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CUS win distinguished award at Model UN in London



“

*It felt
great to
have our
hard work
recognised*

Huge congratulations to 6th
Year students Harry Deery,
Logan Dever, Jack O'Neill, Kailen
Garrett, Michael O'Boyle and
Jack Likely, who took part in the
41st annual Royal Russell
International Model UN and won
the distinguished delegation
award!

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Model UN Win

CUS hosts EU Youth
Parliament

December music blitz

Science week &
school excursions

Model
United
Nations



CUS scoop six awards at the Model UN in London

Leaving cert student Jack Likely was one of six to travel to the UK in October to take part in a model version of the real United Nations

The yearly event gives students from around the world an opportunity to participate in a mock United Nations and are tasked at providing solutions to world affairs. The competition involves debating on issues that affect us today, from climate topics to social justice, as well as international security issues such as the Russia Ukraine conflict.

Students divide themselves into different parts of the UN focusing on specific types of problems. There were ten types of MUN rooms, known as committees, at the Royal Russell conference. They each had their own interesting topics. The six of us chose our committee rooms in advance of the event.

I chose DISEC (Disarmament and International Security), Jack O'Neill chose ECOFIN (Economics and Finance) Michael O'Boyle picked SOCHUM (Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee), Kailen Garret went with SPECPOL (Special Contentious Politics), Harry Deery chose SOCHUM and Logan Dever picked Environment and Ecology.



The Royal Russell

Royal Russell was special. It was the largest conference we had ever attended. Located in South Croydon, it hosted over 650 students between 82 schools who were invited from around the world. Over the course of four days, we met students from as far away as Nigeria, Greece and America. We weren't the only Irish school to attend. We were competing against schools like St Andrews, Rathdown, Blackrock, High School, St Gerards, Terenure College and Wesley.



Preparation

It was hard work. We'd wake up early and begin working on our speeches, points and ideas for the day. Debating would start at 9am and would finish at around 7pm. We'd head back to our accommodation and plan for the next day. The competition was stiff, with many skilled debaters competing. Success was determined by the judges in your room. They would record how many times you'd speak, what you had said and how well you said it. All the speeches and ideas brainstormed during the event went towards our final score.



The MUN Team have represented CUS in many competitions and have always won awards but to win a competition as prestigious as the Royal Russell MUN puts them in the category as one of the best MUN Teams in the world. They worked tirelessly preparing resolutions and researching before the competitions and its great to see their hard work pay off.

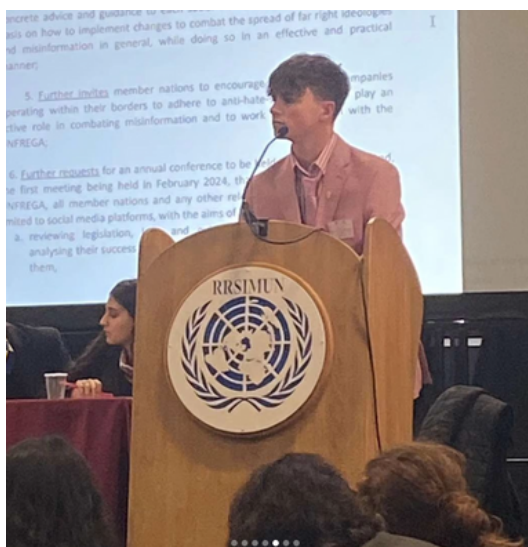
-Stephen Daly



We were amazed to hear we won the distinguished delegate award! We were awarded a certificate of success and a trophy. Micheall O'Boyle as our ambassador made a short speech after accepting the award and we brought home the trophy which now sits proudly in the CUS office.

It felt great to have our hard work recognised and it was a great final to kick start our Model United Nations career. With the leaving cert just months away, we've handed over the Model United Nations to the TY's and 5th years to carry the proverbial torch onwards.

Hopefully, we will have left a legacy of success within CUS that will encourage future students to compete in one of the best public speaking and debating competitions available to them, both in Ireland and beyond.





CUS host EU Youth Parliament

The school hosted the Dublin regional session of the European Youth Parliament from the 21st to the 22nd of October. Over 120 people from across Europe took part in the event which promotes active citizenship and democratic participation amongst young people. 6th year student Fionnan Lynch was one of the organisers of the weekend. He was involved in the running of the event and overseeing the day to day operations. The session had been five months in the making. They had to organise the schools to take part, secure venues as well as contacting TDs (pictured right with our principal) and businesses for sponsorship.

The European Youth Parliament is an excellent initiative for students to get involved in and “it opens the door for many unique opportunities for young people”, said Fionnan. Topics up for discussion and debate on the day included the climate cycle, voting ages and finding peace in Europe. It presents opportunities for young people to meet people from other countries and learn how to work as part of a team.



School life in the heart of Dublin city



3rd Year Junior Cycle science students went on an ecology field trip to Dublin Zoo in November. They were guided by zoo facilitators and had great fun investigating woodland/grassland habitats.

They collected, identified, and described animals and plants using specialist ecology equipment and compiled a detailed fieldwork report. The boys learnt about actions that can be taken to protect habitats.



Not all classrooms have four walls

~ Margaret McMillan (poet)

1st and 2nd year Civics visited the Dáil in November. The 2nd years had the chance to see the TDs begin order of the day in the main Dáil chamber. The Seanad was also sitting that day. Plenty of interesting questions were asked by the boys as they were given a tour of government buildings.

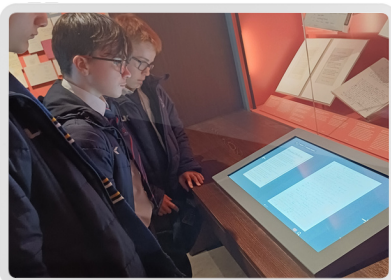




Some of our first years went on a guided tour in the fabulous Chester Beatty Library exploring sacred scriptures and ancient scrolls.

Seamus Heaney lives on in the hearts and minds of our leaving cert & junior cycle students

The last words of Seamus Heaney, the Nobel laureate and Irish poet who died in 2013, came in a text message to his wife: "Noli timere," Latin for "Don't be afraid". Heaney was buried in Northern Ireland's County Derry, where he grew up and where many of his most famous poems are set. But his life work is proudly on show at Dublin's College Green. 2nd year Colin and 6th year English took a stroll to the exhibition and proudly penned their favourite lines from Seamus Heaney on the chalk board, surrounded by his last words.



The Christmas Truce

During World War One on Christmas Day in 1914 British and German soldiers met in no man's land and sang Christmas carols, exchanged gifts and played a game of football! Inspired by this miracle story, Ferdia Lyons and Sam Morgan from Watters 2nd year English, penned these moving poems.

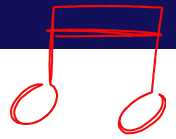
**PIPES of
PEACE**

On Christmas Day
No bombs away
The ceasefire was ago
out of the trench
playing football
my friends, no longer my foes
we traded gifts, food and smokes
it felt like a dream ago
until the first shot was fired
back in the trench all inspired
Sam Morgan

Beneath the clouds, there laid a war. With two sides fighting door to door. Many a time a soldier did fall but onwards and onwards his comrades would crawl. It seemed that never the fighting would end and never would the enemy become a friend. However both soldiers suddenly arised and looked each other right in the eyes. Then carols and songs started to be heard. The song more beautiful than even the most tuneful bird. Finally someone said 'perhaps a game of football could play' on this gorgeous Christmas day. A ball was kicked into the air with everyone rushing and jumping to get there. However This simply could not last. And just like that it became a thing of the past.

It ended with a gunshot and then a grenade to put an end to this beautiful parade.
Back to the trenches the soldiers did run knowing not fast enough if they'd be killed by a gun.
Ferdia Lyons

Beating to our own drum



TY DECEMBER **MUSIC** WEEK IN PICTURES



The students learnt a traditional piece of music on the Gamelon, as well as some Brazilian rhythmic patterns on a variety of percussion instruments.

The boys had a great time embracing the music of these different cultures, learning about the history of the instruments, as well as performing them as a group.



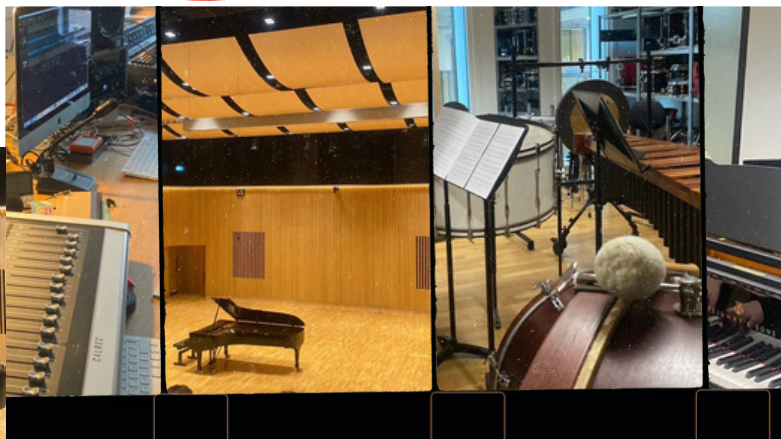
Our 2nd and 3rd year music students visited The National Concert Hall with their teachers Ms Ryan and Ms Arlow recently to try their hand at a variety of different instruments from around the world. They learnt how to play traditional instruments from Indonesia to Brazil.

Transition year students had a blast during music week in December. Miss Ryan organised Patrick from africandrummingireland.ie to come to the school. There was some traditional african chanting to be enjoyed aswell as some serious dance moves! It was really terrific and everybody loved it.

CUS music tour courtesy of.....

T DUBLIN
OLLSCOIL TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA
BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY DUBLIN

5th & 6th year music students visited TU Dublin last week for a private tour of their wonderful music facilities. The lecturers kindly showed our students around their impressive music suite, including the recording studio, music technology lab, and the beautiful concert hall. The music classes were treated to a live performance, on the piano and vocal performances too, which they thoroughly enjoyed.



SCIENCE



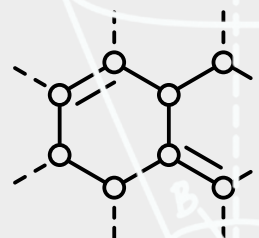
During science week the 1st years made invisible ink by using paint and then revealed the hidden pictures using turmeric powder. The chemical reaction is what causes the secrets to be revealed.



5th year students along with Miss Tai and Miss Hermitage guided the younger students through an egg experiment during science club. The process happens due to suction that occurs when the fire in the splints gets extinguished by the egg as there is no oxygen present.



WEEK



$$+y^2)-(x^2-2xy+y^2) \quad x^2+2xy+y^2-x^2+2xy-y^2 \quad \left(\frac{4+4}{4^3}\right) \quad \left(\frac{4(4+4+4)}{4-3^0}\right)$$

leadership

honesty

patriotism

forgiveness

spirituality

sportmanship

freedom

responsibility

friendship

giving

courage

compassion

humility commitment

equality

wisdom

respect

prayer

knowledge

family

patience

peace

critical-thinking

We asked junior and senior RE students what moral and ethical values mean the most to them in their lives today. It was interesting to hear how 1st year students and 5th year students valued Family, Friendship and Honesty the most. It is refreshing to witness young people thinking for themselves. This way we can better understand their needs and wants in order to grow a thriving future for everyone.



BE PATIENT WITH YOURSELF
nothing in nature blooms all year

The game of rugby isn't always about try's and tackles. There's so much more that goes into the game of 15. What is seen on the day of any match is only half the story. Some of our most dedicated players fill Andrew Maguire in on the other half....

Is there more to rugby that just training and matches?

Rugby isn't just an 80 minute game of ball. You form friendships that last a lifetime. Sure, you gain fitness and strength from training but it is much more than that. It gives you discipline, strength of character, resilience to take on anything that life throws at you. Going on that pitch for an hour or 80 min just feels amazing, even on the coldest of days. Playing club rugby gave me a reason to get up and get going, especially at weekends. Now, I play for my school and that means so much more. That feeling coming home from an away match just feels like nothing else. The craic on the bus is just brilliant.

Louis Murphy 3rd year Chanel



What's the best thing about rugby?

The most enjoyable part of rugby for me is the comradery. The team atmosphere after matches and training is always brilliant. The enjoyment of playing rugby with your friends every day is brilliant. On the bus home analysing the match and slagging each other creates great bonds and moments I do not think I will ever forget. This year we had two away trips to Roscrea and Kilkenny which were about an hour and a half journey on a bus. We had brilliant craic and we got to know each other as a team. This will be of great benefit to us when it comes to the end of the season and the knockout games. Rugby for me is about improving my strength and fitness. Every week I look forward to the days I have rugby training and games.

David Ginnelly 3rd year Leterrier

What's the best thing about rugby?

I find that rugby is a refreshing break from the books and an excellent opportunity to blow off some steam. Especially in sixth year, it is so easy to get caught up studying that you can occasionally find yourself disregarding the need to exercise. Rugby ensures that my physical needs are met on a weekly basis and it helps with my wellbeing and focus in class. I always feel energised when I come off the rugby pitch after training. Sharing in the wins and losses with my classmates has allowed friendships to blossom and bonds to strengthen. The fun had on the long bus trips home from Roscrea and Kilkenny and the tense, hard fought victories are some of my fondest memories of being in C.U.S. Without a doubt, my favourite part of playing rugby in C.U.S. is representing the school. This school means a lot to me, which gives me a clear purpose when I am playing. The feeling of running out onto the pitch in Donnybrook while the whole school is there watching on and dressed in red is hard to put into words. It's in these moments that make the hard work worthwhile.

Is it challenging playing and training during the cold winter?

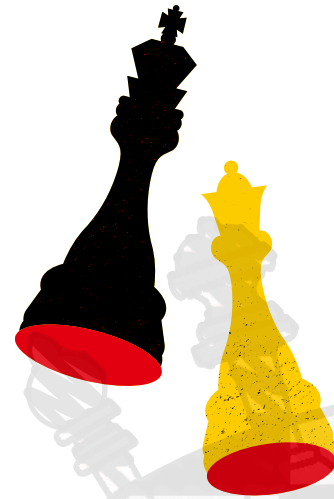
The challenge of rugby is something that has always appealed to me. Rugby is an opportunity to improve myself, test myself and strive for success. I often find the early morning strength and conditioning sessions and the cold December training sessions in Bird Avenue to be more valuable than the glorious victories. These are the moments that build character and discipline.

Ruben Maguire 6th year Chanel

Is rugby more than a game to you?

Rugby gives each player in our school the opportunity to create bonds with younger and older age groups, which is really positive. These friendships break the barriers of year groups, establishing one team. Rugby is a game of winning and losing. The losing aspect of the game tests the person the most. The games that we don't win, well, it builds resilience and pushes us to work on ourselves, to improve, to learn. The key pillars of rugby that stand out to me are respect and discipline. These values are not only useful and important in rugby but also translates into everyday life. Whether your studying for exams or looking out for a classmate, it counts..

Jude Barrett 5th year Watters



THANKS SO MUCH TO PAST PUPIL WILLIAM HACKETT FOR THE WRITE UP & FOR ORGANISING THE EVENT

>>> CHESS TOURNAMENT

In September, the school orchestrated a highly successful, internationally ranked chess tournament. Spanning three days, this event received backing from the esteemed Irish Chess Union (ICU). Our Masters section hosted some of the nation's finest players, among whom was a remarkable 9-year-old prodigy from Scotland, ranked as the third-best player worldwide in his age category. Smoothly executed, the tournament concluded flawlessly, culminating in the closing ceremony where FM Zalan Nemeth triumphantly claimed the 2023 championship title.

>>> CHESS SHOWDOWN

A number of weeks ago the CUS chess team traveled the short walk across to our bitter rivals in the Institute, commonly known rivalry "the intellectual fight for Leeson Street". Our team of six were met by some strong challengers, clearly our rivals got inspiration from Saudi and engaged in some investment sports washing!!! Sadly, we lost overall in a 2 game battle 6.5-5.5 but everyone enjoyed their games. We have agreed a rematch on our home territory in the New Year. The pain of losing is fueling our trainings and a possible big turn out from the CUS ultras. We are confident this time around.



WEEKLY CHESS TRAINING

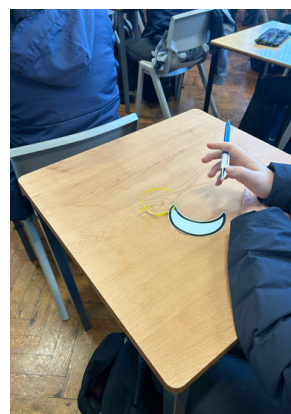


Each Monday after school in the prefabs at 3.40pm there is chess training, chess games and fun. The format consists of roughly 20 minutes of coaching from former Irish Junior International and past pupil William Hackett (me). The coaching is then usually followed by some chess games vs other fellow students each week. At chess club we foster an engaging and fun atmosphere where students can be themselves and interact with other students of other year groups through the intermediary of chess.



'In November, We Remember'

During the month of November, we remembered our loved ones who've passed on. The Ember Team gave students from all years a mood or a star to write down the names of those special people in our lives who have died. Our 'Tree of Remembrance' was located outside the school office and was filled with names. Those names were remembered at our December school mass.



In December we celebrate Advent and the birth of Christ

For the first time since 2019 the entire school celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at St Teresa's church on Clarendon Street in the city centre. Fr John and our principal Mr Martin welcomed over two thousand students as well as staff and parents to the church. It was an unique service with a special atmosphere that was equally moving as it was uplifting. On Grafton Street our 6th years collected for St Vincent De Paul. At St Anne's church (above and left) on December 18th the parents were treated to a carefully blended carol service, featuring hymns and pop on the saxophone, violin, viola, piano and electric guitar.



Our festive school in pictures



The preparations for Camino De Santiago 2024 have started. Students, alongside Ms Gaskin and Mr Swanwick, completed a 14km walk in Sandymount. 61 students from fifth year and seven teachers will complete the last 115km of the Camino De Santiago at the end of March next year.



Congratulations to Ivan Casajeros who won the CUSPA logo competition



AT CHRISTMAS ALL ROADS LEAD HOME

Ms Elkhawad's European studies TY
class were looking at how Christmas is
celebrated in homes of all the different
nations of the European Union



Ireland

Nollaig Shona Dhuit!
Dadaí Na Nollaig
Oíche Chiúin
Roast Turkey
Morning of Christmas Day



Italy

Natale
Buon Natale
La Befana (the witch)
Astro Del Ciel
Baccalà (salted codfish)
13th of December or 6th of January



Romania

Felicitare de Crăciun
Moş Crăciun (father christmas)
O. Ce Veste Minunată! (Oh. What Wonderful News!)
Şorici (fried pork rind)
Early in the morning of December 6 or late at night on
December 5



Germany

"Fröhliche Weihnachten!
Das Christkind
Stille Nacht
Duck, Goose, Rabbit
Evening of Christmas eve



Poland

Is Wesolych Świąt.
Święty Mikołaj (St Nicholas/Santa Claus)
Bóg się rodzi
Polish layered herring salad (ŚLEDŹ POD
PIERZYNKĄ)
Christmas Eve after dinner



The Czech Republic

Veselé Vánoce
Ježíšek (baby Jesus)
Narodil se Kristus Pán
Fried carp and potatoe salad
Christmas Eve after dinner



Greece

"Καλά Χριστούγεννα (Kala Christougenna)
St Basil
Kalanta Xristougenon
Greek christmas sweet bread, roasted leg of lamb with
spanakopita (spenach pastery)
The evening of Christmas Eve



Slovenia

Vianočné stretnutie
Miklavž (St Nicholas)
Glej, zvezdice božje (Leopold Belar) and
Poslušajte, vsi ljudje (Traditional).
bakalá
The morning of Christmas Day



France

Joyeux Noël
Père Noël.
Petit Papa Noël
Foie gras
On the evening of Christmas Eve



Austria

"Frohe Weihnachten
Christkind
Stille Nacht
Roast Goose
Evening of Christmas Eve



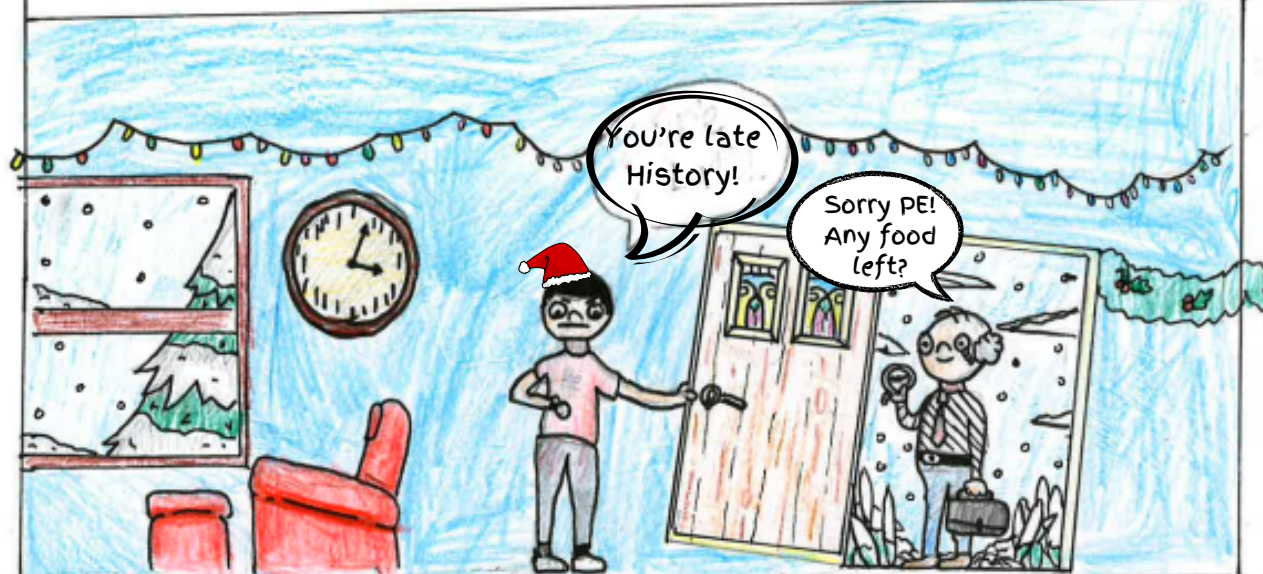
Holland

Fijne kerst!
Sinterklaas Avond
Hoor de Wind Waait de Bome
Roast meat vegetables and kerstbrood
(Christmas bread)
On Christmas Day

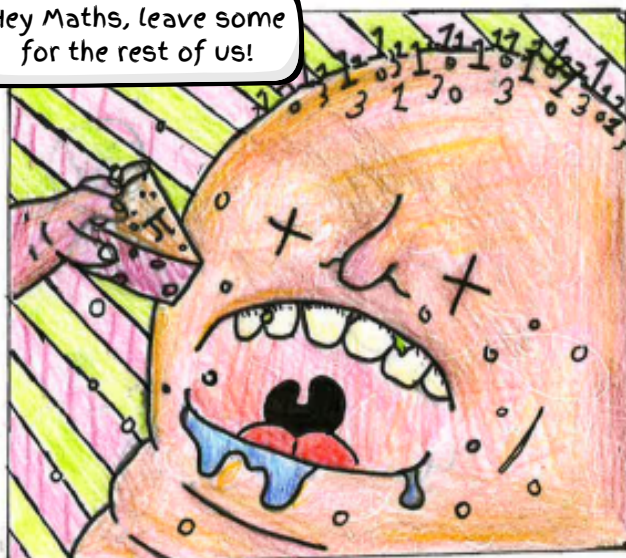


SCHOOL SUBJECTS THROW A CHRISTMAS PARTY

STORY BY 1ST YEAR LETERRIER & AMAZING ARTWORK BY FINN FEELY & O.K



Hey Maths, leave some for the rest of us!



You can always rely on Irish & Spanish to get a party started!



And Home Economics to provide a feast fit for a country!

Break it up German & French, there's enough for everyone!

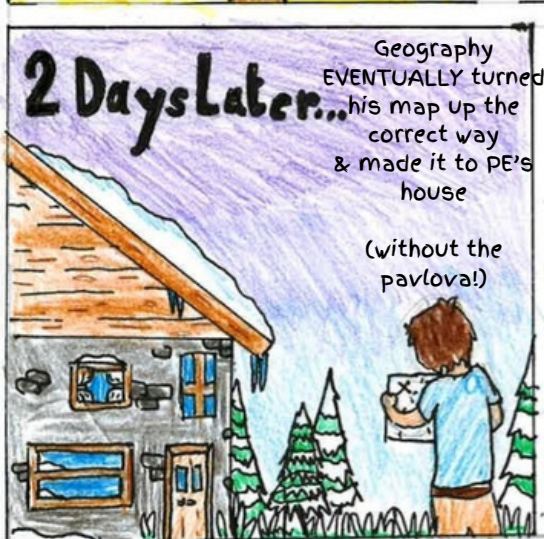
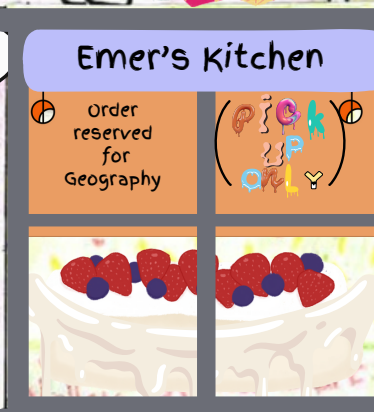
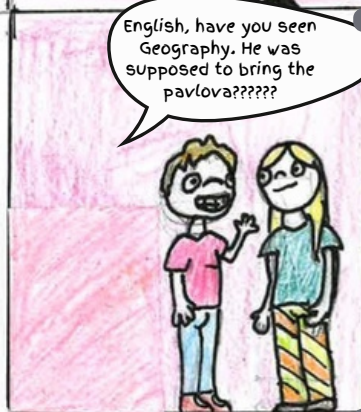


MOOOHAHAHA! when politics meets Business, match made in perfect Society!!!!



Such uncivilised behaviour Civics! Now, tell me, how about we close that lobbying deal?





Six word stories

Courtesy of 2nd year Watters & Leterrier &
4th year Leterrier english classes

Five planes flown, none came home
Our great happiness was short lived
The dog cried when cat died
Sheriff shot murderer at victims home
Eggs frying, whistling kettle, noone home
Fluffy clouds formed into fierce spaceship
Young Davin becomes pastor, dream achieved
The toll to pay was death

Hurling

In with the hurl I hit the ball,
very heavy, yet so small.
I pick up the ash before
giving it a lash.
With the wind at my back
The ball comes and hooks
off the wall with a smack

by Charlie McQuillan (1st year
Leterrier)

SCHOOL NEVER ENDING

Wake up in the morning with extreme
dread and your mam practically having
to drag you out of bed.
Eat breakfast, brush teeth, uniform
on, shoes on feet.
Going to your stop, waiting for your
bus and remembering poems you haven't
done! Enjoying the bus ride until
it's your stop. Knowing all day
you'll be starring at the clock!

by Eli Vukovic (1st year Leterrier)

LIFE'S WAY

In dawn of early light, life begins a new,
as a new tapestry is drawn, and each moment
offers more,
the days and the days go by without a single
clue, our stories weave and our songs unfold
as we learn and live once more..
with each setting sun, lessons are learnt
memories at once renew.
In life, a brief whisper we find our way...before
the setting sun

by Michael Shihoff (1st year Leterrier)



beautiful

SEASONS CHANGING

Autumn leaves crunch under my feet
more fall on my head
I feel the blusterly wind in my face
I walk by rotting pumpkins, dead.
The remainder of Halloween.
Now it's time for advent
preparing and repenting.
Will it snow?
There's always hope
Alls not lost, there's always frost!

by Fionnán O Riain (1st year Leterrier)

HOT CHOCOLATE

When I was seven, I remember
The Christmas markets in
December
Berlin in winter is a magical place
Cold feet and a frozen face
Drinking hot chocolate is such a
delight
Warming my hands on a wintry
night

(Aidan Mueller 1st year Leterrier)

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE TY YEAR?

The TY students had a great trip to France with Miss Arlow in December. They went to Lille, the third largest French river port. A German exchange is also happening in 2024 for 4th and 5th years, and the Spanish exchange will continue too.



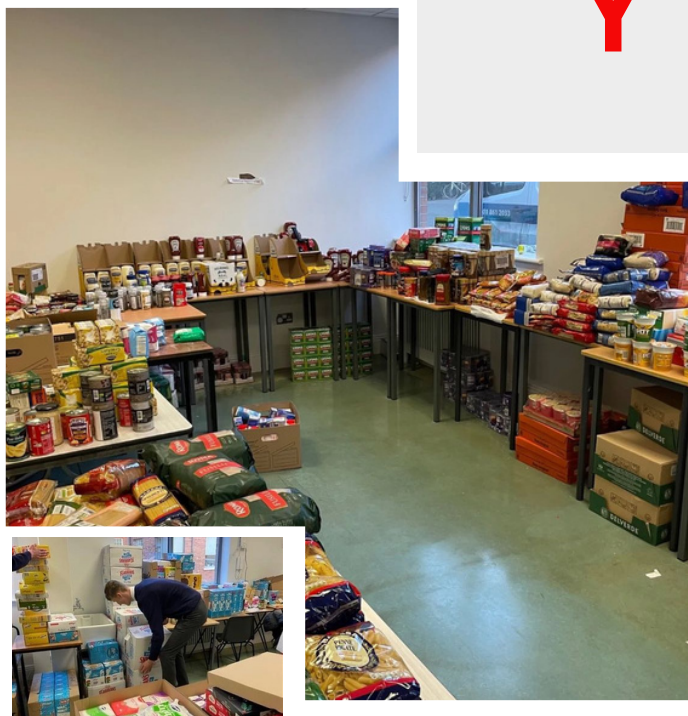
The ski trip this year is planned for Vermont in America in March 2024. It will be two weeks of fun in the snow, skiing down slopes. It will no doubt be the highlight of our TY year.

The mini companies have gotten off to a great start. From baked goods to scarfs, socks and hats, the TY year have been busy exploring their entrepreneurial skills. A firm favourite has to be the CUS red bucket hats designed by Darragh Redmond!



One happy bear 

TY



CUS HAMPER FUND

Every year, CUS commits to providing over 200 hampers to families in need at Christmas, along with food vouchers. Part of this commitment comes from the classhead system. Each classhead group commits to donating a number of hampers, typically 3 or 4 to the Hamper Fund Appeal. Each student is assigned a small set of items from the list attached. With every student bringing in a small element of each hamper, we are able to provide approximately 100 hampers to families in need this Christmas. The food vouchers and the other 100 hampers are purchased from the fundraising.

Fundraising comes from the Cake Sale, CUSPA lunch, 6th year fast, busking on Grafton Street and donations made by businesses. So far this year we have raised over €19,000. We would like to thank everyone who supported the cake sale and raffle, where we raised over €5,000 and CUSPA who raised over €3,000 at their annual lunch. The raffle was a massive success and again, thank you to all the parents and business who donated prizes. The CUS Hamper Fund is a long standing tradition, running for over 50 years. We would like to thank all families for their continued support of the Hamper Fund.

~ Stephen Daly

The Winter issue was brought to you by the C.U.S
media TY team. A big thanks to all our student
contributors, artists, writers & teachers across all
years.



www.cus.ie

& on

Instagram

