

*Hot off the...*

# The CUS Press

*November 2018 – First Year Newsletter Edition 1*

The CUS Press is an occasional newsletter produced by first year contributors, featuring news, interviews, important dates and students' achievements. These range from sport, music, academia, and the arts – from both inside and outside school. So, if there is any student achievement that you consider worth noting or celebrating, please forward this on to the relevant classhead.

## ***MR BYRNE IN THE HOT SEAT***



Recently, four CUS students had the chance to interview their principal, Mr. Byrne, and it's now their job to fill you in on all the juicy details, from school life to personal interests, sports to upcoming changes...

"I asked Mr. Byrne what his plans for the PE hall were, as there are lots of rumours circulating about changes in that area. Well, Mr. Byrne has confirmed that he will either refurbish the school hall or build a new one in Bird Avenue. Along with that, there is a lot of curiosity surrounding the prefabs, and perhaps updating them. It's a problem that Mr. Byrne is definitely aware of, and there are plans for the construction of a new building with completely up to date facilities. Spoiler alert: he might

even be introducing home economics as a subject with its own room!" - *Killian Murphy*

"I focused on Mr. Byrne's school life and his career as a teacher. I found out that he decided to become a teacher because he was so inspired by his own woodwork teacher in secondary school. He went on to teach TG, metal work and engineering, before moving on to work as a deputy principal, where he had many responsibilities. I questioned why he wanted to become a principal, and he said 'it's just nice to have the power to make changes and improvements.' We wondered if Mr. Byrne had any advice for first year students, to which he replied, 'work hard and give your studies 100%.'" - *Darragh Clerkin*

"I found out that some of Mr. Byrne's favourite sports are Gaelic football, hurling, and rugby. As a child he played Gaelic, and when he was in university he enjoyed playing hurling. He follows his own county football team (Westmeath), even though they don't seem to do much, he says! During his youth he supported the English soccer team Arsenal, but now he thinks the sport is all money related and not about the game at all. In his own words concerning rugby, Mr. Byrne said 'In my head I support Leinster, but at heart I am a Munster fan.' Controversial!" - *Alex Molloy*

"I had the chance to ask Mr. Byrne questions about what he's interested in outside of school life. I got to find out about his love for Stephen King's work, and how he thinks *The Shawshank Redemption* is the greatest movie ever made. He's also a major fan of the hit TV show *Game of Thrones*. Mr. Byrne doesn't like new age house music, but his favourite band of all time is AC/DC. So, in conclusion, I think that I have found out the true nature of the man behind the tie." - *Daniel Hughes*

# First Year Rugby

For a lot of first years, even newcomers to the sport, rugby goes back to a short while before the school year started. The rugby camp was an optional activity that gave first years the opportunity to get to know their peers ahead of time in a more light-hearted environment. The sport is now compulsory on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings, and there is optional, but recommended training on Monday evenings. On many occasions, we played matches against other schools instead of training.

Since the first training session, the game has become much more in-depth and technical, becoming more like the standard version of rugby, particularly for the contact teams. Even in touch rugby, which I can provide firsthand experience from, we've still implemented techniques such as the long-body position and pillars.

- *Written by Leo Greene*

Rugby is an action-packed sport! From rucks, to mauls, and to line outs, it is really fun to play with a club or school. It is always enjoyable to play or to watch. I have great enthusiasm playing with the first year Lions team. It is also a great way to gain friendships and strengthen bonds. I always love being part of a team. The coaches in CUS are phenomenal and are always really supportive with us and passionate about the game. I believe I will majorly enjoy playing for CUS for the next six years.



- *Written by Rian Powell*



Rugby started with the first year camp to get the new boys introduced to the sport. It was a way to make friends before the school year started. The rugby camp started with a warm welcome from the first year coach, Mr. Parks. Soon after that, the first years went out to the pitches and were divided into groups and we played games that involved rugby skills. As the end of the camp neared, it became more serious but we still managed to have a good laugh. We learned rucking and tackling. Once it finished, training moved to Wednesdays after school and a blitz on Saturday. The first blitz of the season was against Terenure and most of the teams won!

From the first week of rugby going to Belfast, we have come a long way from this camp and have started to develop an understanding of the game and its rules. With our most recent matches being against Belvedere College and CBC Monkstown. Each team is making significant developments and everlasting bonds will be made through the rugby. Ireland's recent victory over the mighty All Blacks will be a serious inspiration to us.

- *Written by Alec Fennessy*

# No Flies On This!

This year Catholic University School's drama society is staging its first major play in 20 years, *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding. With Ms. O'Donoghue, director of the production, great things are predicted for our adaptation.

There was great interest in the play, with powerful auditions for students ranging from almost every year group. Eventually, the cast was chosen, with Daniel Hughes (me) shining above the rest and taking the coveted role of Roger... Several other first years have a part in this ongoing production.

Rehearsals began recently and although some actors are young and inexperienced, Ms. O'Donoghue will surely make great thespians of them. The play is set to be performed in January, so there is a lot of work to be done between now and then. With such a buzz around the school, I'm sure this drama will be one for the ages.

- *Written by Daniel Hughes*

The play in a nutshell: During an unknown period in World War Two a plane is shot down. This plane was carrying a group of British schoolboys who end up stranded on an island. The story follows the happenings on the island whilst the boys are stranded. (No spoilers just watch the play or read the book!) You are very welcome to sign up for the play \*wink wink\*. It could be a really fun time with your mates and you don't have to act if you don't want to, you could do set design which would really help as well!

- *Written by Killian Murphy*

# First Year Science Club



Mr. Daly, pictured with Nwayobuije Ohadike and Jamie Grainger, is famous for his strict punishments (see picture on the right 😊)



# First Year Chess Club

The chess club has been running since mid-September and has taken place during Monday lunchtime. We played against St. Benildus recently. The first years who competed in it were Kailen Garrett, Jack O' Neill, Harry Deery, Ciarán Ryan and Michael O'Boyle. It was a friendly so it wasn't overly competitive, but there was still a lot to play for. The best first year chess player is Michael O'Boyle and the majority of the team won their games. Many thanks to Mr. Scott for all his help in organising the team.

- *Written by Ciarán Ryan*

# Lunchtime Debating

Recently I started going to the lunch time debating club. It is on every Tuesday at big break. It is ran by Ms Mcnamara and Aaron Tracy. It is really enjoyable and makes you a more confident reader as well as a presenter.

On my first day doing the debating, the debate was on gun control in Ireland. One side were arguing that guns should be legal in Ireland, another side were arguing that they should remain illegal and the last side were trying to make up a solution which in both sides would agree on. I was on the solution side and we made up a solution that if guns were legal the owner must have a permit. Our other solution was that all guns must have a serial code so they could be traced back to the original seller. I found the debating very interesting, as I had never done it before, but it also was very enjoyable.



- *Written by Jack O'Neill*

# Díospóireacht Gael Linn



Bhí ár bhfoireann díospóireachta ar fheabhas sa chomórtas díospóireachta Gael Linn. Thosaigh siad ag cleachtadh coicís roimh an gcomórtas agus bhí siad ag obair go dian. Bhí ceathrar ar an bhfoireann, ár n-ionadaí Sam Oregano san áireamh. Labhair Cathal Ó Loinsigh, Róan Ó hAllúráin agus Cormac Ó Loinsigh ar son Scoil na hOllscoile Caitlicí (CUS) i gcoinne an rúin: *Ba cheart dúinn cloí leis an gcóras ama céanna don bhliain ar fad.* Bhí ceithre fhoireann ag glacadh páirt sa bhabhta seo: Scoil na hOllscoile Caitlicí, Coláiste Naomh Mícheál, Coláiste Íosa agus Muire agus Coláiste Fearann an Choirce. Bhí trí nóiméad ag gach cainteoir agus dá labhrófaí thar trí nóiméad caillfidís pointí. Ag an deireadh, lean dhá scoil ar aghaidh chuig an gcéad bhabhta eile – CUS ina measc! Scoil na hOllscoile Caitlicí abú!

- *Sam Oregano and Seán Gaughan*

# An Unusual Talent...



Aidan Walsh has a real talent for solving the Rubix Cube with his eyes open and blindfolded! Click the links below to see him in action. It doesn't take him long! Blink and you'll miss it.

<https://youtu.be/ivNzjfdhNJA>

<https://youtu.be/qL2OKq0xo9I>

# Team Hope Shoebox Appeal



Ciarán Connolly, James Davidson and Calum Burke are just three of the boys who put together shoeboxes of gifts for recipients in developing countries. Many others were involved in putting together Christmas presents for those less fortunate than ourselves.

In a similar vein, we would greatly appreciate all the support from the students and their families for the CUS Hamper Fund. The Fund works alongside St. Vincent de Paul and other organisations to provide food and treats for those in need in the Dublin area. The school sends approximately 200 hampers each year. Please continue your great work!

## Important Dates for Your Calendar

The school Carol Service is in St. Anne's Church, Dawson Street, Monday the 17th of December at 19:30.

The first year parent-teacher meetings (don't be scared!) are on Friday the 25th of January at 9:30 – 12:00.

## The CUS Press Needs You!

Please send on anything and everything first year related to your son's classhead via email. From videos to pictures, from articles to literature, from Rubix Cubes to jokes, we thrive on your additions and the boys' excellent written content.