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# The Christians' Chronicle



## PUTTNAM'S PRAISE



ON YOUR MARKS! (LEFT TO RIGHT): ARCHIE JONES, DARA STAPLETON, JACK CANTILLON, CATHAL WALSH (ERIC LIDDELL), PATRICK SPELLMAN

## THE STORY LIVES ON ... 101 YEARS LATER

### CBC'S 2025 SELL-OUT PRODUCTION: CHARIOTS OF FIRE

Oscar-winning producer David Puttnam praised CBC's cast and crew for their astonishing work in bringing his Academy award-winning film, *Chariots of Fire*, to the stage in Ireland for the very first time. Puttnam, who has won Oscar, BAFTA and Emmy awards, expressed his admiration for the students' work in showcasing this phenomenal story.

Mr. Puttnam apologised for not being able to attend the CBC performance but believed in a stirring video-link address that their night would be a "huge success". He hoped too that the audience would give a "rapturous round of applause at the end".

In a heartfelt message to the cast and crew, Mr. Puttnam highlighted the continued relevance of the film's powerful story. He said: "I'm thrilled you're doing this. It's an important story," Reflecting on the

enduring legacy of the film, Mr. Puttnam noted that the story of Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams still captivates people worldwide with the film featuring multiple times during the 2024 Paris Olympics, which marked the 100th anniversary of the 1924 Olympics.

"It lives on, and continues to live off the adventures of Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams," Mr. Puttnam added, emphasising the themes of dedication and sacrifice in the film that are needed in order to reach your full potential.

David Puttnam's message revolved around the importance of the process. CBC students endured the ups and downs in the process of producing a play, and inside these pages students have reflected on the TY play as an experience of a lifetime.

Mr. Puttnam added that the importance and significance

of finding the truth, as "never more important" in the world we live in today.

Mr. Puttnam's message underscores the lasting significance of *Chariots of Fire*, reminding us that the story of Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams continues to resonate over 100 years later.

Mr. Puttnam emphasised the importance of the cast to discover how "collective effort, co-operative effort" and dealing with the "traumas and dramas" of putting on a production on "can be very, very formative".

- By Cathal Lyons



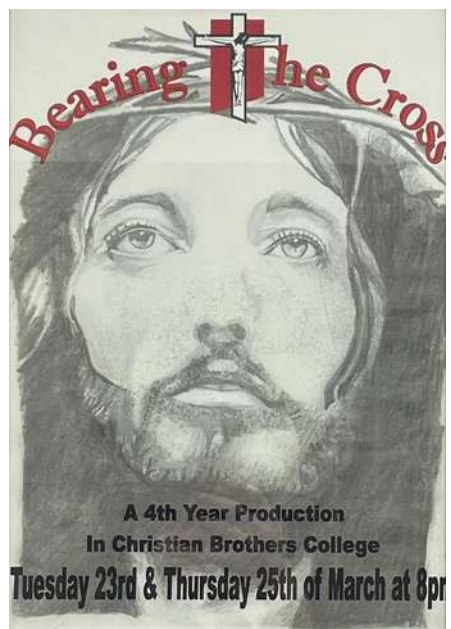
David Puttnam holding his Oscar for Best Producer for *Chariots of Fire* during a video broadcast to CBC TY students





# MR. TREVOR HUSSEY: A COMMITMENT TO THE ARTS AND YOUTH.

Interview with the Director of CBC production for the 2025 TY play, *Chariots of Fire* - by **Cathal Lyons**



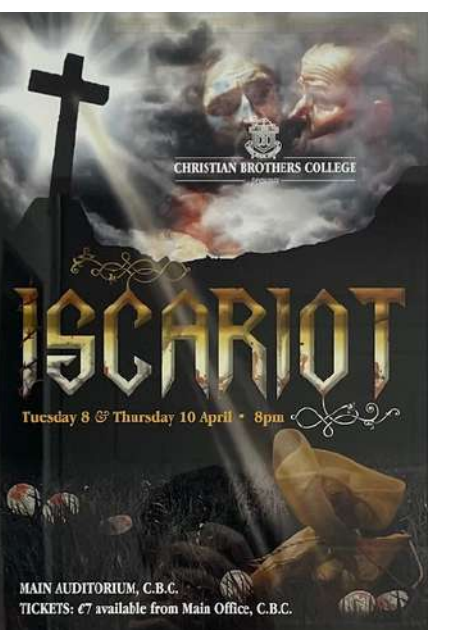
2010

“THE FIELD”  
 “THE MERCHANT OF VENICE”  
 “PHILADELPHIA HERE I COME”  
 “JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK”

2012



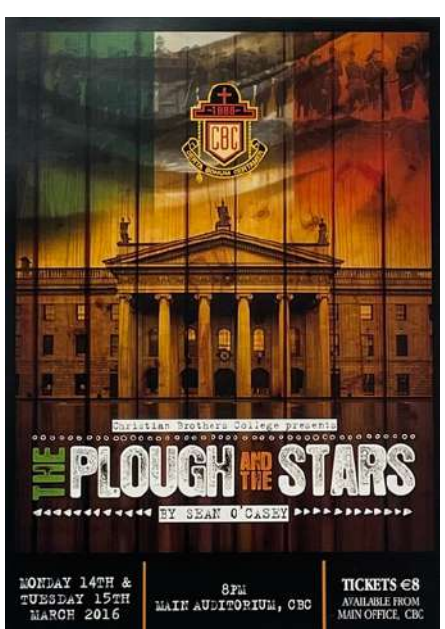
2013



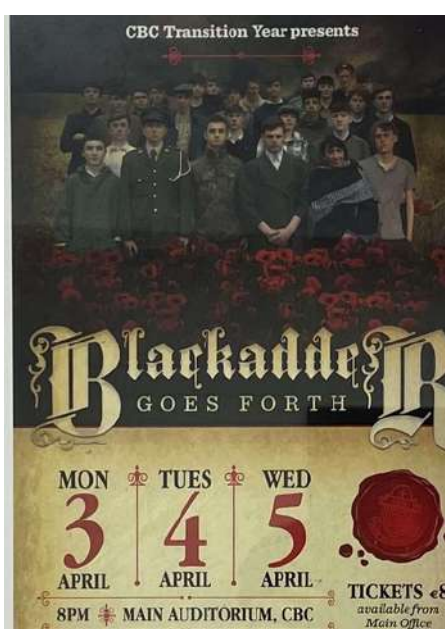
2014



2015



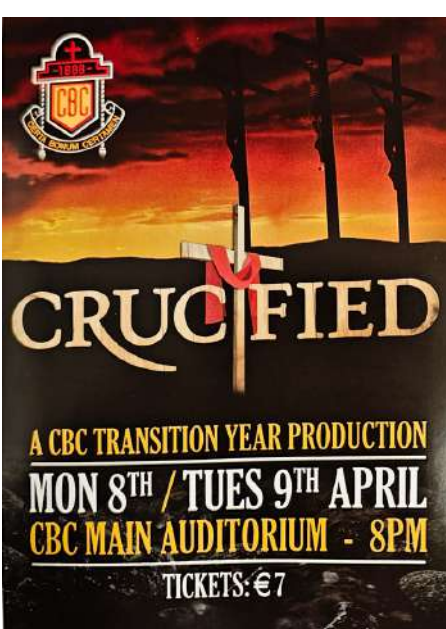
2016



2017



2018



2019

CBC's Drama Department chose *Chariots of Fire* as this year's school production. This is an iconic and compelling story of two Olympic runners, Eric Liddel and Harold Abrahams, two athletes whose relentless determination overcame the odds in the build-up to the 1924 Paris Olympics. With themes of self-discovery, sacrifice, and legacy threading a powerful script, *Chariots of Fire* is certainly a play that reflects well on young adults' lives when they can transform into the best version of themselves.

**Why Chariots of Fire?**  
 It's just been over 100 years since the first Paris Olympics, and Mr. Hussey believed the time was right to stage this inspirational story. In fact CBC's production was the first official staging of the theatrical version (stage script by Colin Welland and Mike Bartlett) in Ireland.

"There was no better time to capture the atmosphere that drove those athletes who, in the 1924 Olympics, gave so much for the good of themselves and their country," adds Mr. Hussey.

The 1924 Olympics represented a moment of profound cultural change, with themes of sacrifice, self-discovery and pride. Furthermore this era was pivotal in shaping modern athletics, and its legacy in inspiring future generations of athletes and dreamers may have been a core factor in the decision to bring this inspiring story to the stage in our school; to inspire young adults to believe and to pursue to their aspirations, land to leave them recall this experience "for the rest of their lives".

**Director's Vision**  
 For the Director, Mr Trevor Hussey, the decision to pursue Theatre and the Arts in conjunction with his teaching career at CBC is nothing short of inspirational.

His commitment to directing shows in TY, donating hours of his time - this year alongside co-director Ms. Eileen Tarrant - isn't just about his love for the stage but rather his passion for the power of storytelling to shape young people's minds.

He essentially "grew up in the opera" watching a plethora of shows in a variety of venues, both at home and abroad. Today his passion for theatre burns as brightly as it did since his first visit to a theatre. Over the years, Mr. Hussey has learned the concept and meaning of "staging" and has "learned an awful lot in terms of commitment, collaboration, and selflessness" to help further inspire others. In order to accomplish this vision he says "you must surround yourself with people who trust in what you're doing" and "try to envision young adults' minds to believe and see it no matter the difficulty and that there is a need to believe as one as a cast".

Furthermore, his talented time-management skills are nothing short of impressive. He puts it succinctly himself: "When you want something done, ask a busy person!" Tackling curricular pedagogy, theatrical coordination as well as his own daily life outside of the school building is quite extraordinary, but Mr. Hussey is a tenacious, pleasant and

fascinating person who will push you beyond your limits in order to reach your full potential.

**The Journey**  
 Since early September we've worked tirelessly together as a year group of young lads, and opening night was special: "To put it in words would devalue its impact," adds Mr. Hussey, but in this journey, we've leaned on each other's strengths, pushing past challenges and doubts. Only when we believe and collaborate, we know we're creating something special. After months of working alongside the director, co-director, producers, cast, P.R. team, set design, and construction team, we've faced hurdles that have made the process both fulfilling and worthwhile.

Adds Mr. Hussey: "There's no doubt about it: We hoped this would become the best show ever to perform in CBC history because of the huge talent that we have in the school who have not even acted before."

This confidence we have absorbed in the talent we've cultivated together reminds us of just how far we've come, even when we started with no experience.

The passion, dedication, and energy of everyone involved will hopefully make this show worth remembering.

## “THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THEATRE REAFFIRMED MY PASSION FOR THE CRAFT OF ACTING”

**Patrick Heery** recalls two unforgettable nights playing the lead role, Bull McCabe in CBC's 2024 production of John B. Keane's classic, *The Field*.

This year marked a significant milestone for me as I had the privilege of stepping onto the stage as Bull McCabe in our school's production of *The Field*. It was an experience that will forever be etched in my memory. With two captivating performances held in the College Auditorium, the overwhelming support from the audience added an invaluable aspect to the entire journey. I want to thank each and every individual who took the time to attend our show. Your presence and unwavering enthusiasm were the driving forces behind our performances, and I am sincerely grateful for your support.

Portraying the complex character of Bull McCabe presented both challenges and rewards. He is a character with myriad layers, each more intricate than the last. As I delved into the complexities of his persona, I found myself embarking on a transformative journey. The guidance and support of our director, along with the camaraderie of my fellow cast members, were crucial throughout the entire process. Their encouragement and insights fuelled my portrayal of *The Bull*, allowing me to delve deeper into the role and give a

performance that I can be proud of and that resonated with the audience, however, it was the electrifying atmosphere of the stage that truly brought the character to life. Stepping onto the stage on those fateful nights, I was greeted by a wave of excitement and anticipation. The energy radiating from the audience was palpable, their enthusiasm reverberating throughout the auditorium. Their reactions served as a constant source of inspiration, igniting a fire within me that propelled me forward with each passing moment.

The magic of live theatre lies in the symbiotic relationship between the performer and the audience. As I delivered my lines and inhabited the character of Bull McCabe, I could feel the audience's energy coursing through me. Their laughter, their gasps, their applause - each reaction served as a testament to the power of storytelling and the profound connection forged between performer and spectator. It was during these moments, basking in the glow of the spotlight, that I felt truly alive. The stage became my sanctuary, a place where I could shed the confines of reality and immerse myself completely in the

world of the play. The audience, with their unwavering support and genuine engagement, became my companions on this extraordinary journey.

As the final curtain descended on our last performance, a sense of fulfilment washed over me. The journey from script to stage had been a whirlwind of emotions, but it was the onstage experience and the impact of the audience that left an indelible mark on my heart. Their presence transformed mere words on a page into moments of pure magic, and for that, I will be forever grateful.

In retrospect, it was the onstage experience and the electric connection with the audience that made all the hard work and preparation worthwhile. Their reactions served as a constant reminder of the transformative power of theatre, reaffirming my passion for the craft and instilling in me a profound sense of gratitude.

To everyone who played a part in making *The Field* a success - from the cast and crew to the audience members who shared in our journey - thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your support and enthusiasm made this experience one that I will treasure for a lifetime.



2024



2023



2022



2020





# STORIES FROM THE STAGE

## 'WHEN I BEGAN PRACTISING IN REHEARSALS, IT WAS LIKE I COULD FLICK A SWITCH'

Harry Walsh as Lord Birkenhead

When I walked into my audition for the CBC TY play 2025, "Chariots of Fire" and played the so named theme on piano, I never could have imagined the journey that lay in front of me. From scouring charity shops for extravagant costumes to the deeper take aways gained from producing such a show, I along with the rest of the production team will never forget the journey of this show.

hardly knew, now they are some of my closest friends. Through making mistakes and forcing ourselves to be vulnerable in front of our peers, we learnt many important lessons that we will carry with us into the future. Public



Lord Birkenhead waving off the reporters at Dover before the trip to the Paris Olympics

I was cast as "Lord Birkenhead", partially to my disappointment, I had hoped to be playing live music for the show (that was to come too), but in hindsight, I thoroughly enjoyed my role. After a little research into the movie, I came to the realisation that I was to be the poshest of the posh, I would need to completely change myself for the role. When I began practicing in rehearsals, it was like I could flick a switch, one minute a boy sitting in school and the next a Lord on his way to the Olympic games. Who I switched to was always changing, from the posh British Midlands accent to the way I had to look down on others, it was wonderful to throw myself fully into the role.

None of this came quickly though, and it wasn't until January when I began to feel confident in my character, a similar feeling was reciprocated throughout the cast, in themselves and in the show as a whole. In the weeks leading up to the opening night on the 4th of March, however inklings of doubt were still very much there, practicing in an oratory doesn't lend itself particularly well to imagining how a show would play out in a theatre. But with only five days to go until opening night, it all began to come together, seeing extravagant lighting rigs going up and the set being brought into the hall, the fabricated world of this drama began to become a reality.

We began preparing for the show on the 3rd of September, 2024, and we didn't finish until twenty minutes before the show. Throughout the process we faced many challenges, people missing rehearsals, the difficulties of managing such a large cast and the constant adaptation of the script. But none of this will be what we remember in the future. We will remember the emotions, the friendships and the moments that led up to the final performance. I have become far greater friends with many people who at the start of the year I

speaking, expressing yourself and learning to disregard the deep ingrained humility that teenagers so often have.

The final night of the show was magical, emotional words were spoken in the dressing room beforehand and the performance went by as a blur, it felt as though someone clicked their fingers... and poof it was over. When the final bows were taken and the audience had filed out of the doors, it was difficult to comprehend that it was over. So much of our lives had been taken up by rehearsals, especially in the two weeks prior to the show and now it was all over. Bittersweet, yet I can wholeheartedly say that not one member of the cast regrets taking part in this incredible experience. We did not do it for the applause or the bows, the final performance or the numerous congratulations received afterwards, we did it for ourselves and our classmates but most importantly, we all did it for the experience, for as John Godfrey said "Those who are rich in experiences are rich in life", and this experience was truly once in a lifetime.  
- Harry Walsh

## SOILSE, CEAMARA,

### AICSEAN! Dráma na hIdirbhliana, : 'Chariots of Fire'

Bhí mé ag súil go mór le Dráma na hIdirbhliana sa cheathrú bliain mar go mbeadh deis agam ról aisteoireachta a ghlacadh sa dráma clúiteach, Chariots of Fire.

Bhí Mr Hussey, Ms Tarrant, Mr. P. Martin, Ms Calvert, Mr. Denby agus Ms O' Callaghan ag obair ó mhaidin go hoíche, ó Mheán Fómhair go Márta lenár dtriúr léiritheoirí chun an léiriúchán suimitiúil tarraingteach seo a chur le chéile.

Bhain mé an taitneamh as an dráma mar tar éis sé mhí anois, caithfidh mé a rá gur duine níos fearr mé anois, agus tá níos mó cairde déanta agam le linn an turais seo.

D'éirigh thar barr leis an dráma thar dhá oíche a bhí díolta amach. Ba é seo an chéad uair riamh a léiríodh an dráma ar stáitse in Éirinn, freisin, agus níl aon dabht faoi ach gur thaitin an oíche go mór linn.  
Le Archie MacSeoin

Bhain mé ard-taitneamh as mo ról sa dráma, i ndáiríre, agus mé ag glacadh páirte den charachtar, Florence, cailín Eric. Bhí an tUasal Hussey ina stiúrthóir ionspioráideach - thug sé comhairle, cáineadh agus moladh dúinn a chabhraigh go mór linn.

"What are y'all even doing bro" - **Finn Corkery**, Reg the porter  
"That Chariot's kinda fire!" - **Seán Ahern**, Master of Caius College

## 'THESE LINES HAVE STUCK WITH ME EVER SINCE.'

Fionn Conway as Harold Abrahams

When I first signed up for Chariots of Fire back in September I really didn't know what I was getting myself in for. Once I heard the news that I got the role of the lead, I was surprised to say the least. As the rehearsal schedule came out for the first time it struck me how big of a commitment this was going to be.

As we began rehearsing for the first time I was nervous as this was really pushing me outside of my comfort zone. I had no prior acting skills making it even more difficult. During this time I also realised how much this project was going to consume me for the next few months with rehearsals taking place almost every day after school. These rehearsals taught me alot about commitment and dedication and working as part of a team towards a common goal. Over the course of the next few months, we worked tirelessly every evening putting everything we had into it trying to make it the best possible play it could be. It took a lot out of all of us.

Once I got home the work didn't stop as lines had to be learned, and a lot of them. Many evenings were spent reading and re-reading lines. These lines have stuck with me ever since.

As we began to get closer to the play more and more rehearsals were being added to the schedule. It's around this time where I had to make sacrifices in the evenings to accommodate for the play.



Harold Abrahams (left) getting the place on the British Olympic team, Aubrey Montague played by Gerard O'Connell (right)

During this period it hit me that the show was really happening, as before it hadn't properly sank in. This show was massive but we could finally see all are hard work finally paying off. This show was going to be one to remember.

opening night and I was able to relax and enjoy the show. The first night of the show was a great success with them receiving a rapturous round of applause to acknowledge all the work we had put in over the last few months.

As the days ticked down to the opening of the show. The weekend was spent in school rehearsing as much as possible trying to make it the best it could possibly be. These rehearsals started at 10 in the morning and ended at 8 in the evening. We were all tired by the end of it to say the least.

As we moved onto the final night of the show it was now my turn as lead. The few hours leading up to it went like a whirl. I was excited to get going but also nervous about the thought of the whole thing. The next 2 hours went like a blur, racing around frantically backstage trying to be in the right places at the right time. By the end of it I was relieved that I managed to get through it. It will be a night I will never forget, it was brilliant to see all our work finally pay off.

On the first night of the show there was a mixture of excitement and nerves among the cast, many of us not knowing what was to come. As I was sharing the role with someone else, I was not acting on the

- Fionn Conway



Eric Liddell (left, played by Cathal Walsh) talking to Jackson Sholtz (right, played by Jack Long) before the race

It was a huge challenge to be the first to perform Chariots of Fire in Ireland but it ended being a masterpiece. The production has just come to an end and now I can confidently say it was an incredible experience. The two nights were truly brilliant and I think everyone put the best versions of themselves forward, with the entire cast giving breathtaking performances. All the hard work everyone put in was evident and I believe it was all worth it.

Throughout the course of the year, I have gotten the chance to experience firsthand what effect the play has had on those involved. Since the beginning of the school year, I have seen members of the cast mature beyond what I thought was possible in such a short period of time, as well as an extraordinary increase in confidence for those involved, and some have really come out of their shell. As Cathal Walsh, who is playing one of the

## IT WAS A BIG CHALLENGE, BUT I TRULY GOT TO REAP THE REWARDS

### Jack Long as Jackson Scholz

lead roles, Eric Liddell, puts it, "Playing Eric Liddell in the TY play has provided me with so many opportunities to develop in a variety of ways. The numerous evening rehearsals and performances in front of teachers and fellow students have developed my confidence and public speaking ability. Through the highs and lows of this year's play, I have matured and learnt important leadership abilities and I have also made and deepened so many friendships through the play; from morning rehearsals to late night line learning, I have developed so much from the TY play, and I couldn't be prouder to be part of it." It was a stressful few weeks when the preparations for the TY production of Chariots of Fire were coming to a close, the tensions were well and truly palpable. The pressure was on as the rush was in full swing to make sure everything was perfect for the show.

much people have developed over the course of the year.

Even though the play is complete now and looked brilliant, it had not been a smooth journey, which makes sense as nothing great ever comes easily. At times throughout the year, the pressure of it all did get to the cast, clearly disrupting the progress made and almost leading to the cancellation of the show, but everyone was determined and resilient in these situations and persevered, letting the show get to be what it is today. This is a real sign of how

I think playing the role of Jackson Scholz, an American runner, had a huge impact on me. It was a big challenge, but I truly got to reap the rewards. Being a part of this production affected me on a personal level, to an extent I never could have imagined. At the start of the year, I never could have predicted how much this play would benefit me as a person. I believe I have matured so much, and my confidence has risen massively, I have also learned how crucial the skill of time management is. On top of all this, I have created so many strong friendships with other people involved in this project, which I think, and hope, will last for a very long time.

As somebody that had never acted or been a part of theatre previously, being a part of this show was an exhilarating opportunity, and everyone involved poured many hours into making it the best it can be, especially Mr. Hussey and Ms. Tarrant, but ultimately, I believe the 4th and 6th of March highlighted how special the whole group of people involved in this huge production are and showcased the talent they have. I am sure some people even surprised themselves with their own ability

- Jack Long





# BEHIND THE LENS

**Ronan McGrath** writes about the PPAI's 2024 photojournalism exhibition.

We attended a talk with *Irisht Examiner* Managing News Editor, John O'Mahony, who spoke incisively on how a modern-day newsroom works, the challenges facing editors in a world of disinformation and fake news, and how *the Examiner* manages the demands of delivering both a print and digital newspaper to its audience every day.

Mr. O'Mahony also looked into the evolution of how news is being distributed to a wider audience. *The Examiner*, thanks to its eye-catching online platforms, enjoys having a daily global audience, delivering local, national, international news, business news, and sport.

A most informative morning was completed by a photographic history of Cork and wider Ireland at Kinsale Library, curated by *Irisht Examiner* Chief Photographer, Mr. Dan Linehan. His selection captured - amongst many,

others - Patrick Street and its environs. We were extremely fortunate and grateful to have attended the 2024 PPAI (Press Photographers Association of Ireland) Exhibition at Temperance Hall, Kinsale, before the Christmas break. The event, curated by the PPAI president, David Branigan, and *Newsbrand Ireland's* Lisa Buckley proved to be one of the highlights of our Transition Year to date. David delivered an insightful and engaging talk into the world of professional photography and spoke quite firmly on what it takes to be successful in the world of journalism.

Mr Branigan invited us with students from Coláiste na Toirbhirte (Droichead na Bandan), to an open discussion of the photo-exhibition which David described as "a record of our island's history but also as a testament to the incredible skill of our press photographers".

- Ronan McGrath

Below is a selection of winners of the PPAI awards 2024.



**BURNING CITY - ALAN BETSON**      **STONE MAN - NICK BRADSHAW**      **GIVE IT WELLY - PHILIP O'DOYLE**



TY student Phelim Hanley practises his newly-honed photography skills

We would like to convey a sincere thanks to the PPAI, Lisa Buckley (*Newsbrand's Ireland*), John O'Mahony and Dan Linehan (both of the *Irisht Examiner*) for their accommodation in curating this worthwhile event. We'd also like to thank Kinsale Library for hosting us and giving us a visual trip down Cork's memory lane dating back decades.

# STRIKING GOLD: TYS DISCOVER THE POWER OF PLANNING

What did these TYs take away from this excellent lesson in strategy?

"Consistency is key" is an age-old saying that couldn't be more true but seems to have lost some of its power, it has become a bit of a cliché. However, after spending the day navigating the challenges of the desert with Gerard, the person running the workshop, our fourth years have a new appreciation for this timeless truth.

The Gold of Desert Kings workshop is a team-orientated game where you must work your way across the map, mine for gold, work as a team and return safely to Apache Junction, all on a tight budget of both money and time. Many other aspects must be taken into account such as Arctic Blasts, finding caves, flooding canyons, and turbochargers. The group with the most gold at the end of the game wins.

When you dig beneath the surface, participants uncover a much deeper meaning behind the game. They learnt the importance of leadership, consistency, decision making and the consequences of those decisions. Gold of Desert Kings favours he who pre-plans, the teams that used their fifteen planning minutes most effectively performed far better than those who rushed in without a strategy.

**Learnings:**  
Gerard's message was clear: consistency and foresight are essential. Although you might be tired of hearing it, consistency is everything. To illustrate, I will use a compelling example. If you invested just €100 every month in something that grew by 10% every year (like the S&P 500), in one years' time you would have €1,367.03, in ten years time that grows to €21,000 and in fifty years' time, when you retire, you would have an incredible €1,746,976.07, that's €1.75 million, all from just from €100 per month.

The lesson? Consistency pays off. But how can you apply this to your own life? Well, firstly, think about starting investing, but secondly, apply this concept to your academics. If you study for just five minutes every day, just five minutes, in a years time you would have studied more than thirty hours' worth of material! That's easily enough time to revise your entire course twice or three times!

On behalf of CBC, a huge thank you to Gerard for leading such an engaging and inspiring workshop. We highly recommend 'The Gold of Desert Kings' to anyone looking to learn valuable life

lessons while having a great time!  
- Cathal Walsh



## FROM LEBANON TO LEARNING

On Tuesday 17 September, our current Fourth Year students headed out to Lansdowne to see the Cavalry Squadron from the adjacent Collins' Barrack. The attending army members informed the students about life in the army and even showcased to the boys how to hold some of the equipment. The experience was hugely successful and many murmurs are going around amongst the year of a potential stint in the



**Deadline Day: Members of the Editorial team bringing the stories to print - (l-r)**

Ultan McCarthy, Cathal Lyons, Harry Walsh, Xinting (Charlie) Liang

### THE CHRISTIANS' CHRONICLE (FOUNDED 2025) EDITORIAL TEAM

Editors & Design:

Ultan McCarthy, Cathal Lyons, Charlie Liang

Chief sub-editors & Design:

Cathal Walsh, Harry Walsh, Muhammad Raed Naseer, Brian Murphy

Editorial:

Ultan McCarthy, Cathal Lyons, Charlie Liang, Cathal Walsh, Harry Walsh, Muhammad Raed Naseer, Brian Murphy, Jack Long, Ronan McGrath, Archie Jones, Rory Lane, Fionn Conway, Charlie O'Brien, Charlie Coakley, Ronan Hayes (books editor), Louis Kiely, Lorcan Nolan

Photographers:

Dean Mangan Williams, Mr. Steven Lynch, Ultan McCarthy, Cathal Lyons, Cathal Walsh, Charlie Liang, Teedy Campion

Teacher Liaison:

Mr. Edward Newman

# STOP PRESS

## OPENING DOORS

Transition Year offers students a golden opportunity to immerse themselves in the richness of books across a variety of genres by granting them the freedom to read a book for one English class per week.

In addition to this, the College Library allows students to browse or borrow books during the school day. Students can also avail of the stunning set of chess board games that are laid out in a welcoming and beautifully-set space.

Reading allows students to escape from the virtual cosmopolis we now live in today, one filled with constant distraction and, oftentimes, misinformation.

The College Library has benefitted from the generous donation of individual and family book collections, most notably from former UCC President and Emeritus Professor Gerry Wrixon.

The Covid-19 pandemic saw the Library temporarily close its doors but its reopening has brought a beacon of light into CBC students' lives once again.

- Cathal Lyons

## ASPIRING TO AVIATION

I did the Aer Lingus TY Work Experience and it was a brilliant experience for me.

There were 11 other TYs from all around Ireland present which made for a much more enjoyable time as I also got to meet new people and make some new friends. I got to learn how the airport and aviation industry worked and about specific jobs in the industry. #

This was done in a very engaging way as I got to learn from people who were pilots, engineers, those in check in, and other roles.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the course and I learned a lot from it as well as realising how many career opportunities there are in the aviation industry.

- Jack Long



Jack Long in the Aer Lingus head quarters.

Defence Forces at some point in their futures. It seems that every student was impressed with what they were shown

**A deeper look into the tour**

The students got an insightful run through of the weapons, with the favourites being the STEYR Aug and the AL 92 sniper rifle. The students were also shown the MOWAG piranha heavy cavalry vehicle, and were even lucky enough to step inside and take a seat to experience the high tech appliances inside such as the thermal scoped camera, night vision camera and the 360 degree gun on top.

Lastly, a massive heartfelt thank you to all in Óglaigh Na hÉireann who were extremely welcoming and helpful, were so generous to take us in and to allow us to ask questions and provided the students with useful information and details about the Defence Forces. They have definitely turned a few heads among the participating fourth years, and we wouldn't be surprised if there are future applications coming through in 2027 and onwards from students in CBC

- Charlie O'Brien



# COMMISSIONER IN TIMES OF FLUX AND FEAR

European Union Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection, Michael McGrath, has been given a challenging brief by EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. In times of volatility in world politics, Commissioner McGrath was put under the spotlight by his son, **Ronan McGrath**.



European Union Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection, Michael McGrath (2024 - 2029)

Who inspired you to get into politics, and at what age did you start to consider Politics a suitable career for you?

When I was in school, history was my favourite subject, in part because I had a wonderful teacher. I enjoyed learning about Ireland's history, and this helped to inspire me to take an interest in current affairs. My parents were not involved in politics at all, but they did encourage my siblings and myself to take an interest in the world around us.

In what ways can we encourage young people to embrace a life and career in politics?

I think the focus should be on encouraging young people to take an interest in issues first of all, and the interest in politics will follow, because politics is how you bring about change. Many young people think politics is boring, but politicians make decisions that impact young people all the time including in areas such as education, transport, sports facilities, job creation, the regulation of social media, the age you can drive a car and vote and so much more.

Will you miss local and national politics due to your involvement in the European Commission?

I have been a public representative in Cork - at a local or national level - for 25 years and I have enjoyed it immensely. I will now continue to serve the public but in a different way and on a different stage. Cork will continue to be home, and I will remain as involved in my community and in public life generally in Ireland as much as possible.

How does your work differ in the European Commission compared to your work in the Dáil?

I was honoured to serve as a TD since 2007 and spent four years as a senior Minister in the government here. One of the main differences in my work is the scale of its impact. The EU has a population of 450 million compared to Ireland's 5 million. As an EU Commissioner, I will have an opportunity to bring forward and implement policies that impact 27 different countries in the EU. This is an extraordinary opportunity to have. I will be working very closely with the European Parliament and with the member states.

## “THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF UKRAINE MUST BE CENTRAL TO ANY PEACE DEAL NEGOTIATED WITH RUSSIA”

Commissioner McGrath speaking on the war in Ukraine

What are your views and opinions on global conflict such as the war in Gaza, the ongoing invasion in Ukraine and Trump's recent election as the President in the US?

The world has become much more volatile and fragmented which means the role of

the EU as an advocate for peace, democracy and multilateralism is more important than ever before. For the sake of the world, the EU and the US need to work together, and I hope this good relationship will continue under the Trump presidency. The EU will continue to support Ukraine for as long as it takes because we cannot allow Russia to win, and the EU will do all that it can to bring about peace in the Middle East.

Can you describe your new role in the EU and what are your responsibilities?

My title is very long! I am the EU Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law, and Consumer Protection. It is a very broad portfolio which will keep me busy. I am responsible for the justice system across the EU, upholding democracy and ensuring member states respect the rule of law. I am in charge of consumer protection for all citizens in the EU, and also data protection. I will have to ensure that media freedom is protected and that all member states have free and fair elections. I will be dealing with the big tech companies on a lot of issues, and I have asked to help ensure that the single economic market can be fully accessed by all businesses.

What would a typical day in the life for you on a normal working day in Brussels?

I am writing this at the end of my first full day in office! To become an EU Commissioner, I had to do a huge amount of preparation and I had to pass a confirmation hearing in the European Parliament where I was questioned for 3

and a half hours by MEPs (Members of the European parliament). I went to my office in the Commission Headquarters in the Berlaymont at 8am this morning and met my staff. I had to participate in two meetings in the European Parliament on plans to strengthen the rights of victims of crime and on improving criminal justice cooperation. I then met some officials from an Irish government department to discuss consumer protection and company law, and worked in my office until 9pm reading and preparing for a busy day of meetings tomorrow.



In Brussels, President Michael Schmid met with Commissioner Michael McGrath to discuss joint work delivering justice across borders and promoting the rule-of-law.

What are your opinions on the increase in support for right wing parties over the last number of years?

This has been a trend in Europe in recent years and we do have to carefully consider why it is happening. Why is it that people are attracted to the far right? In some countries, it seems to have a lot to do with

attitudes to immigration and a view that the State has become too involved in many parts of life. While I respect the democratic mandate of everyone who has been elected, it is important that we stand up for all the founding values of the European Union

## WORKING 9 TO 5

Archie Jones recounts his week's work experience

Dear Diary,  
Monday brought the start of the next step in my life as soon as I walked through the doors of Musgraves Retailer. I was eager to learn and see how everything operates in a professional working environment. The team was welcoming as they brought me and ten other Transition Year students through the warehouses to show us how the normal working day was like for the many workers. These workers were in charge of managing stock and loading trucks that would be sent off to most stores across Ireland.

Tuesday was very similar as we were given another tour of the warehouses from the IT side of it as we learnt who told the workers what to do and how they received their instructions. It was very technical how things operated but the workers managed to make it look like they did things with ease. After the tour we were given a presentation on Musgraves' website that provided staff with information required for their jobs. I also got to learn more about fellow Transition Year students who were very friendly and were great to talk to.

I was very impressed with Wednesday as we were given a brief course on how to record analytic data from store sales and waste before we presented it clearly on different charts.

The day ended with us taking a case study and our task was to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in a scenario. We were then invited to share our thoughts on what we would do as teenagers in a given situation.

I would say the best was saved till last because on the Friday of my work experience in Musgraves we learnt about how they promote advertisements for Supervalu and Centra and how much they cost to make and whether they were successful. We finished the day with store design which was very interesting as we learnt about the store layouts across Ireland. This included a quick tour of the Centra located beside Musgraves. Before we left, we were presented with a Certificate of Completion and a One4All gift card for the work we put in during the week.

I really had a good time and am looking forward to my next week of work experience in April.

- Archie Jones

# “TRANSITION YEAR GIVES US SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO TRY NEW THINGS”

The plethora of workshops can help teach us important skills we might need, and work experience can help us to decide what career we wish to pursue. I came into this academic year thinking I would make the most of it and sign up for every opportunity I was given, but the last thing I expected to be doing this year was to be preparing to go to China.

With all of the recent international discourse on China, mostly originating from the US, I was interested to see for myself what it was actually like there. Over the past few years the attitude towards China has deteriorated, one of the main pieces of evidence for this was the temporary suspension of 'TikTok' in America.

Although it only lasted for a couple of hours, it proved how distrustful the US government is of China as the States seem to have a fear that China is gathering data on the people. It may just be another lie created by Donald Trump (one of the first to propose the ban) or a genuine fear, but US federal agencies have made China out to be a danger or a pariah to the rest of the world.

Although not unfamiliar to intercontinental travel, **Ronan Hayes** writes about his expectations for a unique trip to one of the largest cities in the world.

A city that over 24 million people call home: Shanghai, the “melting pot of culture.”



Photos - Charlie Liang

This year I have been chosen to go to Shanghai on a cultural trip with eighteen other Transition Year students, two of whom attend CBC. For two weeks we will experience the culture, learn the language and meet the people. The trip is organised by UCC through the Confucius Institute. The C.I. has strong connections to schools in China and runs many events that promote Chinese heritage in Ireland. They also work with primary and secondary schools to help teach the Chinese language.

For someone who lives in Ireland, China seems like a whole different world.

I've been to many countries in Europe as well as America but none of them seem to compare with this giant economy in the Far East. Even with the internet that connects the whole world, it is rare to see any news, social media posts or movies originating from China. They are so disconnected from us which is what makes this trip so exciting; it provides an opportunity to experience things in a culture so different to ours.

The food, history and art are all so different from anything in the West, and on top of it we will be in Shanghai, the largest city in the world.



With a population of over twenty four million people, the city alone makes Ireland look tiny. Shanghai is a melting pot of both eastern and western cultures while also being a major hub for cutting-edge technology. It's unlike any other city on the planet.

I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to go to Shanghai and will try to make the most of my time while I am there, learning and experiencing as much as I can.

I am sure the lifelong memories I make there will leave a lasting impact on me.

- Ronan Hayes

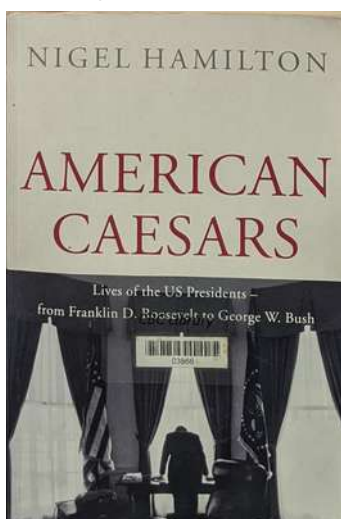


## DONALD. J. TRUMP - "THE SHEPHERD OF MODERN CIVILISATION"

Truth be told ... for once

Many people mistakenly believe that President Trump's 'Project 2025' marks the end of the American "democracy" and "freedom" in America, as if they had any to begin with. I wholeheartedly believe Trump will launch America into a new golden age, as evidenced from the incredibly important issues he's already tackling, such as the economic annexation of nearly all countries allied with the USA, the renaming of the Gulf of Mexico, to the Gulf of America (like the judicious man said, 'It's got a nice ring to it') and the opportunity of a military annexation of Greenland and the Panama canal.

Much like the world conquering Ancient Romans, a Modern US Empire expanding eastwards could just be the thing this world needs at the moment, why stop at Greenland - continuing to progress to Iceland and then even the British and Irish Isles! Arguably we will all be better off in Trump's world, especially our brethren along the west coast. An 'Atlantic Way Riviera' would surely be the signal to back off for the evil dictators of today that need to be stopped. And there's plenty of space for more stars on that flag anyway for a more united global alliance



"You know, I'm, like, a smart person."  
- Donald Trump

The word 'Caesars' is reminiscent of the pizza chain as well as Trump's glorious imperialistic dream.

Unfortunately, as stated before, many individuals feel concerned with where Trump's focus lies, such as him virtually ignoring the recent Los Angeles wildfires, where he chose to blame the 'left' and the 'climate activists' instead of actually doing anything, seems to me those impoverished Californians are simply too afraid to take any action themselves, letting their supposed "City of Angels" burn to the ground.

Individuals such as Prime Minister and Governor-in-waiting maybe someday Justin Trudeau of Canada have outwardly and harshly spoken against the gracious suggestion of Canada's incorporation into the United States as the 51st state, stating "There isn't a snowball's chance in hell that Canada would become part of the United States.". The fact that in today's 'civilised' society, politicians respond so demandingly to a small suggestion of forced occupation truly says buckets about the state of the modern world.

Going on from this, since his inauguration, Trump has withdrawn America from the World Health Organisation. A rational, thorough decision made by all. After all, why would America - a country already notable high cost of healthcare access such as Medicaid and Medicare pay a significant amount towards WHO when other countries pay significantly less - Ultan McCarthy

### MCDONALDS WEEPS IN MY PRECENSE

I have frequently been asked by associates of mine if I bought my burgers from a shop when I send them pictures of my concoctions, and they always seem confused when I tell them I made it myself. To inflate my ego further I have chosen to take this comment as a compliment that I truly am an amazing cook and so I am here today to share my recipe for a decent burger. I wholly hope you enjoy my burger - and if you're anything like me, and I know I am - you will!

# WAR AND CEASEFIRE: ACTIONS AND IDEOLOGIES AMID TRUCES AND TERROR IN PALESTINE

The situation in Gaza and the rest of Palestine has been devastating for many decades, most recently in the past 531 days. Palestine had been under heavy Israeli fire after Hamas' October 7th 2023 attack against Israel, with between 45,000 and 65,000 Palestinians killed throughout the retaliation.

After talks led by the US, Egypt and Qatar, a ceasefire was announced on 15 January 2025.

What did it mean for Hamas' military rule in Gaza? They remained in power. What did it mean for the USA, with their regional interests? They retained power. What did it mean for the Israeli Defence Force's (IDF's) power in the Middle East? They remained in power.

On 7 October 2023, Hamas, the military organisation of Gaza launched an offensive against Israel targeting its southern military installations in retaliation to numerous genocides since 1967. Israel responded with a 471-day attack on Palestinian lands, including areas in the West Bank (where Hamas does not operate) until the ceasefire. While certain Western media corporations hasten to antagonise Hamas' actions and immediately assume Israel has the right to vengeance, they ignore key points that show Hamas - and consequently Palestinians - in a different light.

Who are their enemies? If their enemies are the innocent people of Palestine, ranging from a newborn who knows nothing about politics to a farmer who has nothing to do with politics, then, yes, enemies do exist in the Middle East.



Protest at Shibuya Crossing, Tokyo

Photo - Charlie Liang

If freedom is defined as a more than 50-year oppressive regime that has killed thousands for its survival, then, yes, there is "freedom" in the Middle East. If there is a "democracy" in which free speech against it is labelled as anti-semitism, then, yes, there is a democracy in the Middle East. This essay itself could be construed as anti-semitic. I can fully agree with this if I have been disrespectful to Jewish beliefs, but the term has become a misnomer for any call for justice against the far-right ideology of Zionism.

To justify the actions of both the IDF and Hamas if they are committing war crimes is impossible. However, it is also impossible to equate the actions of Hamas with the atrocities committed on the Palestinians, including torturing hostages to death. Even after a tense yet truly clear ceasefire, Israel continued its onslaught against Palestinians even after the fragile truce.

For example, the BBC has a list of the remaining detainees still held by Hamas, with accompanying accounts of their treatment. One detainee stated that it was as if they were "in a horror movie". Ezzedine Al-Haddad, a member of Hamas' military council, stated that Hamas has treated their prisoners "humanely, following Islamic teachings" (Anatolia Agency). This claim has not been refuted by many Western news media channels.

Because of my own Islamic faith, there seemed to be a direct causative thought process that an Islamic military group in the Middle East launching an attack had something to do with me. I explained that Hamas does not hold the right to attribute their actions to Islam if they contradict Islamic teachings. For example, if Hamas kills any non-belligerent, including women or children, they are the ones at fault and not the Islamic faith that prohibits this.

In some of many instances, Israel killed four Palestinians as the first phase of the truce ended. A Palestinian man with Down's Syndrome was assaulted by Israeli soldiers. This is not a "war" between Israel and Hamas, as is painted by some Western media, in which people happen to be in the crossfire; it is a blatant hatred and cruelty towards people who have any affiliation with what has become of the word "Palestine".

All of a sudden, Israel broke the truce recently on 18 March 2025 when negotiations with Hamas allegedly stalled (CFR). Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu blames Hamas for using the Palestinians as "human shields". Gaza medics reported that more than 400 people (Council on Foreign Relations) were killed, most being women and children. The Israeli military also voiced that it was prepared to continue and would expand beyond air strikes. To be frankly honest, Israel only has a few more new tactics to try, including a total killing spree through the ruined country or simply nuclear weapons. As discussed previously, a baby or a disabled man cannot act as a human shield - it therefore stands that Israel is targeting Palestinians as a whole for their ethnic cleansing of the region.

It is heartless to accept the deaths of innocent people on any side in any war, no matter their ethnicity. It is also heartless not to respond to oppression with justice. The ceasefire existed as a brittle peace, but who holds Israel accountable for their actions, not just for shattering the truce, but for decades of death and destruction?

-- Muhammad Raed Naseer

## ACHIEVING "ARBEJDSBALANCE"

Burnout, stress and exhaustion have slowly become wrongly accepted in Irish workplaces. Employees are worked to the bone each day in order to hit targets and the wellbeing of employees is all too often cast to the side as a mere inconvenience. This not only leads to health problems for workers but is also encouraging young workers to move abroad - brain drain. In Denmark though, it's the opposite: employees' hours are flexible and their bosses trust them to get their work done, even if it's not during conventional working hours. Employees therefore have time to manage their personal lives as well as their health, creating a more productive workforce. Here's what we can learn from the Danes:

The most important thing is trust. Bosses, CEOs and managers don't attempt to micromanage their employees. As one worker told the BBC, "Bosses aren't coming in to check if you put in eight or nine hours, as they mainly care if you completed your projects." In many Irish companies, a hierarchical managerial system is the standard, but in Denmark, this type of system is of little importance.

This relaxed atmosphere allows Danes to enjoy their work thoroughly, with almost 60% of Danes saying that if they won the lottery, they would continue to work.

Bosses are bossy - it's part of the job... or is it? In western culture we tend to almost revere our bosses and often caulk in the presence of CEOs or other important figures. On the contrary, when people travel to Denmark to work, many baulk at the casual manner in which employees address their bosses, and their peers. Workers often insult, or joke about their managers, even to their face and they are not afraid to stand up for themselves. This creates a relaxed working environment where it is easy to challenge ideas and enjoy your work leading to Danes enjoying a more balanced life with less stress in the workplace.

This leads onto the third aspect of Danish work that we should try to emulate: how much we work. According to an OECD report, Denmark has the second shortest working week, second only to the Netherlands, with the Danes coming in and around 32 hours.

"What can we learn from the Danish way of doing work?", asks **Harry Walsh**



Rush Hours

This contrasts countries like America with 38 hours, and we fall in at around 36 hours. However, the number of hours worked per week is likely to drop soon, with areas such as the oddshered municipality where a four-day working week has been introduced. These shorter hours allowed Danes to spend 66% of their day during whatever they please, a figure that is undeniably appealing.

So how can we implement any of this? There is no one easy answer for this. To achieve more trust in workplaces (a larger societal movement), and being more honest with our bosses is not as simple as telling people to speak their mind and shortening working hours. This will likely cause backlash from corporations whom Ireland relies so heavily on. This is one of the main disadvantages of the Danish system: capitalism and profit is not maximized. As one Danish social scientist said, "We are not as innovative as the US but we are happier". I think that this simple sentence is a sentence that Irish people should pause to consider. We only live for an average of 80 years; don't sacrifice your entire life for some rich person's sake. Enjoy your life, find the little ways to be more Danish. Maybe don't stay back for "just" half an hour to finish that project or send those few emails. Maybe the next time you have a problem with your boss, just tell them - get it off your chest. I guarantee that from personal experience, little changes like these will make you feel more at ease in your life. After all, there is a reason that Denmark is one of the happiest countries in the world.

Recipe:

1. Firstly, every burger needs a sort of glue to hold it together, after all no one likes a flimsy sandwich that falls apart in your hands. So you may vary these ingredients but my core ingredients are as follows - 1 cup of mayo, 2 tbsp of ketchup and pickles (diced), 1/2 an onion (diced and caramelised), 2 tsp of paprika, salt and juice from the pickle jar for a tangy addition.  
2. Many people don't know how to caramelize onions and so, along with an

additional 2 onions for an actual burger topping, put your diced onions in a pan with a dash of olive oil at a low heat and leave to cook for about 30-40 minutes, stirring periodically. Then dash a few spoonfuls of sugar over the onions and after a further 5 minutes - you should have nice browned and sticky caramelised onions.  
3. Now you should grill your burger buns so they don't get soggy against the patty juices and the sauce. Toasting them in a

them in a buttered pan for a few minutes until golden brown should suffice for this.  
4. Most importantly, your patties are next. If you have premade patties that's fine, but, if you're using ground beef, roll it into balls and squish said balls until they are 20% wider than your burger buns as the patties shrink significantly while cooking. Then into a buttered pan at a medium heat until both sides are nice, brown and crispy.  
5. I recommend stacking two patties on

top of each other with a slice of american cheese in between each - and then leaving in a covered pan at a low heat for 3-4 mins for the cheese to melt over the meat, and to stick both patties together.  
6. Next you should wash your lettuce and tomatoes and any other topping you want on the burger - slice and dice - and there you have it, your burger spread is ready to stack.  
- Ultan McCarthy



# THE RIGHT-WING GLOBAL SHIFT

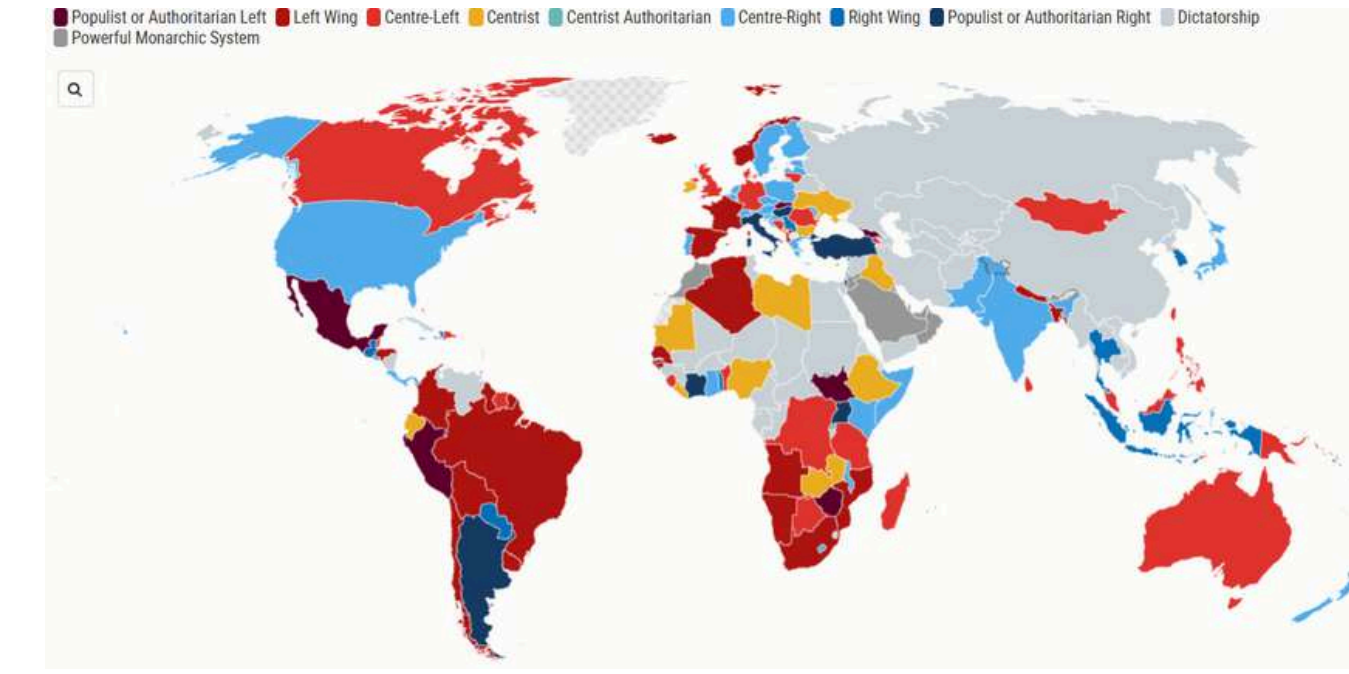
## Youth of today caught in a 'Conservative Wave' argues Cathal Lyons

The right-wing political earthquake is reshaping the landscapes of modern governance, affecting younger generations. The rise of right-wing political parties has become a global phenomenon, catching people's attention and, in particular, it has serious implications for our youth.

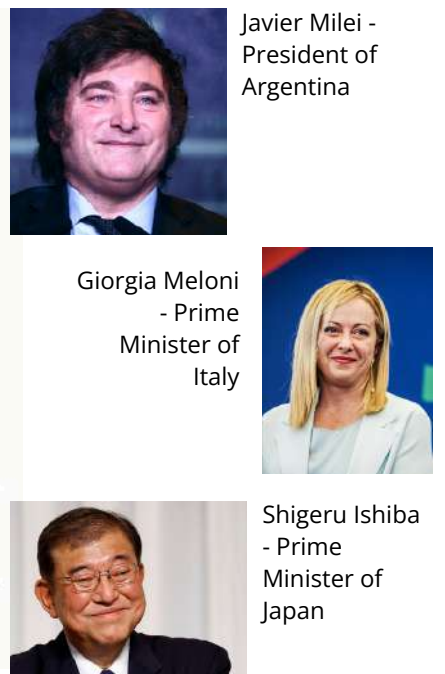
Gen Z is predominantly in favour of policies that combat climate change, inequality and disharmony and wishes to be a force for good in the world. Unfortunately, that has become much harder in recent years as right-wing governments primarily focus on economic stability and growth rather than address legislation that can tackle key issues for the youth and the planet.

The January 6 insurrection on the U.S. Capitol highlights the devastating consequences of extreme conservative leadership in the States. After losing the 2020 election to Joe Biden (who, remember, won the popular vote by over 7 million votes) Donald Trump incited a riot on the Capitol, falsely claiming widespread election fraud. Biden secured approximately 81.3 million votes (51.3% of the total), while Trump received 74.2 million votes (46.8%). Despite this clear defeat, Trump's dark rhetoric misled his supporters, pushing them into committing an unforgettable and irreversible crime, resulting in death, injury and significant damage to US democratic institutions.

Under conservative leadership, young people face a growing economic divide, with rising costs and lower earnings making it harder to build wealth or achieve financial independence. Unlike previous generations, people in their 20s and 30s, primarily, grapple with lower wages, skyrocketing rents and mounting student debt, all of which severely limits their ability to secure housing or save for the future. Meanwhile, conservative government has prioritized the financial security of older, wealthier generations through policies like triple-lock pensions, ensuring their benefits rise each year while largely neglecting the economic challenges that young people face. The Conservative Tory government in the U.K. ruled for 14 years before losing to Labour in 2024, and left younger generations struggling financially. Wages for those under 30 barely increased during the Johnson et al era, while rent in Britain has risen nearly 50% in the last decade. At the same time student debt has soared to an average of £40,000, putting an immense financial burden on graduates and limiting their opportunities. The average home price hit £286,000 in 2023, making it nearly impossible for people in their 20s and 30s to buy a home. This created widespread frustration and a growing sense of hopelessness among the youth toward the Conservative party in the UK. How much longer can we ignore scientists' warnings? By failing to act decisively, conservative leaders are not



The Political Structure Map of the World as of 2025



Some new right wing world leaders:

only neglecting their duty to protect the planet but condemning today's youth to worsening environmental problems.

If we don't act now, can we expect younger generations to survive in an increasingly inhospitable world? As Barack Obama said: "We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it."

Will Hutton points out the stark contrast between the inaction of conservative governments in the West and China's proactive approach to clean energy, like solar power and electric vehicles. While the US and UK hold back progress

China is gearing up to lead the green energy sector, paving the way for sustainable growth. It is time western nations see the climate crisis not just as an environmental issue but as a huge economic opportunity. By sticking to fossil fuels, conservative policies are putting younger generations at a disadvantage. Meanwhile, China is setting up its youth to thrive in a green economy. Shouldn't we be doing the same?

In conclusion, the failure of conservative parties to address climate change, economic inequality, and the erosion of democratic values is not just a policy oversight—it is a betrayal of future generations. By prioritising short-term

gains, they are leaving young people with an environmental crisis, and deepening inequality.

Now is the time to unite together, as one big voice globally, and create a better world in which future generations can live safely and live a life of economic freedom, environmental freedom, and social freedom.

- Cathal Lyons

# THAT THIS HOUSE PREFERS A WEAK DEMOCRACY OVER A STRONG DICTATORSHIP

CBC Debating Society (est. 1911) Prospering with TY Students

### CHARLIE LIANG - PROPOSITION

With our rights maintained and voices heard, our future potential is unlimited, but in the opposition's world, a dark path without hope lies ahead. And hope is what is necessary to be in the heart of the people, for a prospering society, for the wellbeing of our people. Today, I will be addressing one single main point of the difference between a democracy and dictatorships that lead to different futures.

Fundamentally, in a democracy, even in a weak one, people's basic human rights of presenting and hearing voices are being maintained at a level, and there are also levels of voices being heard. This is the fundamental structure of civil liberty in a democracy, which presents more potential in improvement. This is crucial because it determines the direction of governing is still in line with the will of the people.

The opposition today will tell you that the flaws of a democracy will be significantly magnified, especially when it is considered to be weak. We will not deny that fact, but that does not have an impact on the mechanism of a democracy, and most importantly, hope is maintained in the society.

In addition, this means that people's minds are still free, which is necessary for the public to have the ability and means to improve unsatisfactory situations. As a result activists and politicians can emerge in society. And this will never occur in the opposition's world when politics is a forbidden area for the people.

When people's human rights are threatened on different levels, this is more likely to occur in a strong dictatorship. More importantly, people's voices are not being heard and respected, causing less information being transferred and fewer situations being addressed. This is crucial, especially when the people are not even aware of this. In the opposition's view, they want their people to be manipulated, and even being satisfied with it.

In a strong dictatorship, people are most likely to remain outside of politics. This is due to their lack of hope in the society, and this societal structure will cause them to doubt their ability of achieving any changes through political means. Opposition today will tell you that a strong dictatorship will be able to avoid corruption. But, in reality, strong dictatorships always started ideally, and go on an inevitable path towards a different story, a well known story learned through history. This is the greatest weakness of dictatorship which is only magnified by a strong dictatorship.

In a democratic world, people's minds are free, and more importantly, despite having a small stage, there is still a platform to express their thoughts and beliefs. Despite being weak and not as efficient, we're still in moving in the right direction, a direction determined by our people, towards development and improvement.

- Charlie Liang

### CHARLIE COAKLEY - OPPOSITION

I want every single person in this room to imagine a world where every single day you wake up in fear, where you spend every single second of your life worrying because you can't feel safe in your own country. This sounds dramatic, but the reality is that this is what we are debating here today, the everyday wellbeing of the people, this and the next generation. While Proposition claims that any resemblance to dictatorship is a hellish death sentence and the only way to save ourselves from this is through the golden glistening gates of democracy, this couldn't be further from the truth.

This is proven by the two main factors of today's debate: who has better representation of citizens, and who receives greater benefits from their form of government? While Opposition easily wins the latter, people will assume point one favours the Proposition.

By looking at the principles of



Charlie Coakley, the Recording Secretary of the Society (left), Ms Isabel Calvert, the Society Patron (centre), Charlie Liang, Senior Member (right)

democracy, we see that the very idea of a democratic state is oppressive. The State can make laws that determine your every move in life, spread propaganda to manipulate you into buying into these laws and, if you don't agree with these laws, they can lock you in a 25 square foot room. So why is this idea so widely accepted? It's because democracy allows the people to maintain agency over the State through their vote. The reality, however, is that this only works in an ideal world.

It only takes a few seconds to search and see that this is not the case even in the "most free" country in the world: the USA. What ends up happening in this weak democracy? The reality is that corruption will inventively sneak in, suddenly the state that was meant to act on the undying will of the people is only concerned with the big wig corporate bourgeoisie, never mind the single mother with a baby to feed. This can and will lead to one thing and one thing only: polarisation, and therefore a worse quality of life. Politicians have ways of gaining vote shifts from good policy to villainising their opponents, allowing them to slide more self-serving policies under the rug filling their giant pockets even deeper, while the people allowing all of this to happen are arguing over who's red and who is blue.

Proposition will say that surely this is the case in dictatorships. Yes, the Opposition concedes that there have been many dictators who have and do put themselves first, but under today's motion we do not have to stand with these dictators as we do

not believe that they are strong dictators. By very definition they are corrupt (putting personal needs above those of the people) and therefore are not strong as they do not maintain the will of the people.

A strong dictatorship is set up like a pyramid with, sure, the few at the top calling the shots but relying on the lower levels to maintain structure and strength. In dictatorships these lower levels are the people, whether it is the military, the farmers, the bankers - whoever! For any strong dictatorship to function it must have the backing of the people, and therefore the one leg the Proposition has to stand on (freedom and will of the people) has been swept out from beneath them. This implies that opposition not only win on the benefits and efficiency of the government but also representation of the people

If you want a world where people are polarised into Red versus Blue, Catholic versus Protestant, vote proposition. If you want a world that masks itself as free, while being as corrupt as the very worst of dictatorships, vote proposition. But if you want a world with peace, not focused on gaining votes but providing the best possible country, then I couldn't have made it more clear that Opposition is the side for you. Opposition take freedom, Opposition take efficiency, and Opposition take the very people this debate affects into account.

- Charlie Coakley



# THE BEST IN BOOKS ...

## ... ONE REVIEW AT A TIME

For the younger generations reading is becoming less popular. With the rise of technology social media has taken over from reading for a lot of people. It's unfortunate as books can provide such a unique experience, they can tell stories more vivid than any movie and provide an escape from reality. Biographies can describe a person's life story and fiction can tell a story right out of someone's imagination, some books are used for political purposes, however on that subject I agree with Yann Martel when he said, 'Books are too precious and wonderful to be used ... in such a fashion.'

For this reason the transition year class of Mr Newman was tasked with reading a novel. Every English class student would get five to ten minutes to read and when they got home they would read in their own time. The response was great from the students, it gave them a break in their busy school days and pushed them to start reading more books, which might not have happened with all the distractions there are in our daily lives. Once everyone had finished their novel, we wrote our own reviews.

- Ronan Hayes

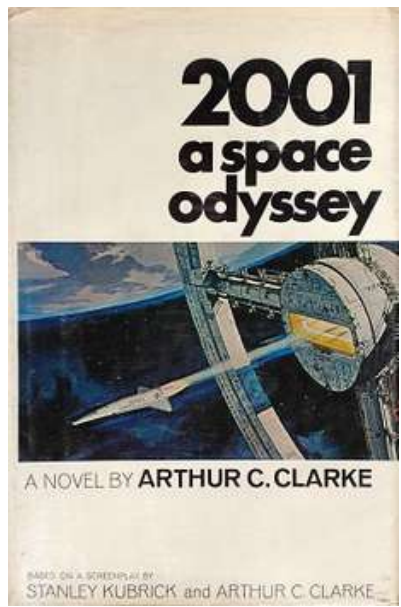
**"It's true, too, that I'm tired of using books as political bullets and grenades.**

**Books are too precious and wonderful to be used ... in such a fashion"**

**- Yann Martel**



## THE REVIEWS

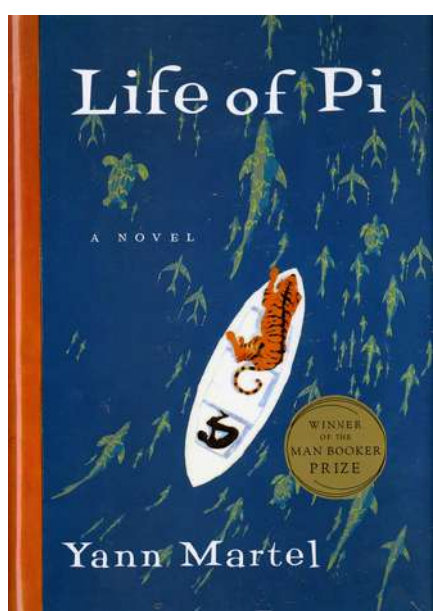


**"I'm sorry, Dave. I'm afraid I can't do that."**  
- HAL 9000

Book Title: 2001 A Space Odyssey  
Author: Arthur C. Clarke

Critique:  
In "2001 A Space Odyssey", Arthur C. Clarke proposes his own answer towards the past, present and future of humanity. The timeline of the plot expands from millions of years ago to the beginning of the 21st century. With Clarke's extraordinary imagination and the application of his unique narrative and aesthetic writing in the genre of science fiction, this book continues to explore the unknown for the reader and exceed their expectations. Clarke also creates a prosperous humanity with his own optimistic hope towards global cooperation after the cold war

Student Name: Charlie Liang



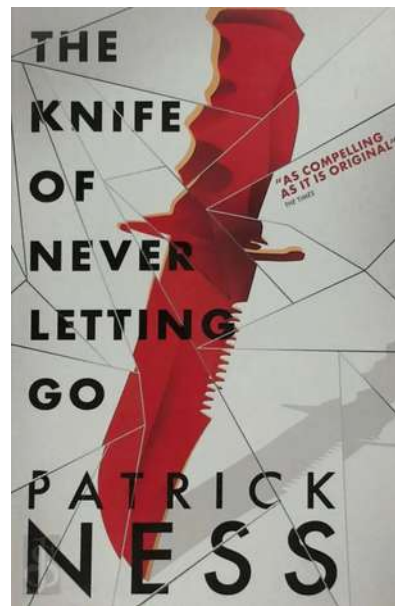
**"I must say a word about fear. It is life's only true opponent. Only fear can defeat life."**

- Piscine Molitor Patel

Book Title: The Life Of Pie  
Author: Yann Martel

Critique:  
This novel conveys the story of a boy named Pi. The book starts in India where Pi's family owns a zoo and discusses Pi's experiences with religion. Next the family moves, or tries to move to Corada, but the ship sinks leaving Pi as the only survivor except for a collection of animals from their zoo. The rest of the novel focuses on how Pi survived and how religion affects the things he does to survive. Overall I think this is a very good book that covers interesting themes like survival and religion.

Student name: Rory Lane

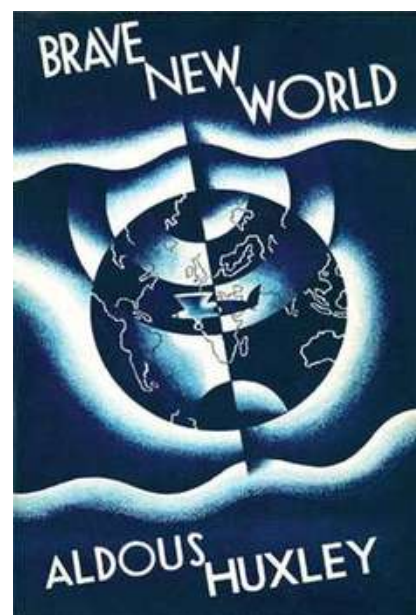


**"The Noise is a man unfiltered, and without a filter, a man is just chaos walking."**  
- Todd Hewitt

Book Title: The Knife Of Never Letting Go  
Author: Patrick Ness

Critique:  
This is an original and exciting story. The language used is engaging and descriptive which creates a very interesting world. It is also accessible as it is written from the point of view of a teenager. The characters are well written and there is a lot of development of the main character throughout the book. Overall I found this book very enjoyable but in some parts it was too slow and became slightly boring to read.

Student name: Ronan Hayes

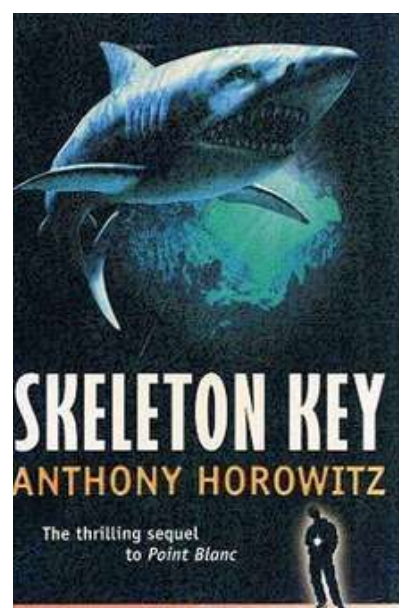


**"O brave new world, that has such people in it!"**  
- John "The Savage"

Book Title: Brave New World  
Author: Aldous Huxley

Critique:  
*Brave New World* is a dystopian science-fiction novel written in 1932 warning against material progress and the dehumanizing effects of science used to control the human mind. Set in a future where genetic engineering produces specially designed humans, the story follows Bernard Marx, who seeks meaning beyond the World State's enforced happiness through drugs, sex, and synthetic entertainment. His journey leads to John "The Savage," who represents the remnants of human emotion, art, and spirituality, such as Shakespeare and Christianity. John's initial fascination with the World State's "civilisation" turns to repulsion as he confronts its ideals of "Community, Identity, Stability" and its destruction of history, art, and individuality. The novel is immersive and thought-provoking, detailing the World State's

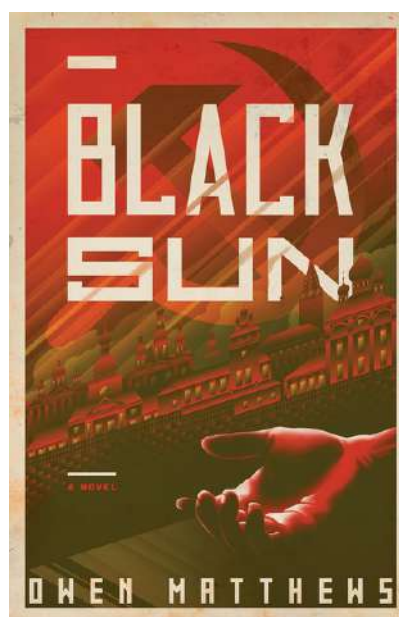
social system and government, which maintains control by ensuring citizens' happiness and ignorance, erasing humanity's cultural and emotional depth. John stands out as the only character that values truth, beauty, and human emotions, with his moral standards highlighting the devolution of this dystopian world.  
Student name: Ultan McCarthy



**"You don't stop playing because you grow old; you grow old because you stop playing."**  
- General Alexei Sarov

Book Title: Alex Rider: Skeleton Key  
Author: Anthony Horowitz

Critique:  
Alex Rider: *Skeleton Key* is an action-packed, thrilling novel written by Anthony Horowitz. It follows a teenage superspy who is recruited by MI6. On a private island in Cuba, a crazy Russian "General Sarov" is hatching explosive plans and Alex must stop him. I really enjoyed this novel. I thought it was well-written with very accessible language and it was very entertaining. I would recommend this book to people between the ages of 14 and 18.  
Student name: Shane Kavanagh



**"The truth is not always the same as the facts."**  
- Lev Sergeyevich Termen

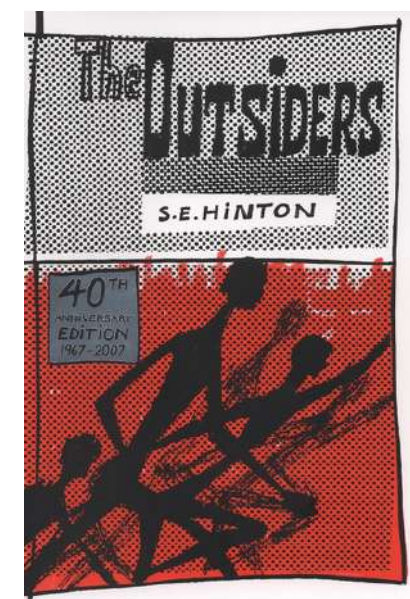
Book Title: Black Sun  
Author: Owen Matthews

Critique:  
This novel is set in the USSR during the Cold War, in 1961. Comrade Major Alexander Vasin, a member of Special Cases of the KGB, is dispatched from Moscow to Arzamas, a city that supposedly does not exist. Arzamas is the city where the RDS-220, a huge thermonuclear bomb, is being developed to outcompete the USA in nuclear superiority. Vasin is there to investigate the death of Fyodor Petrov, a scientist

working on the bomb who had reportedly committed suicide by ingesting thallium. As Vasin is suspicious of the factuality of the death cause, he investigates extensively throughout Arzamas, putting his own life at risk, questioning key suspects. He interrogates a wide cast of characters, from Vladimir Alexrod, Petrov's close colleague to the last person to see Petrov alive, Colonel Korin all the way in the Arctic in order to uncover the mysteries surrounding Petrov's suicide.

Matthews' intricate details of Soviet Russia, ranging from the setting of the mysterious Arzamas with its municipal gardens and well-known buildings, and Olenya with the polar mirage and freezing conditions, to the colloquial language of the time, to the personalities of the people shaped by communist rule, make this novel very enjoyable for me. It is as if I were present in those moments due to its factual accuracy. I especially admire the seamless blend between true science and crime, which I do not find often in many books, as these are either categorised separately due to a genre division, or the science depicted appears to be far-fetched. Despite my dislike of foul speech and immoral motives, overall, I found this novel a cleverly-crafted and historically relevant narrative. I would recommend this novel to teenage boys who are interested in reading about crime and history as it involves an interesting description of the situation during the Cold War, where violence and distrust prevail. It is, however, unsuitable for younger audiences as it contains scenes of death, bad language and evil personalities and actions attributed to the characters.

Student Name: Muhammad Raed Naseer



**"Stay gold, Ponyboy. Stay gold."**  
- Johnny Cade

Book Title: The Outsiders  
Author: S.E. Hinton

Critique:  
*The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton is a classic novel that delves into the lives of two rival gangs, the Greasers and the Socs, in 1960's Oklahoma. The story follows Ponyboy Curtis, a Greaser, who struggles with societal labels and expectations. As tensions rise between the two rival gangs, themes of friendship, loyalty and the struggle for identity come to the forefront. Through the eyes of Ponyboy the novel explores the challenges of adolescence, the impact of socio-economic differences and the search for belonging in a divided world.  
Student name: Ben Herlihy



**"If it's hostile, you kill it."**  
- Hunter

Book Title: Metro 2033  
Author: Dmitry Glukhovsky

Critique:  
The year is 2033, the world and humanity have been almost wiped out by nuclear war. Now, only a small handful who are left make their home in the Moscow underground, the world's largest air raid shelter. These people live in a world without tomorrow, a world without hope or dreams. Metro 2033 is a compelling and gripping post-apocalyptic horror novel in which you see this bleak world through the eyes of Artyom, a young inhabitant of VDNKh, the northernmost station. The station has been secure for 20 years now; however now it faces a new threat. Monstrosities beyond human comprehension have begun to try to enter the Russian metro through their station. The inhabitants have tried their best to hold them off, but they are fighting a losing battle. Artyom is forced to journey to Polis, the world's last true city, to warn those there of the awful danger and to get help. He now has the fate of his station in his hands, and possibly all of humanity as well.

This book builds up tension and suspense; however this feeling never goes away even if the danger has passed. Sometimes nothing ever explicitly happens; however you still have a gut feeling that something is wrong. This is one of the few books that has genuinely made me feel terrified, which is very rare. As Artyom progresses through the metro, this book does a wonderful job of world building. Throughout his journey, we see many different people, all with their own goals, ideologies and wants. You will find just how brutal it is to live in this world, no one is safe, and humanity is no longer at the top of the food chain.

This book does get very philosophical despite the clear presence of nihilism throughout the novel; however, it works in its favour. As Artyom leaves his station for the first time and is forced to learn many awful things about the world around him, he begins to question what is the meaning of his life. This defeatism appears rarely throughout the novel and only happens when he is at his lowest; however it really effectively makes the reader question the motivation of the human spirit.

As a result, I believe that this is a great read and would recommend it to anyone who doesn't mind a gripping, but depressing novel that questions the human spirit and war.

Student name: Ruairi Punch



## CHRISTIAN BOYS BECOME KINGS OF COFFEE

A day as baristas offers many opportunities...

In their teenage years, many people want to get a job for so many reasons, primarily to help them gain their independence. My school knew about this and set up a very exciting and memorable course to help many people, myself included, to try to get a job.

This wonderful experience that I'm talking about is the barista course. In this course we were taught by a coffee specialist named Sam who owns quite a few coffee shops around Cork. Sam brought us to a room where he taught us the different kinds of coffee beans, what impact different beans have on the taste of the coffee and how long it should take to brew a shot of espresso.

We then went out to a coffee trailer that Sam had set up, where we each took turns to brew our own espresso shots and practice the different steps. We then had a little break to taste our own and others' coffee.

Sam then brought us back into the room to show us how to foam milk in order to make coffees such as cappuccino and lattes - it was much harder than I ever imagined. We went back to the trailer where we practised the different motions of foaming milk. When doing this you have to be very careful or you'll burn your finger, just like I did.

We then had a coffee brewing contest to see who was the best barista. The winner of the contest would be crowned the top barista in the year, a coveted title. I was up against 30 of my peers - this wouldn't be easy.

Somehow, I got through to the quarter finals but this is where it all came crashing down. When I was bringing the espresso over the machine I made the massive mistake of not looking where I was going, hitting my foot on the cabinet in front of me. I spilled my coffee and got disqualified. I was out as fast as I got in. My opponent then went on to win the competition, so I'm not too sure I was going to win at all but still it would've been nice to go out with a fight.

By the end of the course I had a great time with all my friends. This course was a very fun and informative experience. It was a great thing to have in TY as at this age you start to become more independent - it definitely helps you broaden your interests and horizons,

- Louis Kieley

## YOUTH AMBASSADORS ATTENDING ATTENTION TO ADVOCACY

Christians Boys take Geneva

Half way through my Transition Year, I was invited to take part in a Youth Ambassador programme, representing not only my school, but all of the Edmund Rice schools across the island, to do work on advocacy, on global human rights. Along with the invitation, I received the opportunity to visit Geneva, the global centre of politics, with 8 other students and teachers from other Edmund Rice schools.

Our eye-opening experience commenced by us visiting the ERI office in Geneva, where we met Br. Brian Bond, who introduced us to the work they do, and the mechanisms behind them. One of the key processes of the ERI's work is the Universal Periodic Review, when they analyse countries' record and status of human rights in their society, and propose a recommendation to the government on improving them. This complicated and laborious process seemed very inefficient to me, but Br. Brian made an analogy of

## "I ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT VALUE OF A MOMENT ONLY REVEALS ITSELF UNTIL IT BECOMES THE PAST"

Charlie Liang comments on how the CBC Misneach Team shaped his year thus far

"People often say that education isn't only about the formulae and definitions in textbooks, but more importantly teaching the next generation on how to become a better person. Among the countless opportunities I was offered during my Transition Year at CBC, the Misneach Team taught me the life lessons I would be benefiting from for the rest of my life.

To me and many others, Misneach was a mysterious group who acted like porters in the school: carrying chairs, building cribs, but the Misneach experience opened new doors for me in Transition Year, the year of my rebirth.

During the Misneach interview process, Mr. Trevor Hussey, the Team Head said that Misneach is "an opportunity to look into oneself and use what's inside to contribute to the school". I took on board Mr. Hussey's pearls of wisdom, did my interview and thankfully was awarded with a place on Misneach.

At the end of September, our "boat" of 16 crew members left the port not knowing what would be in the water ahead of us. As a young crew, we faced choppy waters; the challenges of helping to host Open Night, the Lord Mayor's Visit and Awards Night.

Charlie Liang comments on how the CBC Misneach Team shaped his year thus far



The Misneach Team 2024/2025

remember how it feels to have the weight of responsibility on my shoulders, but instead of pushing me into the ground, they became forces pushing me forward. Sixteen of us soon became a team forming a unique bond. As time passed, the phrase 'team work' became more defined.

As we approached the Christmas season, 'The Crib' gradually became a common topic of conversation. After a meeting with Mr Hussey the planning, preparation and construction of the crib became our focus. With a team of 16 members, arguments were inevitable. Different members had different ideas on the Crib,

and with every idea we had to consider the feasibility, cost, time requirement and many more aspects of the process.

Numerous obstacles emerged on the path towards the Carol Service night, but I believe the other members had the same faith as I did in completing our unique crib for the school. And the finished product only proved us right.

I've been through, and I can already see a different person from the one who emerged from the Junior Certificate exam halls. Before I began my secondary education I even considered not doing Transition Year, but, looking back at what I have learned and gained through these

previous months - internal and external coordination, confidence, and unforgettable friendships - I realise this is what education is really about, something more precious, more remarkable and more meaningful than the words I read from textbooks. I wish to say thank you to the boy hesitating at the start of September for taking this opportunity.

I always believed that value of a moment only reveals itself until it becomes the past. Therefore, the benefit of being on Misneach is unimaginable for me right now until I reach the future, but I am 100% confident that I will not regret it.

- Charlie Liang

## FROM CLASSROOM TO COACHES

Teaching the Prep school tradition - Rugby

Rugby is a huge part of life in Christians, and so students get a chance in fourth year to experience coaching younger age groups. At the end of September a coaching course was held in Lansdowne. Coaches from Munster Rugby were present, and we were taught how to coach younger groups, such as what drills to do, how to behave around them, and how to communicate well with them. The course took one full day.

The day began with learning the different laws that apply to mini rugby and other specifics for younger age groups. We then moved onto the rugby field, where we practised creating drills and warm-ups and then to finish the day there were instructions on how to present ourselves while coaching and how to properly interact with the younger players. When the course finished, everyone who attended became a qualified mini-rugby coach.

Since completing the course, we have had many opportunities to coach the CBC Preparatory School teams. The most recent was when we visited Munster's Virgin Media Park with the Prep School teams when they were playing CBC Monkstown. Some of the TY students were refereeing and others were coaching. As the game progressed, we made substitutions and helped out the players.

Since completing the course, we have taken part in many other activities with the Preparatory School, the best of which was a chance to watch the Ireland Mens rugby team play in the Aviva Stadium. A group of the students who completed the rugby course went on the bus with the Preparatory School, and it was a great day out.

Overall, the rugby coaching course was a wonderful experience; it's a great opportunity to learn how to interact with younger people, and I would highly recommend it for anyone who is interested in rugby or sport.

- Jack Long

## RETIREMENT OF TY YEAR HEAD: MRS ROSEMARY HEALY

After 39 years of faithful service to Christians - beloved year head bids her students farewell.



Mrs Healy with the 2024/25 Fourth Year Group

Since our Year Head has just retired, it's hard to imagine the next two academic years without her. Over the years, Mrs. Healy became far more than a figure of authority; she became a mentor, a leader, and a friend to countless students and staff. As we close this remarkable chapter of her career, it's time to reflect on the incredible impact she's had on the students she's worked with. Raed

As a Year Head, Mrs. Healy always made sure to check in with her students. She would review their exam results, discuss how they balanced their work and personal lives, and offer support whenever needed. Whether it was for a quick chat, a favour, or some guidance, she was always ready to help. Outside of teaching Business Studies, Mrs. Healy also taught Junior Cycle SPHE. Rather than sticking strictly to the book,

advocacy as snowflakes on a branch: when unnoticeable snowflakes pile up over time, its pressure breaks the branch eventually in the future. This was the starting point of my understanding of the word 'advocacy'. The following morning, we visited the International Museum of Red Cross and Red Crescent. The museum promotes global awareness and efforts of humanitarian aid and the improvement of human rights through various exhibitions of history, process and challenges to humanitarian efforts. I was fascinated by the interactive exhibitions presented by the museum, but more importantly by the global events where people across the world had the same noble goal.

- Charlie Liang



Mrs Healy with her Third year Business class of 2024

she chose to dive deeper into topics, often spending several lessons exploring them in detail. She had a unique ability to emphasise the importance of student well-being, particularly in areas like balancing study and personal life, leaving a lasting impression on those she taught.

Mrs Healy's remarkable qualities have left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of working with her. Her kindness and empathy were evident in every interaction she had with colleagues and students. As a natural leader, she inspired everyone around her with her motivating presence and witty attitude that always brought laughter into the classroom. Her warmth and humour made her a beloved teacher and inspired us to take on challenges ahead of us rather than to avoid them. Her dedication to causes she cared

about, especially through the Charitable Committee, made a real difference in the school community. She made a remarkable impact on young students' minds and left with a long lasting legacy of compassion, benevolence, and unwavering dedication to making the world a better place.

Overall, the values of kindness, dedication and empathy were evident in Mrs Healy, from her role as a year head and her commitment to extracurricular work. The thirty-nine years of her time at CBC are a credit to her hard work and she will be missed by many in the College. We hope she enjoys her retirement and she will always be remembered by the people she worked with and taught.

- Cathal Lyons and Muhammad Raed Naseer

## THE APPLE TRIP Taking a bite of Hollyhill

The day started with a short bus ride to Apple's Europe headquarters. The employees introduced themselves and outlined the plan for the day: a presentation on Apple's history, their plans for the future, a panel to hear personal stories on working at Apple and ending the day with an activity. Students were taught about Apple's core values, some of which include privacy, diversity, and environmental responsibility. At Apple they take these values seriously, boasting ninety different nationalities, and their Cork office is carbon neutral. Through a 'Career Panel' session, Apple employees gave students personal stories

on their journey to date with the US multinational. Students also learned about the wide range of potential employment opportunities that exist within the company, including their internship and graduate programs that give students a doorway into working for Apple. Students then took part in some activities where they learned about the many features of Apple devices, like photo and video editing. The day ended with lunch provided by the company in their canteen. Overall, it was a great day out and students learned about important skills and the many career opportunities that exist at Apple.

- Lorcan Nolan



Students in Geneva from left to right - Isaac Scallan Cotter, Josh O'Neill, Charlie Liang



# DONAL LENIHAN: THE VOICE OF IRISH RUGBY

**Brían Murphy** on why he believes that Donal Linehan is one of the most successful CBC graduates in the history of the school.

If you were to think of a voice when it comes to rugby commentary you would almost certainly think of the voice of Donal Linehan. Donal, of course, was a student in CBC and is one of our most successful and decorated of alumni to have passed through the halls of Christians College. A past pupil of St. Patrick's primary school, Donal's parents enrolled their son in first year in 1971. One of his earliest rugby memories came in this first academic year when he watched the 1972 Senior Cup final between St. Munchin's and CBC in Limerick. This moment inspired Donal to pursue rugby in an effort to eventually become one of those players paraded around the school, "a dream," he recalls, "that many young lads in Christians can relate to". Donal would go on to achieve this dream as an inspiring second row forward on the 1976 and 1977 Munster Schools' Senior Cup-winning teams. Donal remembers the team's scrum half Alex O'Regan scoring a drop goal in injury time to win the 1976 Senior Cup over arch-rivals PBC Senior Cup over arch-rivals PBC by one point before going on to captain his beloved school to a thrilling two-point win over Pres again in the 1977 decider.

An achievement that swells Donal with pride is that he never lost a competitive game in the Christians jersey during five happy years on Wellington Road. Donal would go on to enjoy a stellar career with UCC and with Cork Constitution, Munster, Ireland and the British and Irish Lions. The amiable Cork man earned his first Irish cap against Australia in 1981 and would go on to win three Five Nations titles in the Irish shirt, winning his 52nd and final cap against Wales in 1992. Donal also represented the Lions on three tours (1983, '86 and '89) captaining the combined Home Nations representative team against Australia in 1989. After his rugby playing career, Donal was installed as manager of the Ireland team and worked with successful international rugby coach, Warren Gatland. In 2000 Donal was appointed Lions manager for the 2001 tour to Australia (then World Cup holders) and worked alongside then head coach Sir Graham Henry (Henry would go on to transform New Zealand rugby, leading the Kiwis to Rugby World Cup glory in 2011). Donal's media career has been another resounding success, and today he continues to do both radio and TV commentary for RTE as well as writing a very popular and authoritative Irish

## Munster Senior Cup Winners 1977 Donal Linehan seen holding the ball



**"I never lost a game of rugby during my time at Christians"**  
- Donal Linehan

Examiner column. Often when we, as TY students, watch big games in the United Rugby Championship (URC) or the Champions Cup or one that involves an Irish team, it will be Donal in the co-commentator's booth. The same goes for the Six Nations, Autumn Nations series and World Cup games when Ireland are involved. Donal uses his vast experience as a former international player and manager to provide insightful and easily-accessible commentary for the people of Ireland. Donal's writing for the Irish Examiner is nothing short of superb; his analysis of every match is very in depth. Donal is honest in how he writes about the team performance but also

individual performances. This honest approach might not always be what the reader wants, but he is usually correct in his statements. The language Donal uses is of a high standard (take a bow Christians' English teachers!) and younger readers enjoy his columns too. I myself thoroughly enjoy reading his pieces as I often agree with what he says. In short, Donal Linehan is one of CBC's greatest alumni. Instrumental in Munster and Ireland success as player, he is changing Irish people's perspectives of the game with insightful writing and thrilling broadcast commentary. It is no wonder why I believe Donal Linehan to be the "Voice of Irish Rugby".

# DR HARTY CUP: HURLING WITH CHRISTIANS - A personal diary

The Dr Harty Cup, a prestigious competition with a decorated history. From Christians' first appearance in the inaugural post-primary Harty Cup competition in 1918 to our most recent campaign in 2025, our school has a proud history in the Harty Cup.

As a minority sport in a strong Rugby school, we have punched above our weight when it comes to the Dr Harty Cup. Reaching two out of the last six finals in the competition shows the level of work and dedication being put in by figures such as Donal O'Mahony, Tony Wall, Traolach Martin and to those in the past who helped put in the strong foundations that have led to today's ongoing success. Teachers – past and present – have put in enormous work behind the scenes to develop winning teams but also to nurture players into becoming hard-working, respectful and honest people both on and off the pitch. As I walked under the coveted arch and up the steps into the College for the first time as 13-year-old boy in 2021, I only had one thing in mind: To play Harty Cup hurling with Christians. As the 26th US president Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Nothing worth having is ever achieved without effort". When it comes to schools hurling, nothing is going to be easy. Whether it is training in below freezing temperatures, howling wind and rain or playing on pitches that you think wouldn't even be suitable for livestock, school hurling really is one of a kind.

Thankfully, my dream came earlier than expected when I lined out at wing back in my first Harty Cup game against John The Baptist Community School earlier this year. As one of three Transition Year pupils on the team, it was a surreal experience lining up with guys who I remember looking up to in second and third year. A win in that game capped off a brilliant experience and certainly one I will never forget. Further wins over St John The Baptist and Rice College set up a quarter final meeting with De La Salle after Christmas.

My dream of playing in a Harty Cup quarter final came crashing down when I broke my finger in an O'Callaghan Cup quarter-final against Midleton CBS. Of course, the initial emotion was one of heartbreak and disappointment but as someone who has come through major setbacks before such as an ACL injury in 2023 which kept me out for 12 months, I started to view this as just a minor setback. Another win in that game set us up well for the quarter final against a formidable De la Salle team containing a plethora of talent. After a slow start, we trailed by seven points at half time. With some motivating words from Mr Wall at half time, we came out firing in the second half, scoring two quick goals to bring the margin down to just one point. Unfortunately, the power of De La Salle shone through and brought the curtain down on our Harty Cup campaign.

I thoroughly enjoyed the campaign and I cannot wait to get going again in September 2025.  
- - - Cian Lawton

# EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

## Under 17 soccer squad excels in Munster and Cork Cups

Sport is very important in our formative, teenage years. Whether it's for the physical aspect or the social one, the sense of community created when playing is something special.

On 4 February 2025, Christians' U17s began their campaign against North Monastery in a game that will be remembered for quite some time.

Christians opened the scoring when Donal O'Connor threaded through to Aiden O'Shea who finished with aplomb. This early goal gave Christians the confidence to go on and to score another goal on 25 minutes through Donal O'Connor, the final assist provided by Liam Lynch. This gave us a good lead going into the second half, and thankfully we went on to win 2-0. Donal O'Connor was named player of the match.

This was a memorable match played by two well-drilled teams, but it was memorable for another special reason,

one player caught my eye: his name is Bobby Harrington in Second Year. Bobby was subbed on 60 minutes, but as a right winger, he proved himself to be a player of prodigious quality. Bobby, who plays for Cork City, played excellently on the wing and was unlucky not to score from a pass across the box. It's remarkable how such a young player can have so much talent at such a young age and to have such confidence to mix it with boys three or four years his elder. That shows real character.

Many people think that school is just about growing in an academic sense, but it's so much more than that. Going to the match made me see that school offers more. It's about having fun, becoming more sociable and growing as a person. The football team allows us to go out and to get some fresh air, clear our heads and get some exercise.

Mr Hogan, the coach, does a sterling job at creating a sense of community throughout this squad. I believe that not

only soccer squads but all sports teams involved in the school are brilliant for anyone who plays on these teams and I would recommend getting involved in any sports squad if you aren't already.

Our squad reached the Munster Cup

semi-final falling just short against a fine De La Salle, Waterford side and, at the time of going to press, the Cork Cup campaign is nearing the last four stages and CBC are still in contention for ultimate honours.

- Louis Kiely



Barry Cup Squad Photo : Mr Steven Lynch



CBC Under 17 Soccer Squad Photo : Dean Williams



Mr Hogan, TY Coordinator and Manager of the U17 Soccer squad



# MUNSTER KINGS: A SEASON TO REMEMBER



**CHRISTIAN BROTHERS COLLEGE CORK** ..... 17  
**PRESENTATION BROTHERS CORK** ..... 10

CBC ended PBC's quest for a three-in-a-row in Munster Senior Cup titles in a dramatic battle that will be remembered long in the memories of all who had the pleasure of watching this epic final. A captivating second-half comeback saw Leo O'Leary (CBC) run in an intercept try under the posts with just six minutes left on the clock to push CBC ahead by just four points (14-10). A tense few minutes ensued for the thousands of Christians' fans who had come out in force on a warm, sunny March afternoon. Charlie O'Shea kicked a penalty kick while the clock was in the red before the final whistle blew and CBC claimed their 32nd Munster Senior Cup title.

The road to the final was not without its challenges. The quarter final saw the senior squad, led by David Lee as head coach, face off against Castletroy College. A strong performance saw CBC win comfortably, earning themselves a 50-7 victory against Castletroy College before a dominant performance in the semi final saw CBC conquer Crescent College Comprehensive 29-17, with an excellent



**2024 - 2025 CBC Senior Cup Team**

showing from out half pairing of Christopher Barrett and Charlie O'Shea. CBC head coach David Lee remained humble however, critiquing the team's ability to convert their chances: "We just need to become a bit more clinical in attack". Pres had won the 2023 final; however they needed to dig much deeper in order to defend their previous victory in 2024 when the match ran down to the wire,

with a final score of 33-31. Christians had rallied that day from 34-13 down, only to come up short at the death. Memories of this gave this year's squad even more motivation, as well as the fact that PBC's 2024 win had pushed them one ahead in the roll of honour

Emotions were high at the final whistle as it had been a long six years since CBC

claimed their last Senior Cup title and to win in such dramatic fashion gave the nearly 1,000 students plenty of reason to celebrate. CBC were perhaps over eager, running onto the pitch as Charlie O'Shea prepared to take the last kick of the game. However, when the final whistle blew, the CBC supporters wasted no time rushing onto the pitch to celebrate with the team. It was a tough pill to swallow for Pres, but Christians had earned their moment in the sun and the

celebrations were well deserved.

Captain Charlie O'Shea expressed his hope that support will be plentiful for the Junior Cup squad (led by Louis Carroll) who are to face Bandon Grammar School on 26 March. Charlie told reporters that he has high hopes that younger members of the Senior squad can go all the way in the Senior Cup next year as well, but it will be hard work.  
 - Harry Walsh and Cathal Lyons



ACTION SHOTS BY MR STEVEN LYNCH



**PRE-MATCH HUDDLE**



**The Cup at home, where it belongs.**



**CBC FANS STORM THE PITCH AT THE FINAL WHISTLE**

# MUNSTER JUNIOR CUP CAMPAIGN

## The story so far...

This year's Junior Cup campaign has been unpredictable, at times rocky but hugely enjoyable. We began with one simple goal; to win the tournament; however the season began disappointingly as we suffered group-stage campaign defeats to both Rockwell College and St. Munchins. Although the margins were tight it was not a good look for the team. After these defeats we knew something had to change.

I was lucky enough to have the privilege of being named as captain of the team, and the jersey presentation came soon after being installed as skipper for the knock-out campaign. It was a great honour to be up on the stage representing the squad, and the support in the hall on the morning of the jersey presentation was outstanding.

Attitudinal change began in the knock-out Cup campaign run when we defeated newcomers to the competition, Clonakilty Community College, on a 33-0 scoreline. We were no

longer written off after such an amazing performance. This then brought us to Thomond Park to take on Castletroy College where, after a strong performance, we were victorious (18-5).

A coin toss (we lost!) determined that we were returning to the spiritual home of Munster rugby at Thomond Park to take on Cup favourites, St. Munchin's. The nerves were high before this game in the knowledge that we were beaten by our Limerick opponents earlier in the season. We believed we had a chance; we were just 60 minutes away from a place in the final.

There was a tense feeling on the journey up as this match had much higher stakes than anything we had played before. After a strong first-half performance we retired in front at the short whistle, 5-3. We knew the job was far from done but with our full back, Hugh Downey, going under the posts a few minutes into the second half it was looking good. The Munchin's players' heads began to drop

and we capitalised on this, and to steal the win I scored my second of the game after a line break and we closed out the game 17-3. We will line up against finalist debutants, Bandon Grammar, at the famed Musgrave Park on 26 March. Finally, we have a shot at the first double since 1999.

The journey continues....  
 - Louis Carroll

**We wish our junior cup team the best of luck in their match next week against Bandon Grammar on the 26th of March 2025.**



**Louis Carroll (Center, ball in hand), Photo: Dean Williams**



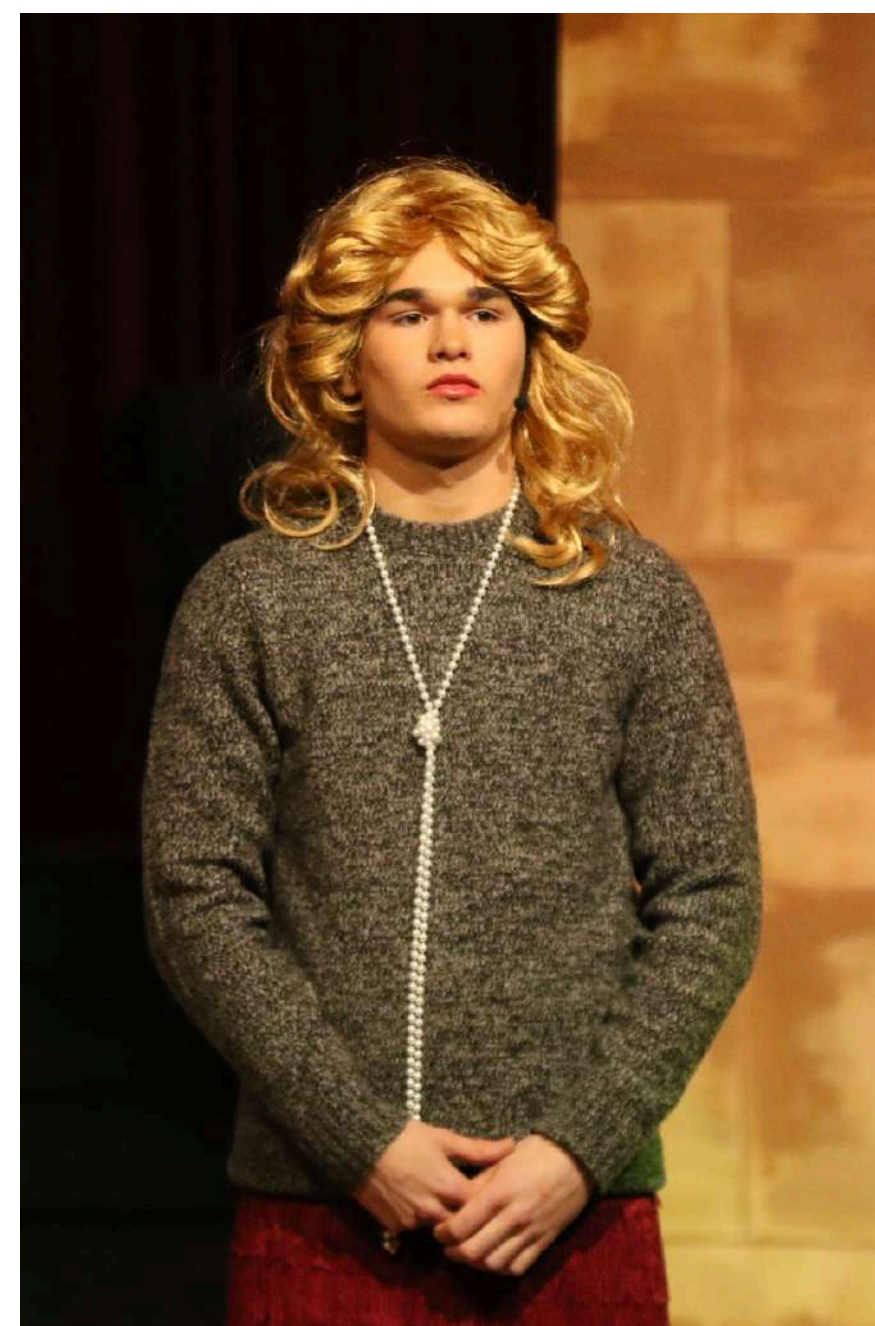
EVERYONE PRESENT IN PHOTOS ARE LISTED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT



Charlie Liang as the Master of Trinity, Seán Ahern as the Master of Caius.  
Photo : Mr Steven Lynch



Liam O'Herlihy as Sandy, Cathal Walsh as Eric Liddell  
Photo : Mr Steven Lynch



Leon O'Connell as Jennie Liddell  
Photo : Mr Steven Lynch



Rory Cullinane as Harold Abrahams, Cathal Walsh as Eric Liddell  
Photo : Mr Steven Lynch



Daniel Fox as Aubrey Montague, Rory Cullinane as Harold Abrahams  
Photo : Mr Steven Lynch



The Cast of the 2025 play - 'Chariots of Fire'  
Photo : Mr Steven Lynch



Charlie McCarthy as the Duke of Sutherland, Efe Erkol as the Prince of Wales, Cathal Lyons as Lord Birkenhead, Cathal Walsh as Eric Liddell, Darren O'Connell as Cadogan  
Photo : Mr Steven Lynch



A selection of artwork from the set, built by the construction team, led by Mr Denby, and painted by the design team, led by Mr Martin







Twin Peaks  
**Photo : Ultan McCarthy**

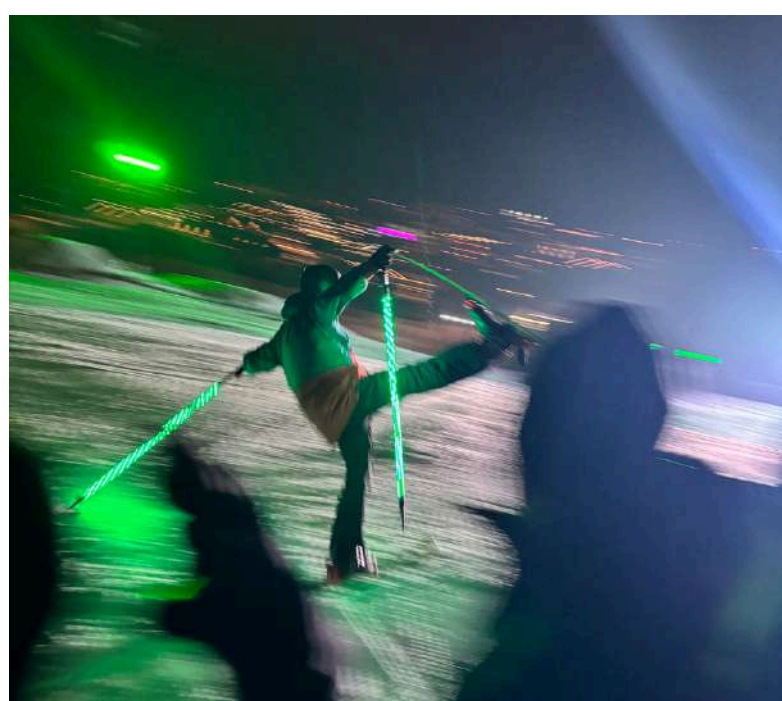


Ultan McCarthy and Finn Corkery have a jolly holiday  
**Photo : Anonymous**

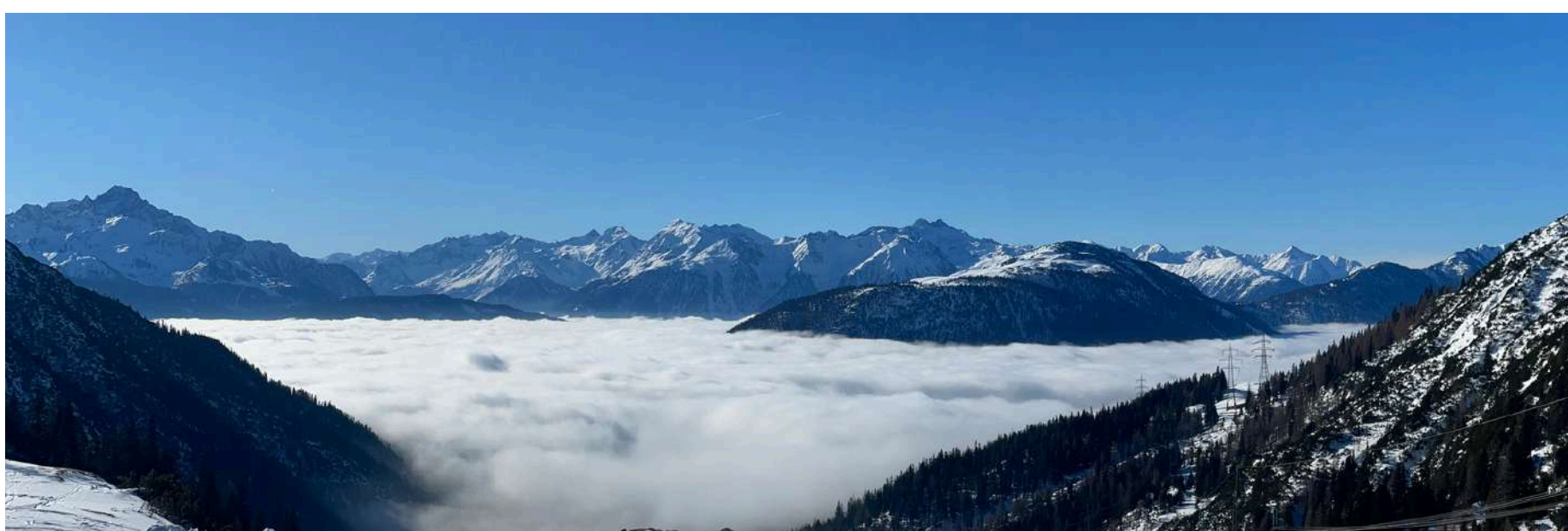
Santa Claus shown is Brian Kilbride



Darragh Twomey, Rory Cullinane, Larry Butler at Apple Visit  
**Photo : Charlie Liang**



Skiing in Style in Ehrwald -  
**Photo : Teddy Campion**



Above the clouds - **Photo : Ultan McCarthy**



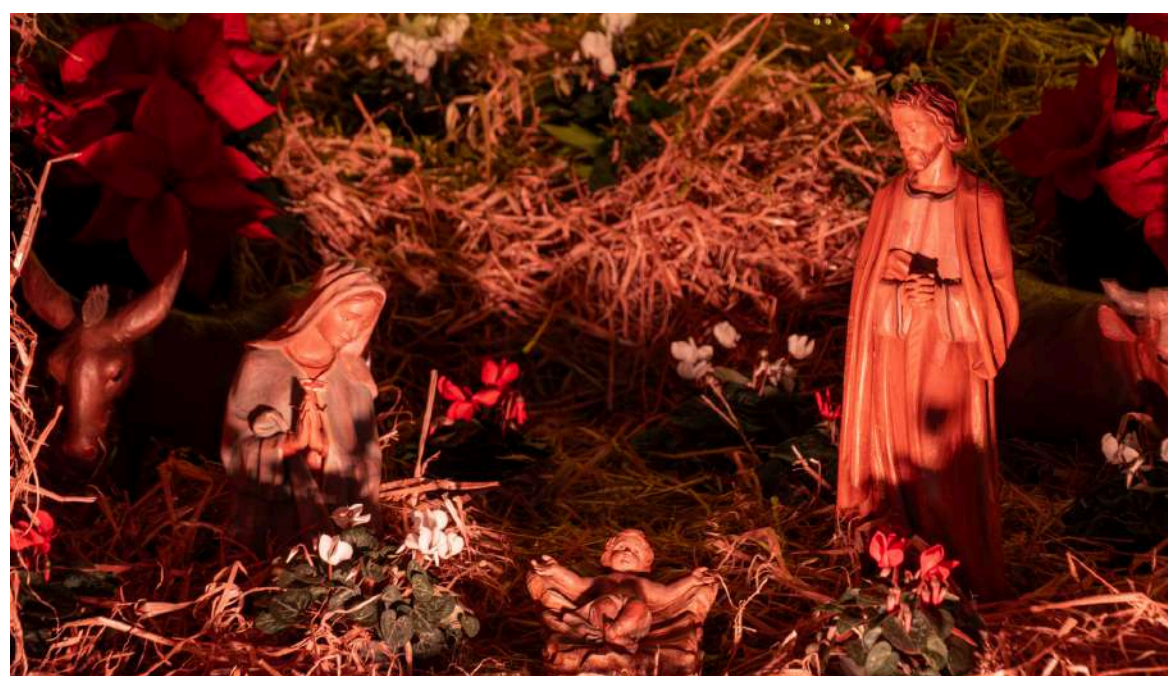
Media Studies trip to the PPAI  
- **Photo : Mr Edward Newman**



"The Doughball"  
**Photo: Ultan McCarthy**



The journey to the top  
**Photo: Ultan McCarthy**



Mary, Jesus and Joseph in the stable  
**Photo : Charlie Liang**



Mrs Costello conducting the school orchestra  
**Photo : Charlie Liang**



Early morning in Biberwier  
**Photo : Ultan McCarthy**

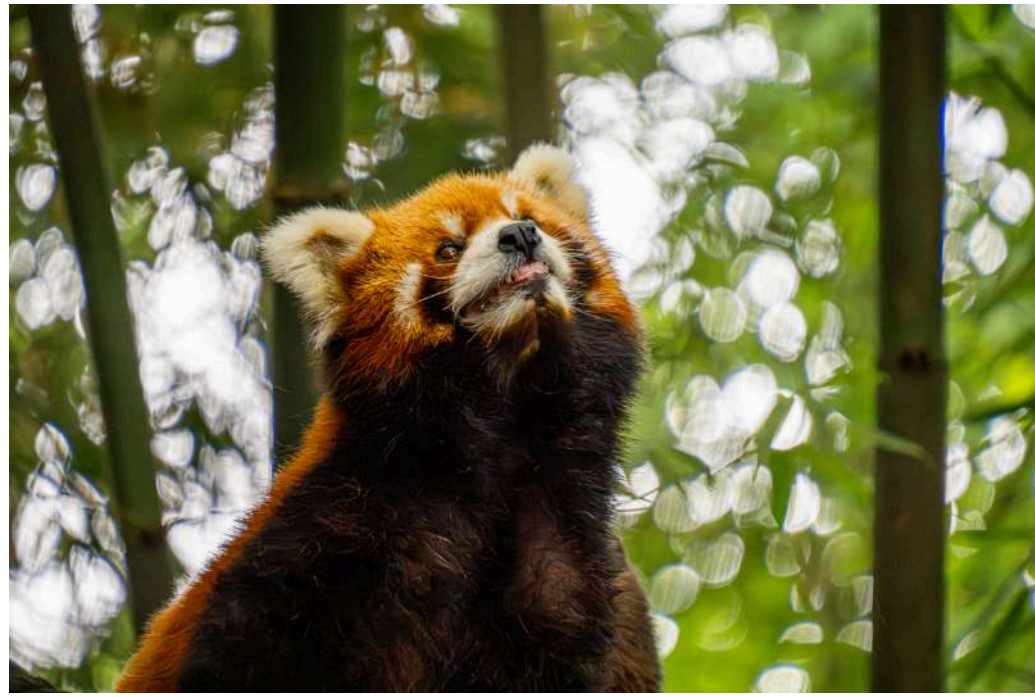


Teddy Campion, Muhammad Raed Naseer, Meghant Srivastava at Apple Visit  
**Photo : Charlie Liang**





The Journey - Cathal Walsh



Red Panda - Charlie Liang



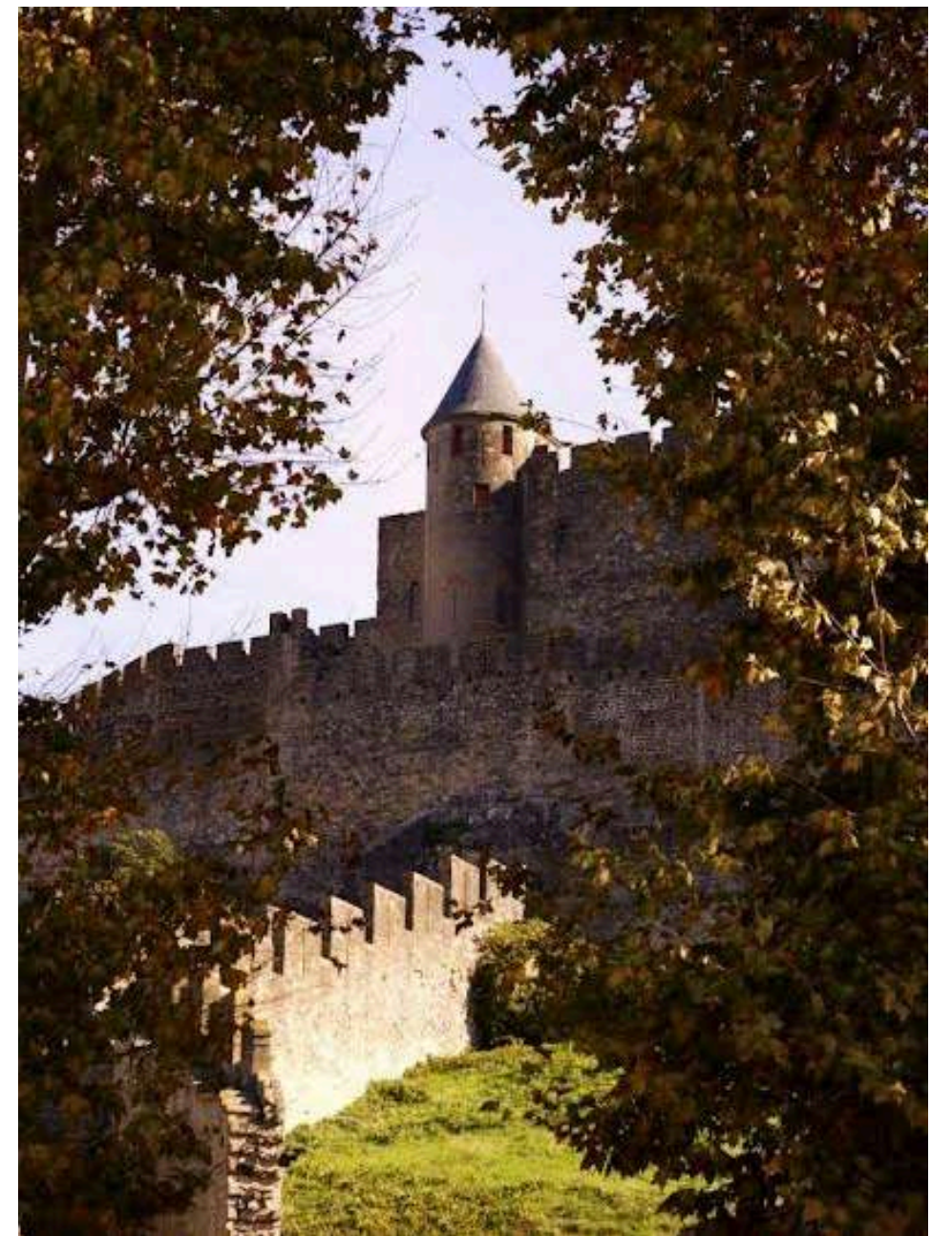
Geneva Lake - Charlie Liang



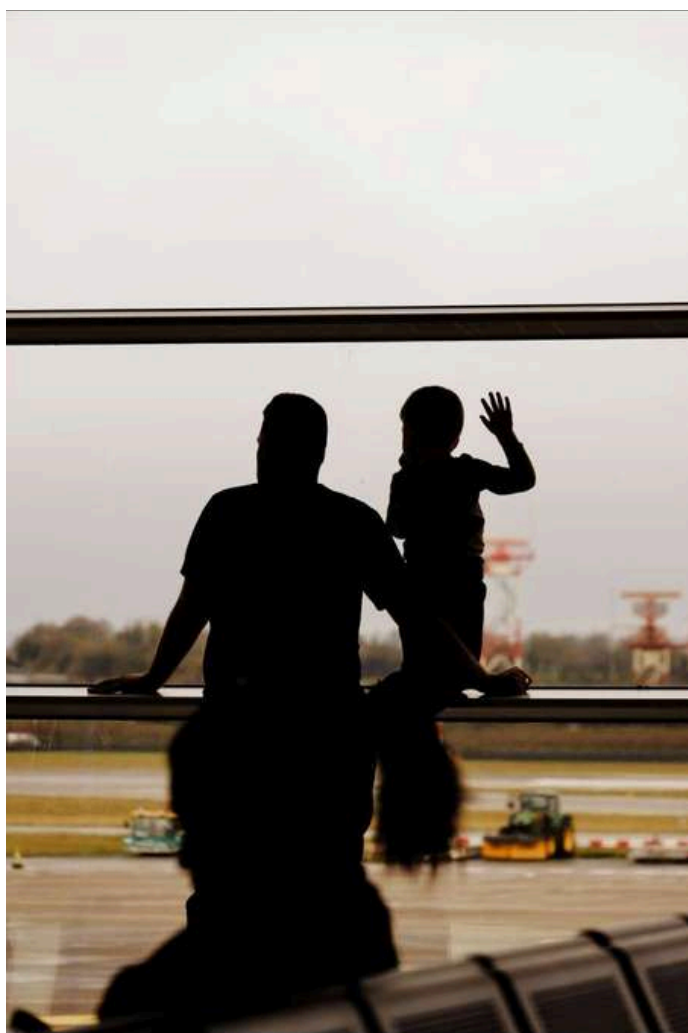
Atlantic Birds - Cathal Walsh



Flocks - Charlie Liang



'You're a wizard Harry' - Cathal Walsh



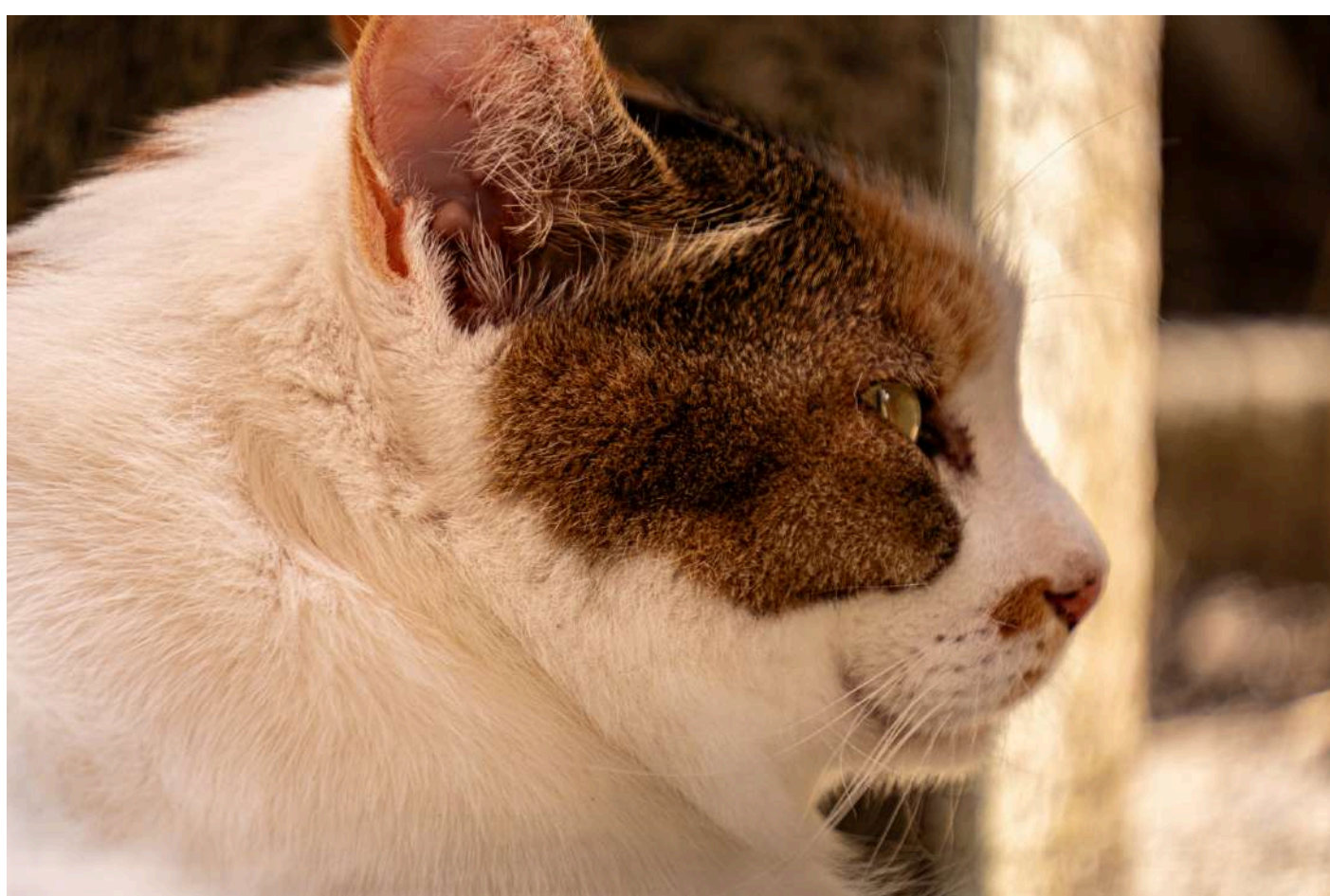
Departures - Cathal Walsh



Patrick's Hill - Cathal Lyons



Spotlights in Gallery - Charlie Liang



Smirk - Charlie Liang



Claire de Lune - Ultan McCarthy



City Solitude- Cathal Walsh

