

The Malachian

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Year 8 Newsletter

YEAR 8 BUBBLES BURST FOR SUMMER

By Mr K Niblock

As we embark on a well-earned break, we can look back on a very different year at St Malachy's. There is no better time to reflect, make resolutions for Year 9 and consider what you all have achieved this year. Over the years, many of our Year 8s have gone on to achieve great things and I have no doubt with hard work and dedication, you will do the same. Maybe one day you will be returning to school as a past pupil to speak to our students about your own success and inspire them to follow in your footsteps!

This newsletter promotes and celebrates some of things we managed to achieve this year including competing in the Martin McMullan race, celebrating the journeys of 'Wee Mal', highlighting some of our extra-curricular activities, and



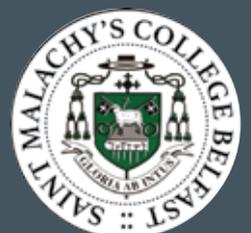
appreciating a very thought-provoking personal reflection of 'Lockdown'.

I hope both pupils and parents have thoroughly enjoyed being part of our St Malachy's family so far. We have

certainly enjoyed welcoming you all to the College and we are excited to watch how your Malachian experiences will develop over the years to come. Enjoy the summer everyone!

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The Adventures of

Wee Mal

IN THE BUBBLE



When I arrive at the College every morning my friends and I enjoying having a chat with Miss Swandell.



Sometimes I forget my mask but Miss Burns is always there to help me out...

...then I use the hand sanitiser before heading to my bubble room.



We stay in our bubble room most of the day and sit at our own desks so that we aren't too close together...



...and use the hand sanitisers every time we change rooms so we can stay safe.

Check out the Chess Club!

By Caoimhin Gallagher-Reid 8C

Ever since I was a child I was interested in board games. Once I came to St. Malachy's College I noticed its vast range of activities, however the one that caught my eye was Chess.

Although the College's clubs opened quite late in the school year due to Covid-19, luckily the Chess Club was one of the few clubs chosen to start up.

My first few weeks in Chess Club were welcoming, teachers and students alike and I've learnt to make new friends from outside my class

You may think Chess is 'uncool' however St. Malachy's pupils and staff have taught me otherwise. The one thing I



really love about chess is how quiet it can seem, yet how loud it feels!

St. Malachy's College hits the right note!

By Aodhan Fearon 8?

My name is Aodhan Fearon and I am a first year at St.Malachy's College. I started off first year during the pandemic which is something that can't be ignored as my expectations were so different from the reality of my transition from primary 7 into first year. We left primary school so abruptly, no goodbyes or end of school celebrations but the first day at St.Malachy's made up for it all.

I will always remember my first day, I started off at the gates where there were masses of parents lined up trying to get photos of their children at the front of the College. After that we were taken to the large College hall to be organised into our new classes, but what caught my eye was the huge Steinway piano at the front and how excited I was to get a feel for it. The year 14 boys led us all to our classroom where we would spend most of our time. Due to covid we weren't allowed to move around the school and the teachers came to us instead which was a little disappointing but we have got used to it and there is always next year!

During my time in St.Malachy's this year I have made a diverse group of new friends and have been able to maintain friend groups in which we share common interests.

Another thing that was very strange for me was not getting picked up from school. I remember the first day I went to get a bus after staying behind for piano, I was the only one at the bus stop and two busses just drove past me. I didn't realise I had to put my hand out for the bus to stop. I had to phone my Mum to pick me up but that was another lesson learned!

I noticed straight away the difference in

workload from primary to college, I had a lot more homework and the level of work was quite a jump up so I had to make a lot of adjustments and become more organised. I started preparing the night before for the next day which is something I never had to do in primary school. Homework takes a lot more time now too so I just try not to put it off, get it done and then enjoy my free time after. I got to stay behind at school once a week and play piano with another student which is great because in primary school I didn't get that opportunity.

When the second wave of covid hit, we weren't able to return to school after Christmas and I found the new home learning routine difficult. I went from not using computers much to completely relying on it, as all our work was put online and I also had to work a lot more independently. I found this very difficult as I had no interaction with my friends, no one was going outside anymore and I just didn't see anyone. Having to get up and get ready for the day knowing I wasn't going to see anyone got harder the longer it went on. I spent more time listening to music, working out and making music on garage band. I feel that my independence grew a lot during this time, I made my own lunches and helped out around the house. I realised during my time at home just how much I missed school and how good it is not just for learning but for socialising too.

It's been better recently getting back to school and seeing my

friends again. I find it easier to learn to stay focused in the classroom than I did at home. I've been seeing all the friends I've made at school and we've been able to meet up outside of school as the covid restrictions were lifted. I enjoy the freedom of getting the bus to and from school and having a laugh with my mates. I have friends in other schools that get the same bus so it's good to see them too. I feel in a better mood as the 'lockdown' started to get to me. Sitting down with my piano teacher to learn has been so much better too and I really enjoy my face to face lessons.

As restrictions ease more I'm really looking forward to the rest of the school year and being able to participate in group activities again. I am so glad I chose St.Malachy's. I couldn't have picked a better school.





SPORTS

YEAR 8 Martin McMullan Race



Top Ten

1. TJ Wetherup
2. Daire Donnelly
3. Euan Michael Doyle-Connolly
4. Sean O'Neill
5. Ben Neal
6. Dylan Rogers
7. Dillon Hamill
8. Aodhan Pierce
9. Ruairi Og O'Scanaill
10. Mark Burns



GAA FOCUS



Our Year 8 Gaelic Football Squad recently played against OLSPCK. With over 40 young Malachian's on the squad, each boy received considerable game time, showing tremendous skills and determination throughout. It was a fruitful journey across for our young men, one they will remember for years to come.

Gloria Ab Intus!

With thanks to: Caoimhin Gallagher-Reid, Rian O'Kane, Aodhan Fearon, TJ Wetherup