

The Abbey

Christian Brothers' Grammar School

Leaving Ceremony

24th June 2021

Headmaster's Farewell

It has been a privilege to be your principal as you have journeyed through the latter years of your Abbey journey. While the last 15 months have robbed you of many of the 'normal' experiences of a senior student at the Abbey, I hope you take with you many happy memories of your time here.



It is my hope that your time at the Abbey has prepared you to meet the challenges and opportunities in the new horizons now beckoning. Having nurtured your wide talents, we also hope that you have been blessed with a more rounded education as a person with a sense of civic responsibility and an appreciation of the issues that you will encounter in the wider world. It is our earnest hope that you have also been imbued with a sense of community, self sacrifice and care for the less well off that characterises an Edmund Rice School.

Seven years ago, you came to the Abbey as fresh-faced First Years on the threshold of an exciting new experience. Seven years on you leave us as more mature students looking forward to taking your place in the world. I would also wish to remember Johnny Shields who sadly passed away during Year 11. We especially remember Johnny and his family in our thoughts and prayers today.

I would particularly like to pay tribute to your resilience, patience and sense of responsibility through these last 15 months. As a group you have shown a maturity well beyond your years and have kept focus within a situation and environment which to say the least, has tested all of us. These qualities will stand you in good stead in to your futures where ever that takes you.

By way of conclusion, I urge you to fulfill your potential now and at third level. Go out embrace the world, bring your talents to bear not only in your own interests but to the benefit of others. It is my sincerest hope that you will be proud to have been 'Abbey Students' and in the Abbey tradition, continue to be part of that unique community like so many generations before you.

Embrace the world!

Mr Seán Sloan

Mr Seán Sloan
Headmaster

The Abbey

Christian Brothers' Grammar School
77a Ashgrove Road
Newry
Co Down, BT34 1QN
N Ireland

Tel: +44 (0) 28 3026 3142
Fax: +44 (0) 28 3026 2514
Email: info@abbeycbs.co.uk
Web: www.abbeycbs.org

Order of Events

Welcome and Introduction

Reflection: "Life is a Journey"

Prayers of the faithful

Awards

A student perspective on Abbey Life

Headmaster's Address

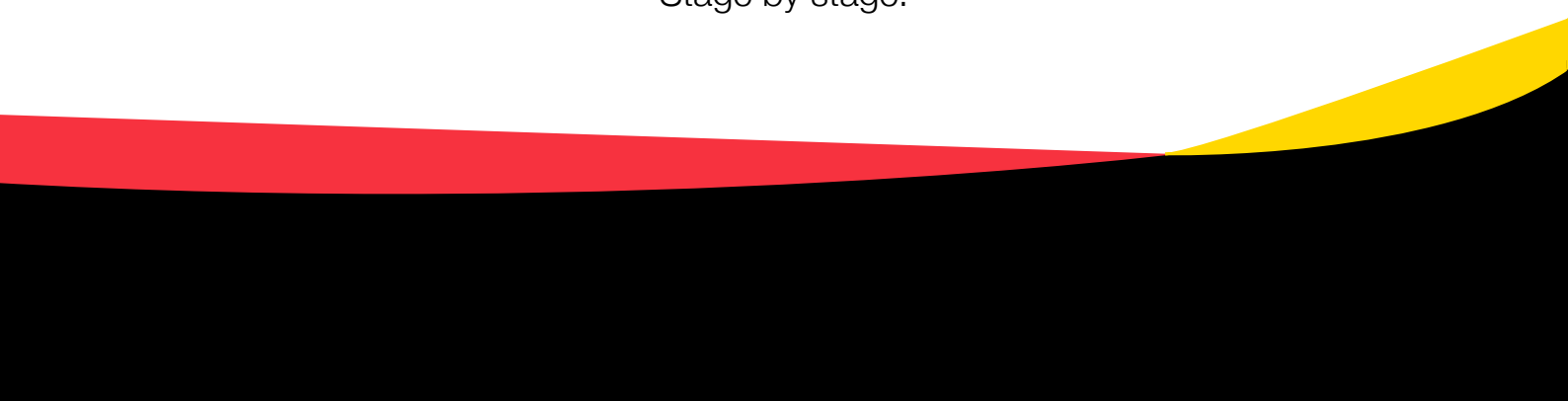
Concluding remarks

Refreshments



Life is a journey

For each of us
Life is a journey.
Birth is the beginning of
This journey,
And death is not the end
But the destination.
It is a journey
That takes us
From youth to age,
From innocence to awareness,
From foolishness to wisdom,
From weakness to strength
And often back again.
From offence to forgiveness,
From pain to compassion,
From fear to faith,
From defeat,
Until,
Looking backward or ahead,
We see
That victory does not lie
At some high point along the way,
But
In having made the journey,
Stage by stage.



Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, We ask for your blessing on our families and pray in thanksgiving for their support, guidance and love. We hope that they know how much they are appreciated.

Lord hear us

Thank you for the inspiration from all of our staff in the Abbey. Their gifts and talents have been evident in their care and support for us. We are immensely grateful.

Lord hear us

Bless all our classmates on their journey ahead. We will always look fondly on the memories and laughter and appreciate the times when we were there for each other.

We pray that this never ends and friendships endure

Lord hear us

We remember those who are no longer with us; classmates, friends and family. We know that you have called them home; keep them forever in your care. We remember Johnny especially at this time and pray for his family and friends.

Lord hear us

Some of our classmates have already stepped out into the world. May we follow their example and strive to fulfil all of our potential. As we continue our journey may the seeds sown flourish and we be the example to others that Edmund Rice was to us.

Lord hear us

Guímid ar son gach dalta ar fagáil na scoile dóibh. Go raibh siad i gcónaí dílis do shoiscéal Críost, i ngach gné den saol atá roimpiú.

A Thiarna éist linn

Response: A Thiarna bí ceannsa agus éist linn



Staff Memories

I would like to convey sincere best wishes to the Class of 2021. You have worked hard to achieve your unique and personal achievements and I hope that your past seven years in the Abbey have been memorable ones. You will always be an Abbey student no matter which path in life you take. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you all, from ICT in 1st & 2nd year, to GCSE and A Level. Especially my enigmatic and wide-ranging A2, IT students. You are all a great bunch of unique individuals with many talents ('for something'). The MacRory players, who showed great resilience, dedication and character over the course of last years campaign, just a pity we could not play this year. I do feel we would have won a lot this year. You have all developed exceptionally as players. Good luck with your club and respective counties. We are living through a time of great uncertainty, and all of you will understandably be feeling anxious about your future. This time is a test of your personal and social skills like never before. You will need to manage your mental and emotional well being, stay positive, be resilient, adapt and adjust to changing events. Support others in your family and friendship groups, follow instructions responsibly, and be kind. Regardless of what your endeavours may be, the future is yours to take advantage of, to make a difference and to understand what great opportunities there are for the taking. So, go forth, learn and grow, be inspired by people, places and communities, seek out experiences to enrich your knowledge and your character. Dream incredible dreams, work extremely hard, live life to the fullest. Be curious, be agile, be strong, be sensitive but most importantly, be you! Stand up for yourself and stand up for those who may need it more than you. Be open to life and be free in your thinking and your decisions. Finally, I wish you the very best of luck in the pursuit of your dreams and goals. It is both a daunting and exciting time of your life, where you will play your part in shaping the future

Mr. Grogan.

Good luck in the future to all the current 7th years. You have been a wonderful year group to get to know over the last number of years. Travel, seize opportunities and enjoy the years to come. To my form class, I want to wish you the best of luck in the future. You were a wonderful form class to inherit going into 4th year. It has been a privilege to be your form teacher over the last four years and I am so proud of the resilience and determination you have all shown in a very uncertain time during 6th and 7th year. No matter what happens during your journey in the future "always remember you matter, you're important and you are loved, and you bring to this world things no one else can."

A special word to my two A-level Business Studies classes - it has been an absolute pleasure to be your teacher. Your energy and enthusiasm for Business Studies I cannot fault and I have no doubt each of you will achieve wonderful things in life but my main advice is to be happy in whatever you do - life is too short to be anything else. Do keep in touch over the coming years. I will finish with the words of Steve Jobs 'Have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow know what you truly want to become.'

To the 7th year students that were involved in fundraising and supporting the Zambia Immersion Project. The dedication you showed to the project has been fantastic. From the bag packing to individual fundraisers your enthusiasm was always second to none. I am sorry that it didn't go as planned for those who were hoping to travel in April 2021. I thank you for all your hard work and this extends to the whole year group who got behind the project over the years. Your support truly makes a difference to the lives of those in Livingstone, as Dixon, a now graduated teacher, who was supported by the Abbey over recent years described it to me as his whole world being in darkness after his mother's death with no money for food, a uniform, shoes and school fees and it was like the Abbey had come and shone a light back in.

Miss McQuillan

Well lads, they say that every generation will have its own unique set of challenges to navigate. One day you will remember this pandemic and explain to others how you got through it. True character is often forged in the flames of adversity, and while we can't celebrate you leaving the Abbey in our usual ways; know that you got through it all and here you stand. Your year has been one of the most likeable and as you might say 'sound' for many years and I have enjoyed teaching, talking or just having general banter with any of you over the years.

Mr Downing

I wish the Class of 2021 every success in the future. Few year groups have made such an impact on our school in the classroom, the corridors, on the sporting field and on the stage. Your senior years have not been what anyone would have wished for you, or what you deserved, but you can take comfort in the fact that you have made a major contribution to the Abbey Community in your time here. The class of 2021 depart as the first in over thirty years to win two Ulster A football titles, the memories of the victories over Maghera in both finals and indeed the quarter final win at Rannafast, will stay with me. I will miss my A level group, Eanna, Lorcan, Adam, Pierce, Tomás, Pádraig and not forgetting, Jack, who started the journey with us at AS. Some of these lads have found a home from home, as I did, in Dún Láiche. Coinnigh leis an teanga! From those who contributed to Buggy Malone, to those who played football for the school, all the way to the outstanding Head Boy that your group elected in Conor Boyle- the class of 2021 have set the bar in so many ways for future generations of Abbey pupils. Maith sibh! Guím gach beannacht oraibh.

Mr. Gallagher

Good luck to the class of 2021. You made a huge contribution to school life in so many ways particularly in your contribution to the school ethos across areas such as sport, drama and music. We still remember you as young junior students settling in to Abbey life. Your two A level years were severely disrupted by Covid but you impressed us greatly with your ability to deal with adversity. Best wishes for the future.

Mr Ruddy

Best wishes to the Year 14s leaving the Abbey this year. Your conduct over the last two disrupted years says a lot about your maturity and focus. Wishing you health and happiness in the years ahead.

Mr M. McMahon

It has been a pleasure teaching some of you over the years. I wish you all the best for the future. Best wishes,

Mrs McGinley (English)

Leavers 21 what a finale! My first contact with many of you men was at D'alton Cup training with Jim. It was evident that with a bit of a push you had the desire to fulfil your potential on the football field. A D'alton Cup victory in extra time against the Kingpins of Colleges football Maghera marked the beginning of a recurring battle. The wrongs of a Corn na nOg final were put right in another memorable occasion in the Brock Cup Final. Unfortunately, the battle of the Dub took its toll and Rannafast success was denied. You have contributed greatly to the life of the Abbey during your seven years only to be cruelly denied a shot at the MacRory. Not alone have you delivered in the sporting arena but also academically. You're place on the wall is secure. We'll meet again. **Mr Gormley**

Best wishes to my BTEC Upper Sixth group, who completed Unit 10 Surveying, as you prepare for the next stage of your lives and career path. To 'the two Seans'.....'the two Ronans'.....'the two Kyles', Odhran, Adam, Kieran, Eoin, Conlin & Shea, I really enjoyed your company & craic,

Staff Memories

especially on site, completing our practical tasks in all types of weather! In 36 years teaching, this has been one of the most pleasant & nicest groups I've been involved with.....so thank you for your dedication, respect and co-operation, in what has been a difficult two years, with disruption to your learning, due to the Covid lockdown. To your credit, this hasn't stopped you all completing tasks and getting your course finish. So.....Well done! Best wishes for the future and may the road ahead bring you the success you deserve!

Mr John Rath

To the Class of 2021 What you have overcome the past 12 months is testament to the strength of character you have developed over the past 7 years as an Abbey student. I remember you walking through the doors of the Abbey as keen, enthusiastic, and lively year 8 students. I had the great pleasure of teaching quite a lot of you in Junior and Middle school and you were nothing but courteous and willing learners. But I must comment on those students I have taught to A level. In all my time at the Abbey I don't think I have ever met a group of students who didn't like tea/coffee with our Friday treats. In fact, I was even more baffled that some of you abstained each week from enjoying the tasty treats on offer. Mind you there were plenty of you who were willing to take seconds and thirds..... The craic was always good and if there was a degree in bluffing a lot of you would leave with a First-Class Honours! (I think you'll know who I'm talking about) To all 23 of you I wish you nothing but the best for the future. This is such an exciting time in your lives, and you have already overcome a massive obstacle, such as COVID. Unfortunately going forward I've no doubt, you will encounter many obstacles in life but remember these are temporary, can and will be overcome and there is always a corner to turn when things will get better.

To my BTEC Construction group. I've one piece of advice; a deadline is a deadline and not a guideline. We got there in the end and yes, you didn't make it easy. I'll leave you all with what I think sums me up and my approach to life - Never let anyone dull your sparkle; have manners and please be kind to yourselves and each other. Take care and we are always here should you need us.

Mrs Annette Elmore

To the Biology class of 2021 - What a strange A-level journey you guys have had! Remote learning, blended learning, google classroom, exams cancelled! However, I have to say it has been my pleasure to have taught you both in school and remotely over the last two years. It is clear to me that you have very bright and promising futures ahead of you. I wish each and every one of you every success in your chosen careers! Keep in touch and let us know how you are getting on. Good luck as you begin the next chapter.

Mrs McGinley

Best wishes to my BTEC Upper Sixth group, who I had the pleasure of teaching for two units this year, sick looking at them I was! Boy did I draw the short straw, what a motley crew! The invisible men, Leo and Joe, who were always allegedly behind the camera when photographic evidence was required of practical tasks completed! Daniel Mc Geeney, who has the worst internet in South Armagh when it came to handing work into Google Classroom & Sean Mc Donnell who, in his own mind is the best footballer Killeavey ever had. The infamous football conversations in class, the Burren crew Odhran, Dean and Niall defending their club to the bitter end when allegations were made they were allegedly the 'Cuckoos of South Down' stealing footballers from other neighbouring football nests. The quiet men; Pierce, James and Bartosz, Finn and Oran, a pleasure to have in the room. Gareth Martin who crazily thinks I'm his Bro when it comes to requesting

a hand-in extension and even offered the bribe of a Dromintee Jersey! This group was genuinely so much fun, Mrs Cranston and Mr Rath thought that they had the best group, but you know what they hadn't. I have enjoyed the company of these young men so much and their light hearted nature carried us all through these, the most difficult of times. I wish them all the very best in their future paths in life after the Abbey. Remember boys, the door is always open and I'm always at the end of the phone. Good luck and God Bless.

Mr Savage

Very best wishes to the class of 2021. You managed your A Levels through the most extraordinary difficulties and you were a credit to the school. A special word of thanks to the SRC who represented you very effectively during the year. I hope everything in life works out for you and that you enjoy every minute of it. Best wishes to all of you for the future.

Mr. P. O'Shea

To the class of 2021 I wish to express my congratulations on the completion of your secondary education and wish you all every success in the future. I have worked with this group as both a teacher and a Year Tutor over the last seven years, and yes, we have had challenging times, such as the current pandemic, & learning from home. But you as a group managed to overcome every obstacle which presented itself. We enjoyed successes such as the Brock and Dalton Cup wins. Individual students excelled both academically and in extracurricular activities. You started as young boys but grew into young men ready to venture out into the world and make your mark. My advice is to enjoy every moment of the next few years. Take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself. Be generous to everyone you encounter. Always be humble, never hold grudges. In life days like today are few and far between. Enjoy it because you have earned it. Years from now, when you look back on your time in the Abbey, you will remember it as one of the happiest times in your life. Some of your friends from school will remain friends for life. Others will fade from your memories with time. Remember your teachers and don't be afraid to speak to them if you meet them! These people, students and teachers, cleaners and canteen staff, are the Abbey. These are the people you'll think of when you recall your school days. And you'll always be proud that you were an Abbey man.

Mr R. McMahon (Year Tutor)

To my Art & Design students Matthew, Aidan, Luke, Ryan and Josh. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with such creative, talented and hardworking students. With all you have had to deal with this year, I am so proud of you for your focus and work ethic. Your level of skill and commitment are exemplary.

I wish you every success in your chosen career and luck and happiness as you begin this new chapter in your life. Make sure you call back to the Department often for a catch up and to let me know how your career is progressing. Continue to be creative in whatever you do, give of your best always and be true to yourself. Take care.

Miss Hughes





Best in Subject A Level – Summer 2021

Subject	Pupils	Award
Chemistry This award commemorates Leonard Abrahamson, a graduate from the Abbey in the early 1900s who later became President of the Royal College of Physicians.	Conor Burns	Prof. L. Abrahamson Award
Biology This award commemorates Mervyn Abrahamson who graduated from the Abbey in the early 1900s and who later became an eminent Physician in London.	Hareth Khan	Dr. M. Abrahamson Award
Physics Brother M.K. Farrell was a popular and caring teacher in the Abbey in the 1960s and 70s. His work in the Physics Lab was matched by his enthusiasm on the playing fields and he made a lasting impression in the lives of many Abbey students.	Francis Farrell	Bro. M.K. Farrell Award
English Literature Brother T.L. Magee will always be remembered in the Abbey as an excellent Headmaster and as an inspirational teacher of English. A gentle Kerryman he was as big in heart as in stature.	Caolon Whitmarsh	Bro. T. L. Magee Award
Economics This award is dedicated in the memory of P.J. Kane a distinguished past teacher. P.J. introduced Economics to the Abbey and during his teaching career he inspired both staff and pupils with his courage and dedication.	Conor Boyle	P. J. Kane Award
Politics This award commemorates the life and work of Brother D.L. O'Donnell who had an abiding interest and knowledge of political affairs in Ireland. He had an exceptionally long connection with the Abbey Grammar School where he celebrated his centenary in 1998.	Conor Boyle	Bro. D.L.O'Donnell Award
English Language This award is dedicated to the work of a Christian Brother and former Headmaster of the Abbey. He was known for giving generously of his time and talent for the benefit of all the pupils in the school.	Odhran McGivern	Bro. Rehill Award
Religious Studies Brother W.A. Byrne is one of those Abbey legends, a man of rare vivacity and enthusiasm. During his prolonged period of service in the school he was a shining example of the religious calling of Brother Edmund Rice. His attention to the disadvantaged in society and especially to the African Foreign Missions was unequalled.	Tiernan Kearns & Jakub Palis	Bro. W. A. Byrne Award
Nutrition and Food Science This award celebrates the work carried out by the last Christian Brother who served as Headmaster in the Abbey Grammar School. His period of office is memorable for the quality and extent of change he initiated. Many new ideas and subjects were introduced into the school during this time enriching the quality and variation of education offered to the students.	James Russell	Bro. J. D. McDonald Award
Psychology Bro. W. O. Murphy was a committed and outstanding educator. He was Vice Principal of the Abbey during the 70s and 80s. He had a long, distinguished career in the school and loved teaching Irish.	Gary Dinsmore	Bro. W. O. Murphy Award
Irish Paddy Crinion was a distinguished member of the Abbey staff for three decades in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. A recognised expert in Latin he was equally gifted in Irish and during his time in Newry was involved in all aspects of Irish Culture and Language.	Lorcan McGuinness	P.A. Crinion Award
Business Studies This award commemorates the life of Brother J.B. Hynes. During his teaching career in the Abbey in the 1960s and 70s, he was a popular figure whose grasp of business affairs and fundraising was remarkable. His humorous approach to teaching colleagues and his pupils made him a popular friend to all who worked with him.	Tiernan Kearns	Bro. J. B. Hynes Award
Music Gus Toremans was an enthusiastic and dedicated teacher of music in the Abbey for almost a quarter of a century. His wonderful vocabulary and love of his subject brought an appreciation of all types of music to his students who will always remember him with admiration and joy.	Fionntan Gregory	August Toremans Award
French Brendan Cassidy was a popular and dedicated teacher who served Abbey students for almost twenty years in the 1950s and 60s. As Head of the French Department he displayed a dedication and thoroughness to the teaching of his subject which was inspirational to his students.	Shane Thornton	Brendan Cassidy Award

History

John Taylor

Bro. P. W. Newell Award

Brother P.W. Newell was a legend in the Abbey where he served as a teacher and as a Headmaster during the 1930s, 40s, 50s and 60s. As an Historian, his attention to detail was remarkable and as Headmaster he was responsible for the planning and building of the Courtenay Hill School which was opened in 1966.

Drama

Daniel King

Bro. I. Liston Award

This award celebrates the distinguished career of Brother I. Liston who spent 53 years in Newry conveying a love of poetry and drama to his students.

Spanish

Caolon Whitmarsh

Jack Cushnan Award

This award commemorates the work in the Abbey of Jack Cushnan who as Head of the Spanish Department in the 1960s and 70s saw his subject achieve new status in the school curriculum. When he left the school he became Headmaster of the British Council Schools in Cali, Cumbria and Madrid, Spain.

Mathematics

John Taylor

P. A. Sweeney Award

The name of Paddy Sweeney was synonymous with the teaching of Mathematics in the Abbey in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. He took such great enjoyment in solving problems and so conveyed this to his students that many were inspired to follow his footsteps.

Digital Technology Computer Science

Francis Farrell

Bro. D. W. Lynam Award

Thomas Brownlee

This award celebrates the work of an outstanding Mathematician who saw the beginning of the Computer revolution in the Abbey school during his term as Headmaster in the 1970s. His long period of service in Newry saw numerous students benefit greatly from his logical and enquiring mind.

Construction

Sean Conlon & Conlin Bradley

Bro. J. C. McDermott Award

This award is named after a popular Christian Brother who taught in the Abbey in the 1970s. It remembers the enthusiasm which he brought to all aspects of school life including his time as Headmaster from 1975 to 1985.

Physical Education Studies

Sean Conlon

Bro. P. C. McParland Award

This award is dedicated to the memory of Brother P. McFarland and his enthusiastic approach to the teaching of English but more appropriately to his love of Gaelic games. He will long be remembered as a colossus of the Abbey playing fields where he displayed a drive for success that will be long remembered by legions of Abbey sportsmen.

Technology

Brendan Feenan

Bro. C.I. Gallagher Award

Environmental Technology

Aaron O'Neill

This award is dedicated to the long service in the Abbey of Brother C.J. Gallagher in the 1960s and 1970s. During his career both as a teacher and as Headmaster in the school he had a consuming passion for scientific and technological developments, a passion that he used to modernise the school for the benefit of his students.

Art & Design

Aidan Lavery

Bro. T. F. Beausang Award

Brother Beausang had perhaps the longest period of service in the Newry School where his love of Language and Art widened the minds of generations of Abbey students and his creative talents acted as a spur to literally thousands of students who benefited from his teaching.

Geography

Patrick McCarthy

Bro. H. C. O'Hara Award

This award is dedicated to the memory of a gentle and caring teacher who after his return from a period of time in India served the largest part of his teaching career in the Abbey where his many pupils recall him with warmth and devotion.

Special Contribution Awards

Choir

Eanna Carr

Hurling

Adam Markey

Drama

Gary Dinsmore

Music

Ryan Moran & Lewis Robertson

Gaelic Football

Ryan Magill

Basketball

Cillian Quinn

APPSA Award

John McGovern

Modern Languages

Caolon Whitmarsh

Head Boy

Conor Boyle

Pat Mooney Award

Conor Boyle

Oisín McGuinness Award

Bartosz Gosciński

Student Memories

My Time in the Abbey will always be remembered as a happy one. From the chicken curry Monday's that hit the spot to the intense lunchtime football matches in the yard. I feel lucky to be a part of this year group; a great group of lads. It's just a pity we missed out in MacRory Cup competition this year. **Odhran McGivern**

Thanks for all the great memories at the Abbey I hope to be back sometime in the future. **Rory Kearney**

My time in the Abbey was extremely enjoyable, having the craic both with other pupils and staff. I'd recommend the Abbey to any young man when choosing their next step in life.

Ryan Magill

I want to say that the last seven years have been a great enjoyment for me and I've enjoyed the time I spent in the Abbey. For the future, I want to wish everyone success in whatever they go on to do.

Dean Shevlin

In my time at the Abbey, I had faced many challenges but also experienced some of the best moments, moments which have defined me as a person whether it be through basketball or through Kairos which I will not forget. I have also learned a lot through the different classes I have attended. Through these classes I have realised what I want to do with my life. The many teachers within this school have guided and challenged me to help me achieve my potential and realise that I want to help people as much as they have helped me. I am also grateful for the friends that I have made and hope to keep when school is over as they were the people that made going through school easier and more enjoyable. I will always remember the time at the Abbey. I wish everyone well in the future and hope that you achieve everything you want to achieve. **Adam McParland**

When I go to look back at the last seven years of my life at the Abbey I would look back at them with a grateful appreciation. This school and the teachers have helped me develop into who I am today and I would not ask for anything else. I have achieved so much at the school, both academically and in extracurricular activities and that can be attributed to the amazing teaching and coaching staff at the school. I have made so many friends at the school, most of which I did not know when I left primary school. If I were given the chance to change the school I would attend retroactively I would definitely choose to go the Abbey after the most enjoyable seven years of my life so far, both inside and outside of school. **Orin McKeown**

When we look back at our time in the Abbey the things we will all remember are chatting with friends, having craic with teachers and the one constant, chicken curry on Mondays.

Whether it was back in the days of Iveagh, Breffini, Slemish, Donard and Oriel or in the 'new normal' of masks, sanitizers and lunch in buckets; the craic in the Abbey never stopped.

We won't forget the war on white socks, the black market sales of Kinder Buenos and crispy rolls or the Down vs Armagh yard ball classics. The Abbey has given us much more than just an education. It gave us the opportunity to enjoy football, music, basketball, rugby, golf and other activities but most importantly it was the banter with our mates that got us from class to class.

Highlights of our time in the Abbey include; the successes of the football team in the Bean Dearg, Dalton and Brock Cups, the Buggy Malone School show, the annual Edmund Rice Day as well as trips to Croke Park and Tayto Park. As a year group we completed our A Levels in very strange circumstances. Unfortunately we missed out on our formal, the Zambia Immersion project and half of our last two years in school due to the Coronavirus lockdowns. However we will always remember the Abbey for the friends, teachers and people who made it great. Good luck in the future lads. **Joe Connolly**

Just want to say thanks to the teachers and friends who helped make the last seven years a memorable part of my life. Good luck to everyone with everything you go on to do.

Brendan Feenan

Over my seven years at the Abbey I had the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities. In junior school, I joined the STEM club run by Dr. Carey, where I represented the school in the BT Young Scientists and Sentinus programs. In fourth year, I became involved in the drama club and later went on to be the vice chairperson of the drama committee in sixth and seventh year. Where I got the opportunity to help bring junior students into drama by organising games and tasks for them to take part in and enjoy. One outstanding memory of my seven years was my involvement in the production of Buggy Malone, I played Detective Smolsky in what was a fantastic production with outstanding cast and crew ably led by Mr McParland and Ms Keenan. At our GCSE presentation, Colin Bell of KBRT, referred to friendships as being the most important thing to take from the Abbey and for me this is true. I am very proud of the friends I've made while at the Abbey and wish them and all my classmates well for the future.

Eoin Geoghegan

The SRC members were chosen through a 'competitive' election campaign, with promises of such things as formals. However, we were faced with one of the most unconventional school years ever experienced; nevertheless, the council met every Friday when possible, raising student issues with senior management and doing our best in attempting to influence the school for the better.

The SRC undertook many tasks to bestow a sense of normality through the ensuing chaos of Covid to improve student morale.

These tasks comprised of; bringing back football for students, allowing students to leave early where they had no further classes, to alleviate the potential stress of Covid transmission and, finally, organising a leavers event within the realms of coronavirus restrictions, to celebrate our memories, friendships, academic successes, and time spent in the Abbey.

We, as a council, also led the design of the leavers gear and the management of student purchases, ensuring that every student received what they ordered, even if we failed to negotiate a student discount.

Due to lockdown we had to forgo the seventh-year staples of Formal and a 'proper' Leavers. However, even under such unfortunate circumstances, we, as a year group, are grateful for and can still appreciate our years in the Abbey from Curry Monday to Kairos, and from Croke to Tayto Park.

On Behalf of the SRC and its members; Conor Boyle, Cillian Quinn, Tiernan Kearns, Hareth Khan, Shane Thornton, Padraig Corrigan, Tomas McKay and Myself, it has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve on the council.

Francis Farrell

Student Memories

Over the past seven years, the Abbey Music Department has enjoyed an abundance of success. From the choir's "David vs Goliath" victories over St. Colman's College in the Newry Feis to the Senior Jazz Band's frequent appearances at the Black Box in Belfast, the triumphs have been numerous. The Department has also had an integral role in the success of two exceptional school shows, most recently the 2019 production of "Bugsy Malone". Each year, a range of varied and often eccentric groups have taken to the stage to deliver invigorating performances as part of the annual Guitar and Drum Night, with abiding stalwarts such as "Dreaming in Denial" and more short-term sensations such as "The Anonymous Monks" providing memorable moments. Many of us have also been introduced to the encapsulating world of jazz, firstly through induction into Mr. Cosgrove's enthusiastically led "Rolling Tones", followed by a coveted promotion to Mr. Wadsworth's renowned Senior Jazz Band. Without fail, the musical calendar has culminated in a lustrous performance from the Abbey Orchestra at the annual Spring Concert, with the late rush to gather musicians and finalise performances being a recurring memory. However, for me, music at the Abbey has not been defined by the rapturous moments of victory and success, but rather, the fleetingly indescribable moments of togetherness that percolate in-between. From the ritualistic stop at Burger King before playing at the Black Box, to attempting to evade the purgatory of the Study Hall by fleeing to the sanctity of the music practice rooms, the friendships forged and memories cultivated as part of the Abbey Music Department have been nothing short of, in Mr. Cosgrove's eternal words, "Magic".

Padraig Corrigan

Getting to be Head Boy this year has been an experience and a half. Obviously, this year has been rather different to those which went before - and hopefully those that follow - but it has been an enjoyable one too. After being out of school for such a longtime it was no bad thing to be back with friends in person. We found ourselves in less-than-desirable circumstances this year; with no formal in September, constant stop-start with people going off school to isolate, curtains on so much of normal school life, just like yardball, having to wear masks and the general atmosphere that the virus has left with us. Despite this, I have been genuinely amazed by the resilience this year group has responded with. The spirit has been kept up and we've attempted to act as normally as we could. No Head Boy could have asked for a better year group to be part of. I count myself extremely lucky to be just a small part of this cohort; a collection of friendly, hilarious and unbelievably talented lads with a roguish streak about them. I was also blessed to have great people to work with, including Mr Sloan, O'Shea and McMahon, not to mention a great SRC team of Cillian, Tiernan, Francis, Hareth, Padraig, Sean, Shane and Tomas. The last two years may have brought woes on us all, but I feel confident looking back at the last seven years as being some of the most enjoyable, interesting and fulfilling times. As we move on, I wish everyone the very best and pray that the cohesion of this year group is maintained as we leave the Abbey.

Conor Boyle (Head Boy)

Concluding Blessing

Let us have the courage to believe
In a bright future
And in a god who wills it for us.
Not a perfect world,
but,
a better one.
The perfect world,
We Christians believe,
Is beyond the horizon,
In an endless eternity where God
will be all in all.
But
A better world is here for
Human hands and hearts to make.
Amen.

When They Were Younger...

Reg Group: 14CR



Conor Boyle



Conor Burns



Kyle Byrne



Caolan Coffey



Francis Farrell



Jack Grant



Brendan Hoey



Imran Hussain



Tiernan Kearns



Aidan Lavery



Adam Markey



Odhran Markey



Keith McGrath



Tomas McKay



Orin McKeown



Adam McParland



Ryan Moran



Rory O'Hare



Aaron O'Neill



Ronan O'Reilly



Cillian Quinn



James Russell



Ryan Shields



John Taylor

Missing from above: Bryan McAvoy

Reg Group: 14DE



Ryan Beattie



Shane Burke



Callum Byrne



Joseph Connolly



Odhran Doyle



Daniel Fearon



Brendan Feenan



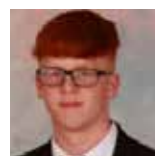
Ronan Galloghly



Micheal Kelly



Hareth Khan



Thomas Markey



Ryan McCarron



Patrick McCarthy



Oisín McClelland



John-Desmond McGarry



Daniel McGeeney



Leo McGuinness



Finnin McLoughlin



Thomas O'Malley



Kyle O'Rourke



Jakub Pallis



Patrick Savage



Cormac Toal

Graduation Ceremony 2021- Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School



Nathan Branagan



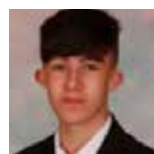
Thomas Brownlee



Adam Clements



Michael Colhoun



Sean Conlon



Padraig Corrigan



Adam Cowan



Bartosz Goscianski



Finbar Gregory



Liam Lundy



Ryan Magill



Gareth Martin



Joe McAloon



Joseph McEvoy



John McGovern



Lorcan McGuinness



Ryan Mulgrew



Lewis Robertson



Enda Sands



Dean Shevlin



Jack Shields



Callum Small



Roan Toner



Caolon Whitmarsh

Reg Group: 14GMO



Conlin Bradley



Shea Brennan



Eanna Carr



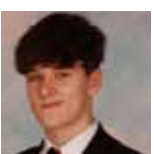
Darragh Connolly



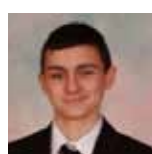
Pierce Daly



Gary Dinsmore



Rory Foster



Eoin Geoghegan



Eoin Hughes



Rory Kearney



Hugh Larkin



Ruairi Magee



Luke McAleenan



David McCreesh



Padraig McCullagh



Odhran McGivern



Ronan McLoughlin



James McNamee



Christopher McQuaid



Odhran Murdock



Ethan Patterson



Eoin Reel

Missing from above: Sean Casserly

Reg Group: 14PMQ



Matthew Donlan



Oran Doyle



William Fairgrieve



Sean Fitzgerald



Caolon Gormley



Fionntan Gregory



Glenn Kennedy



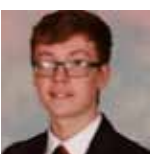
Daniel King



David Mallie



Josh McCamley



Sean McDonnell



Darragh Melarkey



Aaron Melody



Matthew Mulligan



Kacper Nowicki



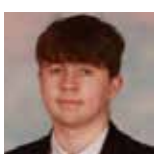
Odhran O'Kane



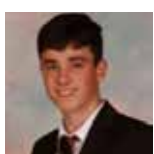
Harry Price



James Smyth



Shane Thornton



Niall Toner

Missing from above: Mark Agirin

