



# The Abbey

## Christian Brothers' Grammar School

### *Leaving Ceremony*

### *7th May 2024*



# PRINCIPAL'S FAREWELL

***Dear Class of 2024***

Having only joined the Abbey community in September, this year group will always hold a special fondness for me. My beginning was your ending, and, in you, I was able to witness what an Abbey education typifies.

You are confident, warm, generous individuals who have looked out for one another throughout your time here. As your Principal, I am honoured to have witnessed your resilience in the face of challenges, your dedication to your studies and your commitment to excellence in all that you do. Be assured that your contributions to our school community have left an indelible mark and, for that, we are all profoundly grateful. I hope as you set out on whatever path you have chosen, that you will look back on your time in the Abbey with affection. I hope you feel that we have nurtured your talents, celebrated your successes and moreover that you have felt supported in everything you have attempted to do or when times were difficult. Given our Edmund Rice ethos, I hope each and every one of you understands your place in society, the responsibilities we all share for those less fortunate and an understanding of the importance of building strong communities. As you move on to the next chapter of your life, I encourage you to embrace the opportunities that await with courage and enthusiasm. Whether you pursue further education, enter the workforce, or embark on a different path altogether, know that your Abbey experience has equipped you with the skills, knowledge, and values to succeed in whatever you choose to pursue.

For those of you who joined us in Year 8 in September 2016, or joined our Sixth Form in September 2022, you will now always be part of a wider community that you can lean on for support. On behalf of the staff, current and past, including Mr Sloan, I would like to pay tribute to your achievements and contribution to the school community. You have shown me the variety of experiences that this school provides, be that the Kairos retreat, the Zambia Project, sport, and music. Then there was the other side of your school experience: the formal, the unique Zambia fundraising, guitar and drums and the yard ball final!

I feel immensely proud that you will always be my first 'graduating Abbey class'. While I have only been with you since September, I see in each and every one of you amazing potential as you move on.

To those of you who led the school community as part of the student leadership team, I thank you for taking on additional responsibility in the busyness of school life. You have impressed me greatly.

Finally, cherish the memories you have created here, hold fast to the friendships you have forged and never lose sight of the dreams and aspirations you have now!

Congratulations Class of 2024, I cannot wait to see what you accomplish in the years to come.

***Gina Savage***

***Principal***



# ORDER OF EVENTS

**REFRESHMENTS**

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**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

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**REFLECTION: "LIFE IS A JOURNEY"**

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**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

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**AWARDS**

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**PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS**

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# 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.

*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 dálta 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 – CLASS OF 2024

## STAFF MEMORIES – CLASS OF 2024

### To the Class of 2024...

As you commence a new chapter in your life after the Abbey I wish you every success, health and happiness. You have been a remarkable group of young men, who have a great sense of camaraderie, fun and togetherness. I would like to thank you as an entire year group for making my role as your Head of School a mix of negotiation, compromise and indeed lots of banter and laughter. We hope that in inspiring you during your journey in the Abbey to challenge and pursue your strengths as individuals, that you will take all these experiences with you to your personal and professional life after school. As a group of peers, you found strength from and support in each other and that will stand to each of you as you meet challenges ahead in life. Always remember be true to yourselves, work hard and be proud of your achievements. ***“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”*** Mandela

The most important thing I want you to remember as you finish your time here, is to be kind and considerate to yourself and to others. Always think before you speak or act and take time to reflect on your life experiences and learn from them.

***“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others.”***  
Mandela

I wish each and every one of you success in whatever path life chooses to take you. Thank you sincerely for your contribution to our school community in all the various ways that comes. But most importantly, thank you to each of you for just being you!

**Ms C O Hare**  
**Head of Senior School**

Having had the pleasure of being your Year Tutor for the last six years, I can honestly say that you have been a terrific year group. There have been many challenges along the way, but you all stepped up when needed. I have found you to be respectful, polite and courteous and proud to be Abbey Men. I would like to acknowledge and give a special shout out to my A-Level Maths class; it has been very enjoyable working with each and every one of you over the last two years and I will miss your company come September. It is also particularly important to recognise the effort and commitment of the Student Leadership Team who worked tirelessly on behalf of the whole year group. Also, the Numeracy senior prefects were a great help and their support and dedication to the year 8 students they worked with is greatly appreciated and made a very positive impact.

I wish the class of 2024 every success and best wishes for whatever the future holds for you. Work hard, aim high, reap the rewards and be the best that you can be.

**Mrs B. Tohill**  
**Year 14 Tutor**

Farewell to the class of 2024. I will remember your time here fondly and I am also pleased to say, what a great bunch of young men we have helped to turn out. I remember the French classes that I taught in junior school, and I hope that you enjoyed languages as much as I enjoyed teaching you. I also taught two classes of LLW in middle school and appreciated your opinions and honesty. As a year group we have learned a lot from you and have enjoyed your wisdom and humour over the years. You have made your own mark on the Abbey through sport, music, drama and other extra-curricular activities. Both individually and collectively you have many qualities and we are proud to have had you here. Best of luck in the future and I hope that you keep up the strong bond that exists between you all and remember once an Abbey boy, always an Abbey ambassador.

**Mr R. Ruddy**  
**Vice-Principal**

Good luck in the future to all the current Year 14s. You have been a wonderful year group to get to know over the last number of years.

A special word to the two A-level Business Studies' classes - it has been an absolute pleasure to be your teacher. 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. 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 Zambia 2024 team members, it was amazing to travel with you as a group to Livingstone and well done in getting the project up and running again. You were dedicated and determined over the last year in your fundraising and raising awareness of the project. The thoughtfulness, kindness and love you showed to the people of Zambia was a testament to you each and I know they will not forget you and you most certainly will not forget them. Thank you to all the year group especially all those who gave their time and support to the project during their seven years in the Abbey, the work of the project would not be possible without you all.

As a collective year group, your talent within the Arts, sport and academic activities has always shone bright and it has been a privilege to observe. The amount you give back with your time to support the younger students has been so admirable and is a quality that will stand by you throughout your life. Never lose that!

Travel, seize opportunities and enjoy the years to come, life goes very fast!

**Ms P. Mc Quillan**

To all Year 14 students and in particular 14OH, it has been such a pleasure to work with you all and to see you mature and progress through your time in the Abbey. I wish you every success in your chosen career and luck and happiness as you begin a new chapter in your life. A special mention also to Eoghan Fitzpatrick-Harkin. You have been a pleasure to teach. Your level of skill and commitment are to be commended. Continue to be creative in whatever you do, give of your best always and be true to yourself.

Take care,  
**Ms O. Hughes**

# STAFF MEMORIES – CLASS OF 2024

Best wishes to everyone in the class of 2024 – a lovely year group! I would like to give special mention to my former students in last year's AS English Literature and the old CW crowd that I had the pleasure of teaching at GCSE. I (nearly always) looked forward to our lessons, where your humour, insight and enthusiasm were much appreciated. Good luck to you all in the upcoming results and whatever lies beyond. To those of you from the Zambia team who will be leaving this year I want to, again, thank each of you for all you did in helping to create an unforgettable experience. I was time and again blown away by how well you looked out for and leaned on each other. You are a truly special bunch. Remember that you will always be a part of the team and I hope your connection to Zambia will endure many years beyond your time within these walls. Twalumba.

**Ms R. Kelly**

I would like to convey sincere best wishes to the Class of 2024. 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 Digital Technology in first and second year, to GCSE and A Level.

Especially my enigmatic and wide-ranging A2 students, both A2 and BTEC. You are all a great bunch of unique individuals with many talents ('for something'). Who knows, maybe we will see talented experts in some profession in the future. You will be missed and it will be very quiet without Harry, Seanan, Donall and Sean next year, if they don't make it back to the Abbey. I will miss the tea antics on a Thursday, for bright students it took a while to work out you cannot drink tea without a cup, not to mention the odd one who spills that precious tea, in my room. Education does not stop you from making mistakes but it inspires you to take lessons from your mistakes.

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. Always strive to be the best in whatever you do. Be humble and let your actions speak for you.

**Mr M. Grogan**

Good luck to all in the Class of 2024! It has been a pleasure to teach you and I wish you the very best for the future. I'll definitely miss my A2 Geography class who'll forever be in my memory as the quietest class ever!

**Mr R. McMahan**

Well, the last seven years have not been normal! Two years of Covid interruptions disrupted the usual flow of extra-curricular music activities and development. But what an incredible group of Yr14 musicians, not only are they giving every free moment to different ventures both in school and outside, coping with their A levels and academic futures, social life and part-time jobs, but continually saying 'yes' and helping out in so many ways and always with an honest smile and generous spirit. I really appreciate how you have all helped restart the various music groups and events after Covid and raised the level of standards to a new high as well as inspiring the younger Abbey musicians. And Wow! So many of you taking part in the Drum & Guitar Night and Spring Concert and enjoying yourselves. This is the ER ethos fully alive! Thanks again and if you need any help, advice or just want to share music stories – you know where to find us.

**Mr D. Wadsworth**

To the gentlemen in 14LD. I enjoyed being your form teacher for the past 4 months. Wishing you all the best for the upcoming exams. I will be sad to see you leave, but will not miss chasing the absence notes. Wishing you happy, peaceful and wonderful futures.

All the best and God bless.

**Mrs L. Doey**

**Dear A-level Physics Students**

As you reach the summit of your journey, reflect on the heights scaled, the equations balanced, and the particles pondered. Embrace uncertainty, conserve your energy, and ride life's waves. Seek connections, tap into hidden strengths, and cherish every second. You are cosmic explorers shaping the cosmos.

**Mr B. Hamill**

**To the Biology class of 2024** – It has been an absolute pleasure to have taught you for the last two years and in some cases the last four years. You have all worked hard and thankfully we managed to enjoy some laughs along the way. I hope that you have some fond memories of your time in Biology, and I wish you all the very best of luck in your upcoming exams.

I have no doubt that you have very bright and promising futures ahead and I wish you all the best in your future careers, whatever path you choose.

Keep in touch and let me know how you are getting on.

Good luck as you begin the next chapter,

**Mrs O. McGinley**

**To my year 14 Biology class,**

I have thoroughly enjoyed the last two years teaching you, you are a fantastic bunch of young men. The Wednesday coffee and treats definitely kept us all going. We worked hard but we did have plenty of laughs along the way. I wish you all the very best for the future and know you all have very bright futures ahead of you.

**Mrs D. Mc Corry**



**Front Row:-** Ms C. O'Hare (Head of Senior School), Mr E. McGivern, Mr P. Mc Parland,  
Mike Farruiga (Head Boy), Eoin Kernan (Deputy Head Boy)

**14LD:** Oran Connolly, John Crummie, Finn Donnelly, Tiernan Fegan, Darragh Galloghly, Senan L  
Donagh Murdock, Fionn O'Malley, Senan O'Reilly, Rory Powell, Ruairi Sands, Ada

**14EMG:** Tiernan Burns, Rowan Cloughley, Ciaran Cloghlan, Fiachra Devlin, Cian Faughey, J  
Owen McCourt, Adam McGreevy, Tighearnan McQuillan, Pearce McShane, Callum M

**14JD:** Shane Boyle, Caolan Byrne, Jake Crudden, Rory Fay, Sean Hamill, Eoin Kernan, Jarlat  
Senan McAvoy, Daniel McMahon, Eoin McMillan, Conor Murphy, Etha

**14OH:** Donal Baxenden, Shea Connolly, Seamus Cranney, Eoin Cunningham, Shane Donnelly, Sean G  
John-Paul McGreevy, Daniel McIntyre, Dylun Murphy, Pierce Patterson

**14PMP:** Lorcan Cowgill, Maximillian Coyle, Nathan Craig, Sean Dinsmore, Harry Doran, Mike Farruiga  
Niall Maguire, Leo McAreavey, Luke McCamley, Trenton McConville, Oliver McCourt, Brend  
Michael Savage, Odhran Savage, Z



Adam Phelan (Deputy Head Boy), Mrs B. Tohill (Year Head), Mrs R. Savage (Principal),  
Deputy Head Boy), Ms O. Hughes, Ms C. Woods.

Loughran, Aidan Lynch, Conor McArdle, Joseph McClenaghan, Owen Muckian, Caolan Mulgrew,  
Tom Stewart, Tymoteusz Szczeszek, Haydn Tumilty, Joshua Turley, Adam Ulanowski.

Jamie Gribbons, Adam Hynds, Michael Keenan, Lorcan King, Francis Larkin, Conall McAvoy,  
Murphy, James O'Hagan, Owen O'Neill, Charles Reavey, Darragh Saul, Caleb Savage.

Francis Larkin, Harry Lynch, Aeden McAteer, James McCormick, David McDonnell, Donal McEvoy,  
Eoin O'Connor, Eoin O'Hare, Connor Pollard, Tom Shi, Odhran Watters.

James Woodman, Sean Greenan, Paul Heenan, Matthew Hoey, Joshua Kupczyk, Ryan Larkin, Ronan McGivern,  
Tom, Adam Phelan, James Quinn, Jack Toal, Arann Trotter, Jamie Wallace.

Michaelia, Niall Fitzpatrick, Eoghan Fitzpatrick-Harkin, Oisín Hart, Jack Hoben, Gareth Jennings, Viktor Kirov,  
Ethan McCoy, Daniel McCreesh, Daire McEvoy, Micheal McNulty, Ben Mooney, Conor Nolan,  
Zachary Torley, Ronan Wadsworth.

# BEST IN SUBJECT A

| Subject   | Pupils                          | Award                      |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Art & Design  | Eoghan Fitzpatrick-Harkin       | 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.   |                                 |                            |
| Biology   | Owen O'Neill                    | Dr. M. Abrahamson Award    |
| This award commemorates Mervyn Abrahamson who graduated from the Abbey in the early 1900s and who later became an eminent Physician in London.  |                                 |                            |
| Business Studies  | Conor Murphy                    | Bro. J. B. Hynes Awards    |
| 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.             |                                 |                            |
| Economics   | Eoin Mc Millan                  | P.J. Kane Award            |
| 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.   |                                 |                            |
| Digital Technology  | Tom Shi                         | Bro. D.W. Lynam Award      |
| Computer Science  | Eoin Kernan                     | Bro. D.W. Lynam Award      |
| BTEC IT   | Seanan McEvoy<br>Senan O'Reilly |                            |
| These awards celebrate 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.   |                                 |                            |
| Chemistry   | Odhran Watters                  | Prof. L. Abrahamson Award  |
| This award commemorates Leonard Abrahamson, a graduate from the Abbey in the early 1900s who later became President of the Royal College of Physicians.   |                                 |                            |
| Construction BTEC Double Award  | Micheal McNulty                 | Bro. J.C. McDermott Award  |
| BTEC Single Award   | Daire Mc Evoy                   | Bro. J.C. McDermott Award  |
| These awards are 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.   |                                 |                            |
| English Language  | Joseph McClenaghan              | Bro. Rehill Award          |
| 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.   |                                 |                            |
| English Literature  | Senan Loughran                  | Bro. T.L. Magee Award      |
| Brother T.L. Magee will always be remembered in the Abbey as an excellent Headmaster and as an inspirational teacher of English.<br>A gentle Kerryman, he was as big in heart as in stature.  |                                 |                            |
| Environmental Technology  | Oran Connolly                   | Bro. C.I. Gallagher Awards |
| Technology & Design   | Gareth Jennings                 |                            |
| These awards are 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. |                                 |                            |
| Food Science  | Ruairi Sands                    |                            |
| French  | Rowan Cloughley                 | Brendan Cassidy Award      |
| Brendan Cassidy was a popular and dedicated teacher who served Abbey students for almost twenty years in the 1950s and 1960s.<br>As Head of the French Department, he displayed a dedication and thoroughness to the teaching of his subject  |                                 |                            |
| Geography   | Tom Shi                         | 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.   |                                 |                            |
| History   | Connor Pollard                  | 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.<br>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.                     |                                 |                            |
| Irish   | Eoin Kernan                     | P.A. Crinion Award         |
| Paddy Crinion was a distinguished member of the Abbey staff for three decades in the 1940s, 50s and 60s.<br>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.   |                                 |                            |

# LEVEL - SUMMER 2024

| Subject  | Pupils          | Award                     |
|--|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Mathematics and Further Maths  | Eoin Kernan     | 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.   |                 |                           |
| Music  | Ronan Wadsworth | August Toremans Award     |
| 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.   |                 |                           |
| Physics  | Eoin McMillan   | Bro. M.K. Farrell Award   |
| 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.   |                 |                           |
| Physical Education Studies   | Daniel McMahon  | 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. |                 |                           |
| Politics   | Donall Baxenden | Bro. D.L.O'Donnell Award  |
| 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.  |                 |                           |
| Psychology   | Conor McArdle   | Bro. W.O. Murphy Award    |
| 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.   |                 |                           |
| Spanish  | Adam McGreevy   | Jack Cushman Award        |
| This award commemorates the work in the Abbey of Jack Cushman 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.  |                 |                           |

## Special Contribution Awards

|  |                |                    |
|--|----------------|--------------------|
| Choir  | Ben Mooney     | John-Paul McGreevy |
| Music  | Owen O'Neill   | Josh Turley        |
| Drama  | Mikel Farrugia |                    |
| Gaelic Football  | Daniel McMahon |                    |
| Basketball   | Francis Larkin |                    |
| APPSA Award  | Harry Lynch    |                    |
| Head Boy 2023-2024   | Mikel Farrugia |                    |
| Pat Mooney Award   | Mikel Farrugia |                    |
| This award, donated by Mr Pat Mooney at the time of his retirement, seeks to recognise the student who made a major contribution to the overall life of the school |                |                    |

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| <b>The Oisín McGuinness Award</b>  | <b>Donall Baxenden</b> |
| This award recognises the contribution that Oisín made to the Abbey in his time here. It reflects Abbey spirit, true friendship and his love of the Abbey. It is presented in honour of Oisín's laughter and his ability to bring people together which he did both when here and also through his untimely passing. |                        |

## Edmund Rice Leadership Awards

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Mikel Farrugia | Arann Trotter |
| Max Coyle      | Conor Nolan   |
| Niall Maguire  | Conor Murphy  |
| Eoin Kernan    |               |

These awards are presented to students who display and characterise through all of their endeavours the true spirit of our Edmund Rice Ethos. Edmund Rice lived a life of giving to others, both in his time, thoughtfulness and generosity. Transformational and inspirational leadership is a key quality of the Edmund Rice Charter and we continue to seek to inspire and transform our students to become leaders both in the present and in their futures.

# STUDENT MEMORIES

What can I say! It's been a fantastic seven years (or 2 for some) as a year group. From our junior school days, right through to our final years, it was an absolute rollercoaster in every facet of school life. From our induction days where we met each other for the first time (and got lost around the school), to the formal (where we got lost for a brief moment on the way to the mighty Marcus Ward), and now to leavers, where I am sure we'll all gain a few more lifelong memories. From our Macrory panel to our basketball team, our music and drama groups, and everything in between, we have turned our school experience into so much more, a community. Although our extra-curricular expeditions didn't always end in the best of ways, many lessons were learned, many friends were made, and many fantastic action shots were taken (you all know the one). Academically of course, although dull at times, the classroom held some good memories. I'm sure none of us will forget the abominations we created in the science labs (and the Home Economics room...) or the eccentric shows we put on in junior school drama.

We had our controversies of course, the chair incident of 2019 being a key one, but we always resolved our disputes.

For my final words, I wish all of you lads the best of luck from the bottom of my heart, and I hope we will all meet each other at a reunion in 20 years, with a few less skin fades and a few more bald heads, but still the same lads. Remember, once an Abbey boy, always an Abbey boy. God Bless!

**Mikel Farrugia**

**Head Boy 2023-2024**

Reflecting on my school years brings a rush of nostalgia and gratitude for all of the memories I made. Whether it was a day filled with laughter or one that seemed to never end, I always find myself looking back on my time at the Abbey. I could talk forever about the Manchester trip, when Covid had us doing classes in our pyjamas over zoom, and when we all came together for our year group's school formal. It's times like those that I'll forever remember and be thankful for in the future. There isn't a single day that doesn't bring a smile to my face when I reminisce about those moments at the Abbey.

**Adam Phelan**

**Deputy Head Boy 2023-2024**

I just want to say what a privilege it has been to go to school every day over the last seven years with you all. It's odd thinking of how different things could have been if I'd instead made the choice to go to a different school, but I'm so glad that I didn't. We have grown up together over the last seven years, coming in as kids and leaving as legal adults. There are many incredible experiences I am eternally grateful for that wouldn't have come to be without the Abbey. It's not just the big things, like the Zambia project or Kairos that have affected me, but also the little memories that I shall cherish for the rest of my life and the many incredible friendships that have shaped the person I am. A trivial memory that still strikes me is the primal fear that awoke whenever Mrs McClean called you up for an oral. I remember one morning in second year, Tom Shi got a particularly harsh telling off after an underperformance comparable only to that of Lukaku for Belgium, and from that moment on, he immediately started getting the highest marks in class. I could fill out a whole one of these booklets with funny anecdotes like this, but I won't do that to you all. You are all great lads, and I wish nothing but the best of luck for every one of you as we take this next step. No matter how nervous or anxious you may be, trust that what is meant to be, will be, and seize the day!

**Eoin Kernan**

**Deputy Head Boy 2023-2024**

I'd like to thank each member of staff for everything that they have done for myself and fellow students in our journey throughout the Abbey, the Abbey has provided memories that I will never forget from the trip to Manchester in first year, our formal, MacRory cup campaigns in 6th and 7th year and all other school teams throughout the seven years (especially in 3rd year for Mr Grogan's and Mr McCann's Mickey Harte esque coaching) but most importantly the 267 goals and assists collected from my lunchtime yardball career.

The Abbey has provided me with friendships that will last a lifetime and I will be forever grateful for them. I know that I will never forget my time in the Abbey, and I will always be an Abbey man.

**Donall Baxenden.**

**Student Leadership Team 2023-2024**

# STUDENT MEMORIES

Firstly, I would like to thank every one of the staff throughout the school that have helped to make our seven years of school so special. Each one of you helped to make us the young men we are today, and we are all so thankful for all you have done for us. I would also love to thank all the boys in our year for how we have all helped each other through our ups and downs and how we've always all been there for each other.

The Abbey, and everything that has come with it has given me friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. I will never forget the Abbey or what it has done for me.

***Dáire McEvoy***

***Student Leadership Team 2023-2024***

The years at Abbey Grammar School were memorable for me and my classmates. From music to sports, every moment was filled with learning and camaraderie. The friendships and experiences made there will always be valued, such as the time one of us pulled the fire alarm to get out of English class or when someone got caught in the animal hold of the ferry on the Manchester school trip. The Abbey is more than just a place of education; it was a home where we grew academically, socially, and personally.

***Leo Mc Areavey***

***Student Leadership Team 2023-2024***

Looking back on my seven years in the Abbey I cannot think of a time where I was not happy. As with life there have been ups and downs, but it has formed me into the person I am today, and I could not be more grateful for this. Each year I have formed so many fond memories that I will continue to reminisce on for life, from our first trip to Manchester in first year all the way up to our formal last October. My time here has always had a great focus on music, from the loud guitar and drum nights to the higher brow spring concerts, each escapade in music has brought nothing but fun and laughter. Even when Covid broke the school up and I sat eating beans on toast during Chemistry classes I still found fondness and fun knowing that I was a part of this school, and I am proud to say I am an Abbey lad.

***Jamie Gribbon***

***Student Leadership Team 2023-2024***

When I reminisce on my school years at the Abbey, I get a sense of pride and appreciation for the countless memories that I have made throughout my time here. From amazing days filled with joy to days I thought would never end, it's safe to say my time here has been a rollercoaster. But in the end I cherish the memories I've made, whether it be making comedic videos for film club in first year, to having a small part in the school's adaptation of 'Bugsy Malone' in third year or even through the various Covid lockdowns memories made through crazy and confusing online classes. However, the most important thing that the Abbey has given me is lifelong friends and for that I will truly cherish my time here.

***Francis Larkin***

***Student Leadership Team 2023-2024***

# WHEN THEY WERE YOUNGER...



*Mrs O'Donovan  
8 Donard*



*Mr McParland  
8 Oriel*



*Mr Downey  
8 Slemish*

# WHEN THEY WERE YOUNGER...



*Ms Hughes  
8 Breffni*



*Ms Doey  
8 Iveagh*

