

The Malachian

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Year 8 Newsletter

A YEAR 8's LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

By Manas Murphy 8E

I remember the last day of school as if it were yesterday. After school ended, me and my family went out to Pizza Express for our last meal at a restaurant. My dad had just returned from America and was quite tired after the plane.

By the time we arrived home, I felt a little bit sick, but I thought it was just from staying up too late. However, when I woke up the next day, I could not summon up the strength to get out of bed, so my Mum naturally let me take the day off school. I got better throughout the day and by the end of the day, I was certain I would be back at school by Monday. It was not to be.

Dad went to bed that Friday and would stay there for a week. We began to socially distance as the school announced the following three days would be staff days. Finally, Boris Johnson announced lockdown restrictions, and that was that.

Meanwhile, my mum was able to get my dad out of bed to take him to the

hospital to get checked out. They were told that he could not be tested unless his oxygen levels were at a specific level, which they were not. A week later, they went back, and Dad was kept in for the night. He called mum telling her they were putting him into and induced coma, and the next day, his doctors called and confirmed he had Covid-19.

Two weeks came and went, and as my dad fought for his life, an outpouring of support came from the community. Finally, he was taken off the coma and out of ICU. He arrived home a week later, and now it's as if nothing happened. What we do now is mostly work, watch movies and play on our X-Box.

I have loved lockdown, but I do miss going to school, going into people's houses, but we are able to play video games with each other. I also miss representing my GAA club in hurling and playing water polo on Thursday nights.

My sister has kept talking about throwing a party the second lockdown restrictions are lifted. I can't wait, but until then, we must all work together to bring an end to the virus, so remember, maintain social distancing and keep two metres apart!



A WORLD WORTH FIGHTING FOR

By Cain Armstrong-Quigley

*You can go through life without thinking,
But that isn't life's true call.
It's much better to think and help in this world,
Instead of not thinking at all.*

*In these days of humanity's lockdown,
Mother Nature has opened our eyes,
To a world we could only imagine,
As we look towards the clear skies.*

*Could it be that we are the problem?
As nature's blooms unfurl,
Without humanity's presence,
Mother Nature is mending our world.*

*Do you think we should dare imagine,
This is how our future will be?
Clean air, clean skies, clean water, clean lives,
How sad it's taken, so long to finally see.*

*Mother Nature is fighting our battle,
But for us we could do more.
If anything, this time has proven,
We have a world worth fighting for!*



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I will READ...

in a **CHAIR**...



way up **HIGH**...



or down **LOW**...



or by **NIGHT**...



by **DAY**...



or **BALLPIT**...



MY HOMEWORK IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!

on a **SPACESHIP**...



or a **BIKE**...



on a **ROCK**...



while I **FLOAT**...



or I **SIT**...



in my **SOCK**...

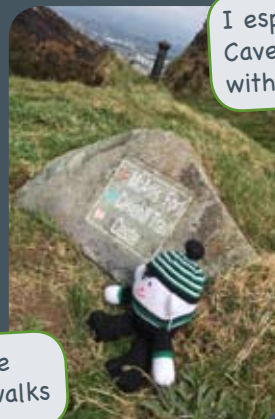


...ANYWHERE!





During lockdown I've enjoyed going for walks



I especially love to walk up Cavehill although I do miss being with my friends from school...



...although sometimes my brother and dog come too which is fun. We always need a rest when we reach the top.



There may be no school but I still log on to Google Classroom every day to keep up with my studies...



...and then reward myself with pizza!

'I love being a Malachian!'

by Eamonn McIvor

When I first got accepted to St Malachy's College me and my family were all so happy, especially me. When it started getting closer to the first day of school, I got a little nervous and started to worry, a lot.

One of the good things about St Malachy's is that they don't just throw you into school. They run a camp a few days before school starts where you get to play sports. It lasted for two days and was super fun and even if you don't like sports, you'll enjoy it because you get to make new friends and have fun.

Now, on to the tough part 'The First Day.' It started like any ordinary school morning except that I must wear a tie. I had to learn to do one, it took a while. So now that I have that put on, I feel all grown up like I belong in the school, but I'm still nervous.

When I first walked through the gates it felt like I was meant to be here all my life. I only had one friend at the sports camp, and he

was from my old school called Augustine Meppilly.

All the Year 8s had to go to an assembly and we got put in our form class and our form teacher picked us up. My teachers name was Miss Curry [because they told us our form teachers name] and she turned out to be nice.

When I got into registration my form teacher [Miss Curry] introduced herself to all of us and then she went around the class and asked us one thing about ourselves and our name.

A few weeks passed by and it was all different, the school is massive, we had so many different subjects and we had to move around the school, I never got lost which was a relief!! I had made a few friends from my class, my best friend being Marcus Maguire. We always played on the pitch together and go to chess club together which I joined because I always liked and knew how to play chess.

I joined the football team because I play outside of school too, and the best thing is, Marcus does, too. He plays in St Malachy's and outside of school in my team.

I play defender, midfielder and right back and Marcus plays goalkeeper, midfielder and forward. We also support the same team Liverpool (the best team in the world).

Now, my first year has passed by and it has been a really great experience. Although I never got to complete all of Year 8 because of the Pandemic, and I had to remote learn from home, but the support of the teachers has been amazing!! Even though I am not in school my teachers are always looking out for me. My favourite subject is maths and my best experience was the sports camp. St Malachy's College is my favourite school ever. I love being a Malachian.





What is it like to be a Malachian?

By Lewis McCotter 8A

I would like to congratulate everyone who has been selected to go to St Malachys College. I remember the day I got the letter to say that I have been accepted into St Malachys college. I was over the moon and I am sure you all are too!

Before school started every first year was asked to go into school to do a 2-day PE camp with the PE teachers. It was CLASS! We got to play football and basketball and even rugby. Then we got brought in for two half days to get to know our classes and the way round the school with no other pupils, so we felt comfortable. I loved it.

Then our FIRST week of school came. I was so nervous but also so excited. The students and teachers were so nice and there were so many new subjects.

There was one thing that was extremely new to me, THE TRAIN.... I was so excited to get the train because I felt a level of responsibility as I knew there where no parents to help me, but the older boys showed me where to go and I loved it.

As the weeks flew by, I was getting more and more settled in and soon enough it was Christmas. Then second term started, and it was just UNREAL as well and did I mention about the amount of extracurricular activities on offer? - there is every sport (for me its football and basketball) and there is also science and HE.

And then came Easter... After that everything changed. I got a message from the school saying we weren't going to be going back to school due to covid-19. All my classes were online, and I haven't gone back to school since. Overall it has

been quite good for me as I get to do sports quite a lot and I get to do work in my room in my own clothes. But I'm just missing my friends and school.

There are a lot of thing I'm looking forward to after this pandemic e.g: going out with my friends, going into town and much

more. There are a couple of things I miss about the college for example: PE, curry chips, my friends and my kind teachers. Here is something me and my family have planned for after Lockdown - a huge family part with a bouncy castle and a joint birthday parties. Keep safe and healthy!!

Hello everyone, my name is Shae McAtamney. I am 12 years old and I am in class 8B. My previous school was St Mary's On the Hill.

The first few weeks leading up to my start date for St Malachys, I had a wide variety of emotions and feelings. I was nervous because it was set to be a big change in my life. I had never got a bus before by myself. I did not know what it was all going to be like. I was excited but also nervous. I was also very happy that I was going to St Malachys.

The day arrived when I officially joined the school and years where in attendance. This had me worried as I was a new boy in a big school with so many people older than me. I was scared and nervous walking up into the school, however, there was nothing to be afraid of. I walked up to the form class and all the other boys were in the same situation as me. We all stuck together and helped each other. We even realised that the older boys in the school were the same. They were very helpful and respectful. I did all that worrying for nothing!

When I put my new uniform on, I felt very proud to be at such a great school. My parents were also very proud of me. All the fear, anxiety and nerves had disappeared. I started to build good

friendships and bonds with not just people in my class, but people in my year and other years. I am now very settled and happy in the school.

I love so much about the school that it is hard to pick out just one thing. I love sport and joined the Gaelic team. I enjoy the craic amongst us all and playing in the competitions representing my school. I have played for the football team and enjoy basketball. There are loads of sports to choose from. I love Art and Irish language. I enjoy Home Economics and all the new subjects that we did not do in primary school. All the learning is made fun.

Sadly, we had our first-year experience cut short, due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. I really miss going to school and seeing my friends. I miss the sports a lot. I miss the after school activities and whole routine. Everything has been turned upside down. Although we cannot be at school the teachers keep in touch with us all and provide us with work on Google Classroom. I keep in touch with all my friends.

Overall, my experience so far has been very positive and everyone in the school has been very kind and helpful during my first year. My advice for the Year 8s of 2020, would be not to worry and if you need anything just ask! We are all one big family in St Malachys.



SPORTS

YEAR 8 Pre-Lockdown Teams



(Clockwise from above)



With thanks to: Cain Armstrong-Quigley, Manus Murphy and Eamonn McIvor