

## EDUCATION



Senior Prefect Team: (Back) Head Boy, Enda McCabe (Senior Male Gaelic Player); Conan Fitzpatrick, David Collins (Best Student PE); Head Girl, Erin Wray; and Frank Carey with (front) Amelia Mockras; Niamh Lambe (Pupil of the Class); and Sophie McKenna (Best Student Sociology).

Year 8 prize winners (currently, Year 9): (Front) Leah Moncreif (Highest Academic Achievement 8KE); Conor McGrath (Highest Academic Achievement 8KM); Mia McGovern (Student of the Class 8KC); Aiobheann Fidgeon (Highest Academic Achievement 8KJ); Eoghan Tierney (Pupil of the Class 8KJ) and Ellie Smyth (Highest Academic Achievement 8KR); (Back) Ella Rose White (Student of the Class 8KR); Michael Rooney (Highest Academic Achievement 8KC); Matthew Fitzpatrick (Student of the Class 8KS); Mark Ingram (Student of the Class 8KM); Cormac Chapman (Highest Academic Achievement 8KM); and Brianna McDonnell (Student of the Class 8KE).



Year 14 prize winners (Year 14 Graduates of 2021): (Back) Charlie McNally (Most Outstanding Contribution to the Life of Ryan McManus (Highest Academic Achiever 14KC); Cassie History) with (front) Leanne Doran (Best in Performing Arts); for Outstanding Effort and Commitment to their Studies; in Art) and Ciara Wilson (Most Outstanding Contribution to

# Reflecting on the past year of challenges and many successes too

by VICTORIA JOHNSTON

THE Principal of St. Kevin's College, Lisnaskea reflected on a year of monumental change for the school as it coped with the Coronavirus pandemic over the past year.

Mr. Gary Kelly was speaking during the school's prize day held last Thursday, September 9.

Addressing students, he said: "The new school year of 2020 started with excitement, hope and an eagerness to return to school after the first national lockdown since World War Two.

"However, Year 12 and Year 14 exam students of 2020/21 quickly realised this excitement turned into confusion, despair and uncertainty of what your GCSE and A-Level exams would look like.

"Us teachers and governors didn't know much more than you! And I would say, at a national level, the powers that be knew even less.

"This situation worsened in

**“The school has made significant investments in the past year**

January when we entered the second lockdown.”

He reminded the students and those who watched the ceremony virtually that the school will “support you, provide for you and help you to do great things”.

Mr. Kelly continued: “You are the future doctors, nurses, health care professionals, teachers, politicians, fire fighters and emergency personal – the upcoming professionals that will look after yourself, your family and society.”

He emphasised the importance of wellbeing during the prize night. “We have also provided you with staff and facilities such as our new wellbeing centre to ensure that you are capable to look after your own wellbeing and mental health.

“You are the most valuable

resource in this school, in your family and in our society – remember this – and if you need help, don't be afraid to ask. Our wellbeing staff in St. Kevin's College are always available to assist you.”

Mr. Kelly spoke of the reputation St. Kevin's has developed. He said: “St. Kevin's College is becoming increasingly well-known for being one of the best schools in the North of Ireland, and the interest at all levels of the school continues to outstrip available demand.

“Admissions into the school are very healthy, with significant numbers applying to join the school – in September, we have 720 children enrolled in the school, and we expect to reach 800 over the next few years.”

The school has made significant investments in the past year, including a new teaching block which consists of seven new classrooms, a new Sixth Form study room, toilets and offices, as well as investments in the main school

**PRIZEGIVING AND SPEECHES AT ST. KEVIN'S COLLEGE, LISNASKEA**



**Right:**  
**Back (from left) Caolan Donaghy (Highest Academic Achievement 11KM), Ben McManus (Highest Academic Achievement 11KC) and Martyna Kozdroj (Highest Academic Achievement 11KQ)**  
**Front (from left) Siobhan McKeown (Student of the Class 11KM), Tierna McManus (Student of the Class 11KQ), Jayne Keys (Highest Academic Achievement 11KG)**



**Caitlin Duffy Moffatt (Best in Health and Social Care); the School); Jodie Halpin (Best in Life and Health Science); Maguire (Best in ICT) and Conor Fitzpatrick (Best in Meabh Markey (Best in Music); Marcin Stolarczyk (Award Caitlin McManus (Best in Engineering); Juliet McCusker (Best the Life of the School).**



**Left:**  
**Back (from left) Ewan McNally (Best in Agriculture), Mateusz Drozd (Best in Construction), Head Girl Erin Wray, Head Boy Enda McCabe, Geraldine Moane (Senior Female Gaelic Player) and Daniel Boyle (Pupil of the Class 13KE).**  
**Front (from left) Caoimhe McGrory (Best in Childcare), Katie Jones (Best in Psychology), Angela Breen (Pupil of the Class 13KC), Ornagh McGilly (Best in Life and Health Science) and Ella Lynch (Highest Academic Achievement 13KC)**

building.  
 Mr. Kelly said: "The big investment is still to come with our well-publicised second new teaching block at the side of the school, which will see approximately £4 to £5 million pounds spent on a new technology department, drama department, new computer and design centre, and new music department, which should start in 2021 and be completed in 2022/3.  
 "This new facility will add considerably to the school's STEM, creative arts and new computer and design centre infrastructure, and will enable us to provide state-of-the-art facilities to all our students to equip them for university and their careers ahead.  
 "We also have plans to build a new canteen – so that you can have the luxury and comfort to consume your food and drink in a conducive environment."  
 Mr. Kelly concluded his speech by thanking the staff and governors of St. Kevin's College.



**Charlie McNally and Ciara Wilson (Most Outstanding Contribution to the Life of the School).**



**Principal Gary Kelly with Head Boy Enda McCabe and Head Girl Erin Wray.**