

THE RCS SCÚP



STUDENT PREFECTS LEAD THE WAY

Amy Symes and Keira Roche

The RCS Leadership Team were appointed at the end of the Academic Year 2024-25, following a rigorous application and interview process. Two of our student leaders outline here what the student leaders can do for your school.

Student leadership is a team for you to look up to as role models and to be a voice for the rest of the school. Our role and our aim as your student leadership team is to make school enjoyable for you. We hope that you will come to us if you have any problems or worries this school year as we are more than happy to help you and hopefully you will be like us someday and be proud of our school, Ramsgrange Community School.

Our student leadership team consists of 14 senior students. Your Head Boy and Head Girl for this year are Dan Nolan and Sarah Assinder; both bringing strong leadership and a positive attitude to our team. Our Deputy Head Boy is Cillian Browne and he brings support to the team, our Deputy Head Girl is Keira Roche and she brings honesty. Our extended team consists of ten prefects, Amy Symes, Bobby Murphy, Aideen Byrne, Ellie Donnelly, Sean Cassidy, Aaron Ely, Jane Furlong, Irene Hanlon, Shane Meehan, Valeria Feidial all demonstrate and promote the values of fairness, encouragement and success.

Here are a few of our favourite quotes from the senior leadership team to keep you motivated for the year!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM: Back Row: Shane Meehan, Aaron Ely, Sean Cassidy, Bobby Murphy. Middle Row: Ellie Donnelly, Jane Furlong, Amy Smed, Aideen Byrne, Irene Hanlon, Valeria Feidial. Front Row: Keira Roche, Sarah Assinder, Dan Nolan, Cillian Browne.

- ***If you can change your mind, you can change your life. (William James).***
- ***Push yourself because no one else is going to do it for you.***
- ***It always seems impossible until it is done (Nelson Mandela).***

Continue reading inside to learn more about the team.

IN THIS ISSUE:

TEACHER FEATURE · ANTI IMMIGRATION PROTESTS · RCS' SUCCESSES · FLEADH CHEOIL · LEAVING CERTIFICATE RESULTS · FRIENDSHIP ADVICE · ART GALLERY WALL... AND MUCH MORE

FLEADH CHEOIL NA HEIREANN

BRILLIANT SUCCESS FOR WEXFORD TOWN AS IT HOSTED ITS FIRST EVER FLEADH CHEOIL IN 2024.

BY: AOIBHÍNN DOYLE

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, Ireland's world-renowned traditional music festival, (commonly known by musicians as the Fleadh) is the largest festival of its kind in the world; celebrating culture, music, song, dance and so much more. Attracting people from all over the continent, this year it brought a record-breaking number of 650,000 (about half the population of Hawaii) to the streets of Wexford, according to estimations by An Garda Síochana.



Ceoltóirí na Sláine

The Fleadh started off with a bang on Sunday 4th August with a performance by Ceoltóirí na Sláine (pictured above), Wexford's first ever traditional youth orchestra, at the beginning of the opening ceremony. Comprising of a wide variety of instruments from harps to uilleann pipes and an even broader age range of around 12-18, this orchestra brings young people from all different Comhaltas branches together to play music in a non-competitive way. You may even recognise some familiar faces from within the group as students from our own school, including Colleen Waters, Louise Byrne, Aidan King, Aoibhínn Doyle, Odhran McPhillips and Grace French.

After a spectacular performance to begin with by Ceoltóirí na Sláine, it was then followed by speeches by some notables figures such as Wexford TD George Lawlor, Comhaltas director Labhrás Ó Múrchú, President of Comhaltas Attracta Brady and of course our very own Michael D. Higgins who was joined by his wife Sabina. President Higgins speech called for inclusion in this year's Fleadh which was marketed and successfully carried

out as a 'Fleadh for all.' He spoke on including people from all cultures in our celebration, especially amid the controversy surrounding migration and immigration in Ireland at this present time. Both he and Labhrás Ó Múrchú spoke out against the atrocities occurring in Palestine at the moment making connections between Ireland's past and their present struggle.

Another notable event during the Fleadh was the Tin Whistle world record attempt in Chadwick's Wexford Park that Friday, where over 1,000 people gathered to take part. There had been a widespread initiative, especially in Wexford, to encourage people to pick up their tin whistles so they could take part. This method was proven to be highly successful as we managed to surpass the previous world record holders in Drogheda by 1,501 people. Castlebridge, Co. Wexford, birthplace of the Guinness World Records hosted many of the rehearsals for this performance where numerous locals attended to learn the instrument, so it

was very much a full circle moment. From my own personal experience, I can say that it was an amazing feeling to be among so many people from all walks of life coming together to beat this record.

Throughout the Fleadh there were many concerts and performances, many of which occurred on the 'Gig Rig' at the quay. There was a wide variety of talent performing for free each day including mummer groups, bands, harpists, dancers, and many traditional music groups. I performed on Monday with Craobh Loch Garman while some of our other students performed with Danescastle Music Group on Tuesday. The 'Gig Rig' along with various buskers helped to create a lively atmosphere around the town especially on the quays and it was fantastic to hear all the talent we have in Wexford and abroad.

Overall, the Fleadh was a momentous success for Wexford Town, and it is safe to say that many of us are looking forward to it being back here again in 2025.



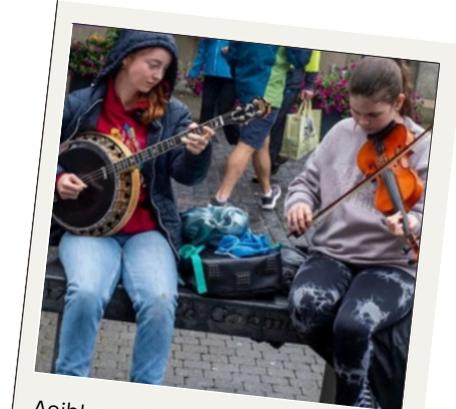
Craobh Loch Garman after their Gig Rig performance.

FLEADH CHEOIL NA HEIREANN

OUR OWN RCS STUDENTS IN ACTION DURING THE FLEADH



Lilly Reville in action during the Fleadh.



Aoibhe and Lilly Reville spent the week busking on main street.



Aoibhe and another student busking on main street.



Aoife Arnold is the Irish Dancer who dances with Magic Feet Dance Academy and Power Dance School.



Our very own Louise Byrne was featured on RTE News for a couple of seconds playing concertina.



Aoibhinn Doyle enjoyed many workshops and busked as well on the quay.



Aoibhe Reville TY, busking in Wexford Town.

Interested in getting involved in music? Join our Music Extra-Curricular activities



STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

BY SARAH ASSINDER AND CILLIAN BROWNE



NAME: SARAH ASSINDER
ROLE: HEAD GIRL
WHAT I BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP TEAM: POSITIVE ATTITUDE
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: BIOLOGY
FAVOURITE MOVIE: ELF



NAME: DAN NOLAN
ROLE: HEAD BOY
WHAT I BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP TEAM: LEADERSHIP
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: LCPE
FAVOURITE MOVIE: INTERSTELLAR



NAME: CILLIAN BROWNE
ROLE: DEPUTY HEAD BOY
WHAT I BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP TEAM: SUPPORTIVENESS
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: DCG
FAVOURITE MOVIE: E.T.



NAME: KEIRA ROCHE
ROLE: DEPUTY HEAD GIRL
WHAT I BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP TEAM: HONESTY
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: HOME ECONOMICS
FAVOURITE MOVIE: FOREVER MY GIRL



NAME: AARON ELY
ROLE: PREFECT
WHAT I BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP TEAM: DETERMINATION
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: LCPE
FAVOURITE MOVIE: HARRY POTTER



NAME: AMY SYMES
ROLE: PREFECT
WHAT I BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP TEAM: ENCOURAGEMENT
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: LCPE
FAVOURITE MOVIE: MAMMA MIA



NAME: AIDEEN BYRNE
ROLE: PREFECT
WHAT I BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP TEAM: FRIENDLINESS
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: BIOLOGY
FAVOURITE MOVIE: STAR WARS REVENGE OF THE SITH

STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROFILES



NAME: VALERIA FEDAI
ROLE: PREFECT
WHAT I BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP
TEAM: ADAPTABILITY
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: ACCOUNTING
FAVOURITE MOVIE: OPPENHEIMER



NAME: IRENE HANLON
ROLE: PREFECT
WHAT I BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP
TEAM: KINDNESS
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: BIOLOGY
FAVOURITE MOVIE: STAR WARS REVENGE OF THE SITH



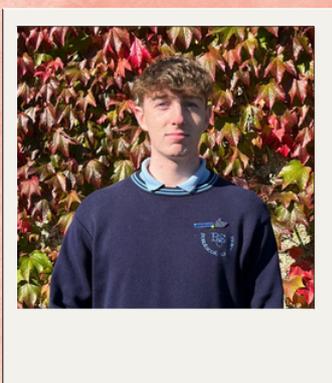
NAME: JANE FURLONG
ROLE: PREFECT
WHAT I BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP
TEAM: CREATIVITY
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: ART
FAVOURITE MOVIE: HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN TEN DAYS



NAME: ELLIE DONNELLY
ROLE: PREFECT
WHAT I BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP
TEAM: FRIENDLY ATTITUDE
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: MUSIC
FAVOURITE MOVIE: CORALINE



NAME: BOBBY MURPHY
ROLE: PREFECT
WHAT I BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP
TEAM: RESPECT
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION
FAVOURITE MOVIE: TOP GUN



NAME: SEÁN CASSIDY
ROLE: PREFECT
WHAT I BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP
TEAM: HONESTY
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: APPLIED MATHS
FAVOURITE MOVIE: THE GODFATHER 2



NAME: SHANE MEEHAN
ROLE: PREFECT
WHAT I BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP
TEAM: UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: MUSIC
FAVOURITE MOVIE: SCREAM

ANTI-IMMIGRANT PROTESTS IN BELFAST

BY: GRACE FRENCH

Around the UK and Ireland, there has been many anti-migrant protests. These events have not exactly been organised by one person, rather groups of people coming together to riot against immigrants, which I personally think is horrific. Though one person has not created these protests directly, the names Tommy Robinson (real name: Stephen Christopher Yaxley), and Mathew Hankinson (the former being in jail, the latter just getting out) are associated with these protests.

Some of these protests can be described as far-right, which is a political term that keeps popping up in the media. There is not one singular meaning to far right, or right-wing extremist, but the most comprehensive one I can put together goes as such: it is a spectrum of conservative type views, ranging from mild racism to nationalism, to neo-fascism, or neo-Nazism.

Many of these protests share far right views, such as anti-immigration and racism. "Anyone who is forced to flee their country of origin due to a well-founded fear of persecution because of their religion, race, sex, or beliefs" (Independent.ie) is classified as a refugee. A migrant is defined as "a person who moves from one place to another, usually in search of work and better living conditions," (Oxford English Dictionary) and an immigrant is defined as "a person who comes to live permanently in another country." (Oxford English Dictionary).

Many of these immigrants, migrants, and refugees have come from developing countries, that can have terrible living conditions, or countries at war, e.g., Russia, Palestine, Ukraine etc., where it is impossible to feel safe. They come to Ireland and the UK looking for safety, security, and for some, a place to keep their family out of harm's way. Yet, there are people who believe they do not deserve to be there, and that they are ruining their country. Yet, these migrants etc.,

provide a source of labour for Ireland, and increased numbers of immigrants in schools also inevitably mean schools are provided with more resources. These people deserve to feel safe and should not be threatened in a place they came to for safety.

They come to Ireland and the UK looking for safety, security, and for some, a place to keep their family out of harm's way.

What happened in Belfast?

On Saturday the 5th of August 2024, a crowd gathered outside Belfast city hall, at around 11:30 Greenwich Mean Time. They were listening to speeches from people, such as trade unionist, Mick Lynch.



Anti Racism Protestors (image: BBC)

A large amount of anti-immigrant protestors began congregating on the opposite side of the road, jeering the anti-racism supporters listening by Belfast city hall. Police kept the two sides separate, letting traffic flow through.

Camera operators started gathering at the scene. One side yelled that refugees were welcome, while the other roared racist slurs. The tension was rising as the two sides yelled at each other. The police began to prepare themselves for a riot,

putting on their riot gear.



Police preparing for riot in Belfast (image: BBC)

Fireworks and eggs were fired at the peaceful anti-racism protestors. One reporter was surprised to see a man with two kids, each child holding one of his hands, protesting loudly against immigrants in front of two police in riot gear.

The anti-immigrant group began moving towards the Islamic Centre. The mosque was immediately surrounded by police cars, making sure nobody got in to cause more violence.

The protestors immediately moved towards Botanic Avenue upon seeing this. Botanic Avenue is one of the most multicultural streets in Belfast, with many international stores. The group immediately started raiding these stores, committing theft and arson. Many store owners were trapped in their own shops and warned others not to come outside.



Anti-Immigrant protestors stealing from international businesses. (image: BBC)

Three police officers were injured. Two remained on duty while the other received medical attention.

In conclusion, this is horrific. The fact that people believe someone should be treated less than they deserve just because of their race or ethnicity disgusts me. Everyone should be treated equally unless they have done something to deserve otherwise. Of

course, that is my opinion, and people have the right to their own views, but the far-right judgements mentioned here are ones I openly disagree with.

Sources:

- Belfast violence: What happened at the weekend? (bbc.com)
- What Exactly Do We Mean By 'Far Right' | HuffPost UK Politics (huffingtonpost.co.uk)
- Ireland and immigration: The facts - how many men, women and children, where are they coming from and which counties are housing them? | Irish Independent

Anti-immigration Article Definitions

Extremism: The holding of extreme political or religious views (Oxford English dictionary)

Neo fascism: Holding ideas close to those of the fascist movement in 20th century Italy (oxford English dictionary). Usually ultranationalism, ultraconservatism, racial supremacy, right-wing populism, authoritarianism, nativism, xenophobia, and anti-immigration sentiment (wikipedia).

Nationalist: Someone who believes their country is far above others, and that other nations are inferior.

Neo Nazism: When someone believes in relatively the same ideas of the Nazis from the early 20th century.

Word Search

By Aideen Byrne and Irene Hanlon



MATOVEITD _____
 SEONIATASP _____
 OTCSPIITMI _____
 FNDIAENCCO _____
 NOOVINTNIA _____
 LRISINEEEC _____

BHOALPAARCEP _____
 OEAGRCU _____
 YECIVATTIR _____
 EOCFUDS _____
 SENTHO _____
 HISLAERDPE _____

Our Prefects have put this anagram sorter and word search together. Sort the anagrams to find words relating to Leadership (Skills and Characteristics) that are hidden in the word search.

RCS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Pictured: Principal Ms. Tracey Edwards, Emily Shalloe, Sophie Doyle, Aine Lawlor, Lauren Murphy, Elise Byrne, Sarah White, Aoibhlin McDonald, Molly Lynch and Deputy Principal Ms. Sínead Kehoe
 Missing: Shannon Hanton, Kevin Voinea, Kyrylo Nedvyha, Sarah Bennett, Aoife O'Connor, Rachel Kelly & Eva Fuhrmann

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LEAVING CERT AND LCA STUDENTS OF 2024. A FANTASTIC SET OF RESULTS!

RCS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to RCS student Kevin who achieved 625 points in his Leaving Certificate Exams!

FOCUS ON STUDY SKILLS

BY: JANE FURLONG AND BOBBY MURPHY

What are study skills

Study skills or study strategies are approaches applied to learning. Study skills are an array of skills which tackle the process of organizing and taking in new information, retaining information, or dealing with assessments. They are discrete techniques that can be learned, usually in a brief time, and applied to all or most fields of study.

Ways to study

There are loads of diverse ways people can study, and everyone will have their own way that suits them the best but some of the most common ways to study would be the likes of doing **mind maps** and just listing everything you can think of on the subject or topic you are doing, another way would be **flash cards** this gives you most important parts of topic to look over and memorise quicker these are good before going

into an exam, another good way of studying would be to try **teach the topic you are revising to someone and get them to ask you questions** then this should stick in your mind longer if your able to explain it to someone and if you can't you look over it till you can explain it perfectly.

Organisation

When sitting down to study, you do not want to have distractions so you want to be organised to know what you are going to study how long you are going to study, this will just allow you to be able to focus your full attention on what you are doing and not get distracted.

Websites and online resources for studying

There are many different resources when it comes to studying, some of these include Studyclix,

Simple Study, Duolingo and Quizlet.

Studyclix is a great resource for all your subjects. On Studyclix you can find many different notes, flashcards and educational videos to help revise. **Simple study** is also great for flashcards and notes. You can also find past questions and quizzes for your subjects on both of these websites. **Duolingo** is an amazing resource when it comes to studying languages, Duolingo helps you revise your key words and help build your conversation in whatever language you are studying.



School Attendance MATTERS

BY ELLIE BYRNE DONNELLY

Do you ever wonder why your teachers may speak about attendance and express how important it is? They are not doing this to be annoying, but to benefit you and allow you to reach your fullest potential. The only way to do this is to attend school! It can be difficult to get up early each morning, in full uniform and prepare for a full and busy day ahead. Here are some helpful tips to help you attend school more and be at your best.

- Getting a good night's sleep. You will wake up with lots of energy, and it will make your day feel less stressful
- Limit the time on your phone after studying. Your mind needs a break too
- Connect with your teachers-show your appreciation. Give more of what you want to receive

- Participate and ask questions in class. This will give value to your classes; it will motivate you to keep you pushing and working hard
- Eat well and drink lots of water. Your body and brain need fuel to keep yourself going for the day
- Take responsibility to be on time.
- Get the academic help you need-by asking for help you can improve your grades.

When you miss school, you miss many opportunities, like improving your social and communication skills. Both are needed for after school when you go out to work. Did you know if you miss 15 days of school, you miss 10% of your entire school year? That is a lot, so it is important you go to school and get an education, because there are many people who do not get a

chance to have one. Take the opportunity to be the best you can be. Do not let your brain stop growing!



FRIENDSHIP

By Valeria Fediai

Friendship is like a comfy old jumper, a favourite pair of jeans, or that one movie you watch on a cosy Sunday afternoon. You don't always know why it fits, but you're glad that it does.

If you've ever mistaken a casual acquaintance for a true friend, you might've learned the hard way. But don't worry, there are some of essentials for finding "right person".

Support

Whether it's a cheering team on the big day or a comforting shoulder during hard times, a supportive friend is there, enriching the friendship with strength and encouragement.

Honesty

Honesty lets you see each other without illusions. A sincere friend doesn't sugarcoat the truth or hide behind fake compliments. It's this transparency that builds a healthy relationship.

Empathy

Empathy is the ability to understand and share a friend's feelings. It's putting yourself in their shoes and offering support. Empathetic friends make us feel seen, offering a safe space to communicate. They're always there with a knowing smile and a comforting word.

Respect

Respect is a nod to each other's opinions. It's not just about being civil but showing appreciation. Remember to treat your friend as you'd like to be treated.

Good listener

Being a good listener is the art of giving your all attention. It's about understanding and responding in a way that makes the other person feel heard. Good listeners tune in, turning casual chats into meaningful conversations.

Patience

Patience is the willingness to pause, reflect, and give time for clarity. In a friendship, patience helps you through the rough patches.

Humour

Having laughter in a friendship is like having a personal stand-up comedian on speed dial. After all, friends who laugh over the silliest things stay together, bonded by inside jokes and shared giggles.

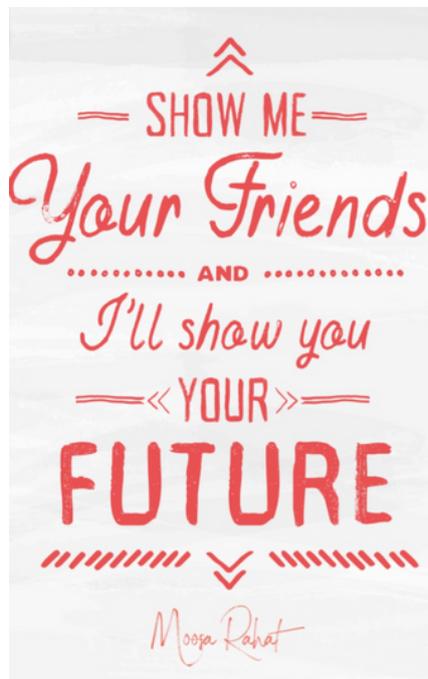


IMAGE SUPPLIED IN THE SHONA SURVIVAL HANDBOOK

How to spot a bad friend: 3 tips

Intuitively, you'll likely know you've spotted a bad friend because you don't want to spend time with them. They tire you out, make you feel judged, and don't align with your interests and values.

You can determine what you require in a friend — and what the sure-fire deal breakers are — by brainstorming and writing down your friendship goals. That said, here are some bad-friend traits extending to all situations:

1. They constantly "one-up" you

These friends always make their issues seem more significant than yours. If you tell them about your bad day, they

tell you how their day was worse. And if you're proud of an accomplishment, they mention how they did it better and sooner. This constant competition invalidates your feelings, and good friends don't do that.

2. They're a bad influence

They encourage you to participate in risky behaviour or activities that make you uncomfortable. And if they don't respect your boundaries, they're not worth having in your life.

3. They bully and belittle you

To feel better about themselves, they take you down — and that's simply not friendship, it's bullying. Instead, great friends raise you up, offering support and affirmation to help you become your best self.

The tough part of friendship

True friendship isn't always sunshine and roses. You might fight, fall out of touch, and feel jealous of each other — all of which can strain an otherwise great relationship.

And sometimes, your friend's decisions won't make you happy. You might have to confront them about a bad work ethic or toxic trait. These conversations aren't easy, but they're necessary if you want to be a good friend. If you communicate openly and honestly, your relationship can survive any rough patch.

Check out the Shona project survival guide:

<https://handbook.shona.ie/>
One is provided for all first year girls in RCS but everyone else can access it online. It's full of great tips for navigating Secondary school



Teacher Feature!

By Muireann Barry, Holly Cassidy and Stephanie Smith

Who are this issue's "Featured Teachers?"

Our 'Teacher Feature' interview crew have been working hard over the last few weeks to find out bundles of fun facts and information about some of our incredible teachers here at RCS. So, which teachers are featured this term?

Ms McDonald 2nd Year - Year Head



1. What is your favourite thing about RCS?
As much as I love the canteen's lasagne 😊, my favourite thing about RCS is how we all mind and look out for each other!

2. What made you want to pursue your career in teaching?

I always wanted to be a teacher, but as well as that, I love being able to help people and make something that may seem difficult to students manageable and showing them that they can do it.

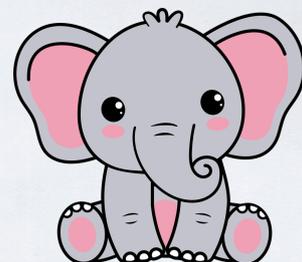
3. What is your hidden talent?

I can deadlift 125kg!



4. If you could have any pet in the world, what pet would you have?

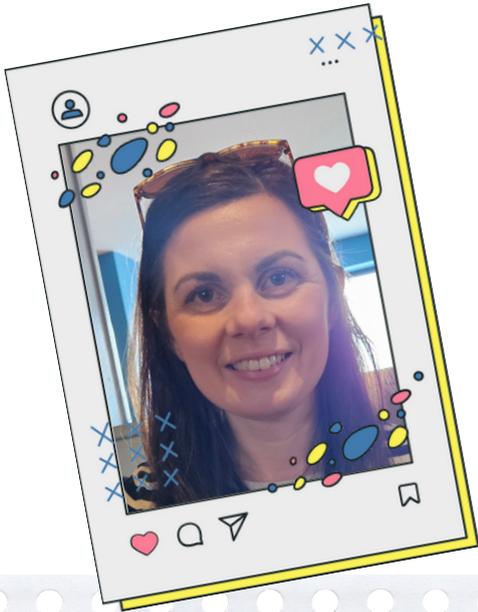
An elephant so I could cut down on diesel costs.



5. If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would you share?
It doesn't matter what anybody else thinks, if you want it, do it.

6. If you could take the whole school on a school tour to anywhere in the world, where would you bring them?
Chernobyl because I have always wanted to see it.

Ms Coughlan
5th Year - Year Head



1. What is your favourite thing about RCS?

The people and the positive school community!

2. What made you pursue your career in teaching?

I like working with and helping people and there's great summer holidays.

3. If you could have any pet in the world, what pet would you have?

A dog! Any breed and I would name it anything something as Gaeilge (Maybe Ógie!)

4. If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would you share?

Try your best, always.

“Try your best, always.”

Ms Coughlan

5. If you could take the whole school on a school tour to anywhere in the world, where would you bring them?

Anywhere in Italy.



CAREERS ADVICE

BY: YELYZAVETA MOLDOVAN

What if you are in senior year and still don't know where to go after school?

This article can help you with such a difficult decision as choosing a future profession by giving you a plan of possible actions.

- **Assess your interests and strengths:** What you like to do; maybe you like to code, or maybe you love sports. And what you're good at; maybe you're incredible at maths or you love studying biology.
- **Explore different majors and professions:** learn about them by watching videos, reading books or articles. Or you can also learn about professions from first-hand sources by attending college open days and talking to professionals in different fields.
- **Ask for advice:** you can ask teachers who know your abilities and can give you advice based on your knowledge and abilities. Talk to career counsellors who can assess your capabilities and advise you and help you find answers to any questions you may have.
- **Consider practical experience:** if possible, see how the field you are interested in works from the inside by volunteering, because even if it is not the speciality you will choose, the skills you acquire there can help you in your further studies or in employment.
- **Personal values:** it is important to consider what is important to you in the profession so that you do not waste time studying for a profession you do not like. What is important to you is the opportunity to help people, high salary, creativity, or maybe stability. This can help you narrow down your search for a profession.
- **Analyse the job market:** you can look at what professions will be relevant and in demand in the near future.

There are many different things to consider when choosing a profession, so you shouldn't rush into a decision and give yourself at least a few months to search for information and think about it. This approach will also help you to have more free time than if you had to decide everything in two days.



IRELAND AT THE PARALYMPICS

BY DANIEL NOLAN



From 28th August to 8th September, the Paralympic Games took place in Paris, France.

Team Ireland was represented by thirty-five different athletes, ranging from table tennis to triathlon. In case you missed it, here is a breakdown of our **six** medals, as well as some noteworthy achievements by other Irish athletes.

Para-cycling

Success in para-cycling made up for half of Team Ireland's medal haul. These three medals all came from Katie George Dunlevy. When she was 11, Dunlevy was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa and was registered blind. Due to her visual impairment, she competes in category B. Katie used to represent Great Britain in para-rowing, before taking up para-cycling. She competes for Ireland as her father is from Donegal. Katie rides a

tandem bike with a 'pilot' who steers the bike

Her first silver came in the Women's Individual Pursuit B with pilot Eve McCrystal, with whom she has had great success over the years.

Katie backed up her first medal with a gold in the Women's Road Time Trial B, alongside Wexford pilot Linda Kelly - who grew up in New Ross. Katie and Linda would go on to win another silver - narrowly missing out on gold - in the Women's Road Race B.

Para-athletics

Team Ireland was well represented on the track, with five athletes competing.

Orla Comerford, from Dublin, was our most successful athlete in athletics. Orla has Stargardt's disease - an inherited retina disease that affects her vision. Orla was involved in lots of sport from a young age but at the age of 16 she decided to focus solely on athletics. She competes in the T13

category, in which she comfortably finished third in the Women's 100m. She recorded a time of 11.94 seconds in a race where Lamiya Valieyva of Azerbaijan set a new world record of 11.76 seconds.



Orla Comerford (Photo: Irish Examiner)



Róisín Ní Ríain (Photo: Irish Independent) 12



Katie George Dunlevy (Image: RTE)

Para-swimming

The remainder of Ireland's medals were won in the pool by Róisín Ní Ríain. The 19 year-old Limerick native was competing at her second games, as she competed at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games but did not win a medal. She is visually-impaired and competes in the S13, SM13 and SB13 categories. Ní Ríain won bronze in the Women's 200m Individual Medley SM13 and silver in the Women's 100m backstroke S13. When doing the backstroke, Róisín can not use visual cues like athletes would in the Olympics. How does she know where the wall is, you might ask? "I count the strokes", she told the Irish Times in 2021.

Noteworthy mentions

Multiple Irish athletes came very close to a podium finish in Paris.

Greta Streimikyte set a new European record with an impressive run in the 1500m T13 final. However, it was only enough for fourth place. Britney Arendse also came fourth in the powerlifting with a personal best of 133kg. This was Ireland's best ever powerlifting showing at a Paralympic Games.

Para-cyclist Josephine Heailon and pilot Eve McCrystal placed fourth in the Women's Road Race B, and fifth in the Women's Time Trial B.

Ellen Keane, who was born missing her left arm from below the elbow, was denied another Paralympic medal to add to her gold medal from Tokyo and bronze medal from Rio. She came fourth in the Women's 100m Breaststroke SB8 final.



The Summer Programme at RCS

By Valeria Stepanenko



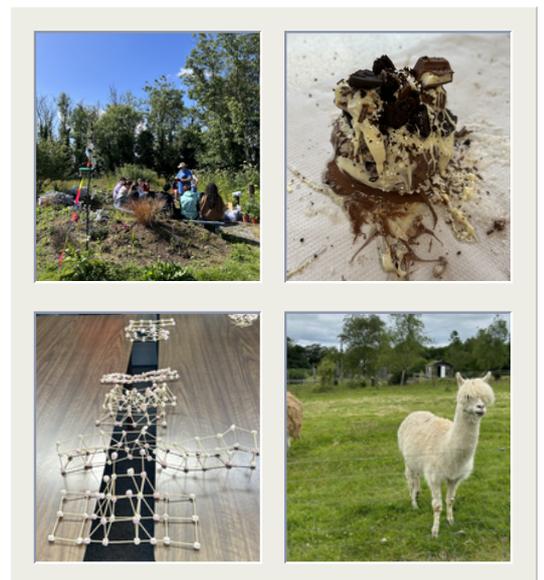
At the end of the Spring 2023, many students received an invitation to take part in the free annual Summer Programme at our school. It was a 2-3 week-long summer camp with many fun and enjoyable activities that any student could take part in. Students had an opportunity to learn many new interesting things and express themselves, and, most importantly, make new friends!

The camp ran from the 10th of June till the 28th of June, starting at 10 am and finishing at 3 pm each day. There was also a break from 12.30-1.00 pm every day, except for Fridays as it finished at 1 pm.

We have done many things in it, including yoga, literacy, drama, music, cookery, computers, trips, playing sports and games like rugby, making and painting clay statues and so much more! There were also several competitions, such as a fun creative scavenger hunt at our school, a marshmallow engineering building contest, and the egg parachute competitions where you had to build a parachute that would let the egg land without breaking. In addition, there was also a trip to the Secret Valley Wildlife Park where we had a chance to see different animals like monkeys and donkeys, capybaras and otters and feed some of them, for instance llamas, baby goats and horses.

On the last days of the camp, there was an awards ceremony and barbecue. The students also got cookbooks with the recipes for what they cooked during their time at the camp and made their own memory boards out of photos from the activities that they did.

The Summer Camp was an unforgettable experience for each student, and everyone had fun and gained a lot of new knowledge. It is an embodiment of creativity, and, above all, happy times, school memories and new friends!



HAMAS - ISRAEL WAR BY JONAH FLYNN

Overview of the area

After the first world war, the British Empire gained control over Palestine an area in the Middle East. The British Empire took this from the Ottoman Empire after its defeat. In this area there was a Jewish minority who are ethnic Jews and an Arab majority who are from the Arabian Peninsula and who had travelled parts of Africa such as modern day Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Somalia. This is because modern Arabian's ancestors were nomads. There were also ethnic minorities such as Christians. Many Jews also fled from all over the world to Palestine fleeing persecution to hear which caused tensions.



Image: Map of World with Palestine identified

The Rising Tensions

In 1917, the UK was given the task of establishing a "national home" for Jews in Palestine by the League of Nations (forerunner to the UN). This was complicated as Jews and Palestinian Arabs both claimed the land. Jews saw Palestine as their ancestral home. A plan was made by the UK in which the land was split into two separate states one for Jewish people and another for Palestinian Arabs with Jerusalem becoming a city state. This plan was rejected by Arab leaders but

accepted by Jewish leaders, so the plan was abandoned. All the while, there was street fighting between Arabs as part of the Arab Legion and Jews as part of the Haganah.

The creation of Modern Day Israel

In 1948, the British who could not find a solution, withdrew. This left a power vacuum. Jewish leaders declared the state of Israel. They intended this to be a safe haven and a home for Jews. This broke into war the day after the declaration of the state of Israel. Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon all fought the Israelis. Jordan occupied what is now the West Bank and Egypt occupied Gaza. Jerusalem was divided between Israeli forces in the west and Jordanian forces in the east. This conflict ended in a ceasefire and because there was no truce or peace deal, there was more fighting.

The Israelis drove hundreds of thousands of Palestinians out of their homes as they fought the Arabian nations and as they seized land for their own country.

Palestinians called this Al Nakba which means the Catastrophe.



Image: The Nakba (Wikipedia)

The 1967 "Six Day War" and Settlements in the Occupied territories

Jordan, Egypt and Syria were on one side fighting Israel. Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Kuwait, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia supported Jordan, Egypt and Syria. The USA and other Western nations supported Israel. Israel occupied Gaza, the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula, the Syrian Golan Heights, Jordanian controlled East Jerusalem and West Bank. Palestinian refugees and their descendants were forced into Gaza, the West Bank as well Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. Israel has not allowed any Palestinians or their

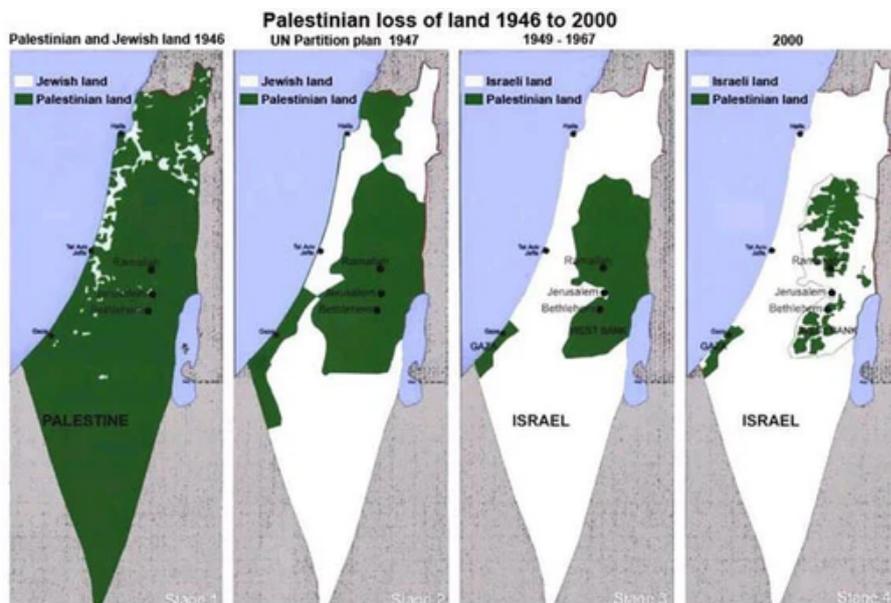


Image: Palestinian Loss of land (The Economist)

descendants to return saying they would be a threat to the state. Israel has built settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem these are home to nearly a million Jews. These settlements are ruled to be illegal and this agreed upon by the UN, UK and others.

"These settlements are ruled to be illegal"

What and where are Gaza and the West Bank?

It is 41km long and 10km wide. Gaza was held by Israel for 19 years following the 1918/1919 war. Israel seized Gaza during 1967 war and held it until 2005, all the while building settlements. Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005 but they still control the land border, its coastline and its airspace. The West Bank is on the west bank of the river Jordan, Israel is to the north, west and south and to the east is Jordan. It is occupied by Israel and has been since 1967 war but there is little collective agreement on its status.

What is Hamas?

Hamas are an organisation that wants an Islamic state where Israel currently exists and wants to destroy Israel. Its name means Islamic Resistance Movement. Hamas came to power after violently forcing political rivals out in 2007. It has a political and an armed wing. The armed wing is thought to have 30,000 fighters before the start of the war.

Key events of the war

Hamas October 7th attacks On October 7th, 3:30 am local time, Hamas began firing rockets into



Political Map of Palestine (India Map)

Israel. Hamas fighters entered through gaps in the barrier between Gaza on motorcycles and by foot. A boat of soldiers was seen heading to Zikim a town with a military base. At 9:45 am, Israel began bombing Gaza. Hamas entered 3 bases at Beit Hanoon border crossing, the Zikim base and the base Reim which is tasked with operations in Gaza. It also raided Sderot, Be’eri and Ofakim. Israel continued fighting Hamas fighters in 22 locations near the Gaza border. Hamas took about 240 hostages.

Attack on Rafah

On May 26th, Israel attacked Tal as-Sultan a group of makeshift shelters for displaced civilians just north of Rafah city. Israel dropped 7 900kg bombs on it. Israel claimed they used precision missiles but pieces from the site show parts of M-26 unguided missiles. Israel also claimed they struck “a Hamas

compound in Rafah in which significant Hamas terrorists were operating”.

Attack on Al-Shifa

On the 18th of March, Israel raided Al-Shifa Hospital. Al-Shifa is Gaza’s main hospital. Israel claimed Hamas had a command centre in the hospital. They had 6 tanks and 100 commandos, they went from room to room questioning people. Israel released photos of guns and weapons they say were taken in the hospital. The Israeli claims and photos are unconfirmed and unverified.

Sources:

Al-Shifa: What we know about Israel's raid on Gaza's main hospital - BBC News What happened in Israel? A breakdown of how Hamas attack unfolded | Israel-Palestine conflict News | Al Jazeera What happened when Israel attacked Rafah? | Israel-Palestine conflict News | Al Jazeera Israel Gaza war: History of the conflict explained - BBC News

SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT

In this article, some of our students share their reviews and recommendations for books and songs for you to enjoy (or avoid)! Special thanks to Luke Power for his detailed reviews of a variety of books and Emmet Hobson and Abbi Troy outline their "Songs of the Summer!"

Book Review by Luke Power: The Go-Between by L.P. Hartley

By recommendation of John Boyne, I decided to read L.P. Hartley's 'The Go-Between'. I expected to enjoy it, but I did not expect the impact it would make on me. It left an engraving on my soul that I don't think will go away.

The story is about our main character, Leo, reminiscing on his childhood when he is an old man, specifically his stay at Brandham Hall. That summer was an incendiary one for Leo, one that ruined his life leaving him a dry, lonely old man.

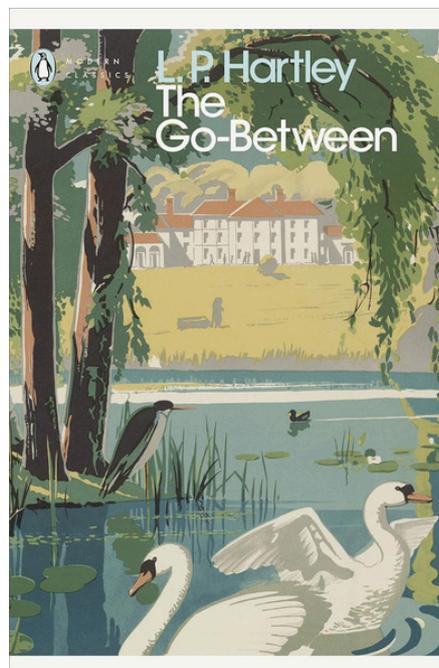
How it all began, though, was when his friend Miles invited Leo to stay at his mansion in the English countryside. Leo, coming from a poor family, gladly accepted the invitation. When there, he meets Miles' older sister Marian, who he falls in love with.

One day, he happens upon a farm. He climbs up a haystack but hurts himself on his way down. A man comes to help him with his injury, and as payment for his help, Leo takes a note for him to Marian.

This draws Leo into a tragic and painful game of deceit and desire. The book builds up to a shocking climax, the result of which ruins Leo's life forever.

This book left a lasting impression on me, in the way it deals with innocence and the loss of it, the writing style which is so exquisite, so lyrical that it could be a poem, and the way Hartley crafts the plot so that you know something bad is on the way but you can't quite place what.

This is one for the aspiring writers. This is one you could study to find out how to write a novel. Its use of English, its intricate plot and intense crescendo are some of the best things I think I may ever read. It may also be one for fans of Bridgerton, as their settings have a lot of overlap. This book may not be one you'd see amongst the ranks of Orwell and Austen, but I think it well deserves to be. A great book to get into classic literature with. Accessible yet beautiful and poignant, this book is one I think everyone should read.



Book Review by Luke Power: Prophet Song by Paul Lynch

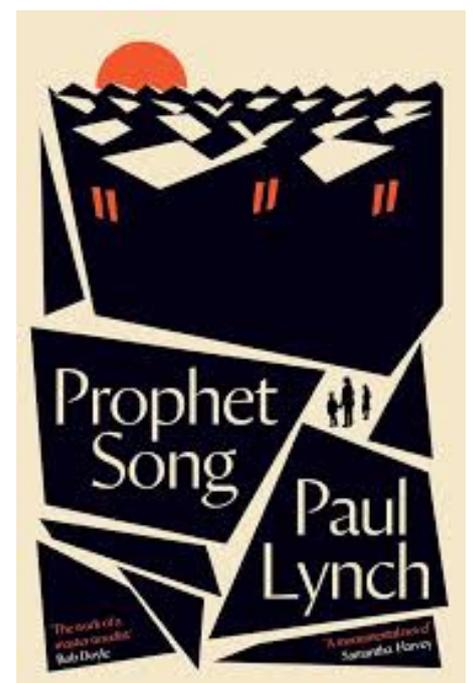
Prophet Song summary:

On a dark, wet evening in Dublin, scientist and mother-of-four Eilish Stack answers her front door to find the GNSB on her step. Two officers from Ireland's newly formed secret police are here to interrogate her husband, a trade unionist. Ireland is falling apart. The country is in the grip of a government turning towards tyranny and when her husband disappears, Eilish finds herself caught within the nightmare logic of a society that is quickly unravelling. How far will she go to save her family? And what - or who - is she willing to leave behind?

Luke's Review: A while back, I decided to pick up Paul Lynch's book, Prophet Song. It had won the Booker Prize, which made it sound promising. I did not expect what I got myself into, a dull and borderline-unreadable tale of totalitarianism.

We follow Eilish, a mother of four and her struggle to stay afloat through a rapidly evaporating democracy after a new government comes into power. Throughout the book, Ireland begins to fall apart at the seams. Citizens who go against the new government disappear, and the government slowly grows more tyrannical.

Eilish's journey, frankly, is unbearably dull. This is not a tale of people fighting back, this is about being unable to do anything about those more powerful than you. While I understand that the book is an attempt at 'radical empathy', it is not an enjoyable thing to read about. This book is not for the masses, and I think that by becoming more mainstream, it has reached an audience that it is not meant for. Too many people, including myself, have bought it, sat down with it expecting a 'take down the regime' epic, and been disappointed.



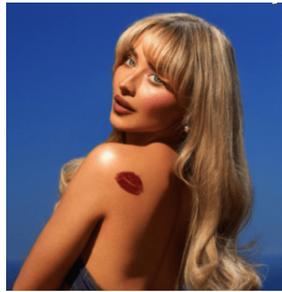
Songs of the Summer

By Emmet Hobson and Abbi Troy

I've had some help (feat. Morgan Wallen) by the American singer songwriter Post Malone featuring country music star Morgan Wallen is a part of the album "f-1 trillion"(2024) as a part of Malone's country rebrand.



Not like us by American Rapper Kendrick Lamar is a brilliant distract on another Rapper (Drake) and is a standalone single realised in 2024



Beautiful things by Benson Boone is a melodic rock song from his debut album Fireworks and Rollerblades

Too Sweet by Hozier Too sweet by Irish singer songwriter Hozier is a single from the EP unheard which was realised on the 22nd of March 2024 this song. It became his first UK top ten since 'Take Me to Church' in 2021; this song also became Hozier's first song to reach number one on UK charts.



Fortnight (feat. Post Malone) by American singer songwriter Taylor Swift is the lead single for her album The Tortured Poets Department it is a dreamy melodic pop song featuring post Malone/

Birds of a feather by Billie Eilish This song was released on the 2nd of July as a part of her third studio album 'hit me hard and soft'. This song reached number two in the UK charts.



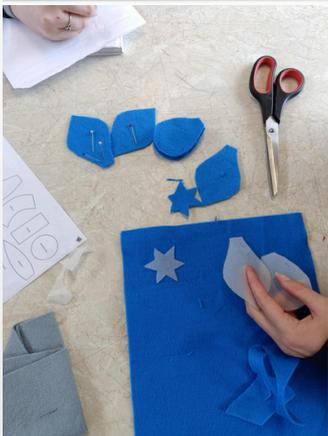
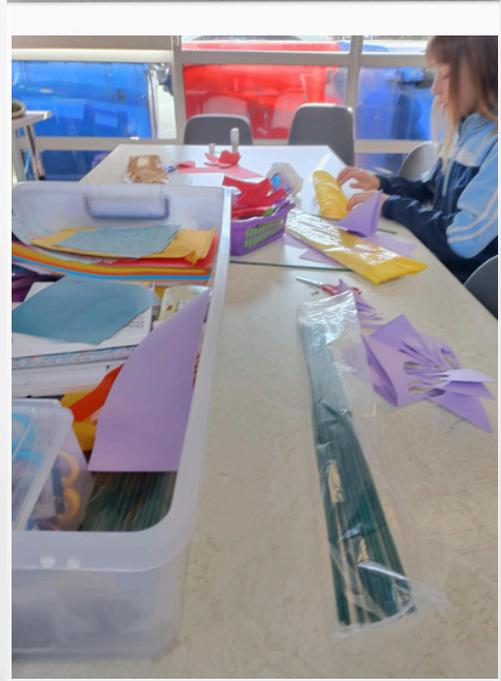
Guess by Charlie xcx (feat. Billie Eilish) Guess by the British singer Charlie xcx feat. Billie Eilish is part of her 2024 album 'Brat'. This hyper-pop song became Charlie xcx's first UK number one.

Brat by Apple-Charlie XCX. The single Brat took over the internet during summer 2024 putting Charlie's music on the charts all over the world.

Good luck by Chappell Roan. This song was released on April 5th as a single, this song quickly became Roan's first top ten song all around the world.

Please Please Please is a song by ex-Disney star Sabrina Carpenter and is a bubble gum pop song and was a promotional single for the album Short n' Sweet.





COME TO ART CLUB MONDAYS
AND WEDNESDAYS AT
LUNCHTIME IN THE ART ROOM!

WHAT WE ARE UP TO:
WE ARE PREPARING TO SELL ITEMS
AT THE RCS CHRISTMAS MARKET
THIS YEAR. WE ARE MAKING -
CHRISTMAS CARDS

-PICK N' MIX FLOWERS

-MINI DECORATIVE FLOWERS

-DISPLAY BOXES

-AND MUCH MORE!



A SECTION OF ART ON
DISPLAY IN OUR ART ROOM

Our Wow Wall

WITH THANKS TO ANNA ASSINDER AND KEELA BYRNE FOR COLLATING

RCS Lotto Fundraiser

A huge thank you to your Mammies, Daddies, Grannies, Aunties and Uncles and all that have supported our RCS Lotto Fundraiser.

Thanks to your support, we have been able to purchase a full suite of examination tables and chairs which will benefit all students going forward in examinations.

It allows us to use the gymnasium as an exam hall and also ensures students are as comfortable as possible during these crucial periods.



As a thank you, there will be a major November giveaway for anyone signed up.

To be in to win, make sure an adult (over 18) signs up at www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/ramsgrange/cs/

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4 PAY
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5 DRAW
Every Thursday at 8pm

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Match 4 numbers to win the JACKPOT!

Thank you!

<https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/ramsgrange/cs/>



While every effort has been made to ensure that everything here is factual and that we've been as inclusive as possible, the Student Newspaper is part of the RCS Learning Experience and we may not always get things right.

Please note that any omissions of any big event, issue or person is not intentional. However, if you feel something is missing or there's a lack of balance, we'd love an article from you for the next issue!

Opinions expressed by students in articles are those of the individual students and not necessarily those of the school.