

The Blue and Gold

Issue 2 - Spring 2023

Headlines

Careers Fair

Róisín Brannock 5D

In January a Careers Fair took place in the school. Representatives from colleges and various job sectors were present to educate students about their options for the future.

Maynooth University, University of Galway, TUD, SETU Carlow and DCU were in attendance at the fair.

There were also colleges of further education there as well. Representatives from St. Conleths, Colaiste Dhulaigh CFE and Inchicore CFE were at the fair.

There were professionals from multiple career sectors present at the fair. To name a few there were primary school

teaching, cyber security, engineering and accounting. I think the one that interested me the most was psychology. There was something there that would interest every student and may even open their eyes to careers that they have never considered.

It's important to attend careers fairs, especially for senior cycle students, as they give students the chance to speak with professionals working in career sectors that interest them. Students can gain valuable insight into the various careers available to them by speaking with professionals. They can learn how a person's career can change and evolve over time.



Ms. McDonnell (Left) and Ms Nolan (Right) after their hugely successful Careers Night

CPC Responses to the Cost of Living Crisis

Aoibhe Toft, TY

Ireland has a history of people leaving the country to live and work in other countries, and as the cost of living is quickly rising I wanted to find out how the students of CPC feel about the future of young people here. I surveyed students in 4th, 5th and 6th years to see how much young people are impacted by the cost of living crisis.

The first thing I asked was if they were planning on attending some form of third level education. 96% of students surveyed said yes and all these were considering college or university as opposed to a PLC or apprenticeship. I can't say this didn't surprise me as apprenticeships are growing increasingly popular nowadays, with 8,607 people registering for the program in 2021.

Three quarters of people said the cost of living would affect their decisions regarding education. Expenses are one of the largest obstacles for students in Ireland, with the average yearly cost of living for a student ranging from €8,500 and €20,000. This includes rent, electricity, food, schoolbooks, laundry and medicine but not tuition fees. In 2018 the average monthly income for a student was €753 and their average monthly expenditure was €832. This leaves very little disposable income for savings and money to cover emergencies.

An estimated 29,800 people aged between 24 and 44 emigrated in 2021-2020, showing that young people are still leaving the country to find a better quality of living elsewhere. It seems CPC

is not exempt from this trend - 54% said they would live abroad in the next ten years due to the cost and quality of life here. Work and education made up the remainder of students that said yes, they would leave Ireland in the near future. In fact, the majority of survey takers said there weren't enough resources and opportunities being offered to young people to encourage them to stay, and another 45.5% said that there were cheaper and more accessible options abroad.

In general students don't feel positive about their future due to how expensive it is getting to live. Concerns over rent, commuting for education and lack of support from the government were very clear as some students left notes at the end of the survey. One in particular spoke about how the cost of accommodation discourages people from going to their preferred colleges or commuting by car or public transport, which is impractical for many people - "Most students don't have a job that pays enough to afford rent, and this is forcing people to move abroad to look for better education or work". Another said things are "getting out of hand", and some are worried about people living in "cramped spaces, decreasing the quality of living for young people."

I think it's very clear that young people can feel the impact of the cost of living crisis. We are already thinking about our place in the world and as we get older it becomes harder to see a future where a decent quality of living is easily afforded.

Catholic School Week 2023

Rosin Brannock, 5th Year

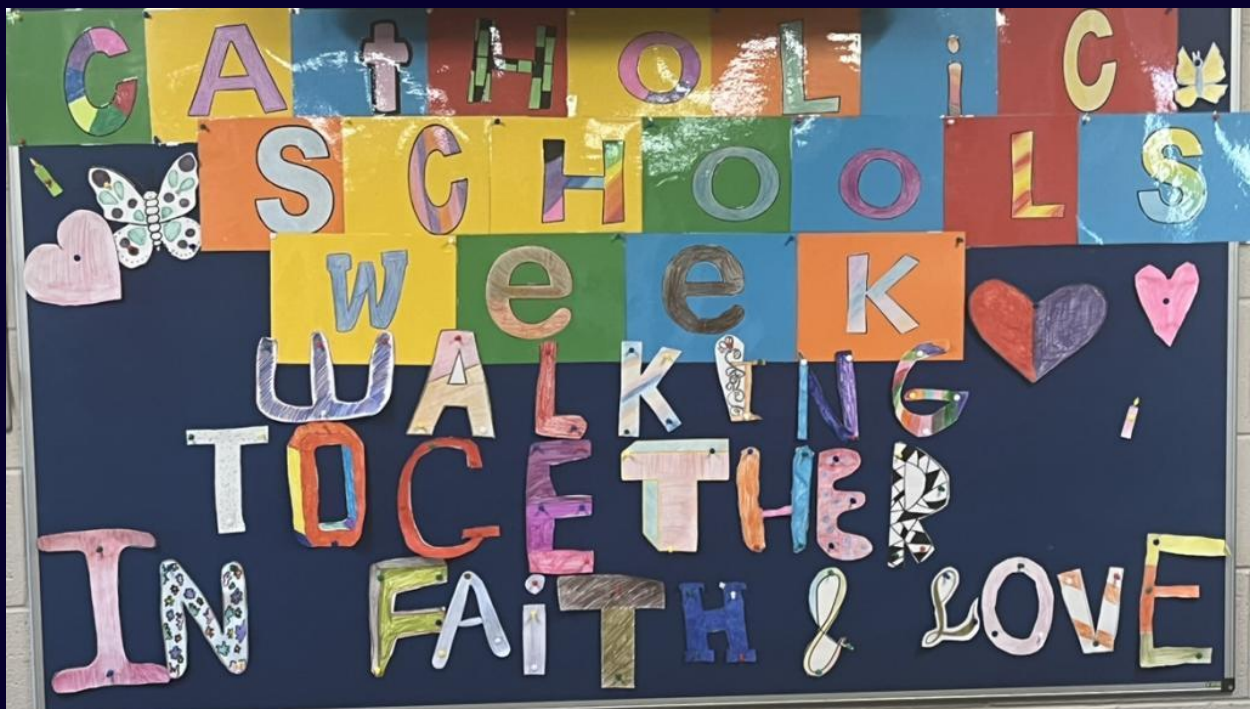
From the 22nd to the 29th of January CPC celebrated Catholic School Week. This year's theme was the process of Synology which means journeying together as people of God. Jennifer Dowling from the Amber team led the school through prayer every day during that week.

Catholic School week began on Monday with the theme of walking together in faith. Tuesday followed with the theme of walking together in love.

Wednesday was both Grandparents Day as well as walking together to celebrate. Students were encouraged to call their grandparents and listen to their stories. For those who are unfortunately

without their grandparents could write their names on a piece of card and hand it up on the tree in the foyer. The next day it was walking to transform. With the rising environmental concerns in the world students made an effort to clean their classrooms for ten minutes during class.

Catholic school concluded on Friday with the theme of walking together in hope. Friday's activity was my favourite. Students wrote their hopes for 2023 onto coloured paper. The coloured paper will be arranged into a rainbow art piece. It was lovely to see the whole school community come together to celebrate.



The display at the Daybreak Entrance for Catholic Schools Week.

The Best Lunches in Kilcullen

Roisin Brannock, 5th year

Today will answer the burning question on every student's mind; where to spend our lunch. Time and money is a valuable resource during lunch and it is hard to determine which store is most deserving of it. It will be my mission to find the best deals, judging based on the criteria of price, convenience and taste.

Recently Food Village was introduced to the school and it has gone down swimmingly with the student body. Food Village delivers lunches directly to the students, so there is no need to go down the town for lunch. I sense this will be very popular with 1st years. An added benefit is that you are guaranteed your food will be there. Nothing is worse than waiting ages in a queue and finding out there is no chicken left. The prices are fairly reasonable, nothing above 5 €. The one downside is that you have to order your food a day in advance, which doesn't allow you to get a spontaneous snack. Food Village is the perfect choice for those who don't want to go too far from the school.

Applegreen is another lunch option that is less than a two minute walk from the school. The Applegreen deli offers a wide variety of options from chicken rolls to wedges and sausage rolls. However Applegreen is a small store so it can become very packed very quickly during the lunch rush. Once you get to the counter the service is speedy enough. Unfortunately if you end up at the back of

the line you may find the deli counter pretty desolate when you reach it and have to settle with whatever is left

Further down the town is Eurospar which offers a handy meal deal for lunch. Students can get a roll, a drink and a packet of crisps together for the price of 4.50 €. In other places that would be the price of just the chicken roll. I would recommend this deal for any student who is saving their coins. However this deal is hardly news as the queues can be quite long. If you don't leave class as soon as the bell rings you may be waiting a while for your lunch.

Nolan's is the farthest lunch option from the school but it's still a walkable distance. The price for chicken rolls is 4.50€ but it is well worth the price. In my humble opinion, Nolan's offers the best tasting chicken roll. However, Nolan's does not sell drinks or any other small snacks, so students may have to take a pitstop on their way back to the school.

The lunch I would most highly recommend for students would have to be Food Village, mainly for its convenience. Students don't have to leave school grounds and are guaranteed that their food will be there. Alternatively Eurospar is another good option as well for its meal deal. Getting a chicken roll, drink and a packet of crisps for €4.50 is a bargain.

Notices

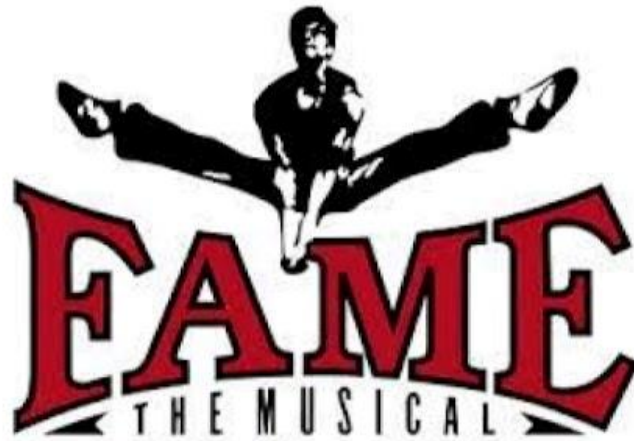


2024 Debs

@cpcdebs2024 on instagram for more details about tickets, what's included and the venue.
First instalment due asap!



CROSS AND PASSION COLLEGE



8TH & 9TH MARCH 2023

19:30

KILCULLEN COMMUNITY CENTRE - R56 VH9
TICKETS: €15 - AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL



Special Feature

Interview with Miss Whyte

Aoibhe Toft, TY

I sat down with Miss Whyte to discuss why she became a teacher, what she would bring to a desert island and why she tries her best to stay positive in life. To start, we talked about Miss Whyte's journey to teaching English and Religion in CPC.

"I had really nice teachers, and I wanted to do it from a really young age. My dad brought me home a black leather briefcase and I used to make my sister bring in old copies and I'd correct them, like a teacher, and then at Christmas time I would teach her the song *Last Christmas*."

"I knew from a really young age that I wanted to be a teacher. I just didn't know if I wanted to be primary or secondary, and I actually went for both in college. I went to St. Patricks in Carlow but I didn't have the honours Irish to do primary school teaching, so I applied for a college to do primary school in England and I applied for the ProfDip in UCD. I ended up getting both places, but I went with UCD. It always reminds me of Robert Frost's poem *The Road Not Taken*, because of what else I could have done. My sister's friend is a primary school teacher and I was in a class with her once, but I don't think I could have coped with it. They couldn't put on their coats or jackets themselves, so I thought I was better with older children."

Miss Whyte's first class of her own was in an all girls school in Tallaght. "What happens now is you follow a teacher around in their class for a couple of weeks but when I did it, you just went in straight away and had your own class and no one else showed you what to do. I remember going shopping and buying a pair of really high heels, even though I never wear heels now, because I think I thought they made me look older as I was only twenty-two. It took me a few years to find my own teaching style and I probably wasn't doing the right thing at the time, I just thought I was because I didn't know what else to do. College teaches you methodologies but they don't tell you what to do when you're in front of a class and they're all looking at you. You learn as you go and you learn what works for you but it's a lot of hit and miss."

"I do feel the first few weeks I probably tried to act older than I was, and I couldn't drive yet so I got the bus to Tallaght. I remember getting the bus really early so the students wouldn't see me on the bus and know how young I was."

One thing Miss Whyte finds useful in teaching is doing reflections. She had to do them in her diploma year but she has stuck with them. "I do reflections quite often. Not to the same extent I would have in college but I use them to see if things work or not. Some things might work for one group and not another so I think you

do have to do reflections. I love being in the room and seeing people understand what I'm teaching and get interested in what we're doing."

Moving away from teaching, we talked about her biggest accomplishments. "I suppose I would have to say my children! I also love the fact that when I came out of school and I didn't get as many points as I thought I would and my friends became teachers in three years, whereas it took me five. I felt really chuffed afterward that I had done it. But, outside of that I would have to say my kids."

If she won the lottery, Miss Whyte would travel the world. "I'd like to open a small school, that I wouldn't forget about completely, but I'd have to travel. I would love to go to Alaska, Japan, New Zealand. The Northern Lights would be a big one, I'd like to see them. I would go to Australia and Egypt for the pyramids."

Something that helps Miss Whyte after a bad day is spending time with her family. "I go home and spend time with my kids, and I love jellies to be honest. I love jellies so much even though they're so bad for you."

Miss Whyte's favourite movie is a classic - The Goonies. "I'd never show my kids now as they're young and it might be a bit scary. Like the Grinch, I find the Grinch quite scary. I was going to watch it over Christmas but I don't think my two year old would enjoy it."

When asked about what five things she would bring to a desert island, Miss Whyte would bring her husband, children, a book and food. We did our interview during class and two students said they would bring a helicopter and a boat. I said that was cheating.

And finally, a piece of advice. "I think you have to be positive. Well, I try to be positive all the time, because if you're negative it infects everything. I'm not saying I don't give out about things but I think you just have to try and be as positive as possible, and really don't give up. When I got my Leaving Cert results I got 355, and I was really hoping I'd get in the 400s, and even though I contemplated repeating, I thought this is just what I'm meant to have. I would say don't give up. There's backdoors into everything and there's always another way."

Thank you to Miss Whyte for answering all my questions!

Upcoming events CPC

February

30th Jan → 3rd Feb - Mocks
Week 1, 3rd & 6th Years
30th Jan → 3rd Feb - TY Work
Experience 2
30th Jan → 3rd Feb - Catholic
Schools Week
6th Feb - School Closed for
Bank Holiday
7 → 10th Feb - Mocks Week 2,
3rd & 6th Years
8th Feb - 1st Year PTM's -
Classes Finish 3:45pm
13th → 17th Feb - Mid-Term
Break
23rd Feb - TY Maynooth
University Trip

March

8th & 9th Mar - TY Musical
16th Mar - School Closed
17th Mar - St. Patrick's Day
20th Mar - School Closed
22nd Mar - Info night for Senior
Cycle Options: TY's & Parents
23rd Mar - TY SLD 6

April

1st → 4th Apr - TY Tour to Italy
3rd → 14th Apr - Easter Break
24th → 28th Apr - TY Work
Experience 3
26th Apr - Info night for 3rd
Years for TY 2023-24

Entertainment



Go check out our Valentines-themed
romantic playlist!

A MOVIE RECOMMENDATION:

EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE



By Emily Strong



PART ONE: AN INTRODUCTION

Directors: Daniel Kwan, Daniel Scheinert

Producer: Daniel Kwan, Daniel Scheinert, Joe Russo,
Anthony Russo, Jonathan Wang, Mike Larocca

Cast: Michelle Yeoh, Ke Huy Quan, Stephanie Hsu, Jamie
Lee Curtis

Run Time: 139 minutes



PART 3: REVEIWS

Witty, thoroughly refreshing, *Everything Everywhere All at Once* is spectacular and worth every heart-stopping moment

-Film Ireland

Everything Everywhere All at Once review: 'The Daniels' teach Marvel a lesson in fantasy storytelling

-The Independent

'*Everything Everywhere All at Once*' Review: It's Messy, and Glorious

-The New York Times



Midnights

An album by Taylor Swift
Emily and Rebecca Strong



Midnights is Taylor Swift's most recent album, released on October 21st last year. The album has 13 tracks and 7 bonus tracks in the 3am edition (deluxe version). Some of our favorites are 'Karma', 'Bejeweled' and 'Bigger Than The Whole Sky' The vinyl and cd discs come in five different color variations; Lavender, **blood moon**, **mahogany**, **jade green** and **moonstone blue**.

The album landed Taylor BillboardHot100 top ten and occupied all of the spots, being the first time the top ten hits were only claimed by female artists and as well as being the first time the top ten were all taken by one single artist. Midnights also broke the one-day streaming record with 184.6 million streams on spotify.

Midnights' popularity and success continues to thrive, currently being in 2nd on the US albums top 100 and Taylor Swift being the second most streamed artist on spotify.

You can listen to the midnight album on any music streaming platform like spotify, apple music and amazon music. You can buy her albums in music shops and on the taylor swift online store: <https://storeuk.taylorswift.com/> where you can also buy her other albums and merchandise.

Taylor has announced her North American Eras tour to celebrate the new album, ticket sales soared and sold out fast with people paying huge amounts to pay for VIP and front-row tickets to see her perform songs from multiple past albums and midnights on stage

Taylor has said she is planning on doing an eras tour for Uk and Ireland, but dates have not been confirmed yet; we think that she might release the dates or details about the Uk and Ireland tour when she has finished or come close to finishing the North American tour,