



Hannah Walpole

Grennan College Gazette | December 2025

A story about our school's Open Night from a student's perspective (with some creative changes), written by Ava O'Callaghan and Liv Caffrey (1B)

Once upon a time, on a quiet evening in early autumn, two first-year students walked up the hill to a school they weren't sure about. The windows glowed with light, the air was full of voices, and although they didn't know it yet, this night would change how they felt about starting somewhere new.

My Mum and I walked up the hill slowly, taking everything in.

"I don't want to go to this school!" I said, annoyed.

"Just give it a chance," my Mam said enthusiastically.

I didn't want to give it a chance, though. I wanted to stay in primary school. We walked through the double doors, and the noise of talking was overwhelming. We were given labels to show what group we were in. Group 2, mine read. I looked over to see the tour guides for Group 2, a first-year girl and a fifth-year boy. I found it strange that a first-year was a tour guide because she was new, but she seemed to know what she was doing.

The principal gave a speech to our parents while we went on the tour. I met a girl who was very optimistic about starting a new school. I didn't understand why. I was led to my tour guides, but they weren't the same people I'd seen before. I got confused but didn't want to question it. My new tour guides were two first-year girls.

We started our tour, but when we got to the first room, I froze. Standing inside were the same tour guides I'd seen before the first-year girl and the fifth-year boy. They looked just as surprised to see us.

"Starting the tour?" my guide asked, confused.

"What are you doing here?" the other girl replied, crossing her arms.

Before anyone could say more, the lights flickered. For a second, the whole hallway went dark. Someone gasped. When the lights came back on, half our group had disappeared down another corridor.

"Great," the fifth-year muttered, "now we've lost them."

My heart was racing, but my tour guide smiled at me. "Don't worry, Ella," she said calmly, "we'll find them."

I wasn't sure if I believed her, but for the first time that night, I was curious about what would happen next.

The other group went to the room while we went to the canteen. The principal walked over to us with a friendly smile and asked, "Is there a problem?" The fifth-year explained what had happened. We were told to go to the snack table while they sorted it out.

I was starting to understand why that girl was so optimistic about this school. After a few minutes, our tour guides came over. They looked happy to be there. There was a small group of people we were allowed to join for the rest of the tour. They were in the science lab, and when we got there, I saw a girl who looked just as worried as I had when I started the tour. I started talking to her and realised she was nice.

The tour turned out to be fun, and afterwards we went to get hot chocolate and tea from the table provided by the school.

My new friend's name is Amy. She said she was going to go to this school, so how could I not?

Discover all that's waiting for you in the Thomastown library!!

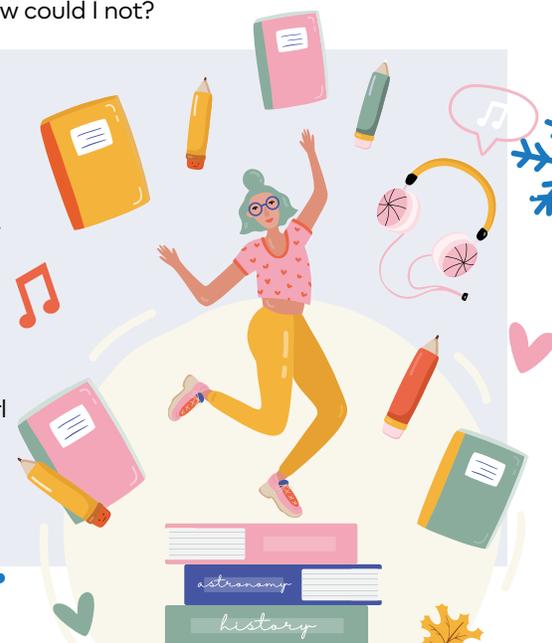
Did you know that Thomastown Library has something for everyone? Along with a wonderful selection of books for all ages, the library also offers free WiFi and PC use.

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Friendly Faces, Warm Drinks: First Years Connect with Their Caras at Grennan College

By Joseph Brian O'Donnell 1A

Grennan College recently hosted an event in the school canteen, giving first-year students the chance to meet their Caras, older students who volunteer to support them as they settle into school life.

The event pairs each first-year with a Cara, who will help them throughout the year with things like lockers, timetables, finding classrooms, and navigating their new routines. Most Caras work with two first-years, creating a small, supportive group.

Once everyone was matched with their Cara, students sat together at tables and enjoyed hot chocolate or juice. Teachers moved around the room checking in with each group and offering biscuits and cookies to add to the warm atmosphere.

First-years and their Caras spent time chatting and getting to know one another. Caras asked questions about subjects, how the new students were finding their lockers, and how they were settling into their classes. These conversations helped break the ice and made the first years feel more confident about the weeks ahead.

Chat and Connect is all about building friendships, encouraging socialising, and helping first years feel supported by both their classmates and older students.

It was a relaxed, enjoyable event where first years got to meet members of the senior classes, share treats and start forming connections that will support them throughout the school year. Everyone left smiling and looking forward to the next time they meet their Cara.

Bringing you the Action, the Passion, and the School Pride in our Sports Corner!

By Joseph Brian O'Donnell 1A

1st Year Gaelic: 1st year girls shine at the James Stephens GAA blitz! On October 21st they gave it everything, big effort, big heart, and big smiles all round.

Senior Girls Gaelic:

Our Senior Girls opened their season with style, delivering a powerful performance to overcome Ramsgrange and claim their first win of the year on the 22nd October.



Junior and Senior Hurling:

Our junior and senior hurling teams showed great determination and teamwork throughout the season, playing a total of three competitive matches. Across both panels, we secured two impressive victories, displaying strong skill, discipline, and spirit on the field. Although we fell short in one match, the players' commitment and effort never wavered, and the experience has only strengthened the group. Overall, it was a promising run that highlights the talent coming through in both our junior and senior ranks.

Senior Boy's Soccer:

Our senior boy's soccer team are the defending All-Ireland champions and have played three Cup games so far this year: against Curragh CC, who we beat 3-2; Bray ETSS, who we beat 7-4; and Mount Seskin CC, who we beat 4-0.

Our top scorer so far this season is Conor Muldoon with five goals, followed closely by Cian Caulfield and Jamie Cassin with three each.



Panel:

Daniel Mason, Adam Minogue, Nathan O'Hara, Aaron Cullen, Fionn Minogue, Odhran McGorry, Cian Caulfield, Rory Tobin, Jamie Cassin, Conor Muldoon, John Clifford, Cian Murphy, Kevin Dirzius, Mateu Parejo, Liam McGorry, Edward Morrissey, Pdraig Lawlor, Eoghan Ryan, Patryk Salamon, Micheal Haughney, Yaman Fattal, Daniel Begley, Leo O'Brien, Dion Cody.

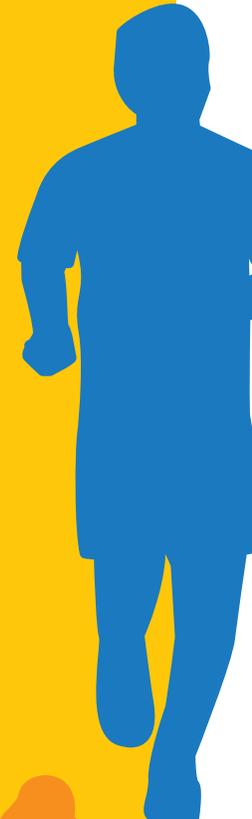
Our U17 soccer side have only played one game so far this year and were beaten 4-2 away to Coláiste Eoin of Hacketstown, with Conor Muldoon scoring both of our goals on the day.

Senior Girls Basketball

The Senior Girls Basketball team delivered outstanding performances throughout the season, showing remarkable improvement through strong teamwork and determination. Led confidently by captain Safi Boston, the players were inspired both on and off the court. The team secured several key victories against tough competitors such as CTI Clonmel, Coláiste Abhainn Ri, Castlecomer CS and Presentation Clonmel. At all times, the team impressed supporters with their solid defensive strategies and fast-paced offence. The team was narrowly defeated by four points in the quarter finals by Creagh College. The players demonstrated excellent sportsmanship in every game and represented the school with pride at all times.

Junior Girls Basketball

The Junior Girls Basketball team enjoyed an exciting and rewarding season, marked by steady progress and dedication. From the very first practice, the players showed enthusiasm and a strong desire to improve their skills. Their hard work paid off as they secured several well-earned wins and pushed through close matches with determination. In the group stages they had wins over Coláiste Abhainn Ri, CTI Clonmel and Presentation Clonmel. Each player contributed to the team's success, demonstrating sportsmanship, resilience, and excellent communication during games. The supportive energy from classmates motivated the girls to always give their best. Overall, the season highlighted not only their growing talent but also their spirit. Well done girls.



Dive In! Meet the Wellread Committee & Uncover the Magic They Bring to Reading!

Wellread Committee | By Hannah Walpole

Our Wellread Committee is a student-led group that encourages everyone at school to enjoy reading for pleasure. Coordinated by Miss Quirke and Ms Kinsella, the committee is made up of four TY students, Hannah Walpole, Aoife Manning, Keisha Conway and Orla Murphy who help plan and run fun reading activities for the whole school. Their goal is to encourage reading for fun and not just something for homework!

So far this year, the committee has been busy with lots of cool initiatives:

- **Mystery Story Challenge:** Our 1st Years got to solve a short mystery story themselves. Teamwork and detective skills were key to this challenge.
- **Author Visit:** Author Ann Murtagh came to speak with 1st Years about writing, reading, and creativity.
- **Drop Everything and Read (DEAR):** Students from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Years all spent time reading during a whole-school DEAR session before mid-term.



The Wellread Committee is all about making reading fun and creating a school where everyone can enjoy books, whether you're a first-time reader or a total bookworm!

- **First-Year Library Induction:** All 1st Years visited the library, got their library cards, and set up accounts for borrowing books. They also got access to an online library 'BorrowBox' a great way to get started on reading for fun. Ms. Kinsella also organised the library to make it easier for everyone to find books.
- **Word of the Week:** A new word is displayed in the canteen every Tuesday to help students boost their vocabulary.
- **Canteen Reading Zone:** There's now a comfy reading area in the canteen where students can enjoy a book during break or lunchtime. The committee is working on making it even more inviting!

What's Coming Up

- **Primary School Reading Visits:** TY students from the committee will go to a local primary school to read with younger pupils and share their love of reading.
- **More DEAR Sessions:** Extra Drop Everything and Read sessions will be added so everyone can enjoy more reading time.
- **Staff Book Club:** Teachers will also get in on the action with a new book club, helping to make reading a part of school life for everyone.



Murder Mystery:

Kilcleave, A Village with Secrets

By Aoife Manning and Hannah Walpole

Kilcleave, a foggy, rural village in Mayo, is a place where everyone knows everyone and where the land is steeped in folklore, stories, and hidden history.

Six teenagers are bound by a shared secret: a night on the hills, a mysterious ritual, and the sudden loss of a friend. A year later, strange events suggest someone wants the truth to come out, and the tension in the village is rising.

The Teenagers Involved

Aisling Connolly (17) – sharp-eyed and observant, Aisling sees sound as colour (synaesthesia). She keeps a journal and is haunted by that night.

Cormac Kavenagh (18) – the town's golden boy and GAA star. Short-tempered and grief-stricken after losing his best friend.

Róisín Blake (17) – quiet, loyal, and deeply religious. She performed the ritual prayer but doesn't remember it clearly.

Oisín O'Donnell (16) – anxious tech enthusiast. Claims he left the hill early and may have recorded part of the night on a drone.

Méabh Walsh (17) – outspoken and adventurous. Carries "protective stones" and was closest to the friend who died.

Eimear Lillis (16) – a transfer from Dublin, new to the town at the time. Keeps to herself and draws constantly in a red sketchbook.

The Night on Cailleach's Hill

On Midsummer's Eve, the group climbed Cailleach's Hill a local landmark tied to old myths. They dared each other to perform a "ritual" at the top: a circle of heather and stones in a Celtic knot pattern, with candles and chants.

The next morning, Fiachra "Fi" Brennan, a close friend, was found at the base of a cliff. The town ruled it an accident, but some weren't convinced.

"Everyone thinks they know what happened... but no one really does." – Aisling Connolly

One Year Later: Strange Happenings

The Flowers Return

Aisling finds a bundle of dried heather and red twine on her windowsill, identical to the ritual items. That night, she sees a candle burning on the hill.

The Stolen Sketchbook

Eimear's sketchbook goes missing, and pages later appear in Aisling's locker, drawings of the ritual, each focusing on a different person. One shows someone near the cliff, but the face is smudged.

The Confession Circle

Méabh hosts a late-night bonfire. Secrets begin to surface:

- Oisín admits he filmed part of the night on a drone, but the footage is gone.
- Cormac reveals Fi had intended to tell the local paper something about someone in the group.
- Róisín says she heard whispers during the ritual but thought she imagined them.

Another Incident

The night before the anniversary, someone is found at the base of the same cliff. Footprints lead to the edge then back. Inside the jacket: a scrap of red twine and a torn sketch with the word "liar."

Clues Begin to Surface

- Aisling's synaesthesia reveals lies through colour.
- Méabh admits she saw Fi near the cliff but looked away.
- Eimear's erased sketch slowly reveals someone close to her.
- Róisín is heard mumbling the ritual chant in her sleep.
- Oisín's recovered footage shows a shadow crossing Fi's path.
- Cormac's texts suggest Fi was pressuring someone in the group.

The Anniversary

At the top of the hill, the group gathers, not for a ritual, but due to an anonymous invitation. A new bundle of heather sits at the centre. A phone starts recording.

Confessions are made. Tensions rise. A figure steps forward, holding the red sketchbook:

"You all buried him, but someone was responsible." Just as the truth begins to emerge, darkness falls.

Aisling's Journal

Months later, Aisling writes "The colour of truth is bitter blue. I saw it once, when he said he never meant harm. And again, when she said she didn't mean to. It burns, and I still see it every time I look in the mirror."

Why This Story Matters

Kilcleave's secrets show that even in small towns, the past can linger, and truth can be hidden where least expected.



Get Hooked on Books: Join the School Book Club!

A book club gives students the chance to read for fun, share ideas, and discover new perspectives together. As part of the WellRead initiative, it helps build a culture of reading in our school, encouraging curiosity, discussion, and a love of books.

When & Where:

Every **Wednesday at 1:30 pm** in Ms Kinsella's room, all students are welcome!

"Reading isn't just about books, it's about thinking, connecting, and growing together."

– Ms Kinsella & Miss Quirke



Wellread Brings Author Ann Murtagh to Grennan College! Don't Miss Her Exclusive Interview With 1A & 1B

by Ann Murtagh

My name is Ann Murtagh and I write historical fiction, I have three books published by The O'Brien Press. I was born in New York, grew up in Meath, but now live in Kilkenny City, where I'm an active member of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society. I love history, and it's what sparks my imagination when it comes to storytelling.

I had a wonderful day at Grennan College on 5th November, meeting First Years to chat about books, stories, and writing. I love that school is promoting reading for pleasure. As someone who has gained so much from reading over the years, I urge you not just to dip your toe in the water but to dive right in! Reading can take you anywhere, to another time, another place, or even into someone else's shoes. Once you find a book you love, the whole world opens up.



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Who or what inspired you to start writing?

The script of the children's play The Messenger inspired me to start writing. Barnstorm Theatre asked me to design classroom materials to go with it. It was about the 1916 Rising in Dublin, and I was impressed with how history and storytelling were combined. I longed to have a go at doing it myself.

What do you find most enjoyable about writing books?

When I finish the first draft, I love going back through the story. I always spot new ideas or character moments I missed the first time.

Did you always want to be an author?

Not always. Being involved in various history projects over the years fulfilled that urge to write. It wasn't until I started writing my first novel, The Sound of Freedom, that I really wanted to be a published author.

What is your favourite book that you've written?

Like a parent being asked to pick out their favourite child, I couldn't pick one! I love all my books for different reasons. The Sound of Freedom got me published in the first place. The Kidds of Summerhill was a welcome distraction during Covid, and The Climbing Boys was a great compliment from my publisher, as they asked me to write it.

What would you be if you weren't an author?

I'd probably be a full-time historian. I love digging into the past!

Where do you get your ideas?

All my ideas come from history. I use primary sources (original documents from the time), such as newspapers, the Bureau of Military History, Dúchas (Irish Folklore), Parliamentary Papers, and autobiographies (books written by people about their own lives). Secondary sources, such as biographies or books and essays about the time my story is set, are also good places to find ideas. I particularly love old newspapers.

Fun Fact: One of the chapters in The Sound of Freedom was inspired by an old newspaper ad for a sports day at a lake in Westmeath!

How do you create your book covers?

When I sign a book contract, I'm asked many questions about the story and the characters. The publisher then passes the answers to an illustrator they have selected, who designs the cover. In my case, the illustrator was Jon Berkeley. I'm always asked for my opinion on the cover when it's done, and I usually look for a few small adjustments. I have to say I love the covers Jon has come up with.

Which of your books is the longest?

The Kidds of Summerhill, which is 61,000 words.

Do you think self-publishing or using a publisher is better?

I haven't self-published, but I know there is a lot of extra work involved, including editing, layout, and book design. Also, when it's finished, you have to look after distribution (getting the book into shops and libraries) and promote it. Working with a publisher cuts down on all of this.

Writing Your Thoughts: The Power of a journal

By Mikaela Jacob Condron

Ever feel like your thoughts are jumping around with nowhere to go? Writing them down can help more than you think.

Journaling is like having a private conversation with yourself when you're confused, stressed, or overwhelmed. It gives your mind a place to breathe. Research even shows that keeping a journal can reduce anxiety, improve your mood, and help you make sense of what's going on in your life.

A journal also becomes a record of your journey, a place to look back and see how far you've come, track your progress, and learn from both your successes and your mistakes.

And remember, your journal doesn't have to be perfect. It doesn't even have to be

serious. Doodle, sketch, scribble, write random thoughts, anything that makes it yours.

How to Start Journaling

- **Start small**, try writing for just 5–10 minutes a day.
- **Use simple prompts**, such as:
 - "Today I felt ... because..."
 - "Something I learned this week..."
- **Be honest**, your journal is for you, so keep it private and real.
- **Make it fun**, add stickers, doodles, colour, or anything that makes it personal.



Let the Adventure Begin

Poetry, Friendship, and Music to
Inspire the Year Ahead.

“Count That Day Lost”

by George Eliot

If you sit down at set of sun
And count the acts that you have done,
And, counting, find
One self-denying deed, one word
That eased the heart of him who heard,
One glance most kind
That fell like sunshine where it went
Then you may count that day well spent.

But if, through all the livelong day,
You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay
If, through it all
You've nothing done that you can trace
That brought the sunshine to one face
No act most small
That helped some soul and nothing cost
Then count that day as worse than lost.

Read by Jack Moran and Faye Gleeson

“Friendship”

by Sean Brophy

When I think of friends
I think of easy company
Of no mask, ever
I think of shared experience,
That binds together
I think of judgement suspended
I think of understanding
Of walking in each other's shoes
I think of acceptance
Of what we are
I think of belief in what we try to be
In authenticity
I think of you and you and you
My friends,
My dear friends
I think of you

Read by Aaron Phelan and Sadie Smyth

“Killeagh”

by Kingfishr

From the woods of Glenbower to the River Dissour
From the arms of my mother to the land ever pure
All I have to remember is the pride that I felt
'Round the Páirc Uí Chinnéide, where the boys never knelt

They'd go rarin' and tearin' and fightin' for love
For the land they call Killeagh and the Lord up above
Killeagh, la, la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la-la
For the green and the white I adore
For the parish to last evermore

'95 came promotion, high up on the wing
And the one up to senior, what a beautiful thing
In the darkest of hours, in the depths of despair
Let the Killeagh boys roar for to rattle the air

They'd go rarin' and tearin' and fightin' for love
For the land they call Killeagh and the Lord up above
Killeagh, la, la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la-la
For the green and the white I adore
For the parish to last evermore

Killeagh, la, la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la-la
La-la, la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la-la-la
Killeagh, la, la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la-la
For the green and the white I adore
For the parish to last evermore

When my time's at an ending, when my days are no more
Bury me with my hurley by the River Dissour

“A song celebrating joy, friendship, and new beginnings.”

Forever Bound

By Áine Curran, 2B

In fields of joy, where laughter rings,
A friendship's song, my heart now sings.
With every shared and whispered dream,
We navigate life's flowing stream.
Through sunlit days and shadows deep,
Our promises, we always keep.
A bond unbreakable, we embrace,
In every moment, time and space.
With every secret, softly told,
A story of us, brave and bold.
Through trials faced and victories won,
Our friendship's race has just begun.
In every tear, a gentle touch,
A comfort found, we love so much.
With understanding, clear and bright,
We find our solace in the night.
Through winding paths, our spirits soar,
Forever friends, and so much more.
In every moment, a gentle gleam,
Our cherished friendship, a vibrant dream.
So here's to you, my dearest friend,
Our journey's story without an end.
With open hearts, we'll always be,
Forever bound, you and me.

A talented second-year student, Áine has shown remarkable skill in poetry, capturing emotion and imagery with ease – Miss Quirke



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“Curtain Up on This Year’s Panto Magic!”

By Mark Duffy

The Thomastown panto was founded in 2023 by Mark & Sarah Duffy and this November sees our third production. Following on from sold out runs of Jack & The Beanstalk and Cinderella, this year sees us bring the story of Robin Hood to life.

Our aim is simple and two-fold... to bring the wonderful tradition of pantomime to Thomastown and south Kilkenny and to ensure all those that take part have the very best experience in a safe and enjoyable environment. Pantomime is the one form of theatre that caters for people of all ages from children right up to grandparents.

We cater for children from 6 years and up and have grown from 45 children in our first production to 108 this year for Robin Hood. With a cast, crew and creative team, it is the combined efforts of 150 people to bring panto to the stage in the Concert Hall this November. This year we have children and adults involved from various towns and villages in the Thomastown and south Kilkenny regions.

It would also not be possible without the support of the team in the Concert Hall, St Marys Primary School and the dedication of parents since we started rehearsals in mid-August.

Planning for the Thomastown Panto begins in May of every year when the script is written and the creative team begin all the pre-planning that goes into the huge venture. This team is made up of Director, Musical Director, Choreographer, Set Designer, Set Builder, Costume Designer, Lighting and Sound Designers amongst many others.

Local businesses have also been a huge support throughout through their sponsorships etc

Our three years in existence has been a fabulous success, and we hope that the tradition of panto will continue long into the future in Thomastown.



Taste the Season: Our Featured Recipe!! Easy Apple Sponge Pudding



Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C.
2. Peel and chop the apples and add to a saucepan with 50g of sugar and stew for 10 mins.
3. Whisk the eggs and 50g sugar until pale and fluffy.
4. Fold in the flour.
5. Add the apple mixture to a tin and top with the batter.
6. Bake for 15–20 minutes or until golden and a skewer comes out clean.
7. Serve and enjoy!

Grennan College unveil new mural with local artist Sinead Whelan

By Laura Gladney

Students at Grennan College, Thomastown have been busy over the past few weeks working on a large mural project with local artist Sinead Whelan, supported by funding from the Arts Council's Creative Schools and Creative Engagement initiatives. Sinead is a past pupil of Grennan College, has done many other mural projects for schools and hospitals in the south-east and works as a studio-based artist in Thomastown.

In collaboration with Art teacher Laura Gladney and the 5th yr Art group, the process began with brainstorming ideas, settling on a concept of 'constant movement' and 'perpetual motion' by depicting overlapping student silhouettes walking, running, playing sports, carrying bags and books, and all eager to get to class. Inspired by the work of artists Julian Opie, Aches, and Sinead's own work, the students created designs for a large space at the back entrance of the school, using photography first and then developing these photos into graphic imagery. Sinead then took their drawings and created a final design, also featuring an ultra-modern, deconstructed Grennan College crest to



visualise the school's spirit.

Through her unique process, Sinead started by drawing doodles all over the school entrance

walls, enabling her to overlay and scale the design with proportions correct. She drew the design on with help from small groups of 5-6 students, taking turns to engage with the artist's process. The experience was a first for many of the students involved, who were thrilled to get hands-on with such an exciting project. Students of all abilities and talents across 3rd yr, Transition Year, 5th yr and Leaving Cert Applied class groups were all engaged.

The result is the back entrance to the school being utterly transformed into a bright and uplifting area welcoming students and visitors into the building.

See more of [Sinead Whelan's mural work](#) on [Instagram @sinead.designs](#)

The Maryland Massacre

by Cian Caulfield

Patrick Kenway was a normal 30-year-old man who worked a normal job in the M.L.P.D. (Maryland Police Department). He had a loving wife who worked as a bank clerk in the local branch of Capital Bank. His usual day consisted of catching bike thieves and breaking up street fights. However, everything changed one day.

Patrick got up at 8:30am and did his daily morning routine, he brushed his teeth, had a shower, and ate two slices of toast, one with butter and one without. Then he went back upstairs to kiss his wife Fiona goodbye.

Patrick hated his job so much that he dreaded going in every day.

He had always wanted to be a policeman and imagined putting murderers in jail, but he had never even had one drug case, until a random Tuesday morning.

Patrick walked into work, checked in with the receptionist, Elle, and made his way upstairs. He mustered

up the courage to enter the captain's office, even though he was 10 minutes late because he missed his train. He apologised for being late and asked the captain for an open case, as all his others were closed.

The captain was not a jolly man. In fact, he was the complete opposite. Some said he sucked the joy out of any room he entered. But that didn't stop Patrick from asking for a new case. The captain continued reading his newspaper for a few seconds before looking directly into Patrick's eyes and saying, in a low monotone voice, that he had left a new case on Patrick's desk, and he would have known that if he hadn't been late.

Patrick sighed. "It's not another bike robbery, is it, sir?"

The captain snapped that it was, and that he the captain handed out the cases.

Patrick grunted a thank-you and slumped into his chair. His partner Matthew walked over and said what he said every day: "*You just keep working*

those bike cases, and one day you'll be on every newspaper for saving Maryland from a serious criminal." Patrick only grunted and got on with it.

He was so good at bike cases that he solved them quickly. After identifying his suspect, he looked him up in the system and discovered that Patrick's little bike thief had just gotten out of a five-year prison sentence for smuggling narcotics and assault.

Patrick's heart skipped a beat.

He briefed the captain, leaving out the criminal record because he wanted to appear as the hero who uncovered such a crucial element. He then went to the suspect's address, no sign of him. As Patrick walked out of the building, he spotted the man and the stolen bike. Patrick instantly switched into cop mode, rushed over, and arrested him. While Patrick read the Miranda rights, Matthew opened the suspect's backpack and found a bag full of heroin.



Matthew was shocked even more so when he realised Patrick had hidden the suspect's criminal past.

Patrick looked inside the bag himself, and when he realised he had made a major heroin bust, he grinned from ear to ear. They took Cody Benvolio back to the station and finally briefed the captain.

The captain analysed the situation, then looked Patrick dead in the eyes and said, "Good job, Patrick. It's your case. You decide how to move forward."

Patrick kept calm on the outside, but inside he was the happiest he'd been in years.

The next day, Patrick prepared to break his perp in interrogation. But Cody wasn't a snitch. Still, he accidentally revealed something important:

"Look, man... this dude is serious. He supplies half the heroin in Maryland. If I tell you anything, he'll have me killed."

Patrick smirked. ***"Thanks, Cody. That'll be all."***

He researched known heroin dealers in Maryland, and it all pointed to one man: Ferran Alexis. A ghost. An A-level mobster no one had ever seen.

Patrick had an idea and returned to interrogate Cody.

He swaggered in: ***"Okay Cody, I know you work for Ferran Alexis. I think you and I can make a little deal."***

Cody looked down, ashamed he had been figured out.

"What kind of deal, cop?"

Patrick offered him immunity and Witness Protection if he set up a sting. Cody agreed.

Over the next weeks, Patrick and Matthew gathered what little they could. Ferran was a ghost but he seemed to control every crime syndicate in Maryland: prostitution, smuggling, money laundering, and bank robberies.

One day they got a frantic call from Cody now in Witness Protection:

"They know where I am! Someone broke in with a gun! You have to help me!"

Patrick reassured him and told him to keep moving. Patrick and Matthew realized they needed to identify the mole inside the M.L.P.D., but the captain said there was no way to know the mole's rank trying to identify them could alert them.

The next day, Patrick and Matthew reunited with Cody and kept him safe. Back at the station, Patrick received an anonymous call:

"There's going to be a major heroin deal at 9 p.m. at the Flashbucks warehouse on Third Avenue."

Patrick checked his watch 8:30 p.m.

They called officers from another station (in case the mole was on duty) and raided

the warehouse. Three men were inside. Two surrendered. One opened fire.

He recognized Cody.

"Cody, you snitch! I'm gonna kill you!"

He shot Cody three times.

Cody fell, bleeding out. Patrick, shaking, shot the man dead. Matthew and Patrick crouched beside Cody, apologizing and promising his death wouldn't be in vain.

In two vans, they found more heroin than they had ever imagined. News broke the next morning the biggest heroin bust in 40 years.

But the captain reprimanded them harshly for not informing him or the lieutenant.

Four days passed with no leads. On the fifth day, the captain called them in.

"My wife has passed away in a car accident. I will be taking a few days to grieve."

A tear rolled down his cheek.

"But I have a tip. Sergeant Wilson's sister knows something. Follow it up."

Patrick and Matthew visited Debra. During questioning, Patrick got another anonymous call:

"The man you're looking for is going to rob Capital Bank in 10 minutes."

Patrick panicked his wife worked there.

Backup arrived, and they stormed the bank. Gunfire erupted. Patrick and Matthew raced to the vault, where they heard Fiona and another voice:

"Ferran, are you sure about this?"

The voice was familiar.

They turned the corner.

"Captain?" Patrick gasped.

"Hello, Patrick," the captain said calmly.

But before they could react, the captain shot Matthew dead.

Patrick dove behind a wall.

He shouted into his radio:

"Everyone to the vault NOW! Ferran Alexis is the captain!"

The captain rounded the corner. Patrick whispered, *"I'm sorry, Ferran,"* and shot him in

the temple.

Backup arrived. Patrick ordered the remaining man to drop his weapon. Fiona ran out and hugged him.

Patrick stepped into the vault and froze.

"Lieutenant Brooks?"

Brooks sighed. *"It wasn't meant to end like this. Wait... I'll give you the names of every dirty cop in the M.L.P.D."*

Patrick agreed and arrested him.

Brooks exposed everything: he and the captain started their operation 10 years earlier, turning cops dirty over time. They robbed the bank because they owed millions to a Venezuelan supplier for the heroin Patrick and Matthew had seized.

Patrick and Matthew were awarded Medals of Honor. Matthew's funeral was broadcast city-wide. Patrick made sure everyone knew that both Matthew and Cody were heroes.

Patrick became the new captain and was known everywhere as **the detective who took down the biggest drug ring and dirty cop scandal in Maryland history.**

Cian, one of our Ethos Leaders, is an excellent student with a genuine passion for writing short stories.

He is motivated, responsible, and consistently gives his best effort. His creativity and imagination make his work truly stand out."

— Ms. Kinsella



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Grennan Goes Greener

By Lily and Meghan Caulfield

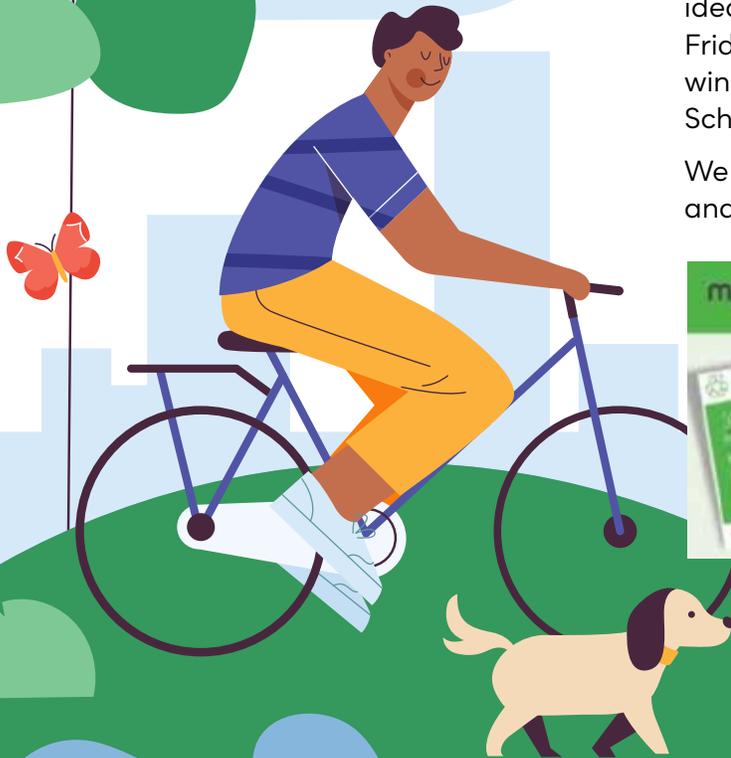
Here at Grennan College, we have a Green Schools Committee made up of seven students and four teachers. We meet every Monday at 1:20 p.m. in Room 25 to discuss what we want to improve and make better about Grennan College. We are currently in the process of laminating 170 recycling and general-waste posters for every classroom and office.

On Monday, the 20th of October, we carried out an audit in every classroom to check if each room had two bins, one for recycling and one for general waste and to ensure they were labelled correctly.

We are now looking to get new bins with clear labels for both inside and outside the school. Our main goal is to reduce plastic waste at Grennan College. Every Monday at our Green Schools meeting, we plan what we want to focus on for the week. At our first ever meeting, we assigned roles and went through what was needed for a Green Schools Committee at Grennan College.

We don't currently have a slogan, so we held a slogan competition where students could write down their own ideas and place them in a box outside Room 25 before Friday, the 24th of October. Teachers then chose the winning slogan, which will become the official Green Schools slogan.

We can't wait to make Grennan College a better place, and we are always looking for new committee members.



A New Life Across the Water

By Sasha Shvabii

Throughout your life, you will meet many different people, each with their own unique life story and culture. But on a deeper level, what is it really like to come to a new country and start a new chapter in your life? one that can change you and your view of the world around you.

I think everyone, at some point in their lives, has heard the phrase “School is the best time of your life,” but we all know that no one truly understood it then.

It’s always hard, no matter what anyone says, to adapt to a new country. Everything seems so different from the place I used to love and spend my everyday life in. While some people might see such a change as the end of the world and become pessimistic, I chose to see it as another challenge in my life.

I clearly remember the day I was told that I had to wear a school uniform (I’m pretty sure I cried). I fought it until the end, trying to avoid getting the uniform because it felt so outrageous to me something I had never experienced before. But three years later, I can say with certainty that it doesn’t matter, as long as it helps everyone feel equal and have the same educational opportunities. Another thing that surprised me was the number of books I received on my first day. My first thought was, how could I possibly bring all of this in every day? Thankfully, I soon found out about lockers.

School plays a huge part in every student’s life, and finding the right place to feel safe and heard is important. When I came to Ireland, everything felt so different.

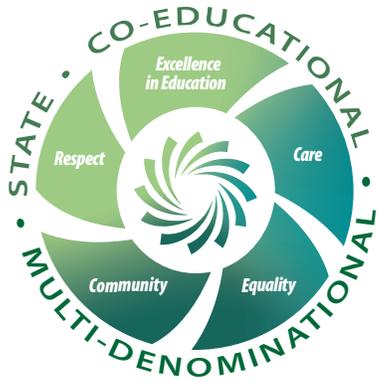
I thought I would never get used to the fact that there were cows next to my school, but now I’m even used to the smell and the country vibes. Grennan

is a warm, welcoming, and generous school. The teachers are very friendly and always make sure everyone feels equal. The school community also had a great effect on me; I didn’t expect it to be such a caring place. From my first day in Grennan, everyone made me feel like I was already part of the local community. Whether it was showing me around the school, helping me make new friends, supporting me as I adapted to the language and lifestyle, or simply checking in on me when I needed it, I always felt supported. The kindness and willingness to help me adjust to the school atmosphere helped me settle in much faster than I expected.

Now, whenever I think about the memories I’ve made in this school, they bring a big smile to my face, whether it was watching a volleyball match between the sixth years and the teachers, taking part in school activities, dressing up on theme days, or just learning something new every day. I’m sure many students have their own opinions about the school and its rules, but I try to enjoy the learning process.

Now, I truly understand why teachers and adults always say “School is the best time of your life,” as I’m soon going into sixth year and preparing for the Leaving Cert and college. I know I’m really going to miss my school years.





**GRENNAN
COLLEGE**

Ethos - 'Living our values'

Ethos in Grennan College is all about the core values of:

- Care • Respect • Community • Excellence in Education • Equality

Our Ethos shapes who we are and how we work every day. It guides the relationships we build, the learning environment we create, and the values we promote across the school community. Our school is more than a place of learning, it is a welcoming and inclusive space where students are encouraged to grow as individuals, contribute positively to society, and become lifelong learners. By living the ETB Ethos each day, we aim to create a school environment where everyone feels they belong, where differences are respected, and where every student is empowered to thrive. Led by Ms Kinsella, these are values we live by each day in Grennan in everything we do. Carrying out these values each day gives Grennan College that positive atmosphere, making it more than just a school, making it a community.

We also want to congratulate our newly appointed Ethos Student leaders who will uphold and represent the ethos values.

1st Year Representatives

- Faye Gleeson
- James Tyrrell
- Sadie Smyth
- Mazie McGrath

2nd Year Representatives

- Lauren Kelly
- Ahmad Al Husain

3rd Year Representatives

- Nicole Healy
- Lucas Kennedy

Transition Year Representatives

- Aoife Manning
- Hannah Walpole

5th Year Representatives

- Luí Telford
- Harijs Bluzma
- Ruby Ridout
- Walter Walsh

6th Year Representatives

- Calvin Redmond
- Safi- Uzuri Boston
- Lia Conway
- Harry Kavanagh
- Aaron King
- Cian Caulfield

Ethos postcards will be sent out soon so keep an eye on those post boxes!

