

ROCO Sporting Success

Senior B Hurling Champions

The Senior Hurlers made national headlines with their impressive success over Coláiste Bhaile Gháir on 19th March. The school community are incredibly proud of their achievement.

Perfect finish to the perfect season as Rochestown bag All-Ireland colleges title

Buckley in top form as Roco advance to final

Rochestown land All-Ireland title

As reported in the Irish Examiner on Sat, 19th March:

A sensational last quarter - during which St Francis College, Rochestown hit nine points without reply - secured the Cork city school All-Ireland Senior B hurling honours on Saturday.

Trailing by 0-9 to 0-8 entering the final quarter, Roco produced a storming finish to run out eight-point winners.

Central to this final quarter burst was the free-taking clinic put on by 2021 All-Ireland minor winning Cork hurler, William Buckley, who converted seven placed-ball efforts during this period, including the last five scores of the game.



Green-Schools for sustainable water

(Sam Cooke, 3A)

This year, The Green-Schools Committee has been working on the major task of water conservation.

They are measuring and assessing water consumption in the school. They are taking action to improve the facilities available to students, such as the toilets. They are also conveying their achievements back to the students with the message of reducing water via noticeboards and presentations. A major aim within this project is to inform students as to the work The Green-Schools Committee does.



Waste Management

On top of all the tasks for a new flag, The Green-Schools Committee must keep the school to the standard they achieved last year to attain the Waste Green Flag. This includes communicating with First Years and informing them of the guidelines around recycling.

One of the greatest achievements of the Litter and Waste Campaign was the introduction of segregated waste bins in the lunch areas and classrooms. At the moment we are putting together an awareness campaign to highlight the correct use of the bins. That's why as the new First Years arrived, we planned to trial cardboard bins in the First Year areas. In an attempt to encourage First Years to take part in the waste management process, they had the opportunity to decorate the bins for their classes, with the signage needed to properly convey how to recycle.

The winning bin design was the entry of 1A. They were awarded with a movie and pizza afternoon for their excellent efforts.

All of this work has happened on top of the impressive achievements of the Green-Schools Committee over the past two and a half years, including a Neat Streets Certificate, a Green Flag, and the significant improvement of the state of waste in the school, especially when it comes to the use of single use plastic bottles.

This year the number of members in our committee has doubled. We have welcomed some new and enthusiastic First Years. It was great to see the First Year student Cathal Swanton elected to be the Communication Officer of the Green-Schools Committee. As we aim to achieve the Water Flag, we face exciting times ahead.

Gaisce: A reflection on my experience

(James Hurley, 6D)

For the last 37 years, the Irish government has been running a program to enhance young people's confidence and well-being through participation in personal, physical, community, and team challenges. The Award is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland to all young people to dream big and realize their potential. It is the most prestigious youth award in Ireland.

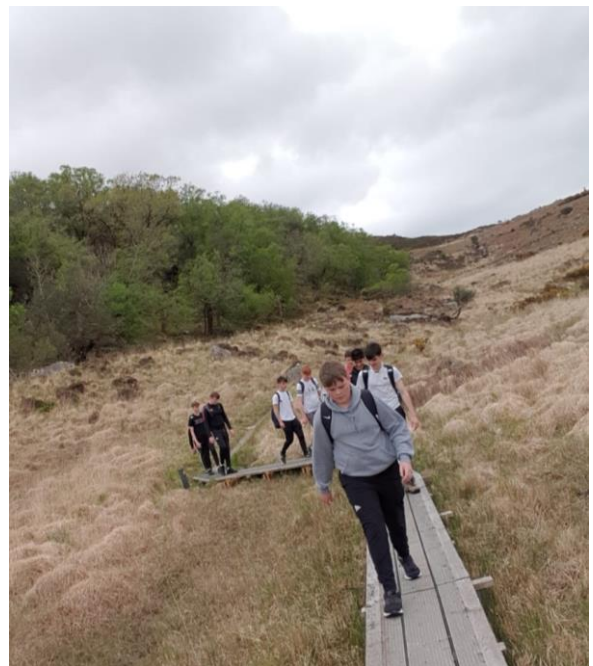
The awards are split into three categories: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Participants are supported through their Gaisce journey by a trained adult mentor called a PAL. The PAL in our school is Ms. McCormack. For the last number of years, she has been a massive help to many students in achieving their Gaisce awards. She offers excellent advice and helps students organise themselves and prepare for their Gaisce journey.

I recently finished my Silver challenge. The skills and abilities I acquired through my personal and physical challenges have turned into life skills that I use every day, and the volunteer work I did gives me many insights into the real world. However, the part I loved the most was the memories I made with my friends. Ranging from nearly setting the hostel we were staying at on fire from butting waffles in a dodgy toaster to taking shelter in a castle to survive the downpour. I believe if you do Gaisce, you won't regret it.



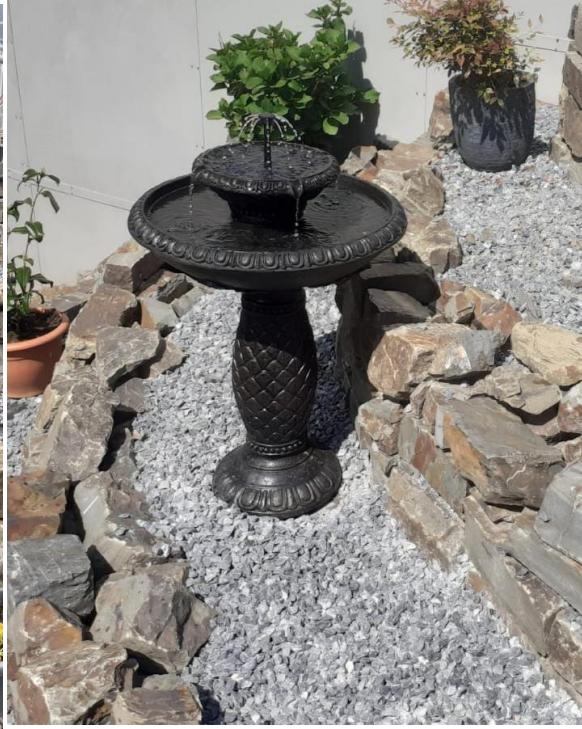
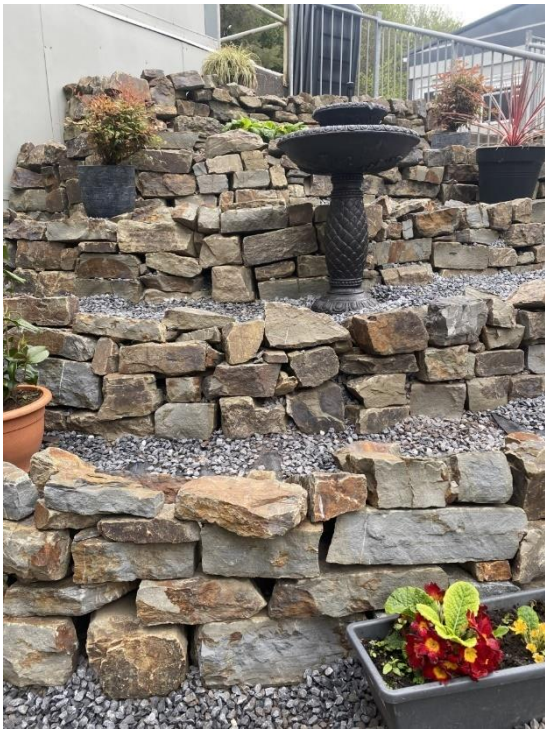
The Gaisce Tradition Continues

On Thursday, 5th May Transition Year students, along with Ms. McCormack and Ms. Heaslip, tested their endurance by completing a 16km walk, making their way over rugged landscape from Killarney to Kenmare. The walk took them a total of three and a half hours to complete. They are well on their way to earning their Gaisce award.



Transition Year Gardening Module

Building on the hard work of last year's Transition Year students, Mr. Weldon has continued his great work with this Year's Transition Year classes to brighten up the school's gardens. Tremendous effort has been put in by all those involved and the final results are beautiful.



Ukraine Clothes Drive

(Michael Keane, 6C)

I sat down with Fiona Denn, Chairperson of the Parents Association, to discuss their work and the 'Cash for Clothes' collection organised to raise funds for the Irish Red Cross Ukraine Crisis appeal.

Fiona Denn explained how the collection would work. On the 8th of March, the clothes collected were sold to a cash for clothes company. The total raised was €510. This was sent to ROCO Parents Association, who in turn sent this money to the Irish Red Cross.

There was widespread involvement from across the school community, with parents, students and school staff donating to the cause.

Why was the Irish Red Cross selected by the Parents Association? The Red Cross teams are on the ground in the Ukraine and will continue their work to repair vital infrastructure, support health facilities and help families with lifesaving food and hygiene items. This is a rapidly evolving crisis. Funds raised will help those affected get food, medicine, shelter and water. The funds will also help the Red Cross to assist those displaced by conflict.

Rochestown College Parents Association

**The "CASH FOR CLOTHES" collection
successfully raised
€510
for THE UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL
(Irish Red Cross)**

**Thank you for your generosity by delivering
over 150 bags to the collection points.**

**We know how much this donation will be
appreciated, and it will be used immediately for
Ukrainians who have recently
arrived in Ireland.**

Zambia Information Week

(Luke Breslin, 5)

In light of our partnering with the Padre Pio School in Zambia and in preparation for the visit of the Principal, Brother Moses, we decided to run Zambia Information Week. Our team was asked to organise a PowerPoint about Zambia, to help students learn about the geography, culture and history of the country.

In preparing for the presentation each person on the team was assigned certain topics to research, such as: Location, Languages, Population/ ethnic groups, History, Culture, Day-to-Day, Lusaka (the capital city), Animals/Flora/Climate and School-Education.

Once the team submitted their research, Richard Oslav and created a PowerPoint presentation.

When presenting to classes we explained how Zambia is a landlocked country; has numerous languages; has a population of about ten million and has an interesting pre-colonial, colonial and one party state history. We also discussed some of the cultural norms of the Zambian people, many of which are similar to us here in Ireland (especially their love of tea and soccer). Students learned about some aspects of the day-to-day life of the people (including the challenges they face, such as lack of drinking water and threat of disease); facts about their capital city Lusaka (including its history and economic status) and its native wildlife of animals and plants.

We hope that in sharing this information with students and developing their understanding of life in Zambia we can help build a meaningful link with The Padre Pio School in Zambia.



Walk for Water

(Leo Parata,5C)

When the Student Council learned about our pairing with the Padre Pio School in Zambia, Ms. McEntee asked us for simple ideas around how to get the student body actively involved in learning about and contributing to the life in the Padre Pio School community. We considered the potential for how to deliver information to classes, conducting surveys, organising activities and carrying out a cultural exchange. We found the opportunity itself a great rarity and, being mainly Senior Cycle students, we were eager to help out our paired school as soon as possible.

Once the Padre Pio School reached out to students, the Student Council began working on the Zambia Project. From the start, our main goal was to communicate the ethos of our school and to demonstrate the spirit of generosity and helpfulness at the heart of our school community. We were delighted to realise that St. Francis College and the Padre Pio School share the same core values and are passionate about helping the same causes. I believe this will be the foundation of a strong partnership between our schools.

One of the most effective events we organised was the 'Walk for Water'. It was fantastic to see the whole school get involved. Classes walked six kilometres while carrying 4 litres of water on their back. *This hugely successful initiative raised an amazing €8,600, which will help the Padre Pio School to buy essential equipment.*

I'm extremely proud of the work put in by all the students involved in preparing for the event and those who participated in the event itself. Seeing how possible cultural exchanges can be explored further in both of the schools' futures is exciting. Even simply just learning more about our schools ethos and educating students on who we represent was enjoyable and the Student Council can't wait to interact further with our sister school.



An Interview with Brother Moses

(Michael Keane, 6C)



During his visit to Ireland from Zambia, I had the opportunity to sit down and chat with Br. Moses, Principal of the Padre Pio School. He travelled all the way here to experience our school community in light of our newly established connection with The Padre Pio School.

As I sat down with him, he regaled me with the story of the lengthy journey here:

“The trip started on a Sunday at 21:00hrs, a flight from Kenneth Kaunda International Airport all the way to Doha in Qatar which took over eight hours, then from there to Dublin and then to Cork, I was impressed when I arrived at the airport, it was so very warm and welcoming”.

Br. Moses was very giving of his time. He visited and spoke with many classes. He was also given a tour around the school. This offered him an insight into the life of the school and all of the facilities on offer for both the students and teachers.

Br. Moses explained that the Padre Pio School first began as an idea of learning blissfully under a tree to build a school with now over one hundred students in a remote area. The Padre Pio school is our sister school and he hopes that we can unite as one to learn from each other.

In explaining the foundations of The Padre Pio school, Br. Moses told me:

“We started to have children gather under a tree, then I taught them a few things, as I taught them the number kept growing, this demanded a structured way of learning. We then developed classrooms and now have all facilities for different subjects. Students are usually twelve years old when they join Padre Pio. Our students are fascinated by St. Francis College Rochestown and are very eager to learn and interact with you”

In discussing his impression of our school community, Br. Moses said:

“The school is beautiful, and you're organised. I love the attentiveness in the classroom. It seems that you all have goals and know what you want to achieve. I hope with time you will be able to share this enthusiasm with us”

So, how can we link the two schools together going forward?

“We can improve our approach together; we can exchange voices; consider how we can learn from each other; Parents Associations can collaborate. It would be nice for the cultures to meet through technology and exchange. This way our pupils can interact with each other, and share and develop new ideas”

ROCO Writes



(Rian Mulcahy, 5A)

Room 161

It was a typical day for the Bronx Commons apartment block. Despite pleasant weather gracing New York, hardly any sunlight made it through the filth ridden windows. The smell of second-hand smoke, the buildings most prominent tenant, choked any poor visitor who wasn't already acquainted with it. The Great Depression may have been gone by the year of 1947, but it appeared that that news hadn't reached Bronx Commons just yet. The poor state of affairs meant that the only people the building harboured were the destitute and desperate. Everyone there had the trademark New Yorker apathy towards anything that didn't involve themselves. So much so, that no one paid attention to the police officer rushing up the main staircase. A few of the more crooked residents may have given slight notice to him, but once they realised he wasn't there for them they just went back to minding their own business. The officer was Segreant Morris and he was responding to a potential murder. There was reason for his gusto, when he had gotten the call on his radio, he noticed by chance he was two blocks away from the address given. When he finally reached the correct floor, *7th floor Room 161, 7th floor Room 161*, echoed in his head as he ran down the dark hallways. Eventually, after negotiating his way through the labyrinth like maze that was Bronx Commons, he came across the door to Room 161. Across the way there was an old woman peering through her doorway, obviously aware of what was happening in the room across from her. Morris turned to her and through a meek voice she said, "There're still in there." Morris turned to the door of the apartment and prepared to make his entry. He unholstered his trusty .44 Magnum before barging through the front door.

"FREEZE!" shouted Morris as he burst through the door gun drawn. The apartment was mostly barren. Most of the wallpaper had long since come down, exposing the pipes and electrical wiring. There was very little in the way of furniture, with only a pair of old armchairs and a stain ridden sofa making up what must have been the living room. The wall opposite the front door held a sparse kitchen with a worn counter separating it from the living space. This was not a place where someone would live by choice. There were two things however that Morris took as unusual: the massive pool of blood that came from the door on the left-hand corner of the kitchen and the man squatting in the middle of the room. He was facing away from the front door, and it looked like he was inspecting one of the armchairs. The man was dressed in a grey overcoat nearly as rugged as the apartment itself, and on his head lay an old worn-out fedora. He appeared not to be startled by Morris's dramatic entrance and instead calmly turned towards him. He gave Morris a slight grin.

"Ah good, you got here quick," he said in a calm tone. Morris still pointed his firearm at the stranger. "And just who the hell are you?" he barked at the man. The stranger stood up and raised his hands to his shoulders.

"Don't worry, I'm a Private Investigator," stated the man, reaching into his coat before taking out the distinctive badge of a P.I. If Morris wasn't in high alert mode he would have groaned, P.I's were infamous for being difficult to deal with when it came to these cases. "I was contracted by the..." he pointed towards the doorway with the blood stains "... resident here. They were scared that they were being stalked." He turned his attention back to Morris. "Looks like their fears were founded, eh?" the man chuckled slightly. "Also, would you mind holstering your gun? It's making me nervous." Morris waited a moment before reluctantly lowering his magnum. The man went up to him, the crooked smile still on his face. "I'm Detective Blake by the way," he said, outstretching his hand to Morris.

Morris hesitated before letting out a sigh and shook Blake's hand. "Sergeant Morris," he replied. He may not like P.I.s but he wasn't going to make this any more difficult than he had too.

Blake turned back to the apartment. "I've been following the owner of this apartment for a few weeks now, trying to find signs of the stalker". He strolled to the door where the body lay. "Not much luck in finding him unfortunately." His nonchalant demeanour took Morris off guard. Most detectives he had met were hard asses with chips on their shoulders. Blake on the other hand was just matter of fact about the whole thing. It was unnerving, but ultimately Morris shrugged it off.

Blake looked through the door. "Yep, there they are." Morris made his way over beside Blake and looked through the door himself. It took just one look inside for him to know that this wasn't your average murder. The door led to a bathroom, and in the middle of the room lay the body of the apartment's supposed owner. Morris was no stranger to the sight of the dead from his time on the force, but what lay before him was no common murder. He took a moment to compose himself before taking a step in. The smell of cigarette smoke was gone, replaced by the unmistakable stench of death. The body itself had stab wounds all over with a single gunshot in the middle of the victim's forehead. Most of the bodies Morris found were just results of either gang disputes or heated arguments, but as he continued to examine the body, he realised that this was the work of a much more twisted and evil mind.

"You alright?" asked Detective Blake.

Morris nodded and replied "Yeah, yeah," in a low voice. Morris then turned to the detective and asked a simple question: "Who did this?"

Blake let out a sigh and began to tell him what he knew. For the first time his expression had gotten somewhat sorrowful. "I wasn't told much about the stalker besides that he is white, middle aged, and male." *Damn*, Morris thought to himself.

Blake continued, "As for where he is, my guess is that he must have made a run for it once he was done," he said solemnly. "Considering that this place is filled with more filth than a landfill, no one would have noticed, or worse, cared. It's a wonder that anyone called the police at all."

Morris stroked his stubbly beard as his eyes darted to every detail of the room hoping to find something. It didn't take him long to notice the open window adjacent to the bathroom door. "If he didn't make a run for it then he may of jumped out that window." They both made their way to the window to see if it was possible. The gap between Bronx Commons and its neighbouring building was certainly jumpable. On top of that, its roof lay only five or so feet from the window the two men were looking out from.

Morris unfortunately came to the sullen realisation that if the murderer did make his escape through the window, then he would be long gone from the scene of the crime. As he laid his hands on the windowsill, the rotten wood broke under his weight. While Morris went to brush it off into the alley his mind got to thinking. *The wood would have broken if someone jumped out onto the rooftop.* He then relayed this information to the Detective who didn't reply. It was at this point Morris noticed that Blake's hand was on the back of his neck, and before he could move Blake pushed him out of the window headfirst into the alley below. Morris tried desperately to grab the roof's ledge, but due to the manner in which he was pushed he fell right past it. As he looked upon the ever-approaching concrete, the meek little voice of the old women echoed through his head. *There're still in there.*

Detective Blake, or at least the man who called himself Detective Blake, looked down to see Morris laying broken on the pavement. He let out an annoyed sigh, muttered "This will be a hard mess to clean up," under his breath before preceding to make his way through the window and onto the rooftop below.

Our school community is filled with those who achieve highly in a range of areas.

If you have something you would like to be included in the next edition of *The ROCO Review*, whether it be an event, a success story or a creative writing piece you would like to share then please let Ms. Keating or any of our ROCO reporters know.