

ballincollig community school

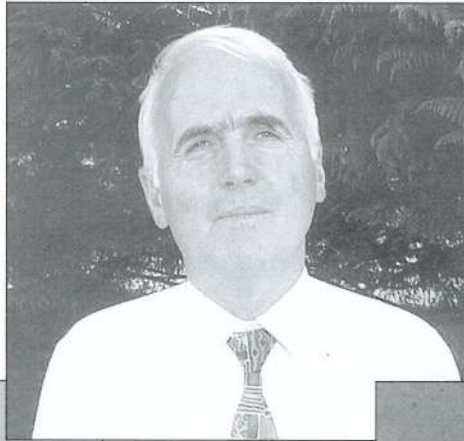
CLASS OF 1999



Style

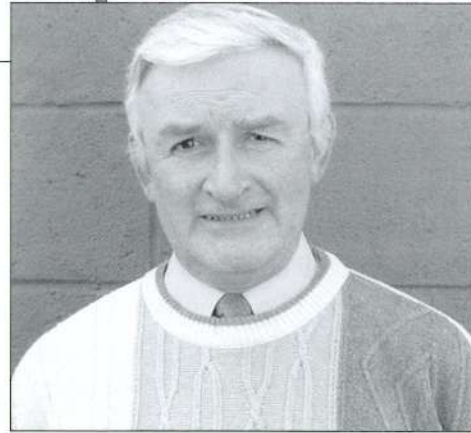
may 1999

Top:
Mr Sean Slowey,
Principal



Lower left:
Mr Ted Kennelly,
Deputy Principal

Lower Right:
Mr John Doolan,
Year Head



Principal's Farewell

The years spent in second level, coincide with a period of great growth in young people: Spiritual, Emotional and Physical. Six years ago when the class of 1999 entered Ballincollig Community School, they were children and now they leave as mature young men and women.

It is one of the great joys of being involved in teaching and education to observe this growth on a daily basis and it is my great pleasure to wish the class of 1999 "Bon Voyage" at the beginning of another phase of their lives. They have done the school proud by their courtesy and helpfulness and by their many achievements over their time in the school. This is a credit to themselves, their parents and their teachers and, in particular, to their Year Head – Mr. Doolan.

They are fortunate in being young when the country is booming economically and I hope they will all be able to seize the material opportunities presented. I would also hope that their time in Ballincollig Community School has made them aware that there is a spiritual dimension to life and that they should always look out for those in need of help.

I wish them all well in their Leaving Cert. and in achieving what they want in life.

Sean Slowey,

“The Fashion Show”

by Samantha Barry

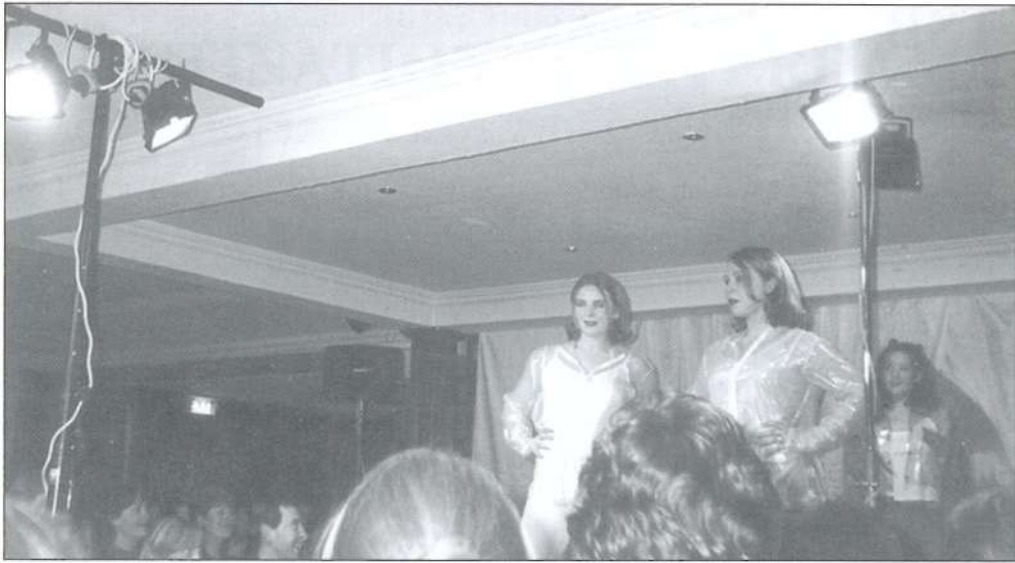
“Anticipation held everyone within its grasp. Excitement tinged the air and mingled with suffocating hairspray. Anxious screams and giggles could be heard from every corner of the backstage area.” This scene was a common one during fourth year for us, with the three fashion shows we painstakingly produced. All the fashion was held in conjunction with Profile Model Agency and under the guidance of Ed Jordan our confidence grew.

In the beginning of the classes the Chairperson, P.R.O., Treasurer and Art Directors were appointed to do various duties over the preceding weeks. In the start most of the people involved perceived it simply as an opportunity to have a laugh but it soon became apparent there was a lot of work involved. In following weeks our schedules were crammed learning a lot of beneficial things that would help us look good up on the daunting catwalk - from skin-care and makeup routines to strutting our stuff and swiveling our hips. The numbers that were permanently engraved in our minds were the essential 8-6-4-4-6-8 routine.

Although the vast majority of those involved were girls, a few courageous guys took up the challenge to partake in the whole proceedings, and in the end, they brought the house down, in an eruption of applause. These brave men were Shane O' Flynn, Noel O' Regan, John Cullen, David Walker, Finbarr Curran and David Finn.

Everyone's hard work was well rewarded with the three nights, two of which were held in the local Westpark Hotel and the final one in Jury's Hotel. We modeled a variety of fashions from local Ballincollig and city shops from Zoot to A wear, and no one could deny that the lads looked handsome in their clothes from Jack and Jones to Blacktie. The sponsors and the shops that donated clothes and spot prizes were well appreciated by everyone. Each fashion show adopted their own individual theme. The first one held early in the year was titled “Ramp Rage” and the catwalk was creatively decorated with a variety of road signs and cones.

The second show was themed “Sugar and Spice”, where nursery rhymes were recited by our very own Brian O' Donovan, who was granted the chance to co-compete with Ed Jordan. The final fashion show incorporated a summer theme to coincide with the summery clothes; they paraded the catwalk in. All in all, every show proved to be a huge success, where everyone got their five minutes of fame, felt like supermodels, and had the echoes of applause ringing in their ears for days after.



TSB School Bank

Maria Griffin

For 1996/'97 I was an honorary employee of the TSB School Bank. I was cashier and PRO. David Walker led our team – by blaming us for his books not balancing! (Although it was not our fault, I swear!). We started off with trying to make out previous year's team's handwriting (some people have mastered the art of encrypting their words perfectly!!!). Our first 'big' promotion was the Taz bars, "Join our bank, and you'll receive 3 free bars". It worked wonders actually. People were so willing to join us that they opened 2 or 3 accounts – what some people will do for chocolate! Unfortunately, Iníon Ní Shé had a problem keeping her hands out of the box (and was caught red-handed a few times), so Taz supply didn't last as long as we had anticipated!

Every Monday and Friday lunch-break, we would open our doors to all -especially our year who were eagerly saving for our trip to Amsterdam! Emily Ahern and I were inundated with people's hard-earned money being put in. In fact, after Amsterdam we only had First Years to deal with and it got a bit lonely! We rarely saw our Accountants (Deirdre O' Connor and Shane O' Flynn), as they were busy with their own worries trying to give out those huge sums of money in interest!

I have to say that despite the stereotypical image, we all had a laugh. We were rewarded with a bag (big spenders!) and a certificate. It was so worthwhile even for tearing our hair out when money went missing alone! But we did manage to get loads of new accounts and make a profit!

DESTINATION AMSTERDAM



DATE: FRIDAY MARCH 27TH 1997

DESTINATION: AMSTERDAM

AGENDA: TO FILL FIVE DAYS WITH AS MANY LAUGHS AND LOADS OF FUN AS POSSIBLE



A convoy of 45 pupils and 5 teachers started their trip on that faithful Friday morning at 8 a.m. in Cork airport, where everyone stocked up on “essentials” in the duty free. Ryanair flew us to Stanstead and then we boarded the ferry at Dover, which took us to Calais. Then we endured a gruelling coach ride through France, Belgium, Germany and Holland. There were plenty of vital pit stops along the way at various service stations. Everyone was bubbling with excitement and anticipation, and all were well entertained on the bus ride. We discovered we were a little lost when we finally found ourselves in Amsterdam and we weren’t able to locate our hotel. After a lot of circling and stopping for directions, we came upon our Hotel three hours late. Only to be faced with our “dinner” of a bar of chocolate, a bag of tayto’s and an indescribable orange drink! Everyone scattered to find his or her rooms and settle in.

To say the least, most people took full advantage of their balconies with fire escapes. The phrase “Hello, Mr. Policeman” was immortalised that night by Micky O’Donovan. Karen White, whacked after the journey, fell asleep in her room, leaving the other three girls Laura, Gayle and Caroline locked outside. The next day we ventured into Amsterdam City and enjoyed a picturesque canal trip, which highlighted the beauty of the city. We all lunched in the Irish pub “Dirty Nellies” situated in the heart of the city. Most people took the opportunity to have their photos taken next to the sign, which read “No Smoking Drugs on the Pool Table”.

Following an unsuccessful attempt to find Ann Frank's house, we were left loose to see the sights of Amsterdam. The city is scattered with numerous coffee house and hippy shops. Our scheduled trip to the local swimming pool that night was cancelled upon the discovery that it was actually nudist night, but in its place went a local disco - to which nobody complained. Inside the disco, locals and a rugby tour of Manchester lads greeted us. We delighted in teaching them a few words of Irish.

On the following day, Sunday, we left the Hotel and its slightly damaged ceiling behind and headed towards the next hotel in Valkenburg. On the way we visited The Hague and Rotterdam to have a quick look at the shopping centres. We also had the opportunity to spend a couple of hours in the Madurodam, which housed miniature versions of the country's main points of interest. That night we got down to some serious dancing in the local nightclub, "Disco Ahoy".

On Monday our schedule was jam-packed with a trip to Cologne, where we visited the famous Cathedral which was breathtaking. We also had a little taste of home, through a visit to the local MacDonaldis. There were plenty of souvenirs to be found in Cologne; among them was the vast selection of novelty lighters. We returned to Valkenburg to do some final shopping and we found other ways of spending our money! We enjoyed a night of bowling followed by our last trip to Disco Ahoy.

We started for home at 1am on Tuesday morning, with mixed emotions, anticipation to get home to tell all the news and scandal but also disappointment for it being the last day of a memorable holiday that would keep us talking for months to come. Our bus was flying the Irish flag and showed a Bob Marley picture out the back of the bus. On the plane trip home, the lads were well impressed by the airhostesses. We finally arrived home on Tuesday 25th at 8pm. The teachers we were accompanied by were Mr. Doolan, Ms. Brannigan, Ms. Galvin, Mr Spillane and Mr Downey. The photos that were taken were plentiful and just a glance at them can bring back a thousand memories.



MISSING SCHOOL

Fiona Murphy and Sinéad Lynch

In nineteen hundred and ninety three
The first years came flockin'
They swarmed in like bees
Oh they couldn't live on bread and butter
alone
So 'twas off to the caf for some nice
sausage rolls!

Then Oysterhaven, a packed lunch and a
bus
Surfing and laughing, there was no stop-
ping us!
Thrown down to the prefabs, it's a won-
der we're here
With the cold and heavy bags, our death
beds were near.

Oh I'm missing school,
I'd give all for a yellow thatched roof,
Oh I'm missing school,
Under Mr. Doolan's Rule.

Sure what the hell, we'll enjoy it while we
can,
So into 2nd Year, watched closely by Dan
Ovens and Coachfords, 'twas many we
had seen,
Life was beginning, we loved being
teens.

The big junior cert, starring us in the face,
We said many a prayer, we even said
grace.
The exams they were coming, nail-biting
and stress,
But the night in September oh it was the
best.

Oh I'm missing school,
I'd give all for a yellow thatched roof
Oh I'm missing school
By Mr. Doolan's module.

In 1996, it was transition year,
We were seniors now, we had nothing to
fear
With our Fashion Show, "Vogue" was hot
on our heels,
And after self-defence classes, we had
nerves of steel.

Sleeping bags and pillows, 'twas
Cappanalea,
Farewell to the Mammies, at last we
were free
Abseiling, Rockclimbing, mud up to the
knees,
Sleep deprivation, we didn't want to
leave.

Oh I'm missing school,
I'd give all for a yellow thatched roof,
Oh I'm missing school,
Under Mr. Doolan's Rule.

Once more we packed up the bags, and
we're off again,
Escorted by teachers, to Auld
Amsterdam
Fifth year, things changed and we
learned to speak out,
Using school books again, what were
they all about?!

Oh I'm missing school,
I'd give all for a yellow thatched roof
Oh I'm missing school
By Mr. Doolan's module.

We're 6th years now, the leaders of the
pack,
We'll be outta here soon, don't forget to
look back,
You gotta admit, there was the good and
the bad,
The crying, the laughing, the happy and
sad.

Thanks to our yearhead, you know who
you are,
If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't have
gone for,
Your humour, your wit, it helped us get
through,
Just one more time, we'd like to thank
you.

Oh I'm missing school,
I'd give all for a yellow thatched roof,
Oh I'm missing school,
Under Mr. Doolan's Rule.

The Joy of School



Adrian Moynihan, Mark Barry, Brian Buttimer, Ronan Lynch, Gerry Cronin, Neil McKenna.

1st year: The 4th of September 1993 was an unforgettable day for all of us. Of course all the girls went wild with the new boys in the school. Some, being more popular than others e.g. Declan Collins, Noel O' Regan and Gary O' Leary (Oh! How time changes somethings – for the worst). Little could be said for Glen Geasley's style when he wore his beetle crushers to school. The funniest incident in first year was in Trabolgan when Gary O' Leary wore white see-through shorts. Do I need to be specific? I'll leave the rest to your imagination.

2nd year: In second year the girls discovered a new miracle – makeup. Orange lines and oily patchy skin was soon noticeable. The skirts started to get shorter and the boys went around posing with plasters stuck to their ears.

3rd year: A year of hard work and dedication. 🍏 (YA RIGHT!)

4th year: This was a year of fun and excitement (for people that went to school). The best craic we had was in Cappanalaui driving Mr. Doolan and Ms. Chute mad. I'll never forget the look on Carol Denieffe's face when she saw Mr. Weir in nothing but a bath towel. (Well, at least she said, "You have a fine body, sir.")

5th year: Little or nothing exciting happened in fifth year, only that we the pleasure of entertaining the French students. (Quelle barbe !!)

6th year: A year of supposedly "Settling Down", that all went out the window with the lads having food fights and proving they were real men by gluing coins to the floor. The egos set in and a lot of the lads went a little overboard with their cool new macho images. Donal Bradley got two new tatoo's. Robert McGowen though he was Damon Hill in his Red Ford (pity it wasn't a Ferrari, they're usually equipped to go on two wheels). Brian Seymour was obsessed with his facial hair. Johnathan and Cian Keheller wore the "just jumped out of the shower" wet look for the year. Noel O' Regan was unrecognisable with his bleached D.J. hair-do, but least of all we can't forget Mark Barry's craze wearing his dark sunglasses in school.

All in all it can be said that our school years were some of the best days of our lives

Cheryl Flanagan.



BCS Transition Year students on 'Outdoor Pursuits', in the snow in Cappanalea.

Hurling and Football

In First Year we were all looking forward to playing more hurling and football outside of the club scene. It presented us with an opportunity to meet lads from other G.A.A. clubs whom we would normally play against, but now we found ourselves united under the school banner. Victories were few and far between and we struggled to make an impact in the final stages. It was not until fourth year that a team that showed so much potential, reached the semi-final of the Munster championship under the guidance of Gerry Buttimer. Many players progressed to the senior ranks of the B.C.S. hurling team at a young age.

98/99 was a very successful year especially for Cian and Jonathan Kelleher, Declan Collins and Damien Howick. They all played their parts in the Ballincollig minor football team who grasped the title of County Section Champions and were narrowly defeated in the county final. They were also worthy winners of the minor football league this year and maintained their club form enabling them to shine on the school team also.

The lads from Inniscarra included Tim Dineen and Jerry Cronin who collected titles, completing the double in the minor A hurling league and championship. It is true to say that Jerry has served his school over the last six years with pride and passion and his influence over his fellow team-mates is something to admire. Tim has found himself on a high this year and exploiting opposing half-back lines has become something of a regular occurrence to the man they call Twinkle Toes.

A special word of praise must go out to Willy Dineen who left us back in fourth year. This year he captained the Ballinora footballers to the minor A county championship. Also we would like to mention another great server to B.C.S. Paul Kiely who decided to pursue a different path and sadly disappeared from the side back in fifth year. I doubt he'll be forgotten!

It is also going to be a major year for Rory O'Doherty who will hope to succeed with the Cork minor hurlers in '99. Captaining the B.C.S. hurling team comes as a great honour to him. Being the last year for many of these lads the fire is in their bellies and Rory will be relying on the seasoned campaigners such as Brian Kirby, Jerry Cronin, Keith O'Leary and Jonathan Kelleher to contend with the odds.

It is the commitment of these players and their participation in sports that is so applaudable.

Last but not least we would like to mention all the superb trainers: Mr. Spillane, Mr. O'Leary, Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Holland, Mr. Cuthbert, Mr. Kennelly and an even more generous tribute to Mr. Downey, and to the main man himself Mr. Gerry Buttimer (for striking fear into the hearts of his players but at the same time showing all the virtues of one of the most talked about teachers ever known to B.C.S. hurling and football).

That was Hurling and Football.

*Rory O' Doherty,
Jerry Cronin.*



MUSIC SCENE

by Donal Bradley

There has always been a strong history of rock bands in B.C.S. The class of '99 is no different. The brightest prospect for future stardom is the band "Simper", half of whom are made up of 6th year students, namely Edward Ross (guitar) and Aidan Lombard (bass). The line up is completed by past pupils David Haynes and Eddie Krauss. Their roof-raising gigs in Connolly's of Leap have become regular social highlights, attended by many of the year group on different occasions.

Ballincollig's answer to the smashing pumpkins have also stepped into the big bad world of recording. In late 1998 they recorded 2 songs, ably assisted

by Ronan Lynch on violin and Cathy O'Hanlon on cello. Just ask the band or one of their many groupies (you know who you are) and a copy should be available. Let's just hope that when they conquer the world they remember who their friends were and send a few copies back home. Also in a band are Daniel "you'll never walk alone" Holland and Colin O' Sullivan. These guys haven't been together for long but who knows, their future could be just as bright.



THIS YEAR:

Darren Tisdall fulfilled the ambition of many and ventured into the girls' bathroom. For his trouble he was awarded with a report card. What a cruel world! Carol Denieffe's hair persistently changed shape and colour every day.

The stock exchange price of lip balm, world wide, rocketed to an all time high as each girl in the year group insisted on continuously caring for their tender lips.

The seat by the window mysteriously unscrewed itself and fell on the floor on more than one occasion.

Marie Lucey retained her title for "loudest voice in the world"

Due to the barbaric slaying of the palm trees by the football pitch, the year group was left with a lot more time on their hands for quiet reflection. Never ones to take such an affront lying down, we moved on and searched for another rule which could be openly flaunted. Up stepped the males of the year group and a new fashion craze - beards.

From Stephen O' Connell's foxy coloured effort to the various shapes and sizes of Damien Hurley's chinrugs, there was an assortment of facial fungi on show with varying degrees of success. They ranged from the proud and bushy manes to the frankly pitiful clumps of fluff. However the champion of the anti-Gillette brigade must be Brian Seymour. From his enormous Elvis-like sideburns to his long thin Del Pier locks there was always something going on, on his face. Here is a man who was born with a 5 o' clock shadow and is quite possibly the reason Mr. Ó Broinn and Mr. O'Leary shaved their beards - they felt threatened by a student.

If hair was being grown on the face by some, everyone was cutting the hair on their heads in the same style. Short back and sides and gelled back into submission on top. Gone are the shaved heads of previous years (Who will forget David Walsh's brilliant cueball impression?). Long flowing manes are also a thing of the past (people actually got to see Shaun Cadogan's face for a change). The only one left flying in the face of fashion was Mark Barry. With his mop of long brown hair and sunglasses in-doors, our Mark is truly a pioneer for freedom of expression.

In 10 years time these members of the year group will be married to the following:

Ruth Holden : anyone with a guitar

Colin O' Sullivan: a Pentium computer with a modem

David Walsh: Bob Marl's long lost granddaughter

Cian and Johnathan Kelliher: Michael Jordan

Brian O' Donovan: Kathleen Watkins (in his efforts to emulate Gay Byrne).

Also: Damien Howick will have actually turned into a maths book.

Brian Seymour and James Desmond will own the world's largest pub.

Ken MacCarthy will be a successful stand up comic. Jayne MacCarthy,

Emily Curley and Ciara Fahr will be Ireland's best competitors in every sport ever invented. Grainne D. will be managing director of Duggan

Law, an enormous legal practice.

EuroFoot



We were the sixth team to participate as sole representatives of Ireland, in the international EuroFoot soccer competition held in Vigneaux De Bretagne, Nantes, France. Team coach as always was Mr. T. Weir and on this journey, Year Head Mr. J. Doolan accompanied him. Our year was a special one as Nantes won the French premier division for the first time in its history. Our team consisted of the following: Evan Mohally, Alan Lynch, Gary O'Leary, Gary O'Riordan, Daniel Holland, Alan O'Carroll, Finbarr Curran, Rory Doherty, Michael O' Brien, Declan Collins, Robbie Spillane, Brian Kirby, Diarmuid Daly, Liam Finn, Ronan McNerney,

We departed Cork at midnight and were looking forward with great anticipation. After quite a hectic boat journey we eventually reached St. Malo, France and if a sixteen-hour boat trip wasn't enough we had to endure a two-hour bus ride to Vigneaux De Bretagne. When we reached Vigneaux De Bretagne we were all introduced to our host families who would have to put up with our antics for the next few days, but they were very understanding. After a good night's sleep I arose fresh as can be expected the following morning. On that day we travelled around Nantes. We took in the sights and sounds of the French Countryside. In particular I remember we travelled to a small French village. The guys and I purchased a few fireworks but after setting a minority of them off in a local park Mr. Weir abruptly took them off us, or so he thought.

The serious competition took place over the next two days. In our opening game, we were unluckily beaten 3-1 by St. Etienne, with Alan O Carroll getting our goal. A narrow 4-0 defeat by Wolves followed, our best result of the tournament a 1-





0 win, over the "Bumble Bees". Rory Doherty got the all-important winner as he chipped an absolute peach of a shot from the edge of the 18-yard box past the despairing goalkeeper's dive. Gary O' Leary also scored but after running off celebrating the goal was disallowed for offside, and the clear chance he got he didn't score because he thought he was offside when he wasn't.

We played Madrid in the next match, on the number 1 pitch. We were just beaten with Liam Finn getting the all-important own goal. He also lost his boots so it wasn't a particularly good tournament for him. I don't think I'll ever forget playing on the number 1 pitch with the crowd cheering. The atmosphere was unbelievable. Our final game was full of pride as we put up our finest display of the tournament being narrowly defeated on penalties by Vigneaux, with Mick O' Brien and Rory Doherty missing the all-important spot kicks.

Gary O' Riordan and Rory Doherty made it on to the European select eleven, which competed against a French team in a special challenge game. The boys acquitted themselves well and young Gary was unlucky not to score. We finished in a fine position, considering the level of competition that we encountered. We also won the "Fair Play Award" for our fairness while playing but, when receiving the trophy, Mick O'Brien shamed us all when he fell down the steps of the presentation stand. District 44 were the eventual winners with Wolves the runners up. Sunday night saw a dazzling fireworks display, which was truly spectacular.

All the lads had a great time and wish to thank Mr. Weir and Mr. Doolan for putting up with us for the week.

By Evan Mohally



Deire Seachtaine na Gaeilge

Basketball

Basketball for the present under 19 team began in second year, missing a year of basketball as no coach was to be found. Mr. Lucey succeeded in obtaining Neptune's wonder coach Jim Nugent who has been with the team ever since. The foundations of basketball were slow in coming to the group of 20 boys, however after much work from the coach these foundational skills were eventually installed within this group. Our first ever game arrived in the form of Presentation College. A narrow defeat of six points was one of only 5 defeats which this team suffered in their 5 years of basketball.

This '94 season ended in a game with our fellow Ballincollig school. Colaiste Choilim were the opponents in Neptune stadium. This fortunately was the only County final which this team was to play in their 5 years of basketball. A narrow defeat of 31-30 with a controversial last minute decision by the ref. resulted in our defeat.

The next season saw the school capture their first ever County Championship. A season in which the team won every game, concluded in a very close encounter with Colaiste Mhuire, Cobh. This resulted in a win for a very talented and resilient team, with the "never say die" attitude capturing the title of the school's first ever basketball honours.

At this stage 4 of this Under 16 team were also key members of the Under 19 team. These four players, Cian Kelleher, Rob McGowen, Alan Kelleher and Jonathan Kelleher formed the basis for the Under 19 County winning team against Mallow. A month later a trip to Limerick for the All Ireland playoffs resulted in a route to the All Ireland final for both Under 16 and Under 19 teams.

An All Ireland win against St. Patrick's Classical School for the Under 16 team and later an Under 19 win against St. Mary's Tallaght was a very memorable day for the school and the teams involved. The next year again resulted in a trip to Dublin, for the All-Ireland final after defeating Colaiste Spioraid Naomh in a rallying performance coming back to win by 4 points from an initial 16 point deficit at half time. However, this time the team lost to



Moyderwell School Tralee.

Disappointed but determined the team looked forward to next year. This time the team once again defeated Colaiste Spriod Naomh in the county final by 54-48. Again a rallying performance in the second half captured victory. And now another trip to Waterford for the All-Ireland playoffs will hopefully result in another trip to Dublin and another All-Ireland title for the school's new found basketballing confidence.

Jonathan Kelliher



IF THEY WEREN'T TEACHERS.....

Damien Howick

Brian O' Donovan

Mr. Doolan would no doubt be a stand up comedian and Fr. Ted would still be on our screens.

Mr. Gerry Buttimer's love for all things British would make him a perfect cricket umpire or even a stand in double for Cartman in Southpark

Mr Myles' energetic and violent voice would have led him to a career on radio while Mrs Horgan's dazzling smile could only belong on the face of an airhostess.

Ms O'Reilly's wild hair makes her perfectly suited as Krusty the Clown's assistant on the Simpson, and sticking with T.V., Mr J. Buttimer would have made a great Fonzy on Happy Days.

Ms Maher's innocent face and timid voice would be perfect quality for a nun !!

Mr. Downey would undoubtedly be a back surgeon.

Lastly, Iníon Ní Mhurchú would no doubt be a drill instructor in the Irish army and Ms. Murphy, with her well-groomed sidelocks, would give Del Piero a run for his money as a professional footballer.

Yvonne Twohig

The transition year horse-riding module was held in Greybrook Riding Centre under the care of Ray and Elsie Murphy. The owners didn't know what hit them the first day when twenty eager students accompanied by Ms Broderick turned up. It was the first time doing this sort of activity during school so nobody knew what it was like.

When we arrived we were split up into two groups. The first group went with Elsie to do the theory part. She showed us the different parts of the horse. The different parts of the bridle and the saddle. She also showed us how to groom a horse using the different brushes.

The other group had the exciting part. They were the first ones on the horses. The owners brought the horses in and everyone was given the most suitable horse. They first showed us the correct way to get up on a horse. They also told everyone the most important thing about horses and that is, not to walk behind a horse, unless you want a kick in the head. Of course no one really took any notice.

Once we were up on the horse the worst thing for some people was making the horse go and then trying to stop it. After a few weeks everyone could walk, trot and the brave ones could canter. They had transformed everyone into great jockeys. And at least by the end of the weeks there were no injuries. Which was very unusual!



Quizzes

by John Pio Daly

It all started in distant second year. Mr. Lucey, quiz-coach extraordinaire, was recruiting junior students for the positions for the Cork Examiner's Schools Quiz team. Donal Bradley and yours truly were selected and so began the arduous preparation for round one against Coachford Community College. These preparations concentrated on the lucrative round of questions based on the previous weeks of papers. Experience of cramming for exams came in helpful here. And we quickly gained confidence, learning from our teammates Diarmuid Twomey and Herbert Down.

Our luck ended with a controversial third round showdown with Rockwell College, Tipperary. The advantage of home territory to Rockwell was evident as rules regarding prompting from the audience were - shall I say - "overlooked". The cry on the bus home that snowy night was "we was robbed". We lost by one solitary point.

Donal and I returned in third year, as did Diarmuid and Herbert. We breezed through rounds one and two in St Angela's, Cork and St Mary's, Mallow. Round three saw an encounter with Farranferris in a packed hall in Ashton. The crowd far exceeded the average of about ten to fifteen. Perhaps this was a factor in our nine-point loss. Once again we had to be content with our minor prizes (pens, notebooks, etc).

The 97/98 session had brought changes. It was now simply the Examiner Schools Quiz, with teams from outside Munster participating. The B.C.S. now consisted of Aiden Crangle, Louise Connell, John Daly (captain) and Kevin O'Reilly. Hours and hours of study took place weekly from October to April, each participant having a three-inch thick folder of general knowledge to revise.

All of this hard work really paid off in the end. Before we knew it we were in the quarterfinals against St Mary's, Moyderwell, Tralee, the school that had beaten our under nineteen basketball team in the All Ireland final of the previous month. After a sluggish start B.C.S. rallied and turned a halfway losing margin of 18 points into a draw. However because of our better answering in the Examiner round, we were declared the victors.

The final night came on the 25th of April, after some serious preparation. An impressive crowd gathered in the U.C.C. students' centre and the air in the green room was so tense that even furniture was shaking with nerves. We had calmed down by the time we were finally called and in beating Douglas Community School we chalked up the highest score of the night.

Our opponents in the grand finals were the defending champions, Presentation Brothers Cork. Unfortunately, the night belonged to them and they regained their title with a 21 point winning margin. It was the end of a long road but we were more than happy to accept the runners up prize of an undisclosed sum of money.

From my own point of view the three years of quiz experience were more than worthwhile. I met many new people, formed bonds with others and it certainly made me able to cope with performing before a crowd. My final word must be one of appreciation for Mr Dermot Lucey, without whose years of dedication none of these experiences would have happened.

Brian O' Donovan

Debating Team

It all began back in October 1997 when three inexperienced 5th year pupils took on the role of forming the school debating team. Brian O'Donovan, Grainne Duggan and Shane O'Flynn along with Ciara Bowe from 4th year had



never debated before so the nerves were showing before that first meeting with St. Aidans Community School to debate the motion "Ireland of the welcomes is becoming a racist state"

A unanimous decision saw B.C.S. into the second round of the concern debates. Six months of gruelling competition followed under the guidance of Ms. Owens and Mr. O' Leary along with a host of loyal supporters, we triumphed against schools like Christ the King, Carrigaline and Scoil Mhuire, Limerick, debating motions from "Debt Forgiveness" to "Overseas Aid". Eventually the day arrived we had made it to the finals.

The blazers were donned and the shoes polished as we headed for Trinity College, Dublin. Ray D'Arcy chaired the contest as we opposed the motion "Human Rights Hinder Economic Development". Unfortunately our team was defeated but to get to the National Finals was a victory in itself.

Well done to Grainne, Shane and Brian.



Under 19 Munster Tennis Plate Championships 1998

Colin O' Sullivan

1998 was a very successful year for tennis in the school. For the first time in the school's twenty-one year history had tennis team won a Munster competition. This great achievement belonged to the Under 19 Ballincollig Community School Tennis Team. Three members of the year group were part of the team of four.

Colin O' Sullivan, David Walker and Michael Ahern, strongly aided by James O' Sullivan of second year. The team took part in a lot of winter training and it certainly paid off. It certainly looked like the strongest tennis team the school had produced in years but it is highly competitive sport and the team certainly didn't expect to end up winning the competition.

They knocked out teams such as Mallow Patrician academy and competition favourites Christian Brothers College Cork along the way. After six rounds of hard tennis they reached the final. They faced Douglas Community School in Tennis Village on a hot spring afternoon. B.C.S. won the final two matches to one with great performances from all the team members.

It was a great achievement and a one we'll never forget. We'd especially like to thank Mr. Weir for all his work for the tennis teams over the years. Thanks.



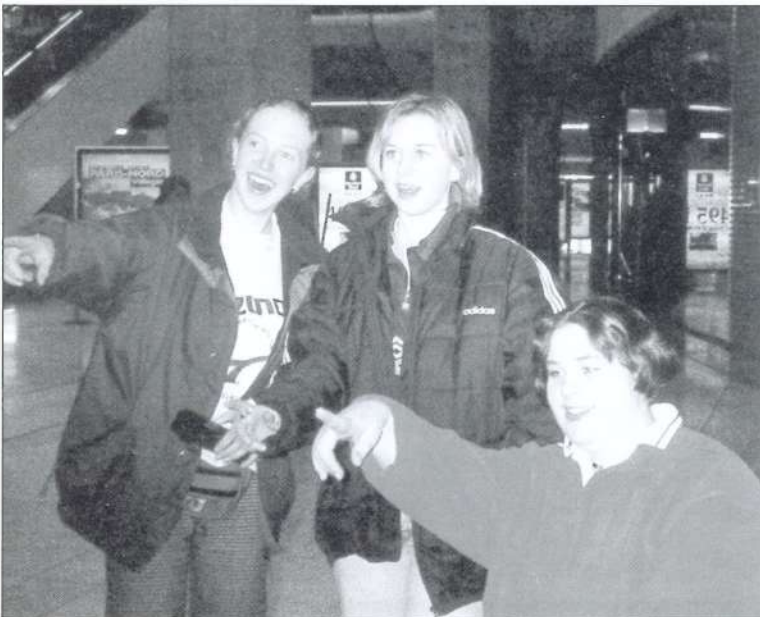
German/Irish Student Exchange Summer of 1998

E. Ahern

The three weeks we spent in Germany were definitely one of the best three weeks of our lives. On the 30th of June 1998, 10 apprehensive students braved the elements (namely Ms. Dawes), in Cork Airport and boarded a plane to Amsterdam. At this point most of us were excited by the air stewards and hostesses, making their way down the aisle with those treacherous trolleys serving sausages.



In Warendorf we parted company and met our German families. We now faced the daunting task of speaking their language and at this point knew there was no going back. The following day the Germans hosted a “welcome party” for the Irish group (10 from Cork and 16 from Longford). In typical fashion, the Irish clung to each other and exchanged horror stories of our first night. Most of us knew very little of Germany, but by the second night we had found a little Irish pub in the town centre and had rousing karaoke sessions most nights!



Each day the German and Irish Groups took part in planned activities. Highlights of the trip have to include Emily Curley and Ms. Barrow’s rendition of Abba’s “Dancing Queen” in the Irish pub. The day we went rafting down the river Ems and threw Tim Dineen and Colin O’ Sullivan overboard, meeting for ice cream at the glorious ice-cream cafes, the crazy obstacle-course sports day with violent water fights,

(Ms. Dawes falling victim!) and of course those all-important shopping trips to nearby cities!

But above all, the most significant part of the holiday the Irish beat the Germans, 7-4 in the soccer final. With Ms. Barrow as manager and coach, the Irish side played a stunning match and had a resounding victory over the home team. Each member of the Irish group (Cork and Longford) got to "strut their stuff" on the pitch and show a bit of Irish flair to the weaker German side! The Irish (who we always knew were better at soccer than the Germans!) brought the cup home to its rightful place the following week.



Accident of Birth

(W. Meredith)

But it is not this random life only , throwing its sensual astonishments upside down on the bloody membranes behind my eyeballs, not just me being here again – old needer - looking for someone to need, but you, up from the clay yourself, as luck would have it, and inching over the same little segment of earth ball in the same little eon, to meet in a room, alive in our skins, and the whole galaxy gaping there and the centuries whining like gnats – You, to teach me to see it, to see it with you, and to offer somebody uncomprehending, impudent thanks.

Best wishes to my 6th Years.

John Doolan



Teachers' Quotes

Mr. Myles: "You don't need to know this, but I'll show you anyway"

Ms. Maher: "If you breast feed, your perky breasts turn into droopy breasts"

Grainne O'Connor: "Diploid is when you are having twins, Triploid is when you are having triplets." And Ms. Maher agreed.

Mr. Prenderville: "We can do this the easy way or the simple way."

"The next person that opens their mouth, I'm going to give it to them."

"The government doesn't pay me to stand here and teach ye."

Mr. O' Leary: Question from pupil "Is this a percentage sir?"

Answer: "No it's marked out of 100"

Ms. Owens: "Sweet Jesus, God" while tearing her hair out with frustration.

Mr. (John) Buttimer: "Hey kids, do ye want to hear a story about my family?"
"Am I cool".

Ms. Dawes: "Sean Whealan, don't you dare wink at me".

"Don't just sit there like a pack of lemons"

Ms. Healy: "Ye should all be getting B's or at least an A"

Mr. Doolan: "Find an approx. value for e. - about a tenner (£10) if my sources are right."

Mr. O' Callaghan: "My fault lads"

"Get back to maths."

Ms. Donnolly: In relation to maths, "It's like the menstrual cycle."

J.J. Murphy: "Is that okay lads, is that okay?"

Ms. Daly (sub for O' Farrell): "Facts equal marks, and marks equal Ahh's in a thick Kerry accent."

Mr. O' Broin: "right, creatures" (talking to pupils).

Ms Owens: "Jerry you may be smart, but I'm smarter."

Ms. O' Farrell: "I've got three words for you lads - that's not good enough."

Mr. Myles: "I'll be back in 5 minutes."

Mr Buttimer (Irish) while at a senior football game against Bishopstown C.S. turns and says to one of the Bishopstown selectors: "I'll drop ya now boy."

Mr. Lucy: "Sciences are vain and full of error which do not spring from experiment, the source of all certainty."



Letting Go.

When new things begin, others sadly must end
Like silver friendships, that lead to golden friends.
When you look back and think, you were once part of a team
Be happy and smile, content in that dream.
Don't wallow in sadness, aim to walk on
And wander that road to which you belong.
You cannot turn back so hold your head high
And aim for the star that's lighting the sky.
It's not going to fall; it's going to shine bright
Just like your future, just like your life.
Being a flower that's blossomed, you'll continue to grow,
Unique in yourself, when the cold winds blow.
And if the winds shake you, you won't fall apart
You'll leave all those memories locked in your heart.
As you tread life's path remember, no matter what you do
There'll always be angels above guiding you.

By Lisa Naughton





Teachers of Sixth Year - 1998/1999

**We would like to offer our sincere
THANKS
to the
SHELF BOOKSHOP
for their generous Sponsorship
of this Yearbook**

