

You have, each one of you, had the privilege of a benefit that is given to some and it is this: it is a space, both physical and psychological, a haven if you will, where you have been given the space and time to expand the edges of your experience, secure in the understanding that you will be safe in doing so.

Secure in knowing that there will be someone to guide, advise or support you. Secure in knowing that there will be someone to assist, counsel or direct you.

Where is this haven? It is our school, Midleton College.

Who are these people? Many of them are here tonight. Your teachers, our nurses, our Board members, our associations, our household & catering staff, your friends and fellow 6th years.

It is right that we should all gather, but it is once again a privilege earned by the communal effort of us all, that we can jointly celebrate your maturation into adulthood as you make the move out into the wider world in the weeks and months ahead.

Into that wider world I believe you bring an unselfconscious wholesomeness of character. The outcome of your development in the haven of Midleton College is that you are who you are: diverse in interest, diverse in ability and experience, yet each unique, possessing god-given and natural talents in the combination that you have become. Unique unto yourself yet possessing a common set of

“Glamour Girls!”



An unusual angle of the Form VI girls taken from upstairs in the main school building.

values based on tolerance, openness and a willingness to understand others.

You live in a generation, which, for all the availability of information, is a generation fraught with uncertainty. People are finding it harder and harder to be sure of where they stand, and in some cases, who they are.

I believe your experience, your privilege, in the haven of Midleton College, has been to be protected, to an extent, from the crush of external social pressure. Like a cordon rope held against the onrushing demands of 24/7 society, your privilege has been that your character and personality has been allowed to expand.

In that space, during this time, your personal character has had more opportunity than most, a benefit given to you but not to all, to develop at its own pace. I believe those of us who see you regularly can discern this quality in you each day – can see it here in front of us tonight. There is no throwing shapes, no requirement for uniformity; it's as ok to arrive by tractor as it is to arrive by limo. Instead the 'you-ness' of each one of you shines brightly in our presence, radiates and fills this room.

That, I believe captures the privilege that your education at Midleton has given you. It does not make you better than anyone else. It does, I believe, give you a sure and strong grounding in a knowledge of yourself as you move into the world. It is a world where many young people carry with them an excessive burden of uncertainty. It is my belief that each of you have the emotional intelligence to carry that portion which is your own with understanding.

Take this strong and sure grounding, this wholesomeness, and carry it with you with care in life. Aspire to be the best person that you can be, aspire to do good things as you journey. Be kind to others and whatever you do, do it with love. You have made your mark while here at Midleton College and we celebrate that and thank you for it. Now, live up to that in your futures and, in the most positive way you can, seek to make your mark in the world.

“Selfies!”



Sally Poynton and Jayne Walsh wanted to immortalize the moment prior to the start of the formalities.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2014



Tháinig na sluaite go dtí an poc fada imbliana mar go raibh an All Star i gceannas ar chúrsaí.

Bhí iníon Ní Choitir mar bhreitheamh ar an bpoc sinsireacht agus sóisearach.

Bhí céilithe ag gach bliain sa halla agus sa cheaintín agus bhí an-spraoi agus ruaille buaille ag gach dalta.

Bhaineadar an-taithneamh as an tráth na gceist agus an Bíongó arís i mbliana.

Míle buíochas do na daltaí go léir a ghlac páirt agus do rang idirbhliana iníon Ní Choitir a thug an-chabhair do na múinteoirí i rith tráth na gceist gnóthach ar an Luain.

- C.N.

The Student Council



There were 3 representatives from the first three forms and 4 representatives from form 4/5/6 on the student council last year.

It was a very busy but successful year for us. Three members, David Wood, Gavin Spillane and Aoife Dunne attended a two day workshop in C.I.T. This included a simulated European parliament, talks from prominent Irish politicians, and a get together with other secondary students at Blackrock observatory for dinner and a disco with Red FM.

Also the Christmas fair was well provided with treats as the student council provided a hot chocolate and cookie stall.

The raffle prizes for the Christmas play were attained by eager student council representatives trudging all over town asking for donations. A whopping 1,500 euro was given to Midleton hospital from monies raised.

A non uniform day in May raised almost 400 euro for the Marie Keating foundation which was the charity the council chose to support last year.

Thanks to all the members of the council for all their diligent work throughout the year.

- G.B.

Debating

The Midleton College debating society has experienced one of its most successful years of recent times. The year started brightly as our junior girls team of Katelyn Manning, Onome Ahkilomen and Jesse McCarthy finished in second place at the IRFUW Public Speaking Competition 2014 for Girls under 15. A fine achievement.

In the spring of 2014, Adam Ford qualified for the semi-final of the inaugural Munster Junior Philosophy debates in UCC. Adam's debate on "allowing corporations to pay higher salaries to employees who agree not to have children during their term of employment" was an outstanding piece of persuasive oratory and was unfortunate to miss out on a place in the final eight.

In October our Form Four team composed of Adam Ford, Adam Morris, Jonathan Tinne, Fergus Sheridan and Oisín Parsons qualified for the quarter finals of the senior UCC philosophy competition. The experience of the previous year's Junior competition has clearly proven invaluable!

2014/15 has also seen Midleton College's re-entry in the prestigious and demanding Concern debates. We are currently battling hard in a difficult group stage, and have completed two heats out of four thus far, narrowly losing both by one point. The experience has been eye-opening and enjoyable in equal measure. Our team, ably captained by Adam Ford, have surpassed all expectations in their first year at the highest level of secondary school debating and have represented the College with distinction.



Back Row L-R: O. Parsons, A. Ford, A. Morris, F. Sheridan, J. Tinne. Front Row L-R: K. Manning, E. Roch-Perks.

We look forward to another year of exciting debates in 2015. One of the highlights will be a new competition initiated by the Cork History Teachers Association. The 'Historical Debates' series is scheduled to begin in January and promises to fire up the imagination of Midleton College debating society.

- C.B.

A student appreciation of Mr. Thompson

This summer we said goodbye to our former principal, Mr. Simon Thompson who, after his 11 years of service to Midleton College, has seen fit to return to his previous school, Kilkenny College, this time however, to take up the mantle of principal.

During his tenure here in Midleton the school community has seen a vast improvement in both the facilities available to students and general quality of service that the school provides. He was one of the driving forces behind securing the funding for, and overseeing the construction of The Colton Building. He leaves behind a well-grounded fundraising campaign for the establishment of a fully equipped on campus sports hall. The numbers of those seeking enrolment into the college have also increased exponentially, due majorly to Mr. Thompson's highly effective P.R. policies. All of this has been achieved in spite of some of the most difficult economic circumstances imaginable for any private company, yet the school (thanks to a skilled navigator at the helm) has managed to avoid the large scale redundancies and the degradation of services that are all too common in recent times. We allow his achievements aforementioned to speak to his virtues themselves.

Now to the man himself. Mr. Thompson could be seen anywhere and everywhere in the college at any time, ever engrossed with both the task at hand, and the next one after, yet always he retained a polite and friendly greeting for all he came across. If nothing else, he was (and remains) one of the most approachable people I've ever come across. One never felt as though your concerns were invalid or your queries irrelevant, and he always took the time to stop and address your concerns, following up later as necessary. I know from my own parents the level of confidence his no-nonsense, well-mannered and concerned approach inspired in those seeking to send their children to the college and I believe it can be difficult to quantify the real value of that confidence, as it translates directly to the enrichment of so many other aspects of the school community.

Mr. Thompson was an invaluable asset to the college and its community, yet he has left it a better and a stronger place than he found it and thanks to his guidance during one of the more trying periods the college has had to face, it will carry on providing an excellent quality of service to its pupils. He will be missed by both staff and students alike and we wish him all the best in his new post.

- Steven Lynch (Form VI).

Mr. Doyle's Retirement



Mr. Eamonn Doyle could often be seen strolling around the school with a large overcoat, warm scarf and walking stick contemplating each step he took. Yet he would awake from his wandering thoughts to greet you with a welcoming nod, and quietly continue on his odyssey.

He taught from 2008 - 2014 in the subjects of English and

Classical Studies, yet his greatest contribution to the life of the school came in the form of his own passion: drama. Since he took the reins of the annual Christmas play, he explored a wide range of dramatic endeavours, from the comedies of "Little Shop of Horrors" to "Oliver Twist" and "South Pacific", each one more challenging and a greater success than the last, and with the up-and-coming "Blood Brothers" a highly anticipated event. There is no doubt

the quality of each production was attributed to his own enthusiasm and commitment, not to mention enhanced from his own experience as a founding member, director and actor of the Cork Journeyman Theatre Company and his infamous role in the Eircom phonewatch as Brian ("Hi")

In the classroom he was patient, unassertive and yet highly appreciated. He inspired great interest and could leave you going to your next class deep in thought. He himself was a deep thinker, yet he was open to any topic to gently draw you into the debate and guided you to develop your own opinion. He seemed just as interested in what the students could teach him as well as providing regimented learning. He sometimes took to alternative methods to find the best and most interesting way in which to teach. He did not just teach knowledge but taught wisdom.

Unfortunately Mr. Doyle was unable to continue in his position and he shall be deeply missed. There seemed so much more to learn from him.

- Sam Mitchell (Form VI).

An Appreciation of Mr. Doyle

Magic touches all our lives at some point. The elusive quality that allows the marvellous to emerge from the mundane. For us in Midleton College that magic came in the form of Eamonn Doyle.

Eamonn worked in Midleton College from 2008 to 2014. I first encountered him at a school lunch one Saturday in September. There had been multiple matches than morning so there were various unfamiliar men around the table in the dining hall. Being the only woman and not being of the rugby department I was kind of outnumbered. I looked across at the only friendly face and said 'Hi I'm Allie and I work here.' His reply was 'Hi I'm Eamonn and I work here too.'

At this point we both laughed and so began a wonderful friendship.

Eamonn undertook weekend duty initially, then he taught Classics, produced the Christmas concert and finally took up hours in the English department.

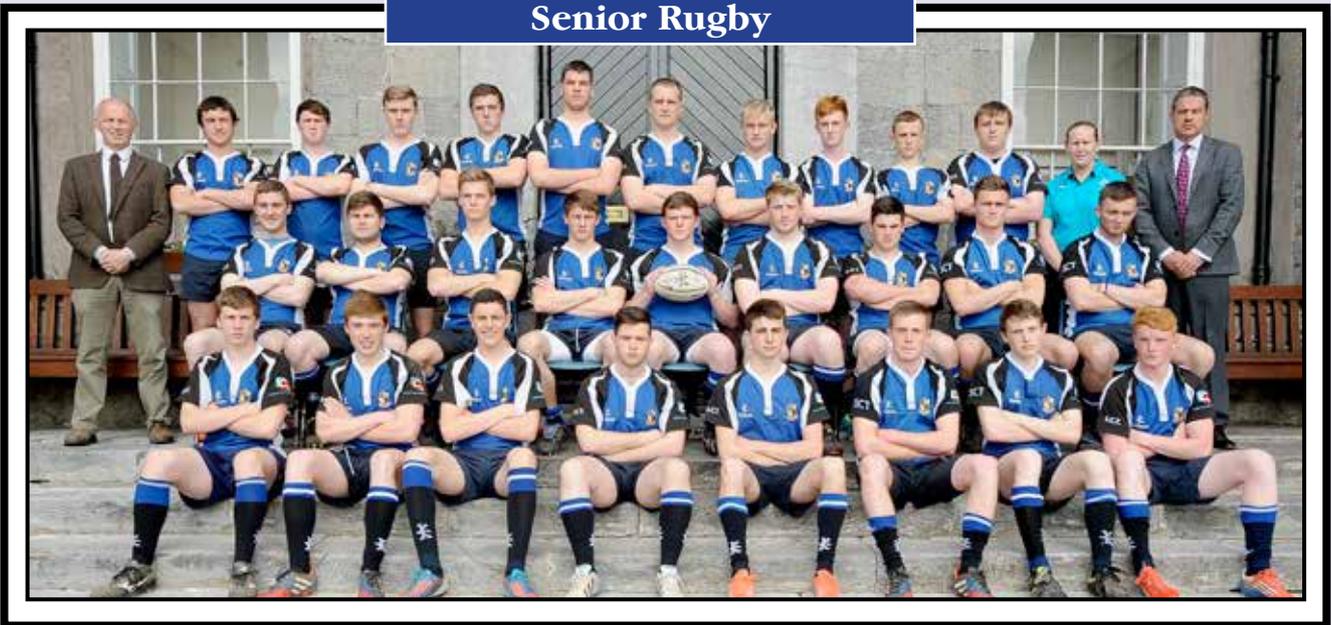
Eamonn has that way of making his students feel valued, appreciated and respected. The H.Dip lectures never provided their students with the ingredients for this winning combination.

The Christmas concert under Eamonn's directorship became one of the sacred points of the school year for all involved. His creative imagination, calm nature and inspirational persona ensured the students best performances were possible. His English classes were energetic, interesting and stimulating. His Classics groups gained so much more than just an understanding of Alexander the Great.

It is such a shame for us all that Eamonn's teaching career had to be cut short due to ill health. May he now receive some of the magic that he had so generously distributed to us all.

- A.M.

Senior Rugby



Back row L-R: Mr. Power, E. Daly, J. Power, K. Simpson, P. O' Riordan, J. Hennigan, S. Mitchell, R. England, A. Burns, P. Matthews, M. Moloney, Ms. Guest, Mr. Thompson. **Middle Row:** E. Doyle, J. Ottman, L. Von Schoening, D. Somers, B. Kiy (Capt.), R. Donovan, P. Kingston, L. Hevers, O. Baily. **Front row L-R:** C. Phelan, J. Ryan, R. Johnston, G. Smiddy, F. Summers, R. Walsh, J. Tierney, C. Hall.

Schools are dynamic places with groups of students moving on every year. From a sporting point of view this leads to a constant turnover in the make up of squads. Sometimes the turnover is small and sometimes substantial as was the case this year. Eleven of last years team moved on to the next phase of their education. This left us with the task of rebuilding. We could not have been more fortunate in this endeavour with the group of players at our disposal. They were the most enthusiastic, hard working and positive band of brothers one could have hoped for.

We began our season by travelling to Castletroy in Limerick. The boys battled very bravely but without much training and with many new players in the team our lack of defensive structures meant for a tough outing. The forwards were well beaten in scrum and lineout by superior sized opposition. Particular mention must go to two young fourth years Jack Ryan and Julian Power, with Julian scoring a try. They showed excellent promise in their first outing at this level. It was an early indicator of the contribution these players would make as the season developed. Our other score on the day came from a penalty kick by Alex Burns.

Our second fixture saw us welcome a less than full strength Bandon side to Midleton. Fixtures against Bandon usually bring out the best from Midleton sides and this game was no exception. There were vast improvements between game one and two. This game was a bruising encounter and early in the game all squad members had been deployed to replace injured bodies. Danny Murphy showed great promise on the wing with a willingness to get on the ball and even managed to get on the end of good play to score a try. Ross Donovan displayed impressive strength as ball carrier in the trenches to score two tries. The final score was 41-33. Other scorers on the day were Dylan Somers and Julian with a try each and Peter Matthews slotting a conversion and a penalty.

As we moved into October a more full strength Bandon side made the journey up to Midleton once again. Unfortunately with injuries an ever present element in our season we suffered another defeat. Losing 27-0. We had yet to take to the field with a regular selection. The building process was going slowly.

A trip to Newtown offered a realistic chance to get the first win of the season for this young senior side. We were to be without Brendan Kiy again due to injury. Dylan Somers would lead the side. A new centre partnership of Alex Burns and Jack Ryan linked very well in attack and showed plenty of promise in defence. The opening try finished excellently by Patrick O'Riordan came off the back of great continuity with well timed offloads and brilliant support lines from a mix of backs and forwards and an excellent finish from the hard working O'Riordan. This score brought hopes of more as the visiting side got on top but it didn't materialise. Instead our young side found it difficult to get out of our half for much of the remainder of the match, as we seemed to get on the wrong side of the referee. His confusing decisions lead to frustration and unfortunately a lack of discipline. We picked up a yellow card late in the second half making it difficult to look for the winning score. Some very good last-ditch defence ensured we would escape with a draw instead of a loss. Definite signs of progress. We were back on track!

Hereford an English side were our next opponents. This was a good game to watch. We lost it narrowly 13-8. Ross once again scored a try while Rory Walsh kicked a penalty. Even though this was a defeat there were many positives to be taken from the game, not least in our defence. We coped manfully with a well drilled side who loved to throw the ball around.

Early November saw us make the journey once again to Waterford. This time to play Waterpark. The game started well for Midleton with some early pressure yielding a try

for Pa O'Riordan who was beginning to look at home in the wing position to follow an earlier penalty from the accurate Rory Walsh. Midleton then found themselves under pressure in their half as soft under foot conditions made it difficult to play expansive rugby and a few too many penalties given away led to sustained pressure by Waterpark. In this fixture Midleton showed strong character to battle hard and an excellent support line and great strength to make the line saw Jack Ryan score the try to push Midleton further ahead. It was a nervy last ten minutes as Waterpark piled on the pressure and once again Midleton were on the wrong side of the referees penalties. On this occasion however our discipline was better. Frustration did not lead to poor concentration and the boys held on for a deserved first win of the season

Our next match was the first round in qualification for the Senior Cup. The weather on the day in Bandon was brutal and the underfoot conditions were very heavy. Unfortunately it was a day to be forgotten from a Midleton perspective. This truly was a game of two halves. It was always going to be a war of attrition. Excellent organisation and bodies sacrificed in defence meant the first half was a close affair. Bandon leading 3-0 at the break but signs were ominous for the second half. To their credit Midleton never gave up. Our injury count was huge resulting in clearing our bench. We even had tight head Ross Donovan being deployed in the centre for the last twenty minutes. On the plus side Midleton never gave up but Bandon's superior fitness and organisation meant for a 38-0 loss on the day. This was a set back but in a small squad like ours multiple injuries have a devastating effect. We had to take this into account when analysing the game.

We realised that to compete we needed to be fitter. We had no fixtures planned for December so we decided to work hard with the players at our disposal and then use the Christmas period for the injured players to recuperate. The six week gap from the Bandon game was sufficient for injuries to heal and also to erase the memory of that painful defeat. We needed to get back on the horse so to speak and a match against Midleton club was a perfect opportunity. The increased fitness paid off. We ran out winners by a 12-0 margin. Our forwards were the difference on the day. Their level of organisation and physicality was the difference between the sides. Dylan once again scored a try and Alex kicked a conversion and a penalty. This fixture also saw the return from injury of Eoin Doyle whose enthusiasm alone was impressive. His first touch saw him excellently field a high ball and set up a counterattack only for play to be brought back for a previous infringement. This however did not wipe the characteristic smile from his face. It was obviously good to be back.

Midleton had a dominant scrum in this fixture but struggled to move the ball quickly at the breakdown. This allowed Clonmel who in fitness terms were far inferior to Midleton to remain in contention for the duration of the match. This ensured excitement for a neutral but nervousness for Midleton supporters. We eventually ground out a victory rather than exert the control we had hoped for. Excellent passages of pressure from

the forwards led to tries from Dylan Somers and Ross Donovan. Rory Walsh kicked a conversion and a penalty. There were signs of improvement but plenty of work still ahead for this young senior side.

Our season was again fractured due to postponed games and the three week gap created by the Leaving Cert. mocks and the Transition Year adventure week and work experience. We would not have another match until March. This time we travelled to Dublin to play De La Salle Churchtown and also to take in the Irish match against Italy in the Six Nations. It was memorable not only for the Irish victory but also by being Brian O'Driscoll's final game for Ireland at the Aviva stadium. The bonus of the day was also watching the women's team play Italy.

The De La Salle game provided us with the opportunity to practice for the Mungret Cup semi final. It was beneficial for us to get more players valuable game time and try out new moves with live opposition. Midleton performed well the ever sharp Cormac Phelan grabbed two tries. We moved comfortably ahead 19-3. Eoin Doyle controlled things well from full back and an impressive team performance was on show. Then with the bench emptied the flow of the game changed. The De la Salle side fought back and began to take the upper hand, what was a 19-3 lead turned to a 25-19 defeat with Midleton chasing the game.

The postponed semi final against Newtown was next. It was our second visit to Waterford in the season and this time a very different Midleton team took to the field. This was a more mature performance than had been seen to date. The fixture remained at 3-3 for a long time but Midleton to their credit never panicked. Kieran Simpson a consistent performer throughout the season stepped up to claim two tries in a contest which Midleton never looked like losing. However an impressive Newtown side took us a long time to break down. The teams season objective of reaching the Mungret Cup final had been achieved but it was at a cost. Eoin Doyle who had been so impressive since his return from injury unfortunately dislocated his shoulder again. This was most likely to be his last ever rugby match. Our hearts went out to him.

Next up was Somerset College from South Africa. This was originally to be the final fixture of the season and would have offered a chance for our sixth years to experience one final game pressure free. Instead it ended up as a warm up match in preparation for the Mungret Cup final. A practice match for such an occasion is generally seen as a great thing but with a number of fifth form students in Holland on a geography tour this proved not the case. Nonetheless this group of players thrived on pressure and continuing their form of the season to date, Dylan, Ross, Paul, and Julian all contributed hugely. A big physical South African side made for hard work. Midleton were great in defence but were narrowly defeated 7-5 in the end.

The build up to the final was intense. Both Brendan and Dylan were passionate in the warm up. They knew that their side had improved greatly during the season and looked for one last heroic effort.

Midleton demonstrated great fight once again. They were well in the match at half time. In fact they were unlucky not to be ahead. The pack were on par with Bandon and the lineout and scrum battle was a tight affair with Midleton at times having the edge. The loss of Cormac with a nasty injury to his mouth was unfortunate but as had been the case throughout the season Jack Tierney stepped in and played well. Kieran Simpson also had to come off. He was ably replaced by Rob England. Midleton were unfortunate to concede early scores in the second half quickly from kick off. Watching the game from 10-0 down there was a great sense of pride in the commitment from the team and the never say die attitude. Their passion overflowed at times with Dylan picking up a yellow card but to their credit Midleton gave Bandon nothing easy all day eventually losing out on a 17-0 scoreline.

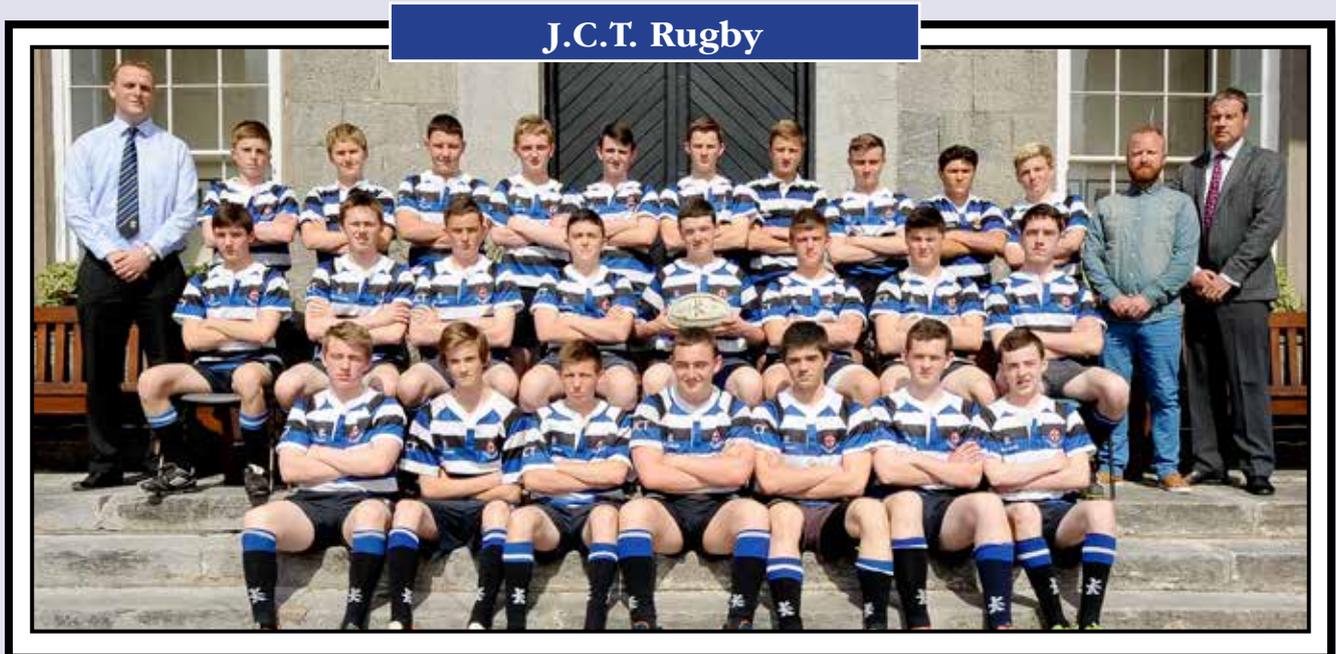
Defining success is a difficult thing. To some it is purely about winning. There is no doubt that this is important but it does depend on where you start from. For us this season it was about building a new squad, getting new members to buy into the team ethic so exemplified by the remaining members of the previous years side. Brendan had a difficult season. His previous years in school had been virtually free from injury but this season saw him sit

out a good few matches. True to his sense of ownership of the side he still came out to all the training sessions even though he could not partake himself. Dylan as Vice Captain was every bit as passionate and ably Captained the side in Brendans absence. For the team, making the final was their main objective. This achieved it became their performance on the day and for all of us who were watching from the sidelines they were a total success.

It was an extremely enjoyable season. This was made possible by the enthusiasm and positivity of the players and for this the coaches Andrew McCarthy, Laura Guest and myself wish to thank the squad.

Squad:- Brendan Kiy (Capt.), Dylan Somers (Vice Capt.), Paul Kingston, Ross Donovan, Odhran Bailey, Johnny Ottman, Ludolf Von Schoening, Luke Hevers, Eoin Doyle, Owen Chambers, Kieran Simpson, Patrick O'Riordan, Cormac Phelan, Sam Mitchell, Gavin Smiddy, Jack Tierney, Eoin Daly, Jack Ryan, Julian Power, Rory Walsh, Rob England, Joe Hennigan, Muiris Moloney, Chris Hall, Steven Kearns, Jaco Bronkhorst, Andrew Irwin, Christian Lynch, Danny Murphy, Fionn Summers, Shane Murphy, Misael O'Brien and Eoin O'Grady.

- L.G. and R.St.J.P.



Back row L-R: Mr. Stanley, C. Walsh, B. Kenneally, B. Hoban, J. Byron, D. Wright, C. McGregor, D. Thompson, S. Emerson, J. Cremin-Memhet, I. O'Sullivan-Hourihan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Thompson **Middle Row L-R:** C. Eng, P. Power, F. Baily, T. Tierney, R. Stafford (Capt), C. Kiy, M. O'Sullivan, P. Fives **Front row L-R:** G. Hennessy, S. Beckingham, J. Northridge, E. Scully, J. Kowalski, C. Keating, N. Quill

The new season brought a squad of players eager to progress with their development as rugby players and hoping to improve on their previous performances and results as a team. It was obvious from the on-set that there was plenty of work to be done if this particular squad of players were to be forged into a successful team and if they were to get anywhere near achieving their potential. However, it was also evident that there was a great sense of camaraderie amongst the squad and that they shared a love for the game of rugby, an eagerness to improve and a willingness to train hard to achieve this.

There was an early setback when newly appointed captain Mark Humphreys, one of six players that remained from the previous years squad, dislocated his shoulder in training resulting in him missing the entire season. It was a significant blow for player but also for the squad as there was already a relative shortage of players competing for places in the forward pack. Rob Stafford, one of a number of very able candidates, was selected to take over the captaincy. Tim Tierney and the other senior members in the squad admirably assisted him in leading the team.

In the backs there was no shortage of competition for places, in particular on the wing, which was the preferred playing position for a number of players. As a result attempting to ensure that all players had the opportunity to get substantial game time was a challenge that was not always met.

Throughout the early stages of the season the team made significant progress with positive performances and results creating a sense of optimism ahead of the commencement of the competitive matches.

Alas, that sense of optimism did not materialise into success, as, firstly, a hard earned draw away to Newtown in the Junior Cup Qualifier was followed by a narrow loss in the replay, and then, despite a gallant performance against a team that was physically much stronger, our involvement in the Mungret Shield ended at the hands of the eventual competition winners, Villiers.

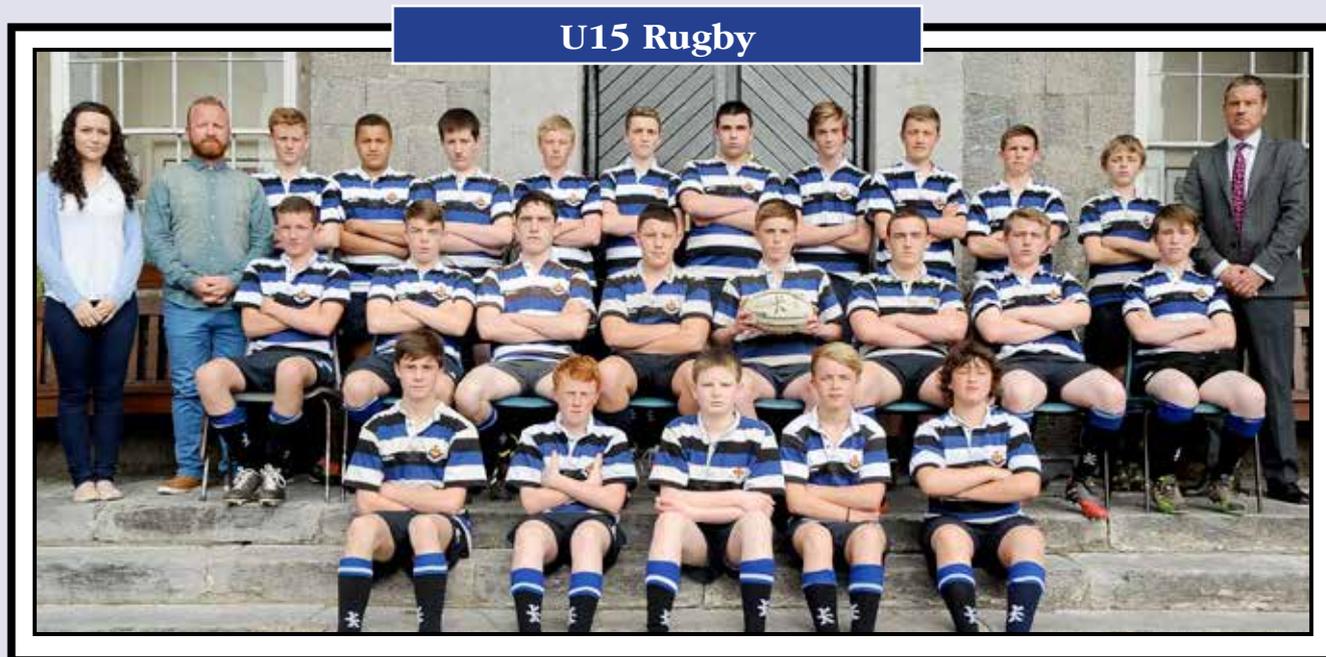
Not to be disheartened the squad regrouped and continued to train and play with a high level of infectious enthusiasm right up until the end of the season. They

were, without doubt, one of the most enjoyable squads to coach and I wish them all the best as they move up through the school and continue to progress in their rugby careers.

Finally, big thank you and a must go to Mr Billy Egan for the quality of coaching that he delivered throughout the season. He was a pleasure to work with and all members of the playing squad greatly enjoyed his coaching sessions.

- K.S.

Squad: Forwards: Adam Hoban, Barry Hoban, Chris Keating, Conor Kiy, Eric Scully, Gareth Hosford, George Hennessy, Jack Kowalski, Jack Cremin-Mehmet, Liam Farrell, Mark Humphreys, Marwin O'Sullivan, Pdraig Fives, Robert Stafford. Backs: Barry Kenneally, Charles Eng, Ciaran McGregor, Conor Walsh, Dara Thompson, Dylan Wright, Fionn Baily, Jack Northridge, John Byron, Niall Quill, Pdraig Power, Sam Beckingham, Sean Gies, Sean Emerson, Tim Tierney, Zac O'Sullivan-Hourihan



Back Row L-R: Ms. Condon, Mr. Egan, W. Baker, D. Cuthbert, J. Morrison, J. Drennan, T. Devine, K. O’Riordan, S. Beckingham, D. Thompson, J. Northridge, M. O’Donovan, Mr. Thompson. **Middle row L-R:** B. McHugh, H. Compton, P. Fives, B. Hoban, C. Walsh (captain), E. Scully, G. Hennessy, M. White. **Front Row L-R:** J. Doyle, C. Bawden, A. Ford, H. Smyth, H. Cremin-Memhet.

The Under 15 squad enjoyed a season of mixed results but played some excellent rugby during the season and showed genuine enthusiasm throughout. The squad developed well over the course of the year and trained with focus and energy. Although several players stood out and performed particularly well it was perhaps more pleasing to see some of the fringe players make significant impacts and improve considerably. The squad has the potential to do very well in the seasons ahead but they will need total commitment and focus from every member of the squad if they are to fulfil that potential.

There were a number of stand out performances across the course of the season, including perhaps the season highlight, where we visited Bandon and left with a 38-

12 victory. Everything seemed to work well that day and the team were outstanding in both defence and attack. There is pace and aggression throughout the team and when things click, as they did during that game, the team is a match for anyone. Although perhaps lacking a little in terms of physical size there is no shortage of heart and determination which will undoubtedly serve the squad well in years to come.

Several squad members stood out and proved to be key players as the season progressed. The forwards were aggressive and worked effectively as a unit, with Pdraig Fives and George Hennessy keen to both attack and defend, scoring important tries and tackling well. They were ably supported by the likes of Jeremy Doyle, Barry Hoban, Kenneth Steele and Kevin O’Riordan

who proved reliable performers. Dion Cuthbert, Harry Cremin-Mehmet, Max White, Jack Morrison and Cathal O'Deaghaidh all demonstrated technical skill and enthusiasm in the front row providing a solid base for the rest of the team. The squad was boosted by underage third years Eric Scully, Adam Ford and Jack Kowalski who made significant contributions when available.

The back line saw a number of players slotting into a variety of positions, a versatility which should serve the team well in the future. Cal Bawden, Taylor Devine and Harry Smyth all performed well at scrum-half showing good skills and awareness. Conor Walsh made the number 10 shirt his own and stood out as a skilful and determined performer. In the centres Sam Beckingham, Harry Compton and Dara Thompson were solid in the tackle and imaginative in their forward play. On the wings Julian Drennan, Murrough O'Donovan and William Baker were keen and committed, while Jack Northridge used his electric pace to great effect scoring a number

of tries and providing a great attacking outlet in general.

Overall, while the team suffered a couple of heavy defeats, the season was a successful one and the squad that finished the season was technically better while still possessing a pleasing togetherness and willingness to support each other both in victory and defeat. If the players can continue to approach both training and matches with focus and determination then I am confident that they will enjoy great success in the future.

SQUAD - Beckingham, S; Cremin Mehmet, H; Devine, T; Doyle, J; Drennan, J; McHugh, B; Morrison, J; O'Donovan, M; White, M; Bawden, C; Compton, H; Northridge, J; O'Deaghaidh, C; Thompson, D; Baker, W; Fives, P (Vice-capt); Hennessey, G; Hoban, B; Smyth, H; Walsh, C (Capt); Ford, A; Scully, E; Cuthbert, D; O'Riordan, K; Steele, K.

- P.C.



Back Row L-R: Mr. Gill, S. Ford, B. Malito, Mr. McGuckin, H. Jeffrey, S. Ziad, S. Daniels, P. Harty, S. Walsh, D. Phelan, D. MacGauran, T. Oshikoya, Mr. Thompson. **Middle Row L-R:** A. Moore, A. Moore, M. Donnelly, M. Stafford, C. McDonagh, B. Donovan, J. Cardoso – Murphy, J. Deane. **Front Row:** L-R: J. Daly, I. Farrell, R. Cheasty, R. O'Leary, T. Murphy, C. Bane, T. McCarthy, D. Kenneally.

It's September, the end of the holidays and time to dust off the old boots and inspect the pitches. Mr. Gill and I sat down to plan out the skills we wanted work on up until Christmas. Tackling, rucking, rucking and more tackling. Everything was now set, so bring on the new recruits.

In the first couple of weeks, the tackling was better than we had hoped, a lot of the team had played before and were not afraid of putting in big hits. The rule of thumb was if your opponent was called Mark, best to pass the ball quickly. Both Marks in the team were big hitters.

The first blitz was in Bandon. We split the panel into Team 1 and Team A. Team 1 had three wins and one draw. Team A had two wins, one draw and one loss. It was a great first campaign. We scored thirteen tries that day. Diarmaid

got four tries, I remember writing "crazy runner" into my notes that I took that day. He ran all over the pitch with ball in hand searching for a gap to go through. As the year went on he proved himself a great player with ball in hand.

The next Blitz was at home and it was time to examine players in different positions. Art got two tries so did Sean and Mark Stafford, Diarmaid ran in five. At this stage the boys were benefitting from the influence of Kurt, (the gap student from New Zealand), at training Kurt would razzle and dazzle them with tricks.

Bandon was our first full game; they brought a mixture of an A and B team. We posted twenty seven points to their nil. We had played very well and we had shocked them. They thought this would be an easy win. The next time

we faced them they brought a full strength team and we beat them again 7-0 that day. It was the first time for a while we had beaten Bandon.

Between the Bandon games we posted a score line of 46 -0 against a PBC B/C team. The forwards had a great day, Mark Stafford and Mark Donnelly scored one each, Calvin got one and Ben got three, Ben would have to be the most improved player throughout the year. The only back to score was Diarmaid who got two and kicked three conversions. I enjoyed the win, but Brian (Mr. Gill) the forwards' coach likes to remind me that the forwards are out scoring the backs in every match.

The season was going to plan; the forwards were making it easy for the backs to launch attack after attack. Our old rivals from Waterford were next, Newtown College hosted us and we won by a score line of 48-12, we next travelled back to PBC. We had already beaten them, but this time they put out a B side with a couple of A players, actually more than a couple I would say, this time we suffered a defeat by 22-12. The team played outstanding rugby lead by Mark Stafford. The coaching team could not have asked for a more disciplined and exciting game of rugby. It was 15-12 to them with only minutes to play, it could have gone either way, unfortunately, it went their way.

The season was coming to an end, Bandon who were hurting from two earlier defeats asked for an unprecedented third game in the season. They were coming to Midleton College looking for that elusive win against us. We had three weeks to prepare, we tackled and rucked in every practice and talked tactics, we drew up a game plan, "tackle any one with the ball or close to the ball and score more points than them." Simple but effective we won 15-7 with a late try. The game was very close like the other two. Three wins against Bandon. It was sweet.

The last game was against Ambrose, a touring English side, we lost 27-17 It was one game too far, our season finished three weeks earlier and this was played in the summer term.

The top two try scorers were Ben and Diarmaid, one back and one forward. The overall number of tries scored between backs and forwards was lost.

I would like to thank Brian Gill and Kurt for their professionalism. I would like to thank the team for a great year; they were a great squad to coach. They were skilful and fun and I wish them well.

- M.M.

Senior 1st Girls Hockey



Back row L-R: Mr. Thompson, A. Axson, E. Compton, R. Thomas, K. Fleming, C. Roch-Perks, S. James, C. Walsh, A. Cortilla, Mr. Levis.
Middle row: L-R: J. Rumley, R. Hornibrook (captain), A. Finn, A. Chambers, E. Bourke. **Front row L-R:** R. Drennan, M. Kingston, J. Ryall.

From the beginning everybody was eager to play hockey and to kick off with a win. Rachel Hornibrook was named captain for the season and she proved to be an influential and positive player.

Our team consisted of many 5th year players and three 6th year players which were Alannah Finn, Caitlyn Cuthbert and Rachel Hornibrook they were some of our strongest players. We started the year playing against Kilkenny in a friendly. On this sunny day our feet burned as we ran up and down the pitch, we recorded a pleasing 3-1 victory.

We trained and worked hard. Our coach Mr. Levis gave us drills that reflected on real hockey match situation e.g. 2v1, passing the ball out to the wide, tackling, practicing short corners etc.

Few performances matched our Kikenny debut but we battled our way through the league and boosted our confidence, played against Bandon winning 1 nil. Then came an unfortunate loss against Clonakilty by 4 goals. Many players were out sick and injured.

After the previous match we didn't give up, we learned from our mistakes and we fought hard and played Carrigtwohill winning 2-1 which was well, deserved, as it was a close match.

We then played St. Als and recorded an unfortunate loss 3 nil.

We drove on and took the next match against Loreto Abbey as revenge winning 2 nil.

Playing many other schools I was very proud of the girls because of the amount of effort and dedication they put in to training and on the hockey pitch. We bonded well throughout the year. Rachel Hornibrook was such an excellent captain.

Our main goal scorer was Sinèad James in any position on the pitch she excelled. Rachel Hornibrook as right mid and Alanah Finn as centre forward were our main goal scorers. Aggy Cortlla being a great natural sportswomen adapted well to playing hockey. She was a great player even though it was her first year playing hockey.

After a competitive season we earned our cup against Rockwell. In the biggest match of the season we fought and played our very best, without a doubt two excellent teams wanted to take the cup home as shown by performances on the day. It was home advantage to Midleton College. Many people supported us but in the last few minutes Rockwell scored 1 goal, it was an undeserving loss. We were very disappointed and a few tears were shed but

this showed our dedication and how important it was to us. It showed the younger years how important it was to us and hopefully it has influenced them.

Sinead James and I represented Munster U-18 and Munster U-21. Congratulations to Amy Chambers, who represented Munster U-16. I Played through inter provincial hockey in 2014. It is challenging but a great honour.

- Angel Axson (Form VI).

MUNSTER REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS



Back Row L-R: Mr. Levis, Mr. Thompson.
Front Row L-R: A. Axson, S. James, A. Chambers.

Senior 2nd Girls Hockey



Back Row L-R: Mr. Thompson, Ms. O' Riordan, B. Archer, E. Brennan, K. Archer, R. O'Sullivan, L. Kenneally, A. Aldous, S. Keating, S. Polozcek, Mr. Levis Front Row L-R: S. Stronach, S. O' Keeffe, A. Axson (captain), E. Ryall, E. Bourke.

Senior seconds got their season off to a fantastic start with a 2-1 win away to Kilkenny College in early September. A great performance by Reidin O'Sullivan in goals and our four defenders Ellen Ryall, Bryony Archer, Lizzie Brennan and Sonia Stronach kept Kilkenny at bay to secure a Midleton College win. Our next trip was a short drive away to Carrigtwohill where we played out

a hard fought 3-0 victory over our neighbours St. Als. A solid display up front by Sophie O'Keefe, Lisa Kenneally and Sophie Keating led to two easy goals in the first half from Lisa Kenneally and a Sophie O'Keefe tap in topped off the victory.

Next up we faced Bandon in our first home match this season, although some decisions didn't go in our favour

we held ourselves very well for the first half. Unfortunately we conceded an unlucky goal early in the second half, which set the tone for the rest of the match. This led to our first loss of the season. Following on from this defeat we travelled to Ashton in the hope of redeeming ourselves. The match started on a high for us as centre midfielder Angel Axson broke down the Ashton defence to score the game's opener. Ashton then responded with a well-earned goal. As the second half progressed we remained at a stale mate. As we approached the finish Ashton broke the dead-lock with a goal from a short corner. With only minutes to go as all hope seemed lost, Katie Archer

shocked the Ashton team by scoring the equaliser. A well-earned draw with stand-out performances from Martha O'Leary and Alex Aldous in defence. Our final game of the season was against Regina Mundi at home in the college. A great performance from the whole team led to a late goal scored by Sophia Polozcek which ensured our season ended on a high as we ran out 1-0 winners! A huge thanks to our coaches Ms. O'Riordan and Mr. Levis for organising the matches and training us throughout the year, and of course to Angel our captain and all the seconds team.

- Ellen Ryall (Form VI).

U16 Girls Hockey



Back Row L-R: Mr. Levis, M. Kingston, K. Ottman, A. Aldous, A. Chambers, G. Kearns, C. Hall, L. O'Riordan, A. Cortilla, Mr. Thompson.
Front Row L-R: S. Deane, E. Marley, J. Ryall, S. Daunt, S. Johnston.

This year the U16 Girls Hockey team was captained by Julie Ryall with Amy Chambers as vice-captain. We were coached by Mr. Levis and had quite a successful season by winning our section of the league. Our first match was a friendly away against Kilkenny which we won by 2 goals to nil with goals from Amy Chambers and Julie Ryall. We then came up against our rivals from last year's cup final match, Rockwell College and unfortunately lost that match 0-4.

On the 6th of November we played a friendly match against Ashton which we were victorious in and won 5-0 with a hat trick from Amy Chambers and goals also from Laura O'Riordan and Julie Ryall, with Eimear Marley making great runs in mid-field. The next week we had our first league match against Bandon and we won that 3-0 with a hat trick from Julie Ryall and fantastic assists from Maeve Kingston.

We played against Christ the King on the 27th of November and won that league match 5-1 with yet another hat trick but this time from Charlotte Hall and goals from Julie Ryall and our Spanish striker Agueda Cortilla Mas and a great match from Amy Chambers. We continued on our winning streak with another victory on the 15th of January against Clonakilty winning 2-0 with goals from Laura O'Riordan and Agueda Cortilla Mas and strong defending from

Sarah Deane and Ava Burns.

Our next match was a cup match against a strong Regina Mundi side, where it was a close match the whole way through with everyone working incredibly hard and Maeve Kingston and Sophie Johnston running the pitch but unfortunately ending with a score of 3-2 to Regina Mundi, with our goals from Julie Ryall and Charlotte Hall.

We would like to thank Mr. Levis for coaching us this year and for another great year of hockey and Mr. Seale for organising our matches.

- Julie Ryall (Form IV).

Team: Julie Ryall (Captain), Amy Chambers (Vice-Captain), Maeve Kingston, Charlotte Hall, Eimear Marley, Sarah Deane, Sophie Johnston, Ava Burns, Grace Kearns, Laura O'Riordan, Alex Aldous, Aggy Cortilla Mas and Elizabeth Brennan.

2nd Year A Girls Hockey



Back Row L-R: Ms. Clifford, A. Tierney, R. Martin, L. O’Keeffe, G. Humphreys, E. Roch – Perks, N. Power, K. Mariga, D. Cardoso – Murphy, R. Oppermann, Mr. Thompson **Front Row L-R:** P. Axson, C. Moore, M. Smiddy, B. Heffernan, D. Pope.

9 matches played: 3 wins, 1 draw and 6 losses.

This was a hugely enthusiastic and keen to learn group of players, who enjoyed their hockey and provided plenty of giggles along the way. On paper, this might not seem like an overly successful season results-wise, but the amount of progress made by the team throughout the season was massive and far outweighs the actual results. Mary Smiddy captained the team in a very positive, upbeat manner throughout, stepping up to encourage and push everyone along the whole way through. The season started out with friendlies, one against Kilkenny and two against Bandon, with a 1-1 draw in one match against Bandon (Daisy Cardoso-Murphy scoring our goal) and losses in the other two matches.

Our first league match of the season was against a strong Mt. Mercy side, and was the point where the improvement started. Every player on the pitch that day got stuck in and fought for every ball, which had been lacking in the previous friendlies. It was an excellent team performance, and although we lost the match 2-0 in the end, the girls suddenly realised they were a force to be reckoned with, and would threaten any team they played against. This new-found confidence followed through into our next match, a league game against Scoil Mhuire. The whole team excelled themselves in this match, with Bryna Heffernan and Alice Tierney proving to be the stars of the show, doing exactly as asked of them and getting the rewards they deserved by scoring a goal each, with Daisy popping up with the third goal in a 3-0 win.

Next up was Ashton in the league. This was a hard-fought game between two dogged teams, with us being the better team in the first half, but our finishing touches just lacked on the day and unfortunately Ashton came out stronger in the second half, scoring twice. Hard as we tried to fight back, it just wasn’t to be on the day and the match finished 2-0 to Ashton.

We came back after Christmas with revenge on our minds in the first fixture, another epic battle against Ashton, this time in the cup. We played a lot better in this match than the previous one, but once again, our ability to put the ball

in the back of the net deserted us. We went 1-0 down in the first half, but didn’t let our heads drop, and managed to get a goal on the counterattack, with Bryna running almost the length of the pitch and putting in a cross, which the keeper deflected into her own goal. Shortly after, Ashton came back and despite the best efforts of Niamh Power in goal, who had a fantastic game, repelling shot after shot, but eventually something was going to give, and Ashton scored the winning goal with ten minutes to go. Although obviously disappointed, the girls could hold their heads high, knowing they had played excellent hockey and pushed Ashton all the way.

Bandon Grammar was the next opposition in the league. This was by far our best match of the season, with every player playing to their potential in the match, doing exactly the job asked of them. Tori Hosford played out of her skin in defence, with an added fight to her play, Alice Tierney chased her player endlessly in attack, following her the length of the pitch when necessary, Beccy Oppermann tracked her player and covered a massive amount of ground. Our star player though, was Bryna, who was given the job of marking their play-maker out of the match, she tracked every move the Bandon player made, not allowing her the space to control the game and made it very hard for her to play the distributing centre-mid role. When Bryna needed a short break, Beccy stepped up to the mark and performed the same role brilliantly as well. Bryna taking the Bandon player out of the match allowed us to play some excellent hockey, passing well and working the ball up the pitch as a unit, but unfortunately we were up against a keeper who played excellently throughout, making a couple of top class saves. Niamh played brilliantly in goal for us as well, but unfortunately we lost concentration twice during the match, and conceded on both occasions, demonstrating the importance of maintaining concentration throughout the entire match. Once again the girls were disappointed with the final result, but after a team talk following the match, left the pitch feeling happy with how they had performed as a team, and were raring and ready to go for the next match.