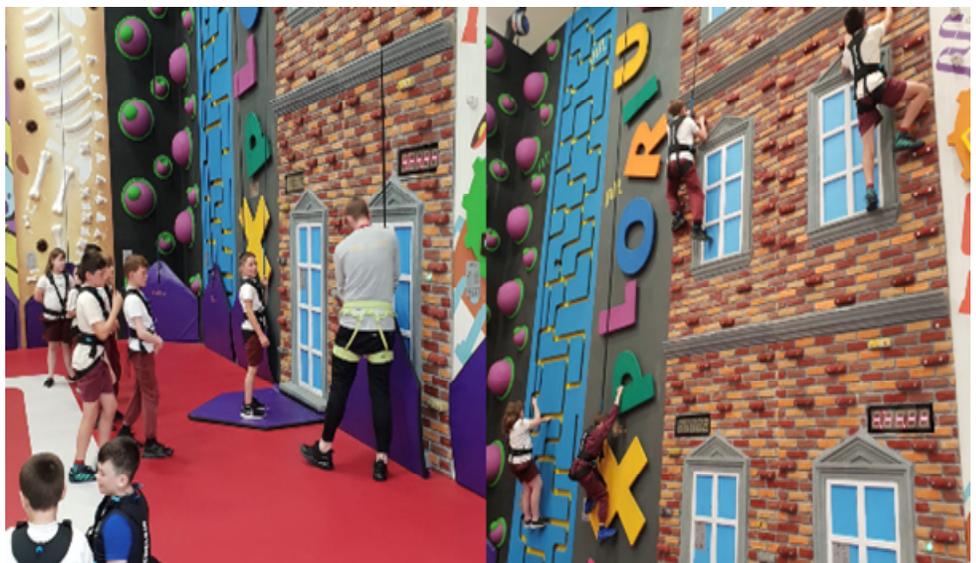


Soccer Fun

My team was delighted when we won. We really enjoyed the tournament. I have nothing but lovely memories of my days in Castletown school and I will really miss all my teachers and Siobhán. Thanks teachers, staff and classmates for my memories.

### Diarmuid O'Shaughnessy

My favourite memory from school are my school tours. The four that I really enjoyed were Explorium, surfing in Tramore, Tricky Trickster's Magic Castle and the International Outdoor Adventure Centre (IOAC) in Wexford. I loved the Shooting activity in IOAC. In Tramore it was great fun getting knocked off the surfboard. My favourite activity in Explorium was watching the Tesla coil. In the Magic Castle it was great fun watching my class mates doing the Sumo Wrestling. It was also great craic on the bus going to all the tours.



Fun in Explorium

## 6<sup>th</sup> Class Memories in your own words contd.

### Dylan Bealin

My favourite memory is winning the Rackard League 2019. Winning the Rackard League is like nothing else especially if your school has never won it before.

It all started with training hard with courage and determination. With that spirit we went on and won most of our games. Unfortunately, we were knocked out by Gorey. So we were put in the B Rackard League but that just put a bigger fire inside us and we all knew we were not stopping there.



**Rackard League Winning Team 2019**

As we trained harder and harder, every training session we got stronger and stronger. Special thanks to Niall Breen and Kevin Morris for driving us on to be the best we can be. You can really tell it paid off.

It was the day of the semi-final and I was extremely nervous but I wouldn't let that ruin my game. At half time we were winning by loads but we got a slow start. They got a couple of scores, then we got a couple of scores. It was like a tennis match going back and forth, but in the end we were fortunate enough to win.

It was the month of December and the night of the final against Adamstown and I was freezing, but when you warm up you feel a lot warmer. Then it was time for the toss. Odhran Morris and Ryan Murphy and I went up for the toss we were deciding who would choose. It ended up being Odhran. Lucky for us we won the toss, so we played with the wind. I got off to a slow start because I was always behind my man and you HAVE to be in front. Then I received the ball in my hands at the edge of the box so I just shot and lucky for me the keeper spilled it and it went in. You have to feel sorry for him though. In my opinion they gave away too many frees so we were keeping the scoreboard ticking over. At half time we were winning by 8 points, completely focused. We played against the wind and up the hill. Then they started to bring it back to only 1 point in it. But then in a blink of an eye we were level. We were going at each other head to head putting our bodies on the line for our team. But as I turned the ball over we broke free on the counter attack passing the ball over the top to Cian Keating who secured another goal for us. Then they gave away a free. I played a high ball into the box with a big fumble by the keeper Jack Fanning buried it into the back of the net. It was free after free after free but on the last free I gave it short to Odhran who went for a point, lobbed the keeper and ended up in the back of the net. As 5 minutes passed we kicked the ball out of play so the match could end. Then the referee blew his whistle and the match was over. The subs ran on cheering and everyone was cheering. But it all started from Emmet Slator in goal to Ryan Murphy in full forward. We have such a strong team and I hope we have someone to carry that torch.

Huge thank you to Mr Breen and Kevin Morris for training us and the lads for working hard. Another huge thank you to the teachers for being great to us - we are so lucky.

### Jennifer Allen



**First Holy Communion Day 2016**

My favourite school memory was my Communion Day!

On the day I had two jobs. I had to sing "As I Kneel Before You". I had practiced multiple times before the day and it all went fine, but I had only practiced in front of Mrs. Byrne and my 12 other class mates so it wasn't that bad and I wasn't that nervous until the day but on the way to the church I was scared that I would forget the lyrics or mess it all up and the church was soooo full of people.

When it was my turn to sing, I stood up on the step and I just started to sing and tried not to look at all the strangers.

I just got past the first verse when my voice went all weird I had to cough so badly but for some stupid reason I didn't want to stop because Mrs. Byrne was playing the piano and she would have to stop and start again I eventually got rid of the thing in my throat and I was so embarrassed but in fact I was SOOOOOO embarrassed that I sang the rest of the song completely wrong and everyone started laughing. I came down from the altar with my face as red as a tomato! At the end of the ceremony everyone was asking what had happened up there and I just said, "I DON'T EVEN KNOW!!!", and that's my favourite and most embarrassing memory from school.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Class Memories in your own words contd.

### Tadgh Shelly



My favourite memory of school was when we were allowed to watch the rugby World Cup in 2019. The first game was between Japan and Russia. We were delighted when Mr. Breen put it on for us to watch. Mr. Breen let us watch most of the games in school!

If there were any big matches on in the day, Mr. Breen would try to get it on the big screen in class for us all! The whole class enjoyed the fact that we could watch the rugby in school and get a break from doing class work.....!

### Shane Ivanoff

It was very hard to pick my favourite memory in primary school. I have so many great memories but my favourite memory of primary school is when I was in third class, it was our Christmas play and I loved my role in it. I was a bodyguard for the main character who was played by Joseph O'Flaherty. Diarmuid and Conor where the two ugly twins and it was so funny because they had to wear makeup and dresses. It was also a really funny play, and I had loads of fun doing it and practising for it. I also loved my costume because I got to wear a cool black hat that I still have now. That was the last year we

got to do a play that was not based around Christmas because we had to do all the rest of our plays in the church but all the other plays after where good as well. I just remember this one better than all the others and I had so much fun doing this play so that is why it is one of my favourite memories. I would have preferred to make more memories finishing primary school with my friends like everyone else who finished primary school before me.

### Sam Proctor

My favourite memory from primary school is when I was on the debating team. I enjoyed researching facts and rehearsing our speeches. Unfortunately, now we will never see who won the competition but that doesn't mean it was for nothing. Being on the debate team helped me find something I really enjoy, and working with others on the team was a great experience and I loved every second of it. It never was about winning but getting to the finals was amazing and this is what I will miss when I go into secondary school.



**Debating Team 2019/2020**

## Memories of 2019-2020

### *Castletown wins Wexford Senior Football Final!*

*By Brendan Halpin, Team Captain*

On October 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 Castletown defeated Gusserane by a score line of 3-16 to 2-10. In winning this county title, we now join Volunteers as the most successful senior football team in Wexford with 11 county titles to our name. Our first county title win in 9 years, since our win over Kilanerin in 2010, was made all the more enjoyable by the incredible support we received from Castletown, Tara Hill & Coolgreany National Schools.

In the build up to the match the players and management were overwhelmed with the well wishes and words of encouragement we received. The flags and banners outside the school and in particular the rap song that was performed by the children of Castletown was the highlight of the days before the game. Once the final whistle blew in Wexford Park, the celebrations on the pitch with team mates, family and friends really emphasised just how much the GAA means to the people of Castletown. All the hard training sessions and sacrifices that we make to play football and hurling for the club are worth it for moments like those.

It was an honour to bring the cup around to the schools on the Monday morning and be able to thank all the children, teachers and staff members of the schools for all the support before, during and after the match. The future of hurling, football, Camogie and ladies football certainly seems to be in very safe hands within the schools, as we saw by the boys winning the Rackard League Football Title shortly after the successes of the Men's Football Team and Ladies Camogie Team.

2019 was a fantastic year for GAA in Castletown, we can only hope that we can all get back onto the pitches in Tomnahealy and Coolgreany soon and continue this success into 2020 and beyond. We look forward to seeing the development of all the children within the school and hopefully they will get the opportunity to bring more silverware back to the parish in the not too distant future.

To the graduating 6<sup>th</sup> class students, I wish you all the best with your continued education in secondary school. You all have bright futures ahead of you and know that with hard work, dedication and a little help from those around you, nothing is beyond your reach.

# Reeling in the Years: 2019-2020

What an eventful year you are graduating in!! 2019-2020 was the academic year that all of this happened!!

Australian Bush fires: The world was moved by the plight of the Australian people and wildlife affected by the bushfires in January 2020.



It was estimated that over 1.25 billion animals died. Millions of dollars was raised worldwide in response

Nintendo released Animal Crossing, a game where you 'Create a home, interact with cute animal villagers, and just enjoy life'



Music that was big this year included Dance monkey by Tones and I and Blinding Lights by the Weeknd



Films released included Sonic. Trolls couldn't release in cinema due to Covid19 so went straight to home release



**Coronavirus COVID-19**

If you have fever and/or cough you should stay at home regardless of your travel or contact history.

If you have returned from an area that is subject to travel restrictions due to COVID-19 you should restrict your movement for 14 days. Check the list of affected areas on [www.dfa.vic](http://www.dfa.vic)

All people are advised to:

- **Reduce** social interactions
- **Keep a distance** of 2m between you and other people
- **Do not** shake hands or make close contact where possible

If you have symptoms visit [www.hse.vic](http://www.hse.vic) phone HSE Line 1800 24 1850

**How to Prevent**

- Stop** shaking hands or shaking arms, kissing, hugging or greeting other people
- Distance** yourself at least 2 metres from other people, especially those who might be coughing
- Wash** your hands well and often with soap and water
- Cover** your mouth and nose with a tissue or elbow when coughing or sneezing, and discard used tissue
- Avoid** touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean** and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

**Symptoms**

- Fever (high temperature)
- A Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Breathing Difficulties

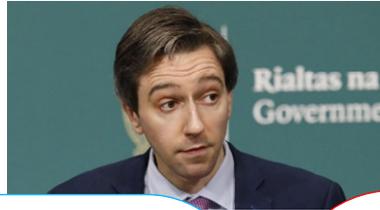
**For Daily Updates Visit**

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## Reeling in the Years: 2019-2020

In Irish politics, there was an election just before Covid in which Sinn Féin were triumphant for the first time. The caretaker government remained for Covid with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar (Fine Gael) remaining in office. Simon Harris, (Fine Gael), remained as Minister for Health. Dr. Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer, became a familiar face with his regular addresses to the nation about Covid.



We hardly knew Zoom existed before Covid but it quickly developed into an online community which kept people in touch with each other.



Families used it for quizzes and chats and businesses used it for meetings.



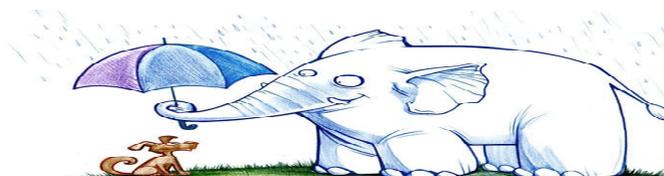
Before Covid, Britain was in turmoil over a very close vote which saw Brexit come into effect. This meant that British people had voted to leave the European Union. Theresa May resigned as Prime Minister and Boris Johnson succeeded her. Boris Johnson went on to contract Covid and was even hospitalised with it.



And who could forget the TIK TOK phenomenon?! The new social media craze that gave lots of entertainment during lockdown. It saw people take on dance challenges and generally be silly! A little light relief amidst all the sadness and difficulty.



Donald Trump continued to be President of America. In June 2020 there were riots following the death of George Floyd, a black man who was killed by a police man. **Black Lives Matter** was trending on social media with protests taking place despite Covid restrictions. I hope that if you read back over this souvenir in years to come, that the situation will have improved significantly for black people in society - *make sure to play your part in this. Read, be educated, be open minded and be kind.*



# Oh How You Have Grown!



